

## Vacancy in the See of \*\*\*\*\*

### BRIEFING NOTE ON THE VOTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

1. This note sets out the arrangements for the election of candidates in the Crown Nominations Commission. The voting processes were reviewed in 2015 by Professor Iain McLean, Professor of Politics, Oxford University and Vice- President for Public Policy, British Academy.
2. The contents of the note are as follows
  - The theoretical model of the voting process – Judgement Aggregation
  - CNC Meeting 1 - Voting process to identify shortlisted candidates
  - CNC Meeting 2 - Voting process following interview
  - Appendices
    - o Diagram for CNC Meeting 1
    - o Diagram for CNC Meeting 2
    - o Voting Provisions from the Standing Orders for the CNC [138(6) & 141]

#### **The theoretical model of the voting process – Judgement Aggregation**

3. In voting for the shortlisting of candidates for interview, or the nomination of candidates to the Crown following interview, each member of the Crown Nominations Commission has, in principle, the same objective – to understand the will of God in relation to the next bishop of the vacant see or, more prosaically, to find the right person for the role. Each elector is seeking the same thing but they may disagree on what choice best delivers that thing – it is therefore a process of *judgement aggregation*.
4. The CNC voting processes are technically multi-round applications of the *Coombs Rule* used in electoral processes which require *judgement aggregation*. The step-by-step nature of the process enables voting members to discern the emerging will of the meeting and to make an informed vote at each stage.
5. An individual's vote is their way of keeping their voice in the decision making process and the step by step discernment only works in its fullest way if everyone is using all their votes. If members genuinely do not believe a person to be ready for this ministry then they should clearly not vote for them. However, if they vote for only one or two candidates there is a question as to how far they are involved in deep listening to the wider will of the Commission.

#### **CNC Meeting 1 - Voting Process to identify short-listed candidates**

##### *Overview*

6. At its first meeting the CNC considers the long list of (approximately 12) names. Having considered the diocesan and role profiles and the ROM/Personal Statement

and references for the candidates, the Commission needs to identify those whom it wishes to interview at its second meeting. This is done by a process of elimination using the voting mechanism/process described below. The outcome of the meeting is (usually) to identify four candidates for interview with a fifth who is held in reserve.

#### *Process*

7. At each stage of the voting members of the Commission are asked to write the names of candidates they wish to see remain in the selection procedure on a piece of paper in alphabetical order by surname. At each stage in the voting process the appointment secretaries will take the votes out of the room and count them – returning the results to the presiding Archbishop who will read them out. The votes are recorded on a flipchart so that all members of the Commission can observe the voting as it proceeds.

#### *Procedure*

8. In the first vote, Commission members are invited to write down the names of up to 11 (assuming 12 candidates) on a piece of paper. These papers are removed from the room and counted by the secretaries. The candidate with the least number of votes drops out of the process.
9. This procedure is then repeated with up to 10 names being written down by Commission members – and again the candidate with the least votes drops out.
10. This process is repeated until there are only five names left. The four with the highest scores will be called for interview – and the fifth held in reserve in case one of the four declines to interview.
11. In the event of the fourth and fifth names having an equal number of votes, the Commission will have to decide between the two of them on a simply straight majority.
12. This process can be represented diagrammatically as in diagram 1.

### **CNC Meeting 2 - Voting process following interviews**

13. The CNC normally interviews between three and five candidates. In order to nominate an individual for appointment to a See the following voting process is followed:

#### *Overview*

14. Out of all those interviewed, two candidates must be found who can each command support from 10 of the Commission. The Commission will then identify its preferred candidate by a simple majority vote.

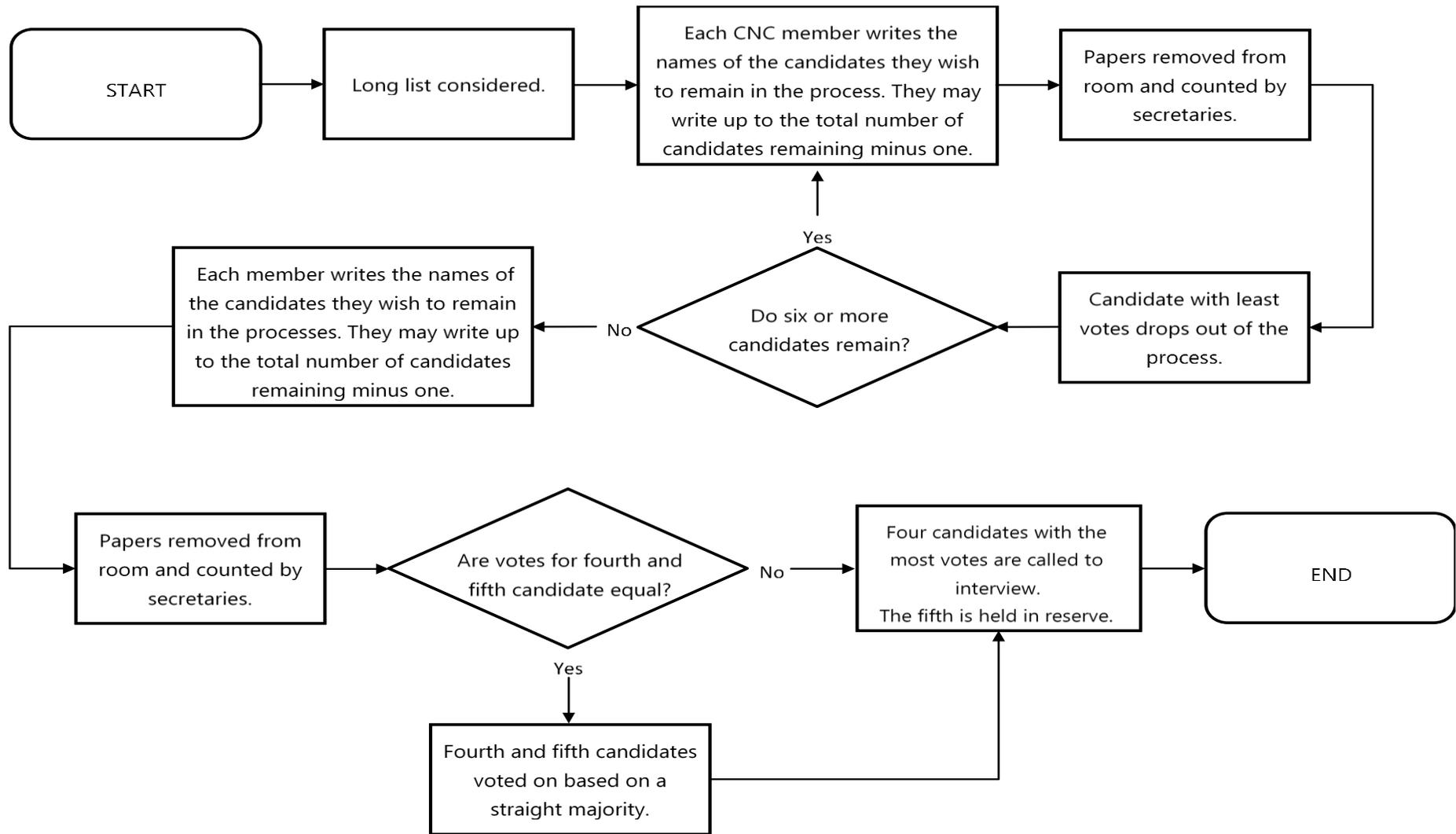
### *Process*

15. All voting is conducted by secret ballot – members are asked to write the names of candidates they wish to vote for in alphabetical order and by surname on a small piece of paper. These papers are taken out of the room by the secretaries who act as tellers. The results are given to the presiding Archbishop who reads them out. They are normally recorded on a flip chart so that members can follow the process as it unfolds.

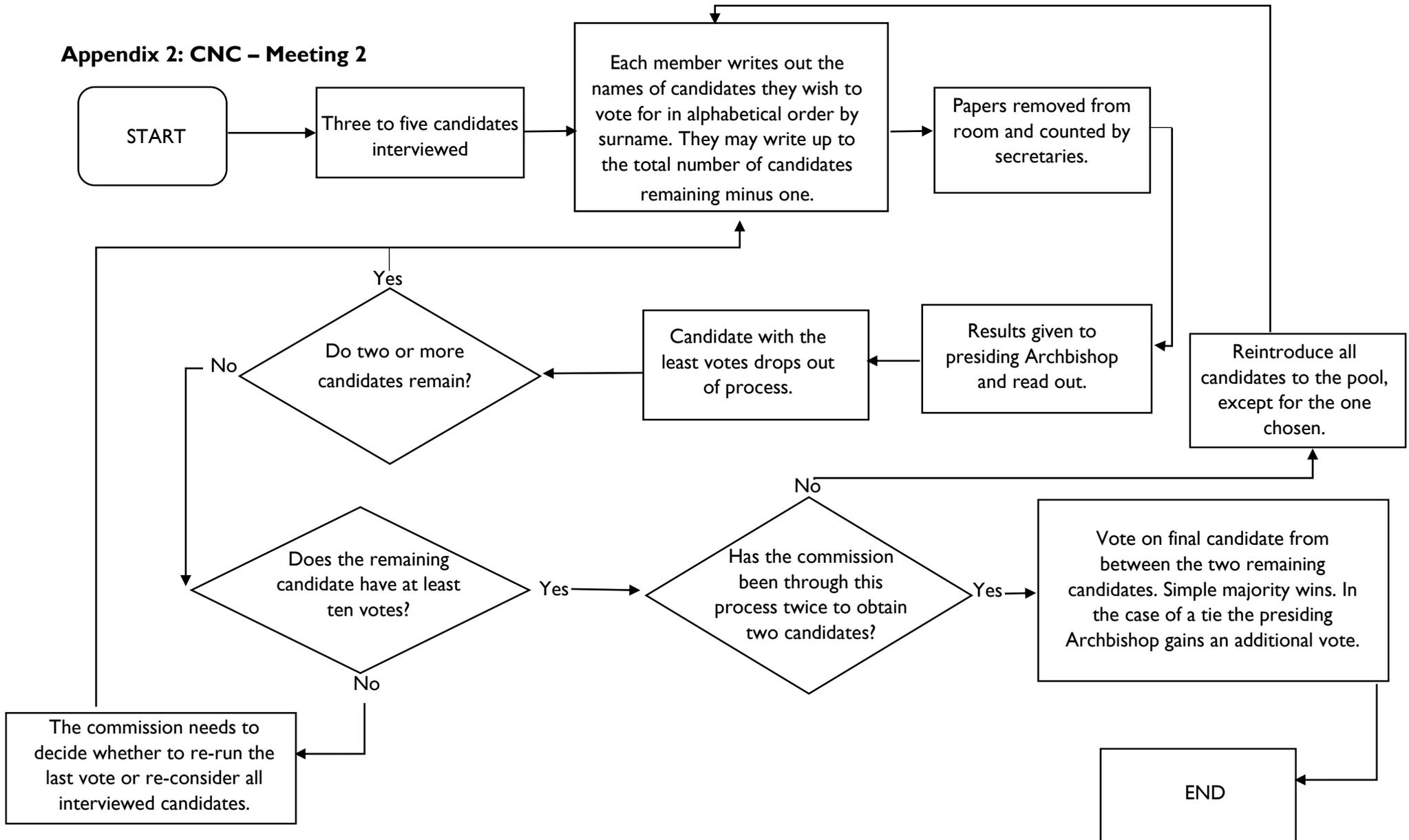
### *Procedure*

16. In the first round of voting members are invited to vote for up to one less than the number of candidates (i.e. if four were interviewed, members can vote for up to three). The candidate with the least number of votes drops out.
17. In rounds 2 and beyond, this process is repeated until there is only one candidate left. This candidate must have secured the votes of at least two-thirds of the commission (10 or more votes) before he/she can become one of the potential nominations for the See. If this candidate has not secured 10 votes, the commission needs to discern whether it wants to re-run part/all of the voting process (in paras 16 and 17).
18. The process is repeated (minus the name of the first potential nomination) until a second individual is identified – again with 10 or more votes from the commission.
19. A final vote is conducted in which a decision is made between the two potential candidates as to the preferred one. This is by simple majority. In the event of a 7-7 vote the presiding Archbishop has an additional casting vote.

**Appendix I: CNC - Meeting I Voting Process for Shortlisting**



**Appendix 2: CNC – Meeting 2**



## Appendix 3

### THE COMMISSION STANDING ORDER

(Revised version as agreed by General Synod, July 2015)

#### CROWN NOMINATIONS COMMISSION

##### **138. Crown Nominations Commission: Chair**

... (6) For the Commission's considerations on a vacancy in the Archbishopric of Canterbury, the person presiding at meetings of the Commission must be an actual communicant lay member of the Church of England appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with such persons or bodies as the Prime Minister thinks fit. ...

##### **141. Crown Nominations Commission: business and procedure**

(1) The Crown Nominations Commission may, subject to this Standing Order, regulate its own business and procedure.

(2) The Secretary of the Commission is the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments.

(3) The Secretary of the Commission must communicate to the Secretary General all details of its business and procedure and notice of each of its meetings.

(4) The Secretary of the Commission must convene meetings subject to such directions as the Commission may give.

(5) The Commission must not proceed to a decision to select a name for submission to the Prime Minister unless the person presiding at the meeting is satisfied that, in holding its discussions, the Commission has paid due regard—

(a) to the views of the diocesan members, and

(b) to the requirements of the mission of the Church of England as a whole.

(6) A name may not be submitted to the Prime Minister unless it has received the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of the voting members of the Commission, without discrimination in respect of Orders, in a secret ballot.

(7) The Commission must indicate a preference between the two names submitted to the Prime Minister, determined by a vote conducted by secret ballot.

(8) In the event of an equality of votes on a ballot under paragraph (7) when the Commission is considering a vacancy in either Archbishopric, the vote of the person presiding does not count.

(9) In the event of an equality of votes on a ballot under paragraph (7) in any other case, the person presiding has a second or casting vote.

(10) Names are to be submitted on the Commission's behalf to the Prime Minister—

(a) by the appropriate Archbishop, or

(b) in the case of an appointment to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, by the person presiding under SO 138(6).