SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The House of Bishops met on 23 – 24 May 2016 at Bishopthorpe Palace. The following is a summary of the items and actions agreed.

**MONDAY 23 MAY**

|  | **Item** | **Paper** | **Action** |
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|  | The House agreed to meet under Standing Order 14. | | |
| **1.** | **Education** |  |  |
|  | **A Church of England vision for Education** | **(HB(16)01)** | **NG** |
|  | The House agreed to the vision set out in the paper and agreed to commend it to General Synod  The Bishop of Ely and Nigel Genders agreed to integrate some drafting points which the House had made before submitting the paper to General Synod | | |
|  | **Students and Evangelism** | **HB(16)02** | **NG** |
|  | The House noted the points made in the paper. They agreed to the establishment of a Task Group to address the issues raised. | | |
|  |  | | |
| **2.** | **FAOC paper on ‘Diversity, Difference and Serious Disagreement in the Life of the Church’** | **HB(16)03** | **JW** |
|  | The Bishop of Coventry agreed to add some considerations on the use of social media in ‘good disagreement’ to the paper | | |
|  | The House approved the paper with some amendments to go forward to General Synod | | |
| **3.** | **Shared Conversations**   * **Update and forward look** * **Next steps following July Synod** |  |  |
|  | Working Group to be established prior to July Synod to meet as soon as possible after July to take forward any work following the Synod Shared Conversations | | **Sec Gen** |
|  | The House requested the Business Committee **not** to schedule the Blackburn DSM at the February 2017 General Synod | | **+Willesden** |
|  | The House agreed that the additional costs of the Shared Conversations at Synod would need to go on the charge levied to dioceses | | **JP** |
|  | House of Bishops Standing Committee to consider at its June meeting the next steps following the July Synod, including possibly holding the Synod dates in November for the House to meet to discuss sexuality. | | **SecGen** |
|  | College of Bishops to discuss sexuality for short period during presence of the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Bishops at the September College. Further discussions to take place on the issue at the September College following the departure of the Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Bishops | | **+Lambeth** |
| **4.** | **Safeguarding** |  |  |
|  | **FAOC papers on the Theology of Safeguarding** | **HB(16)04** |  |
|  | **Paper One** | **HB(16)05** | **JW** |
|  | The House approved Paper One with some amendments to be released immediately by FAOC with the endorsement of the House of Bishops. Release should include a short covering letter to incorporate some of the comments made by the House. | | |
|  | **Paper Two** | **HB(16)06** | **JW** |
|  | The House agreed that Paper Two should be released by FAOC as a pilot document for consultation with a covering letter with comments from the House.  The House agreed that further work would need to be done on Paper Two following this consultation exercise.  The House requested that FAOC consider preparing a further paper on matters of Safeguarding and justice | | |
|  | * **Safeguarding Overview and Update on the Independent Inquiry** | **HB(16)07 Annexes A - D** | **GT/RHarden** |
|  | The House noted the points made in the Overview and agreed the recommendations in Annexe D  The House requested that the recommendations in Annexe E be re-issued to the dioceses in non-specialist language to aid implementation and understanding.  The House requested that the SCIE auditors receive a further briefing from the NST on the structure and workings of the Church of England  The Archbishop of Canterbury agreed to write formally with apologies to Bishop Michael Perham and his wife, to the staff team in in Gloucester Diocese and to the staff of the National Safeguarding Team for the Church’s failings set out in Annexe D. | | |
|  | * **Presentation from the Bishop of Crediton on the Elliott Review** | **HB(16)07 Annexe E** | **GT** |
|  | The Archbishop of Canterbury agreed to write formally with apologies to the survivor ‘Joe’ for the Church’s failings set out in Annexe E. | | |
|  | The House noted the recommendations made in Annexe E and agreed that the National Safeguarding Team and the Lead Bishop should work to take them forward as part of the overall safeguarding work programme | | |
|  | * **Structuring decision-making processes on safeguarding in the NCI’s** | **HB(16)08** | **JP/GT** |
|  | The House agreed to the proposals in the paper and requested the Secretary General and staff to take them forward.  The House requested that a DSA be included in the proposed Steering Group. | | |

**TUESDAY 24 MAY**

|  | **Item** | **Paper** | **Action** |
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| **10.** | **Turning Up the Volume** | **HB(16)13** | **MB**  **E Henry**  **Sec Gen** |
|  | The House requested the Bishops of Rochester and Chelmsford to bring the matter back to the House having discussed with the TUTV group and consulted with the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Winchester with the aim of considering further proposals with regard to BAME participant observers, and/or other steps which may be taken towards full participation of BAME people in leadership in the Church of England. | | |
| **11.** | **Update from the Bishop of Chelmsford on the discussions on Intentional Discipleship at the 2016 Anglican Communion Council** |  | **SecGen/**  **Clerk** |
|  | The House took note of the presentation and requested the House of Bishops Standing Committee to consider the resolutions made and how they should be handled at future Synod meetings.  The House requested that the ACO document on “Intentional Discipleship and Disciple-Making” be circulated to all members of the House of Bishops for information. | |  |
| **12.** | **Renewal and Reform: Vision and Narrative & update** | **HB(16)09** | **M Eastwood** |
|  | The House agreed the Vision and Narrative document and commended it to go forward to General Synod with some minor amendments. | | |
| **13.** | **Welfare Reform** | **HB(16)10** | **M Brown** |
|  | The House agreed that the paper should be posted on the Church of England website for reflection and study. It should be offered to Government and other interested parties in a coordinated manner. | | |
| **14.** | **Nurturing and Discerning Senior Leaders – A Report to General Synod** | **HB(16)12** | **C Boddington** |
|  | The House noted the report and endorsed it to go forward for debate at the July General Synod | | |
| **15.** | **Collaboration between the House of Bishops and the Archbishops’ Council** | **HB(16)11** | **SecGen** |
|  | The House agreed in principle to a joint meeting between the Archbishops’ Council and the full membership of the House of Bishops. They agreed that the agenda would cover Renewal and Reform, Safeguarding and Education matters. The House requested the Secretary General and the House of Bishops Standing Committee to consider possible dates for scheduling the meeting. | | |
| **16.** | **Amendments to Canon B8 and B38** | **HB(16)14** | **A McG** |
|  | The House agreed to the proposals set out in the paper and agreed that the legislation as proposed should be brought to the General Synod for First Consideration in July 2016. | | |
| **17.** | **Representation of women in the House of Bishops/Changes to the Standing Orders** | **HB(16)16** | **SecGen** |
|  | The House agreed to the proposals set out in the paper. They requested that the South East and East Anglian regions co-opt senior female observers onto their regional meetings in order to ensure gender balance in the absence of female suffragan bishops.  The House thanked the Senior Female Observers for their participation. The Secretary General agreed to write to them formally to thank them. | | |
| **The House agreed the following items of Deemed Business:** | | | |
|  | **Report of the Independent Reviewer** | **HB(16)15** | **J N-S** |
|  | **Proposals for the Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Bishops’ meeting** | **HB(16)17** | **JW** |
|  | **Appointment of one member of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission** | **HB(16)18** | **JG** |
|  | **Report of the Clergy Discipline Commission** | **HB(16)19** | **SS** |
|  | **House of Bishops Guidance on Safer Recruitment** | **HB(16)20** | **GT** |

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