

# **GENERAL SYNOD**

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## **JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2017**

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### **NINTH NOTICE PAPER**

**ITEM 500-501:         DRAFT LEGISLATIVE REFORM MEASURE  
                              (GS 2027B)**

**DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) MEASURE  
(GS 2064)**

**ITEM 18:                 REPORT FROM ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP  
                              (GS 2075)**

## **Financial statement pursuant to Standing Order 108**

1. Financial Statements under Standing Order 108 set out the estimated financial effect of implementing recommendations of reports and taking forward motions if they are passed by the Synod. In most cases figures provided are approximate, recognising the inherent uncertainty in estimating various factors. Members are asked to take this statement into account alongside non-financial factors when considering these items of business.
2. Estimates of the financial implications of any amendments proposed by Members will be provided either in a subsequent Notice Paper or in an oral statement from a member of the Archbishops' Council's Finance Committee who is a General Synod member (usually the Chair).
3. As agreed with the Business Committee in 2016, an item is included in this memorandum if (i) the estimated financial impact (either actual costs or savings or the opportunity cost or saving - e.g. the cost of clergy or staff time) is £20,000 or more or (ii) it is thought a statement on the estimated financial impact of a proposal is likely to be helpful to members. These thresholds are applied to the whole of any time-limited project or a period of three years for on-going activities.
4. If the cost of work on any motion, if passed, would fall to the Archbishops' Council, it would be met from within the Council's 2017 budget which Synod approved at the July 2016 Group of Sessions or subsequent budgets. For any work not already scheduled, the relevant Director, in consultation with others, would consider whether other work of similar cost should be dropped or postponed or if additional, unbudgeted, staff resource could be provided by securing funding from another source. Estimates of staff and clergy time are usually an opportunity cost, illustrating the cost of other work that would need to be dropped or deferred. If it is not possible to drop or defer sufficient other work, there would be an impact on the timescale for delivery of the requested work.
5. All costs are estimated at 2017 levels unless otherwise stated. Costs include relevant salaries, employers' national insurance and

pension contributions. They exclude office costs such as the printing and postage costs involved in the preparation of new legislation, and the opportunity cost of Synodical time.

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6. If the Measure proceeds and is brought into force, the cost of staff time to prepare an Order and complete all the necessary stages to see it brought into force would be less than the cost of staff time incurred in connection with a Measure having the same legislative effect. But it is not possible to predict the extent of the saving, which would depend on the circumstances of the particular case.
7. There should also be a saving in Synodical time, given that, in contrast to the position in relation to Measures, the Synod would only need to consider an Order on a single stage procedure. But it is again not possible to predict the extent of the saving, not least in view of the proposal that the Synod should be able to refer an order back to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

**DRAFT CHURCH OF ENGLAND (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) MEASURE (GS 2064)**

8. If the motion is passed, the draft Measure would be committed to a Revision Committee. The expected additional cost of the Steering and Revision Committees, including meeting, travel and subsistence costs, is below the £10,000 threshold for formal comment.
9. The estimated cost of staff time involved in completing the legislative process for the draft Measure, including the Parliamentary stages, is estimated at £35,000. It should be recognised that by passing the motion before it, the Synod would only be committing to the Measure proceeding to the Revision Stage. The cost of staff time in proceeding to the Revision stage are estimated at around two thirds of the total estimate, i.e. approximately £23,000. At the Revision stage, the Synod would have another opportunity to consider whether the legislative process for the draft Measure should proceed to final drafting, final approval and ultimately the Parliamentary stages.

## **ITEM 18:**

### **THE WORK OF THE ELECTIONS REVIEW GROUP: REPORT FROM THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE (GS 2075)**

10. If it is decided to move to online elections for General Synod elections the estimated cost of staff time to establish the new system and support the necessary legislative changes is £27,000.
11. If a new system is established, the indicative estimate of the average Electoral Reform Services (ERS) fee in respect of the two elections for the House of Clergy and House of Laity is £1,000 per diocese. This is based on conversations with several dioceses and ERS. The equivalent saving in printing, stationery and postage costs is estimated at £3,000 per diocese. Thus the estimated net saving is £2,000 per diocese every five years. After taking account of elections for the special constituencies which are administered at national level, the overall saving to the Church is estimated at £80,000.
12. The corresponding saving in diocesan staff time is estimated at £1,500 per diocese: £63,000 across the Church. Introduction of a new system would also result in estimated national Church staff time savings of £15,000 every five years.
13. The Legal Office routinely revises its guidance for Synodical elections prior to every quinquennial election. So any changes to the guidance resulting from a switch to online elections would be carried out as part of this normal review.
  - Estimated one-off cost of staff time to establish a new system for elections: £27,000.
  - Estimated savings every five years from implementing a new system for elections: £80,000.
  - Estimated savings in staff time every five years from implementing a new system for elections: £78,000 (£63,000 at diocesan level and £15,000 at national Church level).

Canon John Spence  
Chair, Archbishops' Council Finance Committee

July 2017