

GENERAL SYNOD**Report on the Archbishops' Council's activities**

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the November 2014 group of sessions in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998. The Council is chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Archbishop of York. It has met once since its last report was prepared – on 26-27 November 2014.

Task Groups

2. The Archbishops' Council gave substantial time at its meeting in November to discussion of the reports produced by the Task Groups, a report on discipleship and a paper on the use of Church Commissioner funds, whose combined aim is to provide a basis for a programme of reform and renewal. The reports had previously been discussed at a preparatory joint meeting between the House of Bishops' Standing Committee and some members of the Archbishops' Council on 19 November.
3. The Council agreed that there needed to be substantial engagement with the elements of the emerging programme at the February Synod (see GS 1976 – GS 1982) and discussed how this might best be achieved. It offered a number of recommendations to the House of Bishops and the Business Committee.

Other mission developments

4. The Council considered a report from the Mission and Public Affairs Council and the Rural Affairs Group on mission and growth in rural multi-parish benefices and recommended that it should be considered at the February group of sessions (GS 1985). The Council received a report on the Christening and Funerals Projects which have been piloted in a number of dioceses and welcomed the encouraging progress.

Other issues

5. The Council agreed a 2% increase in the National Minimum Stipend for 2015. It approved the first tranche of grants under the £20 million Government funded programme made available to cathedrals through the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund. It also received a progress report on a range of other work being undertaken in support of church and cathedral buildings.
6. The business plan for 2015 was agreed. The Council reviewed its risk register to ensure that the risks to which it was exposed had been properly identified and that mitigating measures were in place to manage those risks. It agreed a revised conflicts of interest policy and code of conduct, and agreed for consultation with the Synod the constitutions of the Council's Boards, Councils and Committees (GS Misc 1097).
7. The Council also received an update on safeguarding issues.

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Secretary General

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