

GENERAL SYNOD

DRAFT BRADFORD, RIPON & LEEDS AND WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN REORGANISATION SCHEME

COVERING NOTE

1. The Dioceses Commission has been engaged in a Draft Reorganisation Scheme to bring together the existing Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield to create a new Diocese of Leeds (also to be known as the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales). Consultation has been underway since the autumn of 2009 leading up to the issuing of the draft reorganisation scheme on 29 October 2012. The relevant background and documentation can be accessed by following the links at <http://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/dioceses-commission/yorkshire.aspx>
2. In line with S.6(6) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 the draft Scheme was submitted to the diocesan synods of every diocese affected by the implementation of the scheme. This included the neighbouring Dioceses of Blackburn and Sheffield as the draft Scheme contained provisions to transfer a small number of parishes to those dioceses.
3. The result of the diocesan synod votes is set out below:

Diocese	Date	For	Against	Abstentions	Outcome
Blackburn	13/4/13	104	1	1	Carried
Bradford	2/3/13	90	4	0	Carried
Ripon & Leeds	2/3/13	70	18	2	Carried
Sheffield	16/2/13	54	2	6	Carried
Wakefield	2/3/13	40	76	4	Lost

4. The dioceses involved were invited to submit either extracts from their relevant diocesan synod minutes or summaries of those discussions. Annexes A1 – A4 include those that were submitted.
5. Given that the Diocese of Wakefield withheld its consent, the draft Scheme could only be laid before the General Synod by the Dioceses Commission if the Archbishop of York (acting as archbishop of the province) determined, under S.7(2) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, that there were wider considerations affecting the province or the Church of England as a whole which warranted such a step.
6. The Archbishop of York has now authorised the Commission to lay the draft Scheme before the General Synod.
7. The normal rules as to voting apply: no special majority is required. The draft Scheme is not open to amendment by the Synod. It is open to the Synod to pass a motion asking that any matter in it should be 'reconsidered' by the Dioceses Commission.

8. If such a motion for reconsideration is carried the Commission is required to withdraw the draft Scheme and it then has to decide either not to proceed with the draft Scheme or to resubmit it to the General Synod, either with or without amendment.
9. A scheme can only be resubmitted to the General Synod with amendment if the two-stage process of statutory consultation has been carried out again in relation to the amended scheme and the scheme has been resubmitted to the diocesan synods. Consultation and resubmission to the diocesan synods is not required if a scheme is resubmitted to the General Synod without amendment.
10. Members of Synod have been sent the following papers in accordance with provisions of S.7(3) of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007
 - **GS 1898** – the draft Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme.
 - **GS 1898X** is an explanatory memorandum prepared by the Legal Office which contains **a summary of the draft Scheme** at paragraph 2. This is the formal business before the Synod and is subject to standing orders 71A – 71E.
 - **GS Misc 1049A** – the Dioceses Commission’s report on the scheme entitled *Moving Towards a New Dioceses for West Yorkshire and the Dales*. This sets out the background and the rationale for the scheme, includes a summary of representations that were made to the Commission and outlines the next steps if the scheme is approved. The Commission’s Report is accompanied by –
 - **GS Misc 1049B** – a statement of the effect of the proposals embodied in the draft Scheme on the mission of the Church of England, entitled *The New Diocese and the Mission of the Church*.
 - **GS Misc 1049C** – a detailed estimate of the financial effect of the proposals.
 - **GS Misc 1050** – a statement by the Archbishop of York giving the reasons for his decision to authorise the Commission to lay the draft Scheme before the Synod.
 - **(ANNEXES A1-A4)** – Excerpts of minutes or summaries submitted from the Diocesan Synods of Blackburn, Ripon and Leeds, Wakefield and Bradford. Sheffield Diocesan Synod elected not to submit any material.
11. If the Synod approves the draft Scheme, one of the Presidents will move the approval of a resolution establishing a transitional vacancy in see committee for the new diocese (**GS 1899**). (See paragraph 1.3 of Annex A to the Committee’s report for further explanation.)

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6 June 2013

(signed)

Jacqui Philips
Acting Clerk to the Synod