

GENERAL SYNOD**Report on the Archbishops' Council's Activities****Introduction**

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the July 2017 group of sessions in accordance with the requirements of the National Institutions Measure 1998. The Council has met twice since its last report was prepared – on 26 September 2017 and 5 – 6 December 2017.

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, Lambeth Palace, 26 September 2017

2. The Council met at Lambeth Palace on Tuesday 26 September 2017.
3. The Council received an update from the Bishop of Stepney on the emerging shape of the **Cathedrals Working Group report**. The Council agreed that they would receive a draft of this report at their December meeting in order to consider whether to release it in draft form for consultation in early 2018.
4. The Council took note of a paper from the Education office on **Multi-Academy Trusts and Diocesan Boards of Education**. The Council agreed to request the General Synod Business Committee to make time on a future Synod Agenda for legislative proposals to update the **Diocesan Boards of Education Measure**.
5. The Council approved a **Loan Facility to the Lambeth Palace Conference Company**.
6. The Council received a half-yearly update on the progress of the **2017 Council Objectives** and received a preview of emerging thinking on the **2018 AC Business Plan**.
7. The Council approved a draft **Memorandum of Understanding** with the Church Commissioners on **Strategic Development Funding** and requested that it go forward to the Church Commissioners Board of Governors for further discussion.
8. The Council received an update from the Ministry Division on **Vocations and Future Funding**. They requested that proposals be developed further and brought back both to the Commissioners and to the Church Commissioners Board of Governors at a future date, after the Memorandum of Understanding between the AC and Church Commissioners had been finalised.
9. The Council received an update from the **Simplification Task Group** and approved the proposals for legislative change outlined by the Task Group in its third phase of work. The Council directed that the focus of the Simplification work be directed towards communication and measurement of the outcomes of the legislative change in the dioceses once the Synodical process had been completed.
10. The Council considered the report by **Dame Moira Gibb on the Peter Ball case** and received an **update from the National Safeguarding Team** on their progress in taking forward the main recommendations.
11. The Council approved a number of Deemed Items of business, including the report from the Investment Committee, the Environment Working Group and the Parish Giving Scheme.

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield, 5 – 6 December 2017

12. The Archbishops' Council discussed and approved (with amendments) the 2018 Business Plan. They spent some time discussing **Objective 9 "Including All People"** and made some suggestions on how the work on this objective might be ordered.
13. The Council approved the emerging plans for its **2017 Annual Report**.
14. The Council approved the latest version of its **Risk Register**.
15. The Council received the Draft Report and Recommendations of the **Cathedrals Working Group**. They agreed that the report, with some amendments, should go forward for consultation in January 2018. They requested that that the report return to them for final consideration at their March meeting.
16. The Council discussed a number of **finance matters**, including its 2018 budget and emerging plans for the 2019 budget. They received an update on the **Strategic Development Funding** and agreed a revision to the Statement of Funding Principles.
17. The Council approved the recommendation from the Remuneration and Conditions of Service Committee (RACSC) to increase the **National Minimum Stipend** for clergy by 2% from 1 April 2018.
18. The Council received a presentation from the Bishop of Burnley on "**Evangelism on the Outer Estates**". They agreed to support a bid for funding for this work to the Strategic Investment Board.
19. The Council agreed to appoint Mr Adrian Greenwood as the second of its two **representatives to the General Synod Business Committee**.
20. The Council requested the Secretary General to give some thought to the impacts on their working practices of the latest revisions to the **Charity Commission Governance Code** and requested the opportunity to revisit this issue at their March 2018 meeting.
21. The Council discussed a paper from the Ministry Division on **Ministerial Education** and requested regular updates on major issues from the Ministry Council.

Church House, Westminster, SW1P 3AZ
January 2018

William Nye LVO
Secretary General