

GENERAL SYNOD

FEBRUARY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2018

SIXTH NOTICE PAPER

ITEM 4: DISCERNING IN OBEDIENCE

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 2018 budget which Synod approved at the July 2017 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 2018 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. It is estimated that the cost of staff time to support progressing the reflections and recommendations of GS Misc 1171 as set out in paragraphs 11-16 of GS 2080 will be in the region of £50,000. This mainly relates to work that would be carried out by the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments and her team.

Canon John Spence
Chair, Archbishops' Council Finance Committee

February 2018