

GENERAL SYNOD

Report on the Archbishops' Council's Activities

Introduction

1. The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the February 2018 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 22 March 2018 and 14 – 15 May 2018.

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, Lambeth Palace, 22 March 2018

2. The Council met at Lambeth Palace on Thursday 22 March 2018.
3. The Council reviewed the first cut of the **2019 outline budget** which was augmented by a strategic discussion on long term **Finance for Growth**.
4. The Council were presented with the draft **AC Annual Report 2017** and approved it.
5. The Council agreed to maintain the 2019 Lowest Income Community grants at the levels previously advised to diocese and agreed to reduce the cash allocation for **Strategic Development Funding** in 2019 from the planned £25.56m to £23.98m.
6. The Council received an update from the Bishop of Stepney on the draft **Cathedrals Working Group report**. The Council fed back on the draft report and the CWG agreed to present the final version to the next meeting.
7. The Council reviewed their **board effectiveness** and agreed to work on this further.
8. The Council endorsed the **Legislative Reform Measure**, noting that the Terms of Reference for the Legislative Reform Committee needed to be reviewed.
9. The Council approved a number of Deemed Items of business, including the Cairo Coptic Cathedral Fund, Charity for the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord, CBF Charity Funds Trustee Limited, review of the Strategic Risk Register and Durham Common Awards Contract.

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, Bishopthorpe Palace, York, 14 – 15 May 2018

10. The Archbishops' Council approved the proposed **2019 budget**.
11. The Council approved the **Charity Commission Annual Return**.
12. The Council approved the **AC Audit Committee Annual Report**.
13. The Council received a **Resourcing Ministerial Education Update**. The Council NOTED the update and encouraged the Ministry Council to do more work on reforms to Ministerial training, potentially including the establishment of a core curriculum, supporting a change of culture, providing an evidence-based report in due course, and emphasising training to equip and liberate the laity
14. The Council approved an increase of 2% in the **National Stipend Benchmark**.
15. The Council received an update on **Clergy Package**. The Council suggested a number of comments for consideration for a further draft of the paper. The next

draft should include the need for financial planning advice, the scope for different ways of investing in housing, the lay contribution, the balance of job security versus mobility, and the prospects for the CHARM scheme. The revised paper will be shared with the Council in due course

16. The Council received the final version of the **Cathedrals Working Group Report**. They agreed to present this to Synod and to request the Business Committee to schedule a debate on the motion. The **Draft Implementation Plan** was approved.
17. The Council noted the **Report on Cathedral Finances**.
18. The Council received an update on **Safeguarding**. The Council considered the recommendations from the independent scrutiny report of the Past Cases Review (PCR) 2007 – 2009 conducted by Sir Roger Singleton, and proposals for their implementation. They agreed that staff would do more work on costing and scoping out the shape of a new PCR for the period 2009 – 2018.
19. The Council discussed their **Working Practices** and agreed to further develop proposals in four areas: engagement between the Council and the House of Bishops; relations between the Council and its sub-committees; relations between Council members and staff; and the organisation of the Council, its agenda and business.
20. The Council endorsed the **Re-appointment of a member of the Archbishops' Council**
21. The Council received an update on the **Council's work on Evangelism and Discipleship**. They endorsed the overall framework.
22. The Council noted the **Annual Report from the Strategic Investment Board**.
23. The Council received an update on the **Funding Monitoring Group (FMG): Proposed Terms of Reference**. It was agreed that that the Chair of the AC Audit Committee would meet with Chair of the Church Commissioners Audit Committee to understand what assurance is already in place, and that an update would be presented at the joint AC and CC meeting later in the year.
24. The Council noted the developments on **Objective 9 – Representing All People** since December 2017.
25. The Council approved a number of Deemed Items of business, including the Pensions (Pre-Consolidation) Order 2018, Approval of External Auditors, Health & Safety Statement of Intent, Proposal for a National Register of Clergy, General Data Protection Regulations, Appointment to the Strategic Investment Board and Legislative Reform Committee Terms of Reference.

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