



# Guidance note

## Church Development Plan



**A Church Development Plan (CDP) is a new tool from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division. It aims to help churches become open and sustainable community buildings.**

**The CDP can be broken down into three stages:**

### 1. Local Audit

**Scoping the perceived needs (in a draft Statement of Need) against what exists locally in term of resources including gaps in provision.**

This involves talking to potential users/partners and the wider community, to recruit strategic partners and support. It will identify the “drivers” of change (Mission, Community, Commercial, Cultural) and all appropriate legal models.

For some larger churches, this will be the time to begin compiling a Conservation Management Plan.

### 2. An Options Appraisal

**Deciding how best to satisfy the identified needs given the constraints and potential of the building or site.**

This stage includes the production of a draft Statement of Significance (if one doesn't already exist) and a feasibility study of the options, drawing on the information provided by the Audit and developing ideas for how the church might be used.

Pre-application discussions with curatorial bodies should also be initiated at this stage.

### 3. The Delivery Phase

**Drawing together the information gathered in stages 1 and 2 and developing the chosen option.**

This stage includes the creation of a timetable and fund-raising strategy alongside a brief for the tendering process.

Having scoped the needs and the resources and partners needed to satisfy them, this is the point when the Statements (and CMP if it exists) can be finalised, ready for the Faculty application.



## What is a Church Development Plan for?

There is a growing awareness that our church buildings can be reinvigorated as local assets, as well as places of worship, reaching out to and serving the entire community.

This might be through the delivery of services like shops, Post Offices and crèches, or it could involve the church providing a concert venue, tourism hub or simply a space for people to meet.



The first step towards change is often the most difficult - raising funds and securing permissions can be seen as insurmountable hurdles.

A CDP can help churches to identify strengths and weaknesses, learn from the successes of others and plan strategically to achieve their ambitions for the building.



## What will it achieve?

A CDP will help you to think about your project rationally, working through a distinct 3-step process (see above) to consider:

1. What you have;
2. What you need;
3. Who you can work with.

You will be well placed to achieve the permissions and funding you need to realise the potential of your church building through a process which helps you to:

- **Analyse your resources**
- **Develop partnerships and create networks**
- **Produce a plan of action and a timetable for delivery.**

## Want to find out more?

To learn more about the Church of England's plans to ensure all churches are open and sustainable community spaces please visit [ChurchCare.co.uk](http://ChurchCare.co.uk) and click on:

**'Open and Sustainable'.**

[www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/open-sustainable](http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/open-sustainable)



If you have specific enquiries about the CDP process or anything else mentioned above then please email:

[churchcare@churchofengland.org](mailto:churchcare@churchofengland.org)

**Updated June 2017**