

## **GENERAL SYNOD**

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### **JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2022**

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#### **FOURTEENTH NOTICE PAPER**

1. This is a Financial Statement under Standing Order 108 in respect of certain amendments that are to be proposed to item 29: affirming and including disabled people in the whole life of the Church.

#### **ITEM 73**

2. If the motion is passed the National Church Institutions would need to consider whether to ask Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) to undertake an audit of Church buildings and specifically what type of audit would be required. For the purposes of this statement it has been assumed that an access audit would be required. Such audits can only be commissioned by the building owner. The National Church Institutions (NCIs) have no locus or right of access to church buildings.
3. It is tentatively estimated that the average cost of an access audit might be in the region of £500 - £1,000, but the cost of this would be significantly higher – in the region of £5,000 – for our Church's larger buildings. The cost for each Church would vary significantly given the wide variation of size, complexity and age of the Church of England's 16,000 Church buildings. Using this tentative estimate the cost of such audits across the Church might be between £8m and £16m. This cost would fall on PCCs which are responsible for church buildings unless funding were to be made available from other sources. This takes no account of any actions that would be taken as a result of the audits, the costs of which cannot be reasonably estimated.

#### **ITEM 74**

The work to bring together funders that is called for in the motion would not be commenced until a strategy is agreed. It is estimated that a one-off piece of work on this aspect would require a six month contract at a cost of £35,000.

July 2022