

BISHOP'S COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE

Update for Diocesan Synod March 2022

This note summarises the recent work and decisions of the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee (BCSC) since November 2021 and is shared with the Diocesan Synod for information. Synod will be invited to raise questions at the meeting.

The Council has met three times since their last update in December, January and March. The December meeting was the last of the outgoing members/Trustees.

Diocesan Budget 2022

At their December meeting the BCSC approved a variation to the three-year Diocesan Financial Plan (originally approved by Synod in 2019). The table below summarises the headline budget for 2022.

WDBF Full Year	Actual 2019 £'000	Actual 2020 £'000	Projected 2021 £'000	Budget 2022 Proposed
Common Mission Fund	9,375	9,022	8,540	9,629
Fees	482	421	372	375
Rental Income	828	894	928	882
Grants & Other Income	560	578	515	583
Investment Income	254	79	242	200
Total Income	11,498	10,993	10,598	11,670
Resources Expended				
Mission Development	9,005	8,528	8,227	8,929
Mission Support	1,742	1,677	1,858	1,771
National Church Responsibility	1,109	1,087	787	787
Total Expenses	11,857	11,291	10,872	11,488
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(359)	(298)	(274)	182
Additional Information				
Average no of Incumbents	121	120	103	117
Average no of Curates	21	21	27	27
Vacancy rate	9%	9%	9%	9%
CMF Collection rate	93%	89%	91%	100%

The following points should be noted:

1. The 2021 figures are projections awaiting the final year-end figures.
2. Although the budget above assumes a 100% collection rate in Common Mission Fund (CMF) we project this will be closer to 93%. The Bishop's Council will monitor this carefully throughout the year and consider using income from the Capital Stipends fund to offset deficits if required.

3. The budget includes an assumed 9% vacancy rate for the total number of stipendiary clergy. In practice we anticipate this figure will be greater due to the high number of current vacancies.

Launchpads Social Enterprise

The BCSC considered a proposal from Launchpads Social Enterprise (LSE). LSE was created by the Diocese back in 2014 (previously known as WSE) and is a separate charitable company that exists to invest in and support socially transformative action across the communities of our diocese. For the last few years LSE has focused on launching a chain of nurseries and pre-schools with a clear Christian ethos.

In 2021 an opportunity arose for LSE to purchase a highly successful and commercially viable chain of nurseries in the Southampton area, potentially adding additional settings to the three nurseries already in operation. Following a detailed 6 month period of due diligence, the Directors of LSE approached the DBF with a request to assist in the purchase by proving a loan from the Council for Social Responsibility Fund (CSR). This is a restricted trust fund held by the DBF which the Directors had previously ring-fenced for use in social enterprise projects. Due to the commercial sensitives involved in the deal we are unable to share financial details with Synod. We are however delighted that LSE have successfully acquired Paint Pots nurseries and are now running 12 nursery and pre-school settings across our diocese. The profit from these settings will be used to repay the load to the CSR Fund, before being invested in new social enterprise opportunities.

Governance Review

As part of the ongoing commitment to review the Diocesan Governance structures, the Council has continued to implement changes:

1. In January, the Council appointed people to remaining spaces on our various sub-committees, boards, and groups. The Directors gave special attention to the need to increase both the size and range of expertise on the Finance Monitoring Group to ensure it could offer the level of scrutiny and review required.
2. In addition, the Council have requested proposals be brought forward on the potential to create an Internal-Audit Committee as well as a new Sub-Committee to oversee the work of the Winchester School of Mission and our wider work of ministry training.
3. Following the recruitment process in January, the Council are exploring options for the Interim Chair of the WDBF with two candidates seeking to understand how they can best serve, challenge and support our shared structures.
4. In March the Council considered the report from Andy Brookes' following his review of the role of Chief Executive. Synod will receive a more detailed update on this at their March meeting.

Vacancy in See Committee

At their January and March meetings, the Bishop's Council elected and appointed the officers and co-opted members of the Vacancy in See Committee in line with the regulations. The full list of members is below. We are in discussions to fill the one remaining vacant co-option.

Chair	The Very Reverend	Catherine	Ogle
Secretary to the Committee	Mr	Colin	Harbidge
Chair of House of Laity	Mr	Alastair	Barron
Chair of the House of Clergy	The Reverend	Andrew	Micklefield
Suffragan Bishop of Basingstoke	The Right Reverend	David	Williams

Suffragan Bishop of Southampton	The Right Reverend	Debbie	Sellin
Archdeacon of Winchester	The Venerable	Richard	Brand
GS Rep Clergy	The Reverend	James	Pitkin
GS Rep Laity	Dr	Simon	Clift
GS Lay Rep	Dr	Julie	Maxwell
GS Lay Rep	Mrs	Alison	Coulter
GS Lay Rep	Mr	Andrew	Orange
GS Rep Clergy	The Reverend Dr	Ben	Sargent
Elected Clergy	The Reverend Canon	Charles	Stewart
Elected Clergy	The Reverend	Angie	Smith
Elected Laity	Mr	Gwilym	Stone
Elected Laity	Miss	Sarah	Boothman
Co-option	The Reverend	Nived	Lobo
Co-option	Mrs	Sarah	Duck
Co-option	Mr	Ian	Dighe'
Co-option	tbc		

Parochial Fees

In March, the Bishop's Council considered proposed amendments to our policy on occasional fees for retired clergy. The Council approved the recommendations, expanding the number of clergy eligible to retain a proportion of the fees for occasional offices. The full revised policy will be circulated to all clergy and parishes soon.

March 2022