

BISHOP'S COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE

Update for Diocesan Synod November 2023

This note summarises the recent work and decisions of the Bishop's Council & Standing Committee (BCSC) since June 2023 and is shared with the Diocesan Synod for information. **This update does not include Council business that will be covered elsewhere on the Synod agenda.**

Synod will be invited to raise questions at the meeting.

Three Year Financial Plan

Since the last meeting in June, much of the BCSC time was spent reviewing and finalising the three-year financial plan in preparation for the special meeting of Synod in September. We were pleased to see the budget approved overwhelmingly by Synod, and encouraged by the positive feedback on the increased level of financial information shared with parishes.

Inter Diocesan Staff Benchmarking

Over recent months the Diocesan Secretaries Liaison Group (DSLGL) has commissioned a benchmarking tool of diocesan staffing, seeking to ascertain average levels of employed staff across the 42 dioceses. As Bishop's Council we reviewed the figures for Winchester comparing these to both the national average and the average for our peer group (of other dioceses of a similar size).

As with any benchmarking exercise, blunt averages cannot be used in isolation but do help highlight questions and areas for further investigation. The Bishop's Council has requested the Diocesan Secretary to take this work forward. The broad headline figures for Winchester are summarised below expressed as full-time equivalent posts (fte.)

	Winchester	National Average	Peer Group Average	Variance (Group)	Variance %
TOTAL fte. posts	51.2	58.11	52.4	-1.2	-2%

This shows that Winchester has 1.2fte fewer posts than our Peer Group Average, and 6.91fte posts less than the national average.

Parsonages Board Business

In June, in their capacity as the Diocesan Parsonages Board, we approved in principle a request to sell a designated benefice house which is no longer suitable. The Board approved this decision pending local consultation, feedback from agents and the identification of a more suitable alternative property within the parish.

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