

1. BACKGROUND

The introduction of 2 Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committees (Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton Archidiaconal M&PC and St Helens, Warrington, Wigan & West Lancs Archidiaconal M&PC) in 2003 was to ensure that this was a place to scrutinise deanery recommendations in detail and to keep track of the progress of individual pieces of pastoral reorganisation.

At the beginning of last year it was agreed to trial the cancellation of Archidiaconal M&PC meetings at the Archdeacons' request and in line with the Simplification Agenda. This arrangement reflects the Bishop's wish to cut back on the number of meetings that members are asked to attend.

In order to ensure that the business of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee is appropriately monitored and recorded, the Committee during the trial period has tightened its own procedures:

- To make the forms on which deanery recommendations are recorded more explicit about the nature and purpose of the recommendation, the factors taken into account, and the consultation undertaken.
- To request the minutes of Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees, and of PCCs as appropriate, so that the Committee is aware of the discussions which have taken place or which are taking place relating to a proposal, and the views of the deanery and parish(es).
- To agree that the Chair's power to take urgent action between meetings should normally be exercised only in matters which have been previously discussed in principle by the Committee.

The trial period is believed to have worked well. Accordingly, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee proposes that the Diocesan Synod

- Ratify the way of working that has been trialled since the beginning of 2017
- Abolish the two archidiaconal committees
- Make new arrangements for appointing members of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee.

The proposed constitution of the Committee and sub committees has been updated and the attached structure diagram (Appendix1) shows the new arrangement, which may be summarised as follows:

- Strategic overview and agreement will be provided by the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee, which is the body with ultimate responsibility, and to which parties affected by pastoral reorganisation have the right of access.
- Careful examination and progression of pastoral schemes/orders will be dealt with by a smaller sub-committee of the DMPC: the Legal & Administrative Sub Committee.
- Closed churches matters to be dealt with by a smaller sub-committee of the DMPC: the Church Buildings (Uses and Disposal) Committee).

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee has, under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, the power to appoint other sub-committees for particular purposes. Schedule 1 of the Mission & Pastoral Measure ("Constitution and Procedure of the Mission and Pastoral Committee") is attached for information – Appendix2

2. SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES PROPOSED

- A. The following changes to the procedure of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee (which reflect trial practice) are ratified:
1. The additional layer of archidiaconal mission and pastoral committees is removed.
 2. The normal way in which proposals are received by the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee becomes by recommendations directly from Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees. Deanery planning and consultation around these is evidenced with Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee minutes and PCC minutes as appropriate.
- B. The membership of the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee is altered as follows:
1. Where previously elected members of the Committee were chosen by the respective archidiaconal committees, clergy and lay elected members will now be chosen by the Area Deans and Lay Chairs respectively in each archdeaconry. In effect this is very close to the previous system, since the practice has been for Area Deans and Lay Chairs to form the membership of the archidiaconal committees.
 2. It is expected that members of the Committee be themselves serving Area Deans or Lay Chairs at the time of their appointment and the clergy and lay representatives from each archdeaconry should, as far as possible, be chosen from different deaneries. Furthermore, it is expected that elected members serve no more than two three-year terms together.
 3. The Committee gains the new power of co-opting up to four additional members. This will enable people with useful expertise or knowledge to be brought onto the committee. It will also enable the committee to ensure a more-or-less equal balance between clergy and lay members, as required by the Mission and Pastoral Measure.
- C. The title of the Closed Churches Committee is altered to the Church Buildings (Uses and Disposals) Committee, and its remit expanded to take account of our diocesan agenda around the vulnerability and viability of buildings, as well as the statutory role of overseeing closing and closed churches.

3. PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Subject to the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011 the constitution of the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee shall be as follows:

a) Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee

i) Membership:

- The Bishop (or a person nominated by him), who shall be the Chair. The Chair shall have authority to take any necessary and urgent action as required on behalf of the Committee, where such action should not wait until the next meeting of the Committee.
- Four Archdeacons
- Diocesan Secretary
- Director of Mission
- One lay representative from each archdeaconry, to be chosen by the Deanery Lay Chairs of that archdeaconry for a three-year term.
- One clergy representative from each archdeaconry, to be chosen by the Area Deans of that archdeaconry for a three-year term.
- Up to four additional members co-opted by the Committee, with particular regard to the duty to ensure that the numbers of clergy and laity on the Committee are, as nearly as possible, the same.

ii) Role:

- To fulfil the functions of a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee, as found in Part 2(3) of the Mission & Pastoral Measure 2011.
- In particular, in the light of the Bishop's Growth Agenda:
 - to engage in strategic thinking about future policies and make recommendations to appropriate bodies

- to review deanery deployment strategies
 - to provide advice and guidance to the Bishop and to others
 - to engage in strategic thinking about future buildings needs and make recommendations to appropriate bodies
 - to review deanery buildings deployment strategies
 - to convene as necessary Section 6 (5) meetings (i.e. with clergy who could be disposed)
 - to fulfil any other requirements of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.
- iii) The quorum shall be one third, disregarding any vacancies i.e. one third of members actually in post
- iv) Frequency of meeting shall be not less than four times a year.
- v) Officer Support – Bishop’s Planning Officer(s), Mission & Pastoral Officer, Administrator

b) Legal and Administrative Sub Committee

i) Membership:

- Four Archdeacons
- Bishop’s Planning Officers
- Mission & Pastoral Officer

ii) Role:

- To progress pastoral schemes/orders (which have been agreed by the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee)
- To advise the Bishop on suspension of presentation, renewal and lifting of presentation (without necessarily referring back to the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee)

c) Church Buildings (Uses and Disposal) Committee

i) Membership:

- Four Archdeacons, one of whom (appointed by the Bishop) shall be the Chair. The Chair shall have authority to take any necessary and urgent action as required on behalf of the Committee, where such action should not wait until the next meeting of the Committee.
- Bishop’s Planning Officers
- Glebe Agent (to be determined as per each transaction)
- Director of Estates
- Chair DAC
- Churches Buildings Secretary
- Director of Finance
- Officer Support – Church Commissioner Officer, Mission and Pastoral Officer

ii) Role:

- To consider the vulnerability and viability of church buildings
- To fulfil the requirements of Section 55 of Mission & Pastoral Measure – to have oversight of closure of churches

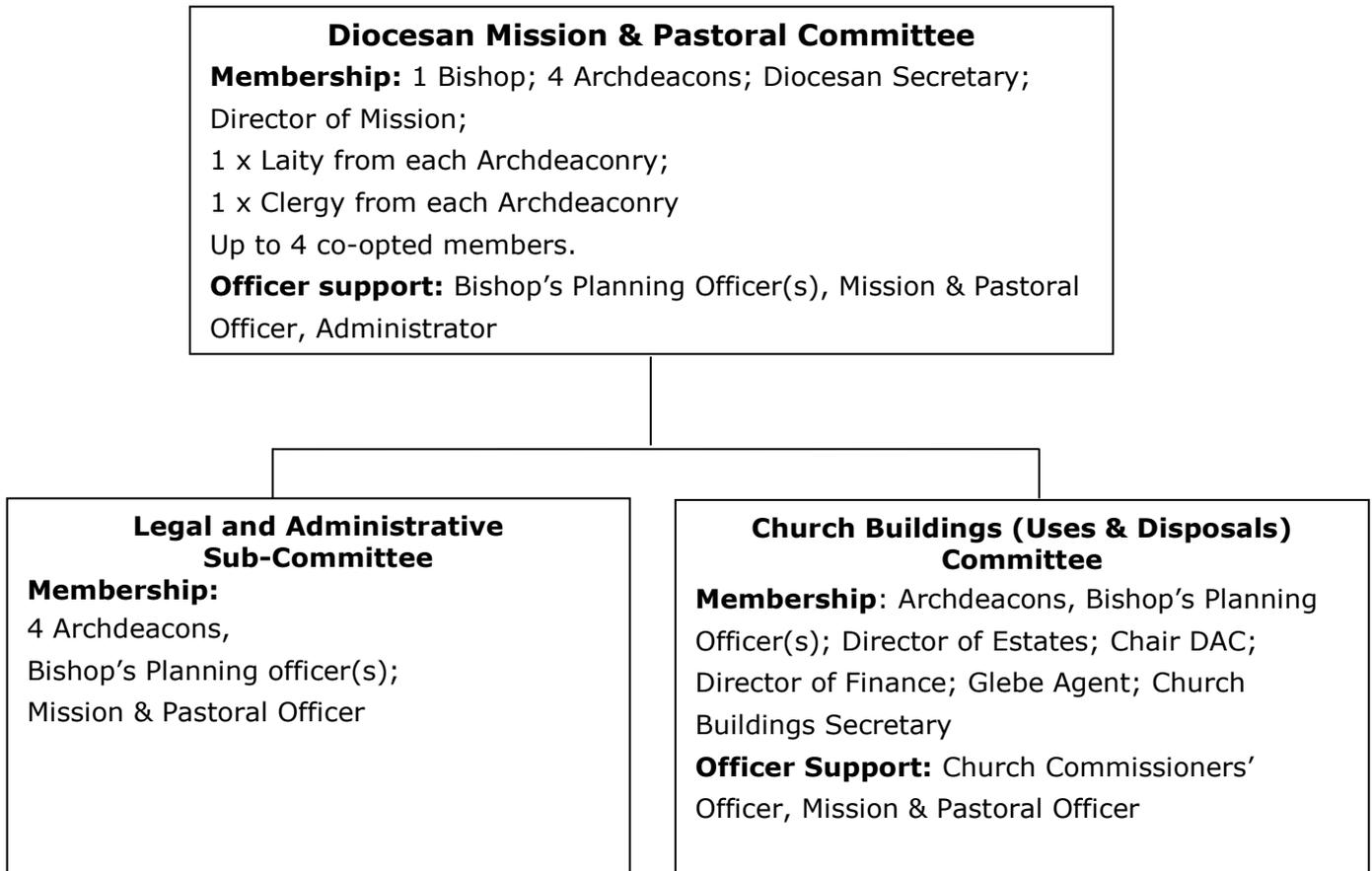
- iii) The quorum shall be one third, disregarding any vacancies i.e. one third of members actually in post

d) Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees, which are sub-committees of the Diocesan Synod (one per deanery)

- The constitution of Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees shall continue as at present.
- The meetings of Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committees shall be minuted and the full minutes sent to the Mission & Pastoral Officer so as to be available to the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee when required.

Appendix 1

Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee Structure



NB

In terms of representation on the Diocesan M&PC it is expected that one of the Area Deans or Assistant Area Deans and one of the Lay Chairs will be the archdeaconry representatives.

The Glebe Agent on the Church Buildings Committee will be determined as per each transaction

Appendix 2

Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, as at March 2019

Schedule 1

CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE MISSION AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE

- 1 There shall be a person to be known as "the Chair".
- 2 The bishop, if he so wishes, may be a member and may also be the Chair.
- 3 Unless the bishop is the Chair, the Chair shall be appointed by the bishop.
- 4 All archdeacons in the diocese shall be members or, if there is only one archdeacon, that archdeacon shall be a member.
- 5 Subject to paragraphs 1 to 4, the members of the committee shall be such number of persons and appointed or elected in such manner and for such period of office as the diocesan synod shall determine, but so as to secure that the number of members who are of the clergy and the number of members who are of the laity are, as nearly as possible, the same.
- 6 The written constitution of the committee shall provide for a quorum.
- 7 Subject to paragraph 6, the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership or any defect in its composition.
- 8 The committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to appoint to them persons who are not members of the committee but the constitution may prescribe the minimum numbers or proportion of members of a sub-committee who are members of the committee.
- 9 The committee may delegate any of its functions to a sub-committee except the duty under section 6(5) or 21(4) to afford opportunities to incumbents of benefices and vicars in team ministries and persons subject to Common Tenure to meet the committee itself.
- 10 The committee and any sub-committee shall have power to appoint persons who have appropriate expertise whether or not as members of another body to provide advice on any of their functions.
- 11 The committee shall have power to make provision for the appointment of a secretary to the committee and any sub-committee.
- 12 Subject to the preceding provisions of this Schedule and to any directions given by the diocesan synod, the committee shall have power to regulate its own procedure and that of any sub-committee and to provide for any other matters which it thinks fit.