

CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS FOR THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The Standing Orders for the Diocesan Synod were last revised in November 2014. In advance of the new triennium the following changes to the Standing Orders are proposed by the Bishop's Council. These reflect the decision that the Bishop's Council should act as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (in) and changes in practice.

Para 25 to read (new words underlined) "Subject to standing order 17, notice of any business for a meeting of the synod shall be in writing, signed and delivered to the secretary by hand or by post or by email."

Para 75 reads "The functions of the Standing Committee shall be" and shall be extended to include the following:

(xi) to act as the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee for all the functions given to that committee by the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011. (Elected members of the Standing Committee are automatically members of the Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral committee for the area they are elected to represent.)

Para 123 to read (new words underlined) "In presenting the accounts for the preceding year to the synod the standing committee shall report on any net expenditure in excess of the funds voted for in that year, and give the explanation of those responsible, together with its comments and recommendations as to how the excess expenditure shall be sanctioned and financed by the synod."

Bishop's Council membership

When the fourth archdeaconry was introduced in 2014, considerable thought was given to the effect on the composition of Boards and Councils, including Bishop's Council. In October 2014, Bishop's Council agreed proposals, that among other things, specified that Diocesan Synod should elect members to Bishop's Council: three lay and two clergy for the archdeaconries of Berkshire, Buckingham and Dorchester; and two lay and one clergy from Oxford. Three further non-area specific members of the laity were also to be elected, in order to guarantee a lay majority on Bishop's Council. These proposals were subsequently included in the Standing Orders for the Diocesan Synod, except for the three non-area specific lay people, provision for which was erroneously omitted.

This omission was discussed at the meeting of the Bishop's Council in January 2018. It was noted that the present arrangements for the Bishop's Council did not match the original plans that had aimed to guarantee a lay majority by the inclusion of three elected non-area specific laity. After careful discussion about the practicality of the original plan, the size of the existing Council, the desire for a lay majority and the complexity of also running non-area specific elections, the Bishop's Council agreed to recommend that Diocesan Synod should increase the number of Bishop's nominees from four to seven, the Bishop to exercise this power in order to give a lay majority.

Para 73 Nominated Members would therefore read "Up to seven persons being either ordained or lay may be nominated by the president from among the members of the synod, in such a way as to ensure that a majority of the members of the standing committee are lay persons."

Mrs Judith Scott on behalf of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee will move that the Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod are amended in line with the recommendations in paper ODS 18.04