

Diocese of Truro - Diocesan Synod / The Truro Diocesan Board of Finance

Earlier this year, the Diocese instructed a governance review to be undertaken by Andy Brookes. In May 2020, Andy issued his report, which included various observations, conclusions and recommendations.

Following a thorough review of the governance report, the BDC has considered various proposals to change the current governance arrangements. The purpose of these new arrangements is to support the work of growing the church, discovering God's kingdom; to support growing and changing as well as ongoing statutory functions which are required to be discharged. The new arrangements are also aimed at promoting effective leadership and decision-making in ways that witness to the Gospel and exhibit the "seven principles of public life" (the Nolan Principles).

Some of the proposals considered by BDC require minor changes to the Standing Orders of the Diocesan Synod and the Articles of Association of the TDBF.

The purpose of this briefing note is to highlight the key changes to the Standing Orders and Articles of Association. These are as follows:

Standing Orders of Synod

SO XB.1 (Definitions)	Minor amendments are suggested to this SO as a consequence of proposed changes to SO XB.8.
SO XB.8 (Meetings of Synod) and XB.37 (Mode of voting)	<p>It is proposed that existing SO XB.8 is updated to provide more flexibility for meetings of the Synod. The social-distancing measures required to be observed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic identified that the members of Synod may not be able to validly meet by virtual means.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed changes to SO XB.8 allow the Synod to meet virtually (e.g. by Zoom or other telephone or video-conferencing facility). If members are required to vote during a virtual meeting, the method of voting is to be determined by the Bishop acting jointly with the Chair of the House of Clergy and the Chair of the House of Laity.</p>
SO XB.41 (Membership of Bishop's Council and Standing Committee) and SO XB.43	<p>This SO currently provides for Bishop's Council and Standing Committee to be comprised of certain members on an ex-officio basis (e.g. the Archdeacons and the Chair of each of the Houses of Clergy and Laity), elected members and "Governors". Members of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee are also directors/charity trustees of the TDBF.</p> <p>It is proposed that the "Governors" should be referred to as "nominated members" for more consistency in terminology and also to reflect that these individuals are nominated by the Bishop to serve as members of Bishop's Council and Standing Committee.</p>

TDBF Articles of Association

Article 1 (Interpretation)	Various amendments are proposed to existing Article 1 as a consequence of the proposed changes outlined below.
Article 8 (General)	It is proposed that existing Article 8 is updated to provide more flexibility for meetings of the members of the TDBF. The social-distancing measures

<p>meetings)</p>	<p>required to be observed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic identified that the members of the TDBF may not be able to validly meet by virtual means.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed changes to Article 8 allow for the members of the TDBF to meet virtually (e.g. by Zoom or other telephone or video-conferencing facility). If the members are required to vote during a virtual meeting, the method of voting is to be determined by the Board of Trustees (i.e. the BDC).</p>
<p>Article 9 (The Board of Trustees)</p>	<p>The current Articles provide for the Board of Trustees to be comprised of "Ex-officio Members", "Elected Members" and "Governors". The Trustees (who are company directors and charity trustees) are also members of the Bishop's Council and Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod.</p> <p>It is proposed that the "Governors" should be referred to as "Nominated Members" for more consistency in terminology and also to reflect that these individuals are nominated by the Bishop to serve (as a member of the Standing Committee of Synod and therefore Trustee of the TDBF).</p>
<p>Article 15 (The Executive)</p>	<p>The current Articles provide for the Board of Trustees to establish a specific committee known as "the Executive".</p> <p>It is proposed that this requirement is deleted as the governance review has identified that there is no role for the Executive in the governance arrangements of the Diocese going forward.</p>

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