

This is a cover note about Agenda item 9 at Diocesan Synod on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, Synod will be invited “to note the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal.”

Dear Synod member

You will find the Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal with the papers for this meeting.

As the document describes, most of what is in the plan comes from deanery plans created locally in each deanery, all of the deanery plans have been approved by deanery synods as part of the On the Way process.

Bishops Diocesan Council (BDC) acting as the trustees and directors of the DBF and as the Bishop’s Council approved the overall plan on 26<sup>th</sup> April and this now comes to Diocesan Synod for debate and “to note”. We intend to allocate a significant amount of time for discussion and feedback on the plan at Synod. We are also offering a “briefing” prior to Synod where members will be able to raise specific questions in a way that will allow us to address them in a fuller way on the 20<sup>th</sup> - details of this briefing are below.

Members will note that the finance section of the plan (4.2 and elsewhere) proposes significant new funding from reserves to support parish ministry, mission among children and young people in parishes and schools, and support for parishes in their stewardship of historic buildings. This section also describes significant additional funding from the national church including for deanery leadership.

BDC took the view that, while they were ready to approve the overall plan, there should be further consultation on the use of diocesan reserves and that these proposals should come back to Diocesan Synod as specific proposals for approval later in the year (provisionally in November when we look at the budget) and that there should be a wider consultation on this approach over the summer. We will therefore be consulting with synod members, churchwardens, parish treasurers and deanery synod members as well as PCC secretaries, clergy, and readers on the detail of the proposed assets strategy. In common with our approach in previous year’s budget consultation we will offer meetings at deanery level and invite feedback from across the diocese, we expect the consultation document for this to be published in late May so that we can take the Synod debate on the overall plan into account in the proposals.

The Diocesan Plan for Change and Renewal also includes some provisional new funding from the national church, particularly for ministry among children and young people and deanery leadership. We have not yet made these applications and as the plan says, these are subject to further consultation (and of course decisions of the Archbishops Council!).

This is a major item of work on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, but we recognise that some members may have detailed questions and comments that it would be good to hear before the day. Hence we are also offering a “briefing session” prior to Synod on the evening of 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm for one hour by Zoom, link below. Most of the time will be for members of synod to ask questions or comment - there will only be a short opening presentation at the briefing.

The link for the briefing is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMocO6tpzgpE91Q8beGEK-9CwJIKw729vVR>

As ever, if there are any queries about this please do let me know, and thanks for your support

Simon