

February 2026

Questions under Standing Orders

Question received from the Revd Will Harwood, General Synod, Powder Deanery

What is the value of funding for which the Truro DBF has placed bids from SMMIB for the next funding phase, including LiNC Funding (LICF); and how does the DBF envisage disbursing these funds within the diocese, should the bid(s) be successful?

To be answered by The Diocesan Secretary

Thanks for the question Will.

Truro Diocesan Board of Finance has not yet begun any formal bids for funding under the next funding phase of the Archbishops' Council Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB). Lowest Income Communities Funding (LICF) is allocated to dioceses on a formula basis, rather than bid for, and we have been advised of the following allocation:

2026: £1,307,255

2027: £1,360,591

2028: £1,412,790

Background information.

The Lowest Income Communities Funding guidance (which has just been revised) reads that funding should be “directed to support mission and ministry in the communities with the lowest incomes.” The national church use the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and a measure of those in receipt of Universal Credit to calculate diocesan allocations. These may be good measures of deprivation in an urban context but in sparse, rural and coastal parishes and in areas with patterns of seasonal employment, they tend to conceal pockets of profound deprivation. Hence the national guidance notes “there are good reasons why a diocese may choose to allocate funding to a parish without a particularly high IMD” - the guidance notes what it calls “other contextual factors to be used in local allocation.”

For these reasons rather than allocating LICF directly from Truro, we have taken the view that there is likely to be better understanding of local patterns of deprivation within the leadership of each deanery. Hence our approach which is to allocate almost all of the LICF received on a deanery basis using the same formula applied by the Archbishops' Council (slightly modified to even out potential unhelpful jumps over time). We then ask those who know their local communities best to consider the church's calling under God in those places, LICF can help to support that work. Deanery Plans specifically describe how to support the mission and ministry of the church in those communities. Hence the use of LICF is part of deanery planning.

We hold part of the allocation (£100,000 in the 2026 budget) to fund work that is better done at a diocesan level, like Transformation Cornwall, and to fund the Board's reporting and assurance on LICF fed back to London, which is becoming more onerous.

We intend to make a bid to SMMIB in the summer of 2027 for funding to support our Growing Younger ambition, we originally expected to make this bid in 2025 but have delayed that work for two reasons; partly because the bidding process is very onerous and

we haven't had the capacity on Episcopal College to lead that work, and secondly because we think that to make a good bid we will need to work with parish and deanery leaders to develop proposals, rather than dropping something expensive and shiny out of the sky. Doing that local work well takes time.

We anticipate that the bid next summer will be for an initial "proof of concept" pilot with agreement in principle for further projects, and that the total bid will be for around £7m.
