

## DIOCESAN SYNOD

Title: **REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Sponsors: **THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS**

Date: **16 JUNE 2018**

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### I. INTRODUCTION

It is our practice to periodically review the Synod's Standing Orders. With the new Synodical triennium commencing on 1 August 2018, this is an opportune time to do so. At its February meeting the Bishop's Council agreed to recommend to Synod the changes proposed in this paper.<sup>1</sup>

### 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

#### A. Circulation of agenda and papers

Standing Order 24 requires that the agenda is circulated 21 days before the meeting. This timescale severely limits the possible dates on which Synods can be scheduled since they also have to fit in with the Bishop's Council and financial reporting dates. A shorter time period would give more flexibility for scheduling. The Synod paper pack is rarely large, and the papers are posted on the website on the day of circulation. On balance it is felt that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of a shorter period. The notice of meetings remains unchanged.<sup>2</sup>

Proposed amendment to Standing Order 24:

- Replace "21" days with "10" days

#### B. Later deadline for Members' Questions

Members' Questions raised under Standing Order 74 are required to be submitted seven days prior to the meeting, i.e. the Saturday beforehand. It is proposed to move the deadline back to after the weekend.

Proposed amendment to Standing Order 29:

- In respect of the notice period for questions under Standing Order 74, replace "7" days with "5" days

#### C. Bishop's Council size and composition

The composition of Bishop's Council is determined by Standing Order 101 and Appendix 2 of Standing Orders. It was last reviewed in 2012 as part of the *Transforming Leadership* changes.

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<sup>1</sup> The current Standing Orders may be found on the Diocesan Synod page of the website

<sup>2</sup> NB equivalent changes have to be made to the DBF's Mem & Arts to achieve the full benefit of these changes.

Bishop's Council is a large body and there has been some discussion within the Council itself about whether its size could be reduced. This is however difficult to achieve while both maintaining a balance of numbers between lay and clergy members (which relates to the 1925 DBF Measure), representation across the three episcopal areas, and including the senior clergy of the diocese as full members.<sup>3</sup>

The Council needs to have the appropriate blend of skills, particularly as its membership is largely coterminous with the Trustee Board for the CDBF. A skills self-audit exercise showed that, despite its size, the Council is lacking expertise in certain areas.

The Council therefore proposes some limited changes to its composition which enables a slight reduction in size and the potential to broaden its skills base or diversity.

Proposed amendments to Appendix 2 of Standing Orders:

- Amend the 4 Bishop's Nomination places to become:
  - Up to 2 ordained Bishop's Nominees
  - Up to 4 lay Bishop's Nominees
- Reducing the number of elected laity from 4 to 3 per Area (with the reduction offset by nominees)

This is more clearly shown in the Annex to this paper which sets out the before and after position.

#### **D. Removal of Bishop's Council Members**

At present there is no mechanism whereby a member of the Bishop's Council can be removed if they cease to be eligible to be a Trustee (member of the Finance Committee). This is something of an anomaly which could for example allow an individual who is barred from being a company director or charity trustee continuing as a full voting member of the Bishop's Council.

Proposed addition to Standing Order 104:

- "iii) any person elected or appointed to the Bishop's Council who ceases to be eligible as a Trustee of the Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance may be removed as a member of the Bishop's Council if a two thirds majority (which must include the Bishop of Chelmsford) of the voting members at a quorate meeting so resolve."

### **3. MOTION**

*'This Synod approve the proposed changes to its Standing Orders as set out in paper DS(2018)05'*

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<sup>3</sup> If all places are filled there would be 39 members of Bishop's Council. A survey of other dioceses showed that the average size is around 24. Larger dioceses with Area Schemes, e.g. Litchfield, Oxford tend to have larger Councils. Many dioceses are adopting a coterminous Bishop's Council / DBF Trustee Board / Mission and Pastoral Committee arrangement like ours.

## Annex: Bishop's Council Composition

### Current composition

<b>CLERGY</b>		<b>LAITY</b>	
<b>Ex officio</b>			
The President of Synod	1		
The Clergy Vice President	1	The Lay Vice President	1
Area Bishops	3	Chair of the Board of Finance	1
The Dean	1	Vice Chair of the Board of Finance	1
Archdeacons	7		
Dean of Mission & Ministry	1		
	<b>14</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Elected</b>			
One licensed Minister from each episcopal area	3	Four lay persons from each episcopal area	12
		One lay person appointed by and from the membership of each Area Mission & Pastoral Committee	3
	<b>17</b>		<b>18</b>
	Bishop's Nominees (clergy or lay)	4	
	<b>Total: 35 – 39</b>		

### Proposed

<b>CLERGY</b>		<b>LAITY</b>	
<b>Ex officio</b>			
The President of Synod (Bishop)	1		
The Clergy Vice President	1	The Lay Vice President	1
Area Bishops	3	Chair of the Board of Finance	1
The Dean	1	Vice Chair of the Board of Finance	1
Archdeacons	7		
Dean of Mission & Ministry	1		
	<b>14</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>Elected</b>			
One licensed Minister from each episcopal area	3	Three lay persons from each episcopal area	9
		One lay person appointed by and from the membership of each Area Mission & Pastoral Committee	3
	<b>3</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Appointed</b>			
Bishop's nominees, up to	2	Bishop's nominees, up to	4
	<b>19</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>Total: 32 – 38</b>			

Nomination places shall be used to ensure a balance of ordained and lay members.