
Diocesan Synod

Scheme and constitution for the implementation of the new DBE Measure

Purpose

1. To propose the Scheme and Constitution for the implementation of the new DBE Measure via an incorporated structure.

Recommendations

2. Diocesan Synod approve the Scheme set out in [DS22/2a](#) to enable the formation of a new, incorporated DBE
3. Pursuant to such approval to further approve the constitution for the new DBE as set out in [DS22/2b](#)

Background

4. The new DBE Measure will take the place of the current 1991 Measure (last updated in 2006) and should be implemented by January 2023. It has been introduced to reflect the changes in the education system and legislation over the last decade. The new legislation is less prescriptive about the membership of DBEs and makes it much easier for the composition of the membership to be reviewed and changed when needed. The Measure also simplifies the process of updating legislation in response to future developments, a move informed by General Synod's wish for modernisation and simplification of structures and processes.
5. The method of implementation has been extensively discussed at Diocesan Board of Education meetings and has further been included on two Bishop's Council meetings and at the previous Diocesan Synod. The Bishop of Gloucester, who formally proposes the Scheme, the Bishop of Tewkesbury, as the DBE Chair and the Diocesan Secretary have also been involved with its development. The culmination of these discussions is the Scheme, which is attached with the meeting papers. This document outlines that the Diocesan Synod designates a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) called the Diocesan Board of Education to be the Diocesan Board of Education for the Dioceses and deliver all aspects of the Measure.
6. The Constitution document is required to outline in detail the governance of the CIO, which, once agreed, will be registered with the Charity Commission.

Further information

7. At its last meeting, Bishops Council was supportive of pursuing the incorporated route. Council asked that two of the membership (Martin Kingstone and Chris Hill), along with Benjamin Preece-Smith and Bishop Robert, scrutinised the Scheme and the Constitution for the new DBE. This meeting was convened on 24 January and the lawyer that drafted the documents also attended. After discussion and questions all were content with both the Scheme and the Constitution.
8. The current DBE is supported financially by the GDBF and benefits from the HR, Finance and Administrative functions of the organisation. It is anticipated that these benefits will remain although the specific mechanism for this has yet to be agreed.
9. As noted above the Scheme identifies that the DBE will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and it will comprise the following

- a. The Diocesan Bishop
- b. A member appointed by the Diocesan Bishop
- c. 8 Members elected by Synod
- d. A minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 co-opted members

At least 4 of the total number of DBE members should be serving Headteachers in CofE Schools.

10. A commentary on the CIO constitution has been provided by VVV (the Diocesan Registry Office) and is attached as [DS22/2c](#)
11. At the time of preparing the paper, the 8 Members to be proposed to Synod are being discerned. The names and a short biography will be sent to Synod Members in advance of the meeting.

Canon Rachel Howie
Director of Education
January 2022