

Bishop's Council is the executive committee of the Diocesan Synod and is responsible for considering matters of strategy and policy, advising the Bishop, and determining how matters should be taken forward to Diocesan Synod.

Bishop's Council deals with a wide range of matters, covering strategy and vision, finance and investment, church and charity governance, legal compliance and more. Council members are not required to have specific skills or experience in these areas but should attend meetings having read the papers, and prepared to share their views and input.

Bishop's Council sits simultaneously as:

- The Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod
- The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee
- The Trustees and Directors of the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance (CDBF), a registered charity and company limited by guarantee

As the *Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod*, Bishop's Council's functions are to:

- Consider matters concerning the Church of England and to advise the synod on the provisions to be made for such matters in the diocese
- Plan the business of the synod – specific agenda preparation is delegated to the Business Committee
- Initiate proposals for action by the synod and to advise it on matters of policy which are placed before it
- Advise the President on any matters which they may refer to the Bishop's Council
- Subject to the directions of the synod, to transact the business of the synod when it is not in session
- Appoint or nominate members of committees
- Carry out such other functions as the synod may delegate to it

As the *Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee*, Bishop's Council's functions are to:

- Review, as directed by the Diocesan Bishop, arrangements for pastoral supervision and care in the diocese

As the *Directors and Trustees of the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance*, Bishop's Council's functions are to:

- Make decisions about the financial resources provided to support mission and ministry across the diocese
- Review the annual CDBF budget and recommend its approval to synod
- Approve the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

Trustee Responsibilities

Before appointment, all prospective Trustees must sign a declaration of eligibility and responsibility to confirm that they are willing and eligible to act as trustees. Trustees must complete an initial and annual declaration of interest.



There are six main duties which charity trustees must undertake – sometimes referred to as the 'Governance Jigsaw'.

Bishop's Council members receive an induction and also ongoing training and development to ensure they understand and are able to comply with these duties.

Bishop's Council members are elected by and from Diocesan Synod. Members should therefore be aware of and comply with the Diocesan Synod Code of Conduct. In particular, members are asked to:

- Actively participate in discussions
- Consider issues prayerfully
- Be punctual, and to attend each meeting wherever possible
- Send apologies promptly if unable to attend
- Listen to others attentively
- Speak kindly, clearly and succinctly
- Bring sensitivity and tact
- Disagree well, treating other members and diocesan staff with respect at all times
- Vote and make decisions for the good of the Diocese as a whole
- Offer constructive feedback to enable Bishop's Council to learn and improve