



Bishop's Council, Board of Directors and Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) report 11 May 2017

The principal matters for discussion on the 11 May were as follows.

DMPC report

The Committee:

- Gave approval to prepare draft proposals for four Pastoral Schemes:
 - Doynton and Dyrham – creation of a new parish;
 - All Saints w St Barnabas/St Augustine Swindon – creation of a new benefice;
 - St John Haydon Wick/ North Swindon – boundary revision;
 - Almondsbury and Olveston (North/South Severnside) - creation of two new benefices.
- Recommended the draft proposals to establish two new benefices, West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze, and North West Swindon and Lydiard Millicent.
- Endorsed the establishment of a Bishop's Mission Order for St James, Lockleaze under the ministry of the Revd Dave Jeal.

Risk Management Policy and Procedure

David Tunley, Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Audit Committee's recommendations for changes to the Board's risk management policy and procedure. The more developed approach aims to the ongoing assessment, treatment, governance and review of risk (threat and opportunity) is focused to support the successful delivery of the DBF's objectives and legal obligations.

He referred to several specific proposed changes, including:

- a new, more granular and defined risk assessment matrix;
- risk appetite statements;
- a revised risk register and risk management policy and procedure to support implementation of the new approach.

The Directors approved the policy and procedure and specifically discussed the levels of the Board's "risk appetite" to help the Board to define the levels of risk it is prepared to tolerate and then focus on the significant risks, escalating and treating them appropriately.

The Directors agreed initial risk appetite statements for each impact area – financial, reputational and engagement, operational – to enable further work to be done by officers to identify further risks to the achievement of objectives. The risks that are above the Board's risk appetite would then be discussed at the Audit Committee in October and the revised risk landscape reported to the Board in December.

The Chairman of the Board expressed the Board's gratitude and thanks to David for all his work on this review.

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2016

The Chairman presented the Financial Statements which had already been scrutinised by the Audit Committee and the Finance Committee. It was noted that the auditors had given their unqualified approval. The Directors recommended these statements for the Chairman to sign and to the AGM of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd on 10 June.

Education – growing church schools and Christian influence

Bishop Lee welcomed John Swainston (Diocesan Director of Education (DDE) and CEO of DBAT), Liz Townend (Deputy DDE/CEO of DBAT), and Richard Parker (Chairman of DBAT).

The presentation and discussion focused on progress towards the Diocese's strategic initiative related to education, which is to ensure that DBAT has staffing and financial capacity, credibility and relationship with the DBE and DBF to grow Christian influence in Church Schools and increase the number of new schools and converted DBAT academies.

Various developments were reported on and discussed:

- DBAT's intensive work with its academies and successful bids for two more primary schools in Swindon to add to the three additional primary schools and one secondary school;
- Seed-funding support to build DBAT's staffing and infrastructure and support from Educational Foundations;
- The Regional School Commissioner's fresh emphasis away from smaller Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and in favour of MATs with strong vision and values which enabled the best outcomes for children;
- The DBE's in principle agreement with Cathedral Schools Trust to form a Church-led MAT that could accommodate CE Schools;
- The further work on the possibility of other Church-led MATs;
- The need to strengthen the DBAT Board with Directors to cover Law, IT, Special Educational Needs, Property & Estates and HR;
- The overview of Church Schools and places across different parts of the Diocese and the strong outcomes as indicated by Ofsted and SIAMS.

The Council considered the opportunities for and threats to the progress of the strategic initiative, and how the Diocese needed to strengthen and relate to DBAT in the light of these.

The Council commended highly the work and progress of the Education team and its executive leadership and in the light of a changing and challenging environment.