

Thumbnail outline of Bishop's Council of Trustees

The Bishop's Council of Trustees (BCT) is a new body, approved by Diocesan Synod in March 2021 following a Governance review. It is the body in which all lines of diocesan oversight, leadership and decision-making meet; the Bishop, Bishop's Staff, the Diocesan Synod and all statutory and non-statutory Diocesan Boards, Committees and working groups.

The Bishop's Council of Trustees combines four discrete functions:

- a. The Bishop's Council. This is the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod.
- b. The executive of the Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance (NDBF) which is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The NDBF exec acts as the board of directors (for company law purposes) and trustees (for charity law purposes) of NDBF and oversee and manage the day-to-day business of the NDBF. They are accountable to the members of NDBF – the members of Diocesan Synod- for the governance and oversight of the activities of NDBF, as well as being required to report to and comply to its regulators regarding its obligations under charity and company law.
- c. The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) overseeing pastoral re-organisation and
- d. The Parsonages Board of the diocese which is responsible for the provision and maintenance of a stock of parsonage houses for incumbents across the diocese, and for overseeing transactions in parsonage properties. (The work in this area is delegated to the Property Committee).

The Bishop's Council of Trustees (BCT) combines the work of four bodies noted above,

- It advises the Bishop on diocesan strategy and policy, supports the Bishop in giving leadership and co-ordination to the life, mission and ministry of the Church throughout the diocese.
- The BCT initiates proposals for action by Diocesan Synod, and provides policy advice.
- It is responsible for formulating and approving policies which require diocesan funding; deciding budget priorities and presenting an annual budget to the Diocesan Synod for debate and approval.
- The BCT assists the Bishop in keeping such policies and priorities under review, approving, when necessary, adjustments to those policies; in particular, it monitors income and expenditure against budget
- It appoints members of committees or, together with the Nominations Committee, nominating members for committees, subject to the directions of Diocesan Synod. Certain specific duties of the Bishop's Council of Trustees in relation to each separate area of responsibility are listed below . For more information see the full terms of reference.

Five lay people are to be appointed to the BCT in this triennium (in addition to the Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education). We are looking for people of faith, excited by the diocesan vision and priorities who will bring the additional relevant skills and diversity to the Board. These will be people who will be able to bring significant insight and experience, contributing to the strategic discussion, decision making and governance of the diocese.

Members of the Bishop's Council of Trustees shall be appointed for a three-year term and may serve up to two further terms, serving no more than nine consecutive years on the Bishop's Council of Trustees.

Dates of forthcoming meetings Tuesday 12 October and Thursday 25 November 2021