



DIOCESAN SYNOD

Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP)

The Bishop of Southwark to move that:

- i. This Synod supports and endorses the scope and scale of the Diocesan Investment Programme, for which the Diocese will seek funding by application and submission to the Church Commissioners in April 2024; and
- ii. to report annually to the Diocesan Synod on the implementation of Southwark Vision which will specifically include initiatives in the Diocesan Investment Programme.

1. Following the positive and overwhelming endorsement of **Southwark Vision 2024-2035: Christ Centred | Outward Focused** at the November 2023 Diocesan Synod, we are pleased to present our plans for Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP). This is the funding programme from the Church Commissioners, referred to in Southwark Vision, in which the Diocese may make an application to the National Church. A successful application for the DIP is an important part of how we plan to implement Southwark Vision, at the heart of which is valuing our parishes across our very large and extremely diverse Diocese.
2. The Policy and Finance Committee considered the different streams of work for which the Diocese is seeking funding at its meeting on 12 February 2024 and endorsed the proposals unanimously. The Diocesan Council of Trustees considered the proposals at its meeting on 19 February 2024 and also endorsed the proposals unanimously.
3. A presentation of the key initiatives will be made to Synod and there will be an opportunity for small group discussions prior to seeking Synod's support and endorsement for the application to be made.
4. Southwark Vision aligns well with the Church of England's National Priorities, enabling us to prepare our application with confidence. We have been continuing to work with the same National Church Strategy Consultant who has advised us on our recent successful Strategic Funding Development (SDF) applications. The aim of the DIP is a strategic partnership in which the Church Commissioners will fund some of the initiatives we plan, to which the Diocese will also contribute.
5. The Diocese of Southwark has been invited to apply for the maximum nine-years' funding, through to 2033. The DIP programme will enable us to develop new areas of mission, revitalise mission and build on missional approaches that are already proving effective, all in the context of valuing our parishes. The Diocese will be among the first round of applications for the nine-year funding partnership, and as we are a large diocese and will be seeking a significant sum, there is interest and attention from the National Church as we develop our application.
6. As with the current SDF programmes, the DIP has funding parameters and formal outcomes that will be reported on to the National Church. In addition, the Policy and Finance Committee of the

Diocesan Council of Trustees will receive regular reports, and there will be an annual report and presentation to Diocesan Synod.

What will be our key focus areas for DIP funding?

7. Considering the criteria for funding, our areas of focus for DIP funding are:
 - A parish revitalisation programme supporting up to 25% of parishes over nine years. The aim will be to review and revitalise parish ministry and mission in their particular local context. This will consist of a two-year programme of three weekends a year in cohorts of up to eight parishes. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishes to consider their specific needs in their local context. For example the need for more volunteers, intergenerational work, enhanced ministry to children, young people and families, and initiatives on estates.
 - Continuing to build on, and develop, Hub and Resourcing Church models within parish structures; these embody the spirit of generosity, sharing resources and ideas between parishes. This will include models around estates ministry, bilingual church, Growing Faith, and Parish Nurse particularly in our most deprived parishes.
 - Children and Young People (CYP), including an Apprenticeship Scheme and Mission Enablers for CYP work. The aim is to enable up to 25% of parishes to have benefitted from the work of a trained minister, lay or ordained, specialising in CYP Ministry over the nine-year DIP.
 - Growing culturally diverse vocational pipelines towards lay and ordained ministries.
 - Seeking the capacity to offer larger grants for innovative projects alongside the continuing Fresh Expressions' grants.

Areas the National Church has indicated it will consider funding

8. The National Church is keen for us to build on current successful initiatives (such as Hub and Resourcing Churches) as well as the exploration of new initiatives. Several of the items they will consider funding (set out below) overlap, e.g. models for Estates Ministry may be through a Hub Church; or a bilingual church may be developed by a bilingual Resourcing Church. The National Church has indicated to us that the areas they might consider funding are:
 - A Diocesan-wide Parish Revitalisation Programme for up to 25% parishes over-nine years
 - Bilingual church initiatives
 - Estates Ministry
 - Vocational project developing culturally diverse pipelines to lay and ordained ministry
 - Fresh Expression grants and potential for further innovation funding
 - Apprenticeship scheme
 - CYP Mission Enablers
 - Hub and Resourcing Churches.

What are the next steps?

9. The National Church informed us at our last meeting that we are on target to make an application for DIP funding to the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB) in June, meaning a submission deadline of 18 April 2024. We have the benefit of being able to apply for an overall nine-year funding programme but are only required to provide detailed plans for the first three years and then every three years thereafter. Each three-year-milestone gives the Diocese an opportunity to refine programmes, e.g. Apprenticeships or the Revitalisation Programme.
10. As with other Strategic Development projects, the Diocese will be expected to make a

significant financial contribution and, as previously, this will mainly take the form of housing and shared funding with National Church posts that are not parish-based. The presentation to Synod will include the budget assumptions for the nine-year period.

11. Following what we hope will be a successful Synod outcome, the formal application will be completed in time for submission in April 2024.

Ruth Martin

Bishop's Lead for Strategic Development, on behalf of the Bishop's Steering Group