

Report title	Diocesan Synod Membership 2024-2027
Report of	COO/DS & The Revd Alan Simpson (Diocesan Governance Manager)
Report to	Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod
Date	3 rd October 2023
Action	For approval
Background documents (for reference)	Report attached

Recommendation

Bishop's Council is asked to approve the Diocesan Synod Membership Scheme as outlined in this report, prior to them being presented to Diocesan Synod on Saturday, 14th October 2023. This is in accordance with the following stipulations as prescribed within the Church Representation Rules:

37 (1) A diocesan synod must, no later than 31st December in the year before an election of its members, determine for each house of each deanery synod in the diocese the number of members to be elected by that house.

Diocesan Synod Membership 2024 – 2027

Every three years, prior to the election of a new Diocesan Synod, the current Synod has to determine the number of members to be elected. The Church Representation Rules specify that:

- The number has to be not less than 100 and not more than 270
- There must be at least 2 clergy and 2 laity elected by each house of every deanery
- The numbers of the houses of clergy and laity are approximately equal

The proposed ratio of clergy is now 1:6 and the ratio of laity is now 1:400, in order to bring potential membership of the houses of clergy and laity closer to parity.

The scheme is detailed below, the results of which are shown overleaf:

- Laity Ratio: 1 per 400 electoral roll members or part thereof
- Clergy Ratio: 1 per 6 clergy or part thereof
- Voting by simple majority

Diocesan Synod Membership Scheme 2024-2027

Deanery	Electoral Roll as at APCM 2023	Clergy as at end Sept 2023	House of Laity reps	House of Clergy reps	
Bolton	4424	37	12	7	Lay ratio 1:400
Bury and Rossendale	2819	39	8	7	
Manchester North and East	1953	38	5	7	Clergy ratio 1:6
Manchester South and Stretford	3151	63	8	11	
Oldham and Ashton	4188	43	11	8	
Rochdale	1882	29	5	5	
Salford and Leigh	2868	42	8	7	
Total membership to be elected by deaneries	21285	291	57	52	

Ex-officio		
General Synod	5	7
Other*	3	4
Co-options	5	5

Total elected membership	70	68	138
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Bishop's Nominees (can be lay or clergy)	10
House of Bishops	3

Maximum membership	151
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- * Laity: Chancellor, DBF Chairman, DAC Chairman
Clergy: Dean, Archdeacons