

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Carlisle Cathedral

has on this date the 27th April 2022

**applied to the Church Commissioners and Charity Commission
for approval of the following proposal:**

Update of Carlisle Cathedral's Constitution and Statutes in line with the Cathedrals Measure 2021

On 27 April we begin a process of consultation with the Cathedral community which will conclude on 24 May. The purpose of the consultation is to allow members of our community to comment on the proposed new Constitution and Statutes (C&S) which are the governing documents of our Cathedral.

Why is this happening?

In 2017 the Church of England established a working party to look again at the governance of cathedrals following some high-profile failures in a number of cathedrals. Their recommendations became the basis of a new Cathedrals Measure, the final draft of which was approved by the General Synod and came into law in 2021. This requires all cathedrals to prepare a new set of C&S and to apply to the UK Charity Commission for registration as a charity.

The Church Commissioners have provided us with a template C&S which we have been required to follow as much as possible but which we have adapted to fit the needs of Carlisle Cathedral.

How does this apply to Carlisle Cathedral?

The current C&S, first approved in 2001 and subsequently amended in 2006, will cease to have legal status at the end of this process and the new version will apply.

What will change?

At present, three bodies are responsible for governance of the Cathedral – the Cathedral Chapter, Cathedral Council and College of Canons. The new Measure replaces this tripartite arrangement and concentrates on Chapter as the primary governing and oversight body of the Cathedral. This means that the Cathedral Council will cease to exist and the College of Canons will have a less formal role.

In addition, the Measure requires cathedrals to register as a charity with the UK Charity Commission. Members of Chapter will therefore become charity trustees and will also be subject to oversight by the UK Charity Commission, rather than just the Church Commissioners.

The Measure is specific about the size, composition and membership of Chapter: the Dean, and two Residentiary Canons will be Executive Trustees; the other lay members will be Non-Executive Trustees. The Bishop is required to appoint the Senior Non-executive Member (SNEM) who will effectively be the Vice-Chair of the Chapter. The chair of the Finance Committee is now required by law to have recent and relevant financial experience and is also required to be a trustee so that finance is given a new emphasis on Chapter. The remaining places will be filled by individuals whom it is felt will bring specific skills to the Chapter. There are also rules about the balance of lay and clergy and executive and non-executive members on Chapter, and the senior executive role in the Cathedral (COO) is no longer able to be a member of Chapter.

The newly formed Nominations Committee is working with a Terms of Reference, (again drafted by the Church Commissioners) whose responsibility it will be to nominate to the Bishop and the Dean individuals to be considered for appointment to the Chapter and its committees. The main committees are Finance Committee and the newly formed Audit and Risk Committee. We are currently in the process of appointing new members of all these groups.

The Nominations Committee will also, carefully consider how it can achieve a fully diverse and inclusive governance structure and one which fully reflects our community.

What will happen now?

The consultation will be conducted in two ways:

- The new C&S can be downloaded from the Cathedral website
- Hard copies are also available from the Cathedral Office.

Members of the Cathedral community are invited to send their comments either by email to chiefoperatingofficer@carlislecathedral.org.uk or by post to

The Chief Operating Officer
Carlisle Cathedral
7, The Abbey
Carlisle
CA3

Responses should be received by 5pm on the 24th May.

All comments and representations will be considered and responded to, as is required under the Cathedrals Measure.

What happens then?

Following the Consultation the Chapter will inform the Church Commissioners and UK Charity Commission of any changes it wishes to make to the C&S and then seek final approval from those bodies so that the new C&S can be brought into effect.

We anticipate that the Cathedral will be registered as a charity with the Charity Commission, the new C&S in place and new Chapter and committees formed by September this year.

Thank you for your participation in this important consultation about our future.

Mark Boyling
Dean