

## **Joint Parochial Church Council Schemes - Notes**

Joint Parochial Church Councils (JPCCs) can be created under the Church Representation Rules for benefices which contain more than one parish or where two or more benefices are held in plurality by one incumbent. Under this arrangement each parish retains its own PCC, which must still hold at least four meetings per year.

JPCCs are made by the Annual Meetings of the Parishes involved making a joint scheme to provide for establishing a JPCC, to which functions of the individual PCCs can be delegated. It is important that the scheme is clear on the matters to be delegated to the JPCC and which are not. It is also important that the delegated functions are the same for each PCC.

A JPCC can be made in respect of some of the parishes in a benefice but not all.

The Scheme will make provision for chairmanship (usually the incumbent or priest in charge), meetings and procedure of the JPCC.

The function of the JPCC is to provide a manageable group of people to discuss matters of common concern whilst ensuring that all PCCs are represented. It is important that communication to and from the PCCs and JPCC is good.

There is no specific legal requirement for Annual Meetings for a JPCC, although this could be included in a scheme if thought appropriate.

### **Financial arrangements**

In practice JPCCs may hold bank accounts, but each PCC is accountable for its own funds. A JPCC is not a body corporate and cannot hold assets in its own name. If JPCCs do hold bank accounts there will need to be a mechanism to monitor them, such as an independent examination by a person who then reports back to PCC Annual Meetings.

Any contracts in respect of the JPCC, eg for a photocopier, should be entered into by a PCC. If a member or members of a JPCC enter into a contract, this must be with the clear authority of a PCC resolution so that the individuals do not become personally liable for the terms of the contract.

Fees for occasional offices can either be paid direct to the relevant PCC or through the JPCC, which administers them on behalf of the PCC.

### **Functions which cannot be delegated to a JPCC**

The following functions cannot be delegated to a JPCC and must remain with the individual PCCs

- Duties as an interested party in consultations for pastoral schemes
- Resolutions in accordance with the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests
- Functions concerned with or related to the holding of real property and other matters for which separate legal personality is required.