

THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEANERY COUNCIL

Each Deanery will establish a **Deanery Council**.

The function of the Deanery Council is the official forum for the work of the Deanery. It is the body which will promote and enable the vision of the Archdiocese in Glasgow to be enacted at local level. It will be formed to engage the laity in shared responsibility with the Dean and in leading the Deanery in support of the Archdiocesan vision and strategy.

The Deanery Council will be constituted by having the parish priest of each parish in the Deanery, and a lay member appointed from each parish.

There will be Co-Chairs of each Deanery Council, these being the Dean and a lay person appointed by the Dean. (In subsequent appointments this may be undertaken by election.)

In particular it should:

- Contribute to the strategic and operational work of the Archdiocese at local level.
- Enable and engage lay members of parishes in the development of the Church in the Archdiocese.
- Ensure that there are structures and arrangements for appropriate voices of parishioners to be heard in the development of policies in parishes, the Deanery and the Archdiocese.
- Support parishes in providing the service required for a vibrant, caring and responsive Church in the Archdiocese.
- Advise the Archbishop on matters of resources, including numbers of parishes, numbers of priests, financial sustainability of parishes, and other resources required for the Church in the Deanery.
- Ensure the appropriate use of buildings and other resources within the Deanery and advise on the quality of buildings.
- Provide a forum for co-ordinating activities (such as times of Masses) across parishes.
- Provide a forum for inter-parish activities to be developed (e.g. providing for parishioners on the margins of the Church, providing for adult education groups, etc).
- Undertake any other work which promotes the Gospel in action in the Deanery.

ROLE OF THE LAY CO-CHAIR OF DEANERY COUNCIL

The Lay Co-Chair of the Deanery Council should be concerned with supporting the Dean, as the other Co-Chair, on all relevant matters concerned with the forming, operation, and development of the Deanery Council and of the life and work of the Deanery itself.

The Lay Co-Chair will be appointed for a two-year period and may be re-appointed on completion of this term of office.

The Lay Co-Chair of the Deanery is expected to be a person who can contribute constructively to the strategic development of the Deanery and the Archdiocese. This will require an understanding of the direction in which the Church is taking in Glasgow, as well as a grasp of the ways in which the operation of the Church can function within the resources available to it. This person should be prepared to participate in decision-making which is always in the best interests of the Church as a whole.

The Lay Co-Chair of the Deanery Council will be expected to

- Support and advise the Dean in matters relating to the development of the Deanery.
- Foster and encourage lay participation in the life of the Deanery.
- Visit parishes within the Deanery to encourage lay participation in the development of the Church in the Archdiocese.
- Act as a main support to the Dean in him carrying out his duties as Dean.
- Contribute to the overall strategic leadership and development of the Archdiocese as it relates to the operational work of the parishes.
- Understand the wider issues in managing parishes and groups of parishes so that they function as sustainable units within the Archdiocese.
- Help to manage and organise all regular Deanery meetings, and any other such meeting as benefits the work of the Deanery.
- Ensure that the laity are well informed of matters relating to parish and Deanery life
- Acting as an agent of communication to/from the Archdiocese.
- Participate in meetings and activities with other Co-Chairs and Deans.
- Undertake any other reasonable duty that advances the work of the Deanery Council.