

C5 OTHER COUNCILS

Whilst the Parochial Church Council is the primary council and must exist in all cases, there are four other types of councils which may exist if circumstances warrant it and there is a local desire.

District Church Councils

This is covered in detail by CRR 18. In any parish where there are two or more churches or places of worship the annual or a specially convened meeting may make a scheme which makes provision for the election by the annual meeting for any district in the parish in which a church or place of worship is situated of a District Church Council for that district. The scheme will provide for membership of the District Church Council. Such a scheme may also provide for the delegation by the PCC to a District Church Council of such functions as the PCC shall think fit, although there are certain functions of a PCC which cannot be delegated. A District Church Council scheme needs to be approved by at least two thirds of those at the annual / special meeting and subsequently ratified by the Bishop's Council.

Joint Parochial Church Councils

This is covered in detail by CRR 19. Where there are two or more parishes within the area of a single benefice (or two or more parishes held in plurality), the annual or a specially convened meeting of all or some of the parishes in the benefice may make a joint scheme to provide for establishment of a Joint Parochial Church Council. The scheme will provide for membership of the Joint Parochial Church Council. Such a scheme may also provide for the delegation by the "participating" PCCs to a Joint Council of such functions as those PCCs think fit. There are, however, certain functions of a PCC which cannot be delegated. A Joint Parochial Church Council scheme needs to be approved by at least two thirds of those at the annual / special meeting of each participating parish, and subsequently ratified by the Bishop's Council.

Team Councils

This is covered in detail by CRR 20. Where a team ministry is established for the area of a benefice which comprises more than one parish, the annual or a specially convened meeting of the parishes in that area may make a joint scheme to provide for establishment of a Team Council. The scheme will provide for membership of the Team Council. Such a scheme may also provide for the delegation by the "participating" PCCs to a Team Council of such functions as those PCCs think fit. There are, however, certain functions of a PCC which cannot be delegated. A Team Council scheme needs to be approved by at least two thirds of those at the annual / special meeting of all the participating parishes in a benefice, and subsequently ratified by the Bishop's Council.

Establishment of a Team Council in this way under the Church Representation Rules is now the only formal basis for a Team Council. Any which were originally set up under the authority of the Pastoral Scheme which established the Team Ministry itself have now expired and, if they continue, do so on an informal basis only.

Group Councils

This is covered in detail by CRR 21. Where a Pastoral Scheme establishes a Group Ministry, the annual / special meetings of the parishes in the area for which the Group

Ministry is established may make a joint scheme to provide for establishment of a Group Council. The scheme will provide for membership of the Group Council. Such a scheme may also provide for the delegation by the “participating” PCCs to a Group Council of such functions as those PCCs think fit. There are, however, certain functions of a PCC which cannot be delegated. A Group Council scheme needs to be approved by at least two thirds of those at the annual / special meeting of all participating parishes in the group, and subsequently ratified by the Bishop’s Council.

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