



THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF St THOMAS OF CANTERBURY PORTSMOUTH

NOTICE OF FORMAL CONSULTATION

Portsmouth Cathedral is reviewing its Constitution and Statutes.

Under the Cathedrals Measure 2021, all English Cathedrals are required to become charities registered with the Charity Commission and the consultation is a part of this process.

Why is this happening?

In 2017, a Church of England working group reviewed and made recommendations on the governance and regulation of all cathedrals. These recommendations formed the basis of the new Cathedrals Measure 2021 which was passed by the General Synod in 2018 and received Royal Assent in 2021.

What will change, and how does this apply to Portsmouth Cathedral?

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The new C&S have been drafted based on a template provided by the Church Commissioners. The views of the Bishop, Chapter, Cathedral Council and comments already made by the wider Cathedral Community have been taken into account with advice taken from the Church of England's legal advisers.

Portsmouth Cathedral will remain a Parish Church Cathedral and will continue to be governed by Chapter. The overall size of Chapter will not change but the balance of its composition between lay and ordained members will alter and all members will now be charity trustees. The Dean and Commissioners Canons (Precentor and Chancellor) will be executive members with the other two Residentiary Canons and lay members non-executive members. A Senior Non-Executive Member (SNEM), effectively the Vice-Chair of the Chapter, will be appointed by the Bishop.

The Cathedral Council, which was established under the Cathedrals Measure 1999, will cease to exist and the College of Canons will have a less formal role.

The supporting committee structure for Chapter will be strengthened, The Finance Committee will be required to provide advice on risk and audit as well as finance and investments and the Nominations Committee will advise on transparency and accountability, and the skills, experience and diversity of Chapter members and its committees. The Senior Management Team will continue to provide strategic and operational management. The C&S also gives Chapter the ability to appoint advisory bodies which, in the future, is most likely to take the form of a body involving major partners in the diocese, city and region.

The changes also increase the number of people who can be involved in the Cathedral's governance either through membership of Chapter or its committees. Two non-executive members of Chapter will continue to be elected although the requirement for one to be a churchwarden will end. A non-worshipping roll will allow those who are not eligible to be on the Electoral Roll and those not baptised, to take a full part in the elections.

Other proposed changes include: terms of office and eligibility of non-residentiary (Honorary) and Lay Canons and the size of the College of Canons; the provision to appoint Canons Theologian; the discontinuation of the appointment of Honorary Chaplains; a change of title for our Churchwardens who will be known as Cathedral Wardens to reflect their distinct and important role.

Where can I read and hear about the new Constitution and Statutes?

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- A hard copy is on display in the Cathedral and Diocesan Offices with further copies available on request from the Cathedral Offices.
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Comments

Everyone is invited to send their comments either by email to consultation@portsmouthcathedral.org.uk or by post to: Liz Snowball, Cathedral Measures Lead, Cathedral Offices, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HA.

The consultation is now open and will close at 23.59 on 10 October 2023.

Following the Consultation the Chapter and Cathedral Council will inform the Church Commissioners and the UK Charity Commission of any changes they wish to make to the C&S and ask for final approval.

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