



## STATEMENT OF NEED

The production of a Statement of Need and the associated Statement of Significance (see separate Advice Note), is a requirement of the Faculty Jurisdiction Measure and this advice note is intended to help parishes produce a useful and concise document, to be submitted as part of their faculty application.

The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2000 define a Statement of Need as “a document which sets out the reasons why it is considered that the needs of the parish cannot be met without making changes to the church building and the reasons why the changes are regarded as necessary to assist the church in its worship and mission”.

A Statement of Need should accompany any faculty application for significant changes to the church and/or its surroundings and should complement the Statement of Significance. It should be a tool for the parish, enabling the PCC to focus its vision and agree on what it seeks to achieve. For others, such as the DAC, CBC and English Heritage it serves to provide easily accessible information to help assess the scheme which is being proposed for a faculty.

In short, Statements of Need are the parish’s opportunity to explain, justify and rationalise the proposals to all interested parties, having regard to the Statement of Significance and impact of the proposed change. Consider that some people will not have the opportunity to visit the church and will need to base opinions on the information you provide in these supporting Statements.

Bearing this in mind, you are strongly encouraged to ensure that the Statement is factual, informative, clear and concise. Try not to be emotive or over-dramatic. The facts of the situation should speak clearly for themselves.

In drawing up the Statement of Need, the parish should consider the following areas of information to be provided:

### **1. General information**

This could include:

- the size of the population in the parish
- the different types of service during the week/month and average attendances
- number on the electoral roll
- age profile of the congregation; provision for children’s work; number of children attending the activities
- whether the church is open during the day
- activities in the church other than prayer and worship

- the parish's finance position; current or potential availability of funds for the work, e.g. through grants etc.
- the date of the last QI report and any major issues that were identified; together with details of any action undertaken to remedy the faults.

## **2. The proposed work**

You may find it helpful to divide the needs into areas such as:

- Facilities
- Space
- Access
- Liturgy
- Other e.g. heating system

If you have prepared a brief for your architect explaining what you want to achieve, it would be helpful to append this for reference.

## **3. Why you need the work**

This could include information on the following points:

- How it will help the ministry of the church. How it will enhance the liturgical space and services. How it will help small group work and midweek meetings.
- How it will help the mission of the church. New groups that will be drawn into the life of the church. New activities and events that will be possible within the building.
- How it will help your financial situation.

## **4. Why it is necessary to carry out the work now**

This should include details of any changes which have taken place which have led to the need arising:

- Increased attendance, growth in a particular area such as children, introduction of new services and activities, arrival of a new vicar or church plant
- New housing development, increase/decrease in population, major regeneration scheme, major changes in infrastructure (e.g. transport links), employment opportunities
- Deterioration of the fabric of the building, vandalism or other damage, subsidence etc.
- Impact on finances, for example as the result of a large bequest; the need to generate more money through increased use of the building in order to meet rising costs of ministry and mission.

## **5. Evidence for the need**

This should include details of any consultation that has taken place with church members, the wider parish, potential user groups, voluntary and statutory organisations, statutory bodies and diocesan bodies. It should outline the dates the consultation took place and the results, including any opposition to the proposals. If a business plan has been prepared it would be useful to include that, together with information on contingencies if the predicted levels prove to be too high or too low.

## **6. Whether the proposal will contribute to the need for environmental sustainability**

This would include the following points:

- Any increase or decrease to the carbon footprint of the church
- How the design, materials, water and waste handling address the question of sustainability
- Whether sustainable use and future reuse have been considered
- Possible impact on the flora and fauna of the church and churchyard
- How the changes might help the building cope with the potential future impact of Climate Change, e.g. heavier rainfall
- How the proposals will influence the way people use the building so that the environmental impact is reduced
- If the proposal is part of a long term environmental strategy

## **7. What other options were considered and the pros and cons of each option**

This could include:

- Larger or smaller schemes
- Different designs
- Alternative locations within the building
- Retaining the existing layout
- Using a different building in the wider community e.g. school, community hall, neighbouring church

Not all the above areas will be relevant for every application and the parish should tailor the Statement of Need to suit the particular requirements of the parish and the specific proposals covered by the faculty application.