

## The Conservation office

### Statement of Need

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A Statement of Need is a document which sets out the reasons why it is considered that the needs of the church cannot be met without making changes to the building. It is also the reason why the changes are regarded as necessary to assist the church in its worship and mission. It is your opportunity to explain, justify and rationalise the proposals to all interested parties, having regard to the Statement of Significance. It needs to be factual, informative, clear and concise.

**1. General Information** - An overview of the Circuit and the current uses of the building. This should include a picture of attendance at services, plus details of any other uses which may be church or secular in nature. How many people live in the area you serve? What is the type and frequency of services? What is the age profile of the congregation? What other activities take place within the building(s)?

**2. What do you need?** Better facilities? More space? Improved access? Changes for worship i.e. improved heating? - Explain your needs (not the proposals). If you supplied a brief to your architect, then append it.

**3. The Proposals** - Describe what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in 2 above

**4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?** - Describe what prohibits you from currently meeting these needs, and explain what may have prompted the proposals i.e. An increase/decrease in the congregation or a particular age group within the congregation, changes in the local area: in population, employment etc. or changes to the building such as damage or deterioration or changes in the church's financial situation.

**5. What is the evidence for the need?** Please explain who has been consulted, such as: Church members, wider community, Circuit/District, existing users of the building, potential user groups, voluntary and statutory organisations

**6. Justification** - If the proposals are likely to cause harm to the significance described in your Statement of Significance, then explain how the proposals will result in public benefits which outweigh such harm, and fulfil mission. Public benefits include making the church more viable and useful where these uses are consistent with its use as a place of worship.

**7. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?** How is the proposal reducing the carbon footprint? How do all elements of the proposal deal with sustainability? How can your proposals influence the way people use the building so that environmental impacts are reduced? Is the proposal part of an overall long-term environmental strategy?

**8. What other options to meet the need were considered?** Larger or smaller schemes, different designs, using a different part of the building(s), making no change at all, providing a management solution rather than a change in the fabric, using a different building altogether. What were the pros and cons of the different options?