

Wales Synod/Synod Cymru

Contact Names and Details	The Revd Dr Jennifer A Hurd, Chair of Synod Cymru The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley, Chair of the Wales Synod
Resolutions	51/1. The Council receives the report

1. The Council was informed at its meeting in April 2018 that the Wales Synod and Synod Cymru were exploring the possibility that the two Synods in Wales work towards coming together to form one new Synod. The Council appointed a scrutiny group to consider the responses from circuits to any draft proposals.
2. With the support of the policy committees of both Synods, a Steering Group was appointed (comprising both District Chairs, Synod Secretaries, District Policy Committee Secretaries and the Connexional Secretary). The Steering Group shaped outline proposals and possible timetable. The outline proposals were shared with the two Synods and a consultation process began. The responses from circuits and ardals showed some broad support for the proposals in principle, together with concerns over the details and requests for more information. The Council's scrutiny group considered the responses and offered comments to the Steering Group.
3. Since then, the Steering Group has met to reflect on the feedback received and to undertake further detailed work on the specific areas identified. It recognises the range of views expressed about the proposed name but considers it has made some significant progress in terms of agreeing a structure and pattern of meetings, on the membership of the various groups and committees and on a language policy for the new Synod. However, there is one key area where it has proved difficult to find agreement on how to proceed, and this relates to finance.
4. In sharing financial information and discussing how best to proceed towards a joint budget, it has become clear to the Steering Group that the two Synods start from very different bases. This is especially true in terms of assessment and the funding of ministry. This means that it does not seem possible to agree a budget for a new Synod based on a similar and sustainable approach to funding the cost of ministry at the current time.
5. In light of this, the Steering Group considers that it would be unwise to proceed with the significant time and energy involved in changing the current structures to become one new Synod in Wales at this time.
6. The Council is therefore informed that, although there is support in principle for the creation of one new Synod in Wales, it is not recommended that any proposals are brought within the proposed timetable (ie to take effect from September 2019). The Council will be kept up to date with any further developments as they emerge.

*****RESOLUTION**

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