

7 CONSERVATION

Listed Buildings Advisory Committee

Under Standing Order 332, the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC) is to be appointed by the Methodist Council to provide expert knowledge of historic church buildings.

The members of the LBAC are to have, between them, knowledge of the history, development and use of Methodist chapels, of Methodist liturgy and worship, of archaeology, of the history and the development of architecture and the visual arts, and the experience of the care of historic buildings and their contents.

The role of the LBAC, under Standing Order 982, is to provide advice to the Connexional Conservation Officer on all applications for listed building works. The LBAC is also expected to provide general advice to the Connexional Conservation Officer on policy matters regarding listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas.

Support Services in Manchester processes approximately 250 projects for works to listed buildings and buildings in conservation areas each year. Many of these projects are for relatively minor works, such as the removal of a pew or the refitting of a kitchen. The LBAC cannot therefore comment on every project without substantially slowing down the Support Services in Manchester's processing system. A policy framework has developed which allows the responsibility for providing such advice to be delegated to the Conservation Officer.

The LBAC meets four times a year (in January, April, July and October). At each meeting a list of all new applications or initial contacts is reported, together with details of all major cases. There is also a report on the advice that has been given since the previous LBAC. The LBAC also reviews the comments received from English Heritage/Cadw, Local Authorities and National Amenity Societies on submitted projects.