

Policy Number 2

Benefice of Inkberrow and Cookhill with Kington and Dormston

A POLICY FOR GROUP COUNCIL OF NORTH AVON GROUP Agreed Policy

Background

As part of forming a Group between our two benefices – the ARCH Benefice and Inkberrow, Cookhill, Dormston and Kington.

Why?

It is good practice. The Group Council is the unit/entity whose role is to support the mission and pastoral ministry of PCCs. It is an entity that enables the PCCs within the group to discuss and agree what tasks and roles can be done better together – and which are best left to each PCC.

A group comprising the two incumbents, associate ministers and readers from across the two benefices has drawn up this draft proposal for the PCCs to consider.

We have looked at best practice established by current Groups within the diocese (*as Groups are a long established method of parishes working together*) and share their experience.

Membership of the Group Council?

Two lay members from every PCC in the group, licensed clergy (incumbents and associate ministers, curates).

Lay members to be appointed on a 3 year basis (with the expectation that they would normally change after that – but as this may be difficult for smaller parishes dispensation is offered here).

All members are to be members of PCCs – either by election or ex-officio with the possible exception of the Secretary who may be co-opted.

All Group Council office holders to hold their appointments on an annual basis.

Who are the Office holders within the Group Council?

A Chairperson, vice Chairperson (to take over if the Chair is unavailable), a Treasurer and Secretary. If the Chair is a lay person, the Vice Chair would be clergy (and vice versa).

What functions are to be delegated to the Group Council?

Only those agreed by all the PCCs. The delegated functions, once they are agreed, to be reviewed regularly on an agreed time cycle by all the PCCs and if necessary be renegotiated.