



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

TRANSFORMING CHURCH. TOGETHER.

Agenda ref	11.2
Report title	Proposal to Partner with the Together Network
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1. Summary

This report proposes that the Diocese of Bristol become an associate member of the Together Network - a national movement of Christian charities hosted by the Church Urban Fund (CUF). The partnership would deepen our commitment to social justice, foster collaboration with aligned organisations, and unlock access to national programmes that support local mission and community transformation.

2. Background

The [Together Network](#) is a national movement of Christian charities working collaboratively to tackle poverty and transform communities across England. Initiated and hosted by the [Church Urban Fund](#) (CUF), the network brings together dioceses, ecumenical church partners, and regional charities to support local churches in their mission to serve and uplift their communities.

3. Partnership details

The Diocese of Bristol would commit to:

- Furthering the aims of the Together Network (to see people and communities all over England flourish and enjoy life in all its fullness by building an ecumenical ‘faith in action’ movement across England which strengthens civil society.)
- Positively participate in the wider Together Network – attending gatherings and training events, and engaging in theological reflection and collaborative projects.
- Contributing its experiences and evidence into conversations that influence national direction and policy for national bodies

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Church Urban Fund would commit to:

- Resourcing the Together Network with research, staffing, training and updates.
- Being a national voice for the Together Network, and forming national partnerships for its benefit
- Hosting regular gatherings of the Together Network which facilitate shared learning and action, and amplify the voice of the network.
- Listening to and learning from the network.

By partnering with the Together Network, the Diocese of Bristol would join a well-established and values-aligned community committed to:

- Ending poverty and injustice by placing the voices of those with lived experience at the centre of its work;
- Building community through asset-based development and local empowerment.
- Keeping the Church at the heart of social action, driven by Christian discipleship;
- Collaborating across denominations, faiths, and sectors to achieve lasting change.

4. Drivers

This proposal is rooted in our Christian calling to love and serve our neighbours, particularly those who are vulnerable or experiencing poverty. It reflects the third and fourth Marks of Mission:

- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

This partnership aligns with the Diocese of Bristol's 'Transforming Church. Together' strategy's emphasis on forming partnerships for gospel change. It offers a practical opportunity to develop a partnership that will provide a national platform for collaboration, justice-focused mission, and equip churches to serve their communities with faith and purpose.

5. Recommendation

The Bishop's Staff Team affirm these proposals and recommended that this Synod approves the motion for the Diocese of Bristol to become an Associate Member of the Together Network, hosted by the Church Urban Fund, and commit to active participation in its programmes, learning opportunities, and collaborative Kingdom mission to tackle poverty and transform communities.