

**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**A Way Forward For Mission:  
A Consultation Paper on New Circuits in the Leeds City Council area**

**Introduction**

Within the Leeds District, the initial approach to the creation of new Circuits as part of the 'Way Forward for Mission' journey has been to see what new groupings might emerge generically from conversations between existing Circuits, with encouragement and oversight from the District. This has had the significant advantages of ensuring local people's engagement with the activity and of emphasising the need for conversations to be rooted in the local mission context.

One of the disadvantages of an organic approach to the creation of new Circuits, though, is that the various discussions may not add up to a complete whole, perhaps especially when they are taking place at differing speeds or according to different timetables. This could lead to some churches and/or Circuits being (and/or feeling) left out and behind, particularly where some Circuits are perceived to be 'strong' whilst others are thought to be 'weaker'. There is thus the potential for a less than coherent result across the District. There is also the possibility of the "law of unintended consequences", where a decision is taken in one area which could have an unfortunate impact on conversations which are happening in adjacent areas. Churches and Circuits need to see the complete picture in their part of the District, so that they can be part of more than one conversation, if they feel that to be appropriate, as they seek to discern the right way forward to support mission in their locality.

The District Policy Committee (DPC) has the responsibility to oversee the creation of new Circuits within and across Districts under Standing Orders (501[3]). In the Leeds District, the DPC is advised by the District Leadership Team on this issue, as on other strategic matters concerning the life of the District. In both the north and south of the District, proposals for creating new Circuits are developing, but within the centre of the District the picture is more mixed, and no clear and comprehensive way forward is yet emerging. Consequently, the District Leadership Team has been facilitating, through the District Development Enabler, a wider process of conversation and engagement with 'A Way Forward for Mission' across the area of the city of Leeds and its more immediate environs.

Two meetings have been held, on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> November. However, as yet no overall plan for this crucial area of the District is beginning to emerge through this process of more informal encouragement, and so the District Leadership Team has decided that it needs to take a slightly more pro-active approach to developments, by providing something of a catalyst to enable real and purposeful discussions to take place about alternative models. The aim is to move beyond helpful conversations, in order to see real progress towards creating new, relevant and sustainable Circuits in this central part of the Leeds District.

The District Leadership Team has therefore agreed that this Consultation paper should be prepared, for consideration by local churches and Circuits in the Leeds City Council area. Responses to the Consultation Paper are requested, by 31 March 2010.

**Current Conversations Relating to the Leeds City Council area**

*The South of the District*

Conversations are now under way with the prospect of the creation of two new Circuits from 2011. One Circuit will be based on the existing Batley, Morley, Dewsbury & Mirfield and Birstall & Spennings

Circuits; the other will be based on the existing Castleford, Wakefield, Ossett & Horbury and Pontefract & Normanton Circuits.

### *The North of the District*

Otley & Aireborough Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) has held a conversation with the Ilkley CLT (West Yorkshire District), as a result of which there are to be further conversations shortly. The Ilkley Circuit Meeting has indicated that this avenue of exploration is, at present, a more opportune avenue to explore than conversation with either the Airedale Circuit or the Skipton & Grassington Circuit in the West Yorkshire District.

The Tadcaster CLT (York and Hull District) has had initial conversations with both Leeds North East and Knaresborough CLTs. At present, they seem to be favouring a possible link-up with Knaresborough, and potentially Harrogate, and this option is being explored. They did not presently feel an immediate affinity with a Circuit which would go right into the centre of Leeds.

### *The Centre of the District*

Leeds West and Headingley Circuits have agreed to come together to form a new Circuit from September 2010, whilst noting that this might be a first step to a wider re-organisation. Initial conversations have taken place between the Leeds North-East and Leeds East CLTs, at first specifically about collaboration over work in Harehills and subsequently about a possible new Circuit. Leeds East CLT has also had some conversations involving churches in the Castleford Circuit.

Leeds South is continuing to have ecumenical discussions regarding possible collaboration in their area of the City, but they are not currently part of any conversation which would link them to a wider Methodist resource base. Initial conversations with Morley and Wakefield CLTs, although cordial, have not resulted in any further exploration of possibilities.

## **The Consultation**

Attached to this paper is an Appendix which contains a range of 'scenarios' for consideration.

NOTE: It must be emphasised that what is presented in the Appendix is a range of scenarios, designed to stimulate discussion and promote creative thinking. They are not to be considered in any way as a series of formal options which are under any kind of active consideration.

In part to emphasise this fact, some of the scenarios include in the hypothetical New Circuits some local churches which have currently already decided that they are likely to join other new groupings.

Several of the scenarios cut across existing Circuit structures, in order to emphasise that it is not necessary merely to think of working with existing formulations (i.e. "new Circuit" does not have to be just on the basis of putting the whole of existing Circuits A,B and C together). Creative thinking and working with a focus on local churches and cutting across existing structures may help with finding common ground between several individual churches, out of which new circuits may emerge, for example.

The District Leadership Team wishes to encourage all local churches and Circuits which are (in whole or in part) within the Leeds City Council area to give careful and prayerful consideration to these scenarios, and to let the District Leadership Team know their views, preferably by using the Response Form attached. Circuit Leadership Teams and Circuit Meetings will no doubt wish to be aware of the responses being submitted by the local churches, in order to assist in formulating a Circuit response. However, local church responses should be submitted direct; they may take differing positions. Personal and group responses may also be made if desired.

Responses should be sent to Michael Noble, the District Development Enabler by **31 March 2010**.

## **Subsequent Process**

Following the collation of the responses to this Consultation Paper, they will be considered by the District Leadership Team. What happens thereafter will need to be determined in the light of those responses and the District Leadership Team's reflection on them. However, it is anticipated that the District Leadership Team will then issue a further paper indicating the proposed next steps.

Michael Noble  
District Development Enabler  
on behalf of the District Leadership Team  
18.01.10

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**SOME POSSIBLE SCENARIOS**

Seven possible scenarios are presented. None is exhaustive or prescriptive; they are all hypothetical examples of what might be created.

In any of the scenarios, it would be possible to invite some or all of the Wetherby, Collingham, East Keswick, Aberford, Boston Spa and Clifford churches in the Tadcaster Circuit (York & Hull District) to join if they wished.

**Scenario 1: Existing 2010 Circuits**

Mission: **Oxford Place**. [1 church]

Leeds North East: **Lidgett Park, Harewood, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Shadwell**. [11 churches]

Leeds Headingley/West: **Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Adel, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate** [10 churches]

Leeds East: **Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft**. [9 churches]

Leeds South: **Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley**. [6 churches]

Leeds Wesley: **St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Woodside**. [9 churches]

Otley & Aireborough: **Otley, Pool, Bramhope, Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Rawdon, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston, Norwood, Timble** (and would continue to develop a new Circuit with the Ilkley Circuit). [11/14 churches]

The whole of the **Castleford** and **Wakefield** Circuits would continue to work towards a new Circuit with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area.

The whole of the **Batley** and the **Morley** Circuits would continue to work towards a new Circuit with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

**Scenario 2: Principally Combinations of Existing Circuits**

Mission and Leeds South: **Oxford Place, Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, Churwell, Newlands**. [9 churches]

Leeds Wesley, West and Headingley: **St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Woodside, Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Adel, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate**. [19 churches]

Leeds East and North East: **Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Lidgett Park, Harewood, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Shadwell, Kippax**. [21 churches]

Otley & Aireborough: **Otley, Pool, Bramhope, Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Rawdon, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston, Norwood, Timble** together with the Ilkley Circuit. [14 churches]

The **Wakefield** Circuit and the remainder of the **Castleford** Circuit would continue to work towards a new Circuit with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area.

The **Batley** Circuit and the remainder of the **Morley** Circuit would continue to work towards a new Circuit with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

### Scenario 3: One Single Leeds Council area Circuit

This Circuit could include:

Oxford Place, Lidgett Park, Harewood, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Shadwell, Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Adel, Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Woodside, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate, Central Morley, Churwell, Drighlington, East Ardsley, Gildersome, Newlands, Tingley, West Ardsley, Otley, Pool, Bramhope, Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Rawdon, Allerton Bywater, Kippax, Methley, Lofthouse, Oulton, Rothwell, Woodlesford. [68 churches]

Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston, Norwood and Timble could become part of the discussions involving the current Harrogate Circuit. The Ilkley Circuit could also be invited to take part in this discussion if it wished.

The remainder of the Castleford and Wakefield Circuits would continue to work with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area, although Burton Salmon may wish to talk with the Snaith and Selby Circuit. The remainder of the Batley Circuit would continue to work with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

### Scenario 4: Leeds North and Leeds South Circuits

The North Circuit could include:

Oxford Place, Lidgett Park, Harewood, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Shadwell, Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, Woodside, Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Adel, Otley, Pool, Bramhope, Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Rawdon. [37 churches]

The South Circuit could include:

Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate, St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, West Ardsley, Central Morley, Churwell, Drighlington, East Ardsley, Gildersome, Newlands, Tingley, Methley, Lofthouse, Oulton, Rothwell, Woodlesford. [29 churches]

Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston, Norwood and Timble could become part of the discussions involving the current Harrogate Circuit. The Ilkley Circuit could also be invited to take part in this discussion if it wished.

The remainder of the Castleford and Wakefield Circuits would continue to work with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area, although Burton Salmon may wish to talk with the Snaith and Selby Circuit. The remainder of the Batley Circuit would continue to work with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

## Scenario 5: Leeds East and Leeds West Circuits

The East Circuit could include:

Lidgett Park, Harewood, Chapel Allerton, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Shadwell, Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Allerton Bywater, Kippax, Oulton, Rothwell, Woodlesford. [22 churches]

The West Circuit could include:

Oxford Place, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Woodhouse, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate, St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, Woodside, Churwell. [30 churches]

The Batley Circuit and the remainder of the Morley Circuit would continue to work with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District. The Otley & Aireborough Circuit would continue to develop a new Circuit with the Ilkley Circuit, together with Cookridge, and Adel. The remainder of the Castleford and Wakefield Circuits would continue to work with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area, although Burton Salmon may wish to talk with the Snaith and Selby Circuit.

## Scenario 6: Leeds South, North-West and North-East Circuits

The South Circuit could include:

Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate, St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Central Morley, Churwell, Drighlington, Gildersome, Newlands. [21 churches]

The North-West Circuit could include:

Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Shadwell, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, Woodside, Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Meanwood, Adel, Otley, Pool, Bramhope, Yeadon, Guiseley, Hawksworth, Rawdon. [18 churches]

The North-East Circuit could include:

Oxford Place, Lidgett Park, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Thorner, Hyde Park, Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Barwick in Elmet, Garforth, Scholes, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Kippax. [19 churches]

Harewood, Burley-in-Wharfedale, Menston, Norwood and Timble would become part of the discussions involving the current Harrogate Circuit. The Ilkley Circuit could also be invited to take part in this discussion if it wished.

The remainder of the Castleford and Wakefield Circuits would continue to work with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area, although Burton Salmon may wish to talk with the Snaith and Selby Circuit. The remainder of the Morley Circuit and the Batley Circuit would continue to work with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

## Scenario 7: A Leeds central Circuit

This Circuit could include:

Oxford Place, Lidgett Park, Chapel Allerton, Woodhouse, Roscoe, Trinity United, Roundhay, Alwoodley Park, Moortown, Cookridge, Burley, Headingley, Hyde Park, Meanwood, Adel, Colton, Christchurch Halton, Newbourne, Cross Gates, Gipton, Seacroft, Hunslet, Middleton, St Andrew's Old Lane, Trinity Tempest Road, Beeston Hill United Free, Cottingley, St John's Stanningley, Trinity Bramley, Central Horsforth, The Grove Horsforth, St Andrew's Pudsey, St Mark's Swinnow, Farsley, Rodley, Woodside, Highfield, Lower Wortley, Wesley Road Armley, Whingate, Bramhope. [41 churches]

Harewood, Shadwell, Thorner, Barwick in Elmet, Scholes, Garforth and Kippax could create a new Circuit with the churches in the Tadcaster Circuit. The Batley and Morley Circuits would continue to work with the other Circuits in the south-west part of the District.

The remainder of the Castleford Circuit and the Wakefield Circuit would continue to work with the other Circuits in the Wakefield area, although Burton Salmon may wish to talk with the Snaith and Selby Circuit. The remainder of the Otley & Aireborough Circuit would continue to develop a new Circuit with the Ilkley Circuit.

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**RESPONSE FORM**

Response from: \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. Church Council, Circuit Leadership Team, Individual)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(if other than an individual response)

Contact Details ('Phone/email): \_\_\_\_\_

(in case clarification is needed of any comment)

<b>SCENARIO</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
<b>Scenario 1: Existing 2010 Circuits</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>

<b>Scenario 2: Principally Combinations of Existing Circuits</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>
<b>Scenario 3: One Single Leeds Council area Circuit</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>

<b>Scenario 4:</b> <b>Leeds North and Leeds South Circuits</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>
<b>Scenario 5:</b> <b>Leeds East and Leeds West Circuits</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>

<b>Scenario 6: Leeds South, North- West and North-East Circuits</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>
<b>Scenario 7: A Leeds central Circuit</b>	<b>Strengths:</b>
	<b>Weaknesses:</b>
	<b>Other Comments:</b>

**Any Other  
Suggestions/Comments**

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY  
31 MARCH 2010  
TO:**

**Michael Noble, District Development Enabler,  
Leeds and West Yorkshire Districts**

**Email: [ddelwy@btinternet.com](mailto:ddelwy@btinternet.com)**

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