

# District Amalgamations: Process

MC/24/36

Meeting date	13-15 April 2024
Contact Name and Details	The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Secretary of the Conference SoC@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action Required	Decision
Resolutions	36/1. The Council receives the report.  36/2. The Council approves the process as set out in the report.

At its meeting in May 2023, the Council noted the proposed amalgamation of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District and the Plymouth and Exeter District to form a single District from 1 September 2024, and, in accordance with SO 401, directed that a formal consultation with the Circuit Meetings and Synods of the participating Districts take place by the end of the spring representative Synods, to enable the Council to consider submitting a proposal to the Conference of 2024.

At its meeting in October 2023, the Council noted the proposed amalgamation of the Birmingham District and the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District to form a single District from 1 September 2025, and, in accordance with SO 401, directed that a formal consultation with the Circuit Meetings and Synods of the participating Districts take place by the end of the spring representative Synods, to enable the Council to consider submitting a proposal to the Conference of 2024.

In October 2023, the Council appointed two scrutiny groups to consider the responses received from the Circuits to each of these two sets of consultations and to ensure that the views of the Circuits are appropriately reflected in the proposals put to the District Synods and to present a summary report to the Council.

The consultations have been proceeding and the scrutiny groups are undertaking their work accordingly. They will report to the Council once the Synods have met late in April/early May. The timelines have meant that it has not been possible for those reports to come to this meeting of the Council. The Council is asked therefore whether it would consider receiving and voting on the reports of the scrutiny groups, and therefore on whether to recommend these district amalgamations to the Conference on the basis of those reports, via email. Although deadlines are tight, if the Council were willing to do this, it would enable the proposals to be included in the published Conference Agenda. This process is suggested to the Council on the basis that the Council has previously agreed to the direction of travel having seen the documents from the Districts concerned, and on the assumption that the outcome is clear and that there is not a need for there to be debate on the proposals. The voting from the circuits is still being collated at the time of writing, but it is hoped that these voting figures will be available to be shared with the Council at the April meeting, and that these will also give an indication of whether the scrutiny group reports are likely to be controversial.

## \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**36/1. The Council receives the report.**

**36/2. The Council approves the process as set out in the report.**