



**GREATER MANCHESTER
CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Greater Manchester
Churches Together
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Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs)

Role Description for those undertaking ecumenical reviews of LEPs:

GENERAL

Greater Manchester Churches Together (GMCT) is the Sponsoring Body for LEPs within the GMCT area. The Sponsoring Body is the body charged with responsibility for oversight of LEPs within its area and part of that responsibility is to undertake regular reviews of the organisation, character and work of the LEPs. Reviews should be undertaken at intervals of around five years and reports are then submitted to the LEP and to the supporting denominations of the particular LEP. The purpose and intention of the review and the emerging report is to support and encourage the LEP in its life and outreach. Reviews are generally carried out by a small group of two or three experienced individuals, lay or ordained, who will often be members of denominations that are not represented in the LEP and who can therefore demonstrate independence in their responses and views. The review process is not intended to be a critical inspection but is in the nature of a guided 'fact-finding' mission that results in an independent and unbiased reflection of the LEP. It will look at leadership, including ministry and also at worship, mission and the general organisation of the Church or Churches within the LEP. The process follows agreed guidelines and information is sought from the LEP by means of questionnaires prior to the visits by the review team.

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Reviewers will work in a small team. They will work under the guidance of the Ecumenical Implementation Group (EIG) of GMCT and the Ecumenical Facilitator, who is Lloyd Gordon the current post holder. The review group will follow up contact that will be made in advance with the LEP by the EIG or by the Ecumenical Facilitator. The reviewers will agree a timetable with the leaders of the LEP by which meetings can be held with any minister or ministry team; with the leaders of the LEP and with members of the congregation. They will make available to the LEP the agreed guidelines for the review and copies of the questionnaire for leaders and for members of the congregation. These questionnaires will then be completed and returned to the

review team to inform them as they make their visits to the LEP. It is envisaged that the review team will attend at least one act of worship, probably on a Sunday and will meet with the minister or ministry team and any leaders group that exists. They may wish to see copies of policy documents and the constitution and accounts of the LEP.

It is envisaged that reviews will not be onerous or take a long time to complete. It should normally be possible to complete the review and produce a draft report within 4 – 6 weeks. The review group can decide who takes responsibility for producing a draft report which will then be revised and agreed by members of the review group prior to the draft being sent to the LEP and the Sponsoring Body. This will normally lead to an agreed final report that is sent to the LEP, the Sponsoring Body and the supporting denominations of the LEP.

The role of a member of a review group is entirely voluntary though important and valued.

Travelling expenses will be paid to members of the review group to cover costs incurred during the review process and to any costs arising out of training and production of any reports.

MEMBERS OF REVIEW GROUPS

ESSENTIAL

- Volunteers must be in sympathy with the aims and commitments of GMCT.
- They must be committed Christians in membership with a Church that is part of a denomination recognised by CtE and GMCT
- They must have experience, current or recent, of being part of the leadership team of their Church, lay or ordained.
- They must have a desire to assist and encourage the life and witness of another Church where Christians from different traditions are working and worshipping together.
- They must have good communication skills and the ability to write or assist in the writing of clear and concise reports based on a given template.
- They will need the ability to work to an agreed timetable.

DESIRABLE:

- Experience in carrying out or participating in reviews of organisations. This might include denominational reviews such as Home Mission Fund visits to another Baptist Church or similar reviews carried out on behalf of

their local denominational authorities. It might be ministerial reviews such as those carried out by the URC or Methodist Church. It might be experience of undertaking school inspections on behalf of Ofsted or the Church of England, Methodist Church or Roman Catholic Churches.

- Experience of being part of a church that has been reviewed by others.
- Membership of a management team in another organisation, such as a community association.
- Financial expertise and understanding of accounts.
- Experience in planning and leading worship.
- Knowledge of practical areas of Church life, including building management and maintenance or the planning and control of a community association.
- Knowledge of the beliefs and practices of their own and other Christian denominations.

APPLICATIONS

Expressions of interest should be made to the Ecumenical Facilitator, Lloyd Gordon facilitator@gmct.net If you wish to make an application to become one of our team of reviewers you should then apply by letter to the Ecumenical Implementation Group. You should give details of your background and relevant experience. You must give the name and contact details of someone in your Church or Denomination who can support your application. Induction will be offered to all successful applicants either individually or in a small group where appropriate.