

Lowest Income Communities Funding: An introduction

What is it?

“Lowest Income Communities Funding”, or “LInC” funding, is an amount of money given each year by the national Church to England to dioceses to support ministry within the most deprived parishes.

How much is it?

The Diocese of Leicester receives about £1 million each year of LInC funding.

Is this new money?

No. We have received this funding for a number of years. It has been used, alongside Parish Contribution income, to pay for ministry in many of our deprived parishes.

What is this money being used for now, or in previous years?

This money is currently helping pay for ministry across our deprived parishes. In effect, it is “topping up” the Parish Contribution. Many of our deprived parishes are receiving this support, but will be unaware of that fact. This has been the case in our diocese, and in others, for several years. The money is currently being used to support ministry in a wide range of generally deprived parishes.

Why haven't I heard about it before?

People who have been part of governance committees in the diocese, like Diocesan Synod or the Board of Finance, will have heard of this money before. It is fair to say that we haven't talked about it very widely in the past, so many people across the diocese will not have heard about it before. This is something we are now trying to change by sharing more information about LInC funding.

What's different now?

The national church are, fairly, asking dioceses for more information about how they use LInC funding and the different it makes. A small Working Group, made up of some people who are ministering in deprived communities and some diocesan staff, have developed a new policy for how we use this money across the Diocese. This policy was agreed by the Bishops Leadership Team and the Diocesan Board of Finance in July 2023. It means that we have a new way of allocating the money in order to help fund ministry within our most deprived parishes and communities. This will be part of the conversations about local ministry roles when Minster Communities are formed.

Does this mean my deprived parish doesn't have to pay as much Parish Contribution?

No. This money is intended to contribute towards the cost of ministry and is in addition to that which can be afforded by deprived parishes. Reducing your Parish Contribution means we can afford less ministry overall.

How do I know if my parish benefits from this money?

Through the process of forming Minster Communities we are sharing specific details about the allocation of LInC funding to the parishes involved. This information is listed to show how the money would be allocated if all our Minster Communities were already formed. If you would like more information, please contact us.

Will this money continue in future years?

The national church have currently committed to LInC funding for 9 years, from 2023. We don't yet know exactly how much we will receive after 2025.

We are currently in vacancy. Does a LInC funding allocation mean my parish can appoint a new vicar now?

This money is not new money that we can spend now. It is already in the diocesan budget supporting ministry (clergy) in the diocese. As we move towards using this money in a slightly different way, we need to transition carefully. A LInC allocation is one element that will give priority to a particular recruitment, but this still has to happen within the recruitment policy for each year set by the DBF trustees. Your Archdeacon will be able to advise you in more detail.