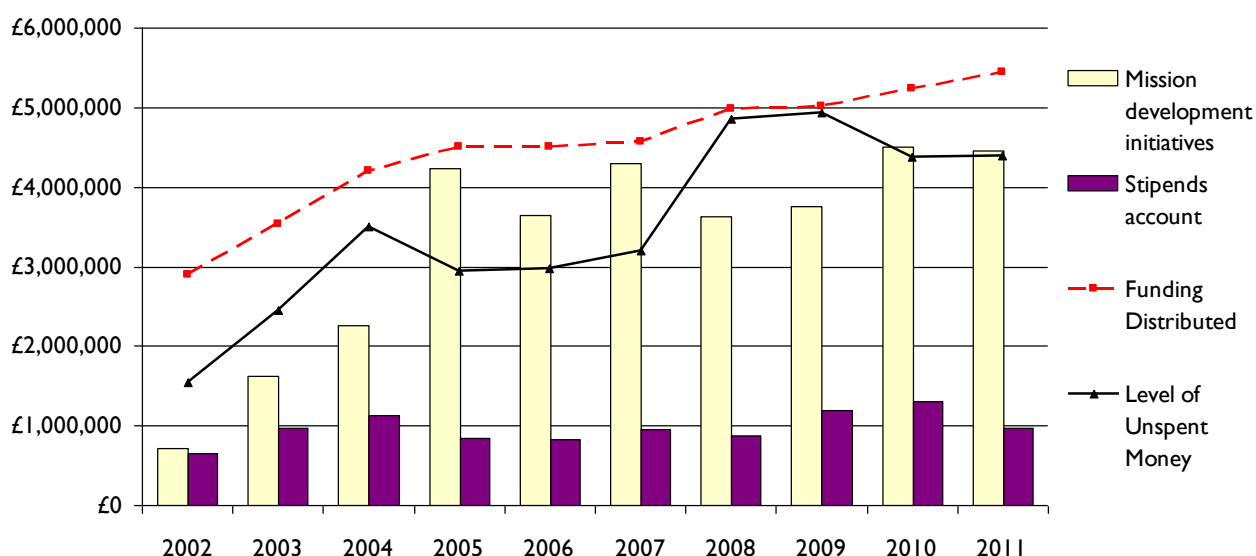


GENERAL SYNOD

Mission Development Funding: Use in 2011

1. This is the annual report on the use of the Mission Development Funding which was set up jointly by the Archbishops' Council and the Church Commissioners as a resource for investment in local mission initiatives.
2. Since 2002 almost £45 million has been distributed through this funding stream, including £5.4 million in 2011. The chart below shows the broad breakdown of expenditure over the history of the funding, and the running total of unspent money. Just under £4.5 million was spent on mission initiatives and a further £1 million was credited directly to diocesan stipends accounts.

Use of Mission Development Funding 2002-11



3. A share of the funding is distributed to every diocese based on their population and financial need. It was agreed that a minimum allocation of £40,000 should be introduced in 2011, in order to ensure that a small number of dioceses are not allocated prohibitively small amounts. Dioceses have discretion to credit the funding to their clergy stipends accounts (in the most deprived areas) or invest it directly in new mission initiatives. Each year dioceses certify that the grants are being spent in line with section 67 of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Act 1840 relating to the making of "additional provision for the cure of souls in parishes where such assistance is most required".
4. **Annex A** gives an overview of the use of the funding by dioceses in 2011. **Annex B** shows the ways in which the £4.5 million of the funding disbursed on mission initiatives was used locally. The spending was broadly consistent with trends in previous years, with the funding applied to a wide range of activities from pioneer mission work and youth work to new equipment to help a church's mission focus.
5. The total amount of (unspent) money carried forward to 2012 (£4.4m) is the equivalent of just under one year's worth of funding. This is to be expected in view of the time it takes to develop a strategy for the use of funding, decide its allocation (which may involve a bidding process), and then spend the money out in an orderly fashion to local projects. The certificates from dioceses reveal that three-quarters (£3.2m) of the unspent money at the end of 2011 has been specifically allocated to projects.

6. As part of the ongoing work to assess the impact of the monies spent, a detailed evaluation of the use of the mission development funding is being undertaken in a small number of dioceses in order to identify and share good practice. The results of this work should be ready later this year.

William Fittall
Secretary General

18 June 2012