

General Synod of the Church of England

CATHEDRALS FABRIC COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE ON LIGHTING SCHEMES

to accompany

**GUIDANCE NOTE 4
PROCEDURES FOR MAJOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS
AT CATHEDRALS**

**PART 2
Major Projects within Cathedrals**

Issued by the Commission
June 2008



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PART 2 Major Projects within Cathedrals

Introduction

Given the number of major schemes for the interior and exterior relighting of cathedrals (and associated works, such as rewiring) coming before it for advice or determination recently, the Commission has agreed to issue this supplementary guidance on lighting schemes, to accompany GN4.

The bullet point list of guidance criteria has been compiled by the Commission's Lighting Group and reflects the Commission's recent experience of major lighting projects. It is not intended to be exhaustive and not all points will be universally relevant, though the Commission hopes that Chapters and their advisers will find it helpful, alongside the more general advice set out in GN4.

The guidance is set out in two sections: advice on contextual points that assist in setting a framework to guide the project, and advice on practical considerations.

1 Framework

- Develop a guiding framework setting out the overall approach to the building and to the project e.g. overall effect, progression through the building and balance between specific task, and general architectural, lighting etc (establishes the guiding philosophy for the scheme).
- Consider all aspects of the cathedral's life and functions that will have an influence on the scheme or be affected by it e.g. music and liturgy (daily offices, other regular worship, festivals and major occasions); the cathedral as a visitor and pilgrim destination; concerts, exhibitions and other events; and education. Consult with relevant members of Chapter (e.g. Precentor) and personnel (e.g. vergers, visitor services officer, education officer etc).
- Balance or prioritise competing requirements. Decide on the scope of the scheme e.g. TV companies may bring their own lighting and other equipment so the cathedral scheme does not need to include an equivalent level of provision, though adequate power supply and distribution may need to be built in.
- Prepare a Brief from the Chapter (drawing in professional advisers e.g. Cathedral Architect or Surveyor of the Fabric and Cathedral Archaeologist) to its selected

lighting consultant e.g. covering needs (practical and liturgical), aims/objectives (practical and liturgical), spaces, uses and users. This may include e.g. general light for safe circulation; reading light for service sheets (congregation and choir); accent light for architectural features; specific lighting effects to enhance liturgical movement; concert, ceremony or exhibition lighting etc.

- If external lighting is to form part of the scheme, it may be prudent to consult early with the local planning authority and local civic groups. Consider the context - what else is lit in the vicinity of the cathedral and how; what are the other factors (over which the Chapter does not necessarily have control) that could influence the cathedral's scheme, and have due regard for any "dark sky" considerations etc.
- Review other work done by the consultants being considered for the scheme and visit other buildings to look at different types of scheme. Discuss with others who have commissioned similar work – processes, pitfalls, successes etc.
- But avoid "transferable solutions". Individual, building-specific designs work best.
- Invite short-listed lighting consultants to visit the building to gain an understanding of its use - for general visiting, for different kinds of worship, for other types of event – so that they can respond knowledgeably.

2 Practical

- Establish clearly at the outset the management of the project and the working relationship and reporting procedures between the Chapter and lighting consultant and between the lighting consultant and Cathedral Architect (with the Cathedral Archaeologist and Clerk of Works as applicable).
- Identify a project manager to steer the project and liaise with the consultant and contractors (this may be a member of Chapter with particular responsibility, an officer of the cathedral staff or the Cathedral Architect, for example).
- Consider physical and visual impact on the building (fabric and architecture) of wiring, cable runs, fixings, fittings and control gear etc.
- Factor in seasonal adjustments – adjustable fittings or combinations of fittings to respond to different light conditions through the year.
- Consider carefully the longevity of fittings/lamps and practicalities of re-lamping (including health and safety considerations).
- Establish clearly energy efficiency and likely running costs (including seasonal variations).
- Consider noise and heat generated by operating equipment (e.g. fibre optic boxes), and any associated risk factors.

- Ensure that the right fitting or technical approach is selected for a particular lighting task.
- Be aware of the impact of light fittings' colour rendering and colour temperature (more reliable indicators of these are available now than in the past) and the visual effect on the building.
- Proceed via mock-ups or trials to test approaches, effects and specific light fittings.
- Consider the programming and control of system carefully – liaison between Chapter, key personnel (e.g. vergers), professional advisers and consultant is important to consider e.g. number and type of pre-set lighting “scenes” to be programmed; who has access to control panel etc.
- Make financial and practical allowances for post-commission checks and adjustments or refinements by consultants.

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