



Update from the members of the Woodford Liberal Synagogue and Bet Tikvah Merger Project Management Committee ('MPMC')

Since publishing our joint statement dated 6 June 2015, the MPMC is pleased to report that good progress is being made with regard to the possible merger of the two synagogues. The MPMC is now instructing the various sub-committees to make written proposals as to:

- the further pre-merger steps which now need to be taken to harmonise the key functions of both synagogues (e.g. regarding services, burial and cremation, membership etc); and
- how the merged synagogue may operate post-merger in relation to those key functions, constitutional matters, rabbinic leadership and the strategy in relation to identifying the long-term location of the 'home' of the merged community.

The MPMC will then publish and circulate a merger consultation document ('MCD') in the Autumn which contains the above proposals. Following publication of the MCD, each community will hold separate consultation meetings (date to be confirmed in due course), the purpose of which will be:

- to explain and discuss the proposals in more detail;
- to ascertain the extent of support within each community for each proposal;
- for alternative proposals (where appropriate) to be referred back to the MPMC and sub-committees for further consideration.

No final decision 'to merge' or 'not to merge' will be made at these consultation meetings. If and when the MPMC is of the opinion that a common vision is shared by a significant proportion of both communities and is ready to recommend that the merger goes ahead, each synagogue will be asked to hold an extraordinary general meeting to vote on the potential merger.

Shalom and warm regards,

Shirley Forbes, Jonny Hurst, Bob Kamall, Elliot Porte, Stewart Spivack and
Richard Stevens

The Merger Project Management Committee

12 July 2015