18.1 A University of Divinity Centre (a Centre) may be established by determination of the Council for the purpose of fulfilling one or more of the objects specified in section 4 of the University of Divinity Act.

18.2 The purposes of a Centre may include:
   a) The promotion of excellence in an area of scholarship;
   b) Public engagement with an area of knowledge;
   c) The development of intercollegiate cooperation within the University;
   d) The development of partnerships with external parties;
   e) Enhancing access to resources.

18.3 Prior to establishing a Centre, the Council must seek the advice of the Academic Board.

18.4 A Centre must meet the following criteria:
   a) Its aims and purposes are aligned with the University’s Vision and Mission;
   b) It is controlled by the Council and governed by a committee that is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor;
   c) Its governance, management, staff and membership are clearly defined and appropriate to its aims and purposes;
   d) It has sufficient resources or the potential to acquire sufficient resources to fulfil its aims and purposes.

18.5 A Centre is not permitted to enrol a student in an award of the University.

18.6 To resource the work of a Centre, the Council may:
   a) establish agreements with a College or group of Colleges of the University;
   b) establish agreements with an external party or parties;
   c) establish an internal fund for the receipt of donations.

18.7 A Centre must submit an Annual Report on its activities to the Council.

18.8 A Centre is established for a period determined by the Council and normally of no more than five years. A Centre may only be renewed by the Council following a review of its operations.

18.9 The Council has the power to terminate a Centre.
1.1 Aims

The Centre for Religion and Social Policy:

a) promotes and undertakes research on the interaction between religion and society, and its policy implications

b) encourages public conversation about the implications of religious social thinking, including its socio-economic, environmental, cultural and political aspects

c) adopts an advocacy role about relevant areas of social policy

d) engages in research for peer-reviewed journals and monographs

f) draws academic resources within the University of Divinity into closer engagement with current public issues

g) identifies and resources informed spokespeople to engage in public conversation in areas of their expertise

h) develops partnerships among the Colleges of the University of Divinity; the churches, religious organisations and religious orders, their agencies and networks; organisations and individuals who share the Centre’s aims

i) encourages, through collaboration with the Colleges, the teaching of specific units on religion and social policy.

1.2 Governance

1.2.1 There is a Management Group of the Centre for Religion and Social Policy which provides advice to the Director and support to the Centre in fulfilling its aims. The Management Group is accountable to the Vice-Chancellor.

1.2.2 The members of the Management Group of the Centre for Religion and Social Policy are:

a) the Centre’s three priority project leaders (currently in ecology, economy and wellbeing)

b) one other person with expertise in research and engagement and/or grant applications/fundraising (currently the Director of Research)

c) the Director of the Centre
1.2.3 The Management Group must meet no less than five times each year. Persons able to provide additional expertise may be invited by the Management Group to attend meetings but are not members of the Management Group.

1.2.4 The Management Group must make an Annual Report to the Council.

1.2.5 The Management Group may not enter into contracts or employment agreements. All such arrangements must be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, who may take advice from the Management Group.

1.3 **Director**

1.3.1 There is a Director of the Centre (currently 0.4), appointed by, and responsible to, the Vice-Chancellor.

1.3.2 The Director is the executive officer of the Centre, liaising with members of the Centre, donors and supporters, and the wider University, and representing the Centre in public forums.

1.3.3 The Director works with the Management Group to develop and implement a strategic plan focused on developing nationally and internationally recognised research and effective stakeholder engagement. Some administrative and financial support for the Director is available from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

1.4 **Members**

1.4.1 The Management Group may appoint as Members of the Centre persons who are able to contribute to its aims.

1.4.2 Members of the Centre are entitled to access facilities of the Centre and, through the Centre, may be entitled to access the facilities of the University.

1.4.3 Members of the Centre must acknowledge the Centre and the University in public activities and research publications supported by their association with the Centre.

1.5 **Review**

1.5.1 The Centre was approved for a period of three years from 1 July 2016 to 31 July 2019. A review of the Centre was conducted by the Council in December 2018. The Council approved renewal of the Centre for a period of two and a half years from 1 July 2019 till 31 December 2021, incorporating a review of its progress at the end of 2020.