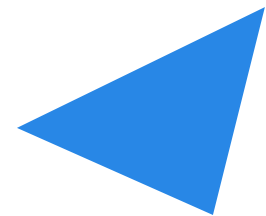
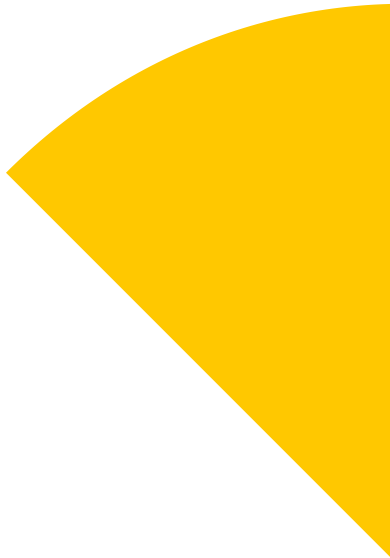


Fit for the Future Governance and Member Voice

AGM Plenary
6 October 2022



Why is Change Needed?

- Governance now more complex and social standards/members' expectations have changed
- Board election process does not satisfy skill requirements
- Lack of clarity on the Board between governance and u3a issues
- Little focus on "real" u3a matters
- Regional reps are currently pulled 3 ways.

VOLUNTARY SECTOR PRACTICE

- Representation and day to day matters are usually separated from governance/ compliance responsibilities of the Board. A representative Council ensures members have a direct influence
- Many have a Board appointments process that ensures appropriate skills
- Many charities/voluntary organisations appoint independent Non-Executive Directors to their Board – surely we have sufficient skills within the membership?

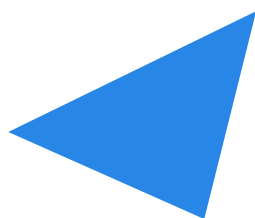
KEY IDEAS

- **New u3a Council** – Principal focal point for the voice of the membership
- **New smaller u3a Board** – Focused on compliance and governance
- **New Board election process** – to ensure appointments with core skills

New Protocols and Working arrangements needed – to ensure clarity of roles between the u3a Board and the u3a Council and full accountability

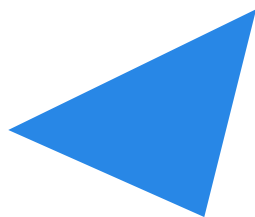
Jean Hogg –

Trustee for East Midlands



Valerie Cobain –

Trustee for Northern Ireland



SEPARATION OF FUNCTIONS

u3a COUNCIL

Effective voice of the membership

- Principal focal point for regional representation
 - Endorsement of Movement-wide programmes and activities

u3a BOARD

DECISION-MAKER ON COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- Legal, financial and Charity Commission compliance
- Creating and monitoring strategy

Next Steps

In July 2022, the Board approved :

- The concept of a u3a Council and u3a Board
- The need for more detail like memberships, draft protocols/working arrangements
- A review of the legal implications and consequential changes needed to the Articles of Association
- A communications/consultation and approval programme that will include:
 - Presentations to the membership Autumn/Winter period
 - Communications, with feedback loop, to u3as and the membership through Winter 2022/23
 - Proposals on revised Articles of Association to go to a future EGM.
 - A phased Implementation if approved

SUMMARY

If introduced:

- u3a-related matters would have constant attention in a u3a Council
– all initiatives would have a u3a impact assessment
- A small u3a Board with elected, skilled input, would reassure members that compliance requirements are being met including sound financial plans being in place
- A representative u3a Council would reduce workload for regional reps and introduce clarity
- More u3a members will be expected to contribute, but no increase in staffing levels.

Any Comments?

Feedback to governance@u3a.org.uk

