

## **Board Meeting: 15 May 2024**

### **Summary Report to be used when sharing with members.**

This was an online meeting. Main items discussed:

- **Vacancies.** Members welcomed Colin Luker (Trustee for Wales) and David Blanchflower (Trustee for North West) to their first meeting. The vacancy for a Trustee for London has recently been notified to u3as and nominations are awaited. Future vacancies for the Trust's Chair and Treasurer have also been advertised. Nominations are required by the beginning of June.
- **CEO Recruitment.** Starfish Recruitment Agency has arranged meetings towards the end of May to discuss the long and short list candidates. Final interviews are scheduled for 12 June with Board members having the opportunity to meet a successful candidate after the Board meeting on 19 June.
- **Fit For The Future** – Members reviewed the Report on the analysis of feedback from the consultation period held on the proposed governance changes. The report drew evidence from the presentations made throughout the country, including comments from presenters, from email comments submitted, from social media content, and from the survey of u3as. The main messages from all sources were that in principle, the concept of a proposed Council and revised Board was generally well supported, although, as expected, more detail will be required before u3as are in a position to vote at an AGM. This point was reinforced by comments from two members who reviewed the report independently. Consequently the Board approved numerous documents that provide further clarification in a number of areas of detail, documents that provide additional explanations, and some changes to the original proposals.  
The Board also considered an initial draft of proposed amendments to the Articles of Association required to create the new Board and introduce a u3a Council, Standing Orders that would give effect to the operation of a new Council, and a proposed resolution. Following a recommendation from the next Steering Group and Governance Committee meetings, there will be further discussion of the Articles, Standing Orders and Resolution at the next Board meeting on 19 June, where the decision will be made about any future resolution to the October AGM.  
In the meantime, all additional clarifications and explanations will be provided to the Pilot Council on 22 May, and the main messages from the feedback analysis and details of additional information, will be circulated to u3as.  
The clear intention is that if a resolution goes forward to the AGM, all u3as should have access to all the information they need to make a decision about their voting intention.
- **Risk Register.** Following discussions in the Governance and Finance Committees, the Board reviewed the Risk Register and identified risks associated with future funding, digital strategy and recruitment of Board and Council members as the main risks to be included in the annual report. The mitigations for each major risk are to be referred back to the Committees to be more explicitly described, and in future to be linked with the compilation of annual projects.
- **Resolution 500k Progress.** The Board received a presentation about the latest progress on all aspects associated with the 500k resolution at the last AGM. Evaluation of the radio

advertising campaign, social media campaign, relaunch of u3a Matters and Friends Extra, all showed a significant improvement on member engagement resulting in increased take up of the Friends Newsletter and website visits. Reports from u3as suggested increased membership, and initial indications from the current u3a annual returns shows a predicted increase from 390,000 to 405,000 members for 2024/25. Further reports will be provided.

- **Festival Update.** Almost 900 members have now registered to attend the Festival across the three days 18 – 20 July at York University. In view of the tremendous interest, and even allowing for the fact that there is significant capacity across the campus to accommodate large numbers, it has been decided that numbers will be capped at 600 members in each venue at any one time. Members will be able to register for activities around the time of the Late May bank holiday.
- **Development Projects.** The individual projects in the 2023/24 plan were reviewed and whilst some had inevitably slipped into the following year for a variety of reasons, a number of the projects had successfully completed or would shortly complete. On the basis of the initial indication, project spend was slightly lower than budgeted.
- **Trust Q4 Accounts.** The Trust is expected to show a year end drawdown of around £88k against a budget drawdown of £151k. However, following significantly improved advertising revenue in u3a matters and a consequent surplus from TATTL, the overall group performance is likely to show an overall surplus of £100k against a budget drawdown of £146k. The figures are subject to the current ongoing audit. Other than in TATTL, the key variances are lower than expected spend on staffing, grants to u3as, and projects.
- **AGM Update.** Registrations and resolutions for the AGM have been invited from u3as. The final resolutions will be issued in July.
- **New u3a.** The Board welcomed and approved the creation of Borough Green and Wrotham u3a, near Sevenoaks, Kent.

**Please note that official minutes are the true record of discussions and decisions taken at Board meetings. This is a brief summary of the main topics discussed and should not be taken as an authoritative statement. If you require any further detail about any item, please contact your Trustee.**

**AW/21/03/24**