

u3a constitution changes FAQs

We have heard there is a new model constitution, when will it be available to u3as?

We haven't changed our model constitution; we have updated the guidance in some areas in recognition of the challenges some u3as face in recruiting people to committees.

A u3a can request a change to clause 16(2) to remove the role of Vice Chair from the list of officers they should have and remove the guidance from clause 21 to allow people to serve as an Officer or non-Officer member of the executive committee of more than 1 u3a.

In extreme circumstances when the alternative would lead to closure of the u3a, your u3a can request the removal of clause 16(8) from the model constitution.

Why are you changing the guidance on the length of time officers can serve in one position?

We aren't changing our guidance; we still recommend following the Charity Commission stipulation that there should be a turnover of committee membership. We do recognise the difficulties some u3as face getting people to come forward for committee roles though and will work with u3as on a case-by-case basis if a longer period of office would assist in the running of their u3a. This change should only be made if all other avenues have been exhausted.

If a u3a wishes to change this they should continue to hold annual elections for all of their committee members (trustees).

Our constitution says we should have a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, now the guidance has changed can we operate without a vice-chair?

Your constitution is a legal document which sets out the rules for running your u3a so you must abide by it. If you feel it no longer meets the needs of your u3a you need to follow the standard process to change it.

What is the process we need to go through if we want to change our constitution considering the revised guidance?

If you want to adopt the Model constitution in its entirety with no amendments, you need to gain agreement from the committee to adopt it and then submit a resolution to adopt at an AGM or SGM and a membership vote will be needed to adopt.

If you want to make any amendments, including those detailed above, you need to gain written consent from the Trust prior to this procedure. If you want to make any changes to Part 1 of your constitution you also need permission from the Charity Commission.

What should we do if we want more information about changing our constitution?



Contact the office at u3a.office@u3a.org.uk