



The New Constitutions



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The New Constitutions

An Explanation



General Changes which affect all Constitutions.

- Changes based as closely as possible on Area Lead Option.
- Where no change is necessary, the wording of the old Constitutions is followed.



General Changes which affect all Constitutions

- General Principle: some clauses have been included which give us the *Freedom* to exercise certain powers, but not the *Obligation* to do so.



General Changes which affect all Constitutions

- Updated to reflect other ANC decisions, e.g.:
 - Associate Members to be members of Second-Tier Groups Only.
 - Wording of aims as amended at ANC 2004



General Changes which affect all Constitutions.

- Updated to reflect current state of 18 Plus, e.g.:
 - No Regions.
 - Obsolete terminology abolished.



General Changes which affect all Constitutions.

- **Not a Charity!**
 - But some provisions included to make Charitable status easier to obtain, should we ever decide to do so in the future.
 - If we ever decide to become a charity, that will have to be the object of a separate vote in the future.



General Changes which affect all Constitutions

- All Constitutions / Standing Orders which are in conflict with it are automatically superseded.



Overview of National Constitution

- “The National Federation of Eighteen Plus Areas”
- The Members are the Six Areas themselves.
- No provision for dealing with individuals, **except:**
 - Office holders
 - Those attending National meetings.
- All other articles dealing with individuals are devolved to the Area and Group Constitutions.



Overview of National Constitution

- Provisions relating to Meetings of the National Federation **heavily** amended to reflect the Area Lead Option.



Overview of National Constitution

- Some miscellaneous amendments, to reflect:
 - *Potential* Charitable considerations; and
 - The fact that the old Constitution could have been drafted better.



Overview of National Constitution

- Apart from amendments previously mentioned, the wording of the old constitution is followed where possible.



National Constitution: Details

- Four NEC meetings per year: February; May; August; November.
- February Meeting = Annual General Meeting.
- Areas to pay National levy quarterly: I.e. £125 in February, May, August and November.



National Constitution: Details

- Changing the Constitution:
 - Changes to Purposes of the National Federation must be **Unanimous**.
 - All other changes by majority vote of the NEC, after the procedure in the Area Lead Option carried out.
 - Constitutional change can never take place at an Inquorate meeting.



National Constitution: Details

- Miscellaneous Provisions:
 - A proper “Dissolution Clause” – each Area gets an equal share of the goodies if the National Association closes.
 - Power to pay for Trustee Indemnity Insurance for NEC members – **very important!**
 - National Federation technically still has power to run an Office and employ members of staff – but has no obligation to do so.
 - Power to turn the AGM into an “ANC-like” event if desired (but again – no obligation to do so).



Overview of Model Area Constitution

- The Area and the Area Committee now take over the roles in relation to Groups and individuals that were formerly exercised by National and by the NEC.
- Provisions relating to Membership revised to reflect that it is handled by the Areas, not the National Tier.
- Distinction between “Area Council” and “Area Secretariat” abolished: now replaced by single concept of “Area Committee”.
- Provisions on Area Conferences heavily amended to reflect changes made necessary by the Area Lead Option.



Model Area Constitution: Details

- Roles taken over by the Areas from National:
 - Collects Membership fee (which is still set by National).
 - Termination of Membership
 - Suspension / Closure of Groups
 - Resolution of Conflicts



Model Area Constitution: Details

- Changes made necessary by the Area Lead
Option:
 - Membership of Individuals now a matter for the Area, not National Tier.
 - Constitution guarantees Members will be recognised as such by other Areas.
 - Transfer of Membership now reflects fact it must be coordinated by Areas between themselves.
 - Provision specifically written in for National Honorary Life Members!



Model Area Constitution: Details

- Changes made necessary by the Area Lead Option:
 - New concept of “Obligatory Motions” at Area Conferences introduced.
 - An Obligatory Motion is one which affects the National Tier, and is subject to the process for constitutional change as outlined in the new National Constitution.
 - Sent to the Area Conference by the National Tier and **must** be debated – hence the name!



Model Area Constitution: Details

- *More on so-called “Obligatory Motions”:*
 - However, once they are introduced for debate, they may be amended in the usual fashion.
 - An Area Conference may thus do the following with Obligatory motions:
 - Adopt them unamended.
 - Adopt them as amended.
 - Reject them outright.
 - “Take notice” of them.



Overview of Standard Groups Constitution

- References to the “National Federation” replaced with references to “the Area” in the majority of cases.
- Vast bulk of Groups constitution unchanged.



Standard Groups Constitution: Details

- Major change: Transfer of membership – which mirrors corresponding provisions in Area Constitution.
- AGMs, not Bi-AGMs.
- Area Committee supervises, hears appeals, etc, where NEC used to do.
- Other changes as per Area Lead Option.



Second-Tier Groups

- References to “National” replaced with “Area” – as per Area Lead Option.
- Otherwise mostly unchanged.



Implementation

- Constitutions to be adopted at ANC 2006.
- **No** opening of one organisation and closure of second organisation.
- Instead, current Federation will itself be transformed into the new organisation.
- National Federation to de-register for VAT.



Timetable

- **With Immediate Effect** (*Close of business at this ANC*)
 - ANC closes and the new constitutions come into force!
 - All groups to make cheques for individuals' membership fees **payable to their own Area** when sending them to their Area Membership Officer.
- **May 1st 2006**
 - Areas become liable to pay National their first quarterly levy of £125



Timetable

- **May 2006**
 - Areas: Hold “Transitional Conferences”
 - Groups: Hold “Transitional Bi-Agms”
 - National: First NEC meeting under held under new system.



Timetable

- **June / July 2006**
 - Areas hold their first quarterly conferences under the new constitutions
 - *(Not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days after the NEC meeting).*



Timetable

- **August 1st 2006**
 - Areas pay next quarterly levy
- **August 2006**
 - NEC Meeting
- **September / October 2006**
 - Next quarterly Area Conference.
- **November 1st 2006**
 - Areas pay another quarterly levy
- **November 3rd 2006**
 - WASH!
- **November 2006**
 - NEC Meeting



Timetable

- **January 2007**
 - Area: Annual Conference
 - Groups: AGM
- **February 1st 2007**
 - Yet another quarterly levy now due from Areas to National
- **February 2007**
 - National AGM.