

**Companies Act 2006
Company limited by guarantee**

**ARTICLES
OF ASSOCIATION
-OF-
SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

**Date of Incorporation: 5 July 1993
Company Number: 02832920
Charity Number: 1024546**

**Brabners LLP
Horton House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
L2 3YL
(Ref. GDH.)**

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ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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SEFTON COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

1. Objects

1.1 The Objects of the Charity shall be:

1.1.1 To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the Borough of Sefton (and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time) and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):

1.1.1.1. the advancement of education;

1.1.1.2. the advancement of health; and

1.1.1.3. the prevention and relief of poverty; and

1.1.1.4. the relief of those in need, by reason of youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

1.1.2 To promote and organise cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end to bring together representatives of the statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above purposes within the Borough of Sefton (and in such other areas as the Trustees determine from time to time).

1.2 This provision may be amended by special resolution but only with the prior written consent of the Commission.

2. Powers

The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

2.1 to provide advice or information;

2.2 to carry out research;

2.3 to co-operate with other bodies;

2.4 to support, administer or set up other charities;

2.5 to accept gifts and to raise funds (but not by means of taxable trading);

2.6 to borrow money;

2.7 to give security for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);

- 2.8 to acquire or hire property of any kind;
- 2.9 to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
- 2.10 to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- 2.11 to deposit or invest its funds in any manner (but to invest only after obtaining such advice from a financial expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- 2.12 to delegate the management of investments to a financial expert, but only on terms that:
 - 2.12.1 the investment policy is set down in writing for the financial expert by the Trustees;
 - 2.12.2 timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees;
 - 2.12.3 the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees;
 - 2.12.4 the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time;
 - 2.12.5 the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year;
 - 2.12.6 all payments due to the financial expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and
 - 2.12.7 the financial expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- 2.13 to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a financial expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 2.14 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- 2.15 to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required;
- 2.16 subject to Article 6.3, to employ paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers;
- 2.17 to enter into contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies;
- 2.18 to establish or acquire subsidiary companies;
- 2.19 to do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects.

3. The Trustees

- 3.1 The Trustees as charity trustees have control of the Charity and its property and funds.
- 3.2 Trustees are elected by the Members at an AGM or co-opted by the Trustees.

- 3.3 The Trustees when complete consist of at least six and not more than fifteen individuals over the age of 18, all of whom must support the Objects.
- 3.4 A Trustee may not act as a Trustee unless he / she is a Member.
- 3.5 One third (or the number nearest one third) of the Trustees must retire at each AGM, those longest in office retiring first and the choice between any of equal service being made by drawing lots. A retiring Trustee who is eligible may be reappointed.
- 3.6 The Members may, at the AGM at which a Trustee retires in accordance with Article 3.5, fill up the vacated office by electing an individual thereto, and in default the retiring Trustee shall, if offering himself / herself for re-election, be deemed to have been re-elected, unless at such AGM it is expressly resolved not to fill such vacated office, or unless a resolution for the re-election of such Trustee shall have been put to the meeting and lost.
- 3.7 No individual not being a Trustee retiring at an AGM shall, unless recommended by the Trustees for election, be eligible for election as a Trustee at an AGM, unless within the prescribed time before the day appointed for the AGM there shall have been given to the Charity notice in writing by some Member duly qualified to be present and vote at the AGM for which such notice is given, of his or her or its intention to propose such individual for election, and also notice in writing signed by the individual of his, her or its willingness to be elected. The prescribed time above mentioned shall be such that, between the date when the notice is served, or deemed to be served, and the day appointed for the meeting there shall be not less than four nor more than 28 intervening days.
- 3.8 A Trustee's term of office as such automatically terminates if he / she:
- 3.8.1 is disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a charity trustee;
 - 3.8.2 is incapable, whether mentally or physically, of managing his/her own affairs;
 - 3.8.3 is absent without permission from three consecutive meetings of the Trustees and is asked by a majority of the other Trustees to resign;
 - 3.8.4 resigns by written notice to the Trustees (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office); or
 - 3.8.5 is removed by the Members at a general meeting under the Companies Act.
- 3.9 The Trustees may at any time co-opt any individual who is eligible as a Trustee to fill a vacancy in their number or as an additional Trustee, but a co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM.
- 3.10 A technical defect in the appointment of a Trustee of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

4. Trustees' proceedings

- 4.1 A quorum at a meeting of the Trustees is at least five or one third of the Trustees in office, whichever is the greater.
- 4.2 A meeting of the Trustees may be held either in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the Trustees in which all participants may communicate with all the other participants but at least one meeting in each year must be held in person.

- 4.3 The Chair or (if the Chair is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Trustee chosen by the Trustees present presides at each meeting.
- 4.4 Any issue may be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast at a meeting, but a resolution in writing agreed by all the Trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting (other than any Conflicted Trustee who has not been authorised to vote) is as valid as a resolution passed at a meeting. For this purpose the resolution may be contained in more than one document.
- 4.5 Every Trustee has one vote on each issue but, in case of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting has a second or casting vote.
- 4.6 A procedural defect of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

5. Trustees' powers

The Trustees have the following powers in the administration of the Charity in their capacity as Trustees:

- 5.1 To appoint (and remove) any person (who may be a Trustee) to act as Secretary in accordance with the Companies Act.
- 5.2 To appoint a Chair, Vice Chair, a Treasurer and other honorary officers from among their number.
- 5.3 To delegate any of their functions to committees consisting of two or more individuals appointed by them. At least one member of every committee must be a Trustee and all proceedings of committees must be reported promptly to the Trustees.
- 5.4 To make standing orders consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern proceedings at general meetings.
- 5.5 To make rules consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern their proceedings and proceedings of committees.
- 5.6 To make regulations consistent with the Memorandum, the Articles and the Companies Act to govern the administration of the Charity and the use of its seal (if any).
- 5.7 To establish procedures to assist the resolution of disputes or differences within the Charity.
- 5.8 To exercise any powers of the Charity which are not reserved to the Members.

6. Benefits and Conflicts

- 6.1 The property and funds of the Charity must be used only for promoting the Objects and do not belong to the Members but:
 - 6.1.1 Members, Trustees and Connected Persons may be paid interest at a reasonable rate on money lent to the Charity;
 - 6.1.2 Members, Trustees and Connected Persons may be paid a reasonable rent or hiring fee for property let or hired to the Charity; and
 - 6.1.3 Members, Trustees and Connected Persons may receive charitable benefits on the same terms as any other members of the beneficial class.

- 6.2 A Trustee must not receive any payment of money or other material benefit (whether directly or indirectly) from the Charity except:
- 6.2.1 as mentioned in Articles 6.1 or 6.3;
 - 6.2.2 reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (including hotel and travel costs) actually incurred in running the Charity;
 - 6.2.3 the benefit of indemnity insurance as permitted by the Charities Act;
 - 6.2.4 an indemnity in respect of any liabilities properly incurred in running the Charity (including the costs of a successful defence to criminal proceedings);
 - 6.2.5 in exceptional cases, other payments or benefits (but only with the written consent of the Commission in advance and where required by the Companies Act the approval or affirmation of the Members).
- 6.3 No Trustee or Connected Person may be employed by the Charity except in accordance with Article 6.2.5, but any Trustee or Connected Person may enter into a written contract with the Charity, as permitted by the Charities Act, to supply goods or services in return for a payment or other material benefit but only if:
- 6.3.1 the goods or services are actually required by the Charity, and the Trustees decide that it is in the best interests of the Charity to enter into such a contract;
 - 6.3.2 the nature and level of the remuneration is no more than is reasonable in relation to the value of the goods or services and is set in accordance with the procedure in Article 6.4; and
 - 6.3.3 fewer than half of the Trustees are subject to such a contract in any financial year.
- 6.4 Subject to Article 6.5, any Trustee who becomes a Conflicted Trustee in relation to any matter must:
- 6.4.1 declare the nature and extent of his or her interest before discussion begins on the matter;
 - 6.4.2 withdraw from the meeting for that item after providing any information requested by the Trustees;
 - 6.4.3 not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and
 - 6.4.4 be absent during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
- 6.5 When any Trustee is a Conflicted Trustee, the Trustees who are not Conflicted Trustees, if they form a quorum without counting the Conflicted Trustee and are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Charity to do so, may by resolution passed in the absence of the Conflicted Trustee authorise the Conflicted Trustee, notwithstanding any conflict of interest or duty which has arisen or may arise for the Conflicted Trustee, to:
- 6.5.1 continue to participate in discussions leading to the making of a decision and / or to vote; or
 - 6.5.2 disclose to a third party information confidential to the Charity; or

6.5.3 take any other action not otherwise authorised which does not involve the receipt by the Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person of any payment or material benefit from the Charity; or

6.5.4 refrain from taking any step required to remove the conflict.

6.6 This provision may be amended by special resolution but, where the result would be to permit any material benefit to a Trustee or Connected Person, only with the prior written consent of the Commission.

7. Records and Accounts

7.1 The Trustees must comply with the requirements of the Companies Act and of the Charities Act as to keeping records, the audit or independent examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies and the Commission of information required by law including:

7.1.1 annual returns;

7.1.2 annual reports; and

7.1.3 annual statements of account.

7.2 The Trustees must also keep records of:

7.2.1 all proceedings at meetings of the Trustees;

7.2.2 all resolutions in writing;

7.2.3 all reports of committees; and

7.2.4 all professional advice obtained.

7.3 Accounting records relating to the Charity must be made available for inspection by any Trustee at any time during normal office hours and may be made available for inspection by Members who are not Trustees if the Trustees so decide.

7.4 A copy of the Charity's constitution and latest available statement of account must be supplied on request to any Trustee. Copies of the latest accounts must also be supplied in accordance with the Charities Act to any other person who makes a written request and pays the Charity's reasonable costs.

8. Membership

8.1 The Charity must maintain a Register of Members.

8.2 Membership is open to any individual over the age of 18 or organisation interested in furthering the Objects and approved by the Trustees.

8.3 The form and the procedure for applying for Membership is to be prescribed by the Trustees.

8.4 The Trustees shall make rules for the payment to the Charity by Members of periodic subscriptions. The Trustees shall have power to vary the rules or make new rules from time to time and to determine when any rules made or any variation shall come into force or cease to have effect. The rules for the time being in force shall provide for such matters concerning subscriptions as the Trustees shall determine including, in particular, the amount of each Member's subscription, the times at which it shall become payable and the period of time to which each subscription shall relate. The rules may provide for differing rates of subscription.

- 8.5 Every Member shall pay subscriptions to the Charity in accordance with rules for the time being in force as aforesaid.
- 8.6 Notwithstanding the terms of Article 8.4, the said rules shall not require payment by any Member of a subscription in excess of £10 per annum without the authority of the Charity in general meeting.
- 8.7 The Trustees shall have authority at its discretion to waive the subscription or subscriptions of any Member;
- 8.8 If a Member fails to pay his or her or its subscription within twelve months of its becoming payable under the said rules and it has not been waived under Article 8.7 he, she or it shall be served by the Charity with notice in writing of such failure and if the subscription has not been paid within 3 months of the service of such notice he shall automatically cease to be a Member. Upon payment of all arrears of subscription due from him / her / it while a Member he / she / it may apply to be re-admitted as a Member.
- 8.9 Membership is not transferable.
- 8.10 Membership is terminated in the following circumstances:
- 8.10.1 Where a Member resigns his, her or its Membership by written notice to the Charity;
- 8.10.2 Where the Member dies or ceases to exist;
- 8.10.3 Where, in the opinion of the Trustees, a Member's conduct is contrary or prejudicial to the interests of the Charity. In such circumstances, Membership may be terminated by a resolution passed by 75% of the Trustees present and voting at a meeting of the Trustees but only after the meeting has invited the written views of the Member concerned and considered the matter in the light of any such views.

Any person ceasing to be a Member in accordance with the Articles shall have no right to the return of the whole or any part of any subscription paid by the Member to the Charity.

- 8.11 The Trustees may establish different classes of Members and recognise one or more classes of supporters who are not Members (but who may nevertheless be termed 'members' and set out their respective rights and obligations).

9. General Meetings

- 9.1 Members are entitled to attend general meetings in person or by proxy (but only if the appointment of a proxy is in writing and notified to the Charity before the commencement of the meeting).
- 9.2 General meetings are called on at least 14 and not more than 28 clear days' written notice indicating the business to be discussed and (if a special resolution is to be proposed) at least 21 clear days' written notice setting out the terms of the proposed special resolution.
- 9.3 There is a quorum at a general meeting if the number of Members present in person or by proxy is at least ten or 10% of the total number of Members, whichever is greater.

- 9.4 The Chair or (if the Chair is unable or unwilling to do so) the Vice Chair or (if the Vice Chair is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Member elected by the Members present shall preside at a general meeting
- 9.5 Except where otherwise provided by the Articles or the Companies Act, every issue is decided by ordinary resolution.
- 9.6 Every Member present in person or by proxy has one vote on each issue.
- 9.7 The following provisions apply to any organisation that is a Member (“a Member Organisation”):
- 9.7.1 a Member Organisation may nominate any individual to act as its representative (“an Authorised Representative”) at any meeting of the Charity;
 - 9.7.2 the Member Organisation must give notice in writing to the Charity of the name of its Authorised Representative. The Authorised Representative will not be entitled to represent the Member Organisation at any meeting of the Charity unless such notice has been received by the Charity. The Authorised Representative may continue to represent the Member Organisation until notice in writing is received by the Charity to the contrary;
 - 9.7.3 a Member Organisation may appoint an Authorised Representative to represent it at a particular meeting of the Charity or at all meetings of the Charity until notice in writing to the contrary is received by the Charity;
 - 9.7.4 any notice in writing received by the Charity shall be conclusive evidence of the Authorised Representative’s authority to represent the Member Organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The Charity shall not be required to consider whether the Authorised Representative has been properly appointed by the Member Organisation;
 - 9.7.5 an individual appointed by a Member Organisation to act as its Authorised Representative is entitled to exercise (on behalf of the Member Organisation) the same powers as the Member Organisation could exercise if it were an individual Member;
 - 9.7.6 on a vote on a resolution at a meeting of the Charity, the Authorised Representative has the same voting rights as the Member Organisation would be entitled to if it was an individual Member present in person at the meeting; and
 - 9.7.7 the power to appoint an Authorised Representative under this Article 9.7 is without prejudice to any rights which the Member Organisation has under the Companies Acts and the Articles to appoint a proxy or a corporate representative.
- 9.8 Except where otherwise provided by the Articles or the Companies Act, a written resolution (whether an ordinary or a special resolution) is as valid as an equivalent resolution passed at a general meeting. For this purpose the written resolution may be set out in more than one document.
- 9.9 The Charity must hold an AGM in every year. Members must annually at the AGM:
- 9.9.1 receive the accounts of the Charity for the previous financial year;
 - 9.9.2 receive a written report on the Charity’s activities;

- 9.9.3 be informed of the retirement of those Trustees who wish to retire or who are retiring by rotation;
 - 9.9.4 elect Trustees to fill the vacancies arising (but only in accordance with the Articles);
 - 9.9.5 appoint reporting accountants or auditors for the Charity.
- 9.10 Members may also from time to time:
- 9.10.1 confer on any individual (with his / her consent) the honorary title of Patron, President or Vice-President of the Charity; and
 - 9.10.2 discuss and determine any issues of policy or deal with any other business put before them by the Trustees.
- 9.11 A general meeting may be called by the Trustees at any time and must be called within 28 days of a written request from one or more Trustees, at least 10% of the Membership or (where no general meeting has been held within the last year) at least 5% of the Membership.
- 9.12 A technical defect in the appointment of a Member of which the Members are unaware at the time does not invalidate a decision taken at a general meeting or a written resolution.

10. Limited Liability

The liability of Members is limited.

11. Guarantee

Every Member of the Charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity, in the event of the same being wound up while he / she is a Member, or within one year after he / she ceases to be a Member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Charity contracted before he / she ceases to be a Member, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

12. Communications

- 12.1 Notices and other documents to be served on Members or Trustees under the Articles or the Companies Act may be served:
- 12.1.1 by hand;
 - 12.1.2 by post;
 - 12.1.3 by suitable electronic means; or
 - 12.1.4 through publication in the Charity's newsletter or on the Charity's website.
- 12.2 The only address at which a Member is entitled to receive notices sent by post is an address in the UK shown in the Register of Members.
- 12.3 Any notice given in accordance with these Articles is to be treated for all purposes as having been received:
- 12.3.1 24 hours after being sent by electronic means, posted on the Charity's website or delivered by hand to the relevant address;

- 12.3.2 two clear days after being sent by first class post to that address;
 - 12.3.3 three clear days after being sent by second class or overseas post to that address;
 - 12.3.4 immediately on being handed to the recipient personally; or, if earlier,
 - 12.3.5 as soon as the recipient acknowledges actual receipt.
- 12.4 A technical defect in service of which the Trustees are unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken at a meeting.

13. Dissolution

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Charity there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Charity, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Objects of the Charity and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Charity under or by virtue of Article 6 hereof, such institution or institutions to be determined by the Members of the Charity on or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to some other charitable object.

14. Interpretation

- 14.1 The Articles are to be interpreted without reference to the model articles under the Companies Act, which do not apply to the Charity.

- 14.2 In the Articles, unless the context indicates another meaning:

‘AGM’ means an annual general meeting of the Charity;

‘the Articles’ means the Charity’s Articles of Association and ‘Article’ refers to a particular Article;

‘Authorised Representative’ shall have the meaning prescribed in Article 9.7;

‘Chair’ means the chairman of the Trustees;

‘the Charity’ means the company governed by the Articles;

‘the Charities Act’ means the Charities Acts 2011;

‘charity trustee’ has the meaning prescribed by the Charities Act;

‘clear day’ does not include the day on which notice is given or the day of the meeting or other event;

‘the Commission’ means the Charity Commission for England and Wales or any body which replaces it;

‘the Companies Act’ means the Companies Acts 1985 to 2006;

‘Conflicted Trustee’ means a Trustee in respect of whom a conflict of interest arises or may reasonably arise because the Conflicted Trustee or a Connected Person is receiving or stands to receive a benefit (other than payment of a premium for indemnity insurance) from the Charity, or has some separate interest or duty in a matter to be decided, or in relation to information which is confidential to the Charity;

'Connected Person' means, in relation to a Trustee, a person with whom the Trustee shares a common interest such that he/she may reasonably be regarded as benefiting directly or indirectly from any material benefit received by that person, being either a member of the Trustee's family or household or a person or body who is a business associate of the Trustee, and (for the avoidance of doubt) does not include a company with which the Trustee's only connection is an interest consisting of no more than 1% of the voting rights;

'constitution' means the Memorandum and the Articles and any special resolutions relating to them;

'custodian' means a person or body who undertakes safe custody of assets or of documents or records relating to them;

'electronic means' refers to communications addressed to specified individuals by telephone, fax or email or, in relation to meetings, by telephone conference call or video conference;

'financial expert' means an individual, company or firm who is authorised to give investment advice under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000;

'financial year' means the Charity's financial year;

'firm' includes a limited liability partnership;

'indemnity insurance' means insurance against personal liability incurred by any Trustee for an act or omission which is or is alleged to be a breach of trust or breach of duty, unless the act or omission amounts to a criminal offence or the Trustee concerned knew that, or was reckless whether, the act or omission was a breach of trust or breach of duty;

'material benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which may not be financial but has a monetary value;

'Member' and 'Membership' refer to company membership of the Charity, which for the avoidance of doubt includes a Member Organisation;

'Member Organisation' has the meaning prescribed in Article 9.7;

'Memorandum' means the Charity's Memorandum of Association;

'month' means calendar month;

'nominee company' means a corporate body registered or having an established place of business in England and Wales which holds title to property for another;

'ordinary resolution' means a resolution agreed by a simple majority of the Members present and voting at a general meeting or in the case of a written resolution by Members who together hold a simple majority of the voting power. Where applicable, 'Members' in this definition means a class of Members;

'the Objects' means the Objects of the Charity as defined in Article 1;

'Resolution in writing' means a written resolution of the Trustees;

'Secretary' means a company secretary;

'special resolution' means a resolution of which at least 14 days' notice has been given agreed by a 75% majority of the Members present and voting at a general meeting or in the case of a written resolution by Members who together hold 75% of

the voting power. Where applicable, 'Members' in this definition means a class of Members;

'taxable trading' means carrying on a trade or business in such manner or on such a scale that some or all of the profits are subject to corporation tax;

'Trustee' means a director of the Charity and 'Trustees' means the directors;

'written' or 'in writing' refers to a legible document on paper or a document sent by electronic means which is capable of being printed out on paper;

'written resolution' refers to an ordinary or a special resolution which is in writing;

'year' means calendar year.

14.3 Expressions not otherwise defined which are defined in the Companies Act have the same meaning.

14.4 References to an Act of Parliament are to that Act as amended or re-enacted from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it.