

Moving Forward

At the November Council meeting we discussed ways to positively move forward.

The key points that we agreed upon were to:

- 1 Raise the profile of the Council amongst u3as.
- 2 Clarify the Role of the Council to u3as, Board and Office
- 3 Strengthen the role of the Council with the Office and Board.

We now need to implement those suggestions.

1 Raise the profile of the Council

- A) The first step is a Council Page on the TAT website that is included in the tabs across the Welcome page.

This can be pro-actively promoted with links on Council communication with u3as.

The Role of the Council would lead the page.

- B) Specify in which issues of u3a Matters the Council will write a column.
- C) Explore how a Council FB page could be managed and agree a strategy for content.

2. Clarify the Role of the Council to u3as, Board and Office

We have now from the Standing Orders produced a one page clarification (see appendix 1).

3. Strengthen the role of the Council with the Office and Board

- A) Formalise the working relationship between the Board and the Council and the Office via a working party of all parties based on the draft Protocol that was developed by Allan Walmsley (Sept 2024). This should be easily and quickly achievable.

- B) Develop a partnership between Council and Office and create a collaborative working relationship, based on mutual respect and knowledge of each others role.

- This has already been put into action with an agreement that department heads will come to some Council meetings.
- Dates need to be agreed for Department Heads to brief the Council on their procedures/protocols/ restrictions, which will empower the Council to support the Office.
- A collaborative relationship when u3as raise issues is also underway. A structure for this needs to be agreed.
- We proposed a current, user friendly, Staff organogram with job title and a link to their responsibilities to assist in identifying the most appropriate person to contact. We need to agree a timetable for this.

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What does the Council do?

Many u3as have asked this question, and we can sum this up as:

The Council is the voice of u3a

What does this mean in detail.

- To be an effective voice for u3as
 - Engaging with u3as
 - Representing their views
 - Making decisions about issues of primary concern to u3as
- To work closely and collaboratively with the Board
- To be involved in the annual strategy and budget cycle
- To identify and deliver to the Board u3a priorities annually by September
- To identify and raise collective problems and concerns expressed by u3as and networks
- To identify and raise emerging needs of u3as and networks, and make recommendations to the Board
- To operate the Strategy Groups to develop implementation plans for the agreed strategic plan
- To assess the impact on u3as and networks of major u3a related developments and initiatives
- To encourage widespread sharing of positive u3a experiences

These were laid out in the Standing Orders for the Council that u3as voted into existence in October 2024.

The Council is there to support the u3as in their region/nation.

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