Explanatory note:

Proposed new Articles of Association for WCVA

BUILDING A STRONGER, SIMPLER AND MORE CONNECTED WCVA

WCVA's members are being asked to approve new Articles of Association at our AGM in November 2025. **We're proposing changes to voting rights for WCVA members**, separating our offer to members from our governance processes, such as electing trustees to our board.

These changes will modernise how WCVA is governed and how we work with the voluntary sector across Wales.

Together, they will help us spend less time on complex administration and more time on what really matters: connecting, enabling and influencing for the sector.

WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

Our current Articles were written for a different time. Participation in formal member meetings has declined, and maintaining the structures now absorbs significant staff and trustee time without clear benefit to the sector.

The new Articles will:

- **Simplify how WCVA operates –** reduce administrative burden and free time to support voluntary organisations directly.
- **Strengthen accountability –** ensure compliance with charity and company law through clearer roles, terms and processes.
- **Be more responsive –** allow the Board to act quickly in an ever-changing environment, including during periods of political or financial uncertainty, to enable WCVA to serve the wider sector.
- **Reflect today's Wales –** recognise that connection, engagement and shared purpose matter more than formal voting rights.
- **Support our wider transformation –** these governance changes sit within Together for the Sector, our long-term programme reshaping how we connect, enable and influence on behalf of the sector. They pave the way for our strategy review in 2026.

WHAT WILL CHANGE

The key changes proposed are:

- WCVA's Board of Trustees will become our legal members, simplifying our legal and regulatory responsibilities.
- Voluntary organisations that are currently members will automatically become Partners, keeping their voice and connection at the heart of WCVA without the burden of legal membership.
- Governance will be modernised — updated language, clearer terms for trustees, improved conflict-of-interest rules and streamlined decision-making brining us into line with Charity Commission best practice.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

WCVA's purpose, values and independence remain unchanged. We will continue to:

- Champion the voluntary sector in Wales
- Provide trusted advice, funding and advocacy

- Work in partnership through Third Sector Support Wales and the Third Sector Partnership Council to build a stronger, fairer Wales

WHAT BECOMING A PARTNER MEANS

Becoming a WCVA Partner will be free of charge and open to all voluntary organisations in Wales.

It replaces the old paid membership model with a stronger, values-led community.
Partners will be part of:

- A shared sector voice, working together to influence change in Wales.
- A connected community through regular forums, regional and thematic events, and our national platform gofod3.
- A values-driven movement focused on leadership, inclusion and equity.

Partners will receive:

- Access to regular forums and policy briefings.
- 20% off WCVA training, 10% off Big Issue Recruit, and 10% off gofod3 stands and spaces.
- Monthly policy and public affairs updates.
- Opportunities to engage with WCVA's trusted suppliers and networks.

All free of charge — removing barriers so every organisation, large or small, can take part.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- The proposed Articles will be put to members at WCVA's AGM in November 2025.
- Adoption requires a special resolution, meaning at least 75% of members present and voting must support the change.

- If approved, the new Articles will take effect immediately following the AGM and we will undertake extensive communication with the sector to inform them of our new approach and ultimately grow our partnership base.

THE OUTCOME

These changes will:

- Create a modern, proportionate governance structure
- Strengthen WCVA's ability to act quickly and decisively for the sector
- Build a clearer, more inclusive way for organisations across Wales to connect with WCVA
- Free up more time and energy to focus on delivering impact for the people and communities our sector serves

We're asking members to support this change at the AGM so that WCVA can continue to be a strong, effective and forward-looking organisation for the voluntary sector in Wales.