

Chair's Report to AIUK GTF meeting 8 November 2014

We will be receiving verbal feedback from NCVO on the membership consultation and SG1 have submitted a proposed process for handling the outcomes and the next stage (Appendix 1 to this report). I suggest we discuss this ahead of the feedback and have regard to our preferred process during the NCVO report.

I support the process in principle but am extremely concerned to ensure that we maintain the collective decision making of the GTF and do not create a space for individuals to raise items which have not been discussed/agreed. This became a major concern to me during consideration of items for the NCVO consultation. I want us to be able to be absolutely clear for our report to the membership which proposals came from the GTF and which from other sources.

Continuing on that theme, I am conscious that a number of our recommendations to the Board were forwarded to other Sub-committees. I am not clear if the Board response means we have discharged those issues or whether they may return to us. Can we discuss this please.

I issued a revised 'decisions' document by email and have re-issued this with the agenda for comment/adoption. I am also working on the lessons learned from the EGM and will provide a draft report ahead of the meeting.

There are no SG reports for our meeting but the following is my assessment of outstanding issues which I would like us to take the time to review. (I did send these out by email but have had no feedback).

SG1

- To review the constitution and standing orders and make recommendations for change to the Board and AGM
- To make recommendations to the Board as to what the term "material reorganisation", as mentioned in decision 6A of the 2013 EGM, should mean for AIUK so that this can be presented to the membership for approval at the 2014 AGM
- To advise on and oversee a process for the admission of AIUK supporters who make donations to AIUK Charitable Trust at least equivalent to the full annual subscription rate for Individual Members, to be admitted as Members of AIUK Section

SG2

- To oversee a membership consultation on the role of AIUK within the context of the international movement and our agreed strategic directions 2011-2016.

SG4

- To review the means by which the Board ensures that it is in touch with and responsive to the views of the membership.
- To review the transparency and accessibility of the AIUK governance structure, documentation and membership consultation processes to ensure that there is effective information sharing and communication with the UK membership especially prior to significant strategic decisions being made by the Board or Annual General Meeting.
- To review the role and membership of Board Sub-Committees and other governance related groups in respect of consultation, communications and transparency. (Can this be discharged?)

- To make recommendations on how AIUK responds to and engages with members on the ICM agenda. To review how AIUK communicates implications for AIUK to the membership.
- Benchmark against AI and third sector good governance standards

I would also like us to review the over-arching issues;

- Facilitating ordinary members' role in governance
- Human relationships and formal systems and the balance between these two
- Tension between competency and democracy
- Lessons learnt from the EGM (report to follow)
- Culture and values

APPENDIX 1

GTF Sub-Group 1- Proposal

Process to Agree Recommendations on Constitution and General Meeting Standing Orders

In order to fulfil the GTF remit in relation to reviewing AIUK's constitution and standing orders, the GTF has committed to finalising these recommendations to the Board at our full GTF meeting on 6th December.

This item of the remit had been delegated to sub-group 1 to take forward and therefore sub-group 1 wishes to propose a process for ensuring that GTF is able to agree these recommendations within this timescale.

The Chair of the GTF is asked to consider this proposal and if content, communicate the process to the full GTF.

The background to this process is that:

- The GTF will have limited time for consideration on 6th December.
- We should avoid wasting time at our full meeting debating process.
- There will potentially be people wanting to make recommendations that both are and are not covered by the NCVO report.
- The Chair of the GTF has indicated that any proposals should come through a sub-group.
- Members not on sub-group 1 clearly want to be able to put proposals forward.
- It is assumed that on 8th November we are going to discuss the big issues coming out of the NCVO report and will begin to get a feel for things that have wide support or very little support amongst the GTF, but not make final decisions on any recommendations until 6th December, after the full NCVO report is available.

The proposal is:

1. The agenda for the meeting on 6th December is a series of clear proposals.
2. Those proposals can be amended at the meeting but shouldn't go in a totally different direction (e.g. if someone proposes groups should have 5 votes, we might agree that we actually

think it should be 7, but not that group votes should be removed entirely, that would have to have been tabled as a separate proposal in advance).

3. The GTF can take one of three positions on any proposal - recommend it (possibly amended), oppose it, take no view on it. Where consensus cannot be reached this would be on the basis of a majority vote of those at the meeting either for or against, with abstentions effectively being a 'no view' position. If neither for nor against gained a majority, the GTF would take a 'no view' position on the proposal as this would provide guidance to the Board if they decide to consider the issue.

4. Sub-group 1 collate the proposals ahead of the meeting, grouping proposals on similar issues, highlight where proposals are mutually exclusive (i.e. they are options).

5. Sub-group 1 take responsibility for turning NCVO recommendations into clear proposals (hopefully in the main this will be a simple case of lifting them straight out of the report, but they might be a little less clear cut and need to be turned into specific options).

6. All members of GTF can submit proposals through sub-group 1 ahead of the meeting. They would be able to work on these before receiving the NCVO report/

This would require a timetable:

8th Nov – GTF meeting hears findings of NCVO

14th Nov – NCVO send report to GTF and Board. Sub-Group 1.

23rd Nov - Final date for proposals to be submitted to sub-group 1 (although earlier submission encouraged)

26th Nov – Sub-Group 1 forwards proposals to Chair

28th Nov – All proposals circulated to GTF by Chair

6th Dec – GTF meets to discuss proposals and agree recommendations to the Board.