

# Council Reform Workplan

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## Principles

- A large and diverse Council is important, in order to ensure the Union's highest democratic body is sufficiently representative.
- Much of the business addressed at Council does not cross between interest groups and, as such, could be addressed at one of Council's sub-committees.
- Bringing together the entire Council for business that is irrelevant to the roles of most of its ex-officio members is an inefficient method to produce Policy.
- Council has insufficient business to require monthly meetings, particularly if much of its day-to-day policy-making can be devolved to the sub-committees.
- Instigating large-scale reform during a lame-duck session of Council is problematic, and unfair on the incoming Council

## Plan

- Reduce the mandated frequency of Council meetings to termly (Bye-Law change required).
- Give Council's sub-committees (Arts & Entertainments Board, Community & Welfare Board, Clubs Societies & Projects Board) Policy-making powers in their respective areas
- Create a new sub-committee. This sub-committee would:
  - Be elected from Council
  - Oversee Policy-making by the other sub-committees, with the ability to put such Policy on hold pending a full Council meeting
  - Make Policy on behalf of Council in areas where none of the other sub-committees are appropriate
  - Meet at least monthly, to take reports from the Officer Trustees
  - Meetings of this sub-committee would be open to any member of Council (beyond its membership) interested in attending
- Policy being considered by any of these sub-committees would be circulated in advance to all Council members, such that they may attend and speak at the relevant meetings (though only the membership of the sub-committee would vote)
- Each sub-committee would prepare a report on their activity for the termly Council meeting, for Council to scrutinise and approve.

## Workplan

- 7<sup>th</sup> June: Request Council to recommend this plan to the Trustee Board and next year's Council.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Gather feedback from outgoing and incoming Council members, and make improvements to the plan accordingly.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016: Take this improved plan to the Trustee Board.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June – September: Inspect a selection of past Council papers for how they would be addressed in the new system; amend the plan if any flaws are found.

Prepare a coherent, updated set of standing orders for all the sub-committees.

Prepare a paper proposing relevant Bye-Law changes.

October:

Put the paper and standing orders to the first meeting of the new Council.