



# Membership: Citizens Advice Reading

## Purpose of this document

- To set out the current position around the membership of Citizens Advice Reading (“CAR”).
- Explain what it means to be a member of a charity organisation.

## The Articles

- The constitutional position on being a member is straightforward and summarised below. The charity may admit into membership:
  - Individuals (over 18 years old) and corporate/unincorporated bodies who are interested in furthering the work of the charity.
  - The trustee board may establish a criteria governing membership.
  - The charity shall maintain a register.
  - No person or organisation may be admitted as a member unless their application for membership has been approved by the trustee board.
  - There is no provision currently for a trustee automatically becoming a member but equally nothing precluding the same.

## What is a member?

- CAR within its constitution has a two-tier structure – members and trustees. Members are akin to a shareholder in a profit-making company and the trustees, the board of directors.
- In general, members responsibilities are about ratifying changes to the constitution, appointing or removing the charity trustees, and deciding whether the charity should be wound up.
- A trustee can be a member and in some charities the members are all trustees.

- A key part of the governance of the charity is the AGM. The constitution requires at least 10 members or 10% of the membership, whichever is greater for the meeting to be quorate.

## **What does it mean to be a member?**

- In addition to acting in the best interest of the charity and furthering the objects of CAR, you would be expected to attend the AGM meetings. These are usually held annually but may be called more regularly.
- There may also be opportunities to get involved in projects as a member, however this is not a prerequisite of the role.
- Within the constitution, failure to attend two successive AGMs could mean you cease being a member of the charity.

## **How to become a member?**

If you would like to become a member of CAR, please contact us at [membership@citizensadvicereading.org](mailto:membership@citizensadvicereading.org) and set out why you would like to become a member.

Alternatively, please use the same contact details if you have any questions about the role.