

THE FEDERATION FOR ULSTER LOCAL SOCIETIES

INTERIM CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The organisation shall be called The Federation for Ulster Local Societies (hereinafter called "the Federation").

2. Objects

The objects for which the Federation are:

- (a) To promote the study and recording of the history, antiquities and folk life of Ulster, to encourage the provision of the necessary services for the furtherance of those local historical studies in Ulster and to develop communication and co-operation -

(i) amongst voluntary associations concerned with local historical studies in Ulster and

(ii) between those associations and other relevant organisations whether of a statutory or voluntary nature, local, national or otherwise.

- (b) In furtherance of these objects the Federation shall have the following aims:-

(i) To promote the survival and continuation of valuable customs, structures, terms and practices which are seen to be of value to the cultural identity of Ulster.

(ii) To procure, promote and effect the achievement of the objects by bringing together all human and material resources of whatsoever kind and the giving of such advice and practical assistance as shall be considered appropriate for that purpose.

(iii) To educate the public and to promote awareness regarding the study and recording of the history, antiquities and folk life of Ulster,

(iv) To organise or procure the organisation of seminars, courses, conferences, colloquia, schools or other meetings for the furtherance of the said objects or any of them.

(v) To take such steps by personal or written appeals, public meetings, or otherwise, as may be from time to time deemed expedient to raise voluntary funds and receive and accept contributions by way of donations and grants and otherwise and accept and receive gifts for its charitable objects.

(vi) To print publish or distribute books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, tapes, video tapes and instructional matter and to organise lectures, broadcasts and courses of instruction.

(vii) To collaborate with any organisation or department of Government or Local Government whether within or outside the United Kingdom or any organisation having objectives similar in whole or in part with those of the Federation.

(viii) To enter into any arrangements with the Government or Authority, supreme, municipal, local or otherwise, or organisation, that may seem conducive to the Federation's objects or any of them, and to obtain from any such grants, loans, privileges or concessions which the Federation may think it desirable to obtain, and to carry out, exercise and comply with the same.

(ix) To establish or support associations, institutions, clubs, funds and trusts which may be considered beneficial to the interest or in furtherance of the objects of the Federation or of its members.

(x) To do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the said objects or any of them.

3 The word "Ulster" shall mean and include the counties of Antrim, Down, Armagh, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Londonderry, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.

4 **Members**

The Federation shall consist of:

A. ORDINARY MEMBERS : The subscribers to the Memorandum of Association and in addition any voluntary organisation which has a considerable interest in the objects of the Federation and which has a defined area of concern which is within but less than the province of Ulster or Northern Ireland and any voluntary provincial national or international organisation and which is admitted to membership in accordance with the articles shall be members of the Federation. No person or organisation shall be admitted as a member of the Federation unless they are approved by the Executive Committee and any person or organisation who wishes to become a member of the Federation shall deliver to the Federation an application for membership in a form prescribed by the Executive Committee and duly executed by the applicant.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Any museum, museum department, Library Authority, Public Record Office, University, University Department, Association, Organisation or Individual which or who is concerned with the objects of the organisation and which or who is approved by the Executive Committee shall be associate members of the Federation.

5. Any member may at any time by notice in writing signed by him and sent or delivered to the Secretary, resign his membership and at the next meeting of the Executive Committee after the receipt of such notice, his name shall be struck off the Register of Members and thereupon he shall cease to be a member.

6. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to cancel or refuse membership of the Federation or any Committee hereof to any person, Corporation, or organised body without being required to assign any reason therefor.

7. **Executive Committee**

(i) At the inaugural meeting of the Federation, an interim Executive Committee (the Committee) of ten members, not more than two of who may be members of the same organisation, shall be elected from among those members present.

(ii) Each member nominated for election to the committee must be proposed and seconded by other members present and must have signified his or her willingness to serve. If nominations exceed the number of vacancies a secret ballot shall take place.

(iii) It will be the responsibility of the Committee to manage the business and, within six months, or such shorter period as they may decide, make recommendations to the members for the final constitutional provisions.

(iv) The Committee at its first meeting shall meet to elect officers, a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer. The names of all office-holders shall be conveyed to the membership within 10 days of the meeting.

(v) The executive committee may fill any vacancies arising amongst its number and may co-opt up to five additional members from among the members of the Federation.

(vi) The executive committee may appoint sub-committees, of which a majority must be members of the executive committee

(vii) The quorum for any meeting of the executive committee shall be five, two of whom must be officers.

8. **Meetings**

- (i) General meetings of the Federation, and meetings of the Executive Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman the chair shall be assumed by the vice-chairman
- (ii) Special general meetings may be held at any time at the instigation of the committee or of not fewer than twenty member organisations who submit a request in writing to the Secretary
- (iii) Notification of any special general meeting of the Federation, specifying the business to be transacted, shall be transmitted by post to all members seven clear days before the said meeting. Accidental omission to give notice of any meeting to, or non-receipt of notice of any meeting by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- (iv) All meetings of the Federation must be called by the secretary or chairman, acting for the committee, or by such other of its members as the committee may decide.
- (v) At any meeting each member organisation shall have one vote.
- (vi) The quorum for any general meeting shall be 10 member organisations.
- (vii) At any meeting of the committee or of the Federation the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- (viii) In any matter of the interpretation of the constitution the decision of the chairman of the executive committee shall be final.

9. **Finance**

The Executive committee shall administer all funds and other assets of the Federation.

- i) The treasurer shall keep a full record of the income and expenditure of the Federation. The accounts of the Federation shall be audited annually and those audited accounts shall be presented to the members at the annual general meeting.
- ii) The Committee shall prepare a Financial Code of Practice setting out the policies and processes required to establish and maintain proper accountability for all financial resources.
- iii) In the event of the winding up of the Federation, its funds and assets shall pass to such body having charitable objects as may be selected by a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the Federation convened for that purpose.

10. **Amendment to Constitution**

- i) In the period of twelve months following the establishment of the Federation, amendments to the constitution may be made at any general meeting, provided that notice of motion to propose any such amendment has been given in writing to the secretary at least thirty days before the date of the meeting, and has subsequently been included in the notification of the meeting.
- ii) No amendment shall be made to the constitution unless approved by two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.

11 **Winding up**

If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Federation there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among

the members of the Cederation, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Federation, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members, such institution or institutions to be determined by the members within three months of the resolution passed initiating the winding-up, failing which, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to such other charitable objects as the Federation shall decide.