



Proposed change to Articles of Association converting Tyne Valley CRP into a Charitable legal entity.

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP) has undertaken a Strategic review of its rationale, operations, funding and constitution during the last few months. In addition to its traditional support provided to Tyne Valley line rail users on timetabling, fares and station facilities and as a voice of the community with the rail industry for travellers between Carlisle and Newcastle, TVCRP has widened its scope to additionally focus on social inclusivity, environmental issues, safety education and social enterprise activities from a rail user or rail property use perspective. This is partially to match the Board's desire to support our community more broadly and recently to align with the Dept for Transport's (DfT) expanded Community Rail Strategy mandate; compliance with which is integral to our annual DfT Accreditation and thereby access to rail sector funding.

The value of the change lies both in us being able to seek funding from a broader range of benefactors who only support registered charities and in tax concessions made to UK registered Charities by HMRC. Furthermore the core and project funding we have traditionally been able to access from the rail industry is potentially diminishing given the sector's current financial problems and whilst the DfT still very much supports Community Rail activities H.M. Treasury are seeking to reduce government expenditure overall. The Board are keen to reach a state of self-sustainability and this should aid that intention.

TVCRP's activities are primarily staged through a team of volunteers and the nature thereof plus our 'not for profit' remit makes it more appropriate that we re-register as a Charitable Company under the auspices of the Charities Commission.

The changes to the Articles of Association are comparatively minor but they ensure our objectives fully align to Charities Acts/Charity Commission requirements.

Under the Charities Act and related regulations for this change to be made 75% of all TVCRP members must be in agreement and approval is best registered by supporting the Board's Resolution referred to as Agenda item 2 in the attached Notice of AGM. A copy of the Resolution and the amended Articles of Association are attached.

We therefore urge you to vote in support of the Resolution ideally prior to the AGM on 17th October 2023 by returning the attached Written Resolution, duly signed, to our Company Secretary either by email to secretary@tvcrp.org.uk or by post to Mrs. Julie Gibbon, Cornmill Cottage, Station Road, Bardon Mill, NE47 7HY. Alternatively you may vote at the AGM through a nominee as described in the AGM Notice and signing the Resolution on that occasion. *The Charities Commission may seek evidence of support hence the need for signed Written Resolutions.*

PLEASE NOTE:

The Resolution, which the Board considers will be very favourable to our objectives will fail unless 75% of Members record their approval. Therefore please make sure your organisation registers a 'for' vote if in agreement with the change. If any member wishes to discuss the matter with me please make contact on 07740 165248 or email: colin.g.moore27@gmail.com