

A - Apologies for absence

None.

B - Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the MA held on Tuesday 7 November at 1430 at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead and via our chosen conferencing platform were put to the meeting for approval. Julie Taylor Kent proposed, seconded by Catherine Spencer, that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried.

C - Annual Report and Accounts of the Museums Association

D - Report on financial position

Mo Suleman, MA Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the key financial points for the 2023/24 accounts. 24/25 income budgets are higher than 23/24 actual. Unrestricted income is higher, in line with steady growth in trading income.

Unrestricted income is budgeted to increase in 24/25 across all areas, as we continue to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. At present we are on target to meet these budgets.

Employment costs are budgeted to be slightly higher in 24/25 due to meeting staffing requirements and a cost of living pay increase.

Direct costs increase in 24/25 due to high inflation on costs such as paper and print for Museums Journal, as well as on running more events.

Depreciation will decrease as recent capital projects are fully depreciated.

Lucy Bickley proposed, seconded by Rebecca Blackburn, that the Annual Report, Accounts and Financial Report be formally received. Carried.

E/F - Individual and Institutional membership subscriptions

Following a long period of frozen and below-inflation rises in membership rates, with inflation reduced the MA proposed an inflationary rise of 2.5%.

This represents a £1 per annum increase for Essential members and £2 per annum increase for Concessionary and Full members. Institutional members will pay between £2 and £62 more per annum, with the majority increasing by £5 or less. The proposal sees bands as well as fees increasing, meaning that some organisations may pay significantly less.

Beloved Elizabeth Adonai proposed, seconded by Hannah Mather that individual membership subscription rates are increased by 2.5%. Carried.

Janet Dugdale proposed, seconded by Stella Byrne that institutional membership subscription rates are increased by 2.5%. Carried.

G - Adoption of revised Articles of Association

Over the past 18 months we have undertaken an extensive review of our governance. The aims of the review were to recognise and reflect the devolved nations of the UK better, to improve representation and engagement and to deliver best practice.

The review has involved research on best practice across many similar organisations and consultation with our membership and stakeholders in each of the four nations as well rigorous discussions at nations committee.

The result of the review are recommendations that:

- better reflect the different contexts and interests of our members in the four nations
- improve our communications and consultation with our members
- recognise and address the barriers to taking part in governance
- better utilise and appreciate the time our many member volunteers give to the MA
- follow best practice in governance across elections, meetings, committees.

The proposals outlined in this Agenda Item are related to the technical changes to the Articles of Association. Alongside updates to governance best practice, the significant change is to have more elected trustees to our board (the balance will now be 10 elected and four appointed trustees) and to create directly elected trustee places on our board from each of the four nations – ensuring that for example members in Wales members have the opportunity to vote for a trustee from Wales.

All the changes were set out with the AGM agenda and our current board unanimously recommend these changes as progressive and positive improvements to our governance.

Steph Burge proposed, seconded by Rachael Rogers, to adopt the revised Articles of Association. Carried.

H - Auditors

It was recommended that Kingston Smith be re-appointed as auditors to the association until the conclusion of the next general meeting. David Juler proposed, seconded by Emma Heslewood, that Kingston Smith be appointed auditors to the MA. Carried.