

The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

**Company Limited by Guarantee
and not having a share capital¹**

Memorandum

and

Articles of Association

of

[insert name of company]

Community Interest Company²

Model constitution for a private company limited by guarantee and not having
a share capital with a large membership³

The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital

Memorandum of Association⁴

of

[insert name] Community Interest Company

1 COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

The Company is to be a community interest company.

2 NAME

The Company's name is "[insert name] Community Interest Company".

3 REGISTERED OFFICE

The Company's registered office will be in Northern Ireland⁵.

4 OBJECTS

The Company's object is to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to [insert further specification of objects].⁶

5 POWERS

The Company has the power to do anything which is incidental or conducive to the furtherance of its object.

6 LIMITED LIABILITY

The liability of the Members is limited.⁷

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7 GUARANTEE

Every Member of the Company undertakes to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the Company if it is wound up during his, her or its membership or within one year afterwards:

- (a) for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he, she or it ceased to be a Member;
- (b) for the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (c) for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.⁸

We, the subscribers to this Memorandum, wish to form a Company pursuant to this Memorandum.⁹

Names, Addresses and Signatures of Subscribers

- | | Guarantee |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Signature: | £1 |
| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Date: | |
| Witness to the above signature: | |
| Signature: | |
| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| 2. Signature: | £1 |
| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Date: | |
| Witness to the above signature: | |
| Signature: | |
| Name: | |
| Address: | |

The Companies (Northern Ireland) 1986

**Company Limited by Guarantee
and not having a share capital**

Articles of Association¹⁰

of

[insert name] Community Interest Company

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PART ONE: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1 DEFINITIONS

In these Articles the following terms shall have the following meanings.

Term	Meaning
“1986 Order”	the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986
“2004 Act”	the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004
“address”	in relation to electronic communications, includes any number or address used for the purposes of such communications
“Articles”	the Company’s Articles of Association
“Asset Locked Body”	a community interest company, Charity or Scottish Charity or a body established outside Great Britain (for the purposes of article 3(2)(a), the United Kingdom) ¹¹ that is equivalent to any of those persons
“Chair”	the meaning given in article 16 ¹²
“Charity”	(except in the phrase, “Scottish Charity” and “Northern Ireland Charity”) the meaning given by Section 96 of the Charities Act 1993 ¹³
“clear days”	in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect
“Company”	[<i>insert name</i>] Community Interest Company
“Director”	a Director of the Company, including any person occupying the position of Director, by whatever name called
“Directors’ functions”	the meaning given in article 4(1)
“electronic”	the meaning given in the Electronic Communications Act

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“communication”	(Northern Ireland) 2001 ¹⁴
“in writing”	written printed or transmitted writing including by electronic communication
“majority decision”	the meaning given in article 11
“Members”	the members of the Company as defined in the 1986 Order ¹⁵
“Northern Ireland Charity”	as defined in section 35 of Charities Act (Northern Ireland 1964 (1964 C33))
“Memorandum”	the Company’s Memorandum of Association
“Regulations”	the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005
“Regulator”	the Regulator of Community Interest Companies
“relevant quorum”	the meaning given in article 15(1)
“remuneration”	any reasonable payment or benefit received, or to be received, by a Director or employee of the Company in consideration for that Director’s or employee’s services to the Company, and any arrangement in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity to or in respect of any person who is to be, is, or has been a Director or employee of the Company or any of its predecessors in business
“Scottish Charity”	A body entered in the Scottish Charity Register ¹⁶
“Secretary”	the individual appointed as Company Secretary under article 35
“subsidiary”	the meaning given in Article 4 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 ¹⁷
“unanimous decision”	the meaning given in article 10.

2 INTERPRETATION

(1) Unless the context requires otherwise, words or expressions defined in:

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- (a) the 1986 Order,
- (b) the 2004 Act, or
- (c) the Regulations,

have the same meaning in the Articles.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1):

- (a) **“community”** is to be construed in accordance with section 35 of the 2004 Act and Part 2 of the Regulations;¹⁸
- (b) **“financial year”** has the meaning given in Article 231 of the 1986 Order; and
- (c) **“transfer”** includes every description of disposition, payment, release or distribution and the creation or extinction of an estate or interest in, or right over, any property, or, in Scotland, a right, title or interest in or over any property.

(3) Unless the context requires otherwise, all references to legislative provisions are to the legislation concerned as amended, repealed, re-enacted or replaced and in force from time to time.

(4) Unless the context requires otherwise, words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.

(5) All headings and explanatory notes are included for convenience only: they do not form part of the Articles, and shall not be used in the interpretation of the Articles.

PART TWO: ASSET LOCK¹⁹

3 TRANSFER OF ASSETS

(1) The Company shall not transfer any of its assets other than for full consideration.

(2) Provided the condition specified in paragraph (3) is satisfied, paragraph (1) shall not apply to:

- (a) the transfer of assets to any Asset Locked Body specified in the Memorandum or Articles for the purposes of this article or (with the consent of the Regulator) to any other Asset Locked Body; and
- (b) the transfer of assets made for the benefit of the community other than by way of a transfer of assets to an Asset Locked Body.

(3) The condition is that the transfer of assets must comply with any restrictions on the transfer of assets for less than full consideration which may be set out elsewhere in the Memorandum or the Articles.

(4) If:

- (a) the Company is wound up under the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989; and
- (b) all its liabilities have been satisfied,

then any residual assets shall be given or transferred to the specified Asset Locked Body specified in the Memorandum and Articles for the purposes of this article.

(5) For the purposes of this article, the following Asset Locked Body is specified as a potential recipient of the Company's assets under paragraphs (2) and (4).²⁰

Name: []

Registered Charity Number [if applicable]: []

Registered Company Number [if applicable]: []

Registered Office / Principal office address: []

[Insert above the relevant details of any Asset Locked Body to which you may wish the Company to be able to transfer assets other than for full consideration and to which you would wish any residual assets of the Company to be transferred if it is wound up.]

PART THREE: DIRECTORS' FUNCTIONS

4 DIRECTORS' GENERAL AUTHORITY TO MANAGE THE COMPANY

(1) The Directors' functions are:

- (a) to manage the Company's business; and
- (b) to exercise all the powers of the Company for any purpose connected with the Company's business.²¹

(2) The Directors may delegate their functions in accordance with the Articles.²²

5 LIMITS ON DIRECTORS' FUNCTIONS

- (1) The Members may, by special resolution:²³
 - (a) alter the scope of the Directors' functions; or
 - (b) require the Directors to act in a specified manner.
- (2) No special resolution passed under paragraph (2) shall have retrospective effect.

6 DIRECTORS' GENERAL AUTHORITY TO DELEGATE FUNCTIONS

- (1) Subject to the Articles, the Directors may delegate any of their functions to any person they think fit.
- (2) The Directors must not delegate to any person who is not a Director any decision connected with:
 - (a) the taking of decisions by Directors; or
 - (b) the appointment of a Director or the termination of a Director's appointment.
- (3) Any delegation under paragraph (1) may authorise further delegation of the Directors' functions by any person to whom they are delegated.

7 COMMITTEES OF DIRECTORS

- (1) Two or more Directors are a "committee" if the Directors have:
 - (a) delegated any of the Directors' functions to them; and
 - (b) indicated that they should act together in relation to that function.
- (2) The provisions of the Articles about how the Directors take decisions shall apply, as far as possible, to the taking of decisions by committees.

PART FOUR: DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

8 SCOPE OF RULES

- (1) References in the Articles to decisions of Directors are to decisions of Directors which are connected with their functions.
- (2) Except where the Articles expressly provide otherwise, provisions of the Articles about how the Directors take decisions do not apply:

- (a) when the Company only has one Director;²⁴ or
- (b) to decisions delegated to a single Director.

9 DIRECTORS TO TAKE DECISIONS COLLECTIVELY

Any decision which the Directors take must be either a unanimous decision or a majority decision.

10 UNANIMOUS DECISIONS

- (1) The Directors take a unanimous decision when they all indicate to each other that they share a common view on a matter.
- (2) A unanimous decision need not be taken at a meeting of Directors, or involve any discussion between Directors.²⁵

11 MAJORITY DECISIONS

- (1) The Directors take a majority decision if:
 - (a) every Director has been made aware of a matter to be decided by the Directors;
 - (b) all the Directors who indicate that they wish to discuss or vote on the matter have had a reasonable opportunity to communicate their views on it to each other; and
 - (c) a majority of those Directors vote in favour of a particular conclusion on that matter at a meeting of Directors.
- (2) Paragraph (1)(a) does not require communication with any Director with whom it is not practicable to communicate, having regard to the urgency and importance of the matter to be decided.

12 MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

- (1) Any Director may call a meeting of Directors.
- (2) Every Director must be given reasonable notice of a meeting of Directors.
- (3) Paragraph (2) does not require notice to be given:
 - (a) in writing; or

(4) Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), when the Directors take a majority decision on any matter relating to a transaction or arrangement in which a Director has a relevant interest:

- (a) no Director who has such a relevant interest may vote on that matter; and
- (b) for the purposes of determining whether a relevant quorum is present, or whether a majority decision has been taken in relation to that matter, such a Director's participation in the decision-making process shall be ignored.

(5) Paragraph (4) does not apply:

- (a) if the Director's interest cannot reasonably be regarded as giving rise to any real possibility of a conflict between the interests of the Director and the Company;
or
- (b) if the Director's interest only arises because the Director has given, or has been given, a guarantee, security or indemnity in respect of an obligation incurred by or on behalf of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

(6) The Members may by ordinary resolution decide to disapply paragraph (4), either in relation to majority decisions generally or in relation to a particular decision.

(7) Subject to the 1986 Order, if a Director complies with paragraph (3):

- (a) that Director:
 - (i) may be a party to, or otherwise interested in, the transaction or arrangement in which that Director has a relevant interest; and
 - (ii) shall not, by reason of being a Director, be accountable to the Company for any benefit derived from that transaction or arrangement; and
- (b) the transaction or arrangement in which that Director has a relevant interest shall not be liable to be treated as void as a result of that interest.

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (3):

- (a) a general notice given to the Directors that a Director is to be regarded as having a specified interest in any transaction or arrangement shall be deemed to be a disclosure that the Director has an interest in any such transaction or arrangement of the nature and extent so specified; and
- (b) any interest of which a Director has no knowledge, and could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge, shall be disregarded.

14 RECORDS TO BE KEPT

(1) The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps a record in writing, of:

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- (a) every unanimous or majority decision taken by the Directors; and
 - (b) every declaration by a Director of an interest in an actual or proposed transaction with the Company.
- (2) Any record kept under paragraph (1) must be kept:
- (a) for at least ten years from the date of the decision or declaration recorded in it;
 - (b) together with other such records; and
 - (c) in such a way that it is easy to distinguish such records from the Company's other records.

15 SPECIFIED NUMBER OF DIRECTORS FOR MAJORITY DECISIONS

- (1) Subject to paragraph (2), no majority decision shall be taken at a meeting of Directors unless [*insert quorum*]²⁸ (the “relevant quorum”) participate in the meeting and are entitled to vote on the matter on which a majority decision is to be taken.
- (2) If the Company has one or more Directors, but the total number of Directors is less than the relevant quorum, a meeting of Directors may take a majority decision:
- (a) to appoint further Directors; or
 - (b) that will enable the Members to appoint further Directors.²⁹

16 CHAIRING OF MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

- (1) The Directors shall appoint a Director to chair all meetings of Directors.
- (2) If the person appointed under paragraph (1) is for any reason unable or unwilling to chair a particular meeting, the Directors shall appoint another Director to chair that process.
- (3) The Directors may terminate an appointment made under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) at any time.
- (4) A Director appointed under this article shall be known as the Chair for as long as such appointment lasts.

17 DIRECTORS' DISCRETION TO MAKE FURTHER RULES

- (1) Subject to the Articles, the Directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions.
- (2) The Directors must ensure that any rule which they make about how they take decisions is communicated to all persons who are Directors while that rule remains in force.

18 DEFECT IN APPOINTMENT

(1) This article applies if:

- (a) a decision is taken by the Directors, or a committee of the Directors, or a person acting as a Director; and
- (b) it is subsequently discovered that a person who, acting as a Director, took, or participated in taking, that decision:
 - (i) was not validly appointed as a Director;
 - (ii) had ceased to hold office as a Director at the time of the decision;
 - (iii) was not entitled to take that decision; or
 - (iv) should, in consequence of a conflict of interests, not have voted in the process by which that decision was taken.

(2) Where this article applies:

- (a) the discovery of any defect of the kind specified in paragraph (1)(b) shall not invalidate any decision which has been taken by, or with the participation of, the person in relation to whom that defect existed; and
- (b) any such decision shall be as valid as if no such defect existed in relation to any person who took it or participated in taking it.

PART FIVE: DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENT AND TERMS OF SERVICE

19 MINIMUM NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

The number of Directors shall not be less than [two].³⁰

20 ELIGIBILITY TO BE A DIRECTOR

(1) A person shall not be a Director unless that person:

- (a) is a Member and (if that person is an individual) is willing to serve as a Director and has attained the age of 18 years; and
- (b) is elected or appointed as a Director in accordance with the Articles.

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- (5) A Member other than a retiring Director who wishes to be considered for election as a Director shall give notice to the Secretary at least fourteen but not more than thirty-five clear days before the date appointed for the annual general meeting.
- (6) At least seven but not more than twenty-eight clear days before the date appointed for holding an annual general meeting notice shall be given to all who are entitled to receive notice of the meeting of any person who is eligible for election or re-election as Director and has given notice under paragraph (4) or paragraph (5) (each such person being, for the purposes of this article, a “candidate”).
- (7) Every notice given under paragraphs (4), (5) or (6) shall state those particulars which would be required to be included in the Company’s register of Directors if the person to which the notice relates were to be elected a Director.³²
- (8) Subject to paragraph (9), the question whether each such person is to be elected as a Director shall be decided by a separate ordinary resolution of the Members at the annual general meeting.
- (9) If:
- (a) a number has been fixed by or in accordance with the Articles as the maximum number of Directors (the “relevant maximum”); and
 - (b) the number of candidates exceeds the relevant maximum less the number of those directors who are not retiring,

then the election of Directors shall follow the procedure set out in paragraph (10) rather than that set out in paragraph (8).

- (10) Where the conditions specified in paragraph (9) are fulfilled:
- (a) each Member shall be invited to vote on the candidates by ranking them in order of preference on ballot papers which they must sign and return to the Company at or before the annual general meeting in order to cast their votes on the candidates (and any ballot papers returned at the annual general meeting must be returned before the time appointed for the return of ballot papers by the chair of the meeting);
 - (b) the annual general meeting may be adjourned for the counting of votes under paragraph (10)(a) (and, if it is so adjourned, the existing Directors shall continue in office until the outcome of the vote has been determined); and
 - (c) the candidates elected as Directors shall be those who have been ranked highest in order of preference, taking account of the average of all Members’ votes, and shall be equal in number to the relevant maximum less the number of those directors who are not retiring.

36 COMPANY SEAL

- (1) This article applies if the Company has a seal (the “common seal”).
- (2) The common seal shall only be applied to a document if its use on that document has been authorised by a decision of the Directors.
- (3) If the common seal is applied to a document, the document shall be:
 - (a) signed by an authorised person; and
 - (b) countersigned by another authorised person.
- (4) For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is:
 - (a) any Director;
 - (b) the Secretary; or
 - (c) any person authorised by the Directors for the purpose of signing and countersigning documents to which the common seal is applied.

37 ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

- (1) The Directors shall comply with the requirements of the 1986 Order and any other applicable law as to keeping financial records, the audit or examinations of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies of annual reports and accounts.³⁸
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Company’s statutory books and accounting records shall be open to inspection by the Members during usual business hours.
- (3) The Company may in general meeting impose reasonable restrictions as to the time at which and the manner in which the statutory books and accounting records of the Company may be inspected by Members.

38 NOTICES

- (1) Except where the Articles provide otherwise, any notice to be given to or by any person under the Articles shall be in writing to an address for the time being notified for that purpose to the person giving the notice.
- (2) The Company may give any notice to any person under the Articles:
 - (a) in person;
 - (b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to that person at that person’s registered address, or by leaving it at that address;

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- (c) by fax or by electronic communication to an address provided for that purpose;
or
 - (d) by posting it on a website, where the recipient has been notified of such posting in a manner agreed by that person.
- (3) A person present at any meeting shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where requisite, of the purpose for which it was called.
- (4) Proof that:
- (a) an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted; or
 - (b) that an electronic communication or fax has been transmitted to the correct address or number,
- shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- (5) A notice shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be given:
- (a) at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
 - (b) in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication or fax, at the expiration of 48 hours after the time it was transmitted.

39 INDEMNITY

- (1) Subject to the 1986 Order, a Director shall be indemnified out of the Company's assets against any expenses which that Director incurs:
- (a) in defending civil proceedings in relation to the affairs of the Company (unless judgement is given against the Director and the judgement is final);
 - (b) in defending criminal proceedings in relation to the affairs of the Company (unless the Director is convicted and the conviction is final);
 - (c) in connection with any application for relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Company (unless the Court refused to grant the Director relief, and the refusal is final).
- (2) Judgement, conviction or refusal of relief becomes final if the period for bringing an appeal or any further appeal has ended and any appeal brought is determined, abandoned or otherwise ceases to have effect.
- (3) This article is without prejudice to any other indemnity to which a Director may be entitled.

Names, Addresses and Signatures of Subscribers

1. Signature:

Name:

Address:

Date:

Witness to the above signature:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

2. Signature:

Name:

Address:

Date:

Witness to the above signature:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

¹ It is no longer possible to form a company limited by guarantee with a share capital (although the formation of such a hybrid form of company was possible under previous companies legislation). If you are considering converting an existing company limited by guarantee with a share capital to a community interest company you should take independent legal advice. On the different limited company forms available to CICs, see Part 3 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

² Section 33 of the 2004 Act provides that the name of any community interest company which is not a public company must end with either the words “community interest company” or the letters “c.i.c.” (or, if the memorandum states that the company’s registered office is to be situated in Wales, with the words “cwmni buddiant cymunedol” or the initials “c.b.c.”).

³ This model constitution is designed for use by private companies limited by guarantee, which have more members than they have directors. Although it assumes that the directors will take most day to day decisions about the company’s business, it also gives the members a strong role in controlling the overall governance of the company. The procedures for decision-making by directors are more formal than in the other model constitutions. **Before deciding to adopt this model constitution for your company, you should (i) read the whole document, and these notes, carefully; and (ii) fill the spaces left for company specific details (marked by square brackets). If you are in any doubt at all about your requirements, or the meaning of any part of the model constitution, you should take independent legal or other professional advice. No liability for any loss or damage arising from use of this model constitution will be accepted by the Regulator, his staff or his legal advisors.**

⁴ For general guidance on the memorandum of association, see Part 5 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes. If you are an existing company wishing to become a community interest company, you will need to amend your memorandum as appropriate, rather than substituting a completely new memorandum.

⁵ Depending on the actual location of the company’s registered office, the memorandum must state that the company’s registered office is in England and Wales, Wales or Scotland.

⁶ On the specification of the company’s objects, see Part 5 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

⁷ On limited liability, see Part 3 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

⁸ On guarantees generally see Chapter 3 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

⁹ For illustration, space for two subscribers (the usual minimum number) has been supplied here. There is no upper limit to the number of subscribers and further entries may be added as appropriate. There is no need for all those who wish to become Members to subscribe to the Memorandum: they can become Members and be entered in the register of Members after the company has been formed.

¹⁰ On articles of association generally, see Part 5 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes. If you are an existing company wishing to become a community interest company, there is no need to adopt completely new articles, but you must comply with the requirements of the Regulations by including (in the case of a company limited by guarantee without a share capital) the provisions set out in Schedule 1 to the Regulations in the memorandum or the articles of your company.

¹¹ This definition, like the definitions of “community” (see article 2(2)), “Charity”, “Regulator”, “Scottish charity” and “transfer” (see article 2(2)), is taken from paragraph 1(4) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations. In the case of the definition of “asset-locked body”, the Schedule 1 definition should itself have been exactly the same as the definition of that term in regulation 2 of the Regulations. The Schedule 1 definition applies to paragraph (2) of article 3, which reflects paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1. The regulation 2 definition applies to paragraph (4) of article 3, which reflects regulation 23 of the Regulations. As a result of a word-processing error in the preparation of the Regulations, where the words “Great Britain” should have appeared in the Schedule 1 definition of “asset-locked body”, the words “the United Kingdom” appear instead. This error will be made good at the first available opportunity (it is expected that the Regulations will be amended to take account of other legislative changes, for example relating to Scottish charities, late in 2005 or early in 2006), but in the meantime it should not have any adverse consequences in practice. It has been suggested that the reference to “the United Kingdom” deprives CICs limited by guarantee of the ability to transfer assets to charities established in Northern Ireland. However, such transfers can still be made under paragraph (2)(b) of article 3.

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¹² In general, the model articles have been drafted without cross references, so as to reduce the potential for false cross-references which may arise when companies wish to adopt them in modified form or with different numbering. **Where there are cross-references, you will need to check whether they need to be amended when modifying or re-numbering the model articles.**

¹³ Section 96 of the Charities Act defines “charity” as meaning “any institution, corporate or not, which is established for charitable purposes and is subject to the control of the High Court in the exercise of the court’s jurisdiction with respect to charities”.

¹⁴ See section 15 of the Electronic Communications Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, which essentially defines an electronic communication as a communication transmitted (a) by means of an electronic communications network (e.g. by e-mail); or (b) by other means but while in an electronic form (e.g. a floppy disk sent by post).

¹⁵ See Article 32 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. A company’s members are (i) the subscribers to its memorandum; and (ii) every other person who agrees to become a member of the company and whose name is entered in its register of members.

¹⁶ Before the coming into force of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, there was no regulation of charities in Scotland equivalent to the system administered by the Charity Commission in England and Wales. In previous versions of this model constitution, the term “Scottish charity” was therefore defined by reference to section 1(7) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Scotland Act 1990. However, that provision has now been repealed, and all Scottish charities will in future be entered in the Scottish Charity Register, which the 2005 Act requires the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to keep. The definition given here reflects the requirements of paragraph 1(4)(e) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations, as amended by paragraph 12 of the Schedule to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2006 (SI 2006/242).

¹⁷ In essence, Article 4 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 states that a company is a subsidiary of another company if that other company (a) holds or controls a majority of the voting rights in it; or (b) is a member of it and has the right to appoint or remove a majority of its board of directors. However, see further Article 4 itself and Articles 4A and 4B, all as substituted or inserted by Article 62 of the Companies (No.2) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990.

¹⁸ On the meaning of “community”, see Chapters 2.3 and 4.4 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

¹⁹ See Part 6 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes. Inclusion of the provisions contained in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of article 3 is mandatory, reflecting sub-paragraphs (1)-(3) of paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

²⁰ See regulation 23 of the Regulations and Parts 6 and 11 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes. If the company does not specify that the residual assets are to be transferred to a particular Asset Locked Body, an appropriate recipient will be chosen by the Regulator, in consultation with the company’s directors and members.

²¹ Note that although this model constitution give the Directors wide powers, under the Articles (and company law more generally) there are some decisions which must be made by Members (either in general meeting under Part Eight of the Articles or by using the written resolution procedure under the 1986 Order). See in general the Companies House guidance booklet, “Resolutions” (available online at <http://www.companies-house.gov.uk/about/gbhtml/gba7.shtml>).

²² See further articles 5 and 6. Delegation may take the form of, for instance, the Directors giving a managing director general authority to run the company’s day to day business, or responsibility for specific matters being delegated to particular directors (e.g. financial matters to a finance director). However, it may be equally appropriate to delegate matters to persons other than Directors (see article 5). In all cases, it is important to remember that delegation does not absolve Directors of their general duties towards the company and their overall responsibility for its management. This means, amongst other things, that Directors must be satisfied that those to whom responsibilities are delegated are competent to carry them out.

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²³ In essence, a special resolution is passed when three quarters of the members present and entitled to vote at a general meeting vote in favour of a proposal. See the Companies House guidance booklet, “Resolutions” (available online at <http://www.companies-house.gov.uk/about/gbhtml/gba7.shtml>).

²⁴ Private companies are only obliged to have one director. However, article 19 provides that the Company shall not have fewer than two directors. The Company will therefore only ever have one director in exceptional circumstances (e.g. where there are two directors and one dies without being replaced).

²⁵ For the purposes of taking unanimous decision, directors may indicate their agreement by any means they choose, so long as their views are clear to each other. **Note the requirement to keep a distinct written record of all Directors’ decisions (article 14).**

²⁶ When the directors hold a meeting, they can use e.g. telephone or video conferencing facilities. **Note the requirement to keep a distinct written record of all Directors’ decisions (article 14).**

²⁷ Paragraphs (5)-(7) of article 12 reflect paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 to the Regulations, which is required to be included in the memoranda or articles of all community interest companies.

²⁸ You must specify the minimum number of Directors required to take a valid majority decision. The quorum may be fixed in absolute terms (e.g. “three Directors”) or as a proportion of the total number of Directors (e.g. “two thirds of the Directors from time to time”). You may even wish to stipulate that particular named Directors, or Directors representing particular stakeholder interests, must be present to constitute a quorum. In any event, it is recommended that the quorum should never be less than half of the total number of Directors.

²⁹ Directors could facilitate the appointment of directors by Members by calling a general meeting.

³⁰ A larger minimum number may be inserted if appropriate. You may also wish to consider whether provision should also be made for a maximum number of directors (e.g. “and the total number of directors in office at any one time shall not exceed X”). While it is often important to ensure proper representation of a number of different groups on a board of directors, very large boards can become unwieldy, and a maximum number of directors provision may help to guard against this.

³¹ Paragraph (3) of article 21 must be included under the Regulations (it reflects paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations).

³² See Article 297 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. In most cases, the items of information required are Directors’ present and any former names, their usual residential addresses, their nationalities, their business occupations (if any), particulars of any other directorships which they hold or have held, and their dates of birth.

³³ Paragraph (2) of article 23 is a mandatory requirement, reflecting paragraphs 3(3)-(4) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations. However the model constitution does not provide for the appointment of alternate directors.

³⁴ See the guidance on directors’ remuneration in Part 10 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.

³⁵ See Article 376 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

³⁶ You must specify how many Members are required to be present to hold a valid general meeting. The quorum may be fixed in absolute terms (e.g. “four Members”) or as a proportion of the total number of Members (e.g. “half of the Members from time to time”). In either case you will need to have regard to the size of the Company’s membership, their level of engagement with the Company’s business, and the likelihood of individual members attending.

³⁷ Inclusion of the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) (reflecting paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Regulations) is mandatory.

³⁸ See the Companies House guidance booklet, “Accounts and Accounting Reference Dates” (available online at <http://www.companies-house.gov.uk/about/gbhtml/gba3.shtml>). On the annual community interest company report, see Part 9 of the Regulator’s information and guidance notes.