

Formal Proposal for Consideration at the Annual General Meeting

Proposal:

It is proposed that the committees of both Romsey Archway U3A and Romsey and District U3A be formally authorised to meet and explore potential options, benefits, and implications of combining both U3As into a single, viable organisation. The committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the membership within six months, at which point further approvals may be sought if appropriate.

Background and Rationale:

Both Romsey Archway and Romsey and District U3A currently face challenges in recruiting sufficient volunteers from within their memberships to fill officer and supporting committee roles. This situation presents a risk to the ongoing viability of both organisations. By coming together, it is anticipated that this risk will be reduced, helping to secure the future of U3A provision in Romsey.

Additionally, the existence of two separate U3As in Romsey has led to confusion both among the wider public and within our own memberships. Consolidation into a single entity would help to resolve this confusion and provide a clearer, stronger presence within the community.

Romsey continues to grow, and both U3As have seen rising membership numbers. Demand for U3A activities and support is expected to increase further with ongoing local development. It is therefore vital that Romsey maintains a vibrant and healthy U3A to serve its expanding population.

Process:

The committees will be given six months to investigate and determine whether a workable plan for amalgamation can be established. This process will include consultation and consideration of best practices from other U3As that have successfully come together. Any proposal for amalgamation must seek to satisfy the majority of both memberships, recognising that it is unlikely to achieve unanimous approval. If, following the review, the committees conclude that amalgamation would not be in the best interests of either organisation, this outcome will be reported rather than pursuing a forced coming together.

Should the committees recommend amalgamation, a detailed proposal outlining the process and structure of the new entity will be presented to the memberships for a formal vote prior to any implementation.

Recommendation:

That the membership authorises both committees to commence joint discussions regarding amalgamation and to report back with recommendations within six months, with any substantive proposal to be subject to a formal membership vote before action is taken.