



PROPOSAL TO CONVERT THE FARNHAM SOCIETY TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

The Farnham Society has been an ‘unincorporated association’ since the adoption of its charitable Constitution in 1981.

During the last year we have been exploring the best way of updating our Constitution and rules and making them more resilient in the current climate . Our current structure has not been reviewed for over 45 years and an unincorporated association is rarely used nowadays to hold significant charitable assets.

The Charity Commission have been helpful in guiding us and we’ve taken the time to review and evaluate the options and look closely at what other comparable civic societies have in place. We’ve concluded that the CIO structure fits our current requirements.

By becoming a CIO (rather than remaining an unincorporated association or going to the expense of setting up and running a company) our charity will benefit from:

- *Limited Liability- the Trustees and members of a CIO will have no personal liability (save in exceptional circumstances);
- *Simplified Administration- a CIO reports to the Charity Commission (but not to Companies House) which reduces admin and simplifies annual filings;
- *Professional appearance- improves credibility and trust with banks, financial institutions and partners;
- *Assets will be held in the name of the CIO itself as it is a separate legal entity which is important for continuity and ease of operation.

The Trustees of The Farnham Society and the members of its Management Committee have concluded that we should form a CIO based closely on the model provided by the Charity Commission with identical Objects to The Farnham Society and retaining our name.

As a first step we have submitted a draft CIO to the Charity Commission and are currently awaiting their comments. Once we receive their approval, the draft CIO will be submitted to the full membership of The Farnham Society at an EGM for consideration and approval in accordance with our rules.



Once the CIO has been approved by Farnham Society membership and has been registered by the Charity Commission then the assets of existing The Farnham Society will be transferred to the new CIO.

We will be looking for members of our Society to express interest in becoming Trustees and joining the Management Committee of the new Farnham Society CIO. Members will be asked to consider putting their names forward to be trustees of the new charity and represent its membership in carrying out our Objects and ensuring the preservation and protection of our historic town and promoting high standards of architecture and planning

John Cattell, Treasurer

20 October 2026