

## Merseyside Civic Society – Changes to Membership

Following approval at our AGM, Merseyside Civic Society is making a number of changes to the way membership works in the Society. Members have agreed to amend the Constitution to give effect to the proposed changes.

### Why change?

- To enable the Society to be more effective in our campaigns, policies and events through attracting new, more active, diverse and younger members, there needs to be a step-change to a larger membership.
- The requirement to 'pay before you can join' isn't entirely in keeping with our ethos as a grassroots organisation in one of the UK's most deprived regions.

### What changes are proposed?

We are moving to a system of **Open Membership supported by Voluntary Donations**. Instead of a subscription fee, anybody who wants to help us achieve the objects of the Society will be able to become a Member by registering without charge. MCS will use our social media and other channels to encourage lots of people across the city region who are interested in the civic life of Merseyside to become part of the Society.

### When will these changes take effect?

The changes take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

### I am already an MCS Member. Do I need to do anything?

Existing members of MCS do not need to do anything. You will be automatically transferred to the new Membership Register.

### If we do not charge for membership, how will we fund our work?

It is still just as important as ever for us to raise money to pay for our campaigns and other activities. But we will seek to do this by voluntary donations, with suggested donation levels for both membership and for attending events. We hope that as many as can afford to will give generously, so we can do more than we are able to at present, especially on policy and campaigns. But membership will no longer be dependent on your ability to pay.

### I already make a payment by Standing Order, or, by Paypal. What should I do?

If you already have a regular payment mechanism set up such as a Standing Order or PayPal, we urge you to leave it in place if you would like to continue giving at that level.

If you cannot afford to give, you should feel free to cancel the payment and your membership will be unaffected. If you are able to change your gift to a slightly larger amount, or, would like to make a small monthly gift instead we would be most grateful for your support.

**The MCS Council believes this is an exciting step to helping the Society grow so that we can better represent more people, communities and businesses who share our vision for a sustainable city region that is a great place to live, work and visit, respecting its heritage and character while engaging with the challenges of the new century.**