

# FAQ: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

## What is Full SMIRA membership?

Full membership is the current membership according to the current Articles of Association (the rules that govern SMIRA). The Articles state that only one person per property which is owned or leased/rented for over 5 years can be a member. Full members can appoint directors to the SMIRA Board and only they can make changes to the articles by way of a vote.

## Why can't SMIRA just change the Articles of Association immediately so all residents can be full members?

The Articles of Association are a legal document and in order to change it, SMIRA needs to consult all residents, find out what changes they want and then allow full SMIRA members to have a vote on whether the articles should be changed to include all residents and any changes.

This will take time and planning. SMIRA is working on the planning of this so it can present this to residents later in the year and start consultation next year.

Meanwhile it is introducing Associate membership for those not currently

eligible for full membership so more residents can be members, be eligible to become sector representatives and enjoy the member benefits SMIRA wishes to roll out.

## What is Associate membership and why is SMIRA introducing this now?

Associate membership is SMIRA's temporary solution to bridge some of the gap for residents who currently can't be members and the full membership. To be an associate member you need to be the second named owner of a property or lease/rent for less than 5 years.

This membership does NOT reduce the rights that FULL members have, but allows those not currently eligible to have a form of membership so they can nominate themselves for sector representation and enjoy future SMIRA benefits. They can also enjoy some voting rights like full members in relation to community events and how the SMIRA budget is spent. The table below shows the differences between the two types of membership.

## Who can vote for ALL residents to be full members?

Currently the Articles of Association state that only full members have a vote to change anything within the Articles which could allow all residents to be full members. This is why SMIRA need to carry out a full consultation so everyone understands what is needed and full members know what they are being asked to vote for.

## If I become an Associate member and the Articles change so I can become a full member, what will happen?

If full members vote to include all other eligible residents to become full members, then SMIRA will automatically convert associate members to full.

## What will the consultation involve to change the articles of association?

SMIRA are planning the consultation for everyone. This could involve information sent out by email, leaflets, drop ins, focus groups and presentations at formal residents meetings.

SMIRA will present its proposal for residents to sign off at a Formal Residents Meeting before it can start the consultation. It is anticipated that the consultation will take place in 2020.

SMIRA will take the rest of 2019 to plan the consultation, roll out other initiatives such as sector representation and member benefits and deliver the summer event.

## Is SMIRA membership free?

Yes, all memberships (Full or Associate) are free to join. Residents can make a donation to SMIRA work if they wish, but this is NOT a requirement to join.

CRITERIA	FULL MEMBERSHIP	ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
<b>Meetings and Resident Voice</b>		
Can attend Residents Drop-ins, AGM and Formal Residents meetings	✓	✓
Can submit questions for stakeholders at Formal Residents meetings	✓	✓
Can be a sector representative (when rolled out)	✓	✓
<b>Member Benefits</b>		
Can access SMIRA member benefits and discounts (when rolled out)	✓	✓
<b>Tenure</b>		
<i>Homeowners on SMI</i>		
First Homeowner applicant	✓	✗
Second Homeowner applicant	✗	✓
<i>Leaseholders or tenants of dwellings on SMI</i>		
First Leaseholder or tenant applicant, holding a lease or tenancy of more than 5 years	✓	✗
Second Leaseholder or tenant applicant, holding a lease or tenancy of more than 5 years	✗	✓
Named leaseholder or tenant applicant, holding a lease less than 5 years	✗	✓
<i>Commercial properties on SMI</i>		
First owner applicant of a commercial property who is liable to pay the rent charge on that property	✓	✗
First leaseholder applicant of a commercial property who is liable to pay the rent charge on that property	✓	✗
<b>Voting Rights</b>		
Can vote on changes to SMIRA's Articles of Association	✓	✗
Can vote to elect SMIRA Directors and Company Secretary at AGM	✓	✗
Can vote on polls and other votes at Formal Residents Meetings relating to community events and activities	✓	✓
Can vote on SMIRA budget expenditure	✓	✓