

CPRE Bedfordshire

Converting to a CIO

What is a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO)?

A CIO is an incorporated body with a constitution and a legal identity that is quite separate from its trustees or members, but it is not a company, and it is therefore not generally subject to UK company law or regulations affecting companies.

CPRE Bedfordshire is currently a registered charity which is unincorporated. This means that the charity can only interact with the outside world via its trustees, and they are personally liable.

The CIO structure gives a charity legal capacity to do things in its own name because it is a legal entity with separate legal personality. This means it can employ staff, own freehold property and take on leasehold property. It can also enter into commercial contracts (to provide services and buy or sell goods) in the charity's name. As a result, any employment disputes, property claims, or contractual claims would be pursued against and could be brought by the CIO.

Why is CPRE Bedfordshire proposing this change?

The change to a CIO is considered good practice by the Charity Commission particularly for charities that employ staff. It is also encouraged by CPRE and number of CPRE branches have already made the change and found it makes Trustee recruitment easier as there is less personal liability. CPRE Bedfordshire employs 2 members of staff and has an office lease so has liabilities and the Trustees consider a CIO structure is more appropriate.

Will this change the way CPRE Bedfordshire works or my membership?

CPRE Bedfordshire will not change the way it works because of the CIO structure and membership will not alter. We are still affiliated to the national CPRE and as a member you will not notice any difference.

If you have any questions that are not answered here, please get in touch with Lois Wright, Director lois.wright@cprebeds.org.uk