



**Hampshire County Scout Council
Constitution
(replaces constitution dated 18 June 2020)**

Purpose

1. Hampshire County Scout Council - the Council - will adopt the Scouts Constitution as detailed in POR Rule 5.16¹ (The Constitution of the Scout County) as its own Constitution with the following specific provisions adopted by the Council in order to:
 - a. Better support the management of a large Scout county.
 - b. Reflect our youth shaped agenda.
 - c. Formalise previously unwritten historical precedent.

The Council

2. **Membership of the Council.** Membership of the Council is as per POR 5.16e². Hampshire will specifically aim to include the following on its Council:
 - a. **Ex-Officio members.** Members of the Hampshire Scouts County Youth Council.
 - b. **Co-opted members.** The County Commissioner may nominate people from the following organisations to be members of the Council having sought their agreement first. Their membership will last only for the period that they remain in those positions unless changed by the Council's agreement:
 - (1) Guide commissioners from the three Girlguiding counties in Hampshire.
 - (2) Named leaders (or their representative) of the Local Authorities of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton.
3. **Quorum**³. All Council members will be invited to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) where they will be given the opportunity to vote. The AGM will be considered quorate based on those

¹ [POR Chp 5 The Scout County](#)

² The names of non-ex officio members of the Council (including representatives) will be announced at the AGM and recorded in Compass by the County AAC Secretary.

³ Quorum means having enough people to make decisions. [Charity Commission guidance on meetings](#)

Council members present plus the County Commissioner, the County Chair and the County Youth Commissioner or, where they are unable to attend, their nominated representatives.

The Board

4. **County Board of Trustees (CBOT).** Membership of the CBOT⁴ - the Board - is as per POR 5.16.e.iii plus the following:

a. **Elected members.** Given Hampshire's size, districts are formed into cluster groups. Each cluster may propose one person to act as its cluster representative on the Board. The Council will elect those representatives at the AGM. There is no limit on the number of times a cluster representative may be re-elected. A cluster representative cannot be a person who has been appointed by the County Commissioner or a uniformed member of the County team. For example, a District Commissioner or Assistant County Commissioner (District Support).

b. **Nominated members.** Having consulted with the County Chair, one of the County Commissioner's nominees at the AGM is to be a young person (18-25) who will take on the role of County Deputy Chair. If nominated at further AGMs, they will serve for a period of no more than three years and must be 25 or younger at the time of their first approval AGM.

c. **Co-opted members.** The Ferny Crofts Management Committee Chair will be a standing co-opted member of the Board.

d. **Invited to attend.**

(1) **Elected Youth Representative (EYR).** Up to three young people may be elected annually as EYRs by the Hampshire Scouts County Youth Council. They will have a standing invitation to attend Board meetings and will be encouraged to participate in discussions, but they will not have voting rights whether or not they are over 18. They will be announced at the AGM, and the invitation will remain open until the next AGM. They will be described as Board members. An EYR may be re-elected by the County Youth Council no more than three times.

(2) **Other young people.** With the permission of the County Chair, the County Youth Commissioner and, where one is in post, the County Deputy Chair may invite young people to attend Board meetings for educational purposes.

e. **Sub-committees.** Board sub-committees must be provided with clear, written terms of reference (TOR) before they meet. Decisions of sub-committees must be reported to the next meeting of the Board. The quorum for sub-committees will be set by the Board in the TORs but will be a minimum of at least three, one of whom must be a Board member. Hampshire will have the following standing sub-committees with others formed at the discretion of the Board as necessary:

⁴ In 2020, the Council renamed its County Executive Committee to be the County Board of Trustees in line with HQ guidance at the time.

- (1) Finance sub-committee.
- (2) Grants sub-committee.
- (3) Ferny Crofts Management Committee.

f. **Meetings.** In addition to POR 5.16h⁵, the following are to be adopted in Hampshire:

(1) **Quorum.** The Board will be quorate when one third of the number of members plus one, are at the meeting. This must include the County Chair or the County Deputy Chair unless it has been agreed in advance that someone else will chair the meeting.

(2) **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).** An EGM may be called by the Board for consideration of a single item of non-recurring business that requires approval by the Council between AGMs. An EGM can be attended by the same people who are allowed to attend an AGM. Examples for calling an EGM include:

- alteration of this Constitution where such change cannot be delayed until the AGM.
- discussion of an issue brought by members that cannot be delayed until the AGM nor dealt with by the Board.

g. **Removal of Board members.** Any Board member may have their role cancelled in line with POR as well as for the following reasons:

(1) **Missing meetings.** Any member who misses three meetings during the course of a year without a valid reason.

(2) **Behaviour.** Any member who behaves in contravention of Scout values including by using aggressive, abusive language or behaviour that upsets other members during a meeting or whose behaviour outside is likely to bring Scouts into disrepute.

The Youth Council

5. **Purpose.** Hampshire Scouts County Youth Council – the Youth Council - is the primary consultative body of young people within the County. In addition, the County Youth Commissioner, or their nominee, will facilitate the use of the Youth Council as a consultative body for other Scout bodies including headquarters, and partner organisations where appropriate.

6. **Management.** Responsible to the County Commissioner, the County Youth Commissioner will manage the Youth Council and act as its Chair. Meetings will be arranged by the County Youth Commissioner, or their nominee, and held across Hampshire and be open to all members of the Youth Council. The County Youth Commissioner will provide a report after each Youth Council meeting to the County Leadership Team and the Board who in turn are to provide responses to

⁵ Conduct of meetings in a Scout County: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/5-the-scout-county/#5.16>

any recommendations put forward to them.

7. **Membership.** The Youth Council consists of:

- a. The County Youth Commissioner, Deputy County Youth Commissioner and the County Deputy Chair.
- b. The EYRs (see paragraph 4.d.(1)).
- c. District Youth Commissioners and Deputy District Youth Commissioners of all districts within Hampshire, or one 18 – 25-year-old representative from each district without a District Youth Commissioner.
- d. Two Explorer Scouts representatives from each district within Hampshire, chosen according to a process decided by their parent district.
- e. Two Explorer Scouts representatives from each World Scout Jamboree Unit (or part thereof), provided that those representatives are members in Hampshire, and up to four representatives of any alternative Hampshire Scouts expedition planned alongside the World Scout Jamboree.
- f. Any other young person who the County Youth Commissioner feels it advantageous to invite.

Ferny Crofts Activity Centre

8. The Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre (the Centre) is owned by the Council and is its principal asset.

9. **Management.** The Board is responsible to the Council for the proper and effective management of the Centre. The Ferny Crofts Management Committee will discharge that duty on behalf of the Board.

10. **Mission.** The Centre's mission is:

To provide a safe and welcoming environment that offers quality opportunities for learning through fun, adventure, development and achievement.

11. **Usage.** The site and facilities have and will continue to be developed to encourage use by Scouts, particularly those in Hampshire. At the same time, the potential of the Centre is to be optimised through use by non-Scouting organisations, maintaining a high level of service, fun and adventure to all of its customers.

County President and Vice Presidents

12. The Hampshire County President and County Vice Presidents are either associate members

or full members whose roles are honorary only. As per Scout policy⁶, these roles have no executive function with their purpose being to 'promote the wellbeing and perception of Scouting in the wider community, connecting Scouting with the local community to help foster relationships between Scouting and other organisations and institutions'.

13. **County President.** The Hampshire Lord-Lieutenant (L-L) will be invited to be the County President and approved by the Council. They will be the County President only whilst they hold the office of L-L. If a changeover of L-Ls takes place between AGMs and the new one does not want to take on the role, the position will be left vacant until the Council approves an alternative one at the following AGM. It will be for the Board to identify a suitable person to hold that position including how long they should be appointed for and make its recommendation to the Council to approve.

14. **County Vice President (VP).**

a. **Retiring County Commissioners and County Chairs.** They will be considered by the Board to become a VP where they have served for more than three years, done so with distinction and can meet the role purpose. Their nomination will be recommended to the Council at its AGM for approval.

b. **Retiring senior County Scouters.** The County Chair, in consultation with the County Commissioner, may nominate other senior County Scouters to become a VP where they have served for more than three years, done so with distinction and can meet the role purpose. Their nomination will be recommended to the Council at its AGM for approval.

c. **Other members and non-Scouts.** Other members and non-Scouts may be considered for a VP role where the proposer can demonstrate that by them holding that role Hampshire Scouts will benefit. These are to be agreed by the Board and formally nominated for approval by the Council at its AGM.

d. **Role requirements.** Anyone holding the VP role must meet its purpose and actively demonstrate that they are doing so for Hampshire Scouts. Any VP also holding other roles in Hampshire Scouts and actively scouting will be deemed as doing so automatically. Anyone whose only role in Hampshire Scouts is as a VP or they Scout elsewhere will need to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to Hampshire Scouts in other ways. VPs will be managed by the County Chair or someone else on the County team nominated to do so and be given a role description.

e. **Role time limit and review.** As per POR, there is no time limit to holding this role or a requirement for a role review. The County Chair, or their representative, is to informally review VPs every five years to ensure that they are still meeting the role requirements as detailed above. Where a VP is no longer doing so or has informed the County Chair, or their representative, that they no longer intend to, then the Scouts appointments process for role cancellation or retirement is to be followed keeping the Board and Council informed.

⁶ <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-things-locally/recruiting-and-managing-volunteers/role-descriptions/countyarea-roles/>

f. **Current VPs.** VPs appointed before the publication of this County Constitution will retain that title for life without any obligations but may be called upon to carry out duties if required.

Changes and adoption

15. **Changes to the Constitution.** Changes to the Constitution will be made by the Council at an AGM having given Council members at least seven days-notice in advance of the meeting and the proposed change. Should a change be required because of a conflict with any changes to POR 5.16e, then the required change is to be implemented by the Board and then formally adopted at the next AGM unless such a change needs to be adopted with the Council's agreement through an EGM (see paragraph 4.f.(2)).

16. **Adoption of the Constitution.** This Constitution was adopted by the Council at its AGM held on 3 July 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Council by:

xxx
County Chair

xxx
County Secretary