



**Dorset HealthCare
University**
NHS Foundation Trust

**CONSTITUTION OF
DORSET HEALTHCARE UNIVERSITY
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
(A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION)**

VERSION CONTROL SCHEDULE

Version Number	Date Published	Amendment details. Include dates when Board approved as fit for purpose and Council ratified to come into force.
V2.0		<p>Paragraph 9 amended to reflect Model Core Constitution with reference to Annual Members' Meeting being open to the public. Paragraph 13 inserted to set out Governors' statutory duties. Paragraph 15.3 inserted re Governors inviting Directors to meetings. Paragraph 22 inserted re Directors' general duty. Paragraph 28 inserted re Board meeting open to public. Paragraph 30 inserted re Director conflicts of interests. Paragraph 35 inserted re documents available for public inspection. Paragraph 42.5 inserted to record that Monitor has no role in amendments. Paragraph 43 inserted to define significant transactions. Annex 3 amended to accommodate abolition of PCTs. Paragraphs 16 and 29 amended to reflect removal of standing order of Board and Council. Annex 3 amended to reflect revised composition (smaller) of Council. Paragraph 9 of Annex 5 amended to update list of Partner organisations. Annex 1 paragraph 2 deleted as it did not add any insight. References to authorisation amended to Licence throughout. Grammatical and formatting improvements throughout.</p> <p>Joint working group of Governors and Directors has worked with advice from Bevan Brittan Dec 13-June 14 to review and amend.</p> <p>Change the current logo to updated version (University in small below DHC)</p>
V3.0		<p>Table of Contents Annexe numbering changed to reflect deletion of Annex 2. Paragraph 6.3 deleted. Paragraph 7.4 deleted. Paragraph 43 4.5 deleted. Annex 2 deleted as it did not add any insight. Formatting improvements throughout. Board approved as fit for purpose – 9.7.14. Council of Governors ratified – 16.7.14.</p>
V4.0		<p>Amended to reflect agreed changes in the number of Local Government and Partner Governors and designated nominating organisations Council of Governors ratified 16 September 2015 Board endorsed 30 September 2016</p>
V5.0		<p>Amended Annex 2 paragraph 4.2 to permit the League of Friends network to appoint a Partner Governor (and amended 4.4 to delete the individual Leagues) (Council of Governors December 2016)</p>
V6.0		<p>Amended Annex 4 to delete the restriction on Staff Governors standing for election as Lead Governor (Council of Governors February 2017)</p>
V7.0		<p>Amended all references to Monitor which is now part of NHS Improvement and the following Paragraphs 2 To reflect the merger of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Councils. 9.1 relating to governor disqualifications be amended to include a clause for the Chair to make a decision on conflict of interests; 25.4 To reflect the role of the Board Appointments and Remuneration Committee Annex 1 to reflect the changes in local authorities. Appendix A Updated Model Election Rules</p>
Document Owner: Trust Secretary		

Constitution of Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust

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1. **Name**

The name of the Foundation Trust is Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (“the Foundation Trust”).

2. **Principal Purpose**

2.1 The Principal Purpose of the Foundation Trust is the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England.

2.2 The Foundation Trust does not fulfil its Principal Purpose unless, in each Financial Year, its total income from the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England is greater than its total income from the provision of goods and services for any other purposes.

2.3 The Foundation Trust may provide goods and services for any purposes related to:

2.3.1 the provision of services provided to individuals for or in connection with the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness; and

2.3.2 the promotion and protection of public health.

2.4 The Foundation Trust may also carry on activities other than those mentioned in paragraph 2.3 above for the purpose of making additional income available in order to better carry on its Principal Purpose.

3. **Powers**

3.1 The powers of the Foundation Trust are set out in the 2006 Act, subject to any restrictions in the Licence.

3.2 The powers of the Foundation Trust shall be exercised by the Board of Directors on behalf of the Foundation Trust.

3.3 Any of these powers may be delegated to a committee of Directors or to an executive Director.

4. **Membership and constituencies**

The Foundation Trust shall have members, each of whom shall be a member of one of the following constituencies:

4.1 a public constituency; or

4.2 the staff constituency

Further provisions as to members’ meetings are set out in Annex 6.

5. **Application for membership**

An individual who is eligible to become a member of the Foundation Trust may do so on application to the Foundation Trust.

6. **Public Constituency**

6.1 An individual who lives in an area specified in Annex 1 as an area for a public constituency may become or continue as a member of the Foundation Trust.

- 6.2 Those individuals who live in an area specified in an area for any public constituency are referred to collectively as the Public Constituency.

7. **Staff Constituency**

- 7.1 An individual who is employed by the Foundation Trust under a contract of employment with the Foundation Trust may become or continue as a member of the Foundation Trust provided:
- 7.1.1 he is employed by the Foundation Trust under a contract of employment which has no fixed term or has a fixed term of at least 12 months; or
- 7.1.2 he has been continuously employed by the Foundation Trust under a contract of employment for at least 12 months.
- 7.2 Individuals who exercise functions for the purposes of the Foundation Trust, otherwise than under a contract of employment with the Foundation Trust, may become or continue as members of the staff constituency provided such individuals have exercised these functions continuously for a period of at least 12 months. For the avoidance of doubt, seconded staff fall within the definition of individuals who exercise functions for the purposes of the Foundation Trust. Seconded staff are individuals whose contract of employment remains with another employer, but who are seconded to and line-managed by the Trust. For the avoidance of doubt individuals who assist or provide services to the Foundation Trust on a voluntary basis may not become members of the staff constituency.
- 7.3 Those individuals who are eligible for membership of the Foundation Trust by reason of the previous provisions are referred to collectively as the Staff Constituency.
- 7.4 An individual who is:
- 7.4.1 eligible to become a member of the Staff Constituency, and
- 7.4.2 invited by the Foundation Trust to become a member of the Staff Constituency,

shall become a member of the Foundation Trust as a member of the Staff Constituency without an application being made, unless he informs the Foundation Trust that he does not wish to do so.

8. **Restriction on membership**

- 8.1 An individual who is a member of a constituency may not while membership of that constituency continues, be a member of any other constituency.
- 8.2 An individual who satisfies the criteria for membership of the Staff Constituency may not become or continue as a member of any constituency other than the Staff Constituency.
- 8.3 Further provisions as to the circumstances in which an individual may not become or continue as a member of the Foundation Trust are set out in Annex 6.

9. **Annual Members' Meeting**
- 9.1 The Foundation Trust shall hold an annual meeting of its members ("Annual Members' Meeting"). The Annual Members' Meeting shall be open to members of the public.
- 9.2 Further provisions about the Annual Members' Meeting are set out in Annex 6.
10. **Council of Governors – composition**
- 10.1 The Foundation Trust is to have a Council of Governors, which shall comprise both elected and appointed Governors.
- 10.2 The composition of the Council of Governors is specified in Annex 2.
- 10.3 The members of the Council of Governors, other than the appointed members, shall be chosen by election by their constituency. The number of Governors to be elected by each constituency is specified in Annex 2.
11. **Council of Governors – election of governors**
- 11.1 Elections for elected members of the Council of Governors shall be conducted in accordance with the Model Rules for Elections, as may be varied from time to time. The Board of Directors will decide which of the two voting methods set out in the Model Rules for Elections is to be used.
- 11.2 The Model Rules for Elections, as may be varied from time to time, form part of this Constitution and are attached at Annex 3.
- 11.3 A variation of the Model Rules shall not constitute a variation of the terms of this Constitution. For the avoidance of doubt, the Foundation Trust cannot amend the Model Rules.
- 11.4 An election, if contested, shall be by secret ballot.
- 11.5 Where elections are held due to Governor vacancies and the seats are not filled then the Trust will hold a further election as soon as reasonably practicable.
12. **Council of Governors - tenure**
- 12.1 An elected Governor shall normally hold office for a period of 3 years commencing immediately after the Annual Members' Meeting at which his election is announced. .
- 12.2 An elected Governor shall cease to hold office if he ceases to be a member of the constituency by which he was elected.
- 12.3 An elected Governor shall be eligible for re-election at the end of his term.
- 12.4 An elected Governor may not hold office for more than nine consecutive years, and shall not be eligible for re-election if he has already held office for more than six consecutive years.
- 12.5 For the purposes of these provisions concerning terms of office for elected Governors, "year" means a period commencing immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Members' Meeting, and ending at the conclusion of the next Annual Members' Meeting.
- 12.6 Further provisions as to tenure for appointed Governors are set out at Annex 4.

13. **Council of Governors – duties of governors**

13.1 The general duties of the Council of Governors are –

13.1.1 to hold the non-executive Directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board of Directors, and

13.1.2 to represent the interests of the members of the Foundation Trust as a whole and the interest of the public.

13.2 The Foundation Trust must take steps to secure that the Council of Governors are equipped with the skills and knowledge they require in their capacity as such.

13.3 Further provisions as to the circumstances in which an individual may not become or continue as a member of the Council of Governors are set out in Annex 4.

14. **Council of Governors – disqualification and removal**

14.1 The following may not become or continue as a member of the Council of Governors:

14.1.1 a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestrated and (in either case) has not been discharged;

14.1.2 a person who has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;

14.1.3 a person who within the preceding five years has been convicted in the British Isles of any offence if a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) was imposed on him.

14.2 Governors must be at least 16 years of age at the date they are nominated for election or appointment.

15. **Council of Governors – meetings of Governors**

15.1 The Chair of the Foundation Trust (i.e. the Chair of the Board of Directors, appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 24 below) or, in his absence the Deputy Chair (appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 25 below) or, in his absence, one of the non-executive Directors, shall preside at meetings of the Council of Governors. If the person presiding at any such meeting has a conflict of interest in relation to the business being discussed, the Lead Governor of the Council of Governors (appointed in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Annex 4) will chair that part of the meeting.

15.2 Meetings of the Council of Governors shall be open to members of the public unless the Council of Governors decides otherwise in relation to all or part of a meeting for reasons of commercial confidentiality or on other proper grounds. Members of the public may be excluded from a meeting if they are interfering with or preventing the proper conduct of the meeting or for other special reasons.

15.3 For the purposes of obtaining information about the Foundation Trust's performance of its functions or the Board of Directors' performance of their duties (and deciding whether to propose a vote on the Foundation Trust's or Board of Directors' performance), the Council of Governors may require one or more of the Board of Directors to attend a meeting.

16. **Council of Governors – standing orders**

The Council of Governors shall adopt standing orders for their practice and procedure, as may be varied from time to time by the Council of Governors. Such standing orders shall provide for the conduct of meetings including but not limited to notices of motion, the withdrawal of motions and motions to rescind resolutions, voting, chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chair, powers of the Chair to determine the conduct of the meeting, quorum and the provision for a record of attendance and the requirement for minutes of the meetings to be kept.

17. **Council of Governors - conflicts of interest of Governors**

17.1 Members of the Council of Governors shall disclose to the Council of Governors any material interests (as defined below) held by a Governor, their spouse or partner, which shall be recorded in the register of interests of Governors.

17.2 Subject to the exceptions below a material interest is:

17.2.1 any directorship of a company;

17.2.2 any interest or position in any firm, company, business or organisation (including any charitable or voluntary organisation) which has or is likely to have a trading or commercial relationship with the Foundation Trust;

17.2.3 any interest in an organisation providing health and social care services to the National Health Service;

17.2.4 a position of authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care;

17.2.5 any connection with any organisation, entity or company considering entering into a financial arrangement with the Foundation Trust including but not limited to lenders or banks.

17.3 The exceptions which shall not be treated as interests or material interests for the purposes of these provisions are as follows:

17.3.1 shares not exceeding 2% of the total shares in issue held in any company whose shares are listed on any public exchange;

17.3.2 an employment contract with the Foundation Trust held by a Staff Governor;

17.3.3 an employment contract with a relevant Commissioning Body;

17.3.4 an employment contract with a local authority held by the Local Government Governor;

17.3.5 an employment contract with or other position of authority within a partnership organisation held by a Partnership Governor.

17.4 Any Governor who has an interest in a matter to be considered by the Council of Governors (whether because the matter involves a firm, company, business or organisation in which the Governor or his spouse or partner has a material interest or otherwise) shall declare such interest to the Council of Governors and:

17.4.1 shall withdraw from the meeting and play no part in the relevant discussion or decision; and

17.4.2 shall not vote on the issue (and if by inadvertence they do remain and vote, their vote shall not be counted).

17.5 Details of any such interest shall be recorded in the register of interests of Governors.

17.6 Any Governor who fails to disclose any interest or material interest required to be disclosed under these provisions must permanently vacate their office if required to do so by a majority of the remaining Governors.

18. **Council of Governors – travel expenses**

The Foundation Trust may pay travelling and other expenses to members of the Council of Governors at rates determined by the Foundation Trust.

19. **Council of Governors – further provisions**

Further provisions with respect to the Council of Governors are set out in Annex 4.

20. **Board of Directors – composition**

20.1 The Foundation Trust is to have a Board of Directors, which shall comprise executive and non-executive Directors.

20.2 The Board of Directors is to comprise:

20.2.1 a non-executive Chair;

20.2.2 not less than five but not more than seven other non-executive Directors;

20.2.3 not less than five but not more than seven executive Directors.

20.3 The number of executive Directors shall not exceed the number of non-executive Directors.

20.4 One of the executive Directors shall be the Chief Executive.

20.5 The Chief Executive shall be the Accounting Officer.

20.6 One of the executive Directors shall be the Finance Director.

20.7 One of the executive Directors is to be a registered medical practitioner or a registered dentist (within the meaning of the Dentists Act 1984).

20.8 One of the executive Directors is to be a registered nurse or a registered midwife.

20.9 Associate Directors, or other such individuals, may assist the Board, from time to time, and attend Board meetings by invitation. They are not members of the Board and are not entitled to vote on any resolution of the Board of Directors.

21. **Board of Directors – general duty**

The general duty of the Board of Directors and of each member of the Board of Directors individually, is to act with a view to promoting the success of the Foundation Trust so as to maximise the benefits for the members of the Foundation Trust as a whole and for the public.

22. **Board of Directors – qualification for appointment as a non-executive Director**

A person may be appointed as a non-executive Director only if –

- 22.1 he is a member of a Public Constituency, and
- 22.2 he is not disqualified by virtue of paragraph 27 below or Annex 5.

23. **Board of Directors – appointment and removal of Chair and other non-executive Directors**

- 23.1 The Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors shall appoint, reappoint or remove the Chair of the Foundation Trust and the other non-executive Directors.
- 23.2 Removal of the Chair or another non-executive Director shall require the approval of three-quarters of the members of the Council of Governors.
- 23.3 Further provisions as to the appointment and removal of the Chair and other non-executive Directors are set out at Annex 5.

24. **Board of Directors – appointment of Deputy Chair**

The Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors shall appoint one of the non-executive Directors as a Deputy Chair. If the Chair is unable to discharge his office as Chair of the Foundation Trust the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors shall be acting Chair of the Foundation Trust.

25. **Board of Directors - appointment and removal of the Chief Executive and other executive Directors**

- 25.1 The non-executive Directors shall appoint or remove the Chief Executive.
- 25.2 The appointment of the Chief Executive shall require the approval of the Council of Governors.
- 25.3 A committee consisting of the Chair, the Chief Executive and the other non-executive Directors shall appoint or remove the other executive Directors.
- 25.4 The Chief Executive may appoint one of the executive Directors as Deputy Chief Executive, subject to the approval of the Board Appointments and Remuneration Committee

26. **Board of Directors – disqualification**

The following may not become or continue as a member of the Board of Directors:

- 26.1 a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestrated and (in either case) has not been discharged.
- 26.2 a person who has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it.
- 26.3 a person who within the preceding five years has been convicted in the British Isles of any offence if a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) was imposed on him.

Further provisions as to the circumstances in which an individual may not become or continue as a member of the Board of Directors are set out at Annex 5.

27. **Board of Directors – meetings**

27.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to members of the public. Members of the public may be excluded from a meeting for special reasons.

27.2 Before holding a meeting, the Board of Directors must send a copy of the agenda of the meeting to the Council of Governors. As soon as practicable after holding a meeting, the Board of Directors must send a copy of the minutes of the meeting to the Council of Governors.

28. **Board of Directors – standing orders**

The Board of Directors shall adopt standing orders for their practice and procedure, as may be varied from time to time by the Board of Directors.

29. **Board of Directors - conflicts of interest of Directors**

29.1 The duties that a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust has include in particular:

29.1.1 a duty to avoid a situation in which the Director has (or can have) a direct or indirect interest that conflicts (or possibly may conflict) with the interests of the Foundation Trust,

29.1.2 a duty not to accept a benefit from a third party by reason of being a Director or doing (or not doing) anything in that capacity;

29.2 The duty referred to in sub-paragraphs 30.1.1 is not infringed if:

29.2.1 the situation cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest; or

29.2.2 the matter has been authorised in accordance with the Constitution.

29.3 The duty referred to in sub-paragraph 30.1.2 is not infringed if acceptance of the benefit cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.

29.4 In paragraph 30.1.2 "third party" means a person other than:

29.4.1 the Foundation Trust; or

29.4.2 a person acting on its behalf.

29.5 If a Director of the Foundation Trust has in any way a direct or indirect interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Foundation Trust, the Director must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Directors.

29.6 If a declaration under this paragraph proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate, incomplete, a further declaration must be made.

29.7 Any declaration required by this paragraph must be made before the Foundation Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement.

29.8 This paragraph does not require a declaration of an interest of which the Director is not aware or where the Director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question.

29.9 A Director need not declare an interest:

29.9.1 if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest;

29.9.2 if, or to the extent that, the Directors are already aware of it;

29.9.3 if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of the Director's appointment that have been or are to be considered:

29.9.3.1 by a meeting of the Board of Directors; or

29.9.3.2 by a committee of the Directors appointed for the purpose under the Constitution.

30. **Board of Directors – remuneration and terms of office**

30.1 The Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors shall decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the Chair and the other non-executive Directors.

30.2 The Foundation Trust shall establish a committee of non-executive Directors to decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the Chief Executive and other executive Directors.

31. **Registers**

The Foundation Trust shall have:

31.1 a register of members showing, in respect of each member, the constituency to which he belongs;

31.2 a register of members of the Council of Governors;

31.3 a register of interests of the Governors;

31.4 a register of Directors; and

31.5 a register of interests of the Directors.

32. **Admission to and removal from the registers**

32.1 The Secretary shall remove from the register of members the name of any member who ceases to be entitled to be a member under the provisions of this Constitution.

33. **Registers – inspection and copies**

33.1 The Foundation Trust shall make the registers specified in paragraph 32 above available for inspection by members of the public, except in the circumstances set out below or as otherwise prescribed by regulations.

33.2 The Foundation Trust shall not make any part of its registers available for inspection by members of the public which shows details of any member of the Foundation Trust, if the member so requests.

- 33.3 So far as the registers are required to be made available:
- 33.3.1 they are to be available for inspection free of charge at all reasonable times; and
 - 33.3.2 a person who requests a copy of or extract from the registers is to be provided with a copy or extract.
- 33.4 If the person requesting a copy or extract is not a member of the Foundation Trust, the Foundation Trust may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

34. **Documents available for public inspection**

- 34.1 The Foundation Trust shall make the following documents available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times:
- 34.1.1 a copy of the current Constitution,
 - 34.1.2 a copy of the latest annual accounts and of any report of the auditor on them, and
 - 34.1.3 a copy of the latest annual report.
- 34.2 The Foundation Trust shall also make the following documents relating to a special administration of the Foundation Trust available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times:
- 34.2.1 a copy of any order made under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator), 65J (power to extend time), 65KC (action following Secretary of State's rejection of final report), 65L (trusts coming out of administration) or 65LA (trusts to be dissolved) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.2 a copy of any report laid under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.3 a copy of any information published under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.4 a copy of any draft report published under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.5 a copy of any statement provided under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.6 a copy of any notice published under section 65F (administrator's draft report), 65G (consultation plan), 65H (consultation requirements), 65J (power to extend time), 65KA (NHSI 's decision), 65KB (Secretary of State's response to NHSI's decision), 65KC (action following Secretary of State's response to re-submitted final report) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.7 a copy of any statement published or provided under section 65G (consultation plan) of the 2006 Act;
 - 34.2.8 a copy of any final report published under section 65I (administrator's final report);

34.2.9 a copy of any statement published under section 65J (power to extend time) or 65KC (action following Secretary of State's rejection of final report) of the 2006 Act; and

34.2.10 a copy of any information published under section 65M (replacement of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act.

34.3 Any person who requests a copy of or extract from any of the above documents is to be provided with a copy or extract.

34.4 If the person requesting a copy or extract is not a member of the Foundation Trust, the Foundation Trust may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

35. **Auditor**

35.1 The Foundation Trust shall have an auditor.

35.2 The Council of Governors shall appoint or remove the auditor at a general meeting of the Council of Governors.

35.3 Further provisions as to the auditor and other external auditors are set out at Annex 7.

36. **Audit committee**

The Foundation Trust shall establish a committee of non-executive Directors as an audit committee to perform such monitoring, reviewing and other functions as are appropriate.

37. **Accounts and records**

37.1 The Foundation Trust must keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to those accounts.

37.2 NHSI may, with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health, give directions to the Foundation Trust as to the content and form of its accounts.

37.3 The accounts are to be audited by the Foundation Trust's auditor.

37.4 The following documents will be made available to the Comptroller and Auditor General for examination at his request:

37.4.1 the accounts;

37.4.2 any records relating to them; and

37.4.3 any report of the auditor on them.

37.5 The Foundation Trust shall prepare in respect of each Financial Year annual accounts in such form as NHSI may with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health direct.

37.6 NHSI may with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health direct the Foundation Trust:

37.6.1 to prepare accounts in respect of such period or periods as may be specified in the direction; and/or

37.6.2 that any accounts prepared by it by virtue of paragraph 38.6.1 above are to be audited in accordance with such requirements as may be specified in the direction.

37.7 In preparing its annual accounts or in preparing any accounts by virtue of paragraph 38.6.1 above, the Foundation Trust must comply with any directions given by NHSI with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health as to:

37.7.1 the methods and principles according to which the annual accounts must be prepared; and/or

37.7.2 the content and form of the annual accounts.

37.8 The Foundation Trust must:

37.8.1 lay a copy of the annual accounts, and any report of the auditor on them, before Parliament; and

37.8.2 send copies of the annual accounts, and any report of the auditor on them to NHSI within such a period as NHSI may direct.

37.9 The Foundation Trust must send a copy of any accounts prepared by virtue of paragraph 38.6.1 above and a copy of any report of the auditor to NHSI within such a period as NHSI may direct.

37.10 The functions of the Foundation Trust referred to in this paragraph 38 shall be delegated to the Accounting Officer.

38. Annual Report, Forward Plans and non- NHS work

38.1 The Foundation Trust shall prepare Annual Reports and send them to NHSI

38.2 Each Annual Report must give:

38.2.1 information on any steps taken by the Foundation Trust to secure that (taken as a whole) the actual membership of any Public Constituency is representative of those eligible for such membership;

38.2.2 information on the impact that income received by the Foundation Trust otherwise than from the fulfilment of the Principal Purpose has had on the provision by the Foundation Trust of goods and services for those purposes; and

38.2.3 such other information as may be prescribed by NHSI

38.3 The Foundation Trust shall give information as to its forward planning in respect of each Financial Year to NHSI

38.4 The Forward Plan shall be prepared by the Board of Directors.

38.5 In preparing the Forward Plan, the Board of Directors shall have regard to the views of the Council of Governors.

38.6 Each Forward Plan must include information about:

- 38.6.1 the activities other than the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England that the Foundation Trust proposes to carry on; and
 - 38.6.2 the income that it expects to receive from doing so.
 - 38.7 Where a Forward Plan contains a proposal that the Foundation Trust carry on an activity of a kind mentioned in paragraph 39.6.1 above, the Council of Governors must:
 - 38.7.1 determine whether it is satisfied that the carrying on of the activity will not to any significant extent interfere with the fulfilment by the Foundation Trust of its Principal Purpose or the performance of its other functions; and
 - 38.7.2 notify the Directors of the Foundation Trust of its determination.
 - 38.8 The Foundation Trust may implement a proposal to increase by 5% or more the proportion of its total income in any Financial Year attributable to activities other than the fulfilment of the Principal Purpose only if more than half of the members of the Council of Governors present and voting approve the implementation of the proposal.
39. **Presentation of the annual accounts and reports to the Council of Governors and members**
- 39.1 The following documents are to be presented to the Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors:
 - 39.1.1 the annual accounts
 - 39.1.2 any report of the auditor on them
 - 39.1.3 the annual report.
 - 39.2 The documents shall also be presented to the members of the Foundation Trust at the Annual Members' Meeting by at least one member of the Board of Directors in attendance.
 - 39.3 The Foundation Trust may combine a meeting of the Council of Governors convened for the purposes of paragraphs 40.1 with the Annual Members' Meeting.
40. **Instruments**
- 40.1 The Foundation Trust shall have a seal.
 - 40.2 The seal shall not be affixed except under the authority of the Board of Directors.
41. **Amendment of the Constitution**
- 41.1 The Foundation Trust may make amendments of its Constitution only if:
 - 41.1.1 more than half of the members of the Council of Governors of the Foundation Trust voting approve the amendments; and
 - 41.1.2 more than half of the members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust voting approve the amendments.

- 41.2 Amendments made under paragraph 42.1 take effect as soon as the conditions in that paragraph are satisfied, but the amendment has no effect in so far as the Constitution would, as a result of the amendment, not accord with schedule 7 of the 2006 Act.
- 41.3 Where an amendment is made to the Constitution in relation to the powers or duties of the Council of Governors (or otherwise with respect to the role that the Council of Governors has as part of the Foundation Trust):
- 41.3.1 at least one member of the Council of Governors must attend the next Annual Members' Meeting and present the amendment; and
 - 41.3.2 the Foundation Trust must give the members present at the Annual Members' Meeting an opportunity to vote on whether they approve the amendment.
- 41.4 If more than half of the members voting approve the amendment, the amendment continues to have effect; otherwise, it ceases to have effect and the Foundation Trust must take such steps as are necessary as a result.
- 41.5 Amendments by the Foundation Trust of its Constitution are to be notified to NHSI. For the avoidance of doubt, NHSI's functions do not include a power or duty to determine whether or not the Constitution, as a result of the amendments, accords with Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act.

42. Mergers etc. and Significant Transactions

- 42.1 The Foundation Trust may only apply for a merger, acquisition, separation or dissolution with the approval of more than half of the members of the Council of Governors.
- 42.2 The Foundation Trust may enter into a Significant Transaction only if more than half of the members of the Council of Governors of the Foundation Trust voting approve entering into the transaction.
- 42.3 For the purposes of paragraph 43.2 above, a "Significant Transaction" means a transaction or arrangement under which any income or expenditure attributable to the transaction and/or the contract associated with the transaction is greater than either 25% of the operating income of the Foundation Trust, any increase or decrease in the fixed assets of the Trust is greater than 25% of the fixed assets of the Foundation Trust or any increase or decrease in the capital of the Foundation Trust is greater than 25% of the capital of the Trust as set out in the preceding Financial Year's annual accounts.
- 42.4 Notwithstanding the above provisions and for the avoidance of doubt, a Significant Transaction does not include:
- 42.4.1 transactions pursuant to: Sections 56, 56A 56B and 57A of the 2006 Act; or
 - 42.4.2 contracts in place, from time to time, with NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (or its successor organisation); or
 - 42.4.3 contracts in place, from time to time, with any other Clinical Commissioning Groups and the NHS Commissioning Board; or
 - 42.4.4 contracts in place, from time to time, with Public Health England and local authorities.

43. Interpretation and definitions

Unless a contrary intention is evident or the context requires otherwise, words or expressions contained in this Constitution shall bear the same meaning as in the 2006 Act (as amended by the 2012 Act).

Headings are for ease of reference only and are not to affect interpretation.

Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender; words importing the singular shall import the plural and vice-versa.

"Annual Members' Meeting"	is defined in paragraph 9 of this Constitution;
"the Accounting Officer"	means the person who from time to time discharges the functions specified in paragraph 25(5) of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act;
"appointed Governors"	means those Governors appointed by the appointing organisations;
"appointing organisations"	means those organisations named in this Constitution who are entitled to appoint Governors;
"Commissioning Body"	means any significant organisation with whom the Trust has a contract to provide goods and services.
"Comptroller and Auditor General"	means the individual engaged in the position of Comptroller and Auditor General to the National Audit Office (UK government department) or its statutory successor from time to time;
"Constitution"	means this Constitution and all annexes to it;
"Director"	means a member of the Board of Directors;
"Effective Date"	means the date on which this Constitution was adopted;
"elected Governors"	means those Governors elected by the Public Constituency and the Staff Constituency;
"Financial Year"	means: (a) the period beginning with the date on which the Foundation Trust is authorised and ending with the next 31 March; and (b) each successive period of twelve months beginning with 1 April;
"Forward Plan"	means the document prepared by the Foundation Trust pursuant to paragraph 27 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act;
"Local Government Governor"	means a Governor appointed by one or more local authorities whose area includes the whole or part of an area for a public constituency of the Foundation Trust;

“ NHSI	In this document NHSI means Monitor the body corporate as provided by Section 61 of the 2012 Act; Monitor is now part of NHSI
“partner”	means, in relation to another person, a member of the same household living together as a family unit;
“Partnership Governor”	means a Governor appointed by a partnership organisation;
"Principal Purpose"	means the purpose set out in Section 43(1) of the 2006 Act;
“Public Governor”	means a Governor elected by the members of one of the areas of the Public Constituency;
“Secretary”	means the Secretary of the Foundation Trust or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the Secretary, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary;
"Significant Transaction"	is defined in paragraph 43.3 of this Constitution;
“Staff Governor”	means a Governor elected by the members of the Staff Constituency;
“voluntary organisation”	means a body, other than a public or local authority, the activities of which are not carried on for profit;
“the 2006 Act”	means the National Health Service Act 2006;
"the 2012 Act"	means the Health and Social Care Act 2012;

ANNEX 1 – THE PUBLIC CONSTITUENCY

(Paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2.)

1. The areas for public constituencies are as follows:

1.1 the electoral area covered by the former Poole Borough Council; namely the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council wards of ;

- East Cliff and Springbourne
- Littledown and Iford
- Boscombe West
- Boscombe East and Pokesdown
- West Southbourne
- East Soutbourne and Tuckton
- Kinson
- Redhill and Northbourne
- Wallisdown and Winton West
- Talbot and Branksome Woods
- Westbourne and West Cliff
- Bournemouth Central
- Moordown
- Winton East
- Mustcliff and Strouden Park
- Queens Park

1.2 The electoral area covered by the former Bournemouth Borough Council; namely Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council wards of ;

- Broadstone
- Creekmoor
- Hamworthy
- Bearwood and Merley
- Canford Heath
- Penn Hill
- Oakdale

- Poole Town
- Newton and Heatherlands
- Parkstone
- Alderney and Bourne Valley
- Canford Cliffs

1.3 the electoral area covered by Dorset County Council and the rest of England and Wales and the following wards of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council wards

- Highcliffe and Walkford
- Mundeford; Stanpit and West Highcliffe
- Christchurch Town
- Burton and Grange
- Commons

ANNEX 2 – COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

(Paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3)

- 1 The aggregate number of Public Governors is to be more than half of the total number of members of the Council of Governors.
- 2 The Council of Governors, subject to the 2006 Act, shall seek to ensure that through the composition of the Council of Governors:
 - 2.1 the interests of the community served by the Foundation Trust are appropriately represented;
 - 2.2 the level of representation of the Public Constituency, the Staff Constituency and the appointing organisations strikes an appropriate balance having regard to their legitimate interest in the Foundation Trust's affairs;and to this end, the Council of Governors:
 - 2.3 shall at all times maintain a policy for the composition of the Council of Governors which takes account of the membership strategy, and
 - 2.4 shall from time to time and at least every three years review the policy for the composition of the Council of Governors, and
 - 2.5 when appropriate shall propose amendments to this Constitution.
- 3 The Council of Governors of the Foundation Trust is to comprise:
 - 3.1 Fourteen Public Governors from the following areas of the Public Constituency:
 - 3.1.1 Poole Constituency – shall be 3.
 - 3.1.2 Bournemouth Constituency – shall be 3.
 - 3.1.3 Dorset County and the rest of England and Wales – Shall be 8.
 - 3.2 Staff Governors – shall be 6
 - 3.3 Two r Local Government Governors of whom one shall be appointed Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and I, one by Dorset Council
 - 3.4 Three Partnership Governors to be appointed by partnership organisations.
- 4 The partnership organisations that may appoint a Partnership Governor are:
 - 4.1 Bournemouth University (who will appoint one Governor);
 - 4.2 The League of Friends Network in Dorset (nominated by the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital; and
 - 4.3 Dorset Mental Health Forum(who will appoint one Governor)

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- **ANNEX 3 –THE MODEL RULES FOR ELECTIONS**

(Paragraph 11.2)

The Model Rules for Election are attached at Appendix A.

ANNEX 4 – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS – COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

(Paragraphs 12.6, 13.3 and 20)

Elected Governors

1. A member of the Public Constituency may not vote at an election for a Public Governor unless within twenty-one days before they vote they have made a declaration in the form specified by the Secretary that they are qualified to vote as a member of the relevant area of the Public Constituency. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make such a declaration which is false in a material particular.

Appointed Governors

2. The Local Government Governors for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and , Dorset County Council are to be appointed by each of the Councils in accordance with a process agreed by the Secretary.
3. The Partnership Governors are to be appointed by the partnership organisations, in accordance with a process agreed with the Secretary.

Appointment of Lead Governor of the Council of Governors

4. The Council of Governors shall appoint one of the Governors to be Lead Governor of the Council of Governors. If more than one nomination is received an anonymous ballot of all the Governors shall be held to fill the position.

Tenure for appointed Governors

5. An appointed Governor:
 - 5.1 shall normally hold office for a period of three years commencing immediately after the annual members meeting at which his appointment is announced;
 - 5.2 shall be eligible for re-appointment at the end of his term;
 - 5.3 may not hold office for longer than nine consecutive years, and shall not be eligible for re-appointment if he has already held office for more than six consecutive years.
6. For the purposes of these provisions concerning terms of office for appointed Governors, “year” means a period commencing immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Members Meeting, and ending at the conclusion of the next Annual Members Meeting.
7. An appointed Governor shall cease to hold office if the appointing organisation which appointed him terminates the appointment.

Further provisions as to eligibility to be a Governor

8. A person may not become a Governor of the Foundation Trust, and if already holding such office will immediately cease to do so, if:
 - 8.1 they are a Director or an Associate Director (or equivalent, as determined by the Chair and Chief Executive) of the Foundation Trust or a governor or director of an NHS body (unless they are appointed by an appointing organisation which is an NHS body or the Chair of the Trust decides that any potential conflict of interest is not material.); ‘.

- 8.2 they are the spouse, partner, parent, child, sister or brother of a member of the Board of Directors or Associate Director (or equivalent, as determined by the Chair and Chief Executive) of the Foundation Trust;
 - 8.3 they are a member of Health Watch (nationally or locally);
 - 8.4 they are deemed to be a vexatious complainant, as determined in accordance with the Foundation Trust's complaints procedure;
 - 8.5 they have been previously removed as a Governor pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Annex or they have been removed as a Governor or expelled from membership of another foundation trust.
 - 8.6 being a member of the Public Constituency, they refuse to sign a declaration in the form specified by the Secretary of particulars of their qualification to vote as a member of the Foundation Trust, and that they are not prevented from being a member of the Council of Governors;
 - 8.7 they are a person who, by reference to information revealed in a criminal record certificate or enhanced criminal record certificate issued by the Disclosure and Barring Service under Part V of the Police Act 1997, is considered by the Foundation Trust to be inappropriate on the grounds that his appointment might adversely affect public confidence in the Foundation Trust or otherwise bring the Foundation Trust into disrepute;
 - 8.8 they are included in any barred list established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, or who is included in an equivalent list maintained under the law of Scotland or Northern Ireland;
 - 8.9 they are subject to a sex offender order or committed any sex offence prior to the introduction of the Sex Offenders Act 1997.
 - 8.10 within the last five years they have been involved as a perpetrator in a serious incident of violence;
 - 8.11 they have within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy, from any paid employment with an NHS body;
 - 8.12 they are a person whose tenure of office as the Chair or as a member or director of an NHS body has been terminated on the grounds that their appointment is not in the interests of the health service, for non-attendance at meetings, or for non-disclosure of a pecuniary interest;
 - 8.13 they are the subject of a moratorium period under a debt relief order (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986);
 - 8.14 they have been convicted of an offence of fraud against the Foundation Trust.
9. A person holding office as a Governor shall immediately cease to do so if:
- 9.1 they resign by notice in writing to the Secretary;
 - 9.2 they fail to attend three meetings (as provided for in paragraph 15 below) in any 12 month period of the Council of Governors, unless the other Governors are satisfied that:
 - 9.2.1 the absences were due to reasonable causes; and

- 9.2.2 they will be able to start attending meetings of the Council of Governors again within such a period as the other Governors consider reasonable;
 - 9.3 they have refused without reasonable cause to undertake any training which the Council of Governors requires all Governors to undertake;
 - 9.4 they have failed to sign and deliver to the Secretary a statement in the form required by the Secretary confirming acceptance of the code of conduct for Governors;
 - 9.5 they are removed from the Council of Governors under the following provisions.
10. A Governor may be removed from the Council of Governors by a resolution approved by not less than three-quarters of the remaining Governors present and voting on the grounds that:
- 10.1 they have committed a serious breach of the code of conduct; or
 - 10.2 they have acted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Foundation Trust; and
 - 10.3 the Council of Governors consider that it is not in the best interests of the Foundation Trust for them to continue as a Governor.

Vacancies amongst Governors

- 11. Where a vacancy arises on the Council of Governors for any reason other than expiry of term of office, the following provisions will apply.
- 12. Where the vacancy arises amongst the appointed Governors, the Secretary shall request that the appointing organisation appoints a replacement to hold office for the remainder of the term of office.
- 13. Where the vacancy arises amongst the elected Governors, the Council of Governors shall be at liberty either:
 - 13.1 to call an election within three months to fill the seat for the remainder of that term of office; or
 - 13.2 to invite the next highest polling candidate for that seat at the most recent election, who is willing to take office, to fill the seat until the next annual election, at which time the seat will fall vacant and subject to election for any unexpired period of the term of office; or
 - 13.3 if the unexpired period of the term of office is less than 12 months, to leave the seat vacant until the next elections are held.

Further provisions as to meetings of Governors

- 14. The Council of Governors is to meet at least four times in each Financial Year. Save in the case of emergencies or the need to conduct urgent business, the Secretary shall give at least fourteen days written notice of the date and place of every meeting of the Council of Governors together with an agenda and any supporting papers to all Governors. Notice will also be published on the Foundation Trust's website.
- 15. Meetings of the Council of Governors may be called by the Secretary, or by the Chair, or by eight Governors (including at least two elected Governors and two appointed Governors) who give written notice to the Secretary specifying the business to be carried out. The Secretary shall send a written notice to all Governors as soon as possible after receipt of such a request. The Secretary shall call a meeting on at least fourteen but not more than twenty-

eight days' notice to discuss the specified business. If the Secretary fails to call such a meeting then the Chair or eight Governors, whichever is the case, shall call such a meeting.

16. Twelve Governors including not less than five Public Governors, not less than two Staff Governors and not less than two appointed Governors shall form a quorum.
17. The Council of Governors may invite the Chief Executive or any other member or members of the Board of Directors, or a representative of the auditor or other advisors to attend a meeting of the Council of Governors.
18. The Council of Governors may agree that its members can participate in its meetings by telephone, video or computer link. Participation in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to constitute presence in person at the meeting.
19. Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, questions arising at a meeting of the Council of Governors shall be decided by a majority of votes.
 - 19.1 In case of an equality of votes the person presiding at or chairing the meeting shall have a second and casting vote.
 - 19.2 No resolution of the Council of Governors shall be passed if it is opposed by all of the Public Governors present.
20. The Council of Governors may not delegate any of its powers to a committee or sub-committee, but it may appoint committees consisting of its members, Directors, and other persons to assist the Council of Governors in carrying out its functions. The Council of Governors may, through the Secretary, request that advisors assist them or any committee they appoint in carrying out its duties.
21. All decisions taken in good faith at a meeting of the Council of Governors or of any committee shall be valid even if it is discovered subsequently that there was a defect in the calling of the meeting, or the appointment of the Governors attending the meeting.

Declaration

22. An elected Governor may not vote at a meeting of the Council of Governors unless, before attending the meeting, they have made a declaration in the form specified by the Secretary of the particulars of their qualification to vote as a member of the Foundation Trust and that they are not prevented from being a member of the Council of Governors. An elected Governor shall be deemed to have confirmed the declaration upon attending any subsequent meeting of the Council of Governors, and every agenda for meetings of the Council of Governors will draw this to the attention of elected Governors.

ANNEX 5 - ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Paragraphs 23.2, 24.3, and 27)

Appointment and Removal of Chair and other Non-executive Directors

1. Non-executive Directors are to be appointed by the Council of Governors using the following procedure.
 - 1.1 The Council of Governors will maintain a policy for the composition of the non-executive Directors which takes account of the membership strategy, and which they shall review from time to time and not less than every three years.
 - 1.2 The Board of Directors will work with an external organisation recognised as expert at appointments to identify the skills and experience required for non-executive Directors.
 - 1.3 Appropriate candidates (not more than five for each vacancy) will be identified by a Nominations Committee through a process of open competition, which takes account of the policy maintained by the Council of Governors and the skills and experience required.
 - 1.4 The Nominations Committee will comprise the Chair of the Foundation Trust (or, when a Chair is being appointed, the Deputy Chair unless he is standing for appointment, in which case another non-executive Director), two Public elected Governors and one Staff elected Governor and one Appointed Governor. The Chair of another Foundation Trust will be invited to act as an independent assessor to the Nominations Committee.
2. The removal of the Chair or another non-executive Director shall be in accordance with the following procedures.
 - 2.1 Any proposal for removal must be proposed by a Governor and seconded by not less than eight Governors including at least two elected Governors and two appointed Governors.
 - 2.2 Written reasons for the proposal shall be provided to the non-executive Director in question, who shall be given the opportunity to respond to such reasons.
 - 2.3 In making any decision to remove a non-executive Director, the Council of Governors shall take into account the annual appraisal carried out by the Chair.
 - 2.4 If any proposal to remove a non-executive Director is not approved at a meeting of the Council of Governors, no further proposal can be put forward to remove such non-executive Director based upon the same reasons within 12 months of the meeting.

Further provisions as to disqualification of Directors

3. A person may not become or continue as a Director of the Foundation Trust if:
 - 3.1 they are a member of the Council of Governors or a governor or (unless the Board of Directors approves) a director of an NHS body;
 - 3.2 they are a member of the Foundation Trust's Patients Forum;
 - 3.3 they are the spouse, partner, parent or child of a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust;

- 3.4 they are a member of a local authority's Scrutiny Committee covering health matters;
- 3.5 they are the subject of a disqualification order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;
- 3.6 they are a person whose tenure of office as a Chair or as a member or director of an NHS body has been terminated on the grounds that their appointment is not in the interests of the health service, for non attendance at meetings, or for non-disclosure of a pecuniary interest;
- 3.7 they have within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy, from any paid employment with an NHS body;
- 3.8 in the case of a non-executive Director they have refused without reasonable cause to fulfil any training requirement established by the Board of Directors; or
- 3.9 they have refused to sign and deliver to the Secretary a statement in the form required by the Board of Directors confirming acceptance of the code of conduct for Directors.

Meetings of the Board of Directors

4. Save in the case of emergencies or the need to conduct urgent business, the Secretary shall give to all Directors at least fourteen days written notice of the date and place of every meeting of the Board of Directors.
5. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in public unless the Board decides to hold in part of a meeting in private. The Chair may exclude any member of the public from a meeting of the Board of Directors if they are interfering with, or preventing the proper conduct of the meeting, or for other special reasons.
6. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Secretary, or by the Chair or by four Directors who give written notice to the Secretary specifying the business to be carried out. The Secretary shall send a written notice to all Directors as soon as possible after receipt of such a request. The Secretary shall call a meeting on at least fourteen but not more than twenty-eight days' notice to discuss the specified business. If the Secretary fails to call such a meeting then the Chair or four Directors, whichever is the case, shall call such a meeting.
7. Seven Directors including not less than two executive Directors (one of whom must be the Chief Executive or the Deputy Chief Executive), and not less than three non-executive Directors (one of whom must be the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors) shall form a quorum.
8. The Board of Directors may agree that its members can participate in its meetings by telephone, video or computer link. Participation in a meeting in this manner shall be deemed to constitute presence in person at the meeting.
9. The Chair of the Foundation Trust or, in their absence, the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors, is to chair meetings of the Board of Directors.
10. Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, questions arising at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be decided by a majority of votes.
 - 10.1 In case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a second and casting vote.
 - 10.2 No resolution of the Board of Directors shall be passed if it is opposed by all of the non-executive Directors present or by all of the executive Directors present.

Expenses

11. The Foundation Trust may reimburse executive Directors travelling and other costs and expenses incurred in carrying out their duties at such rates as the remuneration committee of non-executive Directors decides. These are to be disclosed in the annual report.
12. The remuneration and allowances for Directors are to be disclosed in bands in the annual report.

ANNEX 6 – ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS – MEMBERS

(Paragraphs 4 and 8.3)

1. DISQUALIFICATION FROM MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 An individual may not become a member of the Foundation Trust if:
- 1.1.1 they are under 11 years of age; or
 - 1.1.2 they have been expelled from membership of the Foundation Trust, or of any other foundation trust.
- 1.2 This provision applies to any person involved within the last five years as a perpetrator in a serious incident of violence at any of the Foundation Trust's hospitals or facilities or against any of the Foundation Trust's service users, employees or other persons who exercise functions for the purposes of the Foundation Trust, or against any registered volunteer. In relation to any such person, membership of the Foundation Trust may be refused or withdrawn if the Council of Governors considers that it is not in the best interests of the Foundation Trust for them to become or remain a member.

2. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 A member shall cease to be a member if:
- 2.1.1 they resign by notice to the Secretary;
 - 2.1.2 they die;
 - 2.1.3 they are expelled from membership under this Constitution;
 - 2.1.4 they cease to be entitled under this Constitution to be a member of the Public Constituency or of the Staff Constituency;
 - 2.1.5 it appears to the Secretary that they no longer wish to be a member of the Foundation Trust, and after enquiries made in accordance with a process approved by the Council of Governors, they fail to demonstrate that they wish to continue to be a member of the Foundation Trust.
- 2.2 A member may be expelled by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of the Governors present and voting at a General Meeting. The following procedure is to be adopted.
- 2.2.1 Any member may complain to the Secretary that another member has acted in a way detrimental to the interests of the Foundation Trust.
 - 2.2.2 If a complaint is made, the Council of Governors may itself consider the complaint having taken such steps as it considers appropriate to ensure that each member's point of view is heard and may either:
 - 2.2.2.1 dismiss the complaint and take no further action; or
 - 2.2.2.2 for a period not exceeding twelve months suspend the rights of the member complained of to attend members meetings and vote under this Constitution;

- 2.2.2.3 arrange for a resolution to expel the member complained of to be considered at the next General Meeting of the Council of Governors.
- 2.2.3 If a resolution to expel a member is to be considered at a General Meeting of the Council of Governors, details of the complaint must be sent to the member complained of not less than one calendar month before the meeting with an invitation to answer the complaint and attend the meeting.
- 2.2.4 At the meeting the Council of Governors will consider evidence in support of the complaint and such evidence as the member complained of may wish to place before them.
- 2.2.5 If the member complained of fails to attend the meeting without due cause the meeting may proceed in their absence.
- 2.3 A person expelled from membership will cease to be a member upon the declaration by the Chair of the meeting that the resolution to expel them is carried.
- 2.4 No person who has been expelled from membership is to be re-admitted except by a resolution carried by the votes of two-thirds of the Council of Governors present and voting at a General Meeting.

3. MEMBERS' MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Foundation Trust is to hold an Annual Members' Meeting in accordance with paragraph 9.1 of the Constitution within nine months of the end of each Financial Year.
- 3.2 All members meetings other than the Annual Members' Meeting are called special members' meetings.
- 3.3 Special members' meetings are open to all members of the Foundation Trust, Governors and Directors, and representatives of the auditor, but not to members of the public unless the Council of Governors decides otherwise. The Council of Governors may invite representatives of the media and any experts or advisors whose attendance they consider to be in the best interests of the Foundation Trust to attend a either the Annual Members' Meeting or special members' meetings.
- 3.4 All Annual Members' Meetings and special members' meetings are to be convened by the Secretary by order of the Council of Governors.
- 3.5 The Council of Governors may decide where an Annual Members' Meeting and any special members meeting are to be held.
- 3.6 At the Annual Members' Meeting:
 - 3.6.1 the Board of Directors shall present to the members:
 - 3.6.1.1 the annual accounts;
 - 3.6.1.2 any report of the auditor;
 - 3.6.1.3 any report of any other external auditor of the Foundation Trust's affairs; and
 - 3.6.1.4 forward planning information for the next Financial Year

- 3.6.2 the Council of Governors shall present to the members a report on:
 - 3.6.2.1 steps taken to secure that (taken as a whole) the actual membership of the Public Constituency and of the Staff Constituency is representative of those eligible for such membership;
 - 3.6.2.2 the progress of the membership strategy; and
 - 3.6.2.3 any proposed changes to the policy for the composition of the Council of Governors and of the non-executive Directors.
- 3.6.3 the results of the election and appointment of Governors and the appointment of non-executive Directors will be announced.
- 3.7 Notice of the Annual Members' Meeting or a special members' meeting is to be given:
 - 3.7.1 by notice to all members;
 - 3.7.2 by notice prominently displayed at the head office and at all of the Foundation Trust's places of business; and
 - 3.7.3 by notice on the Foundation Trust's website.

at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting. The notice must:

 - 3.7.4 be given to the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors, and to the auditor;
 - 3.7.5 state whether the meeting is an Annual Members' Meeting or a special members' meeting;
 - 3.7.6 give the time, date and place of the meeting; and
 - 3.7.7 indicate the business to be dealt with at the meeting.
- 3.8 Before the Annual Members' Meeting can do business there must be a quorum present. Except where this Constitution says otherwise a quorum is one member present from each of the Foundation Trust's constituencies.
- 3.9 The Foundation Trust may make arrangements for members to vote by post, or by using electronic communications.
- 3.10 It is the responsibility of the Council of Governors, the Chair of the meeting and the Secretary to ensure that at any members' meeting:
 - 3.10.1 the issues to be decided are clearly explained;
 - 3.10.2 sufficient information is provided to members to enable rational discussion to take place.
- 3.11 The Chair of the Foundation Trust, or in their absence the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors, shall act as Chair at all Annual Members' meetings and special members' meetings of the Foundation Trust. If neither the Chair nor the Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors is present, the members of the Council of Governors present shall

elect one of their number to be Chair and if there is only one Governor present and willing to act they shall be Chair.

- 3.12 If no quorum is present within half an hour of the time fixed for the start of the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Council of Governors determine. If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time fixed for the start of the adjourned meeting, the number of members present during the meeting is to be a quorum.
- 3.13 A resolution put to the vote at either an Annual Members' Meeting or a special members' meeting shall be decided upon by a poll.
- 3.14 Every member present is to have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the Chair of the meeting is to have a second and casting vote.
- 3.15 The result of any vote will be declared by the Chair and entered in the minute book. The minute book will be conclusive evidence of the result of the vote.

ANNEX 7 – FURTHER PROVISIONS

1. COMMITMENTS

- 1.1 The Foundation Trust shall exercise its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

Representative membership

- 1.2 The Foundation Trust shall at all times strive to ensure that the actual membership of the public constituencies is representative of those eligible for membership. To this end:

1.2.1 the Foundation Trust shall at all times have in place and pursue a membership strategy which shall be approved by the Council of Governors, and shall be reviewed by them from time to time, and at least every three years,

1.2.2 the Council of Governors shall present to each Annual Members Meeting a report on:

1.2.2.1 steps taken to secure that (taken as a whole) the actual membership of the Public Constituency is representative of those eligible for such membership;

1.2.2.2 the progress of the membership strategy;

1.2.2.3 any changes to the membership strategy.

Co-operation with NHS bodies and local authorities

- 1.3 In exercising its functions the Foundation Trust shall co-operate with NHS bodies and local authorities.

Openness

- 1.4 In conducting its affairs, the Foundation Trust shall have regard to the need to provide information to members and conduct its affairs in an open and accessible way.

Prohibiting distribution

- 1.5 The profits or surpluses of the Foundation Trust are not to be distributed either directly or indirectly in any way at all among members of the Foundation Trust.

2. FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The affairs of the Foundation Trust are to be conducted by the Board of Directors, the Council of Governors and the members in accordance with this Constitution and the Foundation Trust's Licence. The members, the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors are to have the roles and responsibilities set out in this Constitution.

Members

- 2.2 Members may attend and participate at members' meetings, vote in elections to, and stand for election to, the Council of Governors, and take such other part in the affairs of the Foundation Trust as is provided in this Constitution.

Council of Governors

- 2.3 The roles and responsibilities of the Council of Governors, which are to be carried out in accordance with this Constitution and the Foundation Trust's Licence, are:
- 2.3.1 at a General Meeting:
 - 2.3.1.1 to appoint or remove the Chair and the other non-executive Directors;
 - 2.3.1.2 to approve an appointment (by the non-executive Directors) of the Chief Executive;
 - 2.3.1.3 to decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the non-executive Directors;
 - 2.3.1.4 to appoint or remove the Foundation Trust's auditor;
 - 2.3.1.5 to appoint or remove any other external auditor appointed to review and publish a report on any other aspect of the Foundation Trust's affairs;
 - 2.3.1.6 to be presented with the annual accounts, any report of the auditor on them and the annual report;
 - 2.3.2 to provide their views to the Board of Directors when the Board of Directors is preparing the document containing information about the Foundation Trust's forward planning;
 - 2.3.3 to respond as appropriate when consulted by the Board of Directors in accordance with this Constitution;
 - 2.3.4 to undertake such functions as the Board of Directors shall from time to time request;
 - 2.3.5 to prepare and from time to time review the Foundation Trust's membership strategy and its policy for the composition of the Council of Governors and of the non-executive Directors and when appropriate to make recommendations for the revision of this Constitution.

Board of Directors

- 2.4 The business of the Foundation Trust is to be managed by the Board of Directors, who shall exercise all the powers of the Foundation Trust, subject to any contrary provisions of the 2006 Act as given effect by this Constitution.

3. SECRETARY

- 3.1 The Foundation Trust shall have a Secretary who may be an employee. The Secretary may not be a Governor, or the Chief Executive or the Finance Director. The Secretary's functions shall include:
- 3.1.1 acting as Secretary to the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors, and any committees;

- 3.1.2 summoning and attending all members meetings, meetings of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors, and keeping the minutes of those meetings;
 - 3.1.3 keeping the register of members and other registers and books required by this Constitution to be kept;
 - 3.1.4 having charge of the Foundation Trust's seal;
 - 3.1.5 publishing to members in an appropriate form information which they should have about the Foundation Trust's affairs;
 - 3.1.6 preparing and sending to NHSI and any other statutory body all returns which are required to be made.
- 3.2 Minutes of every members' meeting, of every meeting of the Council of Governors and of every meeting of the Board of Directors are to be kept. Minutes of meetings will be signed by the Chair of the subsequent approving meeting. The signed minutes will be conclusive evidence of the events of the meeting.
- 3.3 The Secretary is to be appointed and removed by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the Council of Governors.

4. FURTHER PROVISIONS AS TO AUDITOR AND OTHER EXTERNAL AUDITORS

- 4.1 A person may only be appointed as the auditor if they are (or in the case of a firm each of its members is) a member of one or more of the bodies referred to in paragraph 23 (4) of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act.
- 4.2 The auditor is to carry out their duties in accordance with Schedule 10 to the 2006 Act and in accordance with any directions given by Monitor on standards, procedures and techniques to be adopted.
- 4.3 The Board of Directors may resolve that external auditors be appointed to review and publish a report on any other aspect of the Foundation Trust's performance. Any such auditors are to be appointed by the Council of Governors.

5. INDEMNITY

Members of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors and the Secretary who act honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of their personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their functions, save where they have acted recklessly. Any costs arising in this way will be met by the Foundation Trust. The Foundation Trust may purchase and maintain insurance against this liability for its own benefit and for the benefit of members of the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors and the Secretary.

6. DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Every unresolved dispute which arises out of this Constitution between the Foundation Trust and:
 - 6.1.1 a member; or
 - 6.1.2 any person aggrieved who has ceased to be a member within the six months prior to the date of the dispute; or
 - 6.1.3 any person bringing a claim under this Constitution; or

6.1.4 an office-holder of the Foundation Trust

is to be submitted to the Senior Independent Director whose decision will be binding and conclusive on all parties.

6.2 Any person bringing a dispute must, if required to do so, deposit with the Foundation Trust a reasonable sum (not exceeding £250) to be determined by the Council of Governors and approved by the Secretary. The Senior Independent Director will decide how the costs of any arbitration will be paid and what should be done with the deposit.

7. **DISSOLUTION**

The Foundation Trust may not be dissolved except by order of the Secretary of State for Health, in accordance with the 2006 Act.

8. **HEAD OFFICE**

The Foundation Trust's head office is at Sentinel House, Nuffield Industrial Estate, Nuffield Road, Poole, Dorset, BH17 0RB or such other place as the Board of Directors shall decide.

9. **NOTICES**

9.1 Any notice required by this Constitution to be given shall be given in writing or shall be given using electronic communications to an address for the time being notified for that purpose. "Address" in relation to electronic communications includes any number or address used for the purposes of such communications.

9.2 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be treated as delivered 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of a notice contained in an electronic communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (Council of Governors) Model Election Rules¹

Model Election Rules

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Part 1 Interpretation

1. Interpretation

1.1 In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- “corporation” means the public benefit corporation subject to this constitution
- “election” means an election by a constituency, or by a class within a constituency, to fill vacancy among one or more posts on the council of governors
- “the regulator” means the Independent Regulator for NHS foundation trusts; and
- “the 2006 Act” means the National Health Service Act 2006
- “e-voting” means voting using either the internet, telephone or text message
- “internet voting system” means such computer hardware and software, data other equipment and services as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes using the internet
- “method of polling” means voting either by post, internet, text message or telephone
- “the telephone voting system” means such telephone voting facility as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes by telephone
- “the text message voting system” means such text messaging voting facility as may be provided by the returning officer for the purpose of enabling voters to cast their votes by text message
- “voter ID number” means a unique, randomly generated numeric identifier allocated to each voter by the Returning Officer for the purpose of e-voting

1.2 Other expressions used in these rules and in Schedule 7 to the NHS Act 2006 have the same meaning in these rules as in that Schedule.

Part 2 Timetable

2.1 The proceedings at an election shall be conducted in accordance with the following timetable:

Proceeding	Time
Publication of notice of election	Not later than the fortieth day before the day of the close of the poll.
Final day for delivery of nomination papers to returning officer	Not later than the twenty eighth day before the day of the close of the poll.
Publication of statement of nominated candidates	Not later than the twenty seventh day before the day of the close of the poll.
Final day for delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from election	Not later than twenty fifth day before the day of the close of the poll.

Notice of the poll	Not later than the fifteenth day before the day of the close of the poll.
Close of the poll	By 5.00pm on the final day of the election.

Computation of time

3.1 In computing any period of time for the purposes of the timetable:

- (a) a Saturday or Sunday;
- (b) Christmas day, Good Friday, or a bank holiday, or
- (c) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning,

shall be disregarded, and any such day shall not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll, nor shall the returning officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of votes on such a day.

3.2 In this rule, “bank holiday” means a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales.

Part 3 Returning Officer

4.1 Subject to rule 66, the returning officer for an election is to be appointed by the corporation.

4.2 Where two or more elections are to be held concurrently, the same returning officer may be appointed for all those elections.

Staff

5.1 Subject to rule 66, the returning officer may appoint and pay such staff, including such technical advisers, as he or she considers necessary for the purposes of the election.

Expenditure

The corporation is to pay the returning officer:

- (a) any expenses incurred by that officer in the exercise of his or her functions under these rules,
- (b) such remuneration and other expenses as the corporation may determine.

Duty of co-operation

7.1 The corporation is to co-operate with the returning officer in the exercise of his or her functions under these rules.

Part 4 Stages

Notice of election

The returning officer is to publish a notice of the election stating:

- (a) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
- (b) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
- (c) the details of any nomination committee that has been established by the corporation,
- (d) the address and times at which nomination papers may be obtained;
- (e) the address for return of nomination papers and the date and time by which they must be

- received by the returning officer,
- (f) the date and time by which any notice of withdrawal must be received by the returning officer
- (g) the contact details of the returning officer
- (h) the date and time of the close of the poll in the event of a contest.

Nomination of candidates

9.1 Each candidate must nominate themselves on a single nomination paper.

9.2 The returning officer:

- (a) is to supply any member of the corporation with a nomination paper, and
- (b) is to prepare a nomination paper for signature at the request of any member of the corporation, but it is not necessary for a nomination to be on a form supplied by the returning officer and it can, subject to rule 13, be in an electronic format.

Candidate's particulars

The nomination paper must state the candidate's:

- (a) full name,
- (b) contact address in full, and
- (c) constituency, or class within a constituency, of which the candidate is a member.

Declaration of interests

The nomination paper must state:

- (a) any financial interest that the candidate has in the corporation, and
- (b) whether the candidate is a member of a political party, and if so, which party, and if the candidate has no such interests, the paper must include a statement to that effect.

Declaration of eligibility

The nomination paper must include a declaration made by the candidate:

- (a) that he or she is not prevented from being a member of the council of governors by paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act or by any provision of the constitution; and,
- (b) for a member of the public or patient constituency, of the particulars of his or her qualification to vote as a member of that constituency, or class within that constituency, for which the election is being held.

Signature of candidate

The nomination paper must be signed and dated by the candidate, in a manner prescribed by the returning officer, indicating that:

- (a) they wish to stand as a candidate,
- (b) their declaration of interests as required under rule 11, is true and correct, and
- (c) their declaration of eligibility, as required under rule 12, is true and correct.

Decisions as to the validity of nomination

Where a nomination paper is received by the returning officer in accordance with these rules, the candidate is deemed to stand for election unless and until the returning officer:

- (a) decides that the candidate is not eligible to stand,
- (b) decides that the nomination paper is invalid,
- (c) receives satisfactory proof that the candidate has died, or
- (d) receives a written request by the candidate of their withdrawal from candidacy.

The returning officer is entitled to decide that a nomination paper is invalid only on one of the following grounds:

- (a) that the paper is not received on or before the final time and date for return of nomination papers, as specified in the notice of the election,
- (b) that the paper does not contain the candidate's particulars, as required by rule 10;
- (c) that the paper does not contain a declaration of the interests of the candidate, as required by rule 11,
- (d) that the paper does not include a declaration of eligibility as required by rule 12, or
- (e) that the paper is not signed and dated by the candidate, as required by rule 13.

- 14.3 The returning officer is to examine each nomination paper as soon as is practicable after he or she has received it, and decide whether the candidate has been validly nominated.
- 14.4 Where the returning officer decides that a nomination is invalid, the returning officer must endorse this on the nomination paper, stating the reasons for their decision.
- 14.5 The returning officer is to send notice of the decision as to whether a nomination is valid or invalid to the candidate at the contact address given in the candidate's nomination paper.

Publication of statement of candidates

- 15.1 The returning officer is to prepare and publish a statement showing the candidates who are standing for election.
- 15.2 The statement must show:
 - (a) the name, contact address, and constituency or class within a constituency of each candidate standing, and
 - (b) the declared interests of each candidate standing, as given in their nomination paper.
- 15.3 The statement must list the candidates standing for election in alphabetical order by surname.
- 15.4 The returning officer must send a copy of the statement of candidates and copies of the nomination papers to the corporation as soon as is practicable after publishing the statement.

Inspection of statement of nominated candidates and nomination papers

- 16.1 The corporation is to make the statement of the candidates and the nomination papers supplied by the returning officer under rule 15.4 available for inspection by members of the corporation free of charge at all reasonable times.
- 16.2 If a person requests a copy or extract of the statement of candidates or their nomination papers, the corporation is to provide that member with the copy or extract free of charge.

Withdrawal of candidates

- 17.1 A candidate may withdraw from election on or before the date and time for withdrawal by candidates, by providing to the returning officer a written notice of withdrawal which is signed by the candidate and attested by a witness.

Method of election

- 18.1 If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is greater than the number of members to be elected to the council of governors, a poll is to be taken in accordance with Parts 5 and 6 of these rules.
- 18.2 If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is equal to the number of members to be elected to the council of governors, those candidates are to be declared elected in accordance with Part 7 of these rules.
- 18.3 If the number of candidates remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules is less than the number of members to be elected to be council of governors, then:
- (a) the candidates who remain validly nominated are to be declared elected in accordance with Part 7 of these rules, and
 - (b) the returning officer is to order a new election to fill any vacancy which remains unfilled, on a day appointed by him or her in consultation with the corporation.

Part 5 Contested elections

Poll to be taken by ballot

The votes at the poll must be given by secret ballot.

- 19.2 The votes are to be counted and the result of the poll determined in accordance with Part 6 of these rules.
- 19.3 The corporation may decide if eligible voters, within a constituency, or class within a constituency, may, subject to rule 19.4, cast their vote by any combination of the methods of polling.
- 19.4 The corporation may decide if eligible voters, within a constituency or class within a constituency, for whom an e-mail mailing address is included in the list of eligible voters may only cast their votes by, one or more, e-voting methods of polling.
- 19.5 If the corporation decides to use an e-voting method of polling then they and the returning officer must satisfy themselves that:
- (a) if internet voting is being used, the internet voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and that it will accurately record the internet voting record of any voter who chooses to cast their vote using the internet voting system.
 - (b) if telephone voting is being used, the telephone voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and that it will accurately record the telephone voting record of any voter who choose to cast their vote using the telephone voting system.
 - (c) if text message voting is being used, the text message voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is configured in accordance with these rules and that it will accurately record the text voting record of any voter who choose to cast their vote using the text message voting system.

The ballot paper

- 20.1 The ballot of each voter is to consist of a ballot paper with the persons remaining validly nominated for an election after any withdrawals under these rules, and no others, inserted in the paper.
- 20.2 Every ballot paper must specify:
- (a) the name of the corporation,
 - (b) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
 - (c) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
 - (d) the names and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,
 - (e) instructions on how to vote by all available methods of polling, including the relevant voters and voter ID number if e-voting is a method of polling,
 - (f) if the ballot paper is to be returned by post, the address for its return and the date and time of the close of the poll, and
 - (g) the contact details of the returning officer.
- 20.3 Each ballot paper must have a unique identifier.
- 20.4 Each ballot paper must have features incorporated into it to prevent it from being reproduced.

Action to be taken before the poll

List of eligible voters

- 21.1 The corporation is to provide the returning officer with a list of the members of the constituency or class within a constituency for which the election is being held who are eligible to vote by virtue of rule 26 as soon as is reasonably practicable after the final date for the delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from an election.
- 21.2 The list is to include, for each member, a postal mailing address and if available an e-mail address, where their voting information may be sent.
- 21.3 The corporation may decide if the voting information is to be sent only by e-mail to those members, in a particular constituency or class within a constituency, for whom an e-mail address is included in the list of eligible voters.

Notice of poll

The returning officer is to publish a notice of the poll stating:

- (a) the name of the corporation,
- (b) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held,
- (c) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class with that constituency,
- (d) the names, contact addresses, and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,
- (e) the methods of polling by which votes may be cast at the election by a constituency or class within a constituency as determined by the corporation in rule 19 (3).
- (f) the address for return of the ballot papers, and the date and time of the close of the poll,
- (g) the uniform resource locator (url) where, if internet voting is being used, the polling website is located.
- (h) the telephone number where, if telephone voting is being used, the telephone voting facility is located,
- (i) the telephone number or telephone short code where, if text message voting is being used, the text message voting facility is located,
- (j) the address and final dates for applications for replacement voting information, and
- (k) the contact details of the returning officer.

Issue of voting information by returning officer

As soon as is reasonably practicable on or after the publication of the notice of the poll, the returning officer is to send the following voting information:

- (a) by post to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters and on the basis of rule 21 able to cast their vote by post:
 - (i) a ballot paper
 - (ii) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 61 of these rules,
 - (iii) a covering envelope
- (b) by e-mail or by post, to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters and on the basis of rule 19.4 able to cast their vote only by an e-voting method of polling:
 - (i) instructions on how to vote
 - (ii) the eligible voters voter ID number
 - (iii) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 61 of these rules, or details of where this information is readily available on the internet or available in such other formats as the Returning Officer thinks appropriate.
 - (iv) contact details of the returning officer.

23.2 The documents are to be sent to the mailing address or e-mail address for each member, as specified in the list of eligible voters.

The covering envelope

The covering envelope is to have:

- (a) the address for return of the ballot paper printed on it, and
- (b) pre-paid postage for return to that address.

E-voting systems

25.1 If internet voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide a website for the purpose of voting over the internet (in these rules referred to as "the polling website").

25.2 If telephone voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide an automated telephone system for the purpose of voting by the use of a touch-tone telephone (in these rules referred to as "the telephone voting facility").

25.3 If text message voting is a method of polling for the relevant election then the returning officer must provide an automated text messaging system for the purpose of voting by text message (in these rules referred to as "the text message voting facility").

25.4 The provision of the polling website and internet voting system, will:

- (a) require a voter, to be permitted to vote, to enter his voter ID number;
- (b) specify:
 - (i) the name of the corporation,
 - (ii) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held
 - (iii) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
 - (iv) the names and other particulars of the candidates standing for election, with the details and order being the same as in the statement of nominated candidates,
 - (v) instructions on how to vote.
- (c) prevent a voter voting for more candidates than he is entitled to at the election;
- (d) create a record ("the internet voting record") that is stored in the internet voting system in respect of each vote cast using the internet of-

- (i) the voter ID number used by the voter;
- (ii) the candidate or candidates for whom he has voted; and
- (iii) the date and time of his vote, and

- (e) if their vote has been cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation
- (f) prevent any voter voting after the close of poll.

25.5 The provision of a telephone voting facility and telephone voting system, will:

- (a) require a voter to be permitted to vote, to enter his voter ID number;
- (b) specify:

- (i) the name of the corporation,
- (ii) the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held
- (iii) the number of members of the council of governors to be elected from that constituency, or class within that constituency,
- (iv) instructions on how to vote.

- (c) prevent a voter voting for more candidates than he is entitled to at the election;
- (d) create a record ("the telephone voting record") that is stored in the telephone voting system in respect of each vote cast by telephone of-

- (i) the voter ID number used by the voter;
- (ii) the candidate or candidates for whom he has voted; and
- (iii) the date and time of his vote

- (e) if their vote has been cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation;
- (f) prevent any voter voting after the close of poll.

25.6 The provision of a text message voting facility and text messaging voting system, will:

- (a) require a voter to be permitted to vote, to provide his voter ID number;
- (b) prevent a voter voting for more candidates than he is entitled to at the election;
- (c) create a record ("the text voting record") that is stored in the text messaging voting system in respect of each vote cast by text message of:

- (i) the voter ID number used by the voter;
- (ii) the candidate or candidates for whom he has voted; and
- (iii) the date and time of his vote

- (e) if their vote has been cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation;
- (f) prevent any voter voting after the close of poll.

The poll

Eligibility to vote

26.1 An individual who becomes a member of the corporation on or before the closing date for the receipt of nominations by candidates for the election, is eligible to vote in that election.

Voting by persons who require assistance

27.1 The returning officer is to put in place arrangements to enable requests for assistance to vote to be made.

27.2 Where the returning officer receives a request from a voter who requires assistance to vote, the returning officer is to make such arrangements as they consider necessary to enable that voter to vote.

Spoilt ballot papers

- 28.1 If a voter has dealt with their ballot paper in such a manner that it cannot be accepted as a ballot paper (referred to as a “spoilt ballot paper”), that voter may apply to the returning officer for a replacement ballot paper.
- 28.2 On receiving an application, the returning officer is to obtain the details of the unique identifier on the spoilt ballot paper, if they can obtain it.
- 28.3 The returning officer may not issue a replacement ballot paper for a spoilt ballot paper unless satisfied as to the voter’s identity.
- 28.4 After issuing a replacement ballot paper for a spoilt ballot paper, the returning officer shall enter in a list (“the list of spoilt ballot papers”):
- (a) is satisfied as to the voter’s identity, and
 - (b) the details of the unique identifier of the spoilt ballot paper (if that officer was able to obtain it), and
 - (c) the details of the unique identifier of the replacement spoilt ballot paper.

Lost voting information

- 29.1 Where a voter has not received their voting information by the tenth day before the close of the poll, that voter may apply to the returning officer for replacement voting information.
- 29.2 The returning officer may not issue replacement voting information for lost voting information unless they:
- (a) are satisfied as to the voter’s identity,
 - (b) have no reason to doubt that the voter did not receive the original voting information.
- 29.3 After issuing replacement voting information, the returning officer shall enter in a list (“the list of lost ballots”):
- (a) the name of the voter
 - (b) the details of the unique identifier of the replacement ballot paper, and
 - (c) if applicable, the voter ID number of the voter.

Issue of replacement voting information

- 30.1 If a person applies for replacement voting information under rule 28 or 29, the returning officer may not issue replacement voting information unless, in addition to the requirements imposed by rule 28.3 or 29.2, they are also satisfied that that person has not already voted in the election.

Polling by internet, telephone or text

Procedure for remote voting by internet

- 31.1 To cast their vote using the internet the voter must gain access to the polling website by keying in the url of the polling website provided in the voting information,
- 31.2 When prompted to do so, the voter must enter their voter ID number.
- 31.3 If the internet voting system authenticates the voter ID number the system must give the voter access to the polling website for the election in which the voter is eligible to vote.
- 31.4 To cast their vote the voter may then key in a mark on the screen opposite the particulars of the candidate or candidates for whom they wish to cast their vote.

- 31.5 The voter must not be able to access the internet voting facility for an election once their vote at that election has been cast.

Voting procedure for remote voting by telephone

- 32.1 To cast their vote by telephone the voter must gain access to the telephone voting facility by calling the designated telephone number provided on the voter information using a telephone with a touch-tone keypad.
- 32.2 When prompted to do so, the voter must enter their voter ID number using the keypad.
- 32.3 If the telephone voting facility authenticates the voter ID number, the voter must be prompted to vote in the election.
- 32.4 When prompted to do so the voter may then cast his vote by keying in the code of the candidate or candidates, allocated in accordance with rule 61 of these rules, for whom they wish to vote.
- 32.5 The voter must not be able to access the telephone voting facility for an election once their vote at that election has been cast.

Voting procedure for remote voting by text message

- 33.1 To cast their vote by text the voter must gain access to the text message voting facility by sending a text message to the designated telephone number or telephone short code provided on the voter information.
- 33.2 The text message sent by the voter must contain their voter ID number and the code for the candidate or candidates, allocated in accordance with rule 61 of these rules, for whom they wish to vote.
- 33.3 The text message sent by the voter must be structured in accordance with the instructions on how to vote contained in the voter information.

Procedure for receipt of envelopes, internet votes, telephone votes and text message votes

Receipt of voting documents

Where the returning officer receives a:

- (a) covering envelope, or
 - (b) any other envelope containing a ballot paper,
- before the close of the poll, that officer is to open it as soon as is practicable; and rules 35 and 36 are to apply.

The returning officer may open any covering envelope for the purposes of rules 35 and 36, but must make arrangements to ensure that no person obtains or communicates information as to:

- (a) the candidate for whom a voter has voted, or
- (b) the unique identifier on a ballot paper.

- 34.3 The returning officer must make arrangements to ensure the safety and security of the ballot papers.

Validity of votes

- 35.1 A ballot paper shall not be taken to be duly returned unless the returning officer is satisfied that it has been received by the returning officer before the close of the poll.
- 35.2 Where the returning officer is satisfied that rule 35.1 has been fulfilled, the ballot paper is to be put aside for counting after the close of the poll.
- 35.3 Where the returning officer is not satisfied that rule 35.1 has been fulfilled, they should:
- (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
 - (b) record the unique identifier on the ballot paper in a list (the “list of disqualified documents”); and
 - (c) place the document or documents in a separate packet.
- 35.4 An internet, telephone or text message vote shall not be taken to be duly returned unless the returning officer is satisfied that the internet, telephone or text voting record has been received by the returning officer before the close of the poll.

De-duplication of votes

- 36.1 Where a combination of the methods of polling are being used, the returning officer shall examine all votes cast to ascertain if a voter ID number has been used more than once to cast a vote in an election.
- 36.2 If the returning officer ascertains that a voter ID number has been used more than once to cast a vote in an election they shall:
- (a) only accept as duly returned the first vote received that contained the duplicated voter ID number
 - (b) mark as “disqualified” all other votes containing the duplicated voter ID number
- 36.3 Where a ballot paper is “disqualified” under this rule the returning officer shall:
- (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
 - (b) record the unique identifier and voter id number on the ballot paper in a list (the “list of disqualified documents”); and
 - (c) place the ballot paper in a separate packet.
- 36.4 Where an internet, telephone or text voting record is “disqualified” under this rule the returning officer shall:
- (a) mark the record as “disqualified”,
 - (b) record the voter ID number on the record in a list (the “list of disqualified documents”.
 - (c) disregard the record when counting the votes in accordance with these Rules.

Sealing of packets

As soon as is possible after the close of the poll and after the completion of the procedure under rules 35 and 36, the returning officer is to seal the packets containing:

- (a) the disqualified documents, together with the list of disqualified documents inside it,
- (b) the list of spoiled ballot papers,
- (c) the list of lost ballots
- (d) the list of eligible voters, and
- (e) complete electronic copies of records referred to in rule 25 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

Part 6 Counting the votes

Note: the following rules describe how the votes are to be counted manually but it is expected that appropriately audited vote counting software will be used to count votes where a combination of methods of polling is being used and votes are contained as electronic e-voting records and ballot papers.

STV38. Interpretation of Part 6

STV38.1 In Part 6 of these rules:

“ballot” means a ballot paper, internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record.

“continuing candidate” means any candidate not deemed to be elected, and not excluded,

“count” means all the operations involved in counting of the first preferences recorded for candidates, the transfer of the surpluses of elected candidates, and the transfer of the votes of the excluded candidates,

“deemed to be elected” means deemed to be elected for the purposes of counting of votes but without prejudice to the declaration of the result of the poll,

“mark” means a figure, an identifiable written word, or a mark such as “X”,

“non-transferable vote” means a ballot:

(a) on which no second or subsequent preference is recorded for a continuing candidate, or

(b) which is excluded by the returning officer under rule STV46,

“preference” as used in the following contexts has the meaning assigned below:

(a) “first preference” means the figure “1” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a first (or only) preference,

(b) “next available preference” means a preference which is the second, or as the case may be, subsequent preference recorded in consecutive order for a continuing candidate (any candidate who is deemed to be elected or is excluded thereby being ignored); and

(c) in this context, a “second preference” is shown by the figure “2” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a second preference, and a third preference by the figure “3” or any mark or word which clearly indicates a third preference, and so on,

“quota” means the number calculated in accordance with rule STV43,

“surplus” means the number of votes by which the total number of votes for any candidate (whether first preference or transferred votes, or a combination of both) exceeds the quota; but references in these rules to the transfer of the surplus means the transfer (at a transfer value) of all transferable ballots from the candidate who has the surplus, “stage of the count” means:

(a) the determination of the first preference vote of each candidate,

(b) the transfer of a surplus of a candidate deemed to be elected, or

(c) the exclusion of one or more candidates at any given time,

“transferable vote” means a ballot on which, following a first preference, a second or subsequent preference is recorded in consecutive numerical order for a continuing candidate,

“transferred vote” means a vote derived from a ballot on which a second or subsequent preference is recorded for the candidate to whom that ballot has been transferred, and “transfer value” means the value of a transferred vote calculated in accordance with rules STV44.4 or STV44.7.

Arrangements for counting of the votes

39.1 The returning officer is to make arrangements for counting the votes as soon as is practicable after the close of the poll.

The count

40.1 The returning officer is to:

- (a) count and record the number of votes that have been returned, and
- (b) count the votes according to the provisions in this Part of the rules.

40.2 The returning officer, while counting and recording the number of votes and counting the votes, must make arrangements to ensure that no person obtains or communicates information as to the unique identifier on a ballot paper or a voter's voter ID number.

40.3 The returning officer is to proceed continuously with counting the votes as far as is practicable.

STV41. Rejected ballot papers

STV41.1 Any ballot paper:

- (a) which does not bear the features that have been incorporated into the other ballot papers to prevent them from being reproduced,
- (b) on which the figure "1" standing alone is not placed so as to indicate a first preference for any candidate,
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the unique identifier, or
- (d) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,

shall be rejected and not counted, but the ballot paper shall not be rejected by reason only of carrying the words "one", "two", "three" and so on, or any other mark instead of a figure if, in the opinion of the returning officer, the word or mark clearly indicates a preference or preferences.

STV41.2 The returning officer is to endorse the word "rejected" on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted.

STV41.3 The returning officer is to draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected by him or her under each of the subparagraphs (a) to (d) of rule STV41.1

FPP41. Rejected ballot papers

FPP41.1 Any ballot paper:

- (a) which does not bear the features that have been incorporated into the other ballot papers to prevent them from being reproduced,
- (b) on which votes are given for more candidates than the voter is entitled to vote,
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the unique identifier, or
- (d) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty, shall, subject to rules FPP41.2 and FPP41.3, be rejected and not counted.

FPP41.2 Where the voter is entitled to vote for more than one candidate, a ballot paper is not to be rejected because of uncertainty in respect of any vote where no uncertainty arises, and that vote is to be counted.

FPP41.3 A ballot paper on which a vote is marked:

- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place,
- (b) otherwise than by means of a clear mark,
- (c) by more than one mark,

is not to be rejected for such reason (either wholly or in respect of that vote) if an intention that the vote shall be for one or other of the candidates clearly appears, and the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he or she can be identified by it.

FPP41.4 The returning officer is to:

- (a) endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and
- (b) in the case of a ballot paper on which any vote is counted under rules FPP41.2 and FPP 41.3, endorse the words “rejected in part” on the ballot paper and indicate which vote or votes have been counted.

FPP41.5 The returning officer is to draw up a statement showing the number of rejected ballot papers under the following headings:

- (a) does not bear proper features that have been incorporated into the ballot paper,
 - (b) voting for more candidates than the voter is entitled to,
 - (c) writing or mark by which voter could be identified, and
 - (d) unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,
- and, where applicable, each heading must record the number of ballot papers rejected in part.

STV42. First stage

STV42.1 The returning officer is to sort the ballots into parcels according to the candidates for whom the first preference votes are given.

STV42.2 The returning officer is to then count the number of first preference votes given on ballots for each candidate, and is to record those numbers.

STV42.3 The returning officer is to also ascertain and record the number of valid ballots.

STV43. The quota

STV43.1 The returning officer is to divide the number of valid ballots by a number exceeding by one the number of members to be elected.

STV43.2 The result, increased by one, of the division under rule STV43.1 (any fraction being disregarded) shall be the number of votes sufficient to secure the election of a candidate (in these rules referred to as “the quota”).

STV43.3 At any stage of the count a candidate whose total votes equals or exceeds the quota shall be deemed to be elected, except that any election where there is only one vacancy a candidate shall not be deemed to be elected until the procedure set out in rules STV44.1 to STV44.3 has been complied with.

STV44. Transfer of votes

STV44.1 Where the number of first preference votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort all the ballots on which first preference votes are given for that candidate into sub- parcels so that they are grouped:

- (a) according to next available preference given on those ballots for any continuing candidate, or
- (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.

STV44.2 The returning officer is to count the number of ballots in each parcel referred to in rule

STV44.3 The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule STV45, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballots referred to in rule STV44.1(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those papers.

STV44.4 The vote on each ballot transferred under rule STV44.3 shall be at a value (“the transfer value”) which:

- (a) reduces the value of each vote transferred so that the total value of all such votes does not exceed the surplus, and
- (b) is calculated by dividing the surplus of the candidate from whom the votes are being transferred by the total number of the ballots on which those votes are given, the calculation

being made to two decimal places (ignoring the remainder if any).

STV44.5 Where at the end of any stage of the count involving the transfer of ballots, the number of votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort the ballots in the sub-parcel of transferred votes which was last received by that candidate into separate sub-parcels so that they are grouped:

- (a) according to the next available preference given on those ballots for any continuing candidate, or
- (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.

STV44.6 The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule STV45, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballots referred to in rule STV44.5(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballots.

STV44.7 The vote on each ballot transferred under rule STV44.6 shall be at:

- (a) a transfer value calculated as set out in rule STV44.4(b), or
- (b) at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate from whom it is now being transferred, whichever is the less.

STV44.8 Each transfer of a surplus constitutes a stage in the count.

STV44.9 Subject to rule STV44.10, the returning officer shall proceed to transfer transferable ballots until no candidate who is deemed to be elected has a surplus or all the vacancies have been filled.

STV44.10 Transferable ballots shall not be liable to be transferred where any surplus or surpluses which, at a particular stage of the count, have not already been transferred, are:

- (a) less than the difference between the total vote then credited to the continuing candidate with the lowest recorded vote and the vote of the candidate with the next lowest recorded vote, or
- (b) less than the difference between the total votes of the two or more continuing candidates, credited at that stage of the count with the lowest recorded total numbers of votes and the candidate next above such candidates.

STV44.11 This rule does not apply at an election where there is only one vacancy.

STV45. Supplementary provisions on transfer

STV45.1 If, at any stage of the count, two or more candidates have surpluses, the transferable ballots of the candidate with the highest surplus shall be transferred first, and if:

- (a) The surpluses determined in respect of two or more candidates are equal, the transferable ballots of the candidate who had the highest recorded vote at the earliest preceding stage at which they had unequal votes shall be transferred first, and
- (b) the votes credited to two or more candidates were equal at all stages of the count, the returning officer shall decide between those candidates by lot, and the transferable ballots of the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be transferred first.

STV45.2 The returning officer shall, on each transfer of transferable ballots under rule STV44:

- (a) record the total value of the votes transferred to each candidate,
- (b) add that value to the previous total of votes recorded for each candidate and record the new total,
- (c) record as non-transferable votes the difference between the surplus and the total transfer value of the transferred votes and add that difference to the previously recorded total of non-transferable votes, and
- (d) compare:
 - (i) the total number of votes then recorded for all of the candidates, together with the total number of non-transferable votes, with
 - (ii) the recorded total of valid first preference votes.

STV45.3 All ballots transferred under rule STV44 or STV45 shall be clearly marked, either individually or as a sub-parcel, so as to indicate the transfer value recorded at that time to each

vote on that ballot or, as the case may be, all the ballots in that sub-parcel.

STV45.4 Where a ballot is so marked that it is unclear to the returning officer at any stage of the count under rule STV44 or STV45 for which candidate the next preference is recorded, the returning officer shall treat any vote on that ballot as a non-transferable vote; and votes on a ballot shall be so treated where, for example, the names of two or more candidates (whether continuing candidates or not) are so marked that, in the opinion of the returning officer, the same order of preference is indicated or the numerical sequence is broken.

STV46. Exclusion of candidates

STV46.1 If:

(a) all transferable ballots which under the provisions of rule STV44 (including that rule as applied by rule STV46.11 and this rule are required to be transferred, have been transferred, and

(b) subject to rule STV47, one or more vacancies remain to be filled, the returning officer shall exclude from the election at that stage the candidate with the then lowest vote (or, where rule STV46.12 applies, the candidates with the then lowest votes).

STV46.2 The returning officer shall sort all the ballots on which first preference votes are given for the candidate or candidates excluded under rule STV46.1 into two sub-parcels so that they are grouped as:

(a) ballots on which a next available preference is given, and

(b) ballots on which no such preference is given (thereby including ballots on which preferences are given only for candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).

STV46.3 The returning officer shall, in accordance with this rule and rule STV45, transfer each sub-parcel of ballots referred to in rule STV46.2 to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballots.

STV46.4 The exclusion of a candidate, or of two or more candidates together, constitutes a further stage of the count.

STV46.5 If, subject to rule STV47, one or more vacancies still remain to be filled, the returning officer shall then sort the transferable ballots, if any, which had been transferred to any candidate excluded under rule STV46.1 into sub-parcels according to their transfer value.

STV46.6 The returning officer shall transfer those ballots in the sub-parcel of transferable ballots with the highest transfer value to the continuing candidates in accordance with the next available preferences given on those ballots (thereby passing over candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).

STV46.7 The vote on each transferable ballot transferred under rule STV46.6 shall be at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate excluded under rule STV46.1.

STV46.8 Any ballots on which no next available preferences have been expressed shall be set aside as non-transferable votes.

STV46.9 After the returning officer has completed the transfer of the ballots in the sub-parcel of ballots with the highest transfer value he or she shall proceed to transfer in the same way the sub-parcel of ballots with the next highest value and so on until he has dealt with each sub-parcel of a candidate excluded under rule STV46.1.

STV46.10 The returning officer shall after each stage of the count completed under this rule:

(a) record:

(i) the total value of votes, or

(ii) the total transfer value of votes transferred to each candidate,

(b) add that total to the previous total of votes recorded for each candidate and record the new total,

(c) record the value of non-transferable votes and add that value to the previous non-

transferable votes total, and

(d) compare:

- (i) the total number of votes then recorded for each candidate together with the total number of non-transferable votes, with
- (ii) the recorded total of valid first preference votes.

STV46.11 If after a transfer of votes under any provision of this rule, a candidate has a surplus, that surplus shall be dealt with in accordance with rules STV44.5 to STV44.10 and rule STV45.

STV46.12 Where the total of the votes of the two or more lowest candidates, together with any surpluses not transferred, is less than the number of votes credited to the next lowest candidate, the returning officer shall in one operation exclude such two or more candidates.

STV46.13 If when a candidate has to be excluded under this rule, two or more candidates each have the same number of votes and are lowest:

- (a) regard shall be had to the total number of votes credited to those candidates at the earliest stage of the count at which they had an unequal number of votes and the candidate with the lowest number of votes at that stage shall be excluded, and
- (b) where the number of votes credited to those candidates was equal at all stages, the returning officer shall decide between the candidates by lot and the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be excluded.

STV47. Filling of last vacancies

STV47.1 Where the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of vacancies remaining unfilled the continuing candidates shall thereupon be deemed to be elected.

STV47.2 Where only one vacancy remains unfilled and the votes of any one continuing candidate are equal to or greater than the total of votes credited to other continuing candidates together with any surplus not transferred, the candidate shall thereupon be deemed to be elected.

STV47.3 Where the last vacancies can be filled under this rule, no further transfer of votes shall be made.

STV48. Order of election of candidates

STV48.1 The order in which candidates whose votes equal or exceed the quota are deemed to be elected shall be the order in which their respective surpluses were transferred, or would have been transferred but for rule STV44.10.

STV48.2 A candidate credited with a number of votes equal to, and not greater than, the quota shall, for the purposes of this rule, be regarded as having had the smallest surplus at the stage of the count at which he obtained the quota.

STV48.3 Where the surpluses of two or more candidates are equal and are not required to be transferred, regard shall be had to the total number of votes credited to such candidates at the earliest stage of the count at which they had an unequal number of votes and the surplus of the candidate who had the greatest number of votes at that stage shall be deemed to be the largest.

STV48.4 Where the number of votes credited to two or more candidates were equal at all stages of the count, the returning officer shall decide between them by lot and the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be deemed to have been elected first.

FPP48. Equality of votes

FPP48.1 Where, after the counting of votes is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, the returning officer is to decide between those candidates by a lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.

Part 7 Final proceedings in contested and uncontested elections

FPP49. Declaration of result for contested elections

FPP49.1 In a contested election, when the result of the poll has been ascertained, the returning officer is to:

- (a) declare the candidate or candidates whom more votes have been given than for the other candidates, up to the number of vacancies to be filled on the council of governors from the constituency, or class within a constituency, for which the election is being held to be elected,
- (b) give notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected:
 - (i) where the election is held under a proposed constitution pursuant to powers conferred on the [insert name] NHS Trust by section 33(4) of the 2006 Act, to the chairman of the NHS Trust, or
 - (ii) in any other case, to the chairman of the corporation; and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate whom they have declared elected.

FPP49.2 The returning officer is to make:

- (a) the total number of votes given for each candidate (whether elected or not), and
- (b) the number of rejected ballot papers under each of the headings in rule FPP41.5, available on request.

STV49. Declaration of result for contested elections

STV49.1 In a contested election, when the result of the poll has been ascertained, the returning officer is to:

- (a) declare the candidates who are deemed to be elected under Part 6 of these rules as elected,
- (b) give notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected –
 - (i) where the election is held under a proposed constitution pursuant to powers conferred on the [insert name] NHS Trust by section 33(4) of the 2006 Act, to the chairman of the NHS Trust, or
 - (ii) in any other case, to the chairman of the corporation, and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected.

STV49.2 The returning officer is to make:

- (a) the number of first preference votes for each candidate whether elected or not,
- (b) any transfer of votes,
- (c) the total number of votes for each candidate at each stage of the count at which such transfer took place,
- (d) the order in which the successful candidates were elected, and
- (e) the number of rejected ballot papers under each of the headings in rule STV41.1, available on request.

50. Declaration of result for uncontested elections

50.1 In an uncontested election, the returning officer is to as soon as is practicable after final day for the delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from the election:

- (a) declare the candidate or candidates remaining validly nominated to be elected,
- (b) give notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected to the chairman of the corporation, and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected.

Part 8 Disposal of documents

51. Sealing up of documents relating to the poll

51.1 On completion of the counting at a contested election, the returning officer is to seal up the following documents in separate packets:

- (a) the counted ballot papers,
- (b) the ballot papers endorsed with “rejected in part”,

- (c) the rejected ballot papers, and
- (d) the statement of rejected ballot papers.
- (e) the complete electronic copies of records referred to in rule 25 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

51.2 The returning officer must not open the sealed packets of:

- (a) the disqualified documents, with the list of disqualified documents inside it,
- (b) the list of spoiled ballot papers,
- (c) the list of lost ballots,
- (d) the list of eligible voters, and
- (e) the complete electronic copies of records referred to in rule 25 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

51.3 The returning officer must endorse on each packet a description of:

- (a) its contents,
- (b) the date of the publication of notice of the election,
- (c) the name of the corporation to which the election relates, and
- (d) the constituency, or class within a constituency, to which the election relates.

52. Delivery of documents

52.1 Once the documents relating to the poll have been sealed up and endorsed pursuant to rule 51, the returning officer is to forward them to the chair of the corporation.

53. Forwarding of documents received after close of the poll

53.1 Where:

- (a) any voting documents are received by the returning officer after the close of the poll, or
 - (b) any envelopes addressed to eligible voters are returned as undelivered too late to be resent, or
 - (c) any applications for replacement voter information is made too late to enable new ballot papers to be issued,
- The returning officer is to put them in a separate packet, seal it up, and endorse and forward it to the chairman of the corporation.

54. Retention and public inspection of documents

54.1 The corporation is to retain the documents relating to an election that are forwarded to the chair by the returning officer under these rules for one year, and then, unless otherwise directed by the regulator, cause them to be destroyed.

54.2 With the exception of the documents listed in rule 55.1, the documents relating to an election that are held by the corporation shall be available for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable times.

54.3 A person may request a copy or extract from the documents relating to an election that are held by the corporation, and the corporation is to provide it, and may impose a reasonable charge for doing so

55. Application for inspection of certain documents relating to an election

55.1 The corporation may not allow the inspection of, or the opening of any sealed packet containing –

- (a) any rejected ballot papers, including ballot papers rejected in part,
- (b) any disqualified documents, or the list of disqualified documents,
- (c) any counted ballot papers, or
- (d) the list of eligible voters,

(e) the complete electronic copies of records referred to in rule 25 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage by any person without the consent of the Regulator.

55.2 A person may apply to the Regulator to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 55.1, and the Regulator may only consent to such inspection if it is satisfied that it is necessary for the purpose of questioning an election pursuant to Part 11.

55.3 The Regulator's consent may be on any terms or conditions that it thinks necessary, including conditions as to –
(a) persons,
(b) time,
(c) place and mode of inspection,
(d) production or opening, and the corporation must only make the documents available for inspection in accordance with those terms and conditions.

55.4 On an application to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 55.1:

(a) in giving its consent, the regulator, and
(b) making the documents available for inspection, the corporation, must ensure that the way in which the vote of any particular member has been given shall not be disclosed, until it has been established –

- (i) that their vote was given, and
- (ii) that the regulator has declared that the vote was invalid.

Part 9 Death of a candidate during a contested election

FPP56. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

FPP56.1 If at a contested election, proof is given to the returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as a candidate has died, then the returning officer is to:

- (a) countermand notice of the poll, or, if voting information has been issued, direct that the poll be abandoned within that constituency or class, and
- (b) order a new election, on a date to be appointed by him or her in consultation with the corporation, within the period of 40 days, computed in accordance with rule 3 of these rules, beginning with the day that the poll was countermanded or abandoned.

FPP56.2 Where a new election is ordered under rule FPP56.1, no fresh nomination is necessary for any candidate who was validly nominated for the election where the poll was countermanded or abandoned but further candidates shall be invited for that constituency or class.

FPP56.3 Where a poll is abandoned under rule FPP56.1(a), rules FPP56.4 to FPP56.7 are to apply.

FPP56.4 The returning officer shall not take any step or further step to open envelopes or deal with their contents in accordance with rules 35 and 36, and is to make up separate sealed packets in accordance with rule 37.

FPP56.5 The returning officer is to:

- (a) count and record the number of ballot papers that have been received, and
- (b) seal up the ballot papers into packets, along with the records of the number of ballot papers.
- (c) seal up the electronic copies of records that have been received referred to in rule 25 held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

FPP56.6 The returning officer is to endorse on each packet a description of:

- (a) its contents,
- (b) the date of the publication of notice of the election,
- (c) the name of the corporation to which the election relates, and

(d) the constituency, or class within a constituency, to which the election relates.

FPP56.7 Once the documents relating to the poll have been sealed up and endorsed pursuant to rules FPP56.4 to FPP56.6, the returning officer is to deliver them to the chairman of the corporation, and rules 54 and 55 are to apply.

STV56. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

STV56.1 If, at a contested election, proof is given to the returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as a candidate has died, then the returning officer is to:

- (a) publish a notice stating that the candidate has died, and
- (b) proceed with the counting of the votes as if that candidate had been excluded from the count so that –
 - (i) ballots which only have a first preference recorded for the candidate that has died, and no preferences for any other candidates, are not to be counted, and
 - (ii) ballots which have preferences recorded for other candidates are to be counted according to the consecutive order of those preferences, passing over preferences marked for the candidate who has died.

STV56.2 The ballots which have preferences recorded for the candidate who has died are to be sealed with the other counted ballots pursuant to rule 51.1(a).

Part 10 Election expenses and publicity

57. Election expenses

57.1 Any expenses incurred, or payments made, for the purposes of an election which to the regulator under Part 11 of these rules.

58. Expenses and payments by candidates

58.1 A candidate may not incur any expenses or make a payment (of whatever nature) for the purposes of an election, other than expenses or payments that relate to:

- (a) personal expenses,
- (b) travelling expenses, and expenses incurred while living away from home, and
- (c) expenses for stationery, postage, telephone, internet (or any similar means of communication) and other petty expenses, to a limit of £100.

59. Election expenses incurred by other persons

59.1 No person may:

- (a) incur any expenses or make a payment (of whatever nature) for the purposes of a candidate's election, whether on that candidate's behalf or otherwise, or
- (b) give a candidate or their family any money or property (whether a gift, donation, loan, or otherwise) to meet or contribute to expenses incurred by or on behalf of the candidate for the purposes of an election.

59.2 Nothing in this rule is to prevent the corporation from incurring such expenses, and making such payments, as it considers necessary pursuant to rules 60 and 61.

Publicity

60. Publicity about election by the corporation

60.1 The corporation may:

- (a) compile and distribute such information about the candidates, and
- (b) organise and hold such meetings to enable the candidates to speak and respond to

questions, as it considers necessary.

60.2 Any information provided by the corporation about the candidates, including information compiled by the corporation under rule 61, must be:

- (a) objective, balanced and fair,
- (b) equivalent in size and content for all candidates,
- (c) compiled and distributed in consultation with all of the candidates standing for election, and
- (d) must not seek to promote or procure the election of a specific candidate or candidates, the expense of the electoral prospects of one or more other candidates.

60.3 Where the corporation proposes to hold a meeting to enable the candidates to speak, the corporation must ensure that all of the candidates are invited to attend, and in organising and holding such a meeting, the corporation must not seek to promote or procure the election of a specific candidate or candidates at the expense of the electoral prospects of one or more other candidates.

61. **Information about candidates for inclusion with voting information**

61.1 The corporation must compile information about the candidates standing for election, to be distributed by the returning officer pursuant to rule 23 of these rules.

1.2 The information must consist of:

- a) a statement submitted by the candidate of no more than 250 words,
- (b) if voting by telephone or text message is a polling method, the numerical voting code, allocated by the returning officer, to each candidate, for the purpose of recording votes on the telephone voting facility or the text message voting facility, and
- (c) a photograph of the candidate.

62. **Meaning of “for the purposes of an election”**

62.1 In this Part, the phrase “for the purposes of an election” means with a view to, or otherwise in connection with, promoting or procuring a candidate’s election, including the prejudicing of another candidate’s electoral prospects; and the phrase “for the purposes of a candidate’s election” is to be construed accordingly.

62.2 The provision by any individual of their own services voluntarily, on their own time, and free of charge is not to be considered an expense for the purposes of this Part.

Part 11 Questioning elections and the consequence of irregularities

63. **Application to question an election**

63.1 An application alleging a breach of these rules, including an electoral irregularity under Part 10, may be made to the regulator.

63.2 An application may only be made once the outcome of the election has been declared by the returning officer.

63.3 An application may only be made to the Regulator by:

- (a) a person who voted at the election or who claimed to have had the right to vote, or
- (b) a candidate, or a person claiming to have had a right to be elected at the election.

63.4 The application must:

- (a) describe the alleged breach of the rules or electoral irregularity, and
- (b) be in such a form as the Regulator may require.

- 63.5 The application must be presented in writing within 21 days of the declaration of the result of the election.
- 63.6 If the Regulator requests further information from the applicant, then that person must provide it as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 63.7 The Regulator shall delegate the determination of an application to a person or persons to be nominated for the purpose of the Regulator.
- 63.8 The determination by the person or persons nominated in accordance with rule 63.7 shall be binding on and shall be given effect by the corporation, the applicant and the members of the constituency (or class within a constituency including all the candidates for the election to which the application relates).
- 63.9 The Regulator may prescribe rules of procedure for the determination of an application including costs.

Part 12 Miscellaneous

64. Secrecy

- 64.1 The following persons:
- (a) the returning officer,
 - (b) the returning officer's staff,
- must maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and the counting of the votes, and must not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person any information as to:
- (i) the name of any member of the corporation who has or has not been given voter information or who has or has not voted,
 - (ii) the unique identifier on any ballot paper,
 - (iii) the voter ID number allocated to any voter
 - iv) the candidate(s) for whom any member has voted.
- 64.2 No person may obtain or attempt to obtain information as to the candidate(s) for whom a voter is about to vote or has voted, or communicate such information to any person at any time, including the unique identifier on a ballot paper given to a voter or the voter id number allocated to a voter.
- 64.3 The returning officer is to make such arrangements as he or she thinks fit to ensure that the individuals who are affected by this provision are aware of the duties it imposes.

65. Prohibition of disclosure of vote

- 65.1 No person who has voted at an election shall, in any legal or other proceedings to question the election, be required to state for whom he or she has voted.

66. Disqualification

- 66.1 A person may not be appointed as a returning officer, or as staff of the returning officer pursuant to these rules, if that person is:
- (a) a member of the corporation,
 - (b) an employee of the corporation,
 - (c) a director of the corporation, or
 - (d) employed by or on behalf of a person who has been nominated for election.

67. Delay in postal service through industrial action or unforeseen event

67.1 If industrial action, or some other unforeseen event, results in a delay in:

(a) the delivery of the documents in rule 23, or

(b) the return of the ballot papers and declarations of identity,

the returning officer may extend the time between the publication of the notice of the poll and the close of the poll, with the agreement of the Regulator.