

KENT COMMUNITY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

(A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION) CONSTITUTION

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1. Definitions And Interpretation

- 1.1 Unless otherwise stated, words or expressions contained in this Constitution shall bear the same meaning as in the National Health Service Act 2006 Act as amended by the 2012 Act and the 2022 Act.
- 1.2 Words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender; words importing the singular shall import the plural and vice-versa.
- 1.3 All annexes and appendices referred to in this Constitution form part of it.
- 1.4 In this Constitution:

Term	Definition
2006 Act	Means the National Health Service Act 2006
2012 Act	Means the Health and Social Care Act of 2012
2022 Act	Means the Health and Care Act of 2022
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:
Auditor	Means the person appointed to audit the accounts of the Foundation Trust, who is called the auditor in the 2006 Act
Authorisation	The authorisation of the Trust given under section 35 of the 2006 Act
Annual Members Meeting	Is defined in paragraph 6.11 of the Constitution
Appointed Governors	Means Stakeholder Governors or an Appointed Governor
Board of Directors	Means the Board of Directors as constituted in accordance with the Constitution.
Code of Governance for NHS Provider Trusts	Means the overarching framework for the corporate governance of trusts published by NHS England. The Code came into effect from 1 April 2023 and replaced the 2014 NHS foundation trust code of governance
Constitution	Means this Constitution together with the annexes and appendices attached to it.
Council of Governors	Means the Council of Governors as constituted in accordance with this constitution, which has the same meaning as the Board of Governors in the 2006 Act
Director	Means a member of the Board of Directors
Elected Governors	Means those Governors elected by the public and those Governors elected by the staff.
Financial Year	Means each successive period of 12 months beginning on 01 April
Governors' Code of Conduct	Means the Code of Conduct for Governors of the Trust, as adopted by the Trust and as amended from time to time by the Council of Governors, which all Governors must subscribe to.
Lead Governor	Means the governor elected by the Council of Governors to fulfil the role described in Appendix B, section 4 of the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance 2022 (NHS England

Term	Definition
License	Means NHS Provider Licence issued by NHS England in April 2023 under Section 88 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
NHS England	Means the body that leads the National Health Services in England
Public Governor	Means a Governor elected by the members of one of the public constituencies
Secretary	Means the Trust Secretary of the Foundation Trust or any other person appointed to perform the duties of The Trust Secretary, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary.
Staff Constituency	Means all members of the Trust who are part of the Staff constituency.
Staff Governor	Means a Governor elected by the members of the Staff constituency.
The Trust	Means Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

2. Name

- 2.1 The name of the foundation trust is Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust.

3. Principal Purpose

- 3.1 The Trust's Principal Purpose is the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the National Health Service in England.
- 3.2 The 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.
- 3.3 The Trust may provide goods and services for any purposes related to:
- 3.3.1 the provision of services provided to individuals for or in connection with the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness; and
 - 3.3.2 the promotion and protection of public health.
- 3.4 The Trust may also carry on activities other than those mentioned in paragraph 3.3 above for the purpose of making additional income available in order to better carry on its Principal Purpose.

4. Powers and Functions

- 4.1 The Trust shall have all the powers as set out in the 2006 Act, 2012 Act and 2022 Act.
- 4.2 All powers of the Trust shall be exercised by the Board of Directors on behalf of the Trust.

- 4.3 Any of these powers may be delegated to a Committee of Directors or to an Executive Director.

5. Other Purposes

- 5.1 The purpose of the Trust is to provide goods and services, including education, training and research and other facilities for purposes related to the provision of health care, in accordance with its statutory duties and the NHS Provider Licence April 2023.
- 5.2 The Trust may carry out research in connection with the provision of health care and make facilities and staff available for the purposes of education, training or research carried on by others.
- 5.3 The Trust may fulfil the social care functions of any local authority as specified by an agreement made under Section 75 of the 2006 Act.
- 5.4 The Trust may also undertake activities other than those mentioned in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 above subject to the Regulatory Framework. These activities must be for the purpose of making additional income available in order to carry out the Trust's Principal Purpose better.

6. Membership and Constituencies

6.1 The Trust shall have two Membership Constituencies:

- 6.1.1 The Public Constituency
- 6.1.2 The Staff Constituency

6.2 Application for membership

- 6.2.1 An individual who is eligible to become a Member of the Trust may do so on application to the Trust as set out in paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 below.

6.4 Staff Constituency

- 6.4.1 An individual who is employed by the Trust under a contract of employment with the Trust may become or continue as a Member of the Trust provided:
- 6.4.1.1 they are employed by the Trust under a contract of employment which has no fixed term or has a fixed term of at least 12 months; or
- 6.4.1.2 they have been continuously employed by the Trust under a contract of employment for at least 12 months.

- 6.4.2 Individuals who are employed by a Designated Organisation and who otherwise exercise functions for the purposes of the Trust otherwise than under a contract of employment with the 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, this does not include Volunteers and individuals who assist or provide goods or services to the Trust on a voluntary or not for profit basis and subject to paragraph 9.10 below excludes Voluntary Organisations. The Secretary shall maintain a register of Trust Designated Organisations.
- 6.4.3 Those individuals who are eligible for membership of the Trust by reason of the provisions of paragraphs 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 above are referred to collectively as the "Staff Constituency".
- 6.4.4 The minimum number of Members in the Staff Constituency is specified in Annex 2.
- 6.4.6 An individual who is eligible to become a member of the Staff Constituency under paragraph 6.4.1 above and who is invited by either the Trust to become a member of the Staff Constituency, shall become a member of the Trust as a member of the Staff Constituency without an application being made unless they inform the Trust, that they do not wish to do so.
- 6.4.7 Any individual who is eligible to become a member of the Staff Constituency under paragraph 6.4.2 above shall become a member upon entry to the Trust's register of Members pursuant to an application by them.
- 6.4.8 On receipt of an application for membership as described in paragraph 6.4.7 above, and subject to being satisfied that the applicant is eligible, the Secretary shall cause the applicant's name to be entered into the Trust's register of members

6.5 Membership Strategy

- 6.5.1 The Trust shall at all times strive to ensure that, taken as a whole, its actual membership is representative of those eligible for membership. To this end:
- 6.5.1.1 The 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.
- 6.5.1.2 The Council of Governors shall present to each Annual Governors' Meeting: a report on steps taken to secure that, taken as a whole, the actual membership of its constituencies and the classes of constituencies is representative of those eligible for such membership; the progress of the membership strategy; and any changes to the membership strategy.
- 6.5.1.3 The Trust offers a 'digital-only' membership, meaning people that apply to become a public member must provide an email address for correspondence, unless there is an accessibility need under the Equality Act (2010), and upon application agree to being contacted by the Trust via

email. Where there is an accessibility need as defined in the Equality Act (2010), we can offer communication support in various formats, such as large print, Braille and Easy Read. The individual will need to request any alternative membership arrangements or communications via the Governor Support Team.

6.5.1.4 The Trust will contact all public members on an annual basis offering them the opportunity to 'opt-out' of their membership, in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on processing person identifiable information

6.6 Restriction on Membership

6.6.1 All members must be a minimum of 14 years of age to satisfy the eligibility requirement and agree to a digital-only membership, which involves receiving email communication from the Trust unless there are any exceptions as outlined in 6.5.1.3.

6.6.2 An individual who is a member of a constituency, or of a class within a constituency, may not while membership of that constituency or class continues, be a member of any other constituency or class.

6.6.3 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 even in the event that they opt out of membership of the Staff Constituency in accordance with the provisions set out below.

6.6.4 All membership is individual and there shall be no facility for corporate membership.

6.6.5 Save as provided for under paragraph 7.11 below, Members are not entitled to receive payments or dividends from the Trust and no Member is entitled to preferential receipt of any goods or services provided by the Trust.

6.6.6 Save as provided for in this Constitution, no Member may represent themselves in writing or verbally as belonging to a category of membership of the Trust:

6.6.6.1 in a manner which might associate the Trust with the personal opinions expressed by the Member in question; and

6.6.6.2 Save for members of the Staff Constituency, no Member shall designate the Trust as his personal or professional postal address in any published work or any communication to the media

6.7 Disqualification from Membership

6.7.1 A person may not become or continue as a Member of the Trust if:

6.7.1.1 they have, within the past five years, demonstrated aggressive or violent behaviour (such as verbal assault, physical assault, violence, or harassment) against any NHS staff, volunteers, or other persons

exercising functions for the purposes of the Trust; or have been convicted of any offence against children or vulnerable adults; or have been convicted in the British Islands of any offence for which a sentence of imprisonment of three months or more (whether suspended or not, and without the option of a fine) was imposed.

6.7.1.2 they have been confirmed as a 'persistent complainant' in accordance with the relevant Trust policy for handling complaints.

6.7.1.3 they have been removed as a member from another NHS foundation Trust.

6.7.1.4 they have been deemed to have acted in a manner contrary to the interests of the Trust.

6.7.1.5 they fail or cease to fulfil the criteria for membership of the Public Constituency or the Staff Constituency; or

6.7.1.6 they have been dismissed (otherwise than by reason of redundancy) from a position of employment with the Trust.

6.7.1.7 they do not agree to engaging in a digital-only membership, i.e. providing an email address and receiving email correspondence from the Trust, unless there are any exceptions as outlined in 6.5.1.3.

6.7.2 Where the Trust is on notice that a Member may be disqualified from membership, or may no longer be eligible to be a Member, or it appears to the Secretary that a Member no longer wishes to be a Member, the Secretary shall give the Member 14 calendar days written notice to show cause why their name should not be removed from the register of Members. On receipt of any such information supplied by the Member, the Secretary may, if they consider it appropriate, remove the Member from the register of Members. In the event of any dispute about entitlement to membership, the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 6.10 below.

6.7.3 All Members of the Trust shall be under a duty to provide written notification to the Secretary of any change in their particulars which may affect their entitlement as a Member.

6.8 Expulsion from Membership

6.8.1 A Member may be expelled by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council of Governors present and voting at a meeting of the Council of Governors. The following procedure is to be adopted:

6.8.1.1 Any Member may complain to the Secretary that another Member has acted in a way detrimental to or contrary to the interests of the Trust or is otherwise disqualified as set out in paragraph 6.7 above.

6.8.1.2 Subject to paragraphs 6.8.1.3 to 6.8.1.7 below, if a complaint is made the Council of Governors, or a delegated committee or sub-committee or joint committee of the Council of Governors, the Council will consider the

complaint, having taken such steps as it (or they) considers appropriate, to ensure that each Member's point of view is heard and may either:

- 6.8.1.2.1 dismiss the complaint and take no further action; or
- 6.8.1.2.2 arrange for a resolution to expel the Member complained of to be considered at the next meeting of the Council of Governors.

6.8.1.3 If a resolution to expel a member is to be considered at a meeting of the Council of Governors pursuant to paragraph 6.8.1.2 above, 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.

6.8.1.4 At the meeting referred to in paragraph 6.8.1.2 above, the Council of Governors will consider the evidence and any representations made in support of the complaint and such other evidence and any representations made by the Member making the complaint which is placed before them.

6.8.1.5 If the Member complained of fails to attend the meeting mentioned in 6.8.1.2 above without due cause the meeting may proceed in their absence. The decision to proceed in these circumstances will be at the sole discretion of the person chairing the meeting in question.

6.8.1.6 A person expelled from membership under the provisions as set out in paragraph 6.8.1.1 to 6.8.1.5 above will cease to be a Member upon the declaration by the Chair of the meeting that the resolution to expel them is carried.

6.8.1.7 No person who has been expelled from membership pursuant to the provisions of 6.8.1.1 to 6.8.1.5 above is to be re-admitted as a member except by a resolution of the Council of Governors carried by votes of two-thirds of the members of the Council of Governors present and voting at a general meeting of the Council of Governors

6.9 Termination of Membership

6.9.1 A Member shall cease to be a Member on:

6.9.1.2 death; or

6.9.1.3 resignation by notice in writing to the Secretary; or

6.9.1.4 ceasing to fulfil the requirements of paragraphs 6.3, 6.4 or 6.6 above, as the case may be or

6.9.1.5 being disqualified pursuant to paragraph 6.7 above or being expelled pursuant to paragraph 6.8 above.

6.10 Membership Disputes

6.10.1 In the event of any dispute about the entitlement to membership, the dispute shall be referred to the Secretary who shall decide on the point in issue. If the Member or applicant (as the case may be) is aggrieved at the decision of the Secretary, they may appeal in writing within 14 calendar days of the Secretary's decision to the Council of Governors whose decision shall be final.

6.11 Annual Members Meeting

6.11.1 The Trust shall hold an annual meeting of its Members ("Annual Members' Meeting"). The Annual Members' Meeting shall be open to members of the public.

6.11.2 At least one member of the Board of Directors must attend the meeting and present the following documents to the Members at the meeting:

6.11.2.2 - the annual accounts.

6.11.2.3 - any report of the auditor on them; and

6.11.2.4 - the annual report.

6.12 Special Members Meeting

6.12.1 The Board of Directors may resolve to call special meetings of the Trust for the benefit of its members (a "Special Members' Meeting") for the purpose of providing Members with information and to offer Members an opportunity to provide feedback to the Trust.

6.12.2 Special Members' Meetings are open to all Members of the Foundation Trust, Governors, Directors and representatives of the Auditor and any external consultant, but not to members of the general public or representatives of the press, save in circumstances as set out below in 6.12.3.

6.12.3 The Board of Directors may invite representatives of the press and any experts or advisors whose attendance they consider to be in the best interests of the Trust to attend a Special Members' Meeting.

6.12.4 All Special Members' Meetings are to be convened by the Secretary by order of the Board of Directors.

6.12.5 Notice of at least 14 calendar days before the date of the meeting, must be given, prior to holding a Special Members' Meeting. Notice shall be given to all Members, Governors, Directors, the Auditor and any external consultant personally, or be displayed prominently displayed at the Trust's Headquarters and on the Trust's website.

- 6.12.6 The notice referred to in 6.12.5 above must state the time, date and place of the meeting; and indicate the business to be dealt with at the meeting.
- 6.12.7 No business may be conducted at a Special Members' Meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum for Special Members' Meetings is the Chair (or Deputy Chair) and at least one public member per public constituency and one staff member per staff Governor appointment.
- 6.12.8 If at any Special Members' Meeting there is no quorum present within 30 minutes of the time fixed for the start of the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to such date, time and place as the person chairing the meeting shall in their absolute discretion determine, and the Secretary shall give or shall procure the giving of 14 calendar days' notice to all Members, Governors, Directors, the Auditor and any external consultant of the date, time and place of that adjourned meeting.
- 6.12.9 The Chair, or in their absence the Deputy Chair, shall act as Chair at all Special Members' Meetings. If neither the Chair nor the Deputy Chair is present, the members of the Board of Directors present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting. If there is only one Director present and willing to act, then they shall chair the meeting.
- 6.12.10 It is the responsibility of the person chairing the meeting to ensure that any issues to be decided upon at the meeting are clearly explained; and sufficient information is provided to those in attendance to enable rational discussion to take place.
- 6.12.11 Any resolution put to the vote at a Special Members' Meeting shall be decided upon by a poll.
- 6.12.12 Every Member present and every Member who has voted by post or using electronic communications is to have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes the person chairing the meeting is to have a second or casting vote. The term "electronic communications" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Electronic Communications Act 2000 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.
- 6.12.13 The result of any vote will be declared by the person chairing the meeting and the Secretary shall cause the result to be entered in the minute book. The minute book will be conclusive evidence of the result of that vote.

7 Council of Governors

7.1 Composition of Governors

- 7.1.1 The Trust is to have a Council of Governors, which shall comprise both Elected Governors and Appointed Governors
- 7.1.2 The composition of the Council of Governors is specified in Annex 2.

7.2 Election of Governors

- 7.2.1 The members of the Council of Governors, other than the Appointed Governors, shall be chosen by election by their constituency or, where there are classes within a constituency, by their class within that constituency.
- 7.2.2 The number of Governors to be elected by each constituency, or, where appropriate, by each class of each constituency, is specified in Annex 2
- 7.2.3 Elections for Elected Governors shall be conducted in accordance with the Model Rules for Elections, as may be varied from time to time, and as are attached at Annex 3. Elections for Elected Governors shall be conducted using the First Past the Post system. Thus, where appropriate, the alternative rules marked "FPP" (First Past the Post) should be used.
- 7.2.4 The Model Rules for Elections, as published from time to time by the Department of Health, form part of this Constitution. The Model Rules for Elections current at the date of the Trust's Authorisation are attached at Annex 3.
- 7.2.5 A subsequent variation of the Model Rules for Elections by the Department of Health shall not constitute a variation of the terms of this Constitution for the purposes of paragraph 31 (Amendment of the Constitution) below. For the avoidance of doubt, the Trust cannot amend the Model Rules for Elections.
- 7.2.6 An election, if contested, shall be by secret ballot.
- 7.2.7 A person may not vote at an election for or stand for election as an Elected Governor unless within the specified period stated in the Model Rules for Elections, they have made a declaration in the forms specified in Appendix A of Annex 4 of this Constitution. It is an offence (other than in relation to the Staff Constituency) to knowingly or recklessly make such a declaration which is false in a material particular.
- 7.2.8 The specified form of declaration referred to at paragraph 7.2.7 of this Constitution regarding the declaration to stand for election as an Elected Governor shall be as set out on the nomination paper referred to in the Model Rules for Elections at Annex 3 and shall state as follows:

"I declare that I am resident at the address detailed in Section 1 of this form. I declare that to the best of my knowledge I am eligible to stand for election to the Council of Governors for the seat named in Section 2 of this form. I declare that to the best of my knowledge I am not de-barred from standing for election by any of the provisions detailed at Section 3 of this form. I declare that I have stated details of any of my political membership and any financial interests I have in the Trust at Section 4 of this form. I understand that if any of these declarations are later found to be false I will if elected lose my seat on the Council of Governors and may also have my membership withdrawn."

7.3 Term of Office

7.3.1 Elected Governors

- 7.3.1.1 Subject to transitional provisions, an Elected Governor may hold office for a period of up to 3 years.
- 7.3.1.2 An Elected Governor shall cease to hold office if they cease to be a member of the constituency or class by which they were elected.
- 7.3.1.3 Subject to paragraph 7.3.1.4 below, an Elected Governor shall be eligible for re-election at the end of their term.
- 7.3.1.4 An Elected Governor may hold office for a maximum of 9 years (3 terms of office).

7.3.2 Appointed Governors

- 7.3.2.1 An Appointed Governor may hold office for a period of up to 3 years.
 - 7.3.2.2 An Appointed Governor shall cease to hold office if the relevant sponsoring organisation withdraws its sponsorship of them by notice in writing to the Secretary.
 - 7.3.2.3 An Appointed Governor shall cease to hold office if they cease to be employed by or associated with the relevant sponsoring organisation.
 - 7.3.2.4 An Appointed Governor shall be eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term.
- 7.3.3 For the purposes of the tenure provisions set out in paragraph 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 above, a "year" means a period of 12 consecutive months commencing immediately on the date of Authorisation and each successive period of 12 months thereafter.
- 7.3.4 The appointment of Appointed Governors is subject to the veto provisions contained at paragraph 2.3 of Annex 2.

7.4 Termination of Tenure

- 7.4.1 A Governor may resign from that office at any time during the term of that office by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.
- 7.4.2 If a Governor fails to attend any meeting of the Council of Governors for a consecutive period of twelve months or alternatively attends less than one third of formal meetings in any 12-month period their tenure of office shall be terminated immediately by the Secretary unless, on application by that Governor to the Council of Governors, the Council of Governors resolves by a 75% majority that:
 - 7.4.2.1 the absence was due to a reasonable cause.

- 7.4.2.2 they will be able to start attending meetings of the Council of Governors again within such a period as the other Governors consider reasonable and
- 7.4.2.3 to retain them would not be of detriment to the efficient running of the Council
- 7.4.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 7.4.2. above, if a Governor fails to attend 2 out of 3 consecutive meetings of the Council of Governors or attends less than one third of formal meeting in any 12-month period and they have previously been the subject of a decision in their favour under paragraph 7.4.2 above, that Governor's tenure of office is to be terminated immediately unless the Chair exercises their right to veto the termination.
- 7.4.4 If a Governor has knowingly or recklessly not upheld this constitution or is considered to have acted in a manner inconsistent with:
 - 7.4.4.1 The constitution or in a manner detrimental to the interest of the Trust; or
 - 7.4.4.2 The Governor's Code of Conduct or
 - 7.4.4.3 they made a false declaration for any purpose provided for under this Constitution or in the 2006 Act: or
 - 7.4.4.4 The Council of Governors resolves by a 75% majority that their continuing as a Governor would be likely to:
 - 7.4.4.4.1 contravene the Code of Conduct expected by Governors as adopted by the Trust; or
 - 7.4.4.4.2 prejudice the ability of the Trust to fulfil its principal purpose or other purposes under this Constitution or otherwise to discharge its duties or functions; or
 - 7.4.4.4.3 harm the Trust's work with other persons or bodies with whom it is engaged or may be engaged in the provision of goods and services: or
 - 7.4.4.4.4 adversely affect public confidence in the goods and services provided by the Trust; or
 - 7.4.4.4.5 bring the Trust into disrepute.
- 7.4.5 Upon a Governor resigning or upon the Council of Governors resolving to terminate a Governor's tenure of office under paragraph 7.4 that Governor shall cease to be a Governor, and their name shall be forthwith removed from the Register of Governors notwithstanding any reference to the Dispute Resolution Procedure.
- 7.4.6 Any decision of the Council of Governors to terminate a Governor's tenure of office may be referred by that Governor to the Dispute Resolution Procedure within 28 calendar days of the date upon which notice of writing of the Council of Governors' decision is given to the Governor.

- 7.4.7 A Governor or whose office is terminated under paragraph 7.4 shall not be eligible to stand for re-election or re-appointment to the Council of Governors for a period of 3 years from the date of their resignation or removal from office or the date upon which any appeal against their removal from office is disposed of whichever is later. The Chair has absolute discretion to reduce the exclusion period to one year for a governor who resigns or is removed under 7.4.1 or 7.4.2.

7.5 Disqualification and Removal

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

- 7.5.1.1 they are under 16 years of age at the point of nomination or election.
- 7.5.1.2 in the case of an Elected Governor, they cease to be a member of the constituency or where relevant, the class within the constituency they represent.
- 7.5.1.3 in the case of an Appointed Governor, the sponsoring organisation withdraws their sponsorship of them.
- 7.5.1.4 the relevant Partnership Organisation which they represent ceases to exist.
- 7.5.1.5 they have within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy or ill health, from any paid employment with a Health Service Body.
- 7.5.1.6 NHS England has exercised its powers to remove that person as a Governor or has suspended them from office or has disqualified them from holding office as a Governor for a specified period or NHS England has exercised any of those powers in relation to the person concerned at any other time whether in relation to the Trust or any other Foundation Trust.
- 7.5.1.7 their tenure of office as the Chair or as a member or director of a Health Service Body has been terminated on the grounds that their appointment is not in the interest of the health service.
- 7.5.1.8 they are a Director of the Trust, or a governor, executive director, non-executive director, Chair, chief executive officer of another Health Service Body (unless they are appointed Partnership Organisation which is a Health Service Body).
- 7.5.1.9 they have been a director of the Trust in the preceding 5 years prior to the date of their nomination to stand for election as an Elected Governor, or in the case of an Appointed Governor, the date of their appointment.
- 7.5.1.10 they have had their name removed from a list maintained under regulations pursuant to Sections 91, 106, 123, or 146 of the 2006 Act including Primary Health lists, or the equivalent lists maintained by Local Health Boards in Wales under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, and has not subsequently had their name included in such a list and

due to the reason(s) for such removal they are considered by the Trust to be unsuitable to be a Governor;

- 7.5.1.11 they are incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering their property and affairs.
- 7.5.1.12 they are an Immediate Family Member of a Governor or Director of the Trust.
- 7.5.1.13 they have failed to repay (without good cause) any amount of monies properly owed to the Trust.
- 7.5.1.14 they are a person who is the subject of a disqualification order made under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986.
- 7.5.1.15 they have been adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestrated and (in either case) has not been discharged.
- 7.5.1.16 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 them.
- 7.5.1.17 they are a person in relation to whom a moratorium period under a debt relief order applies (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986).
- 7.5.1.18 they have made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, their creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
- 7.5.1.19 a person whose behaviour has been determined as unreasonable or unreasonably persistent, in line with the Trust's Comments, Concerns and Complaints Policy.
- 7.5.1.20 they have been expelled from the post of governor of another NHS foundation trust.
- 7.5.1.21 they are an active member of a body or organisation with policies or objectives such that their membership would likely to cause the Foundation Trust to be in breach of its statutory obligations or to bring the Foundation Trust into disrepute
- 7.5.1.22 they have refused without reasonable cause to undertake any training which the Trust and/or Council of Governors requires all Governors to undertake.
- 7.5.1.23 they have failed to sign and deliver to the Secretary a statement in the form required by the Trust confirming acceptance of the Governor's Code of Conduct, and or they have failed to make, or has falsely made, any declaration as required by paragraph 7.2.7 of the Constitution.
- 7.5.1.24 in the absolute discretion of both the Chair and Chief Executive their appointment would cause significant reputational damage to the trust.
- 7.5.1.25 they are unable to carry out their duties as Governor, despite the Trust making all reasonable adjustments.

- 7.5.2 Where a person has been elected or appointed to be a Governor and they become disqualified or is removed from office for failing to meet the eligibility criteria in para 7.5 of the Constitution they shall notify the Secretary in writing of

such disqualification and/or (as the case may be), removal as soon as is practicable and, in any event, within 14 calendar days of first becoming aware of those matters which rendered them disqualified or removed.

- 7.5.3 If it comes to the notice of the Secretary at the time of them taking office or later that the Governor is so disqualified, the Secretary shall immediately declare that the person in question is disqualified and notify them in writing to that effect as soon as is practicable.
- 7.5.4 Upon despatch of any such notification under paragraphs 7.5.2 or 7.5.3 above, that person's tenure of office, if any, shall be terminated and they shall cease to act as a Governor, and the Secretary shall cause their name to be removed from the register of Governors.

7.6 Vacancies

- 7.6.1 Where a vacancy arises on the Council of Governors for any reason other than expiry of a term of office, the following provisions will apply.
- 7.6.2 Where the vacancy arises amongst the Elected Governors, the Council of Governors shall decide either:
- 7.6.2.1.1 to call an election within six months to fill the seat for the remainder of that term of office; or
 - 7.6.2.2 to invite the next highest polling candidate for that seat at the most recent election or (where relevant) by-election, who is willing to take office, to fill the seat until the next election, at which time the seat will fall vacant and be subject to election for any unexpired period of the term of office, or
 - 7.6.2.3 to leave the seat vacant until the next scheduled elections are held if the unexpired period of office is less than six months.
- 7.6.3 Where the vacancy arises amongst the Appointed Governors, the Secretary will request that the relevant organisation appoint a "Replacement Governor" within 30 calendar days to hold office for the remainder of the term of office. Appointed Governors shall be replaced in accordance with the processes agreed pursuant to paragraph 2 of Annex 2 of this Constitution.
- 7.6.4 The validity of any act of the Council of Governors is not affected by any vacancy among the Governors or by any defect in the appointment of any Governor.

7.7 Roles and Responsibilities

- 7.7.1 The duties of the Council of Governors as set out in the amendments to the 2006 Act made by the 2012 Act and 2022 Act are:
- 7.7.1.1 To represent the interest of the Members of the Trust as a whole and the interest of the public.

- 7.7.1.2 To hold the Non-Executive Directors individually and collectively to account for the performance of the Board of Directors; holding the Board of Directors to account in relation to the Trust's performance in accordance with the terms of the Authorisation.
- 7.7.1.3 approve (by a majority of the members of the Council of Governors present and voting at the meeting) an appointment (by the Non-Executive Directors) of the Chief Executive (and Accounting Officer) other than the Chief Executive appointed in accordance with paragraph 19 (5) of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act.
- 7.7.1.4 notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 7.7.1 above, the Governors may exercise other functions at the request of the Board of Directors and must respond as appropriate when consulted with by the Directors.
- 7.7.2 The trust must take steps to secure that the governors are equipped with the skills and knowledge they require in their capacity as such.
- 7.7.3 At a formal meeting Governors will.
- 7.7.3.1 to appoint or remove the Chair and the other Non-Executive Directors. The removal of a Non-Executive Director requires the approval of three-quarters of the members of the Council of Governors.
- 7.7.3.2 decide the remuneration and allowances, and the other terms and conditions of office, of the Non-Executive Directors.
- 7.7.3.3 appoint or remove the Auditor.
- 7.7.3.4 be presented with the approved Annual Accounts, any report of the Auditor on them and the Annual Report.
- 7.7.3.5 consider disputes as to membership referred to it pursuant to paragraph 3.1 of Annex 6; and
- 7.7.3.6 consider and approve as appropriate resolutions to remove or retain a Governor pursuant to paragraph 7.4 of this Constitution.
- 7.7.3.7 consider any proposals for mergers, acquisitions, dissolution or separation of the Trust in accordance with paragraph 32 of the Constitution.
- 7.7.3.8 consider the approved Annual Accounts, any report of the Auditor on them and the Annual Report.
- 7.7.3.9 consider any amendments to the Constitution in accordance with paragraph 31 of the Constitution; and

7.8 Meetings of Governors

- 7.8.1 The Chair of the Trust (i.e. the Chair of the Board of Directors) or, in their absence, the Deputy Chair, shall preside at meetings of the Council of Governors and the person chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

- 7.8.2 The Council of Governors shall comply with the Standing Orders for its procedure and practice set out in Annex 4.
- 7.8.3 Meetings of the Council of Governors shall be open to members of the public. Members of the public may be excluded from a meeting or part of a meeting for special reasons by resolution of the Council of Governors on the grounds that the Council of Governors considers that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of the business or the proceedings.
- 7.8.4 For the purposes of obtaining information about the Trust's performance of its functions or the Director's performance of their duties (and deciding whether to propose a vote on the Trust's or Director's performance), the Council of Governors may require one or more of the Directors to attend a meeting of the Council of Governors.
- 7.8.5 The Council of Governors is to hold a formal meeting at least four times per year, including an annual meeting no later than 30 September in each year apart from the first year, when the Council of Governors is to receive and consider the Annual Accounts and any report of the Auditor on them and the Board of Directors is to present to the Council of Governors the Annual Report in accordance with paragraph 44 of this Constitution
- 7.8.6 The Secretary shall call meetings in accordance with 7.8.3 and 7.8.5 above.
- 7.8.7 Any meeting of the Council of Governors requires a quorum of one third of the total number of Governors to be present with a majority of those present being Public Governors.
- 7.8.8 No business shall be carried out at a meeting which is not quorate.
- 7.8.9 If at any meeting of the Council of Governors, there is no quorum present within 15 minutes of the time fixed for the start of the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned for a period of 7 calendar days and the Secretary shall give or shall procure the giving of notice to all Governors of the date, time and place of that adjourned meeting. Notwithstanding paragraph 7.8.7 above, upon reconvening, those present shall constitute a quorum.

7.9 Conflicts of Interest of Governors

- 7.9.1 If a Governor has a pecuniary, personal or family interest, whether that interest is actual or potential and whether that interest is direct or indirect, in any proposed contract or other matter which is under consideration or is to be considered by the Council of Governors, the Governor shall disclose that interest to the members of the Council of Governors as soon as they become aware of it.
- 7.9.2 The Standing Orders for Governors make provision for the disclosure of interests and arrangements for the exclusion of a Governor declaring any interest from any discussion or consideration of the matter in respect of which an interest has been disclosed.

7.10 Travel and Other Expenses

7.10.1 Subject to any Trust policy on the payment of expenses, the Trust may pay travelling and other costs and expenses to members of the Council of Governors at such rates as the Board of Directors decides from time to time in its absolute discretion.

7.11 Further Provisions

7.11.1 Further provisions with respect to the Council of Governors are set out in Annex 4, the Standing Orders for Practice and Procedure of the Council of Governors, and also are provided in Annex 6, Further Provisions.

8 Board of Directors – Composition

8.1 The Trust is to have a Board of Directors, which shall comprise both Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors.

8.2 The Board of Directors is to comprise:

8.2.1 a Non-Executive Director Chair; and

8.2.2 up to a maximum of 7 other Non-Executive Directors; and

8.2.3 up to a maximum of 7 Executive Directors.

8.3 One of the Executive Directors shall be the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall be the Accountable Officer.

8.4 One of the Executive Directors shall be the Director of Finance.

8.5 One of the Executive Directors is to be a Registered Medical Practitioner (or a Registered Dentist).

8.6 One of the Executive Directors is to be a Registered Nurse or a Registered Midwife.

8.7 In the event that the number of Non-Executive Directors (including the Chair) is equal to the number of Executive Directors, the Chair (and in their absence, the Deputy Chair), shall have a second or casting vote at meetings of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Standing Orders for the Board of Directors.

8.8 Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 8.2 to 8.7 above, the Board of Directors shall determine any change in the number of Directors, provided that:

8.8.1 any change in the number of Directors is within the range set out in paragraph 8.2 above; and

8.8.2 there shall be a majority of Non-Executive Directors (including the Chair).

9 Board of Directors – General Duty

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

10 Board of Directors – Qualification for Appointment as a Non-Executive Director

10.1 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 12.3 below, a person may be appointed as a Non-Executive Director or Associate Non-Executive Director only if:

10.1.1 they are a member of the Public Constituency; and

10.1.2 they meet the Fit and Proper Person Test requirements outlined in NHS England Fit and Proper Person Test Framework and are not disqualified by virtue of paragraph 16 below and the provisions in Annex 6 – Appendix 3

11 Board of Directors – Appointment, Suspension and Removal of Chair and Other Non-Executive Directors

11.1 Subject to paragraph 11.2 below the Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors shall appoint, suspend (in a case where there may be grounds to remove) or remove the Chair of the Trust and the other Non-Executive Directors.

11.2 During any general meeting of the Council of Governors at which the Chair may be suspended or removed, the Deputy Chair shall preside, or if the Deputy Chair is absent from the meeting or is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest, another Non-Executive Director, as shall be appointed by the Council of Governors, shall preside.

11.3 Suspension or removal of the Chair or another Non-Executive Director shall require a resolution to be submitted by the Lead Governor. Such a resolution must be seconded by at least two thirds of the Governors (such Governors being those who have not submitted the resolution in the first instance). Suspension or removal of the Chair or another Non-Executive Director shall require a resolution to be approved by three-quarters of all of the members of the Council of Governors.

11.4 The Governor sponsoring the resolution mentioned in paragraph 11.3 above shall provide written reasons in support of the resolution to the Chair or other

Non-Executive Director in question, who shall be given the opportunity to respond to such reasons at the meeting of the Council of Governors which the resolution is to be considered and voted upon. If the individual in question fails to attend the meeting without due cause, the meeting may proceed in their absence. The decision to proceed in these circumstances will be at the sole discretion of the person chairing the meeting in question.

- 11.5 In making any decision to remove either the Chair or a Non-Executive Director under paragraph 11.3 above, the Council of Governors shall take into account the results of the annual appraisal concerning the Chair (or, as the case may be) the Non-Executive Director in question.
- 11.6 If any resolution to remove either the Chair or a Non-Executive Director is not approved at a meeting of the Council of Governors in accordance with paragraph 11.3 above, no further resolution can be put forward to remove such Non-Executive Director or the Chair which is based on the same reasons within 12 calendar months of the meeting of the Council of Governors at which the resolution mentioned in paragraph 11.3 above was considered.
- 11.7 The Chair and the Non-Executive Directors are to be appointed in accordance with paragraph 12 below.

12 Board of Directors – Appointment of Chair and Other Non-Executive Directors Including Associate Non-Executive Directors

- 12.1 The Council of Governors shall appoint the Chair of the Trust, in accordance with the Code of Governance for NHS Provider Trusts.
- 12.2 The Council of Governors shall appoint the other Non-Executive Directors including Associate Non-Executive Directors of the Trust (other than the Chair) of the Trust who wish to be appointed.
- 12.3 The criteria for qualification for appointment as a Non-Executive Director including Associate Non-Executive Directors set out in paragraph 10 above (other than disqualification by virtue of paragraph 16 below) do not apply to the appointment of the Chair and the other Non-Executive Directors in accordance with the procedures set out in this paragraph 12.
- 12.4 The Code of Governance for NHS Provider Trusts (April 2023) requires that the Chair and NEDS can be appointed for up to 2 terms of three years. This can only be extended up to a maximum of nine years in exceptional circumstances as set out in the Code of Governance NHSE guidance for chairs and Non-Executive Directors appointment and would be subject to rigorous review and NHSE agreement.

13 Board of Directors – Appointment of Deputy Chair

- 13.1 The Council of Governors at a formal meeting of the Council of Governors shall appoint one of the Non-Executive Directors as a Deputy Chair for such

period not exceeding their term of office as a Non-Executive Director, as the Council of Governors may specify on appointing them. Any Non-Executive Director so appointed under this paragraph may at any time resign from the office of Deputy Chair by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

- 13.2 If the Chair is unable to discharge their functions as Chair of the Trust, the Deputy Chair will be the "acting Chair" of the Trust until such time as the Chair is able to discharge their functions as Chair, or a new Chair is appointed by the Council of Governors in accordance with paragraph 11 above.

14 Board of Directors - Appointment and Removal of The Chief Executive and Other Executive Directors

- 14.1 The Non-Executive Directors shall appoint or remove the Chief Executive.
- 14.2 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 15 below, the appointment of the Chief Executive shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the Council of Governors present and voting at a meeting of the Council of Governors.
- 14.3 The Chief Executive is to be appointed in accordance with paragraph 15 below.
- 14.4 A committee consisting of the Chair, the Chief Executive and the other Non-Executive Directors shall appoint or remove the other Executive Directors.

15 Board of Directors – Appointment and removal of Chief Executive

- 15.1 The Non-Executive Directors shall appoint the chief officer of the Trust as the Chief Executive of the Trust if they wish to be appointed.
- 15.2 The appointment of the chief officer of the Trust as the Chief Executive of the Trust shall not require the approval of the Council of Governors.
- 15.3 The Chief Executive shall nominate by way of written resolution, one of the Executive Directors to be the Deputy Chief Executive, and the resolution in question is to be approved by a majority of members of the Board of Directors present and voting at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

16 Board of Directors – Disqualification

- 16.1 The following may not become or continue as a member of the Board of Directors:
- 16.1.1 a person who has been adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestered and (in either case) has not been discharged; and if they no longer meet the Fit and Proper Person Test requirements outlined in NHS England Fit and Proper Person Test Framework.
- 16.1.2 a person in relation to whom a moratorium period under a debt relieve order applies (under Part 7A of the Insolvency Act 1986);

- 16.1.3 a person who has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, their creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it.
- 16.1.4 a person who within the preceding five years has been convicted of any offence anywhere in the world and 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 them.
- 16.1.5 a person whose tenure of office as a Chair or member or director of a Health Service Body has been terminated on the grounds that their appointment is not in the interests of the health service.
- 16.1.6 a person who has had their name removed from a list maintained under regulations pursuant to sections 91, 106, 123, or 146 of the 2006 Act, or the equivalent lists maintained by Local Health Boards in Wales under the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006, and has not subsequently had their name included in such a list and due to such reasons, they are considered by the Trust to be unsuitable to be a Director;
- 16.1.7 a person who has within the preceding two years been dismissed, otherwise than by reason of redundancy or ill health, from any paid employment with a Health Service Body.
- 16.1.8 a person who is a member of a local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 16.1.9 a person who is the subject of a disqualification order made under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986.
- 16.1.10 a person who has failed without reasonable cause to fulfil any training requirement established by the Board of Directors.
- 16.1.11 a person who has failed to sign and deliver to the Secretary a statement in the form required by the Board of Directors confirming acceptance of the Directors' Code of Conduct.
- 16.1.12 a person who is an Immediate Family Member of a Director or a Governor.
- 16.1.13 a person who is the subject of a Sex Offenders Order and/or their name is included in the Sex Offenders Register.
- 16.1.14 a person who by reference to information revealed by a Disclosure and Barring Service check is considered by the Trust to be inappropriate on the grounds that their appointment may adversely affect public confidence in the Trust or otherwise bring the Trust into disrepute.
- 16.1.15 a person who has demonstrated aggressive or violent behaviour (such as verbal assault, physical assault, violence or harassment) at any Hospital or other NHS establishment or against any of the Trust's or (as the case may be) the Trust's employees or other persons who exercise the functions for the purposes of the Trust, whether or not in circumstances leading to their removal or exclusion from any Hospital or other NHS establishment; or
- 16.1.16 subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Appendix 1 of Annex 5, a person who lacks or loses capacity for any reason, including through

illness or injury, resulting in them being unable to manage and/or administer their property and/or their affairs.

17 Board of Directors – Meetings

- 17.1 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 by resolution of the Board of Directors on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for the other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the business or nature of the proceedings.
- 17.2 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.

18 Board of Directors – Standing Orders

- 18.1 The Standing Orders for the Board of Directors are attached at Annex 5.

19 Board of Directors - Conflicts of Interest of Directors

- 19.1 The duties that a Director of the Trust has by virtue of being a directors include in particular:
 - 19.1.1 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 Trust (a "Conflict").
 - 19.1.2 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.
- 19.2 The duty referred to in sub-paragraph 19.1.1 above is not infringed if:
 - 19.2.1 the situation cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest, or
 - 19.2.2 the matter has been authorised in accordance with the Constitution.
- 19.3 The duty referred to in paragraph 19.1.2 above is not infringed if acceptance of the benefit cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
- 19.4 In paragraph 19.1.2 above, "third party" means a person other than:

- 19.4.1 the Trust, or
- 19.4.2 a person acting on its behalf.

- 19.5 If a Director of the Trust has in any way a direct or indirect interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Trust, the Director must declare the nature and extent of that interest to the other Directors.
- 19.6 If a declaration under this paragraph proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate, incomplete, a further declaration must be made.
- 19.7 Any declaration required by this paragraph must be made before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement.
- 19.8 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.
- 19.9 A Director need not declare an interest:
 - 19.9.1 if it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest.
 - 19.9.2 if, or to the extent that, the Directors are already aware of it.
 - 19.9.3 if, or to the extent that, it concerns terms of the Director's appointment that have been or are to be considered:
 - 19.9.3.1 by a meeting of the Board of Directors, or
 - 19.9.3.2 by a committee of the Directors appointed for the purpose under the Constitution.
- 19.10 A matter shall have been authorised for the purposes of paragraph 19.2.2 above if:
 - 19.10.1 the Directors, in accordance with the requirements set out in paragraph 19.10, authorise any matter or situation proposed to them by any Director which would, if not authorised, involve a director (an "Interested Director") breaching their duty under paragraph 19.2.1 above to avoid Conflicts:
 - 19.10.1.1 the matter in question shall have been proposed by any Director for consideration in the same way that any other matter may be proposed to the Directors under the provisions of this Constitution.
 - 19.10.1.2 any requirement as to the quorum for consideration of the relevant matter is met without counting the Interested Director or any other Interest Director; and
 - 19.10.1.3 the matter was agreed to without the Interested Director voting or would have been agreed to if the Interested Director's and any other Interested Director's vote had not been counted.

19.10.2 Any authorisation of a Conflict under this paragraph 19.10 may (whether at the time of giving the authorisation or subsequently):

- 19.10.2.1 extend to any actual or potential conflict of interest which may reasonably be expected to arise out of the Conflict so authorised.
- 19.10.2.2 provide that the Interested Director be excluded from the receipt of documents and information and the participation in discussions (whether at meetings of the Directors or otherwise) related to the Conflict.
- 19.10.2.3 provide that the Interested Director be shall or shall not be an eligible Director in respect of any future decision of the Directors in relation to any resolution related to the Conflict.
- 19.10.2.4 impose upon the Interested Director such other terms for the purposes of dealing with the Conflict as the Directors think fit.
- 19.10.2.5 provide that, where the Interested Director obtains, or has obtained (through their involvement in the Conflict and otherwise than through their position as a Director of the Trust) information that is confidential to a third party, they will not be obliged to disclose that information to the Board of Directors, or to use it in relation to the Trust's affairs where to do so would amount to a breach of that confidence; and
- 19.10.2.6 permit the Interested Director to be absent from the discussion of matters relating to the Conflict at any meeting of the Directors and be excused from reviewing papers prepared by, or for, the Directors to the extent they relate to such matters.

19.10.3 Where the Directors authorise a Conflict, the Interested Director will be obliged to conduct themselves in accordance with any terms imposed by the Directors in relation to the Conflict.

19.10.4 The Directors may revoke or vary such authorisation at any time, but this will not affect anything done by the Interested Director, prior to such revocation or variation in accordance with the terms of such authorisation.

19.10.5 A Director is not required, by reason of being a Director, to account to the Trust for any remuneration, profit or other benefit which they derive from or in connection with a relationship involving a Conflict which has been authorised by the Directors (subject in each case to any terms, limits or conditions attaching to that authorisation) and no contract shall be liable to be avoided on such grounds.

20 Board of Directors – Remuneration and Terms of Office

- 20.1 The Council of Governors at a formal 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.
- 20.2 The 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.

21 Registers

- 21.1 The Trust shall have:

- 21.1.1 a register of Members showing, in respect of each Member, the constituency to which they belong and, where there are classes within it, the class to which
- 21.1.2 a register of members of the Council of Governors.
- 21.1.3 a register of interests of the members of the Council of Governors.
- 21.1.4 a register of the members of the Board of Directors.
- 21.1.5 a register of interests of the members of the Board Directors.
- 21.1.6 a register of Designated Organisations.

- 21.2 The Secretary shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining the registers in paragraph 21.1 above, and the registers may be kept in either paper or electronic form. Admission to and removal from any register shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. The Secretary shall update the registers with new or amended information as soon as is practical and in any event within 14 calendar days of receipt.

22 Admission to and Removal from the Registers

- 22.1 Register of Members

The Secretary shall maintain the register of Members in two parts:

- 22.1.1 Part one, which shall be the register referred to in the 2006 Act, shall include the name of each Member and the constituency and where there are classes within it, the class to which they belong, and shall be open to inspection by the public in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 below.
- 22.1.2 Part two shall contain all the information from the application referred to in paragraph 6.2 above and shall not be open to inspection by the public nor may copies or extracts from it be made available to any third party (save to the extent that copies or extracts from it be made available to any third

party appointed by the Trust to maintain the register of the Members and to conduct elections in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7.2 above).

22.1.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 22.1.1 and 22.1.2 above, the Trust shall extract such information as it needs in aggregate to satisfy itself that the actual membership of the Trust is representative of those eligible for membership and for the administration of the provisions of this Constitution.

22.2 Register of members of the Council of Governors

The register of members of the Council of Governors shall list:

22.2.1 the name of each Governor.

22.2.2 their category of membership of the Council of Governors (public, staff, patients', university, local authority, or partnership organisation); and

22.2.3 an address through which they may be contacted which may be the Secretary.

22.3 Register of interests of the Council of Governors

The register of interests of the members of the Council of Governors shall contain:

22.3.1 the names of each Governor.

22.3.2 whether they have declared any interests and, if so, the interests declared in accordance with this Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Council of Governors.

22.4 Register of the members of the Board of Directors

The register of the members of the Board of Directors shall list:

22.4.1 the names of Directors.

22.4.2 their capacity on the Board of Directors; and

22.4.3 an address through which they may be contacted which may be the Secretary.

22.5 Register of interests of Board of Directors

Register of interests of members of the Board of Directors shall contain:

22.5.1 names of each Director.

22.5.2 whether they have declared any interests and, if so, the interests declared in accordance with this Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Board of Directors.

22.6 Register of Designated Organisations

The register shall contain the names of each Designated Organisation which is designated by the Trust for the purposes of membership of the Trust.

23 Registers – Inspection and Copies

23.1 The Trust shall make the registers available as specified in paragraphs 22.1 to 22.6 above available for inspection by members of the public, except in the circumstances set out below in paragraph 23.2 or as otherwise prescribed by regulations.

23.2 The 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 Trust, if the Member so requests.

23.3 So far as the registers are required to be made available:

23.3.1 they are subject to paragraph 23.4 below to be available for inspection free of charge at all reasonable times; and

23.3.2 a person who requests a copy of or extract from the registers is to be provided with a copy or extract.

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

24 Documents Available for Public Inspection

24.1 Subject to paragraph 24.3 below, the Trust shall make the following documents available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times as well as on the Trust's website:

24.1.1 a copy of the current Constitution.

24.1.2 a copy of the latest Annual Accounts and of any report of the Auditor on them; and

24.1.3 a copy of the latest Annual Report.

24.2 The Trust shall also make the following documents relating to a special administration of the Trust available for inspection by members of the public free of charge at all reasonable times:

24.2.1 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.
- 24.2.2 a copy of any report laid under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.2.3 a copy of any information published under section 65D (appointment of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.2.4 a copy of any draft report published under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.2.5 a copy of any statement provided under section 65F (administrator's draft report) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.2.6 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 (NHS England's decision), 65KB (Secretary of State's response to NHS England's decision), 65KC (action following Secretary of State's rejection of final report) or 65KD (Secretary of State's response to re-submitted final report) of the 2006 Act;
- 24.2.7 a copy of any statement published or provided under section 65G (consultation plan) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.2.8 a copy of any final report published under section 65I (administrator's final report).
- 24.2.9 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
- 24.2.10 a copy of any information published under section 65M (replacement of trust special administrator) of the 2006 Act.
- 24.3 Subject to paragraph 24.4 below, any person who request a copy of or extract from any of the above documents is to be provided with a copy or extract.
- 24.4 If the person requesting a copy or extract is not a Member of the Trust, the Trust may impose a reasonable charge for doing so.

25 Auditor

- 25.1 The Trust is to have an Auditor.
- 25.2 The Council of Governors shall appoint or remove the Auditor at a general meeting of the Council of Governors.
- 25.3 In appointing the Auditor, the Council of Governors shall have regard to the recommendations (if any) of the Audit Committee.
- 25.4 The Accounting Officer shall ensure that the Auditor is to carry out their duties in accordance with Schedule 10 to the 2006 Act and in accordance with any guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England on standards, procedures and techniques to be adopted.

- 25.5 The Board of Directors may resolve that an "external consultant" be appointed to review and publish a report on any other aspect of the Trust's performance. Any such "external consultant" is to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

26 Audit and Risk Committee

The Board of Directors shall cause the Trust to establish a committee of Non-Executive Directors as an Audit and Risk Committee to perform such monitoring, reviewing and other functions as are appropriate.

27 Accounts and Records

- 27.1 The Trust must keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to those accounts.
- 27.2 NHS England may with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health, give directions to the Trust as to the content and form of its accounts.
- 27.3 The accounts are to be audited by the Auditor.
- 27.4 The Trust shall prepare in respect of each Financial Year, Annual Accounts in such form as NHS England may with the approval of the Secretary of State for Health direct.
- 27.5 The functions of the Trust referred to in this paragraph 27 shall be delegated to the Accounting Officer.

28 Annual Report, Forward Plans and Non-NHS Work

- 28.1 The Trust shall prepare an Annual Report and send it to NHS England.
- 28.2 Each Annual Report must give:
- 28.2.1 information on any steps taken by the Trust to secure that (taken as a whole) the actual membership of any Public Constituency is representative of those eligible for such membership.
 - 28.2.2 information on the impact that income received by the Trust otherwise than from the fulfilment of the Principal Purpose has had on the provision by the Trust of goods and services for those purposes; and
 - 28.2.3 such other information as may be prescribed by NHS England.
- 28.3 The Trust shall give the Forward Plan in respect of each Financial Year to NHS Improvement.
- 28.4 The Forward Plan shall be prepared by the Board of Directors.
- 28.5 In preparing the Forward Plan, the Board of Directors shall have regard to the views of the Council of Governors.
- 28.6 Each Forward Plan must include information about:

28.6.1 the activities other than the provision of goods and services for the purposes of the health service in England that the Trust proposes to carry on; and

28.6.2 the income that it expects to receive from doing so.

28.7 Where a Forward Plan contains a proposal that the Trust carry on an activity of a kind mentioned in paragraph 28.6.1 above, the Council of Governors must:

28.7.1 determine whether it is satisfied that the carrying on of the activity will not to any significant extent interfere with the fulfilment by the Trust of its Principal Purpose or the performance of its other functions; and

28.7.2 notify the Directors of the Trust of its determination.

28.8 The 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 at a meeting of the Council of Governors approve the implementation of the proposal.

29 Presentation of the Annual Accounts and Reports To The Governors and Members

29.1 The following documents are to be presented to the Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors:

29.1.1 the Annual Accounts.

29.1.2 any report of the Auditor on them; and

29.1.3 the Annual Report.

29.2 The documents shall also be presented to the Members of the Trust at the Annual Members' Meeting by at least one member of the Board of Directors in attendance.

29.3 The Trust may combine a meeting of the Council of Governors convened for the purposes of sub-paragraph 29.1 above with the Annual Members' Meeting.

30 Instruments

30.1 The Trust shall have a seal.

30.2 The seal shall not be affixed except under the authority of the Board of Directors as set out in the Standing Orders for the Board of Directors.

31 Amendment of The Constitution

31.1 The Trust may make amendments of its Constitution only if:

31.1.1 more than half of the members of the Council of Governors of the Trust present and voting at a meeting of the Council of Governors approve the amendments, and

31.1.2 more than half of the members of the Board of Directors of the Trust present and voting at a meeting of the Board of Directors approve the amendments.

31.2 Amendments made under paragraph 31.1 above 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.

31.3 Where an amendment is made to the Constitution in relation 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 Trust):

31.3.1 at least one member of the Council of Governors must attend the next Annual Members' Meeting and present the amendment, and

31.3.2 the Trust must give the Members an opportunity to vote on whether they approve the amendment.

31.4 If more than half of the Members present and voting at the Annual Members' Meeting approve the amendment, the amendment continues to have effect; otherwise, it ceases to have effect, and the Trust must take such steps as are necessary as a result.

31.5 Amendments by the Trust of its Constitution are to be notified to NHS England. For the avoidance of doubt, NHS England'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.

32 Mergers Etc. and Significant Transactions

32.1 The 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.

32.2 The Trust may enter into a significant transaction only if more than half of the members of the Council of Governors of the Trust voting approve entering into the transaction.

Annexes

Annex 1 The Trust Constituencies

Public Constituency			
Name Of Constituency	Area	Minimum Number of Members	Number of Governors
Ashford	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Ashford Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Ashford Borough Council	50	1
Canterbury	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Canterbury City Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Canterbury City Council	50	1
Dartford	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Dartford Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Dartford Borough Council	50	1
Dover	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Dover District Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Dover District Council	50	1
Gravesham	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Gravesham Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Gravesham Borough Council	50	1
Maidstone	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Maidstone Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Maidstone Borough Council	50	1
Sevenoaks	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Sevenoaks District Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Sevenoaks District Council	50	1
Folkestone and Hythe	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Folkestone and Hythe District Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Folkestone and Hythe District Council	50	1
Swale	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Swale Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Swale Borough Council	50	1
Thanet	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Thanet District Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Thanet District Council	50	1
Tonbridge	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	50	1

Tunbridge Wells	The electoral ward areas comprising the area covered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and for the avoidance of doubt any successor of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	50	1
Rest of England	All other electoral ward areas in England except those comprising: Ashford Canterbury Dartford Dover Gravesham Maidstone Sevenoaks Folkestone and Hythe Swale Thanet Tonbridge Tunbridge Wells	25	1
Totals	Minimum Members	625	
	Public Governors		13
Staff Constituency			
Name of Constituency	Area	Minimum Number of Members	Number of Governors
Staff	Staff employed by the Trust under a contract of employment, as specified under 6.4.1	100	6

Annex 2 Composition of Council of Governors

The composition of the Council of Governors shall be as follows:

1 Composition

1.1 The Council of Governors shall comprise:

1.1.1 13 Public Governors;

- one (1) being elected from the Ashford Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Canterbury Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Dartford Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Dover Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Gravesham Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Maidstone Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Sevenoaks Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Folkestone and Hythe Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Swale Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Thanet Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Tonbridge Public Constituency;
- one (1) being elected from the Tunbridge Wells Public Constituency; and
- one (1) being elected from the Rest of England Public Constituency.

1.1.2 6 Staff Governors;

- Six (6) being elected from the Staff Constituency.

1.1.3 1 Kent County Council Governor;

who have, in the considered view of the County Council the in-depth experience and background to be of greatest value to the Council.

1.1.4 4 Appointed Governors

- one (1) being appointed from a University;
- three (3) being appointed from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSC) or other key stakeholder or partner organisations, as agreed by the Council of Governors.

1.2 The aggregate number of Public Governors is to be more than half of the total membership of the Council of Governors.

2 Appointed Governors

2.1 Kent County Council Governor

2.1.1 Subject to paragraph 2.3 of this Annex 3, Kent County Council may appoint 1 one Governor by notice in writing and delivered to the Secretary.

2.2 Appointed Governors

Subject to paragraph 2.3 of this Annex 3, the following organisations can appoint a Governor by notice in writing signed and delivered to the Secretary:

2.2.1 University Governor – This will be one representative agreed between the Kent and/or Medway Universities

2.2.2 Voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSC) or other key stakeholder or partner organisations, as agreed by the Council of Governors

2.3 Chair's right of veto

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above, the Chair may veto the appointment of an Appointed Governor by serving notice in writing to the relevant sponsoring organisation or Partnership Organisation (as the case may be) where they believe that the appointment in question is unreasonable, irrational or otherwise inappropriate. Following the service of the notice the sponsoring organisation or the Partnership Organisation shall thereupon appoint an alternative individual in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above (as appropriate). Any decision should be recorded.

Annex 3 The Model Rules For Elections

(Paragraph 13)

MODEL ELECTION RULES 2014

PART 1: INTERPRETATION

1. Interpretation

PART 2: TIMETABLE FOR ELECTION

2. Timetable
3. Computation of time

PART 3: RETURNING OFFICER

4. Returning officer
5. Staff
6. Expenditure
7. Duty of co-operation

PART 4: STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

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9. Nomination of candidates
10. Candidate's particulars
11. Declaration of interests
12. Declaration of eligibility
13. Signature of candidate
14. Decisions as to validity of nomination forms
15. Publication of statement of nominated candidates
16. Inspection of statement of nominated candidates and nomination forms
17. Withdrawal of candidates
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20. The ballot paper
21. The declaration of identity (public and patient constituencies)

Action to be taken before the poll

22. List of eligible voters
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25. Ballot paper envelope and covering envelope
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The poll

27. Eligibility to vote
28. Voting by persons who require assistance
29. Spoilt ballot papers and spoilt text message votes

- 30. Lost voting information
- 31. Issue of replacement voting information
- 32. ID declaration form for replacement ballot papers (public and patient constituencies)
- 33. Procedure for remote voting by internet
- 34. Procedure for remote voting by telephone
- 35. Procedure for remote voting by text message

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

- 36. Receipt of voting documents
- 37. Validity of votes
- 38. Declaration of identity but no ballot (public and patient constituency)
- 39. De-duplication of votes
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PART 6: COUNTING THE VOTES

- STV41. Interpretation of Part 6
- 42. Arrangements for counting of the votes
- 43. The count
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- STV47. Transfer of votes
- STV48. Supplementary provisions on transfer
- STV49. Exclusion of candidates
- STV50. Filling of last vacancies
- STV51. Order of election of candidates
- FPP51. Equality of votes

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- FPP52. Declaration of result for contested elections
- STV52. Declaration of result for contested elections
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PART 8: DISPOSAL OF DOCUMENTS

- 54. Sealing up of documents relating to the poll
- 55. Delivery of documents
- 56. Forwarding of documents received after close of the poll
- 57. Retention and public inspection of documents
- 58. Application for inspection of certain documents relating to election

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- FPP59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate
- STV59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

PART 10: ELECTION EXPENSES AND PUBLICITY

Expenses

- 60. Election expenses
- 61. Expenses and payments by candidates
- 62. Expenses incurred by other persons

Publicity

- 63. Publicity about election by the corporation
- 64. Information about candidates for inclusion with voting information
- 65. Meaning of “for the purposes of an election”

PART 11: QUESTIONING ELECTIONS AND IRREGULARITIES

- 66. Application to question an election

PART 12: MISCELLANEOUS

- 67. Secrecy
- 68. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
- 69. Disqualification
- 70. Delay in postal service through industrial action or unforeseen event

1. Interpretation

1.1 In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

“*2006 Act*” means the National Health Service Act 2006;
 “*corporation*” means the public benefit corporation subject to this constitution;
 “*council of governors*” means the council of governors of the corporation;
 “*declaration of identity*” has the meaning set out in rule 21.1;
 “*election*” means an election by a constituency, or by a class within a constituency, to fill a vacancy among one or more posts on the council of governors;
 “*e-voting*” means voting using either the internet, telephone or text message;
 “*e-voting information*” has the meaning set out in rule 24.2;
 “*ID declaration form*” has the meaning set out in Rule 21.1; “*internet voting record*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.4(d);
 “*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;
 “*lead governor*” means the governor elected by the Council of Governors to fulfil the role described in Appendix B, section 4 of the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance 2022 (NHS England)
 “*list of eligible voters*” means the list referred to in rule 22.1, containing the information in rule 22.2;
 “*method of polling*” means a method of casting a vote in a poll, which may be by post, internet, text message or telephone;
 “*NHS England*” means the corporate body known as NHS England as provided by section 61 of the 2012 Act;

 “*numerical voting code*” has the meaning set out in rule 64.2(b)
 “*polling website*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.1;
 “*postal voting information*” has the meaning set out in rule 24.1;
 “*telephone short code*” means a short telephone number used for the purposes of submitting a vote by text message;
 “*telephone voting facility*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.2;
 “*telephone voting record*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.5 (d);
 “*text message voting facility*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.3;
 “*text voting record*” has the meaning set out in rule 26.6 (d);
 “*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,
 “*voting information*” means postal voting information and/or e-voting information

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 FOR ELECTIONS

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 forms 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.

3. 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.

4. Returning Officer

- 4.1 Subject to rule 69, 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.

5. Staff

- 5.1 Subject to rule 69, the returning officer may appoint and pay such staff, including such technical advisers, as they consider necessary for the purposes of the election.

6. Expenditure

- 6.1 The corporation is to pay the returning officer:
- (a) any expenses incurred by that officer in the exercise of their or her functions under these rules,
 - (b) such remuneration and other expenses as the corporation may determine.

7. Duty of co-operation

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

PART 4: STAGES COMMON TO CONTESTED AND UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

8. Notice of election

8.1 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 forms may be obtained;
- (e) the address for return of nomination forms (including, where the return of nomination forms in an electronic format will be permitted, the e-mail address for such return) 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.

9. Nomination of candidates

9.1 Subject to rule 9.2, each candidate must nominate themselves on a single nomination form.

9.2 The returning officer:

- (a) is to supply any member of the corporation with a nomination form, and
 - (b) is to prepare a nomination form 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 a nomination can, subject to rule 13, be in an electronic format.

10. Candidate's particulars

10.1 The nomination form must state the candidate's:

- (a) full name,
- (b) contact address in full (which should be a postal address although an e-mail address may also be provided for the purposes of electronic communication), and
- (c) constituency, or class within a constituency, of which the candidate is a member.

11. Declaration of interests

11.1 The nomination form 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.

12. Declaration of eligibility

12.1 The nomination form must include a declaration made by the candidate:

- (a) that they are 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 their qualification to vote as a member of that constituency, or class within that constituency, for which the election is being held.

13. Signature of candidate

13.1 The nomination form 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.

13.2 Where the return of nomination forms in an electronic format is permitted, the returning officer shall specify the particular signature formalities (if any) that will need to be complied with by the candidate.

14. Decisions as to the validity of nomination

14.1 Where a nomination form 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 form 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.

14.2 The returning officer is entitled to decide that a nomination form 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 forms, 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, if required by rule 13.

14.3 The returning officer is to examine each nomination form as soon as is practicable after they have 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 form, 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 form. If an e-mail address has been given in the candidate's nomination form (in addition to the candidate's postal address), the returning officer may send notice of the decision to that address.

15. 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 (which shall be the candidate's postal 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 form.
- 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 forms to the corporation as soon as is practicable after publishing the statement.
- 16. Inspection of statement of nominated candidates and nomination forms**
- 16.1 The corporation is to make the statement of the candidates and the nomination forms 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 member of the corporation requests a copy or extract of the statement of candidates or their nomination forms, the corporation is to provide that member with the copy or extract free of charge.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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 them in consultation with the corporation.

19. Poll to be taken by ballot

- 19.1 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 that voters within a constituency or class within a constituency, may, subject to rule 19.4, cast their votes at the poll using such different methods of polling in any combination as the corporation may determine.
- 19.4 The corporation may decide that voters within a constituency or class within a constituency for whom an e-mail address is included in the list of eligible voters may only cast their votes at the poll using an e-voting method of polling.
- 19.5 Before the corporation decides, in accordance with rule 19.3 that one or more e-voting methods of polling will be made available for the purposes of the poll, the corporation must satisfy itself that:
- (a) if internet voting is to be a method of polling, the internet voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is:
 - (i) configured in accordance with these rules; and
 - (ii) will create an accurate internet voting record in respect of any voter who casts their vote using the internet voting system;
 - (b) if telephone voting to be a method of polling, the telephone voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is:
 - (i) configured in accordance with these rules; and
 - (ii) will create an accurate telephone voting record in respect of any voter who casts their vote using the telephone voting system;
 - (c) if text message voting is to be a method of polling, the text message voting system to be used for the purpose of the election is:
 - (i) configured in accordance with these rules; and
 - (ii) will create an accurate text voting record in respect of any voter who casts their using the text message voting system.

20. The ballot paper

- 20.1 The ballot of each voter (other than a voter who casts their ballot by an e-voting method of polling) 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 voter's voter ID number if one or more e-voting methods of polling are available,
 - (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.

21. The declaration of identity (public and patient constituencies)

21.1 The corporation shall require each voter who participates in an election for a public or patient constituency to make a declaration confirming:

- (a) that the voter is the person:
 - (i) to whom the ballot paper was addressed, and/or
 - (ii) to whom the voter ID number contained within the e-voting information was allocated,
- (b) that they have not marked or returned any other voting information in the election, and
- (c) the particulars of their qualification to vote as a member of the constituency or class within the constituency for which the election is being held,

("declaration of identity")

and the corporation shall make such arrangements as it considers appropriate to facilitate the making and the return of a declaration of identity by each voter, whether by the completion of a paper form ("ID declaration form") or the use of an electronic method.

21.2 The voter must be required to return their declaration of identity with their ballot.

21.3 The voting information shall caution the voter that if the declaration of identity is not duly returned or is returned without having been made correctly, any vote cast by the voter may be declared invalid.

Action to be taken before the poll

22. List of eligible voters

22.1 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 27 as soon as is reasonably practicable after the final date for the delivery of notices of withdrawals by candidates from an election.

22.2 The list is to include, for each member:

- (a) a postal address; and,
 - (b) the member's e-mail address, if this has been provided
- to which their voting information may, subject to rule 22.3, be sent.

22.3 The corporation may decide that the e-voting information is to be sent only by e-mail to those members in the list of eligible voters for whom an e-mail address is included in that list.

23. Notice of poll

23.1 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 within 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) that the ballot papers for the election are to be issued and returned, if appropriate, by post,
- (f) the methods of polling by which votes may be cast at the election by voters in a constituency or class within a constituency, as determined by the corporation in accordance with rule 19.3,
- (g) the address for return of the ballot papers,
- (h) the uniform resource locator (url) where, if internet voting is a method of polling, the polling website is located;
- (i) the telephone number where, if telephone voting is a method of polling, the telephone voting facility is located,
- (j) the telephone number or telephone short code where, if text message voting is a method of polling, the text message voting facility is located,
- (k) the date and time of the close of the poll,
- (l) the address and final dates for applications for replacement voting information, and
- (m) the contact details of the returning officer.

24. Issue of voting information by returning officer

24.1 Subject to rule 24.3, 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 information by post to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters:

- (a) a ballot paper and ballot paper envelope,
- (b) the ID declaration form (if required),
- (c) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 61 of these rules, and
- (d) a covering envelope;

("postal voting information").

24.2 Subject to rules 24.3 and 24.4, 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 information by e-mail and/ or by post to each member of the corporation named in the list of eligible voters whom the corporation determines in accordance with rule 19.3 and/ or rule 19.4 may cast [their](#) vote by an e-voting method of polling:

- (a) instructions on how to vote and how to make a declaration of identity (if required),
- (b) the voter's voter ID number,
- (c) information about each candidate standing for election, pursuant to rule 64 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, (d) contact details of the returning officer,

("e-voting information").

24.3 The corporation may determine that any member of the corporation shall:

- (a) only be sent postal voting information; or
- (b) only be sent e-voting information; or
- (c) be sent both postal voting information and e-voting information;

for the purposes of the poll.

24.4 If the corporation determines, in accordance with rule 22.3, that the e-voting information is to be sent only by e-mail to those members in the list of eligible voters for whom an e-mail address is included in that list, then the returning officer shall only send that information by e-mail.

24.5 The voting information is to be sent to the postal address and/ or e-mail address for each member, as specified in the list of eligible voters.

25. Ballot paper envelope and covering envelope

25.1 The ballot paper envelope must have clear instructions to the voter printed on it, instructing the voter to seal the ballot paper inside the envelope once the ballot paper has been marked.

25.2 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.

25.3 There should be clear instructions, either printed on the covering envelope or elsewhere, instructing the voter to seal the following documents inside the covering envelope and return it to the returning officer –

- (a) the completed ID declaration form if required, and
- (b) the ballot paper envelope, with the ballot paper sealed inside it.

26. E-voting systems

26.1 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").

26.2 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").

26.3 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").

26.4 The returning officer shall ensure that the polling website and internet voting system provided will:

- (a) require a voter to:
 - (i) enter their voter ID number; and
 - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;in order to be able to cast their vote;
- (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

- (v) nominated candidates,
 - (vi) instructions on how to vote and how to make a declaration of identity,
 - (vii) the date and time of the close of the poll, and
 - (viii) the contact details of the returning officer;
- (c) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than they are entitled to at the election;
- (d) create a record ("internet voting record") that is stored in the internet voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter using the internet that comprises of-
 - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
 - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
 - (iii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
 - (iv) the date and time of the voter's vote,
- (e) if the voter's vote has been duly cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this; and
- (f) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.

26.5 The returning officer shall ensure that the telephone voting facility and telephone voting system provided will:

- (a) require a voter to
 - (i) enter their voter ID number in order to be able to cast their vote; and
 - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;
- (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 and how to make a declaration of identity,
 - (v) the date and time of the close of the poll, and
 - (vi) the contact details of the returning officer;
- (c) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than they are entitled to at the election;
- (d) create a record ("telephone voting record") that is stored in the telephone voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter using the telephone that comprises of:
 - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
 - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
 - (iii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
 - (iv) the date and time of the voter's vote
- (e) if the voter's vote has been duly cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this;
- (f) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.

26.6 The returning officer shall ensure that the text message voting facility and text messaging voting system provided will:

- (a) require a voter to:
 - (i) provide their voter ID number; and
 - (ii) where the election is for a public or patient constituency, make a declaration of identity;
 in order to be able to cast their vote;
- (b) prevent a voter from voting for more candidates than they are entitled to at the election;

- (d) create a record ("text voting record") that is stored in the text messaging voting system in respect of each vote cast by a voter by text message that comprises of:
 - (i) the voter's voter ID number;
 - (ii) the voter's declaration of identity (where required);
 - (ii) the candidate or candidates for whom the voter has voted; and
 - (iii) the date and time of the voter's vote
- (e) if the voter's vote has been duly cast and recorded, provide the voter with confirmation of this;
- (f) prevent any voter from voting after the close of poll.

The poll

27. Eligibility to vote

- 27.1 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.

28. Voting by persons who require assistance

- 28.1 The returning officer is to put in place arrangements to enable requests for assistance to vote to be made.
- 28.2 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.

29. Spoilt ballot papers and spoilt text message votes

- 29.1 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.
- 29.2 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.
- 29.3 The returning officer may not issue a replacement ballot paper for a spoilt ballot paper unless they:
 - (a) are satisfied as to the voter's identity; and
 - (b) have ensured that the completed ID declaration form, if required, has not been returned.
- 29.4 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) the name of the voter, 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 ballot paper.
- 29.5 If a voter has dealt with their text message vote in such a manner that it cannot be accepted as a vote (referred to as a "spoilt text message vote"), that voter may apply to the returning officer for a replacement voter ID number.
- 29.6 On receiving an application, the returning officer is to obtain the details of the voter ID

number on the spoilt text message vote, if they can obtain it.

29.7 The returning officer may not issue a replacement voter ID number in respect of a spoilt text message vote unless they are satisfied as to the voter's identity.

29.8 After issuing a replacement voter ID number in respect of a spoilt text message vote, the returning officer shall enter in a list ("the list of spoilt text message votes"):

- (a) the name of the voter, and
- (b) the details of the voter ID number on the spoilt text message vote (if that officer was able to obtain it), and
- (c) the details of the replacement voter ID number issued to the voter.

30. Lost voting information

30.1 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.

30.2 The returning officer may not issue replacement voting information in respect of 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,
- (c) have ensured that no declaration of identity, if required, has been returned.

30.3 After issuing replacement voting information in respect of lost voting information, the returning officer shall enter in a list ("the list of lost ballot documents"):

- (a) the name of the voter
- (b) the details of the unique identifier of the replacement ballot paper, if applicable, and
- (c) the voter ID number of the voter.

31. Issue of replacement voting information

31.1 If a person applies for replacement voting information under rule 29 or 30 and a declaration of identity has already been received by the returning officer in the name of that voter, the returning officer may not issue replacement voting information unless, in addition to the requirements imposed by rule 29.3 or 30.2, they are also satisfied that that person has not already voted in the election, notwithstanding the fact that a declaration of identity if required has already been received by the returning officer in the name of that voter.

31.2 After issuing replacement voting information under this rule, the returning officer shall enter in a list ("the list of tendered voting information"):

- (a) the name of the voter,
- (b) the unique identifier of any replacement ballot paper issued under this rule;
- (c) the voter ID number of the voter.

32. ID declaration form for replacement ballot papers (public and patient constituencies)

32.1 In respect of an election for a public or patient constituency an ID declaration form must be issued with each replacement ballot paper requiring the voter to make a declaration of identity.

Polling by internet, telephone or text

33. Procedure for remote voting by internet

- 33.1 To cast their vote using the internet, a voter will need to gain access to the polling website by keying in the url of the polling website provided in the voting information.
- 33.2 When prompted to do so, the voter will need to enter their voter ID number.
- 33.3 If the internet voting system authenticates the voter ID number, the system will give the voter access to the polling website for the election in which the voter is eligible to vote.
- 33.4 To cast their vote, the voter will need to key in a mark on the screen opposite the particulars of the candidate or candidates for whom they wish to cast their vote.
- 33.5 The voter will not be able to access the internet voting system for an election once their vote at that election has been cast.

34. Voting procedure for remote voting by telephone

- 34.1 To cast their vote by telephone, the voter will need to gain access to the telephone voting facility by calling the designated telephone number provided in the voter information using a telephone with a touch-tone keypad.
- 34.2 When prompted to do so, the voter will need to enter their voter ID number using the keypad.
- 34.3 If the telephone voting facility authenticates the voter ID number, the voter will be prompted to vote in the election.
- 34.4 When prompted to do so the voter may then cast their vote by keying in the numerical voting code of the candidate or candidates, for whom they wish to vote.
- 34.5 The voter will not be able to access the telephone voting facility for an election once their vote at that election has been cast.

35. Voting procedure for remote voting by text message

- 35.1 To cast their vote by text message the voter will need to gain access to the text message voting facility by sending a text message to the designated telephone number or telephone short code provided in the voter information.
- 35.2 The text message sent by the voter must contain their voter ID number and the numerical voting code for the candidate or candidates, for whom they wish to vote.
- 35.3 The text message sent by the voter will need to be structured in accordance with the instructions on how to vote contained in the voter information, otherwise the vote will not be cast.

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

36. Receipt of voting documents

- 36.1 Where the returning officer receives:
 - (a) a covering envelope, or
 - (b) any other envelope containing an ID declaration form if required, a ballot paper envelope, or a ballot paper,before the close of the poll, that officer is to open it as soon as is practicable; and rules 37 and 38 are to apply.

- 36.2 The returning officer may open any covering envelope or any ballot paper envelope for the purposes of rules 37 and 38, 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.

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

37. Validity of votes

- 37.1 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, with an ID declaration form if required that has been correctly completed, signed and dated.

- 37.2 Where the returning officer is satisfied that rule 37.1 has been fulfilled, they are to:

- (a) put the ID declaration form if required in a separate packet, and
- (b) put the ballot paper aside for counting after the close of the poll.

- 37.3 Where the returning officer is not satisfied that rule 37.1 has been fulfilled, they are to:

- (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
- (b) if there is an ID declaration form accompanying the ballot paper, mark it “disqualified” and attach it to the ballot paper,
- (c) record the unique identifier on the ballot paper in a list of disqualified documents (the “list of disqualified documents”); and
- (d) place the document or documents in a separate packet.

- 37.4 An internet, telephone or text message vote shall not be taken to be duly returned unless the returning officer is satisfied that the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) has been received by the returning officer before the close of the poll, with a declaration of identity if required that has been correctly made.

- 37.5 Where the returning officer is satisfied that rule 37.4 has been fulfilled, they are to put the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) aside for counting after the close of the poll.

- 37.6 Where the returning officer is not satisfied that rule 37.4 has been fulfilled, they are to:

- (a) mark the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) “disqualified”,
- (b) record the voter ID number on the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) in the list of disqualified documents; and
- (c) place the document or documents in a separate packet.

38. Declaration of identity but no ballot paper (public and patient constituency)¹

- 38.1 Where the returning officer receives an ID declaration form if required but no ballot paper, the returning officer is to:

- (a) mark the ID declaration form “disqualified”,
- (b) record the name of the voter in the list of disqualified documents, indicating that a declaration of identity was received from the voter without a ballot paper, and
- (c) place the ID declaration form in a separate packet.

¹ It should not be possible, technically, to make a declaration of identity electronically without also submitting a vote.

39. De-duplication of votes

39.1 Where different methods of polling are being used in an election, 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 the election.

39.2 If the returning officer ascertains that a voter ID number has been used more than once to cast a vote in the election they shall:

- (a) only accept as duly returned the first vote received that was cast using the relevant voter ID number; and
- (b) mark as “disqualified” all other votes that were cast using the relevant voter ID number

39.3 Where a ballot paper is disqualified under this rule the returning officer shall:

- (a) mark the ballot paper “disqualified”,
- (b) if there is an ID declaration form accompanying the ballot paper, mark it “disqualified” and attach it to the ballot paper,
- (c) record the unique identifier and the voter ID number on the ballot paper in the list of disqualified documents;
- (d) place the document or documents in a separate packet; and
- (e) disregard the ballot paper when counting the votes in accordance with these rules.

39.4 Where an internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record is disqualified under this rule the returning officer shall:

- (a) mark the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) “disqualified”,
- (b) record the voter ID number on the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) in the list of disqualified documents;
- (c) place the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) in a separate packet, and
- (d) disregard the internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record (as applicable) when counting the votes in accordance with these rules.

40. Sealing of packets

40.1 As soon as is possible after the close of the poll and after the completion of the procedure under rules 37 and 38, the returning officer is to seal the packets containing:

- (a) the disqualified documents, together with the list of disqualified documents inside it,
- (b) the ID declaration forms, if required,
- (c) the list of spoilt ballot papers and the list of spoilt text message votes,
- (d) the list of lost ballot documents,
- (e) the list of eligible voters, and
- (f) the list of tendered voting information

and ensure that complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 are held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

STV41. Interpretation of Part 6

STV41.1 In Part 6 of these rules:

“ballot document” 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 document:

(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 STV49,

“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 STV46,

“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 ballot documents 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 document 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 document on which a second or subsequent preference is recorded for the candidate to whom that ballot document has been transferred, and

“transfer value” means the value of a transferred vote calculated in accordance with rules STV47.4 or STV47.7.

42. Arrangements for counting of the votes

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

42.2 The returning officer may make arrangements for any votes to be counted using vote counting software where:

- (a) the board of directors and the council of governors of the corporation have approved:
 - (i) the use of such software for the purpose of counting votes in the relevant election, and
 - (ii) a policy governing the use of such software, and
- (b) the corporation and the returning officer are satisfied that the use of such software will produce an accurate result.

43. The count

43.1 The returning officer is to:

- (a) count and record the number of:
 - (iii) ballot papers that have been returned; and
 - (iv) the number of internet voting records, telephone voting records and/or text voting records that have been created, and
- (b) count the votes according to the provisions in this Part of the rules and/or the provisions of any policy approved pursuant to rule 42.2(ii) where vote counting software is being used.

43.2 The returning officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and/or text voting records 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 the voter ID number on an internet voting record, telephone voting record or text voting record.

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

STV44. Rejected ballot papers and rejected text voting records

STV44.1 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.

STV44.2 The returning officer is to endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted.

STV44.3 Any text voting record:

- (a) on which the figure “1” standing alone is not placed so as to indicate a first preference for any candidate,
- (b) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the unique identifier, or
- (c) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,

shall be rejected and not counted, but the text voting record 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.

STV44.4 The returning officer is to endorse the word “rejected” on any text voting record which under this rule is not to be counted.

STV44.5 The returning officer is to draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected by them under each of the subparagraphs (a) to (d) of rule STV44.1 and the number of text voting records rejected by them under each of the sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of rule STV44.3.

FPP44. Rejected ballot papers and rejected text voting records

FPP44.1 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 FPP44.2 and FPP44.3, be rejected and not counted.

FPP44.2 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.

FPP44.3 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 they can be identified by it.

FPP44.4 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 FPP44.2 and FPP 44.3, endorse the words “rejected in part” on the ballot paper and indicate which vote or votes have been counted.

FPP44.5 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.

FPP44.6 Any text voting record:

- (a) on which votes are given for more candidates than the voter is entitled to vote,
- (b) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the voter ID number, or
- (c) which is unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,

shall, subject to rules FPP44.7 and FPP44.8, be rejected and not counted.

FPP44.7 Where the voter is entitled to vote for more than one candidate, a text voting record is not to be rejected because of uncertainty in respect of any vote where no uncertainty arises, and that vote is to be counted.

FPP44.8 A text voting record on which a vote is marked:

- (a) otherwise than by means of a clear mark,
- (b) 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 text voting record is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that they can be identified by it.

FPP44.9 The returning officer is to:

- (a) endorse the word “rejected” on any text voting record which under this rule is not to be counted, and
- (b) in the case of a text voting record on which any vote is counted under rules FPP44.7 and FPP 44.8, endorse the words “rejected in part” on the text voting record and indicate which vote or votes have been counted.

- FPP44.10 The returning officer is to draw up a statement showing the number of rejected text voting records under the following headings:
- (a) voting for more candidates than the voter is entitled to,
 - (b) writing or mark by which voter could be identified, and
 - (c) unmarked or rejected because of uncertainty,
- and, where applicable, each heading must record the number of text voting records rejected in part.

STV45. First stage

- STV45.1 The returning officer is to sort the ballot documents into parcels according to the candidates for whom the first preference votes are given.
- STV45.2 The returning officer is to then count the number of first preference votes given on ballot documents for each candidate, and is to record those numbers.
- STV45.3 The returning officer is to also ascertain and record the number of valid ballot documents.

STV46. The quota

- STV46.1 The returning officer is to divide the number of valid ballot documents by a number exceeding by one the number of members to be elected.
- STV46.2 The result, increased by one, of the division under rule STV46.1 (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”).
- STV46.3 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 STV47.1 to STV47.3 has been complied with.

STV47. Transfer of votes

- STV47.1 Where the number of first preference votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort all the ballot documents 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 ballot documents for any continuing candidate, or
 - (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.
- STV47.2 The returning officer is to count the number of ballot documents in each parcel referred to in rule STV47.1.
- STV47.3 The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule STV48, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule STV47.1(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- STV47.4 The vote on each ballot document transferred under rule STV47.3 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 ballot documents on which those votes are given, the calculation being made to two decimal places (ignoring the remainder if any).

- STV47.5 Where at the end of any stage of the count involving the transfer of ballot documents, the number of votes for any candidate exceeds the quota, the returning officer is to sort the ballot documents 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 ballot documents for any continuing candidate, or
 - (b) where no such preference is given, as the sub-parcel of non-transferable votes.
- STV47.6 The returning officer is, in accordance with this rule and rule STV48, to transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule STV47.5(a) to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- STV47.7 The vote on each ballot document transferred under rule STV47.6 shall be at:
- (a) a transfer value calculated as set out in rule STV47.4(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.
- STV47.8 Each transfer of a surplus constitutes a stage in the count.
- STV47.9 Subject to rule STV47.10, the returning officer shall proceed to transfer transferable ballot documents until no candidate who is deemed to be elected has a surplus or all the vacancies have been filled.
- STV47.10 Transferable ballot documents 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.
- STV47.11 This rule does not apply at an election where there is only one vacancy.

STV48. Supplementary provisions on transfer

- STV48.1 If, at any stage of the count, two or more candidates have surpluses, the transferable ballot documents 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 ballot documents 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 ballot documents of the candidate on whom the lot falls shall be transferred first.

- STV48.2 The returning officer shall, on each transfer of transferable ballot documents under rule STV47:
- (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.
- STV48.3 All ballot documents transferred under rule STV47 or STV49 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 document or, as the case may be, all the ballot documents in that sub-parcel.
- STV48.4 Where a ballot document is so marked that it is unclear to the returning officer at any stage of the count under rule STV47 or STV49 for which candidate the next preference is recorded, the returning officer shall treat any vote on that ballot document as a non-transferable vote; and votes on a ballot document 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.

STV49. Exclusion of candidates

- STV49.1 If:
- (a) all transferable ballot documents which under the provisions of rule STV47 (including that rule as applied by rule STV49.11) and this rule are required to be transferred, have been transferred, and
 - (b) subject to rule STV50, 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 STV49.12 applies, the candidates with the then lowest votes).
- STV49.2 The returning officer shall sort all the ballot documents on which first preference votes are given for the candidate or candidates excluded under rule STV49.1 into two sub-parcels so that they are grouped as:
- (a) ballot documents on which a next available preference is given, and
 - (b) ballot documents on which no such preference is given (thereby including ballot documents on which preferences are given only for candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).
- STV49.3 The returning officer shall, in accordance with this rule and rule STV48, transfer each sub-parcel of ballot documents referred to in rule STV49.2 to the candidate for whom the next available preference is given on those ballot documents.
- STV49.4 The exclusion of a candidate, or of two or more candidates together, constitutes a further stage of the count.
- STV49.5 If, subject to rule STV50, one or more vacancies still remain to be filled, the returning officer shall then sort the transferable ballot documents, if any, which had been

transferred to any candidate excluded under rule STV49.1 into sub- parcels according to their transfer value.

- STV49.6 The returning officer shall transfer those ballot documents in the sub-parcel of transferable ballot documents with the highest transfer value to the continuing candidates in accordance with the next available preferences given on those ballot documents (thereby passing over candidates who are deemed to be elected or are excluded).
- STV49.7 The vote on each transferable ballot document transferred under rule STV49.6 shall be at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate excluded under rule STV49.1.
- STV49.8 Any ballot documents on which no next available preferences have been expressed shall be set aside as non-transferable votes.
- STV49.9 After the returning officer has completed the transfer of the ballot documents in the sub-parcel of ballot documents with the highest transfer value they shall proceed to transfer in the same way the sub-parcel of ballot documents with the next highest value and so on until they have dealt with each sub-parcel of a candidate excluded under rule STV49.1.
- STV49.10 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.
- STV49.11 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 STV47.5 to STV47.10 and rule STV48.
- STV49.12 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.
- STV49.13 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.

STV50. Filling of last vacancies

- STV50.1 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.
- STV50.2 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.
- STV50.3 Where the last vacancies can be filled under this rule, no further transfer of votes shall be made.

STV51. Order of election of candidates

- STV51.1 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 STV47.10.
- STV51.2 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 they obtained the quota.
- STV51.3 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.
- STV51.4 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.

FPP51. Equality of votes

- FPP51.1 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

FPP52. Declaration of result for contested elections

FPP52.1 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 Chair of the NHS Trust, or
 - (ii) in any other case, to the Chair of the corporation; and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate whom they have declared elected.

FPP52.2 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 FPP44.5,
- (c) the number of rejected text voting records under each of the headings in rule FPP44.10,

available on request.

STV52. Declaration of result for contested elections

STV52.1 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 Chair of the NHS Trust, or
 - (ii) in any other case, to the Chair of the corporation, and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected.

STV52.2 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 STV44.1,
- (f) the number of rejected text voting records under each of the headings in rule STV44.3,

available on request.

53. Declaration of result for uncontested elections

53.1 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 Chair of the corporation, and
- (c) give public notice of the name of each candidate who they have declared elected.

54. Sealing up of documents relating to the poll

54.1 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, internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records,
- (b) the ballot papers and text voting records endorsed with “rejected in part”,
- (c) the rejected ballot papers and text voting records, and
- (d) the statement of rejected ballot papers and the statement of rejected text voting records,

and ensure that complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 are held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

54.2 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 spoilt ballot papers and the list of spoilt text message votes,
- (c) the list of lost ballot documents, and
- (d) the list of eligible voters,

or access the complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 and held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.

54.3 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.

55. Delivery of documents

55.1 Once the documents relating to the poll have been sealed up and endorsed pursuant to rule 56, the returning officer is to forward them to the chair of the corporation.

56. Forwarding of documents received after close of the poll

56.1 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 voting information are made too late to enable new voting information to be issued,

the returning officer is to put them in a separate packet, seal it up, and endorse and forward it to the Chair of the corporation.

57. Retention and public inspection of documents

57.1 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 board of directors of the corporation, cause them to be destroyed.

57.2 With the exception of the documents listed in rule 58.1, 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.

57.3 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.

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

58.1 The corporation may not allow:

- (a) the inspection of, or the opening of any sealed packet containing –
 - (i) any rejected ballot papers, including ballot papers rejected in part,
 - (ii) any rejected text voting records, including text voting records rejected in part,
 - (iii) any disqualified documents, or the list of disqualified documents,
 - (iv) any counted ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records or text voting records, or
 - (v) the list of eligible voters, or
- (b) access to or the inspection of the complete electronic copies of the internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 and held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage, by any person without the consent of the board of directors of the corporation.

58.2 A person may apply to the board of directors of the corporation to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 58.1, and the board of directors of the corporation 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.

58.3 The board of directors of the corporation'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.

58.4 On an application to inspect any of the documents listed in rule 58.1 the board of directors of the corporation must:

- (a) in giving its consent, and
- (b) in making the documents available for inspection

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 NHS England has declared that the vote was invalid.

PART 9: DEATH OF A CANDIDATE DURING A CONTESTED ELECTION

FPP59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

- FPP59.1 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 them 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.
- FPP59.2 Where a new election is ordered under rule FPP59.1, 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.
- FPP59.3 Where a poll is abandoned under rule FPP59.1(a), rules FPP59.4 to FPP59.7 are to apply.
- FPP59.4 The returning officer shall not take any step or further step to open envelopes or deal with their contents in accordance with rules 38 and 39, and is to make up separate sealed packets in accordance with rule 40.
- FPP59.5 The returning officer is to:
- (a) count and record the number of ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records that have been received,
 - (b) seal up the ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records into packets, along with the records of the number of ballot papers, internet voting records, telephone voting records and text voting records and
- ensure that complete electronic copies of the internet voting records telephone voting records and text voting records created in accordance with rule 26 are held in a device suitable for the purpose of storage.
- FPP59.6 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.
- FPP59.7 Once the documents relating to the poll have been sealed up and endorsed pursuant to rules FPP59.4 to FPP59.6, the returning officer is to deliver them to the Chair of the corporation, and rules 57 and 58 are to apply.

STV59. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of candidate

- STV59.1 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) ballot documents 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) ballot documents 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.

STV59.2 The ballot documents which have preferences recorded for the candidate who has died are to be sealed with the other counted ballot documents pursuant to rule 54.1(a).

Election expenses

60. Election expenses

- 60.1 Any expenses incurred, or payments made, for the purposes of an election which contravene this Part are an electoral irregularity, which may only be questioned in an application made to NHS England under Part 11 of these rules.

61. Expenses and payments by candidates

- 61.1 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.

62. Election expenses incurred by other persons

- 62.1 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 as 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.
- 62.2 Nothing in this rule is to prevent the corporation from incurring such expenses, and making such payments, as it considers necessary pursuant to rules 63 and 64.

Publicity

63. Publicity about election by the corporation

- 63.1 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.
- 63.2 Any information provided by the corporation about the candidates, including information compiled by the corporation under rule 64, 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, at the expense of the electoral prospects of one or more other candidates.
- 63.3 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.

64. Information about candidates for inclusion with voting information

64.1 The corporation must compile information about the candidates standing for election, to be distributed by the returning officer pursuant to rule 24 of these rules.

64.2 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 method of polling for the election, the numerical voting code allocated by the returning officer to each candidate, for the purpose of recording votes using the telephone voting facility or the text message voting facility ("numerical voting code"), and
- (c) a photograph of the candidate.

65. Meaning of "for the purposes of an election"

65.1 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.

65.2 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.

66. Application to question an election

- 66.1 An application alleging a breach of these rules, including an electoral irregularity under Part 10, may be made to NHS England for the purpose of seeking a referral to the independent election arbitration panel (IEAP).
- 66.2 An application may only be made once the outcome of the election has been declared by the returning officer.
- 66.3 An application may only be made to NHS England 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.
- 66.4 The application must:
- (a) describe the alleged breach of the rules or electoral irregularity, and
 - (b) be in such a form as the independent panel may require.
- 66.5 The application must be presented in writing within 21 days of the declaration of the result of the election. NHS England will refer the application to the independent election arbitration panel appointed by NHS England.
- 66.6 If the independent election arbitration panel requests further information from the applicant, then that person must provide it as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 66.7 NHS England shall delegate the determination of an application to a person or panel of persons to be nominated for the purpose.
- 66.8 The determination by the IEAP 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.
- 66.9 The IEAP may prescribe rules of procedure for the determination of an application including costs.

67. Secrecy

67.1 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 voting 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.

67.2 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.

67.3 The returning officer is to make such arrangements as they think fit to ensure that the individuals who are affected by this provision are aware of the duties it imposes.

68. Prohibition of disclosure of vote

68.1 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 they have voted.

69. Disqualification

69.1 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.

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

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

- (a) the delivery of the documents in rule 24, or
- (b) the return of the ballot papers,

the returning officer may extend the time between the publication of the notice of the poll and the close of the poll by such period as they consider appropriate.

Annex 4 Standing Orders for The Practice and Procedure of The Council of Governors

KENT COMMUNITY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust became a Public Benefit Corporation on 1 March 2015 following Authorisation by NHS England pursuant to the 2006 Act.
- 1.2 The Trust's principal place of business is the Trust Headquarters
- 1.3 The Trust is governed by the Regulatory Framework. The functions of the Trust are conferred by the Regulatory Framework. The Regulatory Framework requires the Council of Governors to adopt SOs for the regulation of its proceedings and business and to adhere at all times to the Governors' Code of Conduct.

2. INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting of the Council of Governors, the Chair of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the SOs (on which they should be advised by the Secretary).
- 2.2 Unless a contrary intention is evident or the context requires otherwise, words or expressions contained in these SOs shall bear the same meaning as in the Constitution.
- 2.3 The provisions of paragraphs 1.2 to 1.3 of the Constitution apply to these SOs, save that any reference to "Constitution" shall be read as a reference to these "SOs".

3. THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

- 3.1. The roles and responsibilities of the Governors are set out in 7.7 of the Constitution and have effect as if incorporated into the SOs. Certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Council of Governors in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in paragraphs 7.7.2 of the Constitution.

4. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

4.1. Admission of the public

- 4.1.1. The public and representatives of the press shall be afforded facilities to attend all formal meetings of the Council of Governors except where it resolves by special resolution that members of the public and representatives of the press be excluded from all or part of a meeting on the grounds that:
 - 4.1.2. any publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted; or
 - 4.1.3. for other reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of the business or the proceedings that the Council of Governors believe are special reasons for excluding the public from the meeting in accordance with the Constitution.
- 4.1.4. Nothing in these SOs shall require the Council of Governors to allow members of the public and representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner whatsoever, other than in writing, or to make any oral report of proceedings as they take place, without the prior agreement of the Chair.

4.2. Calling meetings

4.2.1. Meetings of the Council of Governors shall be held at such times and places as the Council of Governors may determine and there shall be at least 4 meetings in any year including:

4.2.1.1. the Annual Members' Meeting; and

4.2.1.2. any other meetings required of the Governors in order to fulfil their functions in accordance with the Constitution.

4.2.2. The Chair may call a meeting of the Council of Governors at any time. If the Chair refuses to call a meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by at least one-third of the total number of Governors and specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting, has been presented to them, or if, without so refusing, the Chair does not call a meeting within 7 clear calendar days after such requisition has been presented to them at the Trust's Headquarters, such one-third or more of the Governors may forthwith call a meeting for the purpose of conducting that business.

4.2.3. The Council of Governors may invite the Chief Executive, members of the Board of Directors or a representative of the Auditor or other advisors to attend a formal meeting or committee meeting of the Council of Governors.

4.2.4. The Council of Governors may agree that Governors can participate in its meetings by telephone or video link. Participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting for the purposes of SO 4.17 (Quorum).

4.3 Notice of meetings and agenda

4.3.1. Before each meeting of the Council of Governors, a notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, shall be delivered to, the usual place of residence of every Governor or sent electronically, so as to be available to them at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting save in the case of emergencies.

4.3.2. Before each meeting of the Council of Governors a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and if possible the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed at the Trust's Headquarters and shall be advertised on the Trust's website at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting, save in the case of emergencies.

4.3.3. Want of service of the notice of meeting on any Governor shall not affect the validity of a meeting. A notice of meeting shall be presumed to have been served one day after posting or, in the case of a notice sent electronically, on the date of transmission.

4.3.4. In the case of a meeting called by Governors in default of the Chair in accordance with SO 4.2.2, the notice shall be signed by those Governors and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the requisition.

4.3.5. Agendas will be sent to Governors before the meeting and supporting papers (including draft minutes of the previous meeting), whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda, but will certainly be despatched no later than 3 clear calendar days before the meeting, save in the case of emergencies.

4.3.6. In the event of an emergency giving rise to the need for an immediate meeting failure to comply with the notice periods referred to in SOs 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.3.5 shall not prevent the calling of or invalidate such meeting provided that every effort is made to contact members of the Council of Governors who are not absent from the United Kingdom and the agenda for the meeting is restricted to matters arising in that emergency.

4.4. Setting the agenda

4.4.1. The Council of Governors may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted ("Standing Items").

4.4.2. A member of the Council of Governors desiring a matter other than a Standing Item to be included on an agenda, shall make their request in writing to the Secretary at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting. For the purposes of this SO 4.5.2, receipt of any such requests via electronic communications is acceptable. A request for a formal motion must be signed or transmitted by at least 2 Governors. The request should state whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in the presence of the public and should include appropriate supporting information. Requests for matters to be included on the agenda received less than 10 clear calendar days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

4.4.3. All requests received by the Secretary pursuant to SO 4.5.2 will be acknowledged by the Secretary in writing to the Governors who have signed or transmitted the same.

4.5. Petitions

4.5.1. Where a petition has been received by the Trust, the Chair shall include the petition as an item for the agenda of the next meeting of the Council of Governors.

4.6. Written motions

4.6.1. In urgent situations and with the consent of the Chair, business may be affected by a Governor's written motion to deal with business otherwise required to be conducted at a meeting of the Council of Governors.

4.6.2. If all members of the Council of Governors have been notified of the proposal and a majority of Governors entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Council of Governors confirms acceptance of the written motion either in writing or electronically to the Secretary within 5 clear calendar days of dispatch then the motion will be deemed to have been resolved, notwithstanding that the Governors have not gathered in one place.

4.6.3. The effective date of the resolution shall be the date that the last confirmation is received by the Secretary and, until that date, a Governor who has previously indicated acceptance can withdraw, and the motion shall fail.

4.6.4. Once the resolution has been passed, a copy certified by the Secretary shall be recorded in the minutes of the next ensuing meeting where it shall be signed by the person presiding at it.

4.7. Chair of meeting

4.7.1. At any formal meeting of the Council of Governors, the Chair, if present, shall preside.

4.7.2. If the Chair is absent from the meeting or is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest, the Deputy Chair shall preside.

4.7.3. If the Deputy Chair is absent from the meeting or is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest, another Non-Executive Director as shall be appointed by the Council of Governors for that Trust meeting shall preside.

4.8. Motions

4.8.1. Where a Governor has requested inclusion of a matter on the agenda in accordance with SO 4.5.2 above as a matter to be formally proposed for discussion and voting on at the meeting, the provisions of this SO 4.9 shall apply in respect of the motion.

4.8.2. Subject to SO 4.9.6 below, the mover of the motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any discussion on the motion or any amendment thereto, or to raise a point of order.

4.8.3. When a motion is under discussion or immediately prior to discussion it shall be open to a Governor to move (without prior notice having been given):

4.8.3.1. that the motion be withdrawn; or

4.8.3.2. an amendment to the motion; or

4.8.3.3. the adjournment of the discussion or the meeting; or

4.8.3.4. that the meeting proceed to the next item of business on the agenda; or

4.8.3.5. the appointment of an ad hoc group to deal with a specific item of business; or

4.8.3.6. that the motion be now put; or

4.8.3.7. that the public be excluded from the meeting in relation to the discussion concerning the motion under SO 4.1.

4.8.4. In the case of SOs 4.9.3. (d) and 4.9.3. (f) above, to ensure objectivity these matters may only be put by a Governor who has not previously taken part in the debate and who is eligible to vote.

4.8.5. No amendment to the motion shall be admitted if, in the opinion of the Chair, the amendment negates the substance of the motion.

4.8.6. For the avoidance of doubt, the following motions may be moved at a meeting of the Council of Governors without notice pursuant to SO 4.5.2 above:

- a) a motion in relation to the accuracy of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council of Governors;
- b) a motion to change the order of business in the agenda for that meeting;
- c) a motion to refer a matter discussed at a meeting to an appropriate body or individual;
- d) a motion to appoint an ad hoc committee or a working group to deal with a specific item of business;
- e) a motion to receive reports or adopt recommendations made by the Board of Directors;
- f) a motion to withdraw a motion;
- g) a motion to amend a motion;
- h) a motion to proceed to the next item of business on the agenda;
- i) a motion that the question be now put;
- j) a motion to adjourn a debate;
- k) a motion to adjourn a meeting;
- l) a motion to suspend a particular SO (subject to SO 4.15 below);

- m) a motion to exclude the public and press from the meeting in question pursuant to SO 4.1 above;
- n) a motion to not hear further from a Governor, or to exclude them from the meeting in question (if a Governor persistently disregards the ruling of the Chair or behaves improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business, the Chair, in their absolute discretion, may move that the Governor in question be not heard further at the meeting in question. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion. If the Governor continues to behave improperly after such a motion is carried, the Chair may move that either the Governor leaves the meeting room or that the meeting in question is adjourned for a specified period. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion); and
- o) a motion to give the consent of the Council of Governors to any matter where its consent is required pursuant to the Constitution.

4.9. Report from the Board of Directors

4.9.1. Unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors, at each meeting of the Council of Governors, the Board of Directors through the Chair or an Executive Director (or Nominated Officer) is required to report to the Council of Governors on the Trust's general progress and forward planning.

4.10. Chair's ruling

4.10.1. Subject to SO 4.11.2 below, statements of Governors made at meetings of the Council of Governors shall be relevant to the matter under discussion at the material time, and subject to SO 2.1, the decision of the Chair on questions of order, relevancy, regularity and any other matters for the effective running of the meeting shall be final.

4.10.2. This SO applies to all forms of speech/debate by Governors in relation to motions or questions under discussion at a meeting of the Council of Governors.

4.11. Content and length of speeches

4.11.1. Any approval to speak must be given by the Chair. Speeches must be directed to the matter, motion or question under discussion or to a point of order. In the interests of time the Chair may, in their absolute discretion, limit the number of replies, questions or speeches which are heard at any one meeting.

4.12. Voting

4.12.1. A Governor may not vote at a meeting of the Council of Governors unless, they have declared at least 7 clear calendar days prior to the commencement of the meeting they have:

4.12.1.1. made a declaration in the form specified within Appendix A of these SOs, that they are a member of the constituency which elected them; and

4.12.1.2. that they are not prevented from being a member of the Council of Governors by paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act or under the Constitution.

4.12.2. A Governor shall be deemed to have confirmed the declarations on attending a subsequent meeting of the Council of Governors, unless they otherwise notify the Secretary in writing.

4.12.3. Subject to SO 4.13.4 below, every question at a meeting can be determined by a majority of the votes of the Chair and the Governors present and voting at a meeting on the question.

- 4.12.4. Whoever is Chair of the meeting of the Council of Governors shall in the case of an equality of votes on any question or proposal have a second or casting vote.
- 4.12.5. A resolution for the removal of the Chair or a Non-Executive Director shall be passed only if three-quarters of the total number of Governors vote in favour of it.
- 4.12.6. All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the Chair, be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands. A paper ballot may also be used if a majority of the Governors present so request.
- 4.12.7. If at least one-third of the Governors present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot) on any question may be recorded to show how each Governor present voted or abstained.
- 4.12.8. If a Governor so requests, their vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).
- 4.12.9. A Governor may only vote if present at the time of the vote on which the question is to be decided; no Governor may vote by proxy but a Governor is considered to have been present at the meeting if they took part by telephone or video link or computer and so is therefore entitled to vote.
- 4.12.10. In certain circumstances, the Chair may specify in a notice of meeting any matter which requires approval by a written resolution and such a matter may be approved in writing provided that at least three-quarters of the Governors, and a majority of Governors who are members of the Staff Constituency and Public Constituency of the Trust, approve the resolution in writing within the timescale imposed in such a notice.
- 4.12.11. All decisions taken in good faith at the meeting of the Council of Governors or at any meeting of a committee shall be valid even if it is subsequently discovered that there was a defect in the calling of the meeting or the appointment of the Governors attending the meeting.

4.13. Special provisions relating to termination of Governors' tenure:

- 4.13.1. Where a person has been elected or appointed to be a Governor and they become disqualified from office under the provisions of the Constitution, they shall notify the Secretary in writing of such disqualification as soon as practicable and in any event within 14 days of the first becoming aware of those matters which render them disqualified. The Secretary shall forthwith remove them from the register of Members of the Council of Governors.
- 4.13.2. If it comes to the notice of the Secretary that the Governor is disqualified pursuant to SO 4.13.1, whether at the time of the Governor's appointment or (as the case may be) election, or later, the Secretary shall immediately declare that the individual in question is disqualified and give them notice in writing to that effect as soon as practicable and in any event within 14 days of the date of the said declaration. In the event that the Governor shall dispute that they are disqualified the Governor may refer the matter to the dispute resolution procedure set out in paragraph 3 Appendix 2 of Annex 6 of the Constitution within 28 days of the date upon which the notice was given to the Governor.
- 4.13.3. The Chair shall be authorised to take such action as may be immediately required, including but not limited to exclusion of the Governor concerned from the meeting so that any allegation made against a Governor on the grounds set out in paragraph 15 of the Constitution can be investigated.
- 4.13.4. Where any grounds within SO 4.13.3 are alleged, it shall be open to the Council of Governors to decide, by two-thirds majority of those present and voting, to lay a formal charge of non-compliance or misconduct.

- 4.13.5. The Governor in question will be notified in writing of the allegations and grounds upon which the charges referred to in SO 4.13.4 are made, inviting and considering their response within a defined, appropriate and reasonable timescale.
- 4.13.6. The Governor may be invited to address the Council of Governors in person if the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily through correspondence.
- 4.13.7. The Governors, by three-quarters majority of those present and voting can decide whether to uphold the charge.
- 4.13.8. Should the Governors uphold the charge in accordance with SO 4.13.7, The Governors can impose such sanctions as shall be deemed appropriate. Such sanctions may range from the issuing of a written warning as to the Governor's future conduct and consequences, to non-payment of expenses, or removal of the Governor from office in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Constitution.
- 4.13.9. Upon disqualification, removal or termination of a Governor's office under this SO, the Secretary shall cause their name to be removed immediately from the Register of members of the Council of Governors.
- 4.13.10. Any decision of the Council of Governors to terminate a Governor's tenure of office may be referred by the Governor concerned to the dispute resolution procedure set out in paragraph 3.2 of Annex 6 of the Constitution within 28 days of the date upon which notice in writing of the Board of Governor's decision made in accordance with SOs 4.13.7 and 4.13.8 is communicated to the Governor concerned.
- 4.13.11. A Governor may resign from that office at any time during the term of that office by giving notice to the Secretary in writing, upon which they shall cease to hold office.

4.14. **Minutes**

- 4.14.1. The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council of Governors shall be drawn up by the Secretary and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting where they will be signed by the person presiding at it.
- 4.14.2. No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the person chairing the meeting considers discussion appropriate.
- 4.14.3. Any amendment to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded at the next meeting.

4.15. **Record of attendance**

- 4.15.1. The names of the person chairing the meeting and Governors present at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

4.16. **Quorum**

- 4.16.1. No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless the required quorum of one third of the total number of Governors with a majority of those being Public Governors is present.
- 4.16.2. If a Governor has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from other voting on any resolution by reason of the declaration of a conflict of interest as provided in SO 7, they shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business.

5. LEAD GOVERNOR AND DEPUTY LEAD GOVERNOR

- 5.1.1. The Governors shall appoint a lead Governor and a deputy lead Governor at the first formal meeting of the Council of Governors and every three years thereafter.
- 5.1.2. The role and responsibilities of the lead Governor will be produced by the Council of Governors following consultation with the Board of Directors and consideration of their views (save for the first version of this, which shall be produced by the Trust) and should include the relevant provisions of Appendix B, section 4 of the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance 2022.
- 5.1.3. The deputy lead Governor shall be responsible for supporting the lead Governor in their role and for performing the responsibilities of the lead Governor whenever they are known to be unavailable. The deputy lead governor role can be shared by agreement with a majority of the Council.
- 5.1.4. The lead Governor and deputy lead Governor so appointed shall hold office until the annual election but shall be eligible for re-appointment at that time.
- 5.1.5. The Secretary will coordinate and oversee the process for the election of Lead and Deputy Lead Governor. Voting may be conducted at a meeting or through post or e-mail. Each nomination shall be made in writing by the Governor seeking appointment. There shall be separate forms of nomination for appointment to the position of lead Governor and the position of deputy lead Governor and eligible Governors may be nominated for both positions.
- 5.1.6. In the event of there being two or more nominations for either appointment a secret ballot shall be held with each Governor having one vote for each contested appointment.
- 5.1.7. The Secretary shall count the votes in the presence of another trust senior officer and the Governor whose nomination receives the largest number of votes for each position shall be appointed.
- 5.1.8. In the event of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.
- 5.1.9. If one Governor receives the largest number of votes for appointment as both the lead Governor and the deputy lead Governor that Governor shall be appointed as lead Governor and the Governor who receives the second largest number of votes for the position of deputy lead Governor shall be appointed as deputy lead Governor.
- 5.1.10. The results of the ballot shall be announced at a formal meeting of the Council.
- 5.1.11. Any individual appointed under the provisions of paragraphs 5.10 to 5.12 above may at any time resign from the office of lead Governor or deputy lead Governor by giving notice in writing to the Secretary. The Council of Governors shall thereupon appoint another lead Governor or deputy lead Governor (as required) in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 5.5 to 5.11 above.

6. COMMITTEES

- 6.1.1. Subject to any guidance or best practice advice as may be issued by NHS England, the Council of Governors may and, if directed by NHS England, shall appoint committees of the Council of Governors to assist it in the proper performance of its functions under the Regulatory Framework, consisting wholly or partly of the Chair, Governors and others.
- 6.1.2. A committee appointed under SO 6 may, subject to such directions as may be given by the Council of Governors, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committee. Formal Committees will be minuted and these minutes may be available to Council members.

- 6.1.3. These SOs, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any committees established by the Council of Governors with the terms "Chair" to be read as a reference to the Chair of the committee, and the term "Governor" to be read as a reference to a member of the committee as the context permits.
- 6.1.4. Each such committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions as the Council of Governors shall decide and shall be in accordance with the Regulatory Framework and any guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England, but the Council of Governors shall not delegate to any committee any of the powers or responsibilities which are to be exercised by the Council of Governors at a formal meeting.
- 6.1.5. Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees, they may not delegate their powers to the sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Council of Governors.
- 6.1.6. Any committee or sub-committee established under this SO 6 may call upon outside advisers to assist them with their tasks, subject to the advance agreement of the Board of Directors. Any conflict arising between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors under this paragraph shall be determined in accordance with the dispute resolution procedure set out at paragraph 3 of Annex 6 of the Constitution.
- 6.1.7. The Council of Governors shall approve the appointments to each of the committees which it has formally constituted.
- 6.1.8. Where the Council of Governors is required to appoint persons to a committee to undertake statutory functions, and where such appointments are to operate independently of the Council of Governors, such appointments shall be made in accordance with applicable statute and regulations and with guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England.
- 6.1.9. Where the Council of Governors determines that persons who are neither Governors, nor Directors or Officers of the Trust, shall be appointed to a committee, the terms of such appointment shall be determined by the Council of Governors subject to the payment of travelling expenses and other allowances being in accordance with such sum as may be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 6.1.10. The Council of Governors may appoint Governors to serve on joint committees with the Board of Directors on the request of the Chair.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS

7.1. Declaration of interests

- 7.1.1. The Regulatory Framework requires each Governor to declare to the Secretary (before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement):
- 7.1.1.1. any actual or potential interest, direct or indirect interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Trust, as described in SO 7.2.1; and
 - 7.1.1.2. any actual or potential pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter concerning the Trust, as described in SOs 7.2.2 and 7.2.3; and
 - 7.1.1.3. any actual or potential family interest, direct or indirect, of which the Governor is aware, as described in SO 7.2.5.

7.1.2. Such a declaration shall be made either at the time of the Governor's election or appointment or as soon thereafter as the interest arises, and in a form prescribed by the Secretary as attached at Appendix B to these SOs.

7.1.3. In addition, if a Governor is present at a meeting of the Council of Governors and has an interest of any sort in any matter which is the subject of consideration, they shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and shall not vote on any question with respect to the matter.

7.1.4. If a declaration under paragraph 7.1.2 above proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, the Governor must make a further declaration before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement. This does not require a declaration of an interest which the Governor is not aware of or where the Governor is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question.

7.1.5. A Governor does not need to declare an interest:

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

7.1.5.2. if, or to the extent that, the Governors are already aware of it.

7.1.6. Subject to SO 7.2.4, if a Governor has declared a pecuniary interest (as described in SOs 7.2.2 and 7.2.3) they shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter. At the time the interests are declared, they should be recorded in the Governor's meeting minutes. Any changes in interests should be officially declared at the next relevant meeting following the change occurring.

7.1.7. This SO 7 applies to any committee, sub-committee or joint committee of the Council of Governors and applies to any member of any such committee, sub-committee, or joint committee (whether or not they are also a Governor).

7.1.8. The interests of Governors in companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the Trust should be published in the Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding Annual Reports.

7.2. Nature of interests

7.2.1. Interests which should be regarded as "relevant and material" are as follows and are to be interpreted in accordance with guidance issued by NHS England and will include:

7.2.1.1. directorships, including non-executive directorships held in private companies or public limited companies (with the exception of those of dormant companies); or

7.2.1.2. ownership, part-ownership or directorship of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS or the Trust; or

7.2.1.3. any close family members in employment with the Trust

7.2.1.4. any connection to an organisation likely or potentially to do business with the Trust.

7.2.2. A Governor shall be treated as having indirectly a pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter, if:

7.2.2.1. he, or a nominee of theirs, is a director of a company or other body, not being a public body, with which the contract was made or is proposed to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration; or

7.2.2.2. he is a partner of, or is in the employment of, a person with whom the contract was made or is proposed to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration.

7.2.3.A Governor shall not be treated as having a pecuniary interest in any contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only:

7.2.3.1. of their membership of a company or other body, if they have no beneficial interest in any securities of that company or other body; or

7.2.3.2. of an interest in any company, body or person with which they are connected which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a Governor in the consideration or discussion of or in voting on, any question with respect to that contract or matter; or

7.2.3.3. of any travelling or other expenses or allowances payable to a Governor in accordance with the Constitution.

7.2.4.Where a Governor:

7.2.4.1. has an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only of a beneficial interest in securities of a company or other body, and

7.2.4.2. the total nominal value of those securities does not exceed £5,000 or one-hundredth of the total nominal value of the issued share capital of the company or body, whichever is the less, and

7.2.4.3. if the share capital is of more than one class, the total nominal value of shares of any one class in which they have a beneficial interest does not exceed one-hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class, the Governor shall not be prohibited from taking part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or from voting on any question with respect to it, without prejudice however to their duty to disclose their interest.

7.2.5.A family interest is an interest of an Immediate Family Member of a Governor which if it were the interest of that Governor would be a personal interest or a pecuniary interest of theirs.

7.2.6.If Governors have any doubt about the relevance or materiality of an interest, this should be discussed with the Secretary. Influence rather than the immediacy of the relationship is more important in assessing the relevance of an interest. The interests of partners in professional partnerships should also be considered.

7.3. Register of members of the Council of Governors

7.3.1.The register of members of the Council of Governors shall list the names of Governors, their category of membership of the Council of Governors and an address through which they may be contacted which may be the Secretary.

7.4. Register of interests of members of the Council of Governors

7.4.1.The Secretary shall keep a register of interests of members of the Council of Governors which shall contain the names of each Governor, whether they have declared any interest, and if so, the interest declared.

8. STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

- 8.1. Members of the Council of Governors shall comply with the Governors' Code of Conduct and any guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England.

9. APPOINTMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. A Governor shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment but this paragraph of this SO shall not preclude a Governor from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust in relation to any appointment.
- 9.2. Informal discussions outside nominations panels, appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the panel or committee in question.
- 9.3. Every Governor shall disclose to the Chief Executive or their delegated Officer any relationship between themselves and a candidate of whose candidature that Governor or Officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive or their delegated Officer to report to the Council of Governors any such disclosure made.
- 9.4. On appointment, members of the Council of Governors should disclose to the Council of Governors whether they are related to any other member of the Council of Governors or holder of any office in the Trust.
- 9.5. Where the relationship to a member of the Council of Governors of the Trust is disclosed, SO 7 shall apply.

10. MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1. The Secretary shall provide a copy of these SOs to each Governor and endeavour to ensure that each Governor understands their responsibilities within these SOs.
- 10.2. If for any reason these SOs are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Council of Governors for action or ratification. All Governors have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these SOs to the Chair as soon as possible.

Appendix A Declaration to the Secretary of Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

I hereby declare that I am at the date of this declaration a member of the [Public/Staff] Constituency, and I am not prevented from being a member of the Council of Governors by reason of any provision of paragraph 8 of Schedule 7 to the 2006 Act or the Constitution.

¹ Please delete as appropriate.

Appendix B Prescribed Form of Declaration of Interests

Declaration to the Secretary of Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Date [insert]

To the Secretary of Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

Dear [insert]

In fulfilment of the obligations imposed on me by paragraph 17 of the Constitution of the Trust and the provisions of Standing Order 7 of the Standing Orders for the Council of Governors generally, and in particular Standing Order 7.1.2, I hereby give notice to the Trust of my interest in [insert details of the nature and extent of the relevant interest(s) (e.g. pecuniary, non-pecuniary, direct, indirect, actual, potential, etc.)) as of the date posted above.

I require the nature and extent of my interest(s) to be recorded in the Trust's register of interests of the members of the Council of Governors.

Yours faithfully

[insert name]

Annex 5 Standing Orders For The Practice And Procedure Of The Board Of Directors

KENT COMMUNITY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

STANDING ORDERS

FOR THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Statutory Framework

- 1.1 The Trust became a Public Benefit Corporation on 1 March 2015 following Authorisation by NHS England pursuant to the 2006 Act.
- 1.2 The Trust's principal place of business is the Trust Headquarters.
- 1.3 The Trust is governed by the Regulatory Framework. The functions of the Trust are conferred by the Regulatory Framework. The Regulatory Framework and in particular paragraph 33 of the Constitution requires the Board Directors to adopt SOs for the regulation of its proceedings and business.
- 1.4 As a Public Benefit Corporation, the Trust has specific powers to contract in its own name and to act as a corporate trustee. In the latter role it is accountable to the Charity Commission for those funds deemed to be charitable. The Trust also has a common law duty as a bailee for patients' property held by the Trust on behalf of patients.
- 1.5 The SOs, Scheme of Delegation and SFIs provide a comprehensive business framework for the administration of the Trust's affairs, and these need to be read in conjunction with the Regulatory Framework. All Directors and Nominated Officers should be aware of the existence of these documents and, where necessary, be familiar with the detailed provisions contained within them.
- 1.6 The Trust will deal with NHS England in an open and co-operative manner and must promptly notify NHS England of anything relating to the Trust which NHS England would reasonably expect prompt notice of, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any anticipated failure or anticipated prospect of failure on the part of the Trust to meet its obligations under its Authorisation or any financial or performance thresholds which NHS England may specify from time to time.
- 1.7 The Chair, Chief Executive or any other person giving information to the public on behalf of the Trust shall ensure that they follow the principles set out in the Directors' Code of Conduct.
- 1.8 Delegation of Powers – Scheme of Delegation
 - 1.8.1 Under SO 5 (Arrangements for the exercise of functions by delegation) the Board of Directors exercises its power to make arrangements for the exercise, on behalf of the Trust, of any of its functions by a committee of the Board of Directors appointed by virtue of SO 6 or by an Executive Director of the Trust, in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors thinks fit. Delegated powers are covered in the Scheme of Delegation.

2. INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the SOs (on which they should be advised by the Chief Executive and Secretary).

2.2 Unless a contrary intention is evident or the context requires otherwise, words or expressions contained in these SOs shall bear the same meaning as in the Constitution.

2.3 The provisions of paragraphs 1.2 to 1.7 of the Constitution apply to these SOs, save that any reference to "Constitution" shall be read as a reference to these "SOs".

3. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust.

3.2 All funds received in trust shall be in the name of the Trust as corporate trustee. Directors acting on behalf of the Trust as corporate trustees are acting as quasi-trustees.

3.3 In relation to Funds held on Trust, powers exercised by the Trust as corporate trustee shall be exercised separately and distinctly from those powers exercised as the Trust. Accountability for charitable Funds held on Trust is to the Charity Commission.

3.4 The Trust has the functions conferred on it by the Regulatory Framework.

3.5 The powers of the Trust shall be exercised by the Board of Directors meeting either in public or private session except as otherwise provided for in SO 4.1.

3.6 The Trust has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised or made by the Board of Directors. These powers and decisions are set out in the Scheme of Delegation.

3.7 The Board of Directors may appoint any Non-Executive Director as the "senior independent director", for such period not exceeding the remainder of their term as a Non-Executive Director, as they may specify on appointing them. The Board of Directors may consult the Council of Governors prior to such appointment.

3.8 Any Non-Executive Director appointed under SO 3.7 may at any time resign from the office of "senior independent director" by giving notice in writing to the Chair. The Board of Directors (in consultation with the Council of Governors) may thereupon appoint another Non-Executive Director as "senior independent director" in accordance with the provisions in SO 3.7.

4. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.1 Admission of the public and the press

4.1.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in public unless the Board of Directors in its absolute discretion determines any special reasons exist that require any meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in private.

4.1.2 Where a meeting of the Board of Directors is held in public, the public and representatives of the press shall be afforded facilities to attend such meeting of the Board of Directors but shall be required to withdraw upon the Board of Directors resolving as follows:

4.1.3 *"...that representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity of which would be prejudicial to the public interest".*

4.1.4 The Chair shall give such directions as they think fit to ensure that the Board of Directors' business shall be conducted without interruption or disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude the public and representatives of the press under SO 4.1.2 above, members of the public and representatives of the press) will be required to withdraw upon the Board of Directors resolving as follows:

- 4.1.5 *"...that in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for [the period to be specified] to enable the Board of Directors to complete business without the presence of the public or press."*

4.2 Calling meetings

- 4.2.1 Subject to SO 4.2.2 below, meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as the Board of Directors may, in its absolute discretion, determine.
- 4.2.2 The Chair may call a meeting of the Board of Directors at any time. If the Chair refuses to call a meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by at least one-third of the whole number of members of the Board of the Directors and specifying the business to be transacted at the meeting, and this has been presented to them, or if, without so refusing, the Chair does not call a meeting within 7 clear calendar days after such requisition has been presented to them, at the Trust's Headquarters, such one-third or more members of the Board of Directors may forthwith call a meeting for the purpose of conducting that business.

4.3 Notice of meetings

- 4.3.1 Before each meeting of the Board of Directors, a notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, shall be delivered to every Director, so as to be available to them at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting, save in the case of emergencies.
- 4.3.2 Before a public meeting of the Board of Directors, a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed at the Trust's Headquarters and shall be advertised on the Trust's website at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting, save in the case of emergencies.
- 4.3.3 Want of service of the notice on any one member of the Board of Directors shall not affect the validity of a meeting but failure to serve such a notice on more than 2 Executive Directors and 2 Non-Executive Directors will invalidate the meeting. A notice of the meeting shall be presumed to have been served one day after posting or, in the case of a notice sent electronically, on the date of transmission.
- 4.3.4 In the case of a meeting called by the Directors in default of the Chair in accordance with SO 4.2.2 above, the notice shall be signed by those Directors and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the requisition.
- 4.3.5 In the event of an emergency giving rise to the need for an immediate meeting, failure to comply with the notice periods referred to in SO 4.3.1 and (where relevant) SO 4.3.2 above) shall not prevent the calling of, or invalidate, such a meeting provided that every effort is made to make personal contact with every Director who is not absent from the United Kingdom and the agenda for the meeting is restricted to matters arising in that emergency.

4.4 Agendas and supporting papers

- 4.4.1 Agendas will be sent to members of the Board of Directors 5 clear calendar days before the meeting and supporting papers (including the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Directors), whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda, but will certainly be dispatched no later than 3 clear calendar days before the meeting, save in an emergency giving rise to the need for an immediate meeting of the Board of Directors, as set out in SO 4.3.5 above. The agenda will be sent to the members of the Council of Governors 5 clear calendar days before the meeting. Failure to serve the agenda and (where relevant) supporting papers on more than 2 Executive Directors and 2 Non-Executive Directors will invalidate the meeting. The agenda and supporting papers shall be presumed to have been served one day after posting or, in the case of a notice being sent electronically, on the date of transmission. The Chair may, at their discretion, waive this requirement when they are made aware of issues which make this unreasonable.

4.5 Setting the agenda

- 4.5.1 The Board of Directors may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting of the Board of Directors and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted ("Standing Items").
- 4.5.2 A Director desiring a matter to be included on an agenda, other than a Standing Item or a motion under SO 4.10 (emergency motions and written motions) below, including a formal proposition for discussion and voting on at a meeting, shall make their request in writing to the Chair at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting. Requests made less than 10 clear calendar days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.
- 4.5.3 No business may be transacted at any meeting of the Board of Directors which is not specified in the notice of that meeting unless the Chair, in their absolute discretion, agrees that the item and (where relevant) any supporting papers should be considered by the Board of Directors as a matter of urgency. A decision by the Chair to permit consideration of the item in question and (where relevant) the supporting papers shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

4.6 Petitions

- 4.6.1 Where a petition has been received by the Trust, the Chair shall include the petition as an item for the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

4.7 Chair of meeting

- 4.7.1 At any meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chair, if present, shall preside. If the Chair is absent from the meeting the Deputy Chair, if there is one and they are present, shall preside. If the Chair and Deputy Chair are absent such Non-Executive Director as the members of the Board of Directors present shall choose, shall preside.
- 4.7.2 If the Chair is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest, the Deputy-Chair, if present, shall preside. If the Chair and Deputy-Chair are absent, or are disqualified from participating, such Non-Executive Director as the members of the Board of Directors present shall choose shall preside.
- 4.7.3 If any matter for consideration at a meeting of the Board of Directors relates to the interests of the Chair or the Non-Executive Directors as a class, neither the Chair nor any of the Non-Executive Directors shall preside over the period of the meeting during which the matter is under discussion. The Directors (excluding the Chair and the Non-Executive Directors) shall elect one of the number to preside during that period and that person shall exercise all the rights and obligations of the Chair, including (for the avoidance of doubt) the right to exercise a second or casting vote where the numbers of votes for and against a motion is equal.

4.8 Chair's ruling

- 4.8.1 Statements of Directors made at meetings of the Board of Directors shall be relevant to the matter under discussion at the material time and subject to SO 2.1, the decision of the Chair of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy, regularity and any other matters shall be final.

4.9 Notices of motion

- 4.9.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of SO 4.5 above, and subject to the provisions of SO 4.11 (Motions: procedure at and during a meeting) and SO 4.12 (Motion to rescind a resolution)

below, a member of the Board of Directors wishing to move or amend a motion shall send a written notice to the Chair.

- 4.9.2 The notice shall be delivered at least 3 clear calendar days before the meeting. The Chair shall include in the agenda for the meeting all notices so received that are in order and permissible under these SOs. Subject to SO 4.3.4, this SO shall not prevent any motion being moved without notice on any business mentioned on the agenda for the meeting.

4.10 Emergency motions and written motions

4.10.1 Emergency motions

- a) Subject to the agreement of the Chair, and subject also to the provisions of SO 4.11 (Motions: procedure at and during a meeting), a member of the Board of Directors may give the Chair written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda, up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. If in order, it shall be declared by the Chair to the Board of Directors at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included in the agenda. The Chair's decision to include the item shall be final.

4.10.2 Written motions

- a) In urgent situations and with the consent of the Chair, business may be effected by a Director's written motion to deal with business otherwise required to be conducted at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- b) If all members of the Board of Directors have been notified of the proposal and a majority of Directors entitled to attend and vote at a meeting of the Board of Directors confirms acceptance of the written motion either in writing or electronically to the Secretary within 5 clear calendar days of dispatch then the motion will be deemed to have been resolved notwithstanding that the Directors have not gathered in one place.
- c) The effective date of the resolution shall be the date that the last confirmation is received by the Secretary and, until that date a Director who has previously indicated acceptance can withdraw and the motion shall fail.
- d) Once the resolution is passed, a copy certified by the Secretary shall be recorded in the minutes of the next ensuing meeting where it shall be signed by the person presiding at it.

4.11 Motions: procedure at and during a meeting

4.11.1 Who may propose

- a) A motion properly notified under SO 4.9 above may be proposed by the Chair of the meeting or any other member of the Board of Directors present at the meeting. All motions so proposed must be seconded by another member of the Board of Directors.

4.11.2 Contents of motions

- a) The Chair may exclude from the debate at their sole discretion any motion of which notice was not given on the notice summoning the meeting other than a motion relating to;
- b) the reception of a report;
- c) consideration of any item of business before the Board of Directors;
- d) the accuracy of minutes;
- e) that the Board of Directors proceed to the next item of business on the agenda;

- f) that the Board of Directors adjourn the discussion or the meeting; or
- g) that the question be now put.

4.12 Amendments to motions

- 4.12.1 A motion for amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.
- 4.12.2 Amendments to motions shall be moved relevant to the motion and shall not have the effect of negating the motion before the Board of Directors.
- 4.12.3 If there are a number of amendments proposed and seconded to a motion, they shall be considered one at a time. When a motion has been amended, the amended motion shall become the substantive motion before the meeting, upon which any further amendment may be moved.

4.13 Rights of reply to motions

- 4.13.1 Amendments
- 4.13.2 The mover of an amendment may reply to the debate on their amendment immediately prior to the mover of the original motion, who shall have the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.
- 4.13.3 Substantive/original motion
- 4.13.4 The mover who proposed the substantive motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any debate on the motion.

4.14 Withdrawing a motion

- 4.14.1 A motion or an amendment to a motion, once moved and seconded may be withdrawn by the proposer with the concurrence of the seconder and the consent of the Chair.

4.14.2 Motions once under debate

When a motion is under debate, no motion may be moved other than:

- a) an amendment to the motion; or
 - b) the adjournment of the discussion, or the meeting; or
 - c) that the meeting proceed to the next item of business on the agenda; or
 - d) the appointment of an ad hoc committee to deal with a specific item of business; or
 - e) that the motion be now put; or
 - f) (where relevant), a motion under SO 4.1 above resolving to exclude the public (including the press); or
 - g) that a member of the Board of Directors be not further heard.
- 4.14.3 In the case of motions under SO 4.11.2 e) (proceed to next business) or 4.142. (a)(e) (motion be now put), in the interests of objectivity these motions should only be put forward by a member of the Board of Directors who has not previously taken part in the debate and who is eligible to vote.

4.14.4 If a motion to proceed to the next business or that the question be now put, is carried, the Chair should give the mover of the substantive motion under debate a right of reply, if not already exercised. The matter should then be put to the vote.

4.14.5 The Chair shall have absolute discretion to the time permitted to members of the Board of Directors to move a motion or respond or reply to the motion

4.15 Motion to rescind a resolution

4.15.1 Notice of motion to rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding 6 calendar months shall bear the signature of the member of the Board of Directors who gives it and also the signature of three other members of the Board of Directors, and before considering any such motion of which notice shall have been given, the Board of Directors may refer the matter to an appropriate committee of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive for recommendation.

4.15.2 When any such motion has been dealt with by the Board of Directors, it shall not be competent for any member of the Board of Directors other than the Chair to propose a motion to the same effect within 6 calendar months. However, the Chair may do so if they consider it appropriate. This SO shall not apply to motions moved in pursuance of a report or recommendations of a committee of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive.

4.16 Voting

4.16.1 Subject to SO 4.15 (Suspension of Standing Orders), or as otherwise provided by the SOs, every question at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Directors present and voting on the question and, in the case of the number of votes for and against a motion being equal, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

4.16.2 All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the Chair, be determined by a show of hands. A paper ballot may also be used if a majority of the Directors present so request.

4.16.3 If at least one-third of the members of the Board of Directors present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot), on any question may be recorded to show how each Director present voted or abstained.

4.16.4 If a Director so requests, their vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).

4.16.5 In no circumstances may:

- a) an absent Director vote by proxy (absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote); or
- b) a resolution be passed if it is opposed by all of the Non-Executive Directors present and voting, or by all of the Executive Directors present and voting.

4.16.6 An Officer who has been appointed formally by the Board of Directors to act up for an Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporarily to fill an Executive Director vacancy, shall be entitled to exercise the voting rights of the Executive Director. An Officer attending the Board of Directors to represent an Executive Director during a period of incapacity or temporary absence without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the Executive Director. An Officer's status when attending a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.

4.17 Minutes

4.17.1 The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be drawn up by the Secretary and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting, where they will be signed by the person presiding at it.

- 4.17.2 No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the Chair considers discussion appropriate.
- 4.17.3 Any amendment to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded at the next meeting.
- 4.17.4 Where providing a record of a public meeting the minutes shall be made available to the public, save for items discussed by the Directors following the exclusion of the public and representatives of the press under SO 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.

4.18 Record of attendance and apologies

- 4.18.1 The names of the Directors present at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes, together with the names of any Nominated Officers, Officers and others invited by the Chair to be in attendance, save for members of the public or representatives of the press.
- 4.18.2 Directors who are unable to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors shall notify the Secretary in writing in advance of the meeting in question so that their apologies may be submitted.

4.19 Quorum

- 4.19.1 No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Board of Directors unless at least six Directors are present, including at least one Executive Director, one Non-Executive Director and the Chair.
- 4.19.2 An Officer in attendance for an Executive Director but without formal acting up status as described in SO 4.16.6 above may not count towards the quorum.
- 4.19.3 If the Chair or a Director has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of the declaration of a conflict of interest as provided in SO 8 below that person shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business. The above requirement for at least one Executive Director to form part of the quorum shall not apply where the Executive Directors are excluded from a meeting (for example when the Board of Directors considers the recommendations of the Remuneration and Nomination Committee).

4.20 Meetings: electronic communication

- 4.20.1 In this SO, "communication" and "electronic communication" shall have the meanings set out in the Electronic Communications Act 2000 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.
- 4.20.2 A Director in electronic communication with the Chair and all other parties to a meeting of the Board of Directors or of a committee or sub-committee of the Directors shall be regarded for all purposes as personally attending such a meeting provided that, but only for so long as, at such a meeting they have the ability to communicate interactively and simultaneously with all other parties attending the meeting including all persons attending by way of electronic communication.
- 4.20.3 A meeting at which one or more of the Directors attends by way of electronic communication is deemed to be held at such a place as the Directors shall at the said meeting resolve. In the absence of such a resolution, the meeting shall be deemed to be held at the place (if any) where a majority of the Directors attending the meeting are physically present, or in default of such a majority, the place at which the Chair of the meeting is physically present.

- 4.20.4 Meetings held in accordance with this SO are subject to SO 4.19 (Quorum). For such a meeting to be valid, a quorum must be present and maintained throughout the meeting.
- 4.20.5 The minutes of a meeting held in this way must state that it was held by electronic communication and that the Directors were all able to hear each other and were present throughout the meeting.

4.21 Adjournment of meetings

- 4.21.1 The Board of Directors may, by resolution, adjourn any meeting to some other specified date, place and time and such adjourned meeting shall be deemed a continuation of the original meeting.
- 4.21.2 No business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting which was not included in the agenda of the meeting of which it is an adjournment.
- 4.21.3 When any meeting is adjourned to another day, other than the following day, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be sent to each Director specifying the business to be transacted and the date, time and place of the adjournment

4.22 Reports from the Executive Directors

- 4.22.1 At any meeting of the Board of Directors a Director may ask any question through the Chair without notice on any report by an Executive Director, or other Officer of the Trust, after that report has been received by or while such report is under consideration by the Board of Directors at the meeting. The Chair may, in their absolute discretion, reject any question from any Director if, in their opinion, the question is substantially the same and relates to the same subject matter as a question which has already been put to that meeting or a previous meeting.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION

- 5.1 Subject to SO 3.6, the Regulatory Framework and such guidance or best practice advice as may be issued by NHS England, the Board of Directors may make arrangements for the exercise of any of its functions by a committee or sub-committee appointed by virtue of SO 5.3 below or by an Executive Director subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Board of Directors considers appropriate.

5.2 Emergency powers

- 5.2.1 The powers which the Board of Directors has retained to itself within these SOs or the Scheme of Delegation may, in emergency or for an urgent decision, be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chair after having consulted at least two other Non-Executive Directors. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and the Chair shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board of Directors for ratification.

5.3 Delegation to committees

- 5.3.1 The Board of Directors shall agree from time to time to the delegation of powers to be exercised by committees of the Board of Directors, which it has formally constituted. The constitution and terms of reference of these committees and their specific powers shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

5.4 Delegation to Nominated Officers

- 5.4.1 Those functions of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board of Directors or delegated to a committee of the Board of Directors shall be exercised on behalf of the Board of Directors by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall determine which functions they will perform personally and shall nominate Officers to undertake the remaining functions for which they will still retain accountability to the Board of Directors.

- 5.4.2 The Chief Executive shall prepare a Scheme of Delegation identifying their proposals, which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors, subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion. The Chief Executive may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, which shall be considered and approved by the Board of Directors as indicated above.
- 5.4.3 Nothing in the Scheme of Delegation shall impair the discharge of the direct accountability to the Board of Directors of the Director of Finance or other Executive Director to provide information and advise the Board of Directors in accordance with any statutory requirements.
- 5.4.4 The arrangements made by the Board of Directors as set out in the Scheme of Delegation shall have effect as if incorporated in these SOs, but for the avoidance of doubt, the Scheme of Delegation does not form part of the Constitution.

5.5 Duty to report non-compliance with Standing Orders

- 5.5.1 If for any reason these SOs are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board of Directors for action or ratification. All members of the Board of Directors and all Officers (including Nominated Officers) have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these SOs to the Secretary as soon as possible.

6. COMMITTEES

6.1 Appointment of committees

- 6.1.1 Subject to SO 3.6, the Regulatory Framework and such guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England, the Board of Directors may and, if directed by NHS England, shall appoint committees of the Board of Directors consisting wholly or partly of Directors.
- 6.1.2 A committee appointed under SO 6.1.1 may, subject to the Regulatory Framework and such guidance and/or best practice advice as may be issued by NHS England or the Board of Directors, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of Directors.
- 6.1.3 The SOs, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any committees (and any sub-committees or joint committees appointed under SO 6.1.2) established by the Board of Directors, in which case the term "Chair" is to be read as a reference to the Chair of the committee (or sub-committee or joint committee) as the context permits, and the term "member" is to be read as a reference to a member of the committee (or sub-committee or joint committee) also as the context permits.
- 6.1.4 Each such committee, sub-committee or joint committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions (as to reporting back to the Board of Directors), as the Board of Directors shall decide in accordance with any legislation, and/or regulations and/or such guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England. Such terms of reference shall have effect as if incorporated into the SOs, but for the avoidance of doubt, these terms of reference do not form part of the Constitution.
- 6.1.5 Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees, they may not delegate powers to the sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Board of Directors.
- 6.1.6 The Board of Directors shall approve the appointments to each of the committees, which it has formally constituted. Where the Board of Directors determines, and the Regulatory Framework permits, that persons, who are neither Directors nor Officers, shall be appointed to a committee the terms of such appointment shall be within the powers of the Board of Directors as defined by the Regulatory Framework. The Board of Directors shall define the powers of such appointees and shall agree allowances, including reimbursement for loss of earnings, and/or expenses.

- 6.1.7 The committees established by the Board of Directors are:
- a. Audit and Risk Committee;
 - b. Charitable Funds Committee;
 - c. Finance Business and Investment Committee;
 - a. People Committee;
 - e. Remuneration Committee; and
 - f. Quality Committee.
- 6.1.8 The Constitution and terms of reference of the committees listed in SOs 6.1.7 above shall be agreed by the Board of Directors.
- 6.1.9 Notwithstanding the provisions of SO 6.1.7 above, the Board of Directors may establish other committees, sub-committees and joint committees, including ad hoc committees, sub-committees and joint committees from time to time at its discretion.

6.2 Confidentiality

- 6.2.1 A member of a committee (including sub-committees or joint committees) shall not disclose any matter dealt with, by, or brought before, the committee, sub-committee or joint committee without its permission until the committee, sub-committee or joint committee (as appropriate) shall have reported to the Board of Directors or shall otherwise have concluded on that matter.
- 6.2.2 A Director or a member of a committee, sub-committee or joint committee shall not disclose any matter reported to the Board of Directors or otherwise dealt with by the committee, sub-committee or joint committee, notwithstanding that the matter has been reported or action has been concluded, if the Board of Directors or committee, sub-committee or joint committee resolve that it is confidential.

7. INTERFACE BETWEEN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

- 7.1 The Board of Directors will cooperate with the Council of Governors as far as possible in order to comply with the Regulatory Framework in all respects and in particular in relation to the following matters which are set out within the Constitution:
- 7.2 The Directors, having regard to the views of the Council of Governors, are to prepare the Forward Plan in respect of each Financial Year to be given to NHS England.
- 7.3 The Board of Directors are to present to the Council of Governors at a general meeting of the Council of Governors the Annual Accounts, any report of the Auditor on them, and the Annual Report.
- 7.4 The Annual Report is to give:
- 7.4.1 information on any steps taken by the Trust to secure that (taken as a whole) the actual membership of its Public Constituency is representative of those eligible for such membership;

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

7.4.3 any other information which NHS England requires.

7.5 In order to comply with the Regulatory Framework in all respects and in particular in relation to the matters which are set out above, the Council of Governors may request that a matter which relates to paragraphs 27 and 29 of the Constitution is included on the agenda for a meeting of the Board of Directors.

7.6 If the Council of Governors so desires such a matter as described within SO 7.5 above to be included on an agenda item, they shall make their request in writing to the Chair at least 10 clear calendar days before the meeting of the Board of Directors. The Chair shall decide whether the matter is appropriate to be included on the agenda. Requests made less than 10 clear calendar days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chair.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8.1 The Constitution requires members of the Board of Directors to declare (before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement):

8.1.1 any direct or indirect interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Trust, and

8.1.2 any actual or potential pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter concerning the Trust; and

8.1.3 any family interest, direct or indirect of which the Director is aware.

8.2 All members of the Board of Directors must declare such interests as soon as the Director in question becomes aware of it. Any members of the Board of Directors appointed subsequently to the date of the Authorisation must do so on appointment.

8.3 Such a declaration shall be made by completing and signing a form, as prescribed by the Secretary from time to time, setting out any interests required to be declared outside a meeting in accordance with the Constitution or the SOs and delivering it to the Secretary on appointment or as soon thereafter as the interest arises, but within 7 clear calendar days of becoming aware of the existence of a relevant and material interest.

8.4 If a declaration under SO 8.1 or 8.2 above proves to be, or becomes, inaccurate or incomplete, the Director must make a further declaration before the Trust enters into the transaction or arrangement. This does not require a declaration of an interest of which the Director is not aware of the transaction or arrangement in question.

8.5 A Directors need not declare an interest:

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

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

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

a) a meeting of the Board of Directors; or

b) by a committee of the Directors appointed for the purpose.

- 8.6** In addition, if a Director is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors and has an interest of any sort in any matter which is the subject of consideration, they must at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and they must then withdraw from the meeting and play no part in the relevant discussion and they shall not vote on any question with respect to the matter.
- 8.7** If a Director has declared a pecuniary interest in accordance with SO 8.8 below they shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter in respect of which an interest has been disclosed and shall be excluded from the meeting whilst that matter is under consideration. At the time the interests are declared, they should be recorded in the Director's meeting minutes. Any changes in interests should be officially declared at the next relevant meeting following the change occurring.
- 8.8** Subject to any guidance or best practice advice issued by NHS England, interests which should be regarded as "relevant and material" for the purposes of these SOs are:
- 8.8.1 Directorships, including non-executive directorships held in private companies or public listed companies (with the exception of those of dormant companies);
 - 8.8.2 Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS or the Trust;
 - 8.8.3 majority or controlling share holdings in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS or the Trust;
 - 8.8.4 a position of authority in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care;
 - 8.8.5 any connection with a voluntary or other organisation contracting for NHS or Trust services or commissioning NHS or Trust services;
 - 8.8.6 any connection with an organisation, entity or company considering entering into or having entered into a financial agreement with the Foundation Trust, including but not limited to, lenders or banks;
 - 8.8.7 research funding or grants that may be received by an individual or their department; and
 - 8.8.8 interests in pooled funds that are under separate management.
- 8.9** Members of the Board of Directors who hold directorships in companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS or the Trust should be published in the Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding Annual Reports.
- 8.10** A Director shall be treated as having indirectly a pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter, if:
- 8.10.1 he, or a nominee of theirs, is a director of a company or other body, not being a public body, with which the contract was made or is proposed to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration; or
 - 8.10.2 he is a partner or associate of, or is in the employment of, a person with whom the contract was made or is proposed to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration.
- 8.11** A Director shall not be treated as having a pecuniary interest in any contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only:

8.11.1 of their membership of a company or other body, if they have no beneficial interest in any securities of that company or other body; or

8.11.2 of an interest in any company, body or person with which they are connected which is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence a Director in the consideration or discussion of or in voting on, any question with respect to that contract or matter.

8.12 Where a Director:

8.12.1 has an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only of a beneficial interest in securities of a company or other body, and

8.12.2 the total nominal value of those securities does not exceed £5,000 or one percent of the total nominal value of the issued share capital of the company or body, whichever is the less, and

8.12.3 if the share capital is of more than one class, the total nominal value of shares of any one class in which they have a beneficial interest does not exceed one-hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class, the Director shall not be prohibited from taking part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or from voting on any question with respect to it, without prejudice however to their duty to disclose their interest in accordance with the Constitution and these SOs.

8.12.4 In the case of Immediate Family Members, the interest of one Immediate Family Member shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purposes of the Constitution and these SOs to be also an interest of the other.

8.12.5 If Directors have any doubt about the relevance or materiality of an interest, this should be discussed with the Secretary. Influence rather than the immediacy of the relationship is more important in assessing the relevance of an interest. The interests of partners in professional partnerships should also be considered.

8.12.6 Any remuneration, compensation or allowances payable to a Director by virtue of paragraph 18 to Schedule 7 of the 2006 Act shall not be treated as a pecuniary interest for the purpose of this SO.

8.12.7 SO 8 applies to any committee, sub-committee or joint committee of the Board of Directors and applies to any member of any such committee, sub-committee or joint committee (whether or not they are also a Director).

8.13 Register of interests of the members of the Board of Directors

8.13.1 The register of interests of members of the Board of Directors shall contain the names of each Director, whether they have declared any interests and, if so, the interests declared in accordance with the Constitution or these SOs.

8.13.2 In accordance with SO 8.3 above, it is the obligation of the Director to inform the Secretary in writing within 7 clear calendar days of becoming aware of the existence of a relevant or material interest. The Secretary shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining the registers in accordance with paragraph 36.2 of the Constitution.

8.13.3 The register of interests of members of the Board of Directors will be available to the public in accordance with paragraph 38.1 of the Constitution.

9. STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT

9.1 Policy

- 9.1.1 Directors and (where relevant) Nominated Officers should comply with the Directors' Code of Conduct and any guidance and best practice advice issued by NHS England. This section of the SOs should be read in conjunction with these documents.

9.2 Interest of Directors and Officers in contracts

- 9.2.1 Any Director or Officer who comes to know that the Trust has entered into or proposes to enter into a contract in which they have any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, shall give notice in writing of such fact to the Chief Executive or Secretary as soon as practicable, but in any event within 7 days of first becoming aware of the fact. In the case of Immediate Family Members, the interest of one Immediate Family Member shall, if known to the other, be deemed to be also the interest of that Immediate Family Member.
- 9.2.2 A Director or Officer must also declare to the Chief Executive or Secretary any other employment or business or other relationship of theirs, or of an Immediate Family Member, that conflicts, or might reasonably be predicted could conflict with the interests of the Trust in accordance with SO 8. The Trust shall require such interests to be recorded in the register of interests of members of the Board of Directors.

9.3 Canvassing of, and recommendations by, Directors in relation to appointments

- 9.3.1 Canvassing of Directors or members of any committee, sub-committee or joint committee of the Board of Directors directly or indirectly for any appointment under the Trust shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The contents of this paragraph of these SOs shall be included in application forms or otherwise brought to the attention of candidates.
- 9.3.2 A Director of the Board of Directors shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment; but this paragraph of this SO shall not preclude a Director from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust in relation to any appointment.
- 9.3.3 Informal discussions outside appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the panel or committee in question.

9.4 Relatives of Directors or Officers

- 9.4.1 Directors and Officers shall bear in mind that candidates for any staff appointment under the Trust shall, when making an application, disclose in writing to the Trust whether they are related to any Director or the holder of any office under the Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render them liable to instant dismissal.
- 9.4.2 Directors and Officers shall disclose to the Secretary any relationship between themselves and a candidate of whose candidature that Director or Officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to report to the Board of Directors any such disclosure made.
- 9.4.3 On appointment, Directors (and prior to acceptance of an appointment in the case of Executive Directors) must disclose to the Secretary whether they are related to any other member of the Board of Directors, the Council of Governors, or holder of any office in the Trust.
- 9.4.4 Where the relationship to an Officer, Governor, or another Director is disclosed, SO 8 shall apply.

9.5 External consultants

- 9.5.1 SO 9 will apply equally to all external consultants or other agents acting on behalf of the Trust.

10. CUSTODY OF SEAL AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

10.1 Custody of seal

- 10.1.1 The common seal of the Trust shall be kept by the Secretary or their Nominated Officer in a secure place.

10.2 Sealing of documents

- 10.2.1 The common seal of the Trust shall not be fixed to any documents unless the sealing has been authorised by a resolution of the Board of Directors or of a committee, thereof or where the Board of Directors has delegated its powers in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
- 10.2.2 Before any building, engineering, property or capital document is sealed it must be approved and signed by the Director of Finance (or their Nominated Officer) and authorised and countersigned by the Chief Executive (or their Nominated Officer who shall not be within the originating directorate).
- 10.2.3 Where it is necessary that a document shall be sealed, the common seal of the Trust shall be affixed in the presence of two Officers duly authorised by the Chief Executive, and also not from the originating department, and shall be attested by them.

10.3 Register of Sealing

- 10.3.1 The Secretary shall make an entry of every sealing (numbered consecutively) in a book provided for that purpose, and shall ensure that each entry is signed by the persons who shall have approved and authorised the document and those who attested the seal. The Secretary shall make a report of all sealings to the Board of Directors at least annually (the report shall contain details of the seal number, the description of the document and date of sealing).

11. SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS

- 11.1 Where the signature of any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings involving the Trust, it shall be signed by the Chief Executive, unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, or the Board of Directors shall have given the necessary authority to some other person for the purpose of such proceedings.
- 11.2 The Chief Executive or Nominated Officers shall be authorised, by resolution of the Board of Directors, to sign on behalf of the Trust any agreement or other document (not required to be executed as a deed) the subject matter of which has been approved by the Board of Directors or committee of the Board of Directors to which the Board of Directors has delegated appropriate authority.
- 11.3 Notwithstanding the generality of SOs 11.1 and 11.2 above, in land transactions the signing of certain supporting documents may be delegated to Nominated Officers, as set out in the Scheme of Delegation, but will not include the main or principal documents effecting the transfer (e.g. sale/purchase agreement, lease, contracts for construction works, or main warranty agreements) or any document which is required to be executed as a deed.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Standing Orders to be given to Directors and Nominated Officers

- 12.1.1 It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing Directors and Nominated Officers and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within these SOs.

- 12.1.2 Copies of the SOs shall be issued to Directors and Nominated Officers designated by the Secretary. The Secretary shall ensure that new Directors and Nominated Officers are informed of these SOs in writing and shall receive copies of these SOs.

12.2 Documents having the standing of Standing Orders

- 12.2.1 The SFIs and the Scheme of Delegation shall have the effect as if incorporated into these SOs, but for the avoidance of doubt, neither the SFIs nor the Scheme of Delegation form part of this Constitution.

13. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

- 13.1 The SOs shall be reviewed annually by the Trust. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in SOs

14. CORPORATE DOCUMENTS

- 14.1 Any corporate documents specific to the setting up of the Trust shall be held in a secure place by the Chief Executive.

Annex 6 Further Provisions

Appendix 1 - The Role and Responsibilities of the Secretary

1. The Trust shall have a Secretary who may be an Officer of the Trust, but may not be a Governor or Director of the Trust.
2. Notwithstanding the specific functions of the Secretary, as set out in this Constitution, the Secretary will be expected inter alia to
 - a. ensure good information flows within the Board of Directors and its committees and between senior management and the Council of Governors, and Members;
 - b. ensure that the procedures of the Board of Directors (as set out in this Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Board of Directors) are complied with;
 - c. ensure that the procedures of the Council of Governors (as set out in this Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Council of Governors) are complied with;
 - d. advise the Board of Directors and the Council of Governors (through the Chair or the Deputy Chair, as the case may be) on all governance matters;
 - e. be available to give advice and support to individual Directors and Governors and assistance with professional development;
 - f. be available to give advice and guidance to Directors and Governors on their respective statutory duties and corporate governance-related matters;
 - g. attend as necessary all meetings of the Board of Directors and Council of Governors including their committees, sub-committees and joint committees, and to keep accurate minutes of these meetings; and
 - h. attend the Annual Members' Meetings and keep accurate minutes of the meeting.

Annex 6 - Further Provisions

Appendix 2

3 PROCESS FOR APPOINTING NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND THE CHAIR

Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 26 to 27 of the Constitution, the process for appointing new Non-Executive Directors and the Chair will be as follows:

Not less than six months before the end of the term of office of the Chair or a Non-Executive Director (as the case may be) the Council of Governors will direct the Nomination Committee to seek a suitable replacement. The Nomination Committee will be constituted in accordance with paragraphs 1.7 and 1.8 below.

- 1.2 The Chair and NEDS can be appointed for up to 2 terms of three years. This can only be extended up to a maximum of nine years in exceptional circumstances as set out in the Code of Governance NHSE guidance for chairs and Non-Executive Directors appointment (April 2023) and would be subject to rigorous review and NHSE agreement.

Where:

the Nomination Committee does not make a recommendation that the Chair or a Non-Executive Director should be reappointed in accordance with paragraph 1.2 above; or

the Chair or (as the case may be) the Non-Executive Director in question does not want to be reappointed; or

the Council of Governors rejects a recommendation that the Chair or (as the case may be) a Non-Executive Director should be reappointed in accordance with paragraph 1.2 above,

the Nomination Panel shall initiate a process of open competition for the appointment of the Chair and/or Non-Executive Director, and the post will be advertised. Further, the Nomination Committee shall identify the balance of individual skills, knowledge and experience that is required at the time a vacancy arises and, accordingly, draft a job description and person profile for each new appointment. The Nomination Committee will have the power to establish a sub-committee ("**the Interview Panel**") for the purposes of undertaking any practical steps required to identify suitable individuals including the interviewing of selected candidates that have applied for the relevant post. The Interview panel shall have at least three members, one NED and a majority of Governors.

The Interview Panel for a Chair will consist of the Deputy Chair and at least two Governors. The Interview Panel for a Non-Executive Director will consist of the Chair and at least two governors.

If the number of Governors prepared to serve on the Interview Panel is greater than the number of places available, the panel members will be selected by an election by their peer Governors. The Non-Executive Director will chair the Interview Panel. Each member of the Interview Panel will have one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair or Deputy Chair (as applicable) will have a casting vote.

The Nomination Committee will make recommendations to the Council of Governors, including recommendations about pay and allowances and, in order to ensure the proper level of remuneration and allowances to be paid to the Chair and the Non-Executive Directors, the Nomination Committee shall from time to time, and at least every 3 years, benchmark, at the Trust's expense if required, with external advisors recognised as experts at appointments and/or remuneration to identify the proper level of remuneration and allowances to be paid to the Chair and/or the Non-Executive Directors, as recommended by the Secretary.

The Nominations Committee will consist of the Chair and at least three Governors including at least one Public Governor and one Staff Governor. If the number of Governors prepared to serve on the Nominations Committee is greater than the number of places available, the committee members will be selected by an election by their peer Governors.

The Nomination Committee constituted under paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 or the Interview Panel constituted under paragraph 1.4 or 1.5 may, if it considers it appropriate, be supported by appropriate advice from within the Trust including members of the Board and a human resources specialist. It may also engage an external organisation or individual recognised as expert at appointments to identify the qualifications, skills and experience required for the positions of Chair and/or Non-Executive Director and to assist in the process generally.

The Nomination Committee or Interview Panel constituted under paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 above may invite an independent assessor to attend in an advisory capacity only.

The Council of Governors will not consider nominations for membership of the Board of Directors other than those made by the appropriate Nomination Committee or the Interview Panel (as applicable).

Appendix 3: Fit and Proper Person Test requirement for directors

1.10 NHS England developed the fit and proper person test framework in relation to directors being fit and proper for their jobs under Regulation 5 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014. The framework requires that appointments to all Board level directors roles: Executive Directors and Non-Executive Directors including Associate Non-Executive Directors meet the fit and proper person test requirements.

1.11 To meet the fit and proper person test requirements, the individuals who are appointed to the role of a director must be :

- Of good character
- Possess the qualifications, competence and skills required for the role
- Financial soundness

1.12 Individuals cannot serve on an NHS Board and be:

- a person who has been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence or been convicted elsewhere of any offence which if committed in any of the United Kingdom, would constitute an offence
- a person who has been erased, removed, or struck off a register of professionals maintained by a regulator of health care or social work professionals
- an undischarged bankrupt, or a person whose estate has had a sequestration awarded in respect of it and who has not been discharged
- the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim bankruptcy restrictions order or an order to like effect made in Scotland or Northern Ireland
- a person whom a moratorium period under a debt relief order applies under Part VIIA 9 debt relief orders) of the Insolvency Act 1986(40)
- a person who has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, creditors and not been discharged in respect of it
- included in the children's barred list or the adults' barred list maintained under section 2 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, or in any corresponding list maintained under an equivalent enactment in force in Scotland or Northern Ireland
- a person who has been responsible for, privy to, contributed to or facilitated any serious misconduct or mismanagement (whether unlawful or not) in the course of carrying on a regulated activity, or discharging any functions relating to any office or employment with a service provider.

Indemnity

Members of the Council of Governors, 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 Trust.

The Trust may purchase and maintain insurance against this liability for its own benefit and for the benefit of members of the Council of Governors, the Board of Directors and the Secretary.

The Trust may take out insurance either through the NHS Litigation Authority or otherwise in respect of directors and officers liability, including liability arising by reason of the Trust acting as a corporate trustee of an NHS charity.

Dispute Resolution Procedures

Membership disputes

In the event of any dispute about entitlement to membership, the dispute shall be referred to the Secretary who shall make a determination on the point in issue. If the member or applicant (as applicable) is aggrieved at the decision of the Secretary, they may appeal in writing within 14 calendar days of the secretary's decision to the Council of Governors whose decision shall be final.

Other Disputes

In the event of any dispute in relation to this Constitution that concerns anything other than membership, the dispute shall be referred to the Chair who shall make a determination on the point in issue. If the Member or complainant (as the case may be) is aggrieved at the decision of the Chair they may appeal in writing within 14 calendar days of the Chair's decision to the Board of Directors whose decision shall, subject to the provisions of paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 below, be final.

In the event of a dispute being referred to the Chair under SO 4.13.10 of Annex 4 of this Constitution and a determination being made in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 3.2 above, if the Governor in question is aggrieved at the decision of the Board of Directors they may apply in writing within 7 calendar days to the Board of Directors for the decision to be referred to an independent assessor. The independent assessor will then consider the evidence and conclude whether the proposed removal is reasonable or otherwise.

On receipt of an application under paragraph 3.2 above the Board of Directors and the applicant Governor will co-operate in good faith to agree on the appointment of the independent assessor. If the parties fail to agree on an independent assessor within 21 calendar days of the date upon which the application is received by the Board of Directors the independent assessor will be nominated by the NHS England South East Regional Team Director. The independent assessor's decision will be binding and conclusive on the parties.

Disputes between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors

In the event of dispute between the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors:

in the first instance the Chair on the advice of the Secretary, and such other advice as the Chair may see fit to obtain, shall seek to resolve the dispute;

if the Chair is unable to resolve the dispute they shall appoint a committee comprising equal numbers of Directors and Governors to consider the circumstances and to make recommendations to the Council of Governors and the Board of Directors with a view to resolving the dispute this may involve the use of mediation (the "Special Committee");

if the recommendations (if any) of the Special Committee are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the Chair may refer the dispute back to the Board of Directors who shall make the final decision.

This process shall not preclude referral to NHS England, or another regulatory or legal body

Notices

Save where a specific provision of the Constitution otherwise requires or permits, 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.

For the purposes of this constitution "electronic communication" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Electronic Communications Act 2000 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.

Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice served pursuant to paragraph 4.1 above shall be deemed to have been received 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.

Staff Governors Constituency

- 5.1 For the Governors elected to represent the Staff Constituency, the three Governors that poll the highest number of votes will serve a term of office of three years. The three Governors polling the next highest number of votes will serve a term of two years. The term of office for the Governors will commence on the date notified to them by the Trust in writing. Any Governor who is elected to serve a further term of office thereafter will serve a term of office of three years.