



**Hampshire County Scout Council
Constitution
(replaces Constitution dated 30 June 2024)**

Purpose

1. Hampshire County Scout Council will adopt the 'Constitution for a Scout County' as detailed in The Scout Association's Policy Organisation and Rules (POR) Chapter 5b¹ as its own Constitution with additional provisions as detailed in this document.²

The Council

2. **Membership.** Appointment and membership of the Hampshire County Scout Council – the Council – is as per POR rule 5b.3.2.6 which must be referred to for rule adherence. Hampshire will also include the following on the Council:

a. **Ex officio.**³ Members of the Hampshire Scouts County Youth Council as detailed at paragraph 11 c-g.

b. **Community members.**⁴ The County Lead Volunteer may recommend named leaders (or their representative) of the Local Authorities of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton to be community members of the Council having sought their agreement first. The County Lead Volunteer may, with their agreement, also recommend that named Guide commissioners from the three Girlguiding counties in Hampshire be community members. Their membership of the Council will last only for the period that they remain in those positions unless changed by the Council's agreement.

3. **Quorum.**⁵ All Council members will be invited to the AGM where they will be given the opportunity to vote. The AGM will be considered quorate based on those Council members present plus the County Lead Volunteer, the County Chair and the County Youth Lead or, where they are unable to attend, their nominated representatives.

¹ POR (May 2025) Chapter 5c.3 – Constitution for a County (except Scotland).

² Local amendments to the model constitution are allowable under POR 5b.3.1.5 and must be recorded in the minutes of the AGM.

³ Means 'by virtue of office' and refers to a role that comes with someone's main role. For example, the County Lead Volunteer is an ex officio member of the County Scout Council and County Trustee Board.

⁴ Community members are appointed by the Council because of their role in the local community.

⁵ Quorum is the minimum number of people necessary to make decisions.

The Board

4. **Membership.** Membership of the County Trustee Board⁶ – the Board – is as per POR rule 5b.3.3⁷ which must be referred to for rule adherence. The Board should comprise a maximum of 12 Trustees with a minimum of five, two of whom aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays⁸. In addition to the ex officio County Lead Volunteer and County Youth Lead along with the appointed County Chair and County Treasurer, the Board will comprise:

a. **Appointed members.**

(1) **County Deputy Chair.** A young person aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays who will take on the role of County Deputy Chair. If nominated at further AGMs, they will serve for a period of no more than three years and must be 25 or younger at the time of their first approval AGM.

(2) **Cluster Representatives.** Given Hampshire's size, Districts are formed into cluster groups. All Scout Volunteers within a Hampshire cluster will be given the opportunity to stand as its Cluster Representative on the Board. This person will be agreed by an open vote and the Council will appoint those representatives at the AGM. A Cluster Representative will be appointed for a three-year term and can be re-appointed for a maximum of nine years. A Cluster Representative cannot be a person who has been appointed by the County Lead Volunteer or be a uniformed member of the County team.

b. **Co-opted members.** The Ferny Crofts Management Committee Chair will be a standing co-opted Board Trustee.

5. **Invited to attend.**⁹

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

⁶ In 2020, the Council renamed its County Executive Committee to be the County Board of Trustees (CBOT) in line with HQ guidance at the time. In 2023, in line with the Scouts move to rename all Executive Committees to Trustee Boards, the Council renamed the CBOT to the County Trustee Board.

⁷ County Trustee Board Membership.

⁸ POR rule 5b.3.3.3

⁹ Can I be a trustee? | Scouts.

- b. **Other young people.** With the permission of the County Chair, the County Youth Lead and the County Deputy Chair may invite young people to attend Board meetings for educational purposes.

6. **Board meetings quorum.** The Board will be quorate when one third of the number of Trustees plus one, are at the meeting. This must include the County Chair or, where one is appointed, the County Deputy Chair unless it has been agreed in advance that someone else will chair the meeting.

7. **Sub-committees.** Board sub-committees must be provided with clear, written terms of reference (TOR) before they meet. Like the Board, sub-committees should have at least two Trustees aged between their 18th and 25th birthdays. Decisions made by sub-committees must be reported to the next Board meeting. The quorum for sub-committees will be set by the Board in the TORs but will be a minimum of at least three, one of whom must be a Board member. Hampshire will have the following standing sub-committees with others formed at the Board's discretion as necessary:

- a. Appointments sub-committee.
- b. Finance sub-committee.
- c. Grants sub-committee.
- d. Ferny Crofts Management Committee.

8. **Removal of Board members.** The Board may decide to cancel a trustee's membership in line with POR as well as for the following reasons:

- a. **Missing meetings.** Any member who misses three meetings in a year without a valid reason.
- b. **Behaviour.** Any member whose behaviour contravenes Scout values including by using aggressive, abusive language or behaviour that upsets other members during a meeting or whose behaviour outside is likely to bring Scouts into disrepute.

The Youth Council

9. **Purpose.** Hampshire Scouts County Youth Council – the Youth Council – is the primary consultative body of young people within the County.¹⁰ In addition, the County Youth Lead, or their nominee, will facilitate the use of the Youth Council as a consultative body for other Scout bodies including UK Headquarters, and partner organisations where appropriate.

¹⁰ In Hampshire Scouts, this body is instead of a County Troop Leadership Forum, a County Explorer Forum and the Scout Network

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

11. **Membership.** Membership of The Youth Council comprises:

- a. The County Youth Lead, County Youth Team Member(s) and the County Deputy Chair.
- b. The EYRs (see paragraph 5.a).
- c. District Youth Leads and District Youth Team Members of all Districts within Hampshire, or one 18 – 25-year-old representative from each District without a District Youth Lead.
- d. Explorer Scouts representatives from each District within Hampshire, chosen according to a process decided by their parent District.
- e. Explorer Scouts representatives from any international Hampshire Scouts expedition provided that those representatives are members in Hampshire.
- f. Scout Network representatives from each District within Hampshire, chosen according to a process decided by their parent District.
- g. Any other young person who the County Youth Lead feels it advantageous to invite.

Ferny Crofts Activity Centre

12. The Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre – the Centre – is owned by the Council and is its principal asset.

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

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

To provide a safe, diverse and inclusive environment that offers quality opportunities for learning through fun, adventure, development and achievement, for young people, adults and aspiring leaders.

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

County President and Vice Presidents

16. The Hampshire County President and County Vice Presidents are members whose roles are honorary. As per the Scouts' policy, these roles have no executive function with their purpose being to 'promote the wellbeing and perception of Scouting in the wider community, connecting Scouting with the local community to help foster relationships between Scouting and other organisations and institutions'.

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

18. County Vice President (VP).

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

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

- c. The following are eligible to become Hampshire Scouts County VPs:
- (1) **Retiring County Lead Volunteers and County Chairs.** They will be considered by the Board to become a VP where they have served for more than three years, done so with distinction and can meet the role purpose. Their nomination will be recommended to the Council at its AGM for approval.
 - (2) **Retiring senior County Scouters.** The County Chair, in consultation with the County Lead Volunteer, may nominate other senior County Scouters to become a VP where they have served for more than three years, done so with distinction and can meet the role purpose. Their nomination will be recommended to the Council at its AGM for approval.
 - (3) **Other members and non-Scouts.** Other members and non-Scouts may be considered for a VP role where the proposer can demonstrate that by them holding that role, Hampshire Scouts will benefit. These are to be agreed by the Board and formally nominated for approval by the Council at its AGM.
- d. **Current VPs.** VPs appointed before June 2022 will retain that title for life without any obligations but may be called upon to carry out duties if required.

Changes and adoption

19. **Changes to the Constitution.** Changes to the Constitution will be made by the Council at an AGM having given Council members at least seven days-notice in advance of the meeting of the proposed change. Should a change be required because of a conflict with any changes to POR, then the required change is to be implemented by the Board and then formally adopted at the next AGM.

20. **Adoption of the Constitution.** This Constitution was adopted by the Council at its AGM on 28 June 2026.

Signed on behalf of the Council by:



Sarah Thomas
County Chair



Paul Bell
County Lead Volunteer