

DISABILITY EQUITY PARTNERSHIP

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The name of the body shall be the Disability Equity Partnership.
(Hereinafter referred to as the Partnership)

2. Area

The area represented by the Partnership shall be Aberdeen City.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Partnership shall be:

- a) To bring about improvements to the lives of people in Aberdeen City who experience exclusion because of their disability by promoting a rights based approach to disability equality.
- b) To create a society where disabled people are valued, respected and included in the life of the City.
- c) To encourage and promote inclusion and equality.
- d) To create fair opportunity by identifying and removing the disabling barriers which disabled people face on a daily basis including prejudice, discrimination and negative attitudes.
- e) To provide a means of partnership, consultation and joint action with Aberdeen City Council.

4. Membership

- a) The Partnership will comprise of no fewer than fifteen and up to twenty external members.
- b) Membership is open to all persons who are normally resident within the city of Aberdeen.
- c) External members are to be appointed in accordance with the agreed procedure as at appendix A.
- d) Aberdeen City Council shall appoint five Elected Members to sit on the Partnership.

APPENDIX 1

- e) In appointing Elected Members to the group the Council shall, so far as possible, give effect to the principles regarding political balance set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and which would be mandatory in the event of those provisions of the 1989 Act being brought into force.
- f) The Elected Members appointed to the group shall be reviewed in accordance with the above principles at the Statutory Council Meeting, after each local government election or at any Council or Operational Delivery Committee meeting, and any necessary alteration made thereafter.
- g) Elected Members appointed by the Council to serve on the Partnership will not be subject to a mandatory period of tenure.
- h) The length of membership for external members will be three years.
- i) External members who have reached the end of their three year ordinary membership may re-apply and will start a new three year term subject to the agreed procedure as at appendix A.
- j) Elected Members are bound by the Councillors' Code of Conduct and external members should adhere to its principles as per appendix B.

5. **Office Bearers**

- a) Office Bearers (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) will be appointed from the external membership.
- b) Office Bearers will be entitled to serve three full years in office, and can be re-appointed.
- c) Office Bearers will be entitled to serve a maximum of two terms in office. The maximum length of service for Office Bearers will be six years in any one position.
- d) In the event that an Office Bearer is unable to fulfil the role and unable to resign, the Partnership may remove them from office and appoint a replacement Office Bearer from the external membership.

6. **Quorum**

- a) A quorum shall be five members of the group. which must include three external members
- b) One Office Bearer of the Partnership must be present at any meeting where a vote is to take place.
- c) In the event that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are unable to attend a meeting, the Partnership may appoint an acting Chairperson to chair the meeting who would be classed as an Office Bearer in terms of 6b for the purpose of that meeting.

7. Voting

- a) In the event of a vote, Motions (proposals) and Amendments (counter proposals) will be decided by a simple majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- b) Each member will be entitled to cast one vote.
- c) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson (or Vice Chairperson if chairing the meeting or any acting Chairperson) will be entitled to cast a casting vote.
- d) Any agreed proposal by the Partnership seeking a change to the Constitution of the Partnership will be referred to the Operational Delivery Committee for determination.

8. Working Groups

The Partnership may appoint working groups comprising members of the Partnership and such other persons with particular expertise as may be appropriate, to undertake specific pieces of work on its behalf.

9. Minutes

Minutes of Meetings of the Partnership shall be kept and shall be kept and circulated to Elected Members for information.

10. Dissolution

The Partnership may only be dissolved by the Council or the Operational Delivery Committee. This may be effected either by a decision of the Council or the Committee, or in response to a motion put forward by the Partnership, which has been agreed by all Office Bearers and passed by 75% of the eligible voting members.

At least 28 days' notice of such a motion will be given to all members of the Partnership.

This constitution was adopted as the Constitution of the Partnership at a meeting held on [Date].

Chairperson _____ **Date** _____

Vice Chairperson _____ **Date** _____