

DISABILITY EQUITY PARTNERSHIP

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

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

2. Area

The area represented by the ~~Partnership DEP~~ shall be Aberdeen City.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the ~~Partnership DEP~~ 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 a level playing field~~ by identifying and removing the disabling barriers ~~which that~~ 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 There will be a core group comprising no fewer less~~ than fifteen and up to twenty external members.
- b) Membership is open to all persons who are normally resident within the city of Aberdeen, ~~regardless of gender, ethnic origin, impairment, religion or sexual orientation.~~
- c) ~~External Members are to be appointed in accordance with the agreed procedure as at appendix A.~~

- b)d) _____ Aberdeen City Council shall appoint five Elected Members to sit on ~~the the Partnership group~~.
- e)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.
- d)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.
- ~~e) It shall be competent for the Operational Delivery Committee to vary the Elected Member appointments at any time, provided that the political balance set out above is maintained.~~
- ~~g) Elected Members appointed by the Council to serve on the Partnership will not be subject to a mandatory period of tenure.~~
- ~~f) The maximum length of ordinary membership for External Members will be three years.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~g)i) Elected Members are bound by the Councillors' Code of Conduct and external members should adhere to its principles as per appendix B.~~
- ~~h) External Members who successfully re-apply will start a new three year ordinary membership and will be eligible for election as an Office Bearer.~~
- ~~i) Elected Members appointed by the Council to serve on the group will not be subject to a mandatory period of tenure.~~

5. Office Bearers

- ~~a) The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will first be Elected at the Inaugural Meeting and at approximately two yearly intervals thereafter.~~
- ~~b) Office Bearers will be elected from the External Membership.~~
- ~~c) The maximum length of service for Office Bearers will be three years.~~
- ~~d) Office Bearers will be entitled to serve two full years in office, in addition to their three year ordinary membership.~~
- ~~e) Office Bearers who have served their full tenure, or who otherwise stand down, may resume ordinary membership from the point at which they took office, and may~~

~~remain ordinary members of the group until such time as they have completed three full years of ordinary membership, at which time they may re-apply.~~

~~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 two external members.~~

~~b) One Office Bearer of the Partnership DEP must be present at any meeting where a vote is to take place.~~

~~a)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.~~

~~a)b) Each member will be entitled to cast one vote.~~

~~b) Only one vote may be cast by each eligible voting member.~~

~~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 second 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.~~

~~e) 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.~~

~~d) Any motion calling for a change to the constitution of the DEP will be referred to the Operational Delivery Committee, if agreed.~~

~~e) The Chairperson will not be entitled to a second vote in connection with any motion seeking a change to the constitution of the DEP, in which case the status quo will apply.~~

8. Working Task Groups

The ~~Partnership the DEP~~ may appoint ~~working groups Task Groups~~ comprising ~~m~~Members of the ~~Partnership Group~~ 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 the ~~Partnership DEP~~ shall be kept and shall be kept and circulated to Elected Members for information. ~~submitted to meetings of the Operational Delivery Committee for information.~~

10. Dissolution

The ~~Partnership DEP~~ may only be dissolved by the Council or the Operational Delivery Committee. This may be effected either by an ~~an autonomous~~ decision of the Council or the Committee, or in response to a motion put forward by ~~the the Partnership DEP~~, 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 DEP~~.

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

Chairperson _____ Date _____

Vice Chairperson _____ Date _____