

Durham County Scout Network Constitution

Preamble

The Scout Network was established in 2002 following a review of The Scout Association's 6-20 youth programme. The present Constitution is based on the County Scout Council Constitution and governs the operation of the Scout Network in the County of Durham. The County Executive Committee at its meeting on agreed the text of this Constitution.

Article 1 Title and Decision Making

1. Title

The County Scout Network is governed by the County Constitution under the title "County Scout Network". The Scout Network is the fifth Section of The Scout Association's 6-25 youth programme provision. The aims and principles of the Scout Network are the same as the aims and principles of The Scout Association as set out in the publication Policy, Organisation and Rules. The County Commissioner is responsible for the provision of the Scout Network in the County and he/she may appoint a County Scout Network Commissioner to manage the Section.

2. Decision Making

The key decision making bodies of the County Scout Network are: a) County Scout Network Conference b) County Scout Network Committee

Article 2 Purposes and Principles

The purpose of the County Scout Network is to provide a balanced Scout programme for 18 to 25 year-olds in the County. The principles of the County Scout Network are those of The Scout Association.

Article 3 County Scout Network Conference

1. Functions

The functions of the County Scout Network Conference are: a) To adopt the Annual Report of the County Scout Network Committee, including the annual statement of accounts for recommendation to the County Executive Committee to approve and include them in the County's Annual Report and accounts b) To elect 3 members of the County Scout Network as Elected Members of the County Scout Network Committee c) To contribute to planning for the development of Scout Network in the County. d) To help to ensure the proper implementation and policies of The Scout Association. e) To advise the County Scout Network Commissioner on the management of the County Scout Network provision in the County.

2. Composition

The County Scout Network Conference shall consist of:

Ex officio members (voting)

The County Commissioner

The County Chairperson

The County Scout Network Commissioner

County Scout Network Leaders

All full members of The Scout Association aged 18-25 and registered with the County Scout Network

Co-opted members (voting)

The President – Durham University Scout and Guide Group

The Liaison Officer – Durham University Scout and Guide Group

The County Scout Network Conference may co-opt members for a fixed period of up-to a year.

Such co-opted members may include representatives of organisations with whom it is desired to maintain co-operation. The number of co-opted members must not exceed the total of *ex officio* members.

Invited members (non-voting)

The County Scout Network Administrator

3. Rules of Procedure

- a) There shall be an ordinary meeting of the County Scout Network Conference at least once per year at such time and place as the County Scout Network Committee decides.
- b) The County Scout Network Committee may call an extraordinary meeting.
- c) Each ex-officio and co-opted member of the County Scout Network Conference shall have one vote and resolutions shall be carried by a simple majority of members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- d) During the election of members to the County Scout Network Committee, the County Scout Network Commissioner shall invite a member actually present to take the Chair which shall be approved by a simple majority of members present and voting. If Conference members do not approve the invited member, another shall be invited, until this meets with the Conference's approval.
- e) The County Scout Network Conference may adopt its own additional rules of procedure from time to time with approval from the County Executive Committee

Article 4 County Scout Network Committee

1. Functions

The County Scout Network Committee exists to advise and support the County Scout Network Commissioner in meeting the responsibilities of the appointment and to provide guidance and support to local Scout Networks within the County.

The specific functions of the County Scout Network Committee are:

- a) To produce the County Scout Network Annual Report including the statement of accounts to be adopted by County Scout Network Conference and recommend them to the County Executive committee in time for approval and inclusion in the County's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
- b) To exercise such functions as are provided for in the present Constitution.
- c) To agree the County Scout Network programme, communicate it to all County Scout Network members and to regularly review this programme
- d) To put into effect the resolutions of the County Scout Network Conference and to fulfil

- any duty that the County Scout Network Conference may assign to it.
- e) To contribute to planning for the development of Scout Network in the County whilst supporting local Scout Networks.
 - f) To act as an advisory and support body to local Scout Networks
 - g) To act as an advisory body to the County Scout Network Commissioner, County Commissioner and County Executive Committee on relevant matters.

2. Composition

- a) The County Scout Network Committee shall consist of 3 Elected Members who shall consider the interests of the County Scout Network as a whole and shall neither consider themselves nor be considered as representing any particular group. The County Commissioner, County Chairman and County Scout Network Commissioner are Ex-Officio Members. The chairs of all Local Scout Networks shall also be members.
- b) The County Scout Network Committee shall consist also of one non-executive member invited from the executive committee of Durham University Scout and Guide Group
- c) At any ordinary meeting of the County Scout Network Conference, the members shall be elected for a period of one year.
- d) The County Scout Network Committee may accept resignations to fill vacancies in its membership by co-option until the next meeting of the County Scout Network Conference.

3. Organisation of the Committee

- a) The County Scout Network Conference shall elect from its number a person to fulfil the role of Chairperson. The County Scout Network Committee shall approve the Chairperson job description.
- b) The County Scout Network Conference shall elect from its number a person to fulfil the role of Treasurer. The County Scout Network Committee shall approve the Treasurer's job description.
- c) The County Scout Network Conference shall elect from its number a person to fulfil the role of Secretary. The Secretary's job description shall be approved by the County Scout Network Committee, but shall always include responsibility for taking and keeping a record of minutes of all meetings of the County Scout Network Committee.
- d) The County Scout Network Committee shall meet at such times and places as it may decide. It is the Chairperson's responsibility to ensure that all members of the County Scout Network Committee are informed of the date, time and venue of all meetings of the County Scout Network Committee. The presence of more than 50% of members + 1 shall constitute a quorum.
- e) Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
- f) The County Scout Network Committee may establish working groups relevant to the County Scout Network Committee's functions and shall approve membership and remits of such groups.
- g) The County Scout Network Committee may invite any person whom it may deem useful in accomplishing its task as a consultant without vote.

Article 5 Financial Provisions

1. Annual Budget

All funds shall be deposited to the credit of an account designated for the purposes of the County Scout Network and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer of the County Scout Network Committee in accordance with a budget approved by the County Scout Network Committee in consultation with the County Scout Network Commissioner.

2. Financial Statement

- a) The Treasurer of the County Scout Network Committee shall present the Annual Statement of Accounts to members of the County Scout Network Conference for adoption and recommendation to the County Executive Committee. The Treasurer of the County Scout Network Committee shall submit to the County Executive Committee for approval the audited Annual Statement of Accounts in time for inclusion in the County's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
- b) Local Scout Networks holding financial accounts will provide regular reports to the County Scout Network Committee on these accounts. Accounts held by local Scout Networks shall be incorporated in the County Scout Network Annual Statement of Accounts.

Article 6 Other Provisions

1. Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be put to the County Scout Network Conference at any of its meetings. Texts of the proposed amendments shall be presented to the County Scout Network Committee before the County Scout Network Conference in writing. If the vote is carried by a simple majority of members present and voting, the County Scout Network Committee will recommend to the County Executive Committee the proposed amendments to the County Scout Network Constitution for their approval. The County Scout Network Conference adopts amendments approved by the County Executive Committee automatically without further consideration being given to the amendment.

*This Constitution was approved by the County Executive Committee at its meeting This Constitution was adopted by the County Scout Network Conference at on
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