

Preamble

This version of the Gateshead Scouts (Gateshead District Scout Council) District Constitution supersedes (replaces) any previous versions.

It should be read in conjunction with the Rule 4.25 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association currently in force. This document defines the specific application of the ideal constitution within Gateshead Scouts.

Charitable Objects

The charitable objects of Gateshead District Scout Council are as follows:

“Gateshead Scout District exists to actively engage and support the young people of Gateshead in their personal development, working in local communities to empower them to make a positive contribution to society”

Young People

Wherever possible, young people aged 18 – 25 years old who are members of elected or constitutional bodies, working groups or other committees should come from different scout groups in the district.

The District Scout Council

Membership of the District Scout Council is open to ex-officio and nominated members as defined in POR.

A quorum of the District Scout Council is defined as a minimum of 20 members.

In accordance with the constitution of Durham Scouts (Durham Scout County Council), three members of the District Scout Council may be elected to be members of the County Scout Council.

The District Executive Committee

All members of the District Executive Committee are required to act in the best interests of the charity and all members of the District.

Ex-officio members of the District Executive Committee are per POR.

Up to five elected members of the District Scout Council will be elected to the District Executive Committee by majority vote of the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting.

Up to five persons nominated to the Executive Committee by the District Commissioner should be approved by majority vote of the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting, with numbers not to exceed those of the elected members.

Up to five persons may be co-opted annually to the District Executive Committee by majority vote of the District Executive Committee, with numbers not to exceed those of the elected members. Such decisions may be taken at any time and may be renewed annually.

The Gateshead Scouts Executive Committee will meet a minimum of four times a year.

A quorum of the Gateshead Scouts District Executive Committee is defined as a minimum of 10 members.

Members of the Executive Committee may be delegated to act on behalf of the Executive Committee on defined matters or to address specific topics. Delegated actions are taken with the authority of the Executive Committee and the scope of any delegated actions should be clearly agreed by the Executive Committee at the time when such actions are delegated and regular updates on actions taken should be provided to the full Executive Committee.

The District Commissioner has the right to act in all matters as defined in POR 4.44 (a), supported by the District Executive Committee. The District Commissioner may also may act on behalf of the Executive Committee in emergencies and in all urgent matters where it is not possible to consult with the membership of the Executive Committee (usually in consultation with the District Chair where possible).

Sub Committees of the Executive Committee

The formation of all sub-committees must be approved by majority vote of the District Executive Committee.

All sub-committees will operate per POR 4.25 (f) (iv), within Terms of Reference approved by majority vote of the District Executive Committee

All sub-committees will prepare written reports to be tabled ahead of each Executive Committee Meeting

The following sub-committees are currently constituted:

- Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre Sub Committee

Conduct of Meetings

The conduct of meetings will be per POR.

Gateshead District Scout Council promotes the values of the Scout Association. Members of the District are expected to live these values in all meetings and interactions. This means working together with integrity, care, and respect for each other, and in a positive and cooperative manner. When points of challenge or disagreement occur, they must be expressed and dealt with in such a way that reflects our shared values as members of The Scout Association.



Gateshead Scouts District Constitution – Explanatory Notes

Version 2.00 – 24th September 2022

Constitutional Text	POR Reference (October 2022 version)	Explanatory Notes
<p><u>Preamble</u> This version of the Gateshead Scouts (Gateshead District Scout Council) District Constitution supersedes (replaces) any previous versions.</p>		Key clauses from the 2001 constitution have been incorporated within this document, and where necessary and appropriate have been brought up to date and further clarified to reflect subsequent changes to POR.
<p>It should be read in conjunction with the Rule 4.25 of the Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association currently in force. This document defines the specific application of the ideal constitution with Gateshead Scouts.</p>	4.25	<p>Gateshead Scouts have adopted the ideal constitution documented in POR 4.25.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the District Constitution defines specific criteria required within the ideal constitution (e.g. number of Executive Committee members, quorums etc) and further clarifies interpretation of the ideal constitution within the district.</p>
<p><u>Charitable Objects</u> The charitable objects of Gateshead District Scout Council are as follows: “Gateshead Scout District exists to actively engage and support the young people of Gateshead in their personal development, working in local communities to empower them to make a positive contribution to society”</p>		Proposed by the District Executive Committee at their meeting of 19 th April 2022 and approved by the membership at the 2022 AGM on 24 th September 2022
<p><u>Young People</u> Wherever possible, young people aged 18 – 25 years old who are members of elected or constitutional bodies, working groups or other committees should come from different scout groups in the district.</p>	4.25 (c) and (d)	This is in order to ensure full and broad representation of all district members. Young people aged 18-25 may also be members of the Scout Network and may not be members of any Scout Group.

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<p><u>The District Scout Council</u> Membership of the District Scout Council is open to ex-officio and nominated members as defined in POR.</p>	4.25 (e) (ii)	A list of ex-officio members and rules applying to nominated members are per the current version of POR
<p>A quorum of the District Scout Council is defined as a minimum of 20 members</p>	4.25 (e) (iv)	At least 20 members of the District Scout Council must be in attendance at any meeting of the body in order for any decisions (votes, approvals etc) to be taken. Agreed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.
<p>In accordance with the constitution of Durham Scouts (Durham Scout County Council), three members of the District Scout Council may be elected to be members of the County Scout Council.</p>		These three members are elected at the District AGM, specifically to represent the interests of Gateshead Scouts within the Scout County.
<p><u>The District Executive Committee</u> All members of the District Executive Committee are required to act in the best interests of the charity and all members of the District.</p>	4.25 (f) (ii)	<p>Members of the Executive Committee are charity trustees of the Scout District and are required to act in the best interests of the charity and all members of the district.</p> <p>Any and all potential conflicts of interest including those arising with respect to the membership of any other organisational unit within Scouting (e.g. a Scout Group, section, the Scout County) must be declared.</p>
<p>Ex-officio members of the District Executive Committee are per POR.</p>	4.25 (f) (iii)	These are currently The District Chair; The District Commissioner; The District Youth Commissioner; The District Secretary; The District Treasurer; The District Explorer Scout Commissioner; The District Scout Network Commissioner

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Up to five elected members of the District Scout Council will be elected to the District Executive Committee by majority vote of the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting.	4.25 (f) (iii)	<p>This number is in accordance with the 2001 constitution.</p> <p>It is not necessary for nominations to be seconded.</p> <p>Nominations for election may be made by district section meetings (as in the past).</p> <p>To allow members not connected with youth sections to also be nominated, direct nominations for election may also be made by any member of the District Scout Council, including self-nomination.</p> <p>The five nominated members will be decided by majority vote at the AGM, following an appropriate open nomination and voting process decided and communicated by the District Chair.</p>
Up to five persons nominated to the Executive Committee by the District Commissioner should be approved by majority vote of the District Scout Council at the Annual General Meeting, with numbers not to exceed those of the elected members	4.25 (f) (iii)	<p>This number is in accordance with the 2001 constitution.</p> <p>The number of nominated members may not exceed the number of elected members e.g. if only four members are elected, only four members may be nominated by the District Commissioner.</p>
Up to five persons may be co-opted annually to the District Executive Committee by majority vote of the District Executive Committee, with numbers not to exceed those of the elected members. Such decisions may be taken at any time and may be renewed annually.	4.25 (f) (iii)	<p>This number is in accordance with the 2001 constitution.</p> <p>The Executive Committee may co-opt members, usually because they have applicable experience useful to the Executive Committee e.g. fund-raising, risk management, data protection etc.</p> <p>They may be co-opted at any meeting of the Executive Committee, but the names of the co-opted members should be presented to the AGM, where their membership of the Executive Committee may be renewed by the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The number of co-opted members may not exceed the number of elected members e.g. if only four members are elected, only four members may be co-opted.</p>

Constitutional Text	POR Reference (October 2022 version)	Explanatory Notes
The Gateshead Scouts Executive Committee will meet a minimum of four times a year.		These four meetings will be scheduled in advance and do not include the AGM. Additional meetings may be scheduled by the District Chair to discuss and decide urgent matters (extraordinary meetings).
A quorum of the Gateshead Scouts District Executive Committee is defined as a minimum of 10 members.	4.25 (e) (iv)	This number is in accordance with the 2001 constitution. At least 10 members of the District Executive Committee must be in attendance at any meeting of the body in order for any decisions (votes, approvals etc) to be taken.
Members of the Executive Committee may be delegated to act on behalf of the Executive Committee on defined matters or to address specific topics. Delegated actions are taken with the authority of the Executive Committee and the scope of any delegated actions should be clearly agreed by the Executive Committee at the time when such actions are delegated and regular updates on actions taken should be provided to the full Executive Committee.		This allows working groups to work on specific tasks without the need to form a separate sub-committee. Any decisions or actions taken by a working group of the Executive Committee would be limited to the defined remit. Such working groups should prepare reports as defined for sub-committees below.
The District Commissioner has the right to act in all matters as defined in POR 4.44 (a), supported by the District Executive Committee. The District Commissioner may also act on behalf of the Executive Committee in emergencies and in all urgent matters where it is not possible to consult with the membership of the Executive Committee (usually in consultation with the District Chair where possible).	4.44 (a)	In emergencies and urgent matters, where it is necessary for the District Commissioner to take decisions or act on behalf of the District Executive Committee, the District Chair should be consulted wherever possible. Such decisions or actions should be reported to the Executive Committee as soon as practical.

Constitutional Text	POR Reference (October 2022 version)	Explanatory Notes
<p><u>Sub Committees of the Executive Committee</u> The formation of all sub-committees must be approved by majority vote of the District Executive Committee.</p>	4.25 (f) (iv)	<p>The Executive Committee must approve the creation of all sub-committee. Appointment of all sub-committee Chairs must be approved by the Executive Committee</p> <p>Decisions regarding membership of sub-committees may be delegated by the Executive Committee to the Chair of the sub-committee, the District Commissioner and District Chair.</p>
<p>All sub-committees will operate per POR 4.25 (f) (iv), within Terms of Reference approved by majority vote of the District Executive Committee</p>	4.25 (f) (iv)	<p>Terms of Reference will be written for each sub-committee and approved by the Executive Committee. This will define the purpose, structure, quorum, remit and method of operation of the sub-committee, and any trustees responsibilities delegated to the sub-committee.</p>
<p>All sub-committees will prepare written reports to be tabled ahead of each Executive Committee Meeting</p>	4.25 (f) (iv)	<p>The Chair (or any Secretary) of all sub-committees will prepare a written report ahead of each scheduled Executive Committee meeting, circulated to members of the Executive Committee one week ahead of their meeting.</p> <p>This should include details of any key decisions or actions taken which are within the remit of the sub-committee and recommendations to the Executive Committee where decisions and actions are outside the remit of the sub-committee.</p>
<p>The following sub-committees are currently constituted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre Sub Committee 	4.25 (f) (iv)	
<p><u>Conduct of Meetings</u> The conduct of meetings will be per POR.</p>	4.25 (i)	<p>This addresses eligible voters, majority votes and casting votes, electronic meeting and telephone and video conference meetings</p>



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Version 2.00 – 24th September 2022

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<p>Gateshead District Scout Council promotes the values of the Scout Association. Members of the District are expected to live these values in all meetings and interactions. This means working together with integrity, care, and respect for each other, and in a positive and cooperative manner. When points of challenge or disagreement occur, they must be expressed and dealt with in such a way that reflects our shared values as members of The Scout Association.</p>	<p>1 (Fundamentals of Scouting)</p>	<p>The Chair of the meeting is responsible for ensuring that these values are upheld and has the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow (or not) any items not previously included in the meeting agenda to be included in any other business• Suspend an individual's participation in a meeting where conduct is not in accordance with Scout Values• Suspend meetings in their entirety