

The Companies Act 2006

Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee

Articles of Association
of
Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership C.I.C

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INTERPRETATION

1. Defined Terms

The interpretation of these Articles is governed by the provisions set out in the Schedule at end of the Articles.

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY AND ASSET LOCK

2. Community Interest Company

The Company is a community interest company.

3. Asset Lock

3.1 The Company shall not transfer any of its assets other than for full consideration.

3.2 Provided the conditions in Article 3.3 are satisfied, Article 3.1 shall not apply to:

3.2.1 the transfer of assets to any specified asset-locked body, or (with the consent of the Regulator) to any other asset-locked body; and

3.2.2 the transfer of assets made for the benefit of the community other than by way of a transfer of assets into an asset-locked body.

3.3 The conditions are that the transfer of assets must comply with any restrictions on the transfer of assets for less than full consideration which may be set out elsewhere in the Memorandum and Articles of the Company.

3.4 If:

3.4.1 the Company is wound up under the Insolvency Act 1986; and

3.4.2 all its liabilities have been satisfied

any residual assets shall be given or transferred to an asset-locked body specified by the Directors.

4. Not for profit

The Company is not established or conducted for private gain: any surplus or assets are used principally for the benefit of the community.

OBJECTS, POWERS AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

5. Objects

The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular (without limitation) to drive economic and employment growth in Dorset, through the support of a strongly performing, productive and sustainable economy, characterised by a greater incidence of higher paid and skilled jobs, in a manner that, in so far as possible, harnesses and protects Dorset's unique environmental assets.

6. Powers

To further its objects the Company may do all such lawful things as may further the Company's objects and, in particular, but, without limitation, may borrow or raise and secure the payment of money for any purpose including for the purposes of investment or of raising funds.

7. Liability of members

The liability of each member is limited to £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, for:

- 7.1 payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member;
- 7.2 payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- 7.3 adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. Directors' general authority

Subject to the Articles, the Directors are responsible for the management of the Company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Company.

9. Members' reserve power

- 9.1 The members may, by special resolution, direct the Directors to take, or refrain from taking, specific action.
- 9.2 No such special resolution invalidates anything which the Directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

10. Chair

- 10.1 The Directors may appoint a Chair of the Directors and may at any time remove him or her from office. The Chair will hold office for a period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed for further term of three years. The Chair shall be, or shall be appointed as, a Private Sector Director.

10.2 The Directors may appoint a vice-Chair of the Directors and may at any time remove him or her from office. The vice-Chair will hold office for a period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed for a further term of three years. The Vice-Chair shall be, or shall be appointed as, a Private Sector Director.

11. Directors may delegate

11.1 Subject to the Articles, the Directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the Articles:

- 11.1.1 to such person or committee;
- 11.1.2 by such means (including by power of attorney);
- 11.1.3 to such an extent;
- 11.1.4 in relation to such matters or territories; and
- 11.1.5 on such terms and conditions,

as they think fit.

11.2 If the Directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the Directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.

11.3 The Directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

12. Committees

12.1 The Directors may delegate under written terms of reference to committees and/or working groups. Those powers shall be exercised in accordance with any written instructions given by the Board.

12.2 Every committee shall include one Director. The Board will appoint the chair of any committee and shall specify the quorum.

12.3 To the extent that terms of reference made under Article 12.1 do not deal with any issue, the committees and/or working groups must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the Articles which govern the taking of decisions by Directors.

DECISION-MAKING BY DIRECTORS

13. Directors to take decisions collectively

Any decision of the Directors must be either a majority decision at a meeting, although the Directors recognise that unanimity is ideal, or a decision taken in accordance with Article 18.

14. Calling a Directors' meeting

14.1 Outside the regular schedule of Directors' meetings, five or more Directors or the Chair may (and the Secretary, if any, must at the request of five or more of the total number of Directors or the Chair) call a Directors' meeting.

- 14.2 A Directors' meeting must be called by at least seven Clear Days' notice unless either:
- 14.2.1 all the Directors agree; or
 - 14.2.2 urgent circumstances require shorter notice.
- 14.3 Notice of Directors' meetings must be given to each Director.
- 14.4 Every notice calling a Directors' meeting must specify:
- 14.4.1 the place, day and time of the meeting; and
 - 14.4.2 if it is anticipated that Directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- 14.5 Notice of Directors' meetings need not be in Writing.
- 14.6 Notice of Directors' meetings may be sent by Electronic Means to an Address provided by the Director for the purpose.

15. Participation in Directors' meetings

- 15.1 Subject to the Articles, Directors participate in a Directors' meeting, or part of a Directors' meeting, when:
- 15.1.1 the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the Articles; and
 - 15.1.2 they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- 15.2 In determining whether Directors are participating in a Directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any Director is or how they communicate with each other.
- 15.3 If all the Directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

16. Quorum for Directors' meetings

- 16.1 At a Directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- 16.2 The quorum for Directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the Directors, and unless otherwise fixed, is 50% of the total number of Board Members plus one.
- 16.3 If there are not sufficient Directors to satisfy the quorum requirement under Article 16.2, the Directors must not take any decision other than a decision to appoint or invite the appointment of further Directors.

17. Decision making at a meeting

- 17.1 Questions arising at a Directors' meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
- 17.2 In all proceedings of Directors each Director must not have more than one vote.

17.3 In case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

18. Decisions without a meeting

18.1 The Directors may take a majority decision without a Directors' meeting by indicating to each other by any means, including without limitation by Electronic Means, that they share a common view on a matter. Such a decision may, but need not, take the form of a resolution in Writing, copies of which have been signed by each Director or to which each Director has otherwise indicated agreement in Writing.

18.2 A decision which is made in accordance with Article 18.1 shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting duly convened and held, provided the following conditions are complied with:

18.2.1 approval from each Director must be received by one person being either such person as all the Directors have nominated in advance for that purpose or such other person as volunteers if necessary ("the Recipient"), which person may, for the avoidance of doubt, be one of the Directors;

18.2.2 following receipt of responses from a majority of the Directors, the Recipient must communicate to all of the Directors by any means whether the resolution has been formally approved by the Directors in accordance with this Article 18.2;

18.2.3 the date of the decision shall be the date of the communication from the Recipient confirming formal approval; and

18.2.4 the Recipient must prepare a minute of the decision in accordance with Article 53.

19. Conflicts of interest

19.1 Whenever a Director finds himself or herself in a situation that is reasonably likely to give rise to a Conflict of Interest, he or she must declare his or her interest to the Directors.

19.2 If any question arises as to whether a Director has a Conflict of Interest, the question shall be decided by a majority decision of the other Directors.

19.3 Whenever a matter is to be discussed at a meeting or decided in accordance with Article 18 and a Director has a Conflict of Interest in respect of that matter then, subject to Article 20, he or she must:

19.3.1 remain only for such part of the meeting as in the view of the other Directors is necessary to inform the debate;

19.3.2 not be counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting; and

19.3.3 withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.

19.4 When a Director has a Conflict of Interest which he or she has declared to the Directors, he or she shall not be in breach of his or her duties to the Company by withholding confidential information from the Company if to disclose it would result in a breach of any other duty or obligation of confidence owed by him or her.

20. Directors' power to authorise a conflict of interest

- 20.1 The Directors have power to authorise a Director to be in a position of Conflict of Interest provided:
- 20.1.1 in relation to the decision to authorise a Conflict of Interest, the conflicted Director must comply with Article 19.3;
 - 20.1.2 in authorising a Conflict of Interest, the Directors can decide the manner in which the Conflict of Interest may be dealt with and, for the avoidance of doubt, they can decide that the Director with a Conflict of Interest can participate in a vote on the matter and can be counted in the quorum; and
 - 20.1.3 the decision to authorise a Conflict of Interest can impose such terms as the Directors think fit and is subject always to their right to vary or terminate the authorisation.
- 20.2 If a matter, or office, employment or position, has been authorised by the Directors in accordance with Article 20.1 then, even if he or she has been authorised to remain at the meeting by the other Directors, the Director may absent himself or herself from meetings of the Directors at which anything relating to that matter, or that office, employment or position, will or may be discussed.
- 20.3 A Director shall not be accountable to the Company for any benefit which he or she derives from any matter, or from any office, employment or position, which has been authorised by the Directors in accordance with Article 20.1 (subject to any limits or conditions to which such approval was subject).

21. Register of Directors' interests

The Directors shall ensure that a register of Directors' interests is kept and maintained. A Director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Company or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Company which has not previously been declared.

APPOINTMENT AND RETIREMENT OF DIRECTORS

22. Appointment of Directors

- 22.1 Those persons notified to the Registrar of Companies as the first Directors of the Company shall be the first Directors.
- 22.2 The Company shall have the following Directors:
- 22.2.1 prior to 1 April 2019 up to four Public Sector Directors, and from 1 April 2019 up to four Public Sector Directors, appointed in accordance with Article 23;
 - 22.2.2 up to two HE Directors appointed in accordance with Article 24;
 - 22.2.3 one FE Director appointed in accordance with Article 25; and
- 22.2.4 prior to 1 April 2019 up to eleven Private Sector Directors appointed in accordance with Article 26 with the option to co-opt a further three Directors, and from 1 April 2019 up to fifteen Private Sector Directors, with the option to co-

opt a further five Directors, so as to ensure that the total number of Private Sector Directors is greater than the total number of all other Directors. The private sector should form at least two thirds of the Board.

22.3 The terms of office of the first Directors of the Company shall be calculated by reference to the date they were originally appointed.

23. Public Sector Directors

23.1 Prior to 1 April 2019, each of Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Poole Borough Council and (collectively) the District Councils have the right to appoint one elected member as a Public Sector Director. On 1 April 2019, the Directors appointed by each of Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Poole Borough Council and (collectively) the District Councils shall resign from office and on or after 1 April 2019 each of Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council have the right to appoint up to two elected members as a Public Sector Director.

23.2 Subject to Article 23.3 and Article 27, a Public Sector Director is to hold office during their term of office as an elected member of the relevant Council.

23.3 The Council which appointed an individual as a Public Sector Director in accordance with Article 23.1 is entitled to remove him or her at any time in the same way as it appointed him or her.

24. HE Directors

24.1 Each of Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth has the right to appoint one HE Director. Such an appointment is to take effect when notified to the Company in writing and delivered to the Registered Office, a Directors' meeting or the Secretary in person.

24.2 Subject to Article 24.3 and Article 27, a HE Director is to hold office for a period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed for further terms of three years.

24.3 Each of Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth is entitled to remove its HE Director in the same way as it appointed him or her.

25. FE Director

25.1 The Further Education Colleges have the right to collectively appoint one FE Director. Such an appointment is to take effect when notified to the Company in writing and delivered to the Registered Office, a Directors' meeting or the Secretary in person.

25.2 Subject to Article 25.3 and Article 27 the FE Director is to hold office for a period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed for further terms of three years.

25.3 The Further Education Colleges are entitled to collectively remove the FE Director in the same way as they appointed him or her.

25.4 In the event that the Further Education Colleges do not (or are unable to agree on how to) exercise their right of appointment under Article 25.1 the Directors may appoint an individual who, in their reasonable opinion, is suitably qualified or experienced to serve as the FE Director.

26. Private Sector Directors

- 26.1 Following an open recruitment procedure the Directors shall appoint individuals as Private Sector Directors so as to ensure that, at all times, the total number of Private Sector Directors is greater than the total number of all other Directors.
- 26.2 Subject to Article 27 and, unless the Directors decide otherwise at the time of appointment, a Private Sector Director is to hold office for an initial period of three years. He or she may be re-appointed in accordance with Article 26.1 for a further one term of three years.

27. Co-opted Directors

Prior to 1 April 2019, the Directors may from time to time co-opt up to three persons to the Board and the Board may at any time revoke such co-option. From 1 April 2019, the Directors may from time to time co-opt up to five persons to the Board and the Board may at any time revoke such co-option. Co-opted Directors shall be entitled to vote and shall be counted in the quorum for Directors' meetings. Co-opted Directors shall hold office for one year.

28. Observers

The Board may from time to time appoint observers to attend Directors' Meetings. Observers shall not be entitled to vote but may be invited to speak at the meeting on specific matters. The Board may exclude observers from any part of a Directors' Meeting.

29. Termination of Director's appointment

A person ceases to be a Director or Co-opted Director as soon as:

- 29.1 that person ceases to be a Director or Co-opted Director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Acts, or is prohibited from being a Director or Co-opted Director by law;
- 29.2 being a Public Sector Director that person comes to the end of his/her term of office as specified in Article 23.2 and is not re-appointed, or is removed from office in accordance with Article 23.3;
- 29.3 being an HE Director that person comes to the end of his/her term of office under Article 24.2 and is not re-appointed, or is removed from office in accordance with Article 24.3;
- 29.4 being an FE Director that person comes to the end of his/her term of office under Article 25.2 and is not re-appointed, or is removed from office in accordance with Article 25.3;
- 29.5 being a Private Sector Director that person comes to the end of his/her term of office under Article 26.2 and is not re-appointed to the Board;
- 29.6 a bankruptcy order is made against that person, or an order is made against that person in individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;
- 29.7 a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
- 29.8 a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the Company stating that that person has become physically or

mentally incapable of acting as a Director or Co-opted Director and may remain so for more than three months;

- 29.9 notification is received by the Company from the Director or Co-opted Director that they are resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms (but only if at least two Directors will remain in office when such resignation has taken effect);
- 29.10 the Director or Co-opted Director fails to attend three quarters of all Directors' meetings within a 12 month period and three quarters of the Directors present vote to remove the Director or Co-opted Director;
- 29.11 they are a Co-Opted Director and are removed by the Board in accordance with Article 27; or
- 29.12 at a Directors' meeting, a resolution is passed by three quarters of the Directors present to remove the Director from office, provided the meeting has invited the views of the Director concerned and considered the matter in the light of such views.

30. Directors' remuneration

- 30.1 Directors may undertake any services for the Company that the Directors decide.
- 30.2 Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the Directors determine:
 - 30.2.1 for their services to the Company as Directors; and
 - 30.2.2 for any other service which they undertake for the Company.
- 30.3 Subject to the Articles, a Director's remuneration may:
 - 30.3.1 take any form; and
 - 30.3.2 include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.
- 30.4 Unless the Directors decide otherwise, Directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.
- 30.5 Unless the Directors decide otherwise, Directors are not accountable to the Company for any remuneration which they receive as Directors or other officers or employees of the Company's subsidiaries or of any other body corporate in which the Company is interested.

31. Directors' expenses

The Company may pay any reasonable expenses which the Directors properly incur in connection with their attendance at:

- 31.1 meetings of Directors or committees;
- 31.2 general meetings; or
- 31.3 separate meetings of any class of members or of the holders of any debentures of the Company,

or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the Company.

MEMBERS

BECOMING AND CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

32. Becoming a member

- 32.1 The subscribers to the Memorandum are the first members of the Company.
- 32.2 Such other persons as are admitted to membership in accordance with the Articles shall be members of the Company.
- 32.3 Subject to Articles 32.4, 32.5, 32.6, no person shall be admitted a member of the Company unless he or she is approved by the Directors.
- 32.4 Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth were each admitted as a member of the Company following the incorporation of the Company. With effect from 1 April 2019, Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council, Dorset County Council and the District Councils shall cease to exist and/or be members of the Company and each of Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council shall become members of the Company. Each of Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth shall remain as a member of the Company.
- 32.5 Every person who wishes to become a member shall deliver to the Company an application for membership in such form (and containing such information) as the Directors require and executed by him, her or it.
- 32.6 Each Director, except for the Public Sector Directors appointed by each of Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council and the HE Directors, shall be a member.
- 32.7 Each of Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Dorset Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Bournemouth University and Arts University Bournemouth shall be deemed to have authorised the individual appointed by them as a Public Sector Director or HE Director (as appropriate) to act as their respective authorised representative at General Meetings until such time as the individual ceases to be a Public Sector Director or HE Director (as appropriate).
- 32.8 The Directors, subject to Articles 32.3 and 32.5, may admit members outside of those prescribed in Articles 32.4, 32.6 and 32.7. Such members may include, but are not limited to: -
- 32.8.1 local authority bodies; and
- 32.8.2 business organisations.

33. Termination of membership

- 33.1 Membership is not transferable to anyone else.
- 33.2 Membership is terminated if:

- 33.2.1 the member dies or ceases to exist;
- 33.2.2 otherwise in accordance with the Articles;
- 33.2.3 notice is given by the member to the Company stating their intention to terminate their membership, such notice to take effect not less than 1 month after the notice is delivered to the Company;
- 33.2.4 in the case of a member who is also a Director that individual ceases to be a Director;
- 33.2.5 if a Director is a member, and their appointing body is admitted as a member, in which case the Director's membership shall cease immediately; and
- 33.2.6 at a meeting of the Directors a resolution is passed by at least three quarters of the Directors present resolving that the member be expelled on the ground that his or her continued membership is harmful to or is likely to become harmful to the interests of the Company. Such a resolution may not be passed unless the member has been given at least 14 Clear Days' notice that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify expulsion, and has been afforded a reasonable opportunity of being heard by or of making written representations to the Directors.

ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

34. General meetings

- 34.1 The Directors may call a general meeting at any time.
- 34.2 The Directors must call a general meeting if required to do so by the members under the Companies Acts.

35. Length of notice

All general meetings must be called by either:

- 35.1 at least 14 Clear Days' notice; or
- 35.2 shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority of the members having a right to attend and vote at that meeting. Any such majority must together represent at least 90% of the total voting rights at that meeting of all the members.

36. Contents of notice

- 36.1 Every notice calling a general meeting must specify the place, day and time of the meeting, whether it is a general or an annual general meeting, and the agenda for the meeting.
- 36.2 If a special resolution is to be proposed, the notice must include the proposed resolution and specify that it is proposed as a special resolution.
- 36.3 In every notice calling a meeting of the Company there must appear with reasonable prominence a statement informing the member of his or her rights to appoint another person as his or her proxy at a general meeting.

37. Service of notice

Notice of general meetings must be given to every member, to the Directors and to the auditors of the Company.

38. Attendance and speaking at general meetings

38.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.

38.2 A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:

38.2.1 that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and

38.2.2 that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.

38.3 The Directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.

38.4 In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.

38.5 Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

39. Quorum for general meetings

39.1 No business (other than the appointment of the chair of the meeting) may be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.

39.2 The quorum for a general meeting is eight. A member may be present in person or by proxy or by authorised representative.

39.3 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place, or to such time and place as the Directors may determine, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting those present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum.

40. Chairing general meetings

40.1 The Chair or in his or her absence or if s/he is unwilling the vice-Chair, or when both are absent or unwilling, another Director nominated by the Directors present shall preside as chair of every general meeting.

40.2 If the Chair, the vice-Chair or such other Director nominated in accordance with Article 40.1 are not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their

number to chair the meeting and, if there is only one Director present and willing to act, he or she shall be chair of the meeting.

- 40.3 If no Director is willing to act as chair of the meeting, or if no Director is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present in person or by proxy or by authorised representative and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting, save that a proxy holder who is not a member entitled to vote nor an authorised representative shall not be entitled to be appointed chair of the meeting.

41. Attendance and speaking by non-members

The chair of the meeting may permit other persons who are not members of the Company to attend and speak at a general meeting.

42. Adjournment

- 42.1 The chair of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:

42.1.1 the meeting consents to an adjournment; or

42.1.2 it appears to the chair of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.

- 42.2 The chair of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.

- 42.3 When adjourning a general meeting, the chair of the meeting must:

42.3.1 either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the Directors; and

42.3.2 have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.

- 42.4 If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than fourteen days after it was adjourned, the Company must give at least seven Clear Days' notice of it:

42.4.1 to the same persons to whom notice of the Company's general meetings is required to be given; and

42.4.2 containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.

- 42.5 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

43. Voting: general

- 43.1 A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the Articles.

43.2 A person who is not a member of the Company shall not have any right to vote at a general meeting of the Company; but this is without prejudice to any right to vote on a resolution affecting the rights attached to a class of the Company's debenture.

43.3 Article 43.2 shall not prevent a person who is a proxy for a member or who is the authorised representative of a member from voting at a general meeting of the Company.

44. Votes

44.1 On a vote on a resolution on a show of hands at a meeting every person present in person or by proxy or by authorised representative and entitled to vote shall have a maximum of one vote.

44.2 On a vote on a resolution on a poll at a meeting every member present in person or by proxy or by authorised representative shall have one vote.

44.3 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or she may have.

44.4 No member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all monies presently payable by him, her or it to the Company have been paid.

45. Poll votes

45.1 A poll on a resolution may be demanded:

45.1.1 in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote; or

45.1.2 at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.

45.2 A poll may be demanded by:

45.2.1 the chair of the meeting;

45.2.2 the Directors;

45.2.3 two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution;

45.2.4 any person, who, by virtue of being appointed proxy for one or more members having the right to vote at the meeting, holds two or more votes; or

45.2.5 a person or persons representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote on the resolution.

45.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:

45.3.1 the poll has not yet been taken; and

45.3.2 the chair of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

45.4 Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chair of the meeting directs.

46. Errors and disputes

46.1 No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.

46.2 Any such objection must be referred to the chair of the meeting whose decision is final.

47. Content of proxy notices

47.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a "Proxy Notice") which:

47.1.1 states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;

47.1.2 identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;

47.1.3 is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the Directors may determine; and

47.1.4 is delivered to the Company in accordance with the Articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.

47.2 The Company may require Proxy Notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

47.3 Proxy Notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

47.4 Unless a Proxy Notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:

47.4.1 allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and

47.4.2 appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

48. Delivery of proxy notices

48.1 A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid Proxy Notice has been delivered to the Company by or on behalf of that person.

48.2 An appointment under a Proxy Notice may be revoked by delivering to the Company a notice in Writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the Proxy Notice was given.

48.3 A notice revoking the appointment of a proxy only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

49. Amendments to resolutions

- 49.1 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:
- 49.1.1 notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Company in Writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chair of the meeting may determine); and
 - 49.1.2 the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chair of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- 49.2 A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:
- 49.2.1 the chair of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and
 - 49.2.2 the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- 49.3 If the chair of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chair's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS

50. Written resolutions

- 50.1 Subject to Article 50.3, a written resolution of the Company passed in accordance with this Article 50 shall have effect as if passed by the Company in general meeting:
- 50.1.1 A written resolution is passed as an ordinary resolution if it is passed by a simple majority of the total voting rights of eligible members.
 - 50.1.2 A written resolution is passed as a special resolution if it is passed by members representing not less than 75% of the total voting rights of eligible members. A written resolution is not a special resolution unless it states that it was proposed as a special resolution.
- 50.2 In relation to a resolution proposed as a written resolution of the Company the eligible members are the members who would have been entitled to vote on the resolution on the circulation date of the resolution.
- 50.3 A members' resolution under the Companies Acts removing a Director or an auditor before the expiration of his or her term of office may not be passed as a written resolution.
- 50.4 A copy of the written resolution must be sent to every member together with a statement informing the member how to signify their agreement to the resolution and the date by which the resolution must be passed if it is not to lapse. Communications in relation to written notices shall be sent to the Company's auditors in accordance with the Companies Acts.

- 50.5 A member signifies their agreement to a proposed written resolution when the Company receives from him or her an authenticated Document identifying the resolution to which it relates and indicating his or her agreement to the resolution.
- 50.6 If the Document is sent to the Company in Hard Copy Form, it is authenticated if it bears the member's signature.
- 50.7 If the Document is sent to the Company by Electronic Means, it is authenticated if it bears the member's signature or if it is from an email Address notified by the member to the Company for the purposes of receiving Documents or information by Electronic Means.
- 50.8 A written resolution is passed when the required majority of eligible members have signified their agreement to it.
- 50.9 A proposed written resolution lapses if it is not passed within 28 days beginning with the circulation date.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS

51. Means of communication to be used

- 51.1 Subject to the Articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the Company under the Articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for Documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the Company.
- 51.2 Subject to the Articles, any notice or Document to be sent or supplied to a Director in connection with the taking of decisions by Directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that Director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or Documents for the time being.
- 51.3 A Director may agree with the Company that notices or Documents sent to that Director in a particular way are to be deemed to have been received within an agreed time of their being sent, and for the agreed time to be less than 48 hours.

52. Irregularities

The proceedings at any meeting or on the taking of any poll or the passing of a written resolution or the making of any decision shall not be invalidated by reason of any accidental informality or irregularity (including any accidental omission to give or any non-receipt of notice) or any want of qualification in any of the persons present or voting or by reason of any business being considered which is not referred to in the notice unless a provision of the Companies Acts specifies that such informality, irregularity or want of qualification shall invalidate it.

53. Minutes

- 53.1 The Directors must cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:
- 53.1.1 of all appointments of officers made by the Directors;
 - 53.1.2 of all resolutions of the Company and of the Directors; and
 - 53.1.3 of all proceedings at meetings of the Company and of the Directors, and of committees of Directors, including the names of the Directors present at each such meeting.

53.2 Any such minute, if purported to be signed (or in the case of minutes of Directors' meetings signed or authenticated) by the chair of the meeting at which the proceedings were had, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any member or Director of the Company, be sufficient evidence of the proceedings.

53.3 The minutes must be kept for at least ten years from the date of the meeting, resolution or decision.

54. Records and accounts

The Directors shall comply with the requirements of the Companies Acts as to maintaining a members' register, keeping financial records, the audit or examination of accounts and the preparation and transmission to the Registrar of Companies and the Regulator of:

54.1 annual reports;

54.2 annual returns; and

54.3 annual statements of account.

55. Indemnity

55.1 Subject to Article 55.2, a relevant Director of the Company or an associated company may be indemnified out of the Company's assets against:

55.1.1 any liability incurred by that Director in connection with any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the Company or an associated company;

55.1.2 any liability incurred by that Director in connection with the activities of the Company or an associated company in its capacity as a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Companies Act 2006); and

55.1.3 any other liability incurred by that Director as an officer of the Company or an associated company.

55.2 This Article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.

55.3 In this Article:

55.3.1 companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate; and

55.3.2 a "relevant Director" means any Director or former Director of the Company or an associated company.

56. Insurance

56.1 The Directors may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of the Company, for the benefit of any relevant Director in respect of any relevant loss.

56.2 In this Article:

- 56.2.1 a "relevant Director" means any Director or former Director of the Company or an associated company;
- 56.2.2 a "relevant loss" means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant Director in connection with that Director's duties or powers in relation to the Company, any associated company or any pension fund or employees' share scheme of the company or associated company; and
- 56.2.3 companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.

57. Exclusion of model articles

The relevant model articles for a company limited by guarantee are hereby expressly excluded.

SCHEDULE

INTERPRETATION

Defined terms

1. In the Articles, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Term	Meaning
1.1 "Address"	includes a number or address used for the purposes of sending or receiving Documents by Electronic Means;
1.2 "Articles"	means these articles of association;
1.3 "asset-locked body"	means (i) a community interest company, a charity or a Permitted Registered Society; or (ii) a body established outside the United Kingdom that is equivalent to any of those;
1.4 "bankruptcy"	includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy;
1.5 "Bournemouth Borough Council"	means the council which administers the borough of Bournemouth and of which the principal office is located at Town Hall, St Stephens Road, Bournemouth and includes any successor body to its statutory functions;
1.6 "Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council"	means the unitary authority covering Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch which on 1 April 2019 replaces Bournemouth Borough Council, Poole Borough Council and Christchurch Borough Council;
1.7 "Chair"	means the individual appointed as the Chair of the Company in accordance with Article 10;
1.8 "Circulation Date"	in relation to a written resolution, has the meaning given to it in the Companies Acts;
1.9 "Clear Days"	in relation to the period of a notice, that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;
1.10 "community"	is to be construed in accordance with accordance with Section 35(5) of the Company's (Audit) Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004;
1.11 "Companies Acts"	means the Companies Acts (as defined in Section 2 of the Companies Act 2006), in so far as they apply to the Company;
1.12 "Company"	means the company intended to be regulated by these Articles;

- 1.13 “Conflict of Interest”** any direct or indirect interest of a Director (whether personal, by virtue of a duty of loyalty to another organisation or otherwise) that conflicts, or might conflict with the interests of the Company;
- 1.14 “Co-opted Director”** a person co-opted to the Board for such period as the Board determines;
- 1.15 “Councils”** means prior to 1 April 2019 the District Councils, Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and Poole Borough Council and on or after 1 April 2019 Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, and “Council” shall mean any one of them as the context requires;
- 1.16 “Director”** a director of the Company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called;
- 1.17 “District Councils”** means the six District and Borough Councils in Dorset (excluding Bournemouth Borough Council and Poole Borough Council) or any successor bodies from time to time;
- 1.18 “Document”** includes, unless otherwise indicated, any Document sent or supplied in Electronic Form;
- 1.19 “Dorset County Council”** means the council which administers the county of Dorset and of which the principal office is located at County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester and includes any successor body to its statutory functions;
- 1.20 “Dorset Council”** means the unitary authority covering those areas previously served by Dorset County Council, East Dorset, North Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth & Portland and West Dorset Councils, from 1 April 2019;
- 1.21 “Electronic Form” and “Electronic Means”** have the meanings respectively given to them in Section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;
- 1.22 “FE Director”** means the individual appointed as a Director in accordance with Article 25;
- 1.23 “Further Education Colleges”** means a statutory corporation, set up by order of the Secretary of State under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, which is also an exempt charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 2006 and which has their principal physical base in Dorset and “Further Education College” shall be construed accordingly;
- 1.24 “Hard Copy Form”** has the meaning given to it in the Companies Act 2006;
- 1.25 “HE Director”** means an individual appointed as a Director in accordance with Article 24;

1.26	“Memorandum”	the Company's memorandum of association;
1.27	“paid”	means paid or credited as paid;
1.28	“participate”	in relation to a Directors' meeting, has the meaning given in Article 15;
1.29	“Permitted Registered Society”	a registered society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 which has a restriction on the use of its assets in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Community Benefit Societies (Restriction on Use of Assets) Regulations 2006 or Regulation 4 of the Community Benefit Societies (Restriction on Use of Assets) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006;
1.30	“Private Sector Director”	means a director appointed in accordance with Article 26;
1.31	“Poole Borough Council”	means the council which administers the borough of Poole and of which the principal office is located at Civic Centre, Pool and includes any successor body to its statutory functions;
1.32	“Proxy Notice”	has the meaning given in Article 47;
1.33	“Public Sector Director”	means an individual who is appointed as a director in accordance with Article 23;
1.34	“Registered Office”	means the registered office of the Company;
1.35	“the Regulator”	means the Regulator of Community Interest Companies;
1.36	“Secretary”	the secretary of the Company (if any);
1.37	“specified”	means specified in the memorandum and articles of association of the Company for the purposes of this paragraph;
1.38	“subsidiary”	has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006;
1.39	“transfer”	includes every description of disposition, payment, release or distribution, and the creation or extinction of an estate or interest in, or right over, any property; and
1.40	“Writing”	the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in Electronic Form or otherwise.

2. Subject to paragraph 3 of this Schedule, any reference in the Articles to an enactment includes a reference to that enactment as re-enacted or amended from time to time and to any subordinate legislation made under it.

3. Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the Companies Act 2006 as in force on the date when the Articles become binding on the Company.