

# Ayr United Community Initiative

## The Honest Men Trust



### Standard Election Rules

#### Introduction

1. This document constitutes the Election Rules, Regulations and Procedure and is drafted in accordance with existing constitution of the Ayr United Community Initiative Limited, The Honest Men Trust. The purpose of the Election Rules Policy is to ensure that the elections for Society board members are conducted in a democratic and unbiased manner in accordance with these rules and the Constitution.

#### 2. Definitions:

AGM	Annual General Meeting
THMT	The Honest Men Trust
EWG	Elections Working Group
SB	Society Board
STV	Single Transferable Vote

#### Election Control

3. During the election period the EWG will ensure that the Election is run in accordance with the Election Rules Policy on behalf of THMT.

4. The EWG will comprise of an odd number of members and any decisions taken will be by majority vote and recorded.

5. Members serving on the EWG shall be eligible to nominate candidates, vote and stand in the Elections.

6. Any EWG member standing as a candidate will not be: involved in the collation and publication of candidate manifestoes; eligible to vote on matters pertaining to candidate disqualification; or eligible to vote on any other matter which may influence the outcome of the Election.

7. Polling for the election is to be run by THMT Secretary + Independent Returning Officer + EWG, subject to these election rules.

8. The election timetable will be issued along with the Nomination Forms.

9. Election details shall also be posted on THMT Webpage, "[www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk](http://www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk)".

10. Polling results will be determined in line with the STV voting system as published.

11. The results will be announced at the AGM by a returning officer.

12. The EWG will verify that nominations are from members and check for 'multiple nominations'. If multiple nominations are found then the candidate that submitted their nomination form first shall be accepted. Thereafter a nomination form containing a further Candidate nomination by the same member will be rejected.

#### Eligibility & Nomination

13. Candidates must comply with eligibility and nomination procedure as set out in the Nominations publication.

14. It is the Candidate's responsibility to ensure their nominations are valid and submitted in accordance with the timetable. In the event of uncertainty, the decision of the EWG will be final.

15. In signing the form, candidates are bound by the terms and conditions of the election rules and regulations.

16. Specifically candidates are also self-certifying that they comply with the following two rules of the constitution: Rule 61 and Rule 74. No candidate can stand if they fail to comply with these Rules.

### **Election Rules**

17. During the election the EWG, or interim SB members, cannot provide advice to voting members as to the suitability of any candidates on behalf of THMT. Any opinion, or advice provided, should be taken as provided in a personal capacity.

18. Candidates/complainants have the right of appeal through the complaints procedure detailed in THMT Constitution.

19. Complaints after voting has closed shall be made in writing to the EWG not later than three working days after the close of poll.

20. All communication regarding Election Rules Policy should be addressed to the EWG, via e-mail at "[election@thehonestmentrust.co.uk](mailto:election@thehonestmentrust.co.uk)", or by letter addressed to the EWG at THMT registered office.

21. Should the election not produce X elected SB members the casual vacancy Rule 65 will apply.

22. All Candidates shall leave their contact details with the THMT Secretary.

### **Manifestos and Campaigning**

23. The Secretary of THMT shall publish a Manifesto document based on Candidates' Manifestos submitted with the Nomination Form.

24. The Secretary of THMT is responsible for circulation of the manifesto document with ballot papers.

25. No further Election campaigning material is to be circulated to members.

26. All candidates can submit an election manifesto to THMT Secretary by close of nominations. The candidate's name need not appear in this manifesto. Acronyms, pseudonyms, and slang will be at the discretion of the EWG. All candidates' names should be at the head of their manifesto

27. All the candidate's manifestos are to be received in written form, typed, and proof read before issue.

28. A candidate's manifesto is to be limited to 1 No Sheet of A4 paper.

29. Candidate's manifestos written in the third person shall be accepted.

30. Candidates and nominees can put only their names on nomination documentation. No nicknames will be accepted.

31. A candidate's manifesto shall not contain the name of any other candidate.

32. Candidates must not in their manifestos: make threats, insults, derogatory, abusive, racist, sexist, or homophobic statements, or references towards other candidates. If they do so they will be withdrawn by the EWG.

## **Ayr United Community Initiative**

A Registered Industrial and Provident Society Reg.No. 2635 RS

[www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk](http://www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk)