



**Important Notification of Members Meeting of The Ridge SCIO**

**7.30 p.m. December 12<sup>th</sup>. 2019**

**Venue: Gibb Room 1, Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar**

Dear Member,

As you are no doubt aware, The Ridge SCIO is in the process of arranging a CAT (Community Asset Transfer) from East Lothian Council (ELC) for the Black Bull Close buildings.

As part of this process The Ridge is applying for grant funding .The Ridge have been informed that in order to be able to apply for the Grants and also apply for the CAT, there are some changes required to our constitution, to satisfy ELC, The Scottish Land Fund (SLF) and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

This letter is to notify of the intention to hold a meeting to approve these changes, as required by our Constitution, and giving the requisite 21 days notice. In order to approve the changes a two thirds majority of those present at the meeting is required.

The meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup>. December 2019, in The Gibb Room 1 at Bleachingfield Centre, Dunbar and the sole subject for discussion will be the changes proposed.

The changes to The Constitution are as follows, and have been agreed by The Board of The Ridge:-

1/ Clause 4, which concerns the purposes of The Ridge SCIO shall have the word 'principally' removed. The new wording will then be:-

*'The SCIO's purposes are to benefit ~~principally~~ the community of Dunbar East Linton Electoral Wards ("the Community") with the following objects:'*

***Note remaining sub clauses are kept same.***

2/ Clauses 29 & 30 currently read as follows:-

*Clause 29 "For the avoidance of doubt, when deciding whether to admit any individual or organisation to membership, the board shall adhere to a transparent process which enshrines the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination."*

*Clause 30 - The board shall review each application for membership at the first board meeting which is held after receipt of the application to determine their eligibility based on the criteria specified in clause 18-20 as appropriate; the board shall, within a reasonable time after the meeting, notify the applicant of their decision on the application.*

The Ridge SCIO

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The problem with these clauses is that they imply the Board has discretion to refuse membership, beyond the specified requirements within the constitution (clauses 17 onwards). SLF wish to see all eligible applicants accepted immediately into membership.

The proposed new clauses read as follows:-

29. *Any individual or group who wishes to become a member shall in such written form as the Board prescribe submit a written application for membership (in the case of a group the application must be signed by an appropriate officer of that group).*
- 30 *The Board shall promptly consider applications for membership, made in such written form as it shall prescribe from time to time, determining if the terms of Clause 18-29 apply and into which category of membership each applicant shall belong, and immediately thereafter shall approve any valid application provided the applicant is not excluded by virtue of Clause 31 or 32 or has previously been a member of the organisation and continues to be excluded from membership by virtue of Clause 42 or 43, and inform the applicant of the board's decision.*

Please note that the full constitution can be viewed on the website using following link, or copy into your web browser:-

<https://the-ridge.org.uk/files/2019/03/The-Ridge-New-constitution-March-2019-final.pdf>

If you wish to vote on the changes by email you may do so and these will be included within the overall count at the meeting, such votes MUST be received at least one day prior to the meeting.

The Ridge Board believes that the changes to the constitution are appropriate and proportionate and recommend them to you all.

Should you have any queries relating to this notification please contact The Ridge at [info@the-ridge.org.uk](mailto:info@the-ridge.org.uk)

You can also keep up to date with the venue by following our Facebook page or our website at <https://the-ridge.org.uk/>

Best Regards

Kenn Amabilino

Chairperson, The Ridge SCIO

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