RAIL ACTION GROUP EAST of SCOTLAND (RAGES) CONSTITUTION

Revision 03

Approved Date: 23/08/2023

Approved By:

Barrie Forrest	Position: Chairperson
Tom Dickson	Position: Vice Chairperson

1. Name of Organisation:

Rail Action Group East of Scotland (RAGES)

2. Aims

a) To improve rail transport in the east of Scotland with the aim of reducing social isolation.
b) To promote rail transport as an essential element in an integrated transport system serving all sections of the community.
c) To promote rail as an environmentally friendly, sustainable, and affordable mode of transport.

3. Objectives:

a) To restore a rail connection to Haddington with the opening of one or more stations for Haddington, with all services running through to Edinburgh.
b) To improve the rail services between Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed, and the intermediate stations including North Berwick.
c) To keep under scrutiny the standards of passenger facilities at stations between Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed, including North Berwick. This would include car parking, bicycle storage and ticketing and to draw the attention of the relevant bodies to shortcomings which arise.

4. Geographical Area:

The Group's remit will operate within the geographical area of the East Coast Main Line between Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed including the North Berwick branch line and the future Haddington branch line.

5. Political Principles:

The organisation shall operate independently of any political or commercial interest.

RAGES may cooperate with all bona fide individuals and bodies that support the organisation's aims and objectives, including politicians of mainstream political parties.

6. Membership:

Membership is open to any individual or organisation who supports the aims of RAGES. Membership fees will be reviewed annually by the committee and proposed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Every member and member organisation is entitled to one vote. This can be given personally or by proxy. Members may also nominate the Chair as a proxy to cast their votes either in writing or electronically at General Meetings which they cannot attend in person.

The committee reserves the right to withdraw membership from any individual or organisation whose conduct or policies risk bringing RAGES into disrepute, or which would be otherwise incompatible with its aims and objectives.

7. Election of Office Bearers:

a) At the AGM the following office bearers will be elected:
Chairperson; Vice Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Publicity Officer.
b) The above office bearers can only hold office for three consecutive years unless no other nomination is made.
c) Nominations for office bearers must be proposed and seconded by members of the Group. Election of office bearers will take place at the AGM or at a Special General Meeting in the case of a post becoming vacant due to unforeseen circumstances.

8. Management Committee:

Office bearers shall include the roles of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary. The committee may create other roles as needs arise.

The committee will meet as often as felt necessary but at least every two months.

The date and venue of subsequent committee meetings shall be decided upon by a two thirds majority of those present.

Committee or sub-committee members who are unable to attend more than two consecutive meetings without offering their apologies may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, be asked to step down to allow another member to take their place.

The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees and set the rules of operation for them, providing that all acts and proceedings of the sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Management Committee.

Any sub-committee shall have at least one member of the Management Committee and may in addition co-opt further people on to the committee who have particular skills.

Minutes shall be kept as a record of the proceedings of all RAGES meetings.

9. General Meetings:

a) General Meetings, including the AGM, Special and Extra-Ordinary Meetings will be open to all members with the location and date being determined by the

Committee. Members shall be given fourteen days' notice in writing of a General Meeting and twenty one days' notice of an AGM.

b) The AGM will be called no later than 30th September.

c) A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Chairperson, Secretary or by written notice of a motion signed by at least seven members. On receipt of such a motion, notice of a meeting must be given within twenty five days by the Secretary.

d) Members shall be given twenty one days' notice in writing.

e) No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a minimum of seven members are present.

f) The quorum for a meeting shall be if the majority of the Management Committee is in attendance. This shall apply to regular Committee Meetings, General Meetings including AGMs and Special and Extra-Ordinary General Meetings.

g) Every matter that requires a vote shall be determined by a majority of the members present at the meeting and to include the proxy votes of those members who were unable to attend. If there is an equal number of votes, including proxy votes, for and against any resolution, then the Chairperson of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote.

10. Finance:

a) The income and property of RAGES shall be applied solely towards its aims and no part of the income or property shall be paid, transferred, distributed, or otherwise applied either to members of RAGES or to any other person, for any other purpose.

b) The Treasurer shall keep accurate and proper accounts of the financial affairs of RAGES and shall prepare a financial statement to be presented at the AGM.

c) The financial year shall be 1st April to 31st March. The accounts shall be examined at least once per year by an independent examiner appointed at a General Meeting.

d) Examined accounts for the previous financial year shall be presented at each AGM.

e) Cheques drawn on a RAGES account shall be signed by two of three signatories appointed from the Management Committee at an AGM.

11. Changes to the Constitution:

a) A motion to alter the Constitution at an AGM must be received by the Chairperson or Secretary, twenty eight days prior to the meeting.

b) Members shall be given notice in writing or electronically of the proposed amendment/s as per clause 11(a) and require a majority of two thirds for approval. This majority will include members present at the meeting and proxy votes submitted to the Chairperson.

c) Any changes to the Constitution must be agreed by two thirds of the members present at the meeting which must be quorate.

12. Dissolution:

a) Dissolution of RAGES can only occur during a General Meeting proposed for that process and will only take effect if agreed by two thirds of the members present.
b) Any assets of RAGES will be evenly distributed throughout other similar groups that share similar aims.