

Cover page	
Meeting	Trust Board
Paper Title	Review of Standing Financial Instructions, Standing Orders, Reservation of Powers to the Board
Date of meeting	1 st August 2019
Date paper was written	23 rd July 2019
Responsible Director	Finance Director
Author	Deputy Finance Director
Executive Summary	
<p>A review of the Standing Financial Instructions, Standing Orders and Reservation of Powers to the Board has taken place with the key changes outlined in the attached paper.</p> <p>This is an interim review at the present time. A full review of Section 3 Budgetary Control and Monitoring of the Standing Financial Instructions is currently being undertaken linked to the development of a performance framework and a review of business case approvals process incorporating recommendations from the Deloitte internal audit review of the existing business case processes.</p> <p>As individual committees review their Terms of References throughout the year and as these are approved by Trust Board, the Reservation of Powers to the Board and Delegation of Powers will be updated.</p> <p>Draft copies of the documents are available in the Information Pack for completeness.</p>	
Previously considered by	Performance Committee 30 th July 2019

The Board is asked to:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive	<input type="checkbox"/> Note	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take Assurance
To formally receive and discuss a report and approve its recommendations or a particular course of action	To discuss, in depth, noting the implications for the Board or Trust without formally approving it	For the intelligence of the Board without in-depth discussion required	To assure the Board that effective systems of control are in place

Link to CQC domain:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe	<input type="checkbox"/> Effective	<input type="checkbox"/> Caring	<input type="checkbox"/> Responsive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Well-led

Link to strategic objective(s)	<p><i>Select the strategic objective which this paper supports</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PATIENT AND FAMILY Listening to and working with our patients and families to improve healthcare</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SAFEST AND KINDEST Our patients and staff will tell us they feel safe and received kind care</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> HEALTHIEST HALF MILLION Working with our partners to promote 'Healthy Choices' for all our communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LEADERSHIP Innovative and Inspiration Leadership to deliver our ambitions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OUR PEOPLE Creating a great place to work</p>
	<p>Link to Board Assurance Framework risk(s)</p> <p><i>Are any Board Assurance Framework risks relevant to the paper?</i></p>

Equality Impact Assessment	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Stage 1 only (no negative impact identified)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Stage 2 recommended (negative impact identified and equality impact assessment attached for Board approval)</p>
Freedom of Information Act (2000) status	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> This document is for full publication</p> <p><input type="radio"/> This document includes FOIA exempt information</p> <p><input type="radio"/> This whole document is exempt under the FOIA</p>
Financial assessment	

Outline of changes to Standing Orders, Reservation of Powers to the Board and Delegation of Powers and Standing Financial Instructions

STANDING ORDERS July 2019 Amendments

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section
Multiple sections throughout the document	Updated to reflect the new name of organisations/policy/Acts	Standards of Business Conduct - Managing Conflicts of Interest in the NHS Policy NHS Act 1977 – NHS Act 2012 NHS Trust Development Authority – NHS England and NHS Improvement
Paragraph 5.8 (page 19) COMMITTEES	Amended to reflect the updated committee structure.	The committees, sub-committees, and joint-committees established by the Board are: Audit Committee Quality and Safety Committee Performance Committee Sustainability Committee Charitable Funds Committee Senior Leadership Team Meeting Workforce Committee Remuneration Committee

**RESERVATION OF POWERS TO THE BOARD
AND
DELEGATION OF POWERS
July 2019 Amendments**

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section	
Multiple sections throughout the document	Updated to reflect the new name of organisations	NHS Protect – NHS Counter Fraud Authority Data Protection – Data Protection Act 2018 (UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) NHS Trust Development Authority – NHS England and NHS Improvement NHS Litigation Authority – NHS Resolution	
Section C (pages 6 – 13) DECISIONS / DUTIES DELEGATED BY THE BOARD TO COMMITTEES	Amended to reflect the updated committee structure.	3 – Sustainability Committee – now titled Performance Committee. (Separate committee convened for Charitable Funds Committee) 5 – new Sustainability Committee convened 6- separate Charitable Funds Committee convened. 7 – Transformation Board (Guiding Group) removed – no longer sub-committee of Board.	
Section 1 - Authorisation Levels (page 30)	Updated to reflect revised Authorisation Levels for charitable funds expenditure.	Personnel	Value
		Fund Manager	Expenditure < £2,000
		Fund Manager and Care Group Manager	Expenditure > £2,000 and < £5,000
		Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and include 2 signatures from the CFC one of which must be a director	Expenditure > £5,000
		Requested by Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and authorised by the CFC to include Finance Director and one other director.	Expenditure > £10,000

STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

July 2019 Amendments

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section
Multiple sections throughout the document	Updated to reflect the new name of organisations	NHS Protect – NHS Counter Fraud Authority Data Protection – Data Protection Act 2018 (UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) Department of Health – Department of Health and Social Care NHS Trust Development Authority – NHS England and NHS Improvement NHS Litigation Authority – NHS Resolution NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency central warehouses - Regional Distribution Centres of Supply Chain Coordination Limited (the management function of the NHS Supply Chain)
6.4.5 (page 13) SECURITY OF CASH, CHEQUES AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS	Updated to reflect exchange rate	6.4.5 Under no circumstances will the Trust accept cash payments in excess of <i>14,000 euros</i> (approximately £10,000) in respect of any single transaction. Any attempts by an individual to effect payment above this amount should be notified immediately to the Finance Director.
11.4.7 (page 23) SECURITY OF ASSETS	Clarification of accountability of Information Asset Owners	Information Asset Owners (IAOs) are directly accountable (<i>through IG Manager</i>) to the SIRO and will provide assurance that information risk is being managed effectively for their assigned information assets.
12.7.1 – 12.7.3 (pages 24-26) TENDERING AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE	Clarifying some key issues within the tendering and contracting procedures in particular around the use of waivers.	12.7.1 Exceptions and instances where formal procurement procedures need not be applied Formal tendering procedures <u>need not be applied</u> where: (a) the estimated expenditure or income does not, or is not reasonably expected to exceed the level set in the Scheme of Delegation; it is a breach of SFIs to split contracts to avoid thresholds

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section
		<p>(b) where the supply is proposed under special arrangements negotiated by the Department of Health & Social Care or its agencies, in which event the said special arrangements must be complied with;</p> <p>12.7.2 Competitive procurement/Formal tendering procedures may be waived in the following circumstances:</p> <p>The waiving of competitive tendering procedures should not be used to avoid competition, PCR/OJEU procurement legislation or for the administrative convenience or award further work originally appointed through a competitive procedure.</p> <p>(c) in very exceptional circumstances where the Chief Executive or Finance Director decides that formal tendering procedures would not be practicable or the estimated expenditure or income would not warrant formal tendering procedures, and the circumstances are detailed in an appropriate Trust record;</p> <p>(d) where the requirement is covered by an existing contract;</p> <p>(e) Where contracts have been awarded for the benefit of Public Sector Bodies, to which the Trust is entitled to access (eg. Framework Contracts) Crown Commercial Services. agreements are in place and have been approved by the Board;</p> <p>(f) where a national or regional consortium arrangement is in place and a lead organisation has been appointed to carry out</p>

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section	
		<p>tendering activity on behalf of the consortium members;</p> <p><i>(g-k – unchanged)</i></p> <p>l) where allowed and provided for in the NHS Finance Manual. The waiving of competitive tendering procedures should not be used to avoid competition, or for the administrative convenience or to award further work to a consultant originally appointed through a competitive procedure.</p> <p>12.7.3 Where it is decided that competitive tendering is not applicable and should be waived,</p> <p>(i) a non competitive quotation in writing will be obtained using the appropriate terms and condition of contract; and</p> <p>(ii) the fact of the waiver should be documented with reasons on a Competitive Waiver form obtained via the Procurement Department.</p> <p>In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, all waivers, with the exception of those for pharmaceuticals, must be signed off by the Head of Procurement or his/her deputy, prior to authorisation.</p> <p>Waivers must be reported to the Performance Committee</p>	
Appendix A - Authorisation Levels (page 42)	Updated to reflect revised Authorisation Levels for charitable funds expenditure.	Personnel	Value
		Fund Manager	Expenditure < £2,000
		Fund Manager and Care Group Manager	Expenditure > £2,000 and < £5,000
		Fund Manager and Care Group	Expenditure > £5,000

Section(s) to be amended	Reason	Proposed relevant section	
		Manager and include 2 signatures from the CFC one of which must be a director	
		Requested by Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and authorised by the CFC to include Finance Director and one other director.	Expenditure > £10,000

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

**RESERVATION OF POWERS TO THE BOARD
AND
DELEGATION OF POWERS**

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Written:
Last Reviewed:

November 2003
July 2019

Review:

Annually

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

RESERVATION OF POWERS TO THE BOARD AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

SECTION A – INTRODUCTION

The Code of Accountability for NHS Boards requires the Trust Board to draw up a schedule of decisions reserved to itself and to ensure that management arrangements are in place to enable the clear delegation of its other responsibilities. This document therefore sets out the powers reserved to the Board and the Scheme of Delegation, together with tables of financial limits and approval thresholds. However, the Board remains accountable for all of its functions, including those that have been delegated, and would therefore expect to receive information about the exercise of delegated functions to enable it to maintain a monitoring role.

All powers of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board or delegated to a Board Committee shall be exercised on behalf of the Board by the Chief Executive. The Scheme of Delegation identifies any functions, which the Chief Executive shall perform personally and those delegated to other directors or officers. All powers delegated by the Chief Executive can be re-assumed by him/her should the need arise. As Accountable Officer, the Chief Executive is accountable to the Accounting Officer of the NHS Executive for the funds entrusted to the Trust.

Powers are delegated to directors and officers on the understanding that they would not exercise delegated powers in a matter which in their judgement was likely to be a cause for public concern.

The Scheme of Delegation shows only the 'top level' of delegation within the Trust. The Scheme is to be used in conjunction with the system of budgetary control and other established procedures within the Trust.

In the absence of a director or officer to whom powers have been delegated, those powers shall be exercised by that director or officer's superior unless the Board has approved alternative arrangements. If the Chief Executive is absent, powers delegated to him/her may be exercised by the Chairman after taking appropriate advice from the Finance Director.

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

SECTION B – RESERVATION OF POWERS TO THE BOARD

1	The Code of Accountability
	The Code of Accountability, which has been adopted by the Trust, requires the Board to determine those matters on which decisions are reserved unto itself. These reserved matters are set out in paragraphs 2 to 9 below.
2	General Enabling Provision
	The Board may determine any matter, for which it has delegated or statutory authority, it wishes in full session within its statutory powers.
3	Regulation and Control
3.1	Approval, suspension, variation or amendment of Standing Orders, Standing Financial Instructions, schedule of matters reserved to the Board, scheme of delegation of powers from Board to officers, and other arrangements relating to standards of business conduct.
3.2	Requiring and receiving the declaration of directors' interests which may conflict with those of the Trust and determining the extent to which that director may remain involved with the matter under consideration.
3.3	Requiring and receiving the declaration of interests from officers which may conflict with those of the Trust.
3.4	Approval of arrangements for dealing with complaints.
3.5	Adoption of the organisational structures, processes and procedures to facilitate the discharge of business by the Trust and to agree modifications thereto.
3.6	To receive reports from committees including those which the Trust is required by the Secretary of State or other regulation to establish and to take appropriate action thereon.
3.7	Confirm the recommendations of the Trust's committees where the committees do not have executive powers.
3.8	Approve arrangements relating to the discharge of the Trust's responsibilities as a corporate trustee for funds held on trust.
3.9	Establish terms of reference and reporting arrangements of all committees and sub-committees which are established by the Board.
3.10	Approve arrangements relating to the discharge of the Trust's responsibilities as a bailee for patients' property.
3.11	Ratification of any urgent decisions taken by the Chairman and Chief Executive in public session in accordance with Standing Orders.
3.12	Authorise the use of the Common Seal of the Trust.
3.13	Discipline members of the Board or employees who are in breach of statutory requirements or Standing Orders.
3.14	Approve a Scheme of Delegation of Powers from the Board to Committees
3.15	Ratify or otherwise instances of failure to comply with Standing Orders brought to the Chief Executive's attention in accordance with Standing Orders

4	Appointments and Dismissals	
	Subject to Trust's Standing Orders:	
	4.1	Appointment of Vice Chairman of the Board.
	4.2	Appoint and dismiss committees (and individual members) which are directly accountable to the Board.
	4.3	Appoint, appraise, discipline and dismiss executive directors, subject to Standing Orders.
	4.4	Confirm appointment of members of any committee of the Trust as representatives on outside bodies.
	4.5	Approve proposals of the Remuneration Committee regarding directors and senior employees and those of the Chief Executive for staff not covered by the Remuneration Committee.
5	Strategy, Business Plans and Budgets	
	5.1	Define the strategic aims and objectives of the Trust.
	5.2	Approve proposals for ensuring quality and developing clinical governance in services provided by the Trust, having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
	5.3	Approve the Trust's policies and procedures for the management of risk.
	5.4	Approve Outline and Final Business Cases for Capital Investment.
	5.5	Approval annually of plans in respect of anticipated income and the application of available resources (budgets).
	5.6	Approve annually Trust's proposed organisational development proposals.
	5.7	Ratify proposals for acquisition, disposal or change of use of land and/or buildings.
	5.8	Approval of the opening or closing of any bank or investment account.
	5.9	Approve proposals on individual contracts (other than NHS contracts) of a capital or revenue nature amounting to, or likely to amount to over [refer to Standing Orders] [£100,000] over a 3 year period or the period of the contract if longer.
	5.10	Approve proposals in individual cases for the write off of losses or making of special payments above the limits of delegation to the Chief Executive and Finance Director (for losses and special payments) previously approved by the Board.
	5.11	Approve proposals for action on litigation against or on behalf of the Trust.
	5.12	Approve PFI proposals
	5.13	Approve individual compensation payments
6	Policy Determination	
	Approve management policies including personnel policies incorporating the arrangements for the appointment, removal and remuneration of staff.	

7	Audit Arrangements	
	7.1	Approve the appointment (and where necessary dismissal) of external auditors. Approval of external auditors' arrangements for the separate audit of funds held on trust, and the submission of reports to the Audit Committee meetings who will take appropriate action
	7.2	Receive of the annual management letter received from the external auditor and agreement of proposed action, taking account of the advice, where appropriate, of the Audit Committee.
	7.3	Receive an annual report from the Internal Auditor and agree action on recommendations where appropriate of the Audit Committee.
8	Annual Reports and Accounts	
	8.1	Receipt and approval of the Trust's Annual Report and Annual Accounts
	8.2	Receipt and approval of the Trust's Charitable Funds Annual Report and Accounts.
9	Monitoring	
	9.1	Receive of such reports as the Board sees fit from committees in respect of their exercise of powers delegated.
	9.2	Continuous appraisal of the affairs of the Trust by means of the provision to the Board as the Board may require from directors, committees, and officers of the Trust as set out in management policy statements. All monitoring returns required by the Department of Health and the Charity Commission shall be reported, at least in summary, to the Board.
		Receive reports from the CEO on actual and forecast income from SLA
	9.3	Receive reports from Finance Director on financial performance against budget and Sustainability and Transformation Plan

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

SECTION C – DECISIONS / DUTIES DELEGATED BY THE BOARD TO COMMITTEES

1 Audit Committee

The Committee will:

- Review the establishment and maintenance of an effective system of integrated governance, risk management and internal control, across the whole of the organisation's activities (both clinical and non-clinical) that supports the achievement of the organisation's objectives.
- Ensure that there is an effective internal audit function that meets the *Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2013* and provides appropriate independent assurance to the Committee, Accountable Officer and Trust Board
- The Committee shall review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and effectiveness of the audit process. In particular the Committee will review the work and findings of the External Auditors and consider the implications and management's responses to their work.
- Review the findings of other significant assurance functions, both internal and external to the organisation, and consider the implications for the governance of the organisation
- Satisfy itself that the organisation has adequate arrangements in place for counter fraud and security that meet NHS [Counter Fraud Authority Protect's](#) standards and shall review the outcomes of work in these areas
- Shall request and review reports, evidence and assurances from directors and managers on the overall arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control.
- Monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the organisation and any formal announcements relating to its financial
- Ensure that the systems for financial reporting to the Trust Board including those of budgetary control are subject to review as to the completeness and accuracy of the information provided
- Review the annual report and financial statements before submission to the Trust Board
- Review the effectiveness of the arrangements in place for allowing staff to raise (in confidence) concerns about possible improprieties in financial, clinical or safety matters and ensure that any such concerns are investigated proportionately and independently

2 Remuneration Committee

The Committee will:

- Advise the Board about appropriate remuneration and terms of service for the Chief Executive, other executive directors and other senior employees including:
- All aspects of salary (including any performance-related elements/bonuses);
- Provisions for other benefits, including pensions and cars;

- Arrangements for termination of employment and other contractual terms;
- Make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and terms of service of executive directors and senior employees to ensure they are fairly rewarded for their individual contribution to the Trust - having proper regard to the Trust's circumstances and performance and to the provisions of any national arrangements for such staff;
- Proper calculation and scrutiny of termination payments taking account of such national guidance as is appropriate advise on and oversee appropriate contractual arrangements for such staff ;
- The Committee shall report in writing to the Board the basis for its recommendations.

3

~~Performance Sustainability Committee (including Charitable Funds Committee)~~

The Committee will:

Strategic and Business Planning

- Consider processes for the preparation and the content of Strategic and Business Plans and Annual Revenue, Capital and Workforce Budgets, and test the key assumptions and risks underpinning such plans.
- Review the Trust Annual Operating Plan and Annual Budgets before submission to the Trust Board.
- Monitor performance compared with the annual Operating Plan and budgets and investigate variances.
- ~~Review and prioritise capital investment proposals within the Capital Budget.~~
- Consider financial aspects of Business Cases for significant revenue or capital expenditure, as defined in the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegation, prior to submission to the Board of Directors.
- Consider financial aspects of Business Cases retrospectively for return on investment/benefits realisation.
- Identify and evaluate opportunities for increasing activity/income from market intelligence analyses.
- Review the development of the Trust's Marketing strategy
- Review the development of the Trust's Financial Strategy and Long Term Financial Model.
- Develop the Trust's Investment Policy and ensure that it is consistent with best practice.
- ~~Monitor the implementation of the IT strategy.~~
- ~~Monitor the implementation of the Estates strategy.~~

Commented [YA1]: Now undertaken by Sustainability Committee

Commented [YA2]: Responsibility of Sustainability Committee

Financial Management

- Monitor the financial performance and workforce targets of individual Clinical Centres, as well as the complete organisation, and the proposed corrective actions where necessary.
- Consider explanations of significant variances/deviations from Budget by Clinical Centres on a regular basis, and to consider the proposed corrective actions, their envisaged impact and the planned timescale for recovery.
- Develop a strategic approach to managing Cost Improvement Programmes.
- Consider the Cost Improvement Programme, including the short and medium term prospects, monitor performance against it,

and consider any proposed corrective or contingency actions and make recommendations regarding this to the Board.

- Consider performance against external benchmark performance targets, including those set by the Care Quality Commission, Monitor, and as agreed in legally binding contracts and the proposed corrective actions where necessary.
- Ensure the development, implementation and maintenance of an effective service line accountability framework.
- Consider detailed expenditure, cash flow and working capital plans and forecasts.
- Consider regular financial performance reports and forecasts, focusing particularly on risks and assumptions.
- Commission and consider various financial reports and analyses, as appropriate.

Legally
Binding
Contracts with
Third Parties

- Consider regular reports of Trust performance in respect of contracts agreed with third party organisations and to take appropriate action.
- Ensure that Local Delivery Plans and contracts with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and other bodies are determined, managed and delivered.

Charitable
Funds

- ~~To be accountable to the Corporate Trustee and ensure the on-going management of Charitable Funds is consistent with the objectives and operational framework set by the Corporate Trustee.~~
- ~~To ensure Corporate Trustee meetings at least 6 monthly or more frequently as required.~~
- ~~To monitor compliance against Corporate Trustee policies, procedures and plans that include:~~
 - ~~Appropriate use of Charitable Funds~~
 - ~~Appropriate sources of Charitable Funds~~
 - ~~Investment Policy~~
 - ~~Expenditure Plans~~
- ~~To advise the Corporate Trustee and monitor compliance against the requirements of the Charities Acts and Charities Commission Guidance.~~
- ~~To consider the Annual Accounts and Report before submitting to the Corporate Trustee for approval.~~
- ~~To monitor compliance against relevant internal audit reports and counter fraud initiatives and to report progress to the Corporate Trustee.~~
- ~~To monitor the performance of Charitable Funds investments and report to the Corporate Trustee at least quarterly.~~
- ~~To monitor the performance of the Charitable Funds Investment Manager(s) and advise the Corporate Trustee appropriately.~~
- ~~To ensure, via the Finance Director and the Finance Department, that Charitable Funds are managed in accordance with the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions.~~
- ~~To review the financial implications on any proposal for fund raising activities that the Trust may initiate, sponsor or approve.~~
- ~~To co-ordinate and work with the Leagues of Friends, Lingen Davies and other local charities on appropriate projects/schemes.~~

The duties of the Committee are:

- To ensure that the Trust fulfils its obligations related to quality and safety with regard to the Health Act (2009) and, specifically, the Health Service Regulations (2013), and preparation of the annual Quality Account.
- To provide assurance to the Trust Board on Clinical Quality and Safety (including Clinical Effectiveness, Patient Safety and Patient Experience).
- Utilise best practice and metrics to ensure that the Trust has robust clinical governance processes to deliver safe, high quality and patient centred care.
- To drive an improvement culture to promote best practice in patient care across the domains of Quality, Clinical Effectiveness, Patient Safety and Patient Experience.
- To set clear quality performance indicators and ensure the development of high quality care and continuous improvements through innovation and other quality initiatives such as CQUIN.
- To identify and advise on quality improvement priorities, for example, by commissioning in depth reviews of service areas and receiving exception reports from QIPP workstreams and external reviews of provider services.
- To receive and ensure that the Trust acts upon external reviews from regulatory and advisory organisations.
- To ensure that Risk Screening/Quality Impact Assessments are completed for all Cost Improvement Programmes and reconfigurations of service.
- To maximise organisational learning from alert systems, organisational reviews and quality related data.
- To monitor the quality and safety performance of all reporting groups including the care group governance boards, approving Terms of Reference and receiving minutes, action plans and exception reports.

5

Sustainability Committee

The Committee will:

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Strategic and Business Planning

- Consider processes for the preparation and the content of Strategic and Business Plans, Capital and Workforce Budgets, and test the key assumptions and risks underpinning such plans within any site or service reconfiguration.
- The Sustainability Committee will consider the risks in the Board Assurance Framework for completeness and recommend any additional strategic risks it considers pertinent to its duties in the Terms of Reference. It should monitor current risks noted in the BAF as the responsibility of the Sustainability Committee to ensure they are current, have appropriate plans in place to mitigate and those plans are effective in reducing managing the risk over agreed timelines
- Review the Trust Annual Capital Plan.
- Monitor performance compared with the OBC/FBC or any specific Business case and budgets and investigate variances.
- Review and prioritise capital investment proposals within the

Capital Budget lined to the SSP and the annual capital control limit.

- Consider financial aspects of Business Cases for significant revenue or capital expenditure, as defined in the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions and Scheme of Delegation, prior to submission to the Board of Directors.
- Consider financial aspects of Business Cases retrospectively for return on investment/benefits realisation.
- Develop the Trust's Investment Policy and ensure that it is consistent with best practice.
- Monitor the implementation of the Estates strategy.
- Provide oversight of and monitor the implementation of the Digital strategy

Financial Management

- Monitor the financial performance and workforce targets of individual services within the SSP programme, as well as the complete organisation, and the proposed corrective actions where necessary.
- Consider explanations of significant variances/deviations from the SSP by Clinical Centres on a regular basis, and to consider the proposed corrective actions, their envisaged impact and the planned timescale for recovery.
- Consider performance against external benchmark performance targets, including those set by the Care Quality Commission, Monitor, and as agreed in legally binding contracts and the proposed corrective actions where necessary.
- Consider detailed expenditure, cash flow and working capital plans and forecasts.
- Consider regular financial performance reports and forecasts, focusing particularly on risks and assumptions.
- Consider operational delivery plans for the transformation and implementation of changes to service aligned to the SSP.
- Commission and consider various financial reports and analyses, as appropriate.

Legally Binding Contracts with Third Parties

- The Trust is required to review all contracts that require formal sanctioning through the Trust Board. Contract levels are as defined in the authorisation levels (Appendix A) within the Standing Financial Instructions.
- Consider regular reports of Trust performance in respect of contracts agreed with third party organisations and to take appropriate action.
- Ensure that Local Delivery Plans and contracts with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and other bodies are determined, managed and delivered.

6

Charitable Funds Committee

The duties are:

- To be accountable to the Corporate Trustee and ensure the on-going management of Charitable Funds is consistent with the objectives and operational framework set by the Corporate Trustee.
- To ensure Corporate Trustee meetings at least 6 monthly or more frequently as required.
- To monitor compliance against Corporate Trustee policies.

- procedures and plans that include:
- Appropriate use of Charitable Funds
 - Appropriate sources of Charitable Funds
 - Investment Policy
 - Expenditure Plans
 - To advise the Corporate Trustee and monitor compliance against the requirements of the Charities Acts and Charities Commission Guidance.
 - To consider the Annual Accounts and Report before submitting to the Corporate Trustee for approval.
 - To monitor compliance against relevant internal audit reports and counter fraud initiatives and to report progress to the Corporate Trustee.
 - To monitor the performance of Charitable Funds investments and report to the Corporate Trustee at least quarterly.
 - To monitor the performance of the Charitable Funds Investment Manager(s) and advise the Corporate Trustee appropriately.
 - To ensure, via the Finance Director and the Finance Department, that Charitable Funds are managed in accordance with the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions.
 - To review the financial implications on any proposal for fund raising activities that the Trust may initiate, sponsor or approve.
 - To co-ordinate and work with the Leagues of Friends, Lingen Davies and other local charities on appropriate projects/schemes.

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Senior Leadership Team Meeting

The duties of the Senior Leadership Team are:

Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take such decisions as are delegated by the Trust Board.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be responsible for planning, organising, directing and controlling the organisation's systems and resources to achieve service objectives and quality development through implementation of the Trust's Operating Plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve and recommend to the Board, and monitor the implementation of, relevant Trust Policies, guidelines and protocols
Leadership and Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Trust's strategic objectives and reinforcing the Trust's leadership model
Co-ordination and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To co-ordinate the significant programmes of work prioritised by the Trust Board and to provide progress reports to the Board on the status of the agreed programmes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the organisation's objectives and standards for service, high level performance and quality set by the Trust Board, are managed and cascaded throughout the entire organisation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To focus only on those areas that have cross-

Commented [YA3]: To become the responsibility of Sustainability Committee

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	organisational impact and coordinated action and decision-making is required beyond an individual directorate.
Values and Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be relentless in pursuit of the patient's interests, supporting a fully engaged organisation that is action-orientated and embraces constructive challenge.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To demonstrate that we are living the Trust's values

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Workforce Committee

The Workforce Committee shall undertake on behalf of the Trust Board objective scrutiny of the Trust's Workforce plans and performance. The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Board with an objective review of the workforce position and performance of the Trust and oversee the delivery of performance, including taking any decisions delegated to it. The Committee will operate at a strategic level as the Executive is responsible for the day to day operational delivery and management. Additionally, the Trust Board may request that the Committee reviews specific aspects of performance where the Board requires additional scrutiny and assurance. The key responsibility of the Committee is to provide assurance to the Trust Board on workforce issues utilising best practice metrics that support robust governance processes, including the following:

- Effectiveness of the Trust's People Strategy
- People Performance
- Organisational Development Plan
- Workforce Planning and Transformation
- Education and Training
- Staff Experience and engagement
- Recruitment and Retention
- Leadership
- Cultural Development
- Staff Health and Wellbeing

7

Transformation Board (Guiding Group)

The duties of the Transformation Board are:

Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take such decisions as are delegated by the Trust Board. To be responsible for planning, organising, directing and controlling the organisation's systems and resources to achieve service objectives and quality development through implementation of the Trust's Operating Plan. To approve and recommend to the Board, and
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	<p>monitor the implementation of, relevant Trust Policies, guidelines and protocols.</p>
Leadership and Advisory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Trust's strategic objectives as required implementing the Transforming Care Production System in partnership with VMI.
Co-ordination and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To co-ordinate the significant programmes of work prioritised by the Trust Board and to provide progress reports to the Board on the status of the Transforming Care Production System in partnership with VMI. • To ensure that the organisation's objectives and standards for service, high level performance and quality set by the Trust Board, are managed and cascaded throughout the entire organisation. • To focus the Value Stream on those areas that have organisational priority to ensure organisational objectives are progressed.
Values and Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be relentless in pursuit of the patient's interests, supporting a fully engaged organisation that is action orientated and embraces constructive challenge. • To demonstrate that we are living the Trust's values

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

SECTION D – DELEGATION OF POWERS

Delegation to Committees

The Board may determine that Standing Committees shall exercise certain of its powers. The composition and terms of reference of such committees shall be that determined by the Board from time to time taking into account where necessary the requirements of the Secretary of State and/or the Charity Commissioners (including the need to appoint an Audit Committee and a Remuneration Committee). The Board shall determine the reporting requirements in respect of these committees. In accordance with Standing Orders, committees may not delegate executive powers to sub-committees unless expressly authorised by the Board.

Scheme of Delegation to Officers

Standing Orders and model Standing Financial Instructions set out in some detail the financial responsibilities of the Chief Executive (CE), the Finance Director (FD) and other directors. These responsibilities are summarised below.

Certain matters needing to be covered in the scheme of delegation are not covered by Standing Financial Instructions or Standing Orders or they do not specify the responsible officer. These are:-

Area of Responsibility

Overall Responsibility

Data Protection Act [2018 \(UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)\)](#) requirements

Finance Director

Health and Safety Arrangements

Chief Executive

This scheme of delegation covers only matters delegated by the Board to directors and certain other specific matters referred to in Standing Financial Instructions. Each director is responsible for the delegation within his/her directorate. He/she should produce a scheme of delegation for matters within his/her directorate. In particular the scheme of delegation should include how the directorate budget and procedures for approval of expenditure are delegated.

SECTION E – SCHEME OF DELEGATION DERIVED FROM THE ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER MEMORANDUM

DELEGATED TO	DUTIES DELEGATED
CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CE)	Accountable through NHS Accounting Officer to Parliament for stewardship of Trust resources.
CE AND FINANCE DIRECTOR (FD)	Ensure the accounts of the Trust are prepared under principles and in a format directed by the Secretary of State. Accounts must disclose a true and fair view of the Trust's income and expenditure and its state of affairs. Sign the accounts on behalf of the Board.
CE	Sign a statement in the accounts outlining responsibilities as the Accountable Officer. Sign a statement in the accounts outlining responsibilities in respect of Internal Control
CE	Ensure effective management systems that safeguard public funds and assist Trust Chairman to implement requirements of corporate governance including ensuring managers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "have a clear view of their objectives and the means to assess achievements in relation to those objectives • be assigned well defined responsibilities for making best use of resources • have the information, training and access to the expert advice they need to exercise their responsibilities effectively."
CHAIRMAN	Implement requirements of corporate governance.
CE	Achieve value for money from the resources available to the Trust and avoid waste and extravagance in the organisation's activities. Follow through the implementation of any recommendations affecting good practice as set out on reports from such bodies as the Audit Commission and the National Audit Office (NAO).
FD	Operational responsibility for effective and sound financial management and information.
CE	Primary duty to see that FD discharges this function.
CE	Ensuring that expenditure by the Trust complies with Parliamentary requirements.
CE	Accountable for clinical governance and the quality and safety of care delivered by the Trust.
CE and FD	Chief Executive supported by Finance Director, to ensure appropriate advice is given to the Board on all matters of probity, regularity, prudent and economical administration, efficiency and effectiveness.
CE	If CE considers the Board or Chairman is doing something which might infringe probity or regularity, he should set this out in writing to the Chairman and the Board. If the matter is unresolved, he should ask the Audit Committee to inquire and if necessary the HA and Department of Health.

DELEGATED TO	DUTIES DELEGATED
CE	<p>If the Board is contemplating a course of action which raises an issue not of formal propriety or regularity but affects the CE's responsibility for value for money, the CE should draw the relevant factors to the attention of the Board. If the outcome is that you are overruled it is normally sufficient to ensure that your advice and the overruling of it are clearly apparent from the papers. Exceptionally, the CE should inform the NHS England and NHS Improvement Strategic Health Authority and the DoH. In such cases, the CE should as a member of the Board vote against the course of action rather than merely abstain from voting.</p>

SECTION F – SCHEME OF DELEGATION DERIVED FROM CODES OF CONDUCT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DELEGATED TO	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
BOARD	Approve procedure for declaration of hospitality and sponsorship.
BOARD	Ensure proper and widely publicised procedures for voicing complaints, concerns about maladministration, breaches of Code of Conduct, and other ethical concerns.
ALL BOARD MEMBERS	Subscribe to Code of Conduct.
BOARD	Board members share corporate responsibility for all decisions of the Board.
CHAIR AND NON OFFICER MEMBERS	Chair and non-officer members are responsible for monitoring the executive management of the organisation and are responsible to the Secretary of State (S of S) for the discharge of those responsibilities.
BOARD	<p>The Board has six key functions for which it is held accountable by the Department of Health on behalf of the Secretary of State:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure effective financial stewardship through value for money, financial control and financial planning and strategy. 2. To ensure that high standards of corporate governance and personal behaviour are maintained in the conduct of the business of the whole organisation. 3. To appoint, appraise and remunerate senior executives. 4. to ratify the strategic direction of the organisation within the overall policies and priorities of the Government and the NHS, define its annual and longer term objectives and agree plans to achieve them. 5. To oversee the delivery of planned results by monitoring performance against objectives and ensuring corrective action is taken when necessary 6. To ensure effective dialogue between the organisation and the local community on its plans and performance and that these are responsive to the community's needs

DELEGATED TO	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
BOARD	<p>It is the Board's duty to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act within statutory financial and other constraints. 2. Be clear what decisions and information are appropriate to the board and draw up standing orders, a schedule of decisions reserved to the board and standing financial instructions to reflect these. 3. Ensure that management arrangements are in place to enable responsibility to be clearly delegated to senior executives for the main programmes of action and for performance against programmes to be monitored and senior executives held to account. 4. Establish performance and quality targets that maintain the effective use of resources and provide value for money. 5. Specify its requirements in organising and presenting financial and other information succinctly and efficiently to ensure the board can fully undertake its responsibilities. 6. Establish audit and remuneration committees on the basis of formally agreed terms of reference which set out the membership of the sub-committee, the limit to their powers, and the arrangements for reporting back to the main board.
CHAIRMAN	<p>It is the Chairman's role to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide leadership to the Board. 2. Enable all Board members to make a full contribution to the Board's affairs and ensure that the Board acts as a team. 3. Ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Board in a timely manner. 4. Ensure the Board has adequate support and is provided efficiently with all the necessary data on which to base informed decisions. 5. Lead non-executive Board members through a formally-appointed remuneration committee of the main Board on the appointment, appraisal and remuneration of the Chief Executive and (with the latter) other executive Board members. 6. Appoint non-executive Board members to an Audit Committee of the main Board. 7. Advise the Secretary of State on the performance of non-executive Board members.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE	<p>The Chief Executive is accountable to the Chairman and non-executive members of the Board for ensuring that its decisions are implemented, that the organisation works effectively, in accordance with Government policy and public service values and for the maintenance of proper financial stewardship.</p> <p>The Chief Executive should be allowed full scope, within clearly defined delegated powers, for action in fulfilling the decisions of the Board.</p> <p>The other duties of the Chief Executive as Accountable Officer are laid out in the Accountable Officer Memorandum.</p>
NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS	<p>Non-executive Directors are appointed by the Appointments Commission to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, key appointments and accountability through the Department of Health to Ministers and to the local community.</p>
CHAIR AND DIRECTORS	<p>Declaration of conflict of interests.</p>

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DELEGATED TO	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
BOARD	NHS Boards must comply with legislation and guidance issued by the Department of Health on behalf of the Secretary of State, respect agreements entered into by themselves or in on their behalf and establish terms and conditions of service that are fair to the staff and represent good value for taxpayers' money.

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SECTION G – SCHEME OF DELEGATION FROM STANDING ORDERS

SO REF	Delegated to	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
1.1	CHAIRMAN	Final authority in interpretation of Standing Orders (SO).
2.9	BOARD	Appointment of Vice Chairman
3.5	CHAIRMAN	Call meetings.
3.14	CHAIRMAN	Chair all Board meetings and associated responsibilities.
3.21	CHAIRMAN	Give final ruling in questions of order, relevancy and regularity of meetings.
3.22	CHAIRMAN	Having a second or casting vote.
3.32	BOARD	Suspension of Standing Orders.
3.36	AUDIT COMMITTEE	Audit Committee to review every decision to suspend Standing Orders (power to suspend Standing Orders is reserved to the Board).
3.37	BOARD	Variation or amendment of Standing Orders.
4.3	CHAIRMAN & CHIEF EXECUTIVE	The powers which the Board has retained to itself within these Standing Orders (Standing Order 2.4) may in emergency be exercised by the Chair and Chief Executive after having consulted at least two non-officer members.
4.4	BOARD	Formal delegation of powers to, sub committees or joint committees and approval of their constitution and terms of reference. (Constitution and terms of reference of sub committees may be approved by the Chief Executive.)
4.7	CE	The Chief Executive shall prepare a Scheme of Delegation identifying his/her proposals which shall be considered and <u>approved by the Board</u> , subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion.
4.10	ALL	Disclosure of non-compliance with Standing Orders to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.
6.1	THE BOARD	Declare relevant and material interests.
6.8	CE	Maintain Register(s) of Interests.
8.1	ALL STAFF	Comply with national guidance contained in HSG 1993/5 "Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff" (contained in appendix B).
8.7 & 8.8	ALL	Disclose relationship between self and candidate for staff appointment. (CE to report the disclosure to the Board.)
9.1	CE	Keep seal in safe place and maintain a register of sealing.
10.1	CE OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Approve and sign all documents which will be necessary in legal proceedings.

SECTION H – SCHEME OF DELEGATION FROM STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

SFI REF	Delegated to	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
1.1.3	FD	Approval of all financial procedures.
1.1.4	FD	Advice on interpretation or application of SFI.
1.1.6	ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND ALL STAFF	Have duty to disclose any non-compliance with SFIs as soon as possible to the FD.
1.3.5	CE & FD	Accountable for financial control but will, as far as possible, delegate their detailed responsibilities.
1.3.6	CE	To ensure all Board members, officers and employees, present and future, are notified of and understand Standing Financial Instructions.
1.3.7	FD	Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementing the Trust's financial policies and co-ordinating corrective action; ➤ Maintaining an effective system of financial control including ensuring detailed financial procedures and systems are prepared and documented; ➤ Ensuring that sufficient records are maintained to explain Trust's transactions and financial position; and ➤ Providing financial advice to members of Board and staff ➤ Maintaining such accounts, certificates etc as are required for the Trust to carry out its statutory duties.
2.1.2	CHAIR	Raise the matter at the Board meeting where Audit Committee considers there is evidence of ultra vires transactions or improper acts.
2.2.1	FD	Ensure an adequate internal audit service, for which he/she is accountable, is provided (and involve the Audit Committee in the selection process when/if an internal audit service provider is changed.)
2.2.1	FD	Decide at what stage to involve police in cases of misappropriation and other irregularities not involving fraud or corruption.
2.3.4	HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT	Review, appraise and report in accordance with NHS Internal Audit Manual and best practice.
2.4.1	CE & FD	Monitor and ensure compliance with Secretary of State Directions on fraud and corruption including the appointment of the Local Counter Fraud Specialist.
2.5.1	AUDIT COMMITTEE	Ensure cost-effective external audit.

SFI REF	Delegated to	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
3.1.1	CE	Compile and submit to the Board an annual business plan which takes into account financial targets and forecast limits of available resources. The annual business plan will contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a statement of the significant assumptions on which the plan is based; ➤ details of major changes in workload, delivery of services or resources required to achieve the plan.
3.1.2 & 3.1.3	FD	Submit budgets to the Board for approval. Monitor performance against budget, submit to the Board financial estimates and forecasts.
3.1.6	FD	Ensure adequate training is delivered on an on going basis to budget holders.
3.2.1	CE	Delegate budget to budget holders.
3.2.2	CE & BUDGET HOLDERS	Must not exceed the budgetary total or virement limits set by the Board.
3.3.1	FD	Devise and maintain systems of budgetary control.
3.3.2	BUDGET HOLDERS	Ensure that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No overspend or reduction of income that cannot be met from virement is incurred without prior consent of Board. b) Approved budget is not used for any other than specified purpose subject to rules of virement. c) No permanent employees are appointed without the approval of the CE other than those provided for within available resources and manpower establishment.
3.3.3	CE	Identify and implement cost improvements and income generation activities in line with the Business Plan.
3.5.1	CE	Submit monitoring returns.
4.1	FD	Preparation of annual accounts and reports.
5.1.1 & 5.1.2	FD	Managing banking arrangements, including provision of banking services, operation of accounts, preparation of instructions and list of cheque signatories. (Board approves arrangements.)
6	FD	Income systems, including system design, prompt banking, review and approval of fees and charges, debt recovery arrangements, design and control of receipts, provision of adequate facilities and systems for employees whose duties include collecting or holding cash.
6.2.3	ALL EMPLOYEES	Duty to inform FD of money due from transactions which they initiate/deal with.
12	CE	Tendering and contract procedure.
12.7	CE AND NOMINATED OFFICERS*	Waive formal tendering procedures.
12.7	CE	Report waivers of tendering procedures to the Board.
12.9.1	FD	Where a supplier is chosen that is not on the approved list the reason shall be recorded in writing to the CEO
12.9.2	CE	Responsible for the receipt, endorsement and safe custody of tenders received

SFI REF	Delegated to	AUTHORITIES/DUTIES DELEGATED
12.9.3	CE	Shall maintain a register to show each set of competitive tender invitations dispatched
12.9.4	CE & FD	Where one tender is received will assess for value for money and fair price
12.9.6	CE	No tender shall be accepted which will commit expenditure in excess of that which has been allocated by the Trust and which is not in accordance with these instructions except with the authorisation of the CEO
12.9.8	CE	Will appoint a manger to maintain a list of approved firms
12.9.8	CE	Shall ensure that appropriate checks are carried out as to the technical and financial capability of those firms that are invited to tender or quote
12.11	CE	The Chief Executive or his nominated officer should evaluate the quotation and select the quote which gives best value for money
12.13	CE & FD	No quotation shall be accepted which will commit expenditure in excess of that which has been allocated by the Trust and which is not in accordance with these instructions except with the authorisation of the CEO.
12.15	CE	The CEO shall demonstrate that the use of private finance represents value for money and genuinely transfers risk to the private sector
12.15	BOARD	All PFI proposals must be agreed by the Board
12.16	CE	The CEO shall nominate an officer who shall oversee and manage each contract on behalf of the Trust
12.17	CE	The CEO shall nominate officers with delegated authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the Trust
14	CE	The CEO shall be responsible for ensuring that best value for money can be demonstrated for all services provided on an in-house basis
14.4	CE	The Chief Executive shall nominate an officer to oversee and manage the contract on behalf of the Trust
7.1	CE	Ensure the Trust enters into suitable Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with service commissioners for the provision of NHS services.
7.4	CE	As the Accountable Officer, ensure that regular reports are provided to the Board detailing actual and forecast income from the SLA.
8.1.1	BOARD	Establish a Remuneration & Terms of Service Committee.
8.1.2	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	Advise the Board on and make recommendations on the remuneration and terms of service of the CE, other officer members and senior employees to ensure they are fairly rewarded having proper regard to the Trust's circumstances and any national agreements; Monitor and evaluate the performance of individual senior employees; and Advise on and oversee appropriate contractual arrangements for such staff, including proper calculation and scrutiny of termination payments.

8.1.3	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	Report in writing to the Board its advice and its bases about remuneration and terms of service of directors and senior employees.
8.1.4	BOARD	Approve proposals presented by the Chief Executive for setting of remuneration and conditions of service for those employees and officers not covered by the Remuneration Committee.
8.2.2	CE	Approval of variation to funded establishment of any department.
8.3.1	CE	Staff, including agency staff, appointments and re-grading.
8.4.1 & 8.4.2	FD	Payroll: Specifying timetables for submission of properly authorised time records and other notifications; Final determination of pay and allowances; Making payments on agreed dates; Agreeing method of payment; and Issuing instructions (as listed in SFI 8.4.2).
8.4.3	NOMINATED MANAGERS*	Submit time records in line with timetable. Complete time records and other notifications in required form. Submitting termination forms in prescribed form and on time.
8.4.4	FD	Ensure that the chosen method for payroll processing is supported by appropriate (contracted) terms and conditions, adequate internal controls and audit review procedures and that suitable arrangements are made for the collection of payroll deductions and payment of these to appropriate bodies.
8.6.1	NOMINATED MANAGER*	Ensure that all employees are issued with a Contract of Employment in a form approved by the Board and which complies with employment legislation; and Deal with variations to, or termination of, contracts of employment.
9.1.1 & 9.1.2	CE	Determine, and set out, level of delegation of non-pay expenditure to budget managers, including a list of managers authorised to place requisitions, the maximum level of each requisition and the system for authorisation above that level. [It is good practice to append such lists to the Scheme of Delegation document]
9.1.3	CE	Set out procedures on the seeking of professional advice regarding the supply of goods and services.
9.2.1	REQUISITIONERS *	In choosing the item to be supplied (or the service to be performed) shall always obtain the best value for money for the Trust. In so doing, the advice of the Trust's adviser on supply shall be sought.
9.2.2	FD	Shall be responsible for the prompt payment of accounts and claims

9.2.3	FD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advise the Board regarding the setting of thresholds above which quotations (competitive or otherwise) or formal tenders must be obtained; and, once approved, the thresholds should be incorporated in standing orders and regularly reviewed; ➤ Prepare procedural instructions [where not already provided in the Scheme of Delegation or procedure notes for budget holders] on the obtaining of goods, works and services incorporating the thresholds; ➤ Be responsible for the prompt payment of all properly authorised accounts and claims; ➤ Be responsible for designing and maintaining a system of verification, recording and payment of all amounts payable. ➤ A timetable and system for submission to the Finance Director of accounts for payment; provision shall be made for the early submission of accounts subject to cash discounts or otherwise requiring early payment. ➤ Instructions to employees regarding the handling and payment of accounts within the Finance Department. ➤ Be responsible for ensuring that payment for goods and services is only made once the goods and services are received
9.2.4	Appropriate Executive Director	Make a written case to support the need for a prepayment.
9.2.4	FD	Approve proposed prepayment arrangements.
9.2.4	BUDGET HOLDER	Ensure that all items due under a prepayment contract are received (and immediately inform FD if problems are encountered).
9.2.5	CE	Authorise who may use and be issued with official orders.
9.2.6	MANAGERS AND OFFICERS	Ensure that they comply fully with the guidance and limits specified by the Finance Director.
9.2.7	CE & FD	Ensure that the arrangements for financial control and financial audit of building and engineering contracts and property transactions comply with the guidance contained within CONCODE and ESTATECODE. The technical audit of these contracts shall be the responsibility of the relevant Director.
9.3	FD	Lay down procedures for payments to local authorities and voluntary organisations made under the powers of s28A of the NHS Act
24.1.1	FD	The FD will advise the Board on the Trust's ability to pay dividend on PDC and report, periodically, concerning the PDC debt and all loans and overdrafts
24.1.2	BOARD	Approve a list of employees authorised to make short term borrowings on behalf of the Trust (This must include the CEO and FD)
24.1.3	FD	Prepare detailed procedural instructions concerning applications for loans and overdrafts

24.1.5	CE or FD	Be on an authorising panel comprising one other member for short term borrowing approval
20.1.2	FD	Will advise the Board on investments and report, periodically on performance of same
20.1.3	FD	Prepare detailed procedural instructions on the operation of investments held
10.1	FD	Ensure that Board members are aware of the Financial Framework and ensure compliance.
11.1.1 & 11.1.2	CE	Capital investment programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that there is adequate appraisal and approval process for determining capital expenditure priorities and the effect that each has on business plans; ➤ Responsible for the management of capital schemes and for ensuring that they are delivered on time and within cost; ➤ Ensure that capital investment is not undertaken without availability of resources to finance all revenue consequences; and ➤ Ensure that a business case is produced for each proposal.
11.1.2	FD	Certify professionally the costs and revenue consequences detailed in the business case for capital investment.
11.1.3	CE	Issue procedures for management of contracts involving stage payments.
11.1.3	FD	Assess the requirement for the operation of the construction industry taxation deduction scheme.
11.1.3	FD	Issue procedures for the regular reporting of expenditure and commitment against authorised capital expenditure.
11.1.4	CE	Issue manager responsible for any capital scheme with authority to commit expenditure, authority to proceed to tender and approval to accept a successful tender. Issue a scheme of delegation for capital investment management.
11.1.5	FD	Issue procedures governing financial management, including variation to contract, of capital investment projects and valuation for accounting purposes.
11.2.1	FD	Demonstrate that the use of private finance represents value for money and genuinely transfers significant risk to the private sector.
11.2.1	BOARD	Proposal to use PFI must be specifically agreed by the Board.
11.3.1	CE	Maintenance of asset registers (on advice from FD).
11.3.5	FD	Approve procedures for reconciling balances on fixed assets accounts in ledgers against balances on fixed asset registers.
11.3.8	FD	Calculate and pay capital charges in accordance with Department of Health requirements.
11.4.1	CE	Overall responsibility for fixed assets.
11.4.2	FD	Approval of fixed asset control procedures.

11.4.3 & 11.4.5	BOARD/ EXECUTIVE MEMBERS & ALL SENIOR STAFF	Responsibility for security of Trust assets including notifying discrepancies to FD, and reporting losses in accordance with Trust procedure.
15.2	CE	Delegate overall responsibility for control of stores (subject to FD responsibility for systems of control). Further delegation for day to day responsibility subject to such delegation being recorded.
15.4	FD	Responsible for systems of control over stores and receipt of goods.
15.2	DESIGNATED PHARMACEUTICAL OFFICER	Responsible for controls of pharmaceutical stocks.
15.2	DESIGNATED ESTATES OFFICER	Responsible for control of stocks of fuel oil and coal.
15.3	NOMINATED OFFICERS*	Security arrangements and custody of keys.
15.4	FD	Set out procedures and systems to regulate the stores.
15.5	FD	Agree stocktaking arrangements.
15.6	FD	Approve alternative arrangements where a complete system of stores control is not justified.
15.7	FD	Approve system for review of slow moving and obsolete items and for condemnation, disposal and replacement of all unserviceable items.
15.7	NOMINATED OFFICERS*	Operate system for slow moving and obsolete stock, and report to FD evidence of significant overstocking.
15.8	CE	Identify persons authorised to requisition and accept goods from NHS Supplies stores.
16.1.1	FD	Prepare detailed procedures for disposal of assets including condemnations and ensure that these are notified to managers.
16.2.1	FD	Prepare procedures for recording and accounting for losses and special payments and informing police in cases of suspected arson or theft.
16.2.2	ALL STAFF	Discovery or suspicion of loss of any kind must be reported immediately to either head of department or nominated officer. The head of department / nominated officer should then inform the CE and FD.
16.2.2	FD	Where a criminal offence is suspected FD must inform the police if theft or arson is involved. In cases of fraud and corruption FD must inform the relevant LCFS and CFSMS Regional team in line with Secretary of State directions.
16.2.3	FD	Notify CFSMS and External Audit of all frauds.
16.2.4	FD	Notify Board and External Auditor of losses caused theft, arson, neglect of duty or gross carelessness (unless trivial).
16.2.5	BOARD	Approve write off of losses (within limits delegated by DoH).
16.2.7	FD	Consider whether any insurance claim can be made.

16.2.8	FD	Maintain losses and special payments register.
17.1	FD	Responsible for accuracy and security of computerised financial data.
17.2	FD	Satisfy himself that new financial systems and amendments to current financial systems are developed in a controlled manner and thoroughly tested prior to implementation. Where this is undertaken by another organisation assurances of adequacy must be obtained from them prior to implementation.
	RELEVANT DIRECTOR	Shall publish and maintain a Freedom of Information Scheme
17.3	RELEVANT OFFICERS	Send proposals for general computer systems to FD.
17.4 & 17.5	FD	Ensure that contracts with other bodies for the provision of computer services for financial applications clearly define responsibility of all parties for security, privacy, accuracy, completeness and timeliness of data during processing, transmission and storage, and allow for audit review. Seek periodic assurances from the provider that adequate controls are in operation.
	FD	Ensure that risks to the Trust from use of IT are identified and considered and that disaster recovery plans are in place
17.6	FD	Where computer systems have in impact on corporate financial systems satisfy himself that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Systems acquisition, development and maintenance are in line with corporate policies; ➤ data assembled for processing by financial systems is adequate, accurate, complete and timely, and that a management tail exists; ➤ FD and staff have access to such data; Such computer audit reviews are being carried out as are considered necessary.
18.2	CE	Responsible for ensuring patients and guardians are informed about patients' money and property procedures on admission.
18.3	FD	Provide detailed written instructions on the collection, custody, investment, recording, safekeeping, and disposal of patients' property (including instructions on the disposal of the property of deceased patients and of patients transferred to other premises) for all staff whose duty is to administer, in any way, the property of.
18.6	DEPARTMENTAL MANAGERS	Inform staff of their responsibilities and duties for the administration of the property of patients.
	FD	Shall ensure that each trust fund which the Trust is responsible for managing is managed appropriately
21.1	FD	Ensure all staff are made aware of the Trust policy on the acceptance of gifts and other benefits in kind by staff.
22.1	CE	Retention of document procedures in accordance with HSC 1999/053.
23.2.1	CE	Risk management programme.

23.2.1	BOARD	Approve and monitor risk management programme.
23.3.1	BOARD	Decide whether the Trust will use the risk pooling schemes administered by the NHS Resolution Authority or self insure for some or all of the risks (where discretion is allowed). Decisions to self insure should be reviewed annually.
23.3.3 & 23.3.4	FD	<p>Where the Board decides to use the risk pooling schemes administered by the NHS Resolution NHSLA, the Finance Director shall ensure that the arrangements entered into are appropriate and complementary to the risk management programme. The Finance Director shall ensure that documented procedures cover these arrangements.</p> <p>Where the Board decides not to use the risk pooling schemes administered by the NHS Resolution Authority for any one or other of the risks covered by the schemes, the Finance Director shall ensure that the Board is informed of the nature and extent of the risks that are self insured as a result of this decision. The Finance Director will draw up formal documented procedures for the management of any claims arising from third parties and payments in respect of losses which will not be reimbursed.</p>
23.3.5	FD	Ensure documented procedures cover management of claims and payments below the deductible.

* Nominated officers and the areas for which they are responsible should be incorporated into the Trust's Scheme of Delegation document.

SECTION I AUTHORISATION LEVELS

PERSONNEL	CHEQUES/ BACS/ CHAPS	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE Note 1	REVENUE EXPENDITURE Note 2	ASSET DISPOSALS	
BOARD (AS GROUP)	See Bank Mandate	<£15,000,000 Note 3	>£250,000	<£1,000,000	
CHAIRMAN		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
FINANCE DIRECTOR		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
DIRECTORS		Nil	<£50,000	<£5,000	
ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER/CARE GROUP DIRECTOR/ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ESTATES		Nil	<£25,000	<£5,000	
CENTRE MANAGERS /CARE GROUP HEADS OF NURSING/HEADS OF SERVICE		Nil	<£10,000	<£5,000	
ASSISTANT CENTRE MANAGERS/MATRONS/ASST HEADS OF SERVICE		Nil	<£5,000	Nil	
WARD MANAGER AND OPERATIONAL MANAGER		Nil	<£1000	Nil	

Charitable funds Expenditure

PERSONNEL	VALUE
BOARD (AS GROUP) OR DELEGATED COMMITTEE	>£100,000
FINANCE DIRECTOR PLUS 1 OTHER DIRECTOR	>£10,000 -£100,000
FUND-MANAGER	<£5,000

Personnel	Value
Fund Manager	Expenditure < £2,000
Fund Manager and Care Group Manager	Expenditure > £2,000 and < £5,000
Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and include 2 signatures from the CFC one of which must be a director	Expenditure > £5,000
Requested by Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and authorised by the CFC to include Finance Director and one other director.	Expenditure > £10,000

NOTES

1. NHS Trusts reporting a year end deficit in its most recent audited accounts, forecasting an outturn deficit for the financial year or with an in-year deficit should note that at the discretion of the appropriate NHSI Director of Delivery and Development or the NHSI Director of Finance a NHS Trusts delegated limits can be lowered. Where this is the case all schemes over £500k in value will need agreement to proceed from the relevant Director of Delivery and Development. Where this applies NHS Trusts will be notified in writing by the NHSI.
2. Any single transaction. Where contracts have been placed for services such as utilities or existing and routine expenditure or call off orders that have followed a compliant procurement route, the authorisation process shall follow the principles detailed within the Trust's Budgetary Control Policy
- 3.

Financial value of the capital investment or property transaction	Approving person/committee/board	Key stage documentation	Indicative review timescale for each stage
Up to £15 million	Trust board	In accordance with the trust's internal governance process but NHS Improvement will expect trusts to adopt the best practice approach	Not applicable
£15 million to £30 million	NHS Improvement executive director of resources/deputy chief executive or NHS Improvement Director of finance and DH	OBC and FBC required (SOC also required if DH finance required)	8 weeks
£30 million to £50 million	NHS Improvement Resources Committee and DH	SOC, OBC and FBC required (or SOC, ABC, CBC or LIFT stage 1 and 2 equivalent for PFI/PF2 or LIFT)	8–12 weeks
Over £50 million	NHS Improvement Resources Committee, NHS Improvement Board, DH and HMT	SOC, OBC and FBC required (or SOC, ABC, CBC or LIFT stage 1 and 2 equivalent for PFI/PF2 or LIFT)	Minimum 8–12 weeks (for NHS Improvement approval stage only)

4. Between £100,000 and £250,000 any two from Chairman, Chief Executive and Finance Director.

~~5. Charitable Funds Approvals up to £10,000 can be approved by the Deputy Finance Director~~

~~6.5.~~ All values are inclusive of the current rate of Value Added Tax

< Up to > Greater than

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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Written: November 2003
Last Reviewed: July 2019
Review: Annually

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

- 1.1.1 The Code of Accountability requires that each NHS Trust shall give, and may vary or revoke, Standing Financial Instructions for the regulation of the conduct of its members and officers in relation to all financial matters with which they are concerned. These Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) are issued in accordance with the Code. They shall have effect as if incorporated in the Standing Orders (SOs). There will be a training and communication programme administered by the Finance Director to affect these SFIs.
- 1.1.2 These Standing Financial Instructions detail the financial responsibilities, policies and procedures adopted by the Trust. They are designed to ensure that the Trust's financial transactions are carried out in accordance with the law and Government policy in order to achieve probity, accuracy, economy, efficiency and effectiveness. They should be used in conjunction with the Schedule of Decisions Reserved to the Board and the Scheme of Delegation adopted by the Trust.
- 1.1.3 These Standing Financial Instructions identify the financial responsibilities that apply to everyone working for the Trust and its constituent organisations, including, Trading Units and partner organisations providing shared services under service agreements. They do not provide detailed procedural advice and should be read in conjunction with the detailed departmental and financial procedure notes, to provide sound internal control.
All financial procedures must be approved by the Finance Director.
- 1.1.4 Should any difficulties arise regarding the interpretation or application of any of the Standing Financial Instructions then the advice of the Finance Director **MUST BE SOUGHT BEFORE ACTING**. The user of these Standing Financial Instructions should also be familiar with and comply with the provisions of the Trust's Standing Orders.
- 1.1.5 **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND STANDING ORDERS IS A DISCIPLINARY MATTER THAT COULD RESULT IN DISMISSAL.**
- 1.1.6 **Overriding Standing Financial Instructions** – If for any reason these Standing Financial Instructions are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Audit Committee for referring action or ratification. All members of the Board and staff have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these Standing Financial Instructions to the Finance Director as soon as possible.

1.2 TERMINOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Any expression to which a meaning is given in Health Service Acts, or in Directions made under the Acts, shall have the same meaning in these instructions;
- (a) **"Accountable Officer"** means the NHS Officer responsible and accountable for funds entrusted to the Trust. He shall be responsible for ensuring the proper stewardship of public funds and assets. For this Trust it shall be the Chief Executive.
- (b) **"Board"** means the Board of The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust;
- (c) **"Budget"** means a resource, expressed in financial terms, proposed by the Board for the purpose of carrying out, for a specific period, any or all of the functions of the Trust;

- (d) **"Budget Holder"** means the director or employee with delegated authority to manage finances (Income and Expenditure) for a specific area of the organisation; and
- (e) **"Chief Executive"** means the chief officer of the Trust;
- (f) **"Finance Director"** means the chief financial officer of the Trust;
- (g) **"Executive Director"** means a member of the Trust who is an officer.
- (h) **"Funds held on trust"** shall mean those funds which the Trust holds on date of incorporation, receives on distribution by statutory instrument or chooses subsequently to accept under powers derived under S.90 of the NHS Act 1977, as amended. Such funds may or may not be charitable.
- (i) **"Legal Adviser"** means the properly qualified person appointed by the Trust to provide legal advice.
- (j) **"Officer"** means employee of the Trust or any other person holding a paid appointment or office with the Trust.
- (k) **"Non-Executive Director"** means a member of the Trust who is not an officer of the Trust and is not to be treated as an officer by virtue of the Membership and Procedure Regulations.
- (l) **"Trust,"** means The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

1.2.2 Wherever the title Chief Executive, Finance Director, or other nominated officer is used in these instructions, it shall be deemed to include such other director or employees who have been duly authorised to represent them.

1.2.3 Wherever the term "employee" is used and where the context permits it shall be deemed to include employees of third parties contracted to the Trust when acting on behalf of the Trust.

1.3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELEGATION

1.3.1 The Board exercises financial supervision and control by:

- (a) formulating the financial strategy;
- (b) requiring the submission and approval of budgets within approved allocations/overall income;
- (c) defining and approving essential features in respect of important procedures and financial systems (including the need to obtain value for money); and
- (d) defining specific responsibilities placed on members of the Board and employees as indicated in the Scheme of Delegation document.

1.3.2 The Board has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board in formal session. These are set out in the Reservation of Powers to the Board document.

1.3.3 The Board will delegate responsibility for the performance of its functions in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation document adopted by the Trust.

- 1.3.4 Within the Standing Financial Instructions, it is acknowledged that the Chief Executive is ultimately accountable to the Board, and as Accountable Officer, to the Secretary of State for Health, for ensuring that the Board meets its obligation to perform its functions within the available financial resources. The Chief Executive has overall executive responsibility for the Trust's activities; is responsible to the Chairman and the Board for ensuring that its financial obligations and targets are met and has overall responsibility for the Trust's system of internal control.
- 1.3.5 The Chief Executive and Finance Director will, as far as possible, delegate their detailed responsibilities, but they remain accountable for financial control.
- 1.3.6 It is a duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing members of the Board and employees and all new appointees are notified of, and understand, their responsibilities within these Instructions.
- 1.3.7 The Finance Director is responsible for:
- (a) implementing the Trust's financial policies and for co-ordinating any corrective action necessary to further these policies;
 - (b) maintaining an effective system of internal financial control including ensuring that detailed financial procedures and systems incorporating the principles of separation of duties and internal checks are prepared, documented and maintained to supplement these instructions;
 - (c) ensuring that sufficient records are maintained to show and explain the Trust's transactions, in order to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Trust at any time.
- and, without prejudice to any other functions of the Trust, and employees of the Trust, the duties of the Finance Director include:
- (d) the provision of financial advice to other members of the Board and employees;
 - (e) the design, implementation and supervision of systems of internal financial control; and
 - (f) the preparation and maintenance of such accounts, certificates, estimates, records and reports as the Trust may require for the purpose of carrying out its statutory duties.
- 1.3.8 All members of the Board and employees, severally and collectively, are responsible for:
- (a) the security of the property of the Trust;
 - (b) avoiding loss;
 - (c) exercising economy and efficiency in the use of resources; and
 - (d) conforming to the requirements of Standing Orders, Standing Financial Instructions, Financial Procedures and the Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.3.9 Any contractor or employee of a contractor who is empowered by the Trust to commit the Trust to expenditure or who is authorised to obtain income shall be covered by these instructions. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to ensure that such persons are made aware of this.

- 1.3.10 For any and all members of the Board and employees who carry out a financial function, the form in which financial records are kept and the manner in which members of the Board and employees discharge their duties must be to the satisfaction of the Finance Director.

2 AUDIT

2.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 2.1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Board shall formally establish an Audit Committee, with clearly defined terms of reference and following guidance from the NHS Audit Committee Handbook (2014), which will provide an independent and objective view of internal control by:

- (a) review the establishment and maintenance of an effective system of integrated governance, risk management and internal control, across the whole of the organisations' activities both clinical and non-clinical), that supports the achievement of the organisations' objectives;
- (b) Ensure that there is an effective internal audit function that meets the *Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017* and provides appropriate independent assurance to the Committee, Accountable Officer and Trust Board. ;
- (c) Ensure that there is an effective external audit function that meets Licencing Requirements and carries out its duties in accordance with Schedule 10 to the 2006 Act in accordance with any NHS guidance or best practice to provide independent assurance to the Audit Committee, Accountable Officer and Trust Board
- (d) Review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process. In particular, the Committee will review the work and findings of the external auditors and consider the implication and management's response to their work
- (e) Review the findings of other significant assurance functions, both internal and external to the organisation, and consider the implications for the governance of the organisation
- (f) Satisfy itself that the organisation has adequate arrangements in place for counter fraud and security that meet NHS ~~Protect's~~ Counter Fraud Authority standards and shall review the outcomes of work in these areas
- (g) Shall request and review reports, evidence and assurances from directors and managers on the overall arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control.
- (h) Monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the organisation and any formal announcements relating to its financial performance
- (i) Ensure that the systems for financial reporting to the Trust Board including those of budgetary control are subject to review as to the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.
- (j) Review the annual report and financial statements before submission to the Trust Board.

- (k) Review the effectiveness of the arrangements in place for allowing staff to raise (in confidence) concerns about possible improprieties in financial, clinical or safety matters and ensure that any such concerns are investigated proportionately and independently.

2.1.2 Where the Audit Committee considers there is evidence of ultra vires transactions, evidence of improper acts, or if there are other important matters that the committee wish to raise, the Chairman of the Audit Committee should raise the matter at a full meeting of the Board. Exceptionally, the matter may need to be referred to the Department of Health. (To the Finance Director in the first instance.)

2.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Finance Director to ensure an adequate internal audit service is provided and the Audit Committee shall be involved in the selection process when/if an internal audit service provider is changed.

2.2 FINANCE DIRECTOR

2.2.1 The Finance Director is responsible for:

- (a) ensuring there are arrangements to review, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of internal financial control including the establishment of an effective internal audit function;
- (b) ensuring that the internal audit is adequate and meets the NHS mandatory audit standards;
- (c) Ensuring that there is an effective external audit function that meets Licencing Requirements and carries out its duties in accordance with Schedule 10 to the 2006 Act in accordance with any NHS guidance or best practice to provide independent assurance to the Audit Committee, Accountable Officer and Trust Board
- (d) deciding at what stage to involve the police in cases of misappropriation and other irregularities not involving fraud or corruption;
- (d) ensuring that an annual internal audit report is prepared for the consideration of the Audit Committee. The report must cover:
 - (i) a clear opinion on the effectiveness of internal control in accordance with current controls assurance guidance issued by the Department of Health including for example compliance with control criteria and standards,
 - (ii) major internal financial control weaknesses discovered,
 - (iii) progress on the implementation of internal audit recommendations,
 - (iv) progress against plan over the previous year,
 - (v) strategic audit plan covering the coming three years,
 - (vi) a detailed plan for the coming year.

2.2.2 The Finance Director or designated auditors are entitled without necessarily giving prior notice to require and receive:

- (a) access to all records, documents and correspondence relating to any financial or other relevant transactions, including documents of a confidential nature;
- (b) access at all reasonable times to any land, premises, members of the Board or employees of the Trust;

- (c) the production of any cash, stores or other property of the Trust under a member of the Board and employee's control; and
- (d) explanations concerning any matter under investigation.

2.3 **ROLE OF INTERNAL AUDIT**

- 2.3.1 Internal audit will provide an independent and objective opinion on risk management, control and governance arrangements by measuring and evaluating their effectiveness. The Head of Internal Audit will provide an annual opinion on the effectiveness of the whole system of internal control.

The opinion will be based on a systematic review and evaluation of risk management, control and governance which comprises the policies, procedures and operations in place to:

Establish and monitor the achievement of the the Trust's strategic and operational objectives

Identify, assess and manage strategic and operational risks to achieving the organisation's objectives

Identify the extent of compliance with, and the financial effect of, the relevant established policies, plans and procedures

Identify the adequacy and application of financial and other related management Controls

Ensure the integrity and reliability of information, accounts and data, including internal and external reporting and accountability processes

Identify the extent to which the Trust's assets and interests are accounted for and safeguarded from loss of any kind, arising from:

Fraud and other offences;
Waste, extravagance, inefficient administration;
Poor value for money; or,
Other causes.

Internal audit shall also independently verify the board assurance framework statements in accordance with guidance from the Department of Health

The Head of Internal Audit will make suitable provision to form an opinion on key systems operated on behalf of other organisations, and key systems being operated by other organisations, either by deriving the opinions themselves or by relying on the opinions provided by other auditors/review bodies.

- 2.3.2 Whenever any matter arises which involves, or is thought to involve, irregularities concerning cash, stores, or other property or any suspected irregularity in the exercise of any function of a pecuniary nature, the Finance Director must be notified immediately.
- 2.3.3 The Head of Internal Audit will normally attend Audit Committee meetings and has a right of access to all Audit Committee members, the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Trust.
- 2.3.4 The Head of Internal Audit shall be accountable to the Finance Director. The reporting system for internal audit shall be agreed between the Finance Director, the Audit

Committee and the Head of Internal Audit. The agreement shall be in writing and shall comply with the guidance on reporting contained in the NHS Internal Audit Manual. The reporting system shall be reviewed at least every 3 years.

2.4 FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

- 2.4.1 In line with their responsibilities, the Trust Chief Executive and Finance Director shall monitor and ensure compliance with Secretary of State (SofS) Directions on fraud and corruption.
- 2.4.2 The Trust shall nominate a suitable person to carry out the duties of the Local Counter Fraud Specialist as specified by the Department of Health Fraud and Corruption Manual and guidance.
- 2.4.3 The Local Counter Fraud Specialist shall report to the Finance Director and shall work with staff in ~~NHS Counter Fraud Authority NHS Protect~~ in accordance with the Department of Health Fraud and Corruption Manual.
- 2.4.4 The Local Counter Fraud Specialist will provide a written report, at least annually, on counter fraud work within the Trust.

2.5 EXTERNAL AUDIT

- 2.5.1 The external auditor is appointed by an Appointment Panel constituted of members of the Audit Committee with delegated authority from the Board. The Audit Committee must ensure a cost-efficient service. Should there appear to be a problem then this should be raised with the external auditor.

3 ALLOCATIONS, BUSINESS PLANNING, BUDGETS, BUDGETARY CONTROL, AND MONITORING

3.1 PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF BUSINESS PLANS AND BUDGETS

- 3.1.1 The Chief Executive, will compile and submit to the Board an annual business plan which takes into account financial targets and forecast limits of available resources. The annual business plan will contain:
 - (a) a statement of the significant assumptions on which the plan is based;
 - (b) details of major changes in workload, delivery of services or resources required to achieve the plan.
- 3.1.2 Prior to the start of the financial year the Finance Director will, on behalf of the Chief Executive, prepare and submit budgets for approval by the Board. Such budgets will:
 - (a) be in accordance with the aims and objectives set out in the Annual Business Plan, Service and Financial Framework and the Health Improvement Plan;
 - (b) accord with workload and manpower plans;
 - (c) be produced following discussion with appropriate budget holders;
 - (d) be prepared within the limits of available funds; and
 - (e) identify potential risks.

- 3.1.3 The Finance Director shall monitor financial performance against budget and business plan, periodically review them, and report to the Board.
- 3.1.4 All budget holders must provide information as required by the Finance Director to enable budgets to be compiled.
- 3.1.5 All Assistant Chief Operating Officers and Care Group Directors will sign up to their allocated budgets at the commencement of each financial year.
- 3.1.6 The Finance Director has a responsibility to ensure that adequate training is delivered on an on-going basis to budget holders to help them manage successfully.

3.2 BUDGETARY DELEGATION

- 3.2.1 The Chief Executive may delegate the management of a budget to permit the performance of a defined range of activities, including pooled budget arrangements under Section 31 of the Health Act 1999. This delegation must be in writing and be accompanied by a clear definition of:
 - (a) the amount of the budget;
 - (b) the purpose(s) of each budget heading;
 - (c) individual and group responsibilities;
 - (d) authority to exercise virement;
 - (e) achievement of planned levels of service; and
 - (f) the provision of regular reports.
- 3.2.2 The Chief Executive and delegated budget holders must not exceed the budgetary total or virement limits set by the Finance Director.
- 3.2.3 Any budgeted funds not required for their designated purpose(s) revert to the immediate control of the Chief Executive, subject to any authorised use of virement.
- 3.2.4 Non-recurring budgets should not be used to finance recurring expenditure without the authority in writing of the Chief Executive.

3.3 BUDGETARY CONTROL AND REPORTING

- 3.3.1 The Finance Director will devise and maintain systems of budgetary control. These will include:
 - (a) Monthly financial reports to the Board in a form approved by the Board containing:
 - (i) income and expenditure to date showing trends and forecast year-end position;
 - (ii) movements in working capital;
 - (iii) movements in cash and capital;
 - (iv) capital project spend and projected outturn against plan;
 - (v) explanations of any material variances from plan;
 - (vi) details of any corrective action where necessary and the Chief Executive's and/or Finance Director's view of whether such actions are sufficient to correct the situation;

- (b) the issue of timely, accurate and comprehensible advice and financial reports to each budget holder, covering the areas for which they are responsible;
- (c) investigation and reporting of variances from financial, workload and manpower budgets;
- (d) monitoring of management action to correct variances; and
- (e) arrangements for the authorisation of budget transfers.

3.3.2 Each Budget Holder is responsible for ensuring that:

- (a) any likely overspending or reduction of income that cannot be met by virement is not incurred without the prior consent of the Board;
- (b) the amount provided in the approved budget is not used in whole or in part for any purpose other than that specifically authorised subject to the rules of virement;
- (c) no permanent employees are appointed without confirmation that funding to support the appointments has been established through the Finance Department and authorised as such by the Finance Director or delegated officer.
- (d) they comply with the Trust's Budgetary Control Policy as devised by the Finance Director;

3.3.3 The Chief Executive is responsible for identifying and implementing cost improvements and income generation initiatives in accordance with the requirements of the Annual Business Plan, the Health Improvement Plan and a balanced budget.

3.4 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

3.4.1 The general rules applying to delegation and reporting shall also apply to capital expenditure. (The particular applications relating to capital are contained in SFI Section 11.)

3.5 MONITORING RETURNS

3.5.1 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate monitoring forms are submitted to the requisite monitoring organisation.

4 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS

4.1 The Finance Director, on behalf of the Trust, will:

- (a) prepare financial returns in accordance with the accounting policies and guidance given by the Department of Health and the Treasury, the Trust's accounting policies, and generally accepted accounting practice;
- (b) prepare and submit annual financial reports to the Secretary of State certified in accordance with current guidelines; and
- (c) submit financial returns to the Secretary of State for each financial year in accordance with the timetable prescribed by the Department of Health.

4.2 The Trust's annual accounts must be audited by an auditor appointed by the Audit Committee.. The Trust's audited annual accounts must be presented to a public meeting and made available to the public.

4.3 The Trust will publish an annual report, in accordance with guidelines on local accountability, and present it at a public meeting, (see Code of Accountability – Section 1.3.2 of Corporate Governance Framework). The document will comply with the Department of Health's Manual for Accounts.

5 BANK ACCOUNTS

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 The Finance Director is responsible for managing the Trust's banking arrangements and for advising the Trust on the provision of banking services and operation of accounts. This advice will take into account guidance/ Directions issued from time to time by the Department of Health. The Government Banking Service (GBS) provides the Trust with a full range of banking services.

5.1.2 The Board shall approve the banking arrangements.

5.2 BANK AND GBS ACCOUNTS

5.2.1 The Finance Director is responsible for:

- (a) bank accounts and GBS accounts;
- (b) establishing separate bank accounts for the Trust's non-exchequer funds;
- (c) ensuring payments made from bank or GBS accounts do not exceed the amount credited to the account except where arrangements have been made;
- (e) reporting to the Board all arrangements made with the Trust's bankers for accounts to be overdrawn; and
- (f) monitoring compliance with DoH guidance on the level of cleared funds.

5.3 BANKING PROCEDURES

5.3.1 The Finance Director will prepare detailed instructions, on the operation of bank and GBS accounts that must include:

- (a) the conditions under which each bank and GBS account is to be operated;
- (b) those authorised to sign cheques or other orders drawn on the Trust's accounts.

5.3.2 The Finance Director must advise the Trust's bankers in writing of the conditions under which each account will be operated.

5.3.3 It is the responsibility of the Finance Director to monitor the banking arrangements to ensure best value for money is obtained.

5.3.4 The Finance Director should monitor authorisation levels and check signatories to ensure thresholds and individuals meet with the ongoing needs of the Trust.

5.4 TENDERING AND REVIEW

5.4.1 The Finance Director will ensure best value/service is obtained from the banking sector where permitted to do so. Any change of banker will only occur after the completion of a formal tendering exercise.

6 INCOME, FEES AND CHARGES AND SECURITY OF CASH, CHEQUES AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS

6.1 INCOME SYSTEMS

6.1.1 The Finance Director is responsible for designing, maintaining and ensuring compliance with systems for the proper recording, invoicing, collection and coding of all monies due.

6.1.2 The Finance Director is also responsible for the prompt banking of all monies received.

6.2 FEES AND CHARGES

6.2.1 The Trust shall follow the Department of Health's advice in the "Costing" Manual in setting prices for NHS service agreements

6.2.2 The Finance Director is responsible for approving and regularly reviewing the level of all fees and charges other than those determined by the Department of Health or by Statute. Independent professional advice on matters of valuation shall be taken as necessary. Where sponsorship income (including items in kind such as subsidised goods or loans of equipment) is considered the guidance in the Department of Health's Commercial Sponsorship – Ethical standards in the NHS shall be followed.

6.2.3 All employees must inform the Finance Director promptly of money due arising from transactions which they initiate/deal with, including all contracts, leases, tenancy agreements, private patient undertakings and other transactions.

6.3 DEBT RECOVERY

6.3.1 The Finance Director is responsible for the appropriate recovery action on all outstanding debts.

6.3.2 Income not received should be dealt with in accordance with losses procedures. (See section 13.)

6.3.3 Overpayments should be detected (or preferably prevented) and recovery initiated.

6.4 SECURITY OF CASH, CHEQUES AND OTHER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS

6.4.1 The Finance Director is responsible for:

- (a) approving the form of all receipt books, agreement forms, or other means of officially acknowledging or recording monies received or receivable;
- (b) ordering and securely controlling any such stationery;
- (c) the provision of adequate facilities and systems for employees whose duties include collecting and holding cash, including the provision of safes or lockable cash boxes, the procedures for keys, and for coin operated machines; and
- (d) prescribing systems and procedures for handling cash and negotiable securities on behalf of the Trust.

- 6.4.2 Official money shall not under any circumstances be used for the encashment of private cheques, nor IOUs.
- 6.4.3 All cheques, postal orders, cash etc., shall be banked intact. Disbursements shall not be made from cash received, except under arrangements approved by the Finance Director.
- 6.4.4 The holders of safe keys shall not accept unofficial funds for depositing in their safes unless such deposits are in special sealed envelopes or locked containers. It shall be made clear to the depositors that the Trust is not to be held liable for any loss, and written indemnities must be obtained from the organisation or individuals absolving the Trust from responsibility for any loss.
- 6.4.5 Under no circumstances will the Trust accept cash payments in excess of ~~15,000~~ 14,000 euros (approximately £10,000) in respect of any single transaction. Any attempts by an individual to effect payment above this amount should be notified immediately to the Finance Director.

7 NHS SERVICE AGREEMENTS FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES

7.1 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS (SLAS)

- 7.1.1 The Chief Executive, as the Accountable Officer, is responsible for ensuring the Trust enters into suitable Service Level Agreements (SLA) with service commissioners for the provision of NHS services.

All SLAs should aim to implement the agreed priorities contained within the Local System Plan (LSP) and wherever possible, be based upon integrated care pathways to reflect expected patient experience. In discharging this responsibility, the Chief Executive should take into account:

- the standards of service quality expected;
- the relevant national service or quality framework (if any);
- the provision of reliable information on cost and volume of services;
- Planning for Patients 2013/14
- that SLAs build where appropriate on existing Joint Investment Plans;
- that SLAs are based on integrated care pathways.

7.2 INVOLVING PARTNERS AND JOINTLY MANAGING RISK

A good SLA will result from a dialogue of clinicians, users, public health professionals and managers. It will reflect knowledge of local needs and inequalities. This will require the Chief Executive to ensure that the Trust works with all partner agencies involved in both the delivery and the commissioning of the service required. The SLA will apportion responsibility for handling a particular risk to the party or parties in the best position to influence the event and financial arrangements should reflect this. In this way the Trust can jointly manage risk with all interested parties.

7.3 REPORTS TO BOARD AND SLAs

The Chief Executive, as the Accountable Officer, will need to ensure that regular reports are provided to the Board detailing actual and forecast income from the SLA. This will include information on costing arrangements, which increasingly should be based upon Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs). Where HRGs are unavailable for specific services, all parties should agree a common currency for application across the range of SLAs.

8 TERMS OF SERVICE, ALLOWANCES AND PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND EMPLOYEES

8.1 REMUNERATION AND TERMS OF SERVICE

8.1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders the Board shall establish a Remuneration Committee, with clearly defined terms of reference, specifying which posts fall within its area of responsibility, its composition, and the arrangements for reporting. (refer SO 5.8).

8.1.2 The Committee will:

- (a) advise the Board about appropriate remuneration and terms of service for the Chief Executive, other Executive Directors employed by the Trust and other senior employees including:
 - (i) all aspects of salary (including any performance-related elements/bonuses);
 - (ii) provisions for other benefits, including pensions and cars;
 - (iii) arrangements for termination of employment and other contractual terms;
- (b) make such recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and terms of service of officer members of the Board members (and other senior employees) to ensure they are fairly rewarded for their individual contribution to the Trust - having proper regard to the Trust's circumstances and performance and to the provisions of any national arrangements for such members and staff where appropriate;
- (c) monitor and evaluate the performance of executive directors (and other senior employees); and
- (d) advise on and oversee appropriate contractual arrangements for such staff including the proper calculation and scrutiny of termination payments taking account of such national guidance as is appropriate.

8.1.3 The Committee shall report in writing to the Board the basis for its recommendations. The Board shall use the report as the basis for their decisions, but remain accountable for taking decisions on the remuneration and terms of service of executive directors. Minutes of the Board's meetings should record such decisions.

8.1.4 The Board will after due consideration and amendment if appropriate approve proposals presented by the Chief Executive for setting of remuneration and conditions of service for those employees and officers not covered by the Committee.

8.1.5 The Trust will pay allowances to the Chairman, Non-Executive Directors of the Board in accordance with instructions issued by the Secretary of State for Health.

8.2 FUNDED ESTABLISHMENT

- 8.2.1 The manpower plans incorporated within the annual budget will form the funded establishment. Changes to the funded establishment require the authorisation of the Finance Director or delegated officer.
- 8.2.2 The funded establishment of any department may not be varied without the approval of the Finance Director or Delegated Officer.

8.3 STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- 8.3.1 Within the limit of their approved budget and funded establishment the budget holder can engage, re-engage or re-grade employees, either on a permanent or temporary nature, hire agency staff. Such changes must also comply with Trust policies. Where these changes exceed these limits/do not comply with policy, authorisation must be gained from the Chief Executive before committing to any change.
- 8.3.2 The Board will approve procedures presented by the Chief Executive for the determination of commencing pay rates, condition of service, etc, for employees.
- 8.3.3 In extreme circumstances e.g. high levels of escalation, where to ensure that the patient safety is maintained and additional staffing beyond the approved budget is required. In such circumstances permission must be sought prior to increase temporary staffing levels through the appropriate Director / Director on-call. It is the responsibility of the budget holder at the earliest opportunity to review these staffing levels to ensure value for money is obtained and funding is both identified and approved to cover the increased cost.

8.4 PROCESSING PAYROLL

- 8.4.1 The Finance Director is responsible for:
- (a) specifying timetables for submission of properly authorised time records and other notifications;
 - (b) the final determination of pay and allowances;
 - (c) making payment on agreed dates; and
 - (d) agreeing method of payment.
- 8.4.2 The Finance Director will issue instructions regarding:
- (a) verification and documentation of data;
 - (b) the timetable for receipt and preparation of payroll data and the payment of employees and allowances;
 - (c) maintenance of subsidiary records for superannuation, income tax, social security and other authorised deductions from pay;
 - (d) security and confidentiality of payroll information;
 - (e) checks to be applied to completed payroll before and after payment;

- (f) authority to release payroll data under the provisions of the Data Protection Act [2018 \(UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)\)](#);
- (g) methods of payment available to various categories of employee and officers;
- (h) procedures for payment by cheque or bank credit to employees and officers;
- (l) procedures for the recall of cheques and bank credits
- (j) pay advances and their recovery;
- (k) maintenance of regular and independent reconciliation of pay control accounts;
- (l) separation of duties of preparing records and handling cash; and
- (m) a system to ensure the recovery from leavers of sums of money and property due by them to the Trust.

8.4.3 Appropriately nominated managers have delegated responsibility for:

- (a) submitting time records, and other notifications in accordance with agreed timetables;
- (b) completing time records and other notifications in accordance with the Finance Director's instructions and in the form prescribed by the Finance Director;
- (c) submitting termination forms in the prescribed form immediately upon knowing the effective date of an employee's or officer's resignation, termination or retirement. Where an employee fails to report for duty or to fulfil obligations in circumstances that suggest they have left without notice, the Finance Director must be informed immediately.

8.4.4 Regardless of the arrangements for providing the payroll service, the Finance Director shall ensure that the chosen method is supported by appropriate (contracted) terms and conditions, adequate internal controls and audit review procedures and that suitable arrangements are made for the collection of payroll deductions and payment of these to appropriate bodies.

8.5 EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

8.5.1 Amount Paid. The Finance Director shall be responsible for determining the correct payment of claims for travelling and other expenses, including deduction of amounts liable to the Inland Revenue under the appropriate regulations. The Finance Director will not be liable to pay such claims where, in his opinion, it has not been possible for the certifying manager to verify the accuracy of the data.

8.5.2 Certification of claims by, or on behalf of, the Budget Manager shall be taken to mean that the certification officer is satisfied that the journeys made were authorised, that expenses claimed were properly and necessarily incurred, and that allowances are properly payable by the Trust. The employee will upload any receipts onto the electronic expenses system which the certifying manager will examine before certification. All original receipts will be kept by the employee or the certifying manager.

8.5.3 Date of Claim. Eligible employee's authorised claims for reimbursement of expenses shall be done electronically. Where appropriate, completed and authorised claims shall be submitted to the Finance Director on a regular basis, in accordance with an agreed

timetable and as soon as practical after the expense has been incurred. Claims for reimbursement of expenses, which relate to a period or date more than six months (unless otherwise stated within an approved policy) previous to the date of receipt of the claim form by the Finance Director, shall be accompanied by a letter detailing the reasons for such delay. Expense claims that are more than nine months previous to the date of receipt of the claim form by the Finance Director, shall, subject to the discretion of the Finance Director, not be paid.

8.6 CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT

8.6.1 The Board shall delegate responsibility to a manager for:

- (a) ensuring that all employees are issued with a Contract of Employment in a form approved by the Board and which complies with employment legislation; and
- (b) dealing with variations to, or termination of, contracts of employment.

9 NON-PAY EXPENDITURE

9.1 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

9.1.1 The Board will approve the level of non-pay expenditure on an annual basis and the Chief Executive will determine the level of delegation to budget managers.

9.1.2 The Finance Director will set out:

- (a) the list of managers who are authorised to place requisitions for the supply of goods and services; and
- (b) the maximum level of each requisition and the system for authorisation above that level.

9.1.3 The Chief Executive shall set out procedures on the seeking of professional advice regarding the supply of goods and services.

9.2 CHOICE, REQUISITIONING, ORDERING, RECEIPT AND PAYMENT FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

9.2.1 The requisitioner, in choosing the item to be supplied (or the service to be performed) shall always obtain the best value for money for the Trust. In so doing, the advice of the Trust's adviser on supply will be sought, prior to commitment. In order to commit expenditure the requisitioner must follow the Trust's standard procurement process. Where this advice is not acceptable to the requisitioner, the Finance Director or the Chief Executive shall be consulted.

9.2.2 The Finance Director shall be responsible for the prompt payment of accounts and claims. Payment of contract invoices shall be in accordance with contract terms, or otherwise, in accordance with national guidance.

9.2.3 The Finance Director will:

- (a) advise the Board regarding the setting of thresholds above which quotations (competitive or otherwise) or formal tenders must be obtained; and, once approved, the thresholds should be incorporated in standing orders and regularly reviewed;

- (b) prepare procedural instructions, where not already provided in the Scheme of Delegation or procedure notes for budget holders, on the obtaining of goods, works and services incorporating the thresholds;
- (c) be responsible for the prompt payment of all properly authorised accounts and claims;
- (d) be responsible for designing and maintaining a system of verification, recording and payment of all amounts payable. The system shall provide for:
 - (i) A list of Board members/employees (including specimens of their signatures) authorised to certify invoices.
 - (ii) Certification that:
 - goods have been duly received, examined and are in accordance with specification and the prices are correct;
 - work done or services rendered have been satisfactorily carried out in accordance with the order, and, where applicable, the materials used are of the requisite standard and the charges are correct;
 - in the case of contracts based on the measurement of time, materials or expenses, the time charged is in accordance with the time sheets, the rates of labour are in accordance with the appropriate rates, the materials have been checked as regards quantity, quality, and price and the charges for the use of vehicles, plant and machinery have been examined;
 - where appropriate, the expenditure is in accordance with regulations and all necessary authorisations have been obtained;
 - the account is arithmetically correct;
 - the account is in order for payment.
 - (iii) A timetable and system for submission to the Finance Director of accounts for payment; provision shall be made for the early submission of accounts subject to cash discounts or otherwise requiring early payment.
 - (iv) Instructions to employees regarding the handling and payment of accounts within the Finance Department.
- (e) be responsible for ensuring that payment for goods and services is only made once the goods and services are received, (except as below).
- (f) The Finance Director is responsible for ensuring, as far as possible, payments are made in accordance with the Better Payment Practice Code.

9.2.4 Prepayments are only permitted where exceptional circumstances apply. In such instances:

- (a) Prepayments are only permitted where the financial advantages outweigh the disadvantages (i.e. cashflows must be discounted to NPV using the National Loans Fund (NLF) rate plus 2%).

- (b) the appropriate Executive Director must provide, in the form of a written report, a case setting out all relevant circumstances of the purchase. The report must set out the effects on the Trust if the supplier is at some time during the course of the prepayment agreement unable to meet his commitments;
- (c) the Finance Director will need to be satisfied with the proposed arrangements before contractual arrangements proceed (taking into account the EU public procurement rules where the contract is above a stipulated financial threshold); and
- (d) the budget holder is responsible for ensuring that all items due under a prepayment contract are received and he/she must immediately inform the appropriate Director or Chief Executive if problems are encountered.

9.2.5 Official Orders must:

- (a) be consecutively numbered;
- (b) be in a form approved by the Finance Director;
- (c) state the Trust's terms and conditions of trade; and
- (d) only be issued to, and used by, those duly authorised by the Chief Executive.

9.2.6 Managers and officers must ensure that they comply fully with the guidance and limits specified by the Finance Director and that:

- (a) all contracts, other than for a simple purchase permitted within the Scheme of Delegation or delegated budget, leases, tenancy agreements and other commitments which may result in a liability are notified to the Finance Director in advance of any commitment being made;
- (b) contracts above specified thresholds are advertised and awarded in accordance with EU and GATT rules on public procurement and comply with the White Paper on Standards, Quality and International Competitiveness (CMND 8621);
- (c) where consultancy advice is being obtained, the procurement of such advice must be in accordance with guidance issued by the Department of Health;
- (d) no order shall be issued for any item or items to any firm which has made an offer of gifts, reward or benefit to directors or employees, other than:
 - (i) isolated gifts of a trivial character or inexpensive seasonal gifts, such as calendars;
 - (ii) conventional hospitality, such as lunches in the course of working visits;
 (see the national guidance contained in HSG 1993/5 "Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff" (contained in Appendix B of the Standing Orders).
- (e) no requisition/order is placed for any item or items for which there is no budget provision unless authorised by the Finance Director on behalf of the Chief Executive;
- (f) all goods, services, or works are ordered on an official order except works and services executed in accordance with a contract, purchases from petty cash or on purchase cards;

- (g) verbal orders must only be issued very exceptionally - by an employee designated by the Chief Executive and only in cases of emergency or urgent necessity. These must be confirmed by an official order and clearly marked "Confirmation Order";
- (h) orders are not split or otherwise placed in a manner devised so as to avoid the financial thresholds;
- (i) goods are not taken on trial or loan in circumstances that could commit the Trust to a future uncompetitive purchase;
- (j) changes to the list of directors/employees and officers authorised to certify invoices are notified to the Finance Director;
- (k) purchases from petty cash are restricted in value and by type of purchase in accordance with instructions issued by the Finance Director; and
- (l) petty cash records are maintained in a form as determined by the Finance Director.

9.2.7 The Chief Executive and Finance Director shall ensure that the arrangements for financial control and financial audit of building and engineering contracts and property transactions comply with the guidance contained within Concode and Estatecode . The technical audit of these contracts shall be the responsibility of the relevant Director.

9.2.8 Should a tender be required the process adopted shall be stipulated in the Standing Orders.

9.3 **JOINT FINANCE ARRANGEMENTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND VOLUNTARY BODIES**

9.3.1 **Payments** to local authorities and voluntary organisations made under the powers of section 28A of the NHS Act shall comply with procedures laid down by the Finance Director which shall be in accordance with these Acts.

10 **FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK**

10.1 The Finance Director should ensure that members of the Board and the Executive Team are aware of the Financial Framework within the [NHS England and NHS Improvement NHS Trust Development Authority's](#) Accountability Framework for NHS Trust Boards. He should ensure that the direction and guidance in the framework is followed by the Trust.

11 **CAPITAL INVESTMENT, MANAGED SERVICE CONTRACTS, PRIVATE FINANCING, FIXED ASSET REGISTERS AND SECURITY OF ASSETS**

11.1 **CAPITAL INVESTMENT INCLUDING MANAGED SERVICE CONTRACTS.**

11.1.1 The Chief Executive:

- (a) shall ensure that there is an adequate appraisal and approval process in place for determining capital expenditure priorities and the effect of each proposal upon business plans;

- (b) is responsible for the management of all stages of capital schemes and for ensuring that schemes are delivered on time and to cost; and
- (c) shall ensure that the capital investment is not undertaken without confirmation of purchaser(s) support and the availability of resources to finance all revenue consequences, including capital charges.

11.1.2 For every capital expenditure proposal, including the potential to purchase the asset through a managed service contract the Chief Executive shall ensure:

- (a) that a business case, in line with the guidance from the Business Development Team, is produced setting out:
 - (i) an option appraisal of potential benefits compared with known costs to determine the option with the highest ratio of benefits to costs; and
 - (ii) appropriate project management and control arrangements;
 - (iii) the involvement of appropriate Trust personnel and external agencies; and
- (b) that the Finance Director has certified professionally to the costs and revenue consequences detailed in the business case. For a managed service contract this includes whether it is an operating or finance lease and impact on the Trust's CRL and VAT liability. The certification may be derived through external expert advice.

11.1.3 For capital schemes where the contracts stipulate stage payments, the Chief Executive will issue procedures for their management, incorporating the recommendations of "Estatecode".

The Finance Director shall assess on an annual basis the requirement for the operation of the construction industry tax deduction scheme in accordance with Inland Revenue guidance.

The Finance Director shall issue procedures for the regular reporting of expenditure and commitment against authorised expenditure.

11.1.4 The approval of a capital programme shall not constitute approval for the initiation of expenditure on any scheme.

The Chief Executive, shall issue to the manager responsible for any scheme:

- (a) specific authority to commit expenditure;
- (b) authority to proceed to tender;
- (c) approval to accept a successful tender.

The Chief Executive will issue a scheme of delegation for capital investment management in accordance with "Estate code" guidance and the Trust's Standing Orders. The appropriate signatories shall be governed by the authorisation levels set out in Appendix A.

11.1.5 The Finance Director shall issue procedures governing the financial management, including variations to contract, of capital investment projects and valuation for accounting purposes. These procedures shall fully take into account the delegated limits for capital schemes.

11.2 PRIVATE FINANCE

11.2.1 The Trust should normally test for PFI when considering a capital procurement. When the Trust proposes to use finance that is to be provided other than through its Allocations, the following procedures shall apply:

- (a) The Finance Director shall demonstrate that the use of private finance represents value for money and genuinely transfers significant risk to the private sector.
- (b) The proposal must be specifically agreed by the Board.
- (c) Where the sum involved exceeds delegated limits, the business case must be referred to the appropriate DoH Directorate of Health and Social Care and/or treated as per current guidelines.

11.3 ASSET REGISTERS

11.3.1 The Chief Executive is responsible for the maintenance of registers of assets, taking account of the advice of the Finance Director concerning the form of any register and the method of updating, and arranging for a physical check of assets against the asset register to be conducted once a year.

11.3.2 Each Trust shall maintain an asset register recording fixed assets. The minimum data set to be held within these registers shall be as specified in the *NHS Finance Manual* as issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

11.3.3 Additions to the fixed asset register must be clearly identified to an appropriate department and be validated by reference to the following (where applicable):

- (a) properly authorised and approved agreements, architect's certificates, supplier's invoices and other documentary evidence in respect of purchases from third parties;
- (b) stores, requisitions and wages records for own materials and labour including appropriate overheads; and
- (c) lease agreements in respect of assets held under a finance lease and capitalised.

11.3.4 Where capital assets are sold, scrapped, lost or otherwise disposed of, their value must be removed from the accounting records and each disposal must be validated by reference to authorisation documents and invoices (where appropriate).

11.3.5 The Finance Director shall approve procedures for reconciling balances on fixed assets accounts in ledgers against balances on fixed asset registers.

11.3.6 The value of each asset shall be valued in according with a modern equivalent assets valuation in accordance with methods specified by the Department of Health and Social Care.

11.3.7 The value of each asset shall be depreciated using methods and rates in line with guidance specified by the Department of Health and Social Care.

11.3.8 The Finance Director of the Trust shall calculate and pay capital charges as specified in the *NHS Finance Manual* issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

- 11.3.9 Information Asset Register - Information Assets are identifiable and definable assets owned or contracted by an organisation which are 'valuable' to the business of that organisation. The Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) should oversee a review of the organisation's asset register to ensure it is complete and robust. In order to establish corporate coherence it should be possible for a single asset register to be created for the organisation.

11.4 SECURITY OF ASSETS

- 11.4.1 The overall control of fixed assets is the responsibility of the Chief Executive.
- 11.4.2 Asset control procedures (including fixed assets, cash, cheques and negotiable instruments, and also including donated assets) must be approved by the Finance Director. This procedure shall make provision for:
- (a) recording managerial responsibility for each asset by reference to its location;
 - (b) identification of additions and disposals;
 - (c) physical security of assets;
 - (d) periodic verification of the existence of, condition of, and title to, assets recorded; and
 - (e) reporting, recording and safekeeping of cash, cheques, and negotiable instruments.
- 11.4.3 All discrepancies revealed by verification of physical assets to fixed asset register shall be notified to the Finance Director.
- 11.4.4 Whilst each employee and officer has a responsibility for the security of property of the Trust, it is the responsibility of Board members and senior employees in all disciplines to apply such appropriate routine security practices in relation to NHS Property as may be determined by the Board. Any breach of agreed security practices must be reported in accordance with instructions.
- 11.4.5 Any damage to the Trust's premises, vehicles and equipment, or any loss of equipment, stores or supplies must be reported by Board members and employees in accordance with the procedure for reporting losses.
- 11.4.6 Where practical, assets should be marked as Trust property.
- 11.4.7 Information Asset Owners (IAOs) are directly accountable ([through IG Manager](#)) to the SIRO and will provide assurance that information risk is being managed effectively for their assigned information assets.

12 TENDERING AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE

- 12.1 **Duty to comply with Standing Financial Instructions** - The procedure for making a contract by or on behalf of the Trust shall comply with these Standing Financial Instructions
- 12.2 **EU Directives Governing Public Procurement** - European Union Directives on public sector purchasing promulgated by the Department of Health (under Public Contract

Regulation 2015) prescribing procedures for awarding all forms of contracts shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Financial Instructions.

- 12.3 The Trust shall comply as far as is practicable with the requirements of the Department of Health "NHS Finance Manual" and "Estatecode" in respect of capital investment and estate and property transactions. In the case of management consultancy contracts the Trust shall comply as far as is practicable with Department of Health guidance "The Procurement and Management of Consultants within the NHS".
- 12.4 **Shropshire Healthcare Procurement Service (SHPS)** - The Trust hosts a procurement service for its purchasing needs. The service operates on behalf of the NHS throughout Shropshire in order to maximise the benefits of joint purchasing power. The roles and responsibilities of the service are defined by Service Level Agreement.
- 12.5 **Formal Competitive Tendering** - The Trust shall ensure that competitive tenders are invited for the supply of goods, materials and manufactured articles and for the rendering of services including all forms of management consultancy services (other than specialised services sought from or provided by the DoH); for the design, construction and maintenance of building and engineering works (including construction and maintenance of grounds and gardens); and for disposals.

Where the Trust elects to invite tenders for the supply of healthcare these Standing Financial Instructions shall apply as far as they are applicable to the tendering procedure.

- 12.6 **Joint Purchasing** – A single approach to tender and quotation limits should apply to all contracts which are to be placed for goods and services that are required for more than one Trust. In such instances the limits are defined in Appendix B to these SFIs.

12.7.1 **Exceptions and instances where formal [procurement procedures](#) need not be applied**

Formal tendering procedures **need not be applied** where:

- (a) the estimated expenditure or income does not, or is not reasonably expected to exceed the level set in the [Scheme of Delegation: it is a breach of SFIs to split contracts to avoid thresholds/financial limits](#)
- (b) where the supply is proposed under special arrangements negotiated by the [Department of Health & Social Care or its agencies, DH](#) in which event the said special arrangements must be complied with;

12.7.2 **[Competitive procurement](#) ~~Formal tendering~~ procedures **may be waived** in the following circumstances:**

[The waiving of competitive tendering procedures should not be used to avoid competition. PCR/OJEU procurement legislation or for the administrative convenience or award further work originally appointed through a competitive procedure.](#)

- (c) in very exceptional circumstances where the Chief Executive [or Finance Director](#) decides that formal tendering procedures would not be practicable or the estimated expenditure or income would not warrant formal tendering procedures, and the circumstances are detailed in an appropriate Trust record;

- (d) where the requirement is covered by an existing contract;
- (e) Where contracts have been awarded for the benefit of Public Sector Bodies, to which the Trust is entitled to access (eg. Framework Contracts) Crown Commercial Services agreements are in place and have been approved by the Board;
- (f) where a national or regional consortium arrangement is in place and a lead organisation has been appointed to carry out tendering activity on behalf of the consortium members;
- (g) where the timescale genuinely precludes competitive tendering but failure to plan the work properly would not be regarded as a justification for a single tender;
- (h) where specialist expertise is required and is available from only one source;
- (i) when the task is essential to complete the project, and arises as a consequence of a recently completed assignment and engaging different consultants for the new task would be inappropriate;
- (j) there is a clear benefit to be gained from maintaining continuity with an earlier project. However in such cases the benefits of such continuity must outweigh any potential financial advantage to be gained by competitive tendering;
- (k) for the provision of legal advice and services providing that any legal firm or partnership commissioned by the Trust is regulated by the Law Society for England and Wales for the conduct of their business (or by the Bar Council for England and Wales in relation to the obtaining of Counsel's opinion) and are generally recognised as having sufficient expertise in the area of work for which they are commissioned.

The Finance Director will ensure that any fees paid are reasonable and within commonly accepted rates for the costing of such work.

- (l) where allowed and provided for in the NHS Finance Manual. The waiving of competitive tendering procedures should not be used to avoid competition, or for the administrative convenience or to award further work to a consultant originally appointed through a competitive procedure.

The waiving of competitive tendering procedures should not be used to avoid competition or for administrative convenience or to award further work to a consultant originally appointed through a competitive procedure.

12.7.3

Where it is decided that competitive tendering is not applicable and should be waived,

(i) a non competitive quotation in writing will be obtained using the appropriate terms and condition of contract; and

(ii) the fact of the waiver should be documented with reasons on a **Competitive Waiver** form obtained via the Procurement Department.

In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, all waivers, with the exception of those for pharmaceuticals, must be signed off by the Head of Procurement or his/her deputy, prior to authorisation.

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~~the fact of the waiver and the reasons should be documented and recorded in an appropriate~~ ~~Waivers must be Trust record and reported to the Audit Committee~~ ~~Performance Committee at each meeting.~~

- 12.8 The Trust shall ensure that invitations to tender are sent to a sufficient number of firms/individuals to provide fair and adequate competition as appropriate, and in no case less than three firms/individuals, having regard to their capacity to supply the goods or materials or to undertake the services or works required.

12.9 Contracting/Tendering Procedure

12.9.1 Invitation to tender

For Tenders Managed by Shropshire Healthcare Procurement Services and Estates

The Procurement department use a fully audited electronic sealed bid process, where quotations and tenders cannot be opened until the set date and time. There is a complete electronic audit trail of view/opening dates/times/responses and amendments, built into this process.

For tenders managed using non-electronic means.

- (i) All invitations to tender shall state the date and time as being the latest time for the receipt of tenders.
- (ii) All invitations to tender shall state that no tender will be accepted unless:
 - (a) submitted in a plain sealed package or envelope bearing a pre-printed label supplied by the Trust (or the word "tender" followed by the subject to which it relates) and the latest date and time for the receipt of such tender addressed to the Chief Executive or nominated Manager;
 - (b) that tender envelopes/ packages shall not bear any names or marks indicating the sender. The use of courier/postal services must not identify the sender on the envelope or on any receipt so required by the deliverer.
- (iii) Every tender for goods, materials, services or disposals shall embody such of the NHS Standard Contract Conditions as are applicable.
- (iv) Every tender for building or engineering works (except for maintenance work, when Estmancode guidance shall be followed) shall embody or be in the terms of the current edition of one of the Joint Contracts Tribunal Standard Forms of Building Contract or Department of the Environment (GC/Wks) Standard forms of contract amended to comply with Concode; or, when the content of the work is primarily engineering, the General Conditions of Contract recommended by the Institution of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and the Association of Consulting Engineers (Form A), or (in the case of civil engineering work) the General Conditions of Contract recommended by the Institute of Civil Engineers, the Association of Consulting Engineers and the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. These documents shall be modified and/or amplified to accord with Department of Health guidance and, in minor respects, to cover special features of individual projects.

12.9.2 Receipt and safe custody of tenders

For Tenders Managed by Shropshire Healthcare Procurement Services and Estates

The Procurement department use a fully audited electronic sealed bid process, where quotations and tenders cannot be opened until the set date and time. There is a complete electronic audit trail of view/opening dates/times/responses and amendments, built into this process.

For tenders managed using Non-Electronic means

The Chief Executive or his nominated representative will be responsible for the receipt, endorsement and safe custody of tenders received until the time appointed for their opening.

The date and time of receipt of each tender shall be endorsed on the tender envelope/package.

12.9.3 Opening tenders and Register of tenders

- (i) As soon as practicable after the date and time stated as being the latest time for the receipt of tenders, they shall be opened by two senior officers/managers designated by the Chief Executive and not from the originating department.
- (ii) The 'originating' Department will be taken to mean the Department sponsoring or commissioning the tender.
- (iii) The involvement of Finance Directorate staff in the preparation of a tender proposal will not preclude the Finance Director or any approved Senior Manager from the Finance Directorate from serving as one of the two senior managers to open tenders.
- (iv) All Executive Directors/members will be authorised to open tenders regardless of whether they are from the originating department provided that the other authorised person opening the tenders with them is not from the originating department.

The Trust's Company Secretary will count as a Director for the purposes of opening tenders.

- (v) Every tender received shall be marked with the date of opening and initialled by those present at the opening.
- (vi) A register shall be maintained by the Chief Executive, or a person authorised by him, to show for each set of competitive tender invitations despatched:
 - the name of all firms individuals invited;
 - the names of firms individuals from which tenders have been received;
 - the date the tenders were opened;
 - the persons present at the opening;
 - the price shown on each tender;
 - a note where price alterations have been made on the tender.

Each entry to this register shall be signed by those present.

A note shall be made in the register if any one tender price has had so many alterations that it cannot be readily read or understood.

- (vii) Incomplete tenders, i.e. those from which information necessary for the adjudication of the tender is missing, and amended tenders i.e., those amended by the tenderer

upon his own initiative either orally or in writing after the due time for receipt, but prior to the opening of other tenders, should be dealt with in the same way as late tenders.

12.9.4 Admissibility

- i) If for any reason the designated officers are of the opinion that the tenders received are not strictly competitive (for example, because their numbers are insufficient or any are amended, incomplete or qualified) no contract shall be awarded without the approval of the Chief Executive.
- ii) Where only one tender is sought and/or received, the Chief Executive and Finance Director shall, as far practicable, ensure that the price to be paid is fair and reasonable and will ensure value for money for the Trust.

12.9.5 Late tenders

- (i) Tenders received after the due time and date, but prior to the opening of the other tenders, may be considered only if the Chief Executive or his nominated officer decides that there are exceptional circumstances i.e. despatched in good time but delayed through no fault of the tenderer.
- (ii) Only in the most exceptional circumstances will a tender be considered which is received after the opening of the other tenders and only then if the tenders that have been duly opened have not left the custody of the Chief Executive or his nominated officer or if the process of evaluation and adjudication has not started.
- (iii) While decisions as to the admissibility of late, incomplete or amended tenders are under consideration, the tender documents shall be kept strictly confidential, recorded, and held in safe custody by the Chief Executive or his nominated officer.

12.9.6 Acceptance of formal tenders

- (i) Any discussions with a tenderer which are deemed necessary to clarify technical aspects of his tender before the award of a contract will not disqualify the tender.
- (ii) The lowest tender, if payment is to be made by the Trust, or the highest, if payment is to be received by the Trust, shall be accepted unless there are good and sufficient reasons to the contrary. Such reasons shall be set out in either the contract file, or other appropriate record.

It is accepted that for professional services such as management consultancy, the lowest price does not always represent the best value for money. Other factors affecting the success of a project include:

- (a) experience and qualifications of team members;
- (b) understanding of client's needs;
- (c) feasibility and credibility of proposed approach;
- (d) ability to complete the project on time.

Where other factors are taken into account in selecting a tenderer, these must be clearly recorded and documented in the contract file, and the reason(s) for not accepting the lowest tender clearly stated.

- (iii) No tender shall be accepted which will commit expenditure in excess of that which has been allocated by the Trust and which is not in accordance with these Instructions except with the authorisation of the Chief Executive.
- (iv) The use of these procedures must demonstrate that the award of the contract was:
 - (a) not in excess of the going market rate / price current at the time the contract was awarded;
 - (b) that best value for money was achieved.
- (v) All tenders should be treated as confidential and should be retained for inspection.

12.9.7 **Tender reports to the Trust Board**

Reports to the Trust Board will be made on an exceptional circumstance basis only.

12.9.8 **List of approved firms**

12.10 **Quotations: Competitive and non-competitive**

12.10.1 **General Position on quotations**

Quotations are required where formal tendering procedures are not adopted and where the intended expenditure or income exceeds the tendering limits set out in Appendix B.

12.11 **Competitive Quotations**

- (i) Quotations should be obtained from at least 3 firms/individuals based on specifications or terms of reference prepared by, or on behalf of, the Trust.
- (ii) Quotations should be in writing unless the Chief Executive or his nominated officer determines that it is impractical to do so in which case quotations may be obtained by telephone. Confirmation of telephone quotations should be obtained as soon as possible and the reasons why the telephone quotation was obtained should be set out in a permanent record.
- (iii) All quotations should be treated as confidential and should be retained for inspection.
- (iv) The Chief Executive or his nominated officer should evaluate the quotation and select the quote which gives the best value for money. If this is not the lowest quotation if payment is to be made by the Trust, or the highest if payment is to be received by the Trust, then the choice made and the reasons why should be recorded in a permanent record.

12.12 **Non-Competitive Quotations**

Non-competitive quotations in writing may be obtained in the following circumstances:

- (i) the supply of proprietary or other goods of a special character and the rendering of services of a special character, for which it is not, in the opinion of the responsible officer, possible or desirable to obtain competitive quotations;
- (ii) the supply of goods or manufactured articles of any kind which are required quickly and are not obtainable under existing contracts;
- (iii) miscellaneous services, supplies and disposals;

- (iv) where the goods or services are for building and engineering maintenance the responsible works manager must certify that the first two conditions of this SFI (i.e.: (i) and (ii) of this SFI) apply.

12.13 **Quotations to be within Financial Limits**

No quotation shall be accepted which will commit expenditure in excess of that which has been allocated by the Trust and which is not in accordance with Standing Financial Instructions except with the authorisation of either the Chief Executive or Finance Director.

12.14 **Authorisation of Tenders and Competitive Quotations**

Providing all the conditions and circumstances set out in these Standing Financial Instructions have been fully complied with, formal authorisation and awarding of a contract may be decided by officers of the Trust provided this is within their delegated limits

Formal authorisation must be put in writing. In the case of authorisation by the Trust Board this shall be recorded in their minutes.

12.15 **Private Finance** - The Trust should normally test for PFI when considering a capital procurement. When the Board proposes, or is required, to use finance provided by the private sector the following should apply:

- (a) The Chief Executive shall demonstrate that the use of private finance represents value for money and genuinely transfers risk to the private sector.
- (b) Where the sum exceeds delegated limits as stated in Standing Financial Instructions, a business case must be referred to the appropriate DoH Directorate of Health and Social Care for approval or treated as per current guidelines.
- (c) The proposal must be specifically agreed by the Board.
- (d) The selection of a contractor/finance company must be on the basis of competitive tendering or quotations.

12.16 **Contracts** - The Board may only enter into contracts on behalf of the Trust within the statutory powers delegated to it by the Secretary of State and shall comply with:

- (a) the Standing Orders;
- (b) the Trust's Standing Financial Instructions;
- (c) EU Directives and other statutory provisions;
- (d) any relevant directions including the NHS Finance Manual, Estatecode and guidance on the Procurement of Management Consultants;
- (e) such of the NHS Standard Contract Conditions as are applicable.

Where appropriate contracts shall be in or embody the same terms and conditions of contract as was the basis on which tenders or quotations were invited.

Every contract for building and engineering works which exceeds the sum of £ (see Appendix B) shall be executed under the Common Seal of the Trust and should be embodied in a formal contract document which shall conform to the Standing Orders and

Concode. This formal contract document should reflect any change in the terms and conditions of contract agreed following receipt of tenders. An official order for every contract resulting from an invitation to tender shall be issued for all building and engineering works.

12.17 In all contracts made by the Trust, the Board shall endeavour to obtain best value for money. The Chief Executive shall nominate an Officer who shall oversee and manage each contract on behalf of the Trust.

12.18 **Personnel and Agency or Temporary Staff Contracts** - The Chief Executive shall nominate Officers with delegated authority to enter into contracts of employment, regarding staff, agency staff or temporary staff service contracts.

12.19 **Healthcare Services Agreements** - Service agreements with NHS providers for the supply of healthcare services shall be drawn up in accordance with the relevant NHS guidelines.. Service agreements are not contracts in law and therefore not enforceable by the courts. However, a contract with a Foundation Trust, being a PBC, is a legal document and is enforceable in law.

The Chief Executive shall nominate officers to commission service agreements with providers of healthcare in line with a commissioning plan approved by the Board.

12.20 **Cancellation of Contracts** Except where specific provision is made in model Forms of Contracts or standard Schedules of Conditions approved for use within the NHS and in accordance with Standing Orders 9.2 and 9.3, there shall be inserted in every written contract a clause empowering the Trust to cancel the contract and to recover from the contractor the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation, if the contractor shall have offered, or given or agreed to give, any person any gift or consideration of any kind as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do or for having done or forborne to do any action in relation to the obtaining or execution of the contract or any other contract with the Trust, or for showing or forbearing to show favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the contracts or any other contract with the Trust, or if the like acts shall have been done by any person employed by him or acting on his behalf (whether with or without the knowledge of the contractor), or if in relation to any contract with the Trust the contractor or any person employed by him/her or acting on his/her behalf shall have committed any offence under the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1889 and 1916 and other appropriate legislation.

12.21 **Determination of Contracts for Failure to Deliver Goods or Material** – There shall be inserted in every written contract for the supply of goods or materials a clause to secure that, should the contractor fail to deliver the goods or materials or any portion thereof within the time or times specified in the contract, the Trust may without prejudice determine the contract either wholly or to the extent of such default and purchase other goods, or material of similar description to make good (a) such default, or (b) in the event of the contract being wholly determined the goods or materials remaining to be delivered. The clause shall further secure that the amount by which the cost of so purchasing other goods or materials exceeds the amount which would have been payable to the contractor in respect of the goods or materials shall be recoverable from the contractor.

12.22 **Contracts involving Funds Held on Trust** – shall do so individually to a specific named fund. Such contracts involving charitable funds shall comply with the requirements of the Charities Act.

13 DISPOSALS

13.1 Competitive tendering or quotation procedures shall not apply to the disposal of:

- (a) any matter in respect of which a fair price can be obtained only by negotiation or sale by auction as determined (or pre-determined in a reserve) by the Chief Executive or his nominated Officer;
- (b) obsolete or condemned articles and stores, which may be disposed of in accordance with the policy for the management and/or disposal of assets.
- (c) items to be disposed of with a collective estimated sale value of less than £100, this figure to be reviewed annually;
- (d) items arising from works of construction, demolition or site clearance, which should be dealt with in accordance with the relevant contract;
- (e) land or buildings concerning which DoH guidance has been issued but subject to compliance with such guidance.

14. IN-HOUSE SERVICES

14.1 In all cases where the Board determines that in-house services should be subject to competitive tendering the following groups shall be set up:

- (a) Specification group, comprising the Chief Executive or nominated Officer/s and specialist.
- (b) In-house tender group, comprising a nominee of the Chief Executive and technical support.
- (c) Evaluation team, comprising normally a Specialist Officer, a Supplies Officer and a Finance Director representative. For services having a likely annual expenditure exceeding that competitive tendering value stated in Standing Financial Instructions, a Non-Executive Director should be a member of the evaluation team.

14.2 All groups should work independently of each other and individual Officers may be a member of more than one group but no member of the in-house tender group may participate in the evaluation of tenders.

14.3 The evaluation team shall make recommendations to the Board.

14.4 The Chief Executive shall nominate an Officer to oversee and manage the contract on behalf of the Trust.

15 STORES AND RECEIPT OF GOODS

15.1 Stores, defined in terms of controlled stores and departmental stores (for immediate use) should be:

- (a) kept to a minimum;
- (b) subjected to annual stock take;
- (c) valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

- 15.2 Subject to the responsibility of the Finance Director for the systems of control, overall responsibility for the control of stores shall be delegated to an employee by the Chief Executive. The day-to-day responsibility may be delegated by him to departmental employees and stores managers/keepers, subject to such delegation being entered in a record available to the Finance Director. The control of any Pharmaceutical stocks shall be the responsibility of a designated Pharmaceutical Officer; the control of any fuel oil and coal of a designated Estates Manager.
- 15.3 The responsibility for security arrangements and the custody of keys for any stores and locations shall be clearly defined in writing by the designated manager/Pharmaceutical Officer. Wherever practicable, stocks should be marked as health service property.
- 15.4 The Finance Director shall set out procedures and systems to regulate the stores, including records for receipt of goods, issues, and returns to stores, and losses.
- 15.5 Stocktaking arrangements shall be agreed with the Finance Director and there shall be a physical check covering all items in store at least once a year.
- 15.6 Where a complete system of stores control is not justified, alternative arrangements shall require the approval of the Finance Director.
- 15.7 The designated Manager/Pharmaceutical Officer shall be responsible for a system approved by the Finance Director for a review of slow moving and obsolete items and for condemnation, disposal, and replacement of all unserviceable articles. The designated Officer shall report to the Finance Director any evidence of significant overstocking and of any negligence or malpractice (see also section 13, Disposals and Condemnations, Losses and Special Payments). Procedures for the disposal of obsolete stock shall follow the procedures set out for disposal of all surplus and obsolete goods.
- 15.8 For goods supplied via the ~~NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency central warehouses~~ warehouses and Regional Distribution Centres of Supply Chain Coordination Limited (the management function of the NHS Supply Chain), the Chief Executive shall identify those authorised to requisition and accept goods from the store. The authorised person shall check receipt against the delivery note before forwarding this to the Finance Director who shall satisfy himself that the goods have been received before accepting the recharge.

16 DISPOSALS AND CONDEMNATIONS, LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

16.1 DISPOSALS AND CONDEMNATIONS

- 16.1.1 The Finance Director must prepare detailed procedures for the disposal of assets including condemnations, and ensure that these are notified to managers.
- 16.1.2 When it is decided to dispose of a Trust asset, the policy for the management and/or disposal of assets must be adhered to. If required the head of department or authorised deputy will determine and advise the Finance Director of the estimated market value of the item, taking account of professional advice where appropriate.
- 16.1.3 The appropriate signatories shall be governed by the authorisation levels set out in Appendix A.
- 16.1.4 If the Trust wishes to sell land it shall follow agreed Government procedures for the disposal of surplus public land.

16.1.5 The Trust shall inform the NHS Executive of planned disposals in excess of £1,000,000 in its annual business plan as the Secretary of State has a reserve power to prevent such disposals.

16.1.6 All unserviceable articles shall be:

- (a) condemned or otherwise disposed of by an employee authorised for that purpose by the Finance Director;
- (b) recorded by the Condemning Officer in a form approved by the Finance Director that will indicate whether the articles are to be converted, destroyed or otherwise disposed of. All entries shall be confirmed by the countersignature of a second employee authorised for the purpose by the Finance Director.

16.1.7 The Condemning Officer shall satisfy himself as to whether or not there is evidence of negligence in use and shall report any such evidence to the Finance Director who will take the appropriate action.

16.2 LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS

16.2.1 The Finance Director must prepare procedural instructions on the recording of and accounting for condemnations, losses, and special payments.

16.2.2 Any employee or officer discovering or suspecting a loss of any kind must either immediately inform their head of department, who must immediately inform the Chief Executive and the Finance Director or inform an officer charged with responsibility for responding to concerns involving loss. This officer will then appropriately inform the Finance Director and/or Chief Executive. Where a criminal offence is suspected, the Finance Director must immediately inform the police if theft or arson is involved. In cases of fraud and corruption or of anomalies that may indicate fraud or corruption, the Finance Director must inform the relevant NHS Counter Fraud Authority ~~GFOS regional team~~ in accordance with SofS Directions.

16.2.3 The Finance Director must notify the NHS Counter Fraud Authority ~~Department of Health Directorate of Counter Fraud Services~~ and the Internal ~~External~~ Auditor of all frauds.

16.2.4 For losses apparently caused by theft, arson, neglect of duty or gross carelessness, except if trivial, the Finance Director must immediately notify:

- (a) the Board, and
- (b) the External Auditor.

16.2.5 Within limits delegated to it by the Department of Health, the Board shall approve the writing-off of losses.

16.2.6 The Finance Director shall be authorised to take any necessary steps to safeguard the Trust's interests in bankruptcies and company liquidations.

16.2.7 For any loss, the Finance Director should consider whether any insurance claim could be made.

16.2.8 The Finance Director shall maintain a Losses and Special Payments Register in which write-off action is recorded.

16.2.9 No special payments exceeding delegated limits shall be made without the prior approval of the Department of Health.

17 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Finance Director, as Senior Information Risk Owner(SIRO), will need to ensure that the organisation's approach to information risk is effective in terms of resources, commitment and execution and that the board is adequately briefed on information risk issues.

17.1 The Finance Director, who is responsible for the accuracy and security of the computerised financial data of the Trust, shall:

- (a) devise and implement any necessary procedures to ensure adequate (reasonable) protection of the Trust's data, programs and computer hardware for which he/she is responsible from accidental or intentional disclosure to unauthorised persons, deletion or modification, theft or damage, having due regard for the Data Protection Act [2018 \(UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\).4998](#);
- (b) ensure that adequate (reasonable) controls exist over data entry, processing, storage, transmission and output to ensure security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of the data, as well as the efficient and effective operation of the system;
- (c) ensure that adequate controls exist such that the computer operation is separated from development, maintenance and amendment;
- (d) ensure that an adequate management (audit) trail exists through the computerised system and that such computer audit reviews as he/she may consider necessary are being carried out.

17.2 The Finance Director shall satisfy him/herself that new financial systems and amendments to current financial systems are developed in a controlled manner and thoroughly tested prior to implementation. Where this is undertaken by another organisation, assurances of adequacy must be obtained from them prior to implementation.

17.3 The Executive Director responsible for communications shall publish and maintain a Freedom of Information (FOI) Publication Scheme, or adopt a model Publication Scheme approved by the information Commissioner. A Publication Scheme is a complete guide to the information routinely published by a public authority. It describes the classes or types of information about our Trust that we make publicly available.

17.4 In the case of computer systems which are proposed General Applications (i.e. including those applications which the majority of NHS bodies in the locality/region wish to sponsor jointly) all responsible directors and employees will send to the Finance Director:

- (a) details of the outline design of the system;
- (b) in the case of packages acquired either from a commercial organisation, from the NHS, or from another public sector organisation, the operational requirement.

17.5 The Finance Director shall ensure that contracts for computer services for financial applications with another health organisation or any other agency shall clearly define the responsibility of all parties for the security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and

timeliness of data during processing, transmission and storage. The contract should also ensure rights of access for audit purposes.

- 17.6 Where another health organisation or any other agency provides a computer service for financial applications, the Finance Director shall periodically seek assurances that adequate controls are in operation.

17.7 Risk Assessment

The Finance Director shall ensure that risks to the Trust arising from the use of IT are effectively identified and considered and appropriate action taken to mitigate or control risk. This shall include the preparation and testing of appropriate disaster recovery plans.

- 17.8 Where computer systems have an impact on corporate financial systems the Finance Director shall satisfy him/herself that:

- (a) systems acquisition, development and maintenance are in line with corporate policies such as an Information Technology Strategy;
- (b) data assembled for processing by financial systems is adequate, accurate, complete and timely, and that a management (audit) trail exists;
- (c) Finance Director staff have access to such data; and
- (d) such computer audit reviews as are considered necessary.

18 PATIENTS' PROPERTY

- 18.1 The Trust has a responsibility to provide safe custody for money and other personal property (hereafter referred to as "property") handed in by patients, in the possession of unconscious or confused patients, or found in the possession of patients dying in hospital or dead on arrival.

- 18.2 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that patients or their guardians, as appropriate, are informed before or at admission by:

- notices and information booklets,
- hospital admission documentation and property records,
- the oral advice of administrative and nursing staff responsible for admissions,

that the Trust will not accept responsibility or liability for patients' property brought into Health Service premises, unless it is handed in for safe custody and a copy of an official patients' property record is obtained as a receipt.

- 18.3 The Finance Director must provide detailed written instructions on the collection, custody, investment, recording, safekeeping, and disposal of patients' property (including instructions on the disposal of the property of deceased patients and of patients transferred to other premises) for all staff whose duty is to administer, in any way, the property of patients. Due care should be exercised in the management of a patient's money in order to maximise the benefits to the patient.

- 18.4 Where Department of Health instructions require the opening of separate accounts for patients' monies, these shall be opened and operated under arrangements agreed by the Finance Director.

18.5 In all cases where property of a deceased patient is of a total value in excess of £5,000, or such other amount as may be prescribed by any amendment to the Administration of Estates, Small Payments, Act 1965, the production of Probate or Letters of Administration shall be required before any of the property is released. Where the total value of property is £5,000 or less, forms of indemnity shall be obtained.

18.6 Staff should be informed, on appointment, by the appropriate departmental or senior manager of their responsibilities and duties for the administration of the property of patients.

18.7 Where patients' property or income is received for specific purposes and held for safekeeping the property or income shall be used only for that purpose, unless any variation is approved by the donor or patient in writing.

19 FUNDS HELD ON TRUST

19.1 Corporate Trustee

(1) The Trust is responsible as a corporate trustee for the management of funds it holds on trust. It must comply with Charities Commission latest guidance and best practice.

(2) The discharge of the Trust's corporate trustee responsibilities are distinct from its responsibilities for exchequer funds and may not necessarily be discharged in the same manner, but there must still be adherence to the overriding general principles of financial regularity, prudence and propriety. Trustee responsibilities cover both charitable and non-charitable purposes.

The Finance Director shall ensure that each trust fund which the Trust is responsible for managing is managed appropriately with regard to its purpose and to its requirements.

19.2 Accountability to Charity Commission and Secretary of State for Health

(1) The trustee responsibilities must be discharged separately and full recognition given to the Trust's dual accountabilities to the Charity Commission for charitable funds held on trust and to the Secretary of State for all funds held on trust.

(2) The Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Board and the Scheme of Delegation make clear where decisions regarding the exercise of discretion regarding the disposal and use of the funds are to be taken and by whom. All Trust Board members and Trust officers must take account of that guidance before taking action.

19.3 Applicability of Standing Financial Instructions to funds held on Trust

(1) In so far as it is possible to do so, most of the sections of these Standing Financial Instructions will apply to the management of funds held on trust.

(2) The over-riding principle is that the integrity of each Trust must be maintained and statutory and Trust obligations met. Materiality must be assessed separately from Exchequer activities and funds.

20 INVESTMENTS

20.1.1 Temporary cash surpluses must be held only in such public or private sector investments as notified by the Secretary of State and authorised by the Board.

20.1.2 The Finance Director is responsible for advising the Board on investments and shall report periodically to the Board concerning the performance of investments held.

- 20.1.3 The Finance Director will prepare detailed procedural instructions on the operation of investment accounts and on the records to be maintained.

21 ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS BY STAFF

- 21.1 The Director of Corporate Governance shall ensure that all staff are made aware of the Trust policy on acceptance of gifts and other benefits in kind by staff. All Trust staff and members should comply with the Trust's Standards of Business Conduct (HR Policy 52) (contained in Appendix A to Standing Orders)".

22 RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

- 22.1 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for maintaining archives for all documents required to be retained in accordance with Department of Health guidelines.
- 22.1.1 The documents held in archives shall be capable of retrieval by authorised persons.
- 22.1.2 Documents held in accordance with latest guidelines shall only be destroyed at the express instigation of the Chief Executive, records shall be maintained of documents so destroyed.

23 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 23.1 The Chief Executive shall ensure that suitable internal controls exist for all aspects of the Trust's management. Such controls should ensure the accuracy, completeness and validity of data and that all of the Trust's assets are safeguarded from misuse, inefficient use, theft, fraud and any malpractice.
- 23.2.1 The Chief Executive shall ensure that the Trust has a programme of risk management, in accordance with current Department of Health assurance framework requirements, which must be approved by the Board and monitored by the Audit Committee
- 23.2.2 The programme of risk management shall include:
- a) a process for identifying and quantifying risks and potential liabilities;
 - b) engendering among all levels of staff a positive attitude towards the control of risk;
 - c) management processes to ensure all significant risks and potential liabilities are addressed including effective systems of internal control, cost effective insurance cover, and decisions on the acceptable level of retained risk;
 - d) contingency plans to offset the impact of adverse events;
 - e) audit arrangements including; internal audit, clinical audit, health and safety review;
 - f) decision on which risks shall be insured.
 - g) arrangements to review the risk management programme.

The existence, integration and evaluation of the above elements will assist in providing a basis to complete the annual governance statement within the annual report and accounts as required by current Department of Health guidance

23.3.1 The Board shall decide if the Trust will insure through the risk pooling schemes administered by ~~the NHS Litigation~~[NHS Resolution Authority](#) or self insure for some or all of the risks covered by the risk pooling schemes. If the Board decides not to use the risk pooling schemes for any of the risk areas (clinical, property and employers/third party liability) covered by the scheme this decision shall be reviewed annually.

23.3.2 With three exceptions Trusts may not enter into insurance arrangements with commercial insurers. The exceptions are:

- (1) Trusts may enter commercial arrangements for insuring motor vehicles owned by the Trust including insuring third party liability arising from their use;
- (2) where the Trust is involved with a consortium in a Private Finance Initiative contract and the other consortium members require that commercial insurance arrangements are entered into; and
- (3) where income generation activities take place. Income generation activities should normally be insured against all risks using commercial insurance. If the income generation activity is also an activity normally carried out by the Trust for a NHS purpose the activity may be covered in the risk pool. Confirmation of coverage in the risk pool must be obtained from the Litigation Authority.

In any case of doubt concerning a Trust's powers to enter into commercial insurance arrangements the Finance Director should consult ~~the NHS Litigation~~[NHS Resolution Authority](#).

23.3.3 Where the Board decides to use the risk pooling schemes administered by the ~~NHS Litigation~~[NHS Resolution Authority](#) the Finance Director shall ensure that the arrangements entered into are appropriate and complementary to the risk management programme. The Finance Director shall ensure that documented procedures cover these arrangements.

23.3.4 Where the Board decides not to use the risk pooling schemes administered by the NHS Resolutions for one or other of the risks covered by the schemes, the Finance Director shall ensure that the Board is informed of the nature and extent of the risks that are self insured as a result of this decision. The Finance Director will draw up formal documented procedures for the management of any claims arising from third parties and payments in respect of losses that will not be reimbursed.

23.3.5 All the risk-pooling schemes require members to make some contribution to the settlement of claims (the 'deductible'). The Finance Director should ensure documented procedures also cover the management of claims and payments below the deductible in each case.

Security Management

The Chief Executive will monitor compliance with directions issued by the Secretary of State for Health on NHS security management.

The Chief Executive shall nominate a suitable person to carry out the duties of the Security Management Specialist as specified in the Secretary of State for Health guidance on NHS security management.

The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for controlling and coordinating security. However, key tasks are delegated to the relevant director and the appointed Security Management Specialist.

The Security Management Specialist shall work with the staff in NHS ~~Protect~~[Counter Fraud Authority](#) in accordance with the Department of Health Security Management Manual.

The Security Management Specialist will provide a written report, at least annually, to the Audit Committee on security management work within the Trust

Senior Information Risk Owner

The Board shall nominate an Executive Member ([Finance Director](#)) to be responsible to the Board for information risk management (the Senior Information Risk Owner).

The role of the Senior Information Risk Owner is defined in the Information Governance toolkit and is a Board level post. The senior Information Risk Owner is the leading advocate for information risk to the Board, advising how information security risks could impact the strategic goals of the Trust

Information Governance

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring that the Trust has registered with the Information Commissioner's Office for compliance with the Data Protection Act [2018/4998\(UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)\)](#), and shall ensure that information is published and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Finance Director shall be primarily responsible for the accuracy and security of the computerised financial data of the Trust in accordance with security retention and data protection policies as defined by the Officer designated for this purpose by the Chief Executive.

An Officer specifically appointed by the Chief Executive shall devise and implement any necessary procedures to ensure adequate protection of the Trust's manual and computer data, programs and hardware for which the Chief Executive is responsible, from accidental or intentional disclosure to unauthorised persons, deletion or modification, theft or damage, having due regard for the Data Protection Acts and any defined NHS-wide security requirements.

An Officer specifically appointed by the Chief Executive shall ensure that adequate controls exist over data entry, processing, storage, transmission and output to ensure security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of all Trust financial systems and data as well as the efficient and effective operation of the system.

The Finance Director shall ensure that contracts for computing services for financial applications with another agency shall clearly define the responsibility of all parties for the security, privacy, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of data during processing transmission and storage. The contract should also ensure rights of access for audit purposes.

Where another agency provides a computer service for financial applications, the Finance Director shall periodically seek assurances that adequate controls as outlined above are in operation. The Finance Director and an Officer specifically appointed by the Chief Executive shall ensure that adequate controls exist to maintain the security, privacy, accuracy and completeness of financial data sent over transmission networks.

24 EXTERNAL BORROWING

- 24.1 The Finance Director will advise the Board concerning the Trust's ability to pay dividend on, and repay Public Dividend Capital and any proposed new borrowing, within the limits set by the Department of Health. The Finance Director is also responsible for reporting periodically to the Board concerning the PDC debt and all loans and overdrafts.

- 24.2 The Board will agree the list of employees (including specimens of their signatures) who are authorised to make short term borrowings on behalf of the Trust. This must contain the Chief Executive and the Finance Director.
- 24.3 The Finance Director must prepare detailed procedural instructions concerning applications for loans and overdrafts.
- 24.4 All short-term borrowings should be kept to the minimum period of time possible, consistent with the overall cash-flow position, represent good value for money, and comply with the latest guidance from the Department of Health.
- 24.5 Any short-term borrowing must be with the authority of two members of an authorised panel, one of which must be the Chief Executive or the Finance Director. The Board must be made aware of all short term borrowings at the next Board meeting.
- 24.6 All long-term borrowing must be consistent with the plans outlined in the current Long Term Financial Model and be approved by the Trust Board.

25 **TAXATION & EXCISE DUTIES**

- 25.1 The Finance Director shall ensure that the Trust's liabilities of taxation and excise duty is managed appropriately, taking full account of available concessions, through maintenance of appropriate records, the preparation and submission of required returns and recovery of deductions at source.

AUTHORISATION LEVELS

APPENDIX A

PERSONNEL	CHEQUES/ BACS/ CHAPS	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE Note 1	REVENUE EXPENDITURE Note 2	ASSET DISPOSALS	
BOARD (AS GROUP)	See Bank Mandate	<£15,000,000 Note 3	>£250,000	<£1,000,000	
CHAIRMAN		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
FINANCE DIRECTOR		<£100,000	<£100,000 Note 4	<£100,000	
DIRECTORS		Nil	<£50,000	<£5,000	
ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER/CARE GROUP DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF ESTATES		Nil	<£25,000	<£5,000	
CENTRE MANAGERS /CARE GROUP HEAD OF NURSING/HEADS OF SERVICE		Nil	<£10,000	<£5,000	
ASSISTANT CENTRE MANAGERS/MATRONS/ASST HEADS OF SERVICE		Nil	<£5,000	Nil	
WARD MANAGER AND OPERATIONAL MANAGER		Nil	<£1000	Nil	

Charitable funds Expenditure

PERSONNEL	VALUE
BOARD (AS GROUP) OR DELEGATED COMMITTEE	>£100,000
FINANCE DIRECTOR PLUS 1 OTHER DIRECTOR	>£10,000 -£100,000
FUND MANAGER	<£5,000

Personnel	Value
Fund Manager	Expenditure < £2,000
Fund Manager and Care Group Manager	Expenditure > £2,000 and < £5,000
Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and include 2 signatures from the CFC one of which must be a director	Expenditure > £5,000
Requested by Fund Manager and Care Group Manager and authorised by the CFC to include Finance Director and one other director.	Expenditure > £10,000

NOTES

1. NHS Trusts reporting a year end deficit in its most recent audited accounts, forecasting an outturn deficit for the financial year or with an in-year deficit should note that at the discretion of the appropriate NHSI Director of Delivery and Development or the NHSI Director of Finance a NHS Trusts delegated limits can be lowered. Where this is the case all schemes over £500k in value will need agreement to proceed from the relevant Director of Delivery and Development. Where this applies NHS Trusts will be notified in writing by the NHSI.
2. Any single transaction. Where contracts have been placed for services such as utilities or existing and routine expenditure or call off orders that have followed a compliant procurement route, the authorisation process shall follow the principles detailed within the Trust's Budgetary Control Policy

3.

Financial value of the capital investment or property transaction	Approving person/committee/board	Key stage documentation	Indicative review timescale for each stage
Up to £15 million	Trust board	In accordance with the trust's internal governance process but NHS Improvement will expect trusts to adopt the best practice approach	Not applicable
£15 million to £30 million	NHS Improvement executive director of resources/deputy chief executive or NHS Improvement Director of finance and DH	OBC and FBC required (SOC also required if DH finance required)	8 weeks
£30 million to £50 million	NHS Improvement Resources Committee and DH	SOC, OBC and FBC required (or SOC, ABC, CBC or LIFT stage 1 and 2 equivalent for PFI/PF2 or LIFT)	8–12 weeks
Over £50 million	NHS Improvement Resources Committee, NHS Improvement Board, DH and HMT	SOC, OBC and FBC required (or SOC, ABC, CBC or LIFT stage 1 and 2 equivalent for PFI/PF2 or LIFT)	Minimum 8–12 weeks (for NHS Improvement approval stage only)

4. Between £100,000 and £250,000 any two from Chairman, Chief Executive and Finance Director.

~~5. Charitable Funds Approvals up to £10,000 can be approved by the Deputy Finance Director~~

~~6.5.~~ All values are inclusive of the current rate of Value Added Tax

< Up to > Greater than

APPENDIX B

TENDERING LIMITS FOR PURCHASING

	Financial Limit excluding VAT.	Financial Limit (inclusive of current rate of Value Added Tax @ 20%)	
Competitive Tendering (at least 6 invitations)	£ 118,133	£ 141,759	Set by EU Jan 2018
3 written quotations required for building and non-building			
contracts between £20,000 and £49,999	£ 20,000	£ 24,000	Set by Trust
6 written quotations required for building and non-building			
contracts between £50,000 and £106,047	£ 50,000	£ 60,000	Set by trust
Building and engineering contracts executed under			
Common Seal £1,000,000 and above	£ 1,000,000	£ 1,200,000	Set by Trust and Estates
Building & Engineering works where formal contract			
required £135,001 and above	£ 135,001	£ 162,001	Set by Trust and Estates
Competitive tendering for Works Contracts	£ 4,551,413	£ 5,461,695	Set by EU Jan 2018
Competitive tendering for Commissioning of Healthcare Services (listed in Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations)	£ 615,278	£ 738,333	Set by EU Jan 2018

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN STANDING FINANCIAL INSTRUCTIONS

APPENDIX C

Document	Holder of Document
The Code of Accountability	Director of Corporate Governance
Scheme of Decisions Reserved to the Board	Finance Director
Scheme of Delegation	Finance Director
Reservation of Powers to the Board	Finance Director
Financial Procedures	Finance Director
Department of Health Fraud and Corruption Manual	Finance Director
Service and Financial Framework & Health Improvement Plan	Finance Director
Department of Health's Manual for Accounts	Finance Director
Department of Health's Costing Manual	Finance Director
Department of Health's Commercial Sponsorship – Ethical Standards	Finance Director
NHS National Performance Assessment Framework	Chief Executive
Trust's Terms and Conditions of Trade	Finance Director
White Paper on Standards, Quality and International Competitiveness (CMND 8621)	Finance Director
NHS Counter Fraud Authority Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff	Director of Corporate Governance
Concode and Estatecode	Associate Director of Estates
NHS Finance Manual	Finance Director
NHS Internal Audit Manual	Head of Internal Audit
Budgetary Control Policy	Finance Director
Retention of Documents HSC 1999/053	Finance Director

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
STANDING ORDERS

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Separate Standing Orders Appendices:

Standing Orders Appendix A – Managing Conflicts of Interest in the NHS Policy

Standing Orders Appendix B (i); (ii); (iii); (iv); (v); (vi); (vii) and (viii) – Terms of Reference of Committees, Sub-committees and Joint-committees

Written:

November 2003

Last Reviewed:

July 2019

Review:

Annually

THE SHREWSBURY AND TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

STANDING ORDERS

INTRODUCTION

Statutory Framework

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (the Trust) is a statutory body which came into existence on 1st October 2003.

The Trust's business is in two principal places – Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire and Apley Castle, Telford, Shropshire.

NHS Trusts are governed by Act of Parliament, mainly the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care 2012 Act

The functions of the Trust are conferred by this legislation.

As a statutory body, the Trust has specified powers to contract in its own name and to act as a corporate trustee. In the latter role it is accountable to the Charity Commission for those funds deemed to be charitable as well as to the Secretary of State for Health.

The Trust also has statutory powers under the NHS Act 2012 ~~NHS Act 1977, as amended by the Health Act 1999,~~ to fund projects jointly planned with local authorities, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

The Code of Accountability requires the Trust to adopt Standing Orders for the regulation of its proceedings and business. The Trust must also adopt Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) as an integral part of Standing Orders setting out the responsibilities of individuals.

Standing Orders provide a formal framework for the conduct of the Trust's business. They include:

- conduct of debate;
- custody of the common seal;
- interests of officers and members in contracts and other matters;
- suspension of Standing Orders;
- conduct of officers and members;

- operation of tendering and contracting procedures; and
- structure of the Trust and its (formal) sub committees.

Directors and Senior Managers of the Trust should familiarise themselves with their responsibilities under Standing Orders, and comply with them. Trust management has an additional responsibility to ensure that their staff see, understand and comply with appropriate parts of Standing Orders.

NHS Framework

In addition to the statutory requirements the Secretary of State through the Department of Health issues further directions and guidance. These are normally issued under cover of a circular or letter.

The Code of Accountability – (see Section 1.3.2 of the Corporate Governance Framework Manual) - requires that, inter alia, Boards draw up a schedule of decisions reserved to the Board, and ensure that management arrangements are in place to enable responsibility to be clearly delegated to the Executive Committee and to senior executives (a scheme of delegation). The code also requires the establishment of Audit and Remuneration Committees with formally agreed terms of reference. The Code of Conduct - (see document Standing Orders Appendix A) - makes various requirements concerning possible conflicts of interest of Board members.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 sets out the requirements for public access to information on the NHS.

Delegation of Powers

The Trust has powers to delegate and make arrangements for delegation. The Standing Orders set out the detail of these arrangements. Under the Standing Order relating to the Arrangements for the Exercise of Functions (SO 4) the Trust is given powers to "make arrangements for the exercise, on behalf of the Trust of any of their functions by a committee, sub-committee or joint committee appointed by virtue of Standing Order 5 or by an Officer of the Trust, in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Trust thinks fit or as the Secretary of State may direct". Delegated Powers are covered in a separate document (Reservation of Powers to the Board and Delegation of Powers). This document has effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.

1. INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 Save as otherwise permitted by law, at any meeting the Chairman of the Trust shall be the final authority on the interpretation of Standing Orders (on which he/she should be advised by the Chief Executive).
- 1.2 Any expression to which a meaning is given in the National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care 2012 Act and other Acts relating to the National Health Service or in the Financial Regulations made under the Acts shall have the same meaning in this interpretation and in addition:
- 1.2.1 **"Accountable Officer"** means the NHS Officer responsible and accountable for funds entrusted to the Trust. He/she shall be responsible for ensuring the proper stewardship of public funds and assets. For this Trust it shall be the Chief Executive.
- 1.2.2 **"Board"** means the Chairman, Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the Trust collectively as a body.
- 1.2.3 **"Budget"** means a resource, expressed in financial terms, proposed by the Trust for the purpose of carrying out, for a specific period, any or all of the functions of the Trust.
- 1.2.4 **"Chairman of the Board (or Trust)"** is the person appointed by the Secretary of State for Health as advised by the Independent Appointments Commission to lead the Board and to ensure that it successfully discharges its overall responsibility for the Trust as a whole. The expression "the Chairman of the Trust" shall be deemed to include the Vice-Chairman of the Trust if the Chairman is absent from the meeting or is otherwise unavailable.
- 1.2.5 **"Chief Executive"** means the Chief Officer of the Trust.
- 1.2.6 **"Quality Committee"** means a committee whose functions are concerned with the arrangements for the purpose of monitoring and improving the quality of health care for which the Trust has responsibility.
- 1.2.7 **"Commissioning"** means the process for determining the need for and for obtaining the supply of healthcare and related services by the Trust within available resources.
- 1.2.8 **"Committee"** means a committee appointed by the Trust.
- 1.2.9 **"Committee members"** means persons formally appointed by the Board to sit on or to chair specific committees.
- 1.2.10 **"Concode"** means the code of procedure and practice for letting of building and engineering contracts for the NHS.

- 1.2.11 **"Contracting and procuring"** means the systems for obtaining the supply of goods, materials, manufactured items, services, building and engineering services, works of construction and maintenance and for disposal of surplus and obsolete assets.
- 1.2.12 **"Finance Director"** means the Chief Financial Officer of the Trust.
- 1.2.13 **"Executive Director"** means a member of the Trust who is an Officer of the Trust.
- 1.2.14 **"Funds Held on Trust"** shall mean those funds which the Trust holds at its date of incorporation, receives on distribution by statutory instrument, or chooses subsequently to accept. Such funds may or may not be charitable.
- 1.2.15 **"Member"** means Executive or Non-Executive Director of the Board. (Member in relation to the Board does not include its Chairman.)
- 1.2.16 **"Membership and Procedure Regulations"** means NHS Membership and Procedure Regulations (SI 1990/2024) and subsequent amendments.
- 1.2.17 **"Motion"** means a formal proposition to be discussed and voted on during the course of a meeting.
- 1.2.18 **"Nominated Officer"** means an Officer charged with the responsibility for discharging specific tasks within Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions.
- 1.2.19 **"Non-Executive Director"** means a member of the Trust who is not an Officer of the Trust and is not to be treated as an Officer by virtue of regulation 1(3) of the Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements Regulations.
- 1.2.20 **"Officer"** means employee of the Trust or any other person holding a paid appointment or office with the Trust.
- 1.2.21 **"Secretary"** means a person who may be appointed to act independently of the Board to provide advice on corporate governance issues to the Board and the Chairman and monitor the Trust's compliance with the law, Standing Orders, and Department of Health guidance.
- 1.2.22 **"SFIs"** means Standing Financial Instructions.
- 1.2.23 **"SOs"** means Standing Orders.
- 1.2.24 **"Trust"** means The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.
- 1.2.25 **"Vice-Chairman"** means the non-Officer member appointed by the Board to take on the Chairman's duties if the Chairman is absent for any reason.
- 1.3 In these Standing Orders, where any value or price is referred to, it shall be calculated inclusive of current rate of Value Added Tax.

1.4 Integrated Governance

Trust Boards are now encouraged to move away from silo governance and develop integrated governance that will lead to good governance and to ensure that decision-making is informed by intelligent information covering the full range of corporate, financial, clinical, information and research governance. Decision-making by the Board is informed by intelligent information covering all aspects of governance taking a holistic view of the organisation.

2. THE TRUST BOARD

- 2.1 All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust.
- 2.2 All funds received in trust shall be held in the name of the Trust as corporate trustee.
- 2.3 The powers of the Trust established under statute shall be exercised by the Board meeting in public session except as otherwise provided for in Standing Order 4.
- 2.4 The Board has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in Reservation of Powers to the Board and have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.
- 2.5 Directors acting on behalf of the Trust as corporate trustees are acting as quasi-trustees. Accountability for charitable funds held on trust is to the Charity Commission and to the Secretary of State for Health. Accountability for non-charitable funds held on trust is only to the Secretary of State for Health.
- 2.6 **Composition of the Board** - In accordance with the Membership and Procedure Regulations the composition of the Board shall be:
- The Chairman of the Trust
 - Up to 7 Non Executive Directors excluding the Chairman
 - Up to 5 Executive Directors including:
 - The Chief Executive
 - The Finance Director
 - A medical or dental practitioner; and
 - A nurse or midwife
- 2.7 **Appointment of the Chairman and Members** - The Chairman and Non-Executive Directors are appointed by NHS England and NHS Improvement ~~the NHS Trust Development Authority~~ under delegated authority from the Secretary of State. The other Members are appointed by the relevant committees as set out in paragraphs 2.14 and 2.15 of these Standing Orders. All appointments are subject to the relevant provisions of the Membership and Procedure Regulations.

- 2.8 **Terms of Office of the Chairman and Members** - The regulations setting out the period of tenure of office of the Chairman and members and for the termination or suspension of office of the Chairman and members are contained in the Membership and Procedure Regulations.
- 2.9 **Appointment and Powers of Vice-Chairman** - Subject to SO 2.10 below, the Chairman and members of the Trust may appoint one of their number, who is not also an executive Director, to be Vice-Chairman, for such period, not exceeding the remainder of his term as a member of the Trust, as they may specify on appointing him.
- 2.10 Any member so appointed may at any time resign from the office of Vice-Chairman by giving notice in writing to the Chairman. The Chairman and members may thereupon appoint another member as Vice-Chairman in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 2.9.
- 2.11 Where the Chairman of the Trust has died or has ceased to hold office, or where he has been unable to perform his duties as Chairman owing to illness or any other cause, the Vice-Chairman shall act as Chairman until a new Chairman is appointed or the existing Chairman resumes his duties, as the case may be; and references to the Chairman in these Standing Orders shall, so long as there is no Chairman able to perform his duties, be taken to include references to the Vice-Chairman.
- 2.12 **Joint Members** - Where more than one person is appointed jointly to a post mentioned in regulation 2(4)(a) of the Membership, Procedure and Administration Arrangements Regulations those persons shall count for the purpose of Standing Order 2.7 as one person.
- 2.13 **Local Healthwatch and Community health Councils** Local Healthwatch in England and Community Health Councils in Wales are statutory bodies responsible for representing the public interest in health services. Healthwatch Shropshire, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin and Montgomery Community Health Council have formal observer status at meeting of the Trust Board in accordance with Standing Order 3.43
- 2.14 **Committee for Appointing Chief Executive as Director** - The Trust shall appoint a committee whose members shall be the Chairman and Non-Executive Directors of the Trust whose function will be to appoint a Chief Executive.
- 2.15 **Committee for Appointing Executive Directors other than Chief Executive** - The Trust shall appoint a committee whose members shall be the Chairman, the Non-Executive Directors and the Chief Executive whose function will be to appoint the Executive Directors of the Trust other than the Chief Executive.
- 2.16 **Role of Members**

The Board will function as a corporate decision-making body, Officer and Non-Officer Members will be full and equal members. Their role as members of the Board of Directors will be to consider the key strategic and managerial issues facing the Trust in carrying out its statutory and other functions.

(1) **Executive Members**

Executive Members shall exercise their authority within the terms of these Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions and the Scheme of Delegation.

(2) **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the overall performance of the executive functions of the Trust. He/she is the **Accountable Officer** for the Trust and shall be responsible for ensuring the discharge of obligations under Financial Directions and in line with the requirements of the Accountable Officer Memorandum for Trust Chief Executives.

(3) **Finance Director**

The Finance Director shall be responsible for the provision of financial advice to the Trust and to its members and for the supervision of financial control and accounting systems. He/she shall be responsible along with the Chief Executive for ensuring the discharge of obligations under relevant Financial Directions.

(4) **Non-Executive Members**

The Non-Executive Members shall not be granted nor shall they seek to exercise any individual executive powers on behalf of the Trust. They may however, exercise collective authority when acting as members of or when chairing a committee of the Trust that has delegated powers.

(5) **Chairman**

The Chairman shall be responsible for the operation of the Board and chair all Board meetings when present. The Chairman has certain delegated executive powers. The Chairman must comply with the terms of appointment and with these Standing Orders.

The Chairman shall liaise with NHS England and NHS Improvement ~~the NHS Trust Development Authority~~ over the appointment of Non-Executive Directors and once appointed shall take responsibility either directly or indirectly for their induction, their portfolios of interests and assignments, and their performance.

The Chairman shall work in close harmony with the Chief Executive and shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Board in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to the Board to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.

2.17 Corporate role of the Board

- (1) All business shall be conducted in the name of the Trust.
- (2) All funds received in trust shall be held in the name of the Trust as corporate trustee.
- (3) The powers of the Trust established under statute shall be exercised by the Board meeting in public session except as otherwise provided for in Standing Order No. 3.
- (4) The Board shall define and regularly review the functions it exercises on behalf of the Secretary of State.

2.18 Schedule of Matters reserved to the Board and Scheme of Delegation

The Board has resolved that certain powers and decisions may only be exercised by the Board in formal session. These powers and decisions are set out in the 'Schedule of Matters Reserved to the Board' and shall have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders. Those powers which it has delegated to officers and other bodies are contained in the Scheme of Delegation.

2.19 Lead Roles for Board Members

The Chairman will ensure that the designation of Lead roles or appointments of Board members as required by the Department of Health or as set out in any statutory or other guidance will be made in accordance with that guidance or statutory requirement (e.g. appointing a Lead Board Member with responsibilities for Infection Control or Child Protection Services etc.).

3. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

- 3.1 **Admission of the Public and the Press** – The Board may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies. (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) section 1(2):
- 3.2 The Chairman (or Vice Chairman) shall give such directions as he thinks fit in regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and representatives of the press such as to ensure that the Trust's business shall be conducted without interruption and disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude on grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public will be required to withdraw upon the Board resolving as follows:

"That in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the Board to complete business without the presence of the public" (Section 1(8) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

- 3.3 Nothing in these Standing Orders shall require the Trust (Board) to allow members of the public or representatives of the press to record proceedings in any manner whatsoever, other than writing, or to make any oral report of proceedings as they take place, without the prior agreement of the Board.
- 3.4 **Calling Meetings** - Ordinary meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the Board may determine.
- 3.5 The Chairman of the Trust may call a meeting of the Trust (Board) at any time. If the Chairman refuses to call a meeting after a requisition for that purpose, signed by at least one-third of the whole number of members, has been presented to him/her, or if, without so refusing, the Chairman does not call a meeting within seven days after such requisition has been presented to him at the Trust's Headquarters, such one third or more members may forthwith call a meeting.
- 3.6 **Notice of Meetings** - Before each meeting of the Board, a notice of the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at it, and signed by the Chairman or by an Officer authorised by the Chairman to sign on his behalf shall be delivered to every member, or sent by post to the usual place of residence of such member, so as to be available to him at least three clear days before the meeting.
- 3.7 Want of service of the notice on any member shall not affect the validity of a meeting.
- 3.8 In the case of a meeting called by members in default of the Chairman, the notice shall be signed by those members and no business shall be transacted at the meeting other than that specified in the notice.
- 3.9 Agendas will be sent to members 6 days before the meeting and supporting papers, whenever possible, shall accompany the agenda, but will certainly be despatched no later than three clear days before the meeting, save in emergency. Failure to serve such a notice on more than three members will invalidate the meeting. A notice shall be presumed to have been served one day after posting.
- 3.10.1 Before each meeting of the Board a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed at the Trust's office at least three clear days before the meeting. (Required by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S.I. (4) (a).)
- 3.10.2 A public meeting shall be held each year after the completion of the annual accounts to lay the accounts before the public. In such cases, a public notice specifying the meeting date, time and location shall be posted at the Trust's Headquarters at least three calendar days prior to the meeting.

- 3.11 **Setting the Agenda** - The Board may determine that certain matters shall appear on every agenda for a meeting and shall be addressed prior to any other business being conducted.
- 3.12 A member desiring a matter to be included on an agenda shall make his/her request in writing to the Chairman at least 10 clear days before the meeting. The request should state whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in the presence of the public and should include appropriate supporting information. Requests made less than 10 days before a meeting may be included on the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman.
- 3.13 **Petitions** - Where a petition has been received by the Trust the Chairman of the Board shall include the petition as an item for the agenda of the next Board meeting.
- 3.14 **Chairman of Meeting** - At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman of the Board, if present, shall preside. If the Chairman is absent from the meeting the Vice-Chairman, if there is one and he/she is present, shall preside. If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent such member (who is not also an Officer of the Trust) as the members present shall choose shall preside.
- 3.15 If the Chairman is absent temporarily on the grounds of a declared conflict of interest the Vice-Chairman, if present, shall preside. If the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, or are disqualified from participating, such Non-Executive Director as the members present shall choose shall preside.
- 3.16 **Notice of Motion**
- i) Subject to the provision of Standing Orders 3.7 'Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting' and 3.8 'Motions to rescind a resolution', a member of the Board wishing to move a motion shall send a written notice to the Chief Executive who will ensure that it is brought to the immediate attention of the Chairman.
 - ii) The notice shall be delivered at least [15] clear days before the meeting. The Chief Executive shall include in the agenda for the meeting all notices so received that are in order and permissible under governing regulations. This Standing Order shall not prevent any motion being withdrawn or moved without notice on any business mentioned on the agenda for the meeting.
- 3.17 **Emergency Motions**
- Subject to the agreement of the Chairman, and subject also to the provision of Standing Order 3.7 'Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting', a member of the Board may give written notice of an emergency motion after the issue of the notice of meeting and agenda, up to one hour before the time fixed for the meeting. The notice shall state the grounds of urgency. If in order, it shall be declared to the Trust Board at the commencement of the business of the meeting as an additional item included in the agenda. The Chairman's decision to include the item shall be final.
- 3.18 **Motions: Procedure at and during a meeting**

i) **Who may propose**

A motion may be proposed by the Chairman of the meeting or any member present. It must also be seconded by another member.

ii) **Contents of motions**

The Chairman may exclude from the debate at their discretion any such motion of which notice was not given on the notice summoning the meeting other than a motion relating to:

- the reception of a report;
- consideration of any item of business before the Trust Board;
- the accuracy of minutes;
- that the Board proceed to next business;
- that the Board adjourn;
- that the question be now put.

iii) **Amendments to motions**

A motion for amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded.

Amendments to motions shall be moved relevant to the motion, and shall not have the effect of negating the motion before the Board.

If there are a number of amendments, they shall be considered one at a time. When a motion has been amended, the amended motion shall become the substantive motion before the meeting, upon which any further amendment may be moved.

3.19 **Rights of reply to motions**

a) Amendments

The mover of an amendment may reply to the debate on their amendment immediately prior to the mover of the original motion, who shall have the right of reply at the close of debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.

b) Substantive/original motion

The member who proposed the substantive motion shall have a right of reply at the close of any debate on the motion.

c) Withdrawing a motion

A motion, or an amendment to a motion, may be withdrawn.

d) Motions once under debate

When a motion is under debate, no motion may be moved other than:

- an amendment to the motion;
- the adjournment of the discussion, or the meeting;
- that the meeting proceed to the next business;
- that the question should be now put;
- the appointment of an 'ad hoc' committee to deal with a specific item of business;
- that a member/director be not further heard;
- a motion under Section I (2) or Section I (8) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 resolving to exclude the public, including the press

In those cases where the motion is either that the meeting proceeds to the 'next business' or 'that the question be now put' in the interests of objectivity these should only be put forward by a member of the Board who has not taken part in the debate and who is eligible to vote.

If a motion to proceed to the next business or that the question be now put, is carried, the Chairman should give the mover of the substantive motion under debate a right of reply, if not already exercised. The matter should then be put to the vote.

3.20 **Motion to Rescind a Resolution**

- i) Notice of motion to rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six calendar months shall bear the signature of the member who gives it and also the signature of three other members, and before considering any such motion of which notice shall have been given, the Trust Board may refer the matter to any appropriate Committee or the Chief Executive for recommendation.
- ii) When any such motion has been dealt with by the Trust Board it shall not be competent for any director/member other than the Chairman to propose a motion to the same effect within six months. This Standing Order shall not apply to motions moved in pursuance of a report or recommendations of a Committee or the Chief Executive.

3.21 **Chairman's Ruling** - Statements of members made at meetings of the Board shall be relevant to the matter under discussion at the material time and the decision of the Chairman of the meeting on questions of order, relevancy, regularity and any other matters shall be final.

3.22 **Voting** - Every question at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the Chairman of the meeting and members present and voting on the question and, in the case of the number of votes for and against a motion being equal, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

- 3.23 All questions put to the vote shall, at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting, be determined by oral expression or by a show of hands. A paper ballot may also be used if a majority of the members present so request.
- 3.24 If at least one-third of the members present so request, the voting (other than by paper ballot) on any question may be recorded to show how each member present voted or abstained.
- 3.25 If a member so requests, his/her vote shall be recorded by name upon any vote (other than by paper ballot).
- 3.26 In no circumstances may an absent member vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.
- 3.27 An Officer who has been appointed formally by the Board to act up for an executive member during a period of incapacity or temporarily to fill an executive member vacancy, shall be entitled to exercise the voting rights of the executive member. An Officer attending the Board to represent an executive member during a period of incapacity or temporary absence without formal acting up status may not exercise the voting rights of the executive member. An Officer's status when attending a meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 3.28 **Minutes** - The Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting shall be drawn up and submitted for agreement at the next ensuing meeting where they will be signed by the person presiding at it.
- 3.29 No discussion shall take place upon the minutes except upon their accuracy or where the Chairman considers discussion appropriate. Any amendment to the minutes shall be agreed and recorded at the next meeting.
- 3.30 Minutes shall be circulated in accordance with members' wishes. Where providing a record of a public meeting the minutes shall be made available to the public as required by Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS.
- 3.31 **Joint Members** - Where the office of a member of the Board is shared jointly by more than one person:
- (a) Either or both of those persons may attend or take part in meetings of the Board:
 - (b) If both are present at a meeting they should cast one vote if they agree:
 - (c) In the case of disagreements no vote should be cast:
 - (d) The presence of either or both of those persons should count as the presence of one person for the purposes of SO 3.39 (Quorum).
- 3.32 **Suspension of Standing Orders** - Except where this would contravene any statutory provision or any direction made by the Secretary of State, any one or more of the Standing Orders may be suspended at any meeting, provided that at least two-thirds of the Board are present, including one Officer and one non-

Officer member, and that a majority of those present vote in favour of suspension.

- 3.33 A decision to suspend Standing Orders shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 3.34 A separate record of matters discussed during the suspension of Standing Orders shall be made and shall be available to the Chairman and members of the Board.
- 3.35 No formal business may be transacted while Standing Orders are suspended.
- 3.36 The Audit Committee shall review every decision to suspend Standing Orders.
- 3.37 **Variation and Amendment of Standing Orders** - These Standing Orders shall be amended only if:
- a notice of motion under Standing Order 3.16 has been given; and
 - no fewer than half the total of the Trust's Non Executive Directors vote in favour of amendment; and
 - at least two-thirds of the Board members are present; and
 - the variation proposed does not contravene a statutory provision or direction made by the Secretary of State.
- 3.38 **Record of Attendance** - The names of the Chairman and members present at the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 3.39 **Quorum** - No business shall be transacted at a meeting unless at least one-third of the whole number of the Chairman and members appointed, (including at least one Non-Executive and one Executive member) are present.
- 3.40 An Officer in attendance for an Executive member but without formal acting up status may not count towards the quorum.
- 3.41 If the Chairman or member has been disqualified from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution by reason of the declaration of a conflict of interest (see Standing Order 6 or 7) he shall no longer count towards the quorum. If a quorum is then not available for the discussion and/or the passing of a resolution on any matter, that matter may not be discussed further or voted upon at that meeting. Such a position shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The meeting must then proceed to the next business. The above requirement for at least one Executive Director to form part of the quorum shall not apply where the Executive Directors are excluded from a meeting (for example when the Board considers the recommendations of the Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee).

3.42 Admission of public and the press

(i) **Admission and exclusion on grounds of confidentiality of business to be transacted**

The Board may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) section 1(2):

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- *Guidance should be sought from the NHS Trust's Freedom of Information Lead to ensure correct procedure is followed on matters to be included in the exclusion.*

(ii) **General disturbances**

The Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if one has been appointed) or the person presiding over the meeting shall give such directions as he thinks fit with regard to the arrangements for meetings and accommodation of the public and representatives of the press such as to ensure that the Trust's business shall be conducted without interruption and disruption and, without prejudice to the power to exclude on grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public will be required to withdraw upon the Trust Board resolving as follows:

- 'That in the interests of public order the meeting adjourn for (the period to be specified) to enable the Trust Board to complete its business without the presence of the public'. Section 1(8) Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

(iii) **Business proposed to be transacted when the press and public have been excluded from a meeting**

Matters to be dealt with by the Trust Board following the exclusion of representatives of the press, and other members of the public, as provided in (i) and (ii) above, shall be confidential to the members of the Board.

Members and Officers or any employee of the Trust in attendance shall not reveal or disclose the contents of papers marked 'In Confidence' or minutes headed 'Items Taken in Private' outside of the Trust, without the express permission of the Trust. This prohibition shall apply equally to the content of any discussion during the Board meeting which may take place on such reports or papers.

(iv) **Use of Mechanical or Electrical Equipment for Recording or Transmission of Meetings**

Nothing in these Standing Orders shall be construed as permitting the introduction by the public, or press representatives, of recording, transmitting, video or similar apparatus into meetings of the Trust or Committee thereof. Such permission shall be granted only upon resolution of the Trust.

3.43 **Observers at Trust meetings**

The Trust will decide what arrangements and terms and conditions it feels are appropriate to offer in extending an invitation to observers to attend and address any of the Trust Board's meetings and may change, alter or vary these terms and conditions as it deems fit.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS BY DELEGATION

4.1 Subject to such directions as may be given by the Secretary of State, the Board may make arrangements for the exercise, on behalf of the Board, of any of its functions:

- by a committee, sub-committee or,
- appointed by virtue of Standing Order 5.1 or 5.2 below or by an Officer of the Trust,
- or by another body as defined in Standing Order 4.2 below,

in each case subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Trust thinks fit.

4.2 The Trust cannot delegate its functions to another body except where expressly permitted by law or under arrangements made by the Secretary of State. However the Trust may enter into arrangements for the carrying out, on such terms as the Trust considers appropriate, of any of its functions jointly with another body under its powers under Para 8, Part 2, Schedule 2 of the NHS Act 2006

4.3 **Emergency Powers** - The powers which the Board has retained to itself within these Standing Orders (Standing Order 2.6) may in emergency be exercised by the Chief Executive and the Chairman after having consulted at least two non-Officer members. The exercise of such powers by the Chief Executive and Chairman shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Executive Committee and the Board in public session for ratification.

4.4 **Delegation to Committees** - The Board shall agree from time to time to the delegation of executive powers to be exercised by committees, or sub-committees, or joint-committees, which it has formally constituted in accordance with directions issued by the Secretary of State. The constitution and terms of reference of these committees, or sub-committees, or joint committees, and their specific executive powers shall be approved by the Board in respect of its sub-committees.

- 4.5 When the Board is not meeting as the Trust in public session it shall operate as a committee and may only exercise such powers as may have been delegated to it by the Trust in public session.
- 4.6 **Delegation to Officers** - Those functions of the Trust which have not been retained as reserved by the Board or delegated to a committee or sub-committee or joint-committee shall be exercised on behalf of the Trust by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive shall determine which functions he/she will perform personally and shall nominate Officers to undertake the remaining functions for which he/she will still retain an accountability to the Trust.
- 4.7 The Chief Executive shall prepare a Scheme of Delegation identifying his/her proposals, which shall be considered and approved by the Board, subject to any amendment, agreed during the discussion. The Chief Executive may periodically propose amendment to the Scheme of Delegation that shall be considered and approved by the Board as indicated above.
- 4.8 Nothing in the Scheme of Delegation shall impair the discharge of the direct accountability to the Board of the Finance Director to provide information and advise the Board in accordance with statutory or Department of Health requirements. Outside these statutory requirements the roles of the Finance Director shall be accountable to the Chief Executive for operational matters.
- 4.9 The arrangements made by the Board as set out in the Reservation of Powers to the Board and Delegation of Powers document shall have effect as if incorporated in these Standing Orders.
- 4.10 **Overriding Standing Orders** – If for any reason these Standing Orders are not complied with, full details of the non-compliance and any justification for non-compliance and the circumstances around the non-compliance, shall be reported to the next formal meeting of the Board for action or ratification. All members of the Board and staff have a duty to disclose any non-compliance with these Standing Orders to the Chief Executive as soon as possible.

5. COMMITTEES

- 5.1 Subject to such directions (and to guidance issued by the Department of Health) as may be given by the Secretary of State, the Trust may and, if directed by him, shall appoint committees of the Trust, or together with one or more Strategic Health Authorities or other Trusts, appoint joint committees, consisting wholly or partly of the Chairman and members of the Trust or other health service bodies or wholly of persons who are not members of the Trust or other health service bodies in question.
- 5.2 A committee or joint committee appointed under this regulation may, subject to such directions as may be given by the Secretary of State or the Trust or other health service bodies in question, appoint sub-committees consisting wholly or partly of members of the committee or joint committee (whether or not they are members of the Trust or other health service bodies in question); or wholly of

persons who are not members of the Trust or other health service bodies or the committee of the Trust or other health service bodies in question.

- 5.3 The Standing Orders of the Trust, as far as they are applicable, shall apply with appropriate alteration to meetings of any committees established by the Trust. In which case the term “Chairman” is to be read as a reference to the Chairman of the committee as the context permits, and the term “member” is to be read as a reference to a member of the committee also as the context permits. There is no requirement to hold meetings of committees, established by the Trust in public.)
- 5.4 Each such committee shall have such terms of reference and powers and be subject to such conditions (as to reporting back to the Board), as the Board shall decide and shall be in accordance with any legislation and regulation or direction issued by the Secretary of State. Such terms of reference shall have effect as if incorporated into the Standing Orders.
- 5.5 Where committees are authorised to establish sub-committees they may not delegate executive powers to the sub-committee unless expressly authorised by the Board.
- 5.6 The Board shall approve the appointments to each of the committees that it has formally constituted. Where the Board determines, and regulations permit, that persons, who are neither members nor Officers, shall be appointed to a committee the terms of such appointment shall be within the powers of the Board as defined by the Secretary of State. The Board shall define the powers of such appointees and shall agree allowances, including reimbursement for loss of earnings, and/or expenses in accordance where appropriate with national guidance.
- 5.7 Where the Board is required to appoint persons to a committee and/or to undertake statutory functions as required by the Secretary of State, and where such appointments are to operate independently of the Board such appointment shall be made in accordance with the regulations and directions made by the Secretary of State.
- 5.8 The committees, sub-committees, and joint-committees established by the Board are:
Audit Committee
Quality and Safety Committee
~~Performance Sustainability Committee (including Charitable Funds)~~
Sustainability Committee
Charitable Funds Committee
Senior Leadership Team Meeting
Workforce Committee
Remuneration Committee
~~Transformation Board~~

The Terms of Reference of each of these are contained within separately produced attachments ‘Standing Orders Appendix B(i)’ through to ‘Standing Order Appendix B(viii)’ to these Standing Orders.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS

- 6.1 **Declaration of Interests** - The Code of Accountability requires Board members to declare interests which are relevant and material to the NHS board of which they are a member. All existing Board members should declare such interests. Any board members appointed subsequently should do so on appointment.
- 6.2 Interests which should be regarded as "relevant and material" are:
- a) Directorships, including Non-Executive Directorships held in private companies or public limited companies (with the exception of those of dormant companies).
 - b) Ownership or part-ownership of private companies, businesses or consultancies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
 - c) Majority or controlling share holdings in organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS.
 - d) A position of trust in a charity or voluntary organisation in the field of health and social care.
 - e) Any connection with a voluntary or other organisation contracting for NHS services.
 - f) Any other commercial interest in the decision before the meeting.
- 6.3 At the time Board members' interests are declared; they should be recorded in the Board minutes. Any changes in interests should be declared at the next Board meeting following the change occurring.
- 6.4 Board members' Directorships of companies likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS should be published in the Board's Annual Report. The information should be kept up to date for inclusion in succeeding annual reports.
- 6.5 During the course of a Board meeting, if a conflict of interest is established, the member concerned should withdraw from the meeting and play no part in the relevant discussion or decision.
- 6.6 There is no requirement in the Code of Accountability for the interests of Board members' spouses or partners to be declared. However Standing Order 7, which is based on the regulations, requires that the interest of members' spouses, if living together, in contracts should be declared. Therefore the interests of Board members' spouses and cohabiting partners should also be regarded as relevant.
- 6.7 If Board members have any doubt about the relevance of an interest, this should be discussed with the Chairman. Financial Reporting Standard No 8 (issued by the Accounting Standards Board) specifies that influence rather than the

immediacy of the relationship is more important in assessing the relevance of an interest. The interests of partners in professional partnerships including general practitioners should also be considered.

- 6.8 **Register of Interests** - The Chief Executive will ensure that a Register of Interests is established to record formally declarations of interests of Board members. In particular the Register will include details of all Directorships and other relevant and material interests which have been declared by both Executive and Non-Executive Board members, as defined in Standing Order 6.2.
- 6.9 These details will be kept up to date by means of an annual review of the Register in which any changes to interests declared during the preceding twelve months will be incorporated.
- 6.10 The Register will be available to the public and the Chief Executive will take reasonable steps to bring the existence of the Register to the attention of the local population and to publicise arrangements for viewing it.

7. EXCLUSION OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS IN PROCEEDINGS ON ACCOUNT OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

7.1 Definition of terms used in interpreting 'Pecuniary' interest

For the sake of clarity, the following definition of terms is to be used in interpreting this Standing Order:

- (i) "spouse" shall include any person who lives with another person in the same household (and any pecuniary interest of one spouse shall, if known to the other spouse, be deemed to be an interest of that other spouse);
- (ii) "contract" shall include any proposed contract or other course of dealing.
- (iii) "Pecuniary interest"

Subject to the exceptions set out in this Standing Order, a person shall be treated as having an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract if:-

- a) he/she, or a nominee of his/her, is a member of a company or other body (not being a public body), with which the contract is made, or to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the same, or
- b) he/she is a partner, associate or employee of any person with whom the contract is made or to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the same.

(iv) Exception to Pecuniary interests

A person shall not be regarded as having a pecuniary interest in any contract if:-

- a) neither he/she or any person connected with him/her has any beneficial interest in the securities of a company of which he/she or such person appears as a member, or
- b) any interest that he/she or any person connected with him/her may have in the contract is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him/her in relation to considering or voting on that contract, or
- c) those securities of any company in which he/she (or any person connected with him/her) has a beneficial interest do not exceed £5,000 in nominal value or one per cent of the total issued share capital of the company or of the relevant class of such capital, whichever is the less.

Provided however, that where paragraph (c) above applies the person shall nevertheless be obliged to disclose/declare their interest.

- 7.2 Subject to the following provisions of this Standing Order (which is taken from the Membership Procedure and Administration Regulations), if the Chairman or a member has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract, proposed contract or other matter and is present at a meeting of the Trust at which the contract or other matter is the subject of consideration, he shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose the fact and shall not take part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or vote on any question with respect to it.
- 7.3 The Secretary of State may, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, remove any disability imposed by this Standing Order in any case in which it appears to him in the interests of the National Health Service that the disability shall be removed
- 7.4 The Board may exclude the Chairman or a member of the Board from a meeting of the Board while any contract, proposed contract or other matter in which he has a pecuniary interest, is under consideration.
- 7.5 Any remuneration, compensation or allowances payable to the Chairman or a member by virtue of paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 (pay and allowances) shall not be treated as a pecuniary interest for the purpose of this Standing Order.
- 7.6 For the purpose of this Standing Order the Chairman or a member shall be treated as having indirectly a pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter, if:

- (a) he, or a nominee of his, is a Director of a company or other body, not being a public body, with which the contract was made or is proposed to be made or which has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration;
- or
- (b) he is a partner of, or is in the employment of a person with whom the contract was made or is proposed to be made or who has a direct pecuniary interest in the other matter under consideration;

and in the case of married persons living together the interest of one spouse shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purposes of this Standing Order to be also an interest of the other.

- 7.7 Where the Chairman or a member has an indirect pecuniary interest in a contract, proposed contract or other matter by reason only of a beneficial interest in securities of a company or other body, and the total nominal value of those securities does not exceed £5,000 or one-hundredth of the total nominal value of the issued share capital of the company body, whichever is the less, and if the share capital is of more than one class, the total nominal value of shares of any one class in which he has a beneficial interest does not exceed one-hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class, this Standing Order shall not prohibit him/her from taking part in the consideration or discussion of the contract or other matter or from voting on any question with respect to it, without prejudice however to his/her duty to disclose his/her interest.
- 7.8 The Standing Order applies to a committee or sub-committee and to a joint committee as it applies to the Trust and applies to a member of any such committee or sub-committee (whether or not he is also a member of the Trust) as it applies to a member of the Trust.

8. **STANDARDS OF BUSINESS CONDUCT MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE NHS POLICY**

- 8.1 All Trust staff and members should comply with the **Standards of Business Conduct Policy Managing Conflicts of Interest in the NHS Policy** contained in document Standing Orders Appendix A). This section of Standing Orders should be read in conjunction with these documents.
- 8.2 **Interest of Officers in Contracts** - If it comes to the knowledge of an Officer of the Trust that a contract in which he has any pecuniary interest not being a contract to which he is himself a party, has been, or is proposed to be, entered into by the Trust he shall, at once, give notice in writing to the Chief Executive of the fact that he is interested therein. In the case of persons living together as partners, the interest of one partner shall, if known to the other, be deemed to be also the interest of that partner.
- 8.3 An Officer should also declare to the Chief Executive any other employment or business or other relationship of his, or of a cohabiting spouse, that conflicts, or might reasonably be predicted could conflict with the interests of the Trust.

The Trust requires interests, employment or relationships declared, to be entered in a register of interests of staff.

- 8.4 **Canvassing of, and Recommendations by, Members in Relation to Appointments** - Canvassing of members of the Trust or of any Committee of the Trust directly or indirectly for any appointment under the Trust shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The contents of this paragraph of the Standing Order shall be included in application forms or otherwise brought to the attention of candidates.
- 8.5 A member of the Board shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Trust or recommend any person for such appointment: but this paragraph of this Standing Order shall not preclude a member from giving written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Trust.
- 8.6 Informal discussions outside appointments panels or committees, whether solicited or unsolicited, should be declared to the panel or committee.
- 8.7 **Relatives of Members or Officers** - Candidates for any staff appointment under the Trust shall, when making application, disclose in writing to the Trust whether they are related to any member or the holder of any office under the Trust. Failure to disclose such a relationship shall disqualify a candidate and, if appointed, render him liable to instant dismissal.
- 8.8 The Chairman and every member and Officer of the Trust shall disclose to the Chief Executive any relationship between himself and a candidate of whose candidature that member or Officer is aware. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to report to the Board any such disclosure made.
- 8.9 On appointment, members (and prior to acceptance of an appointment in the case of Officer members) should disclose to the Board whether they are related to any other member or holder of any office in the Trust.
- 8.10 Where the relationship to a member of the Trust is disclosed, the Standing Order headed 'Disability of Chairman and members in proceedings on account of pecuniary interest' (SO 7) shall apply.

9 CUSTODY OF SEAL AND SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 **Custody of Seal** - The Common Seal of the Trust shall be kept by the Committee Secretary to the Trust in a secure place.
- 9.2 **Sealing of Documents** - The Seal of the Trust shall not be fixed to any documents unless the sealing has been authorised by a resolution of the Board or of a committee, thereof or where the Board has delegated its powers.

- 9.3 Before any building, engineering, property or capital document is sealed it must be approved and signed by the Finance Director (or an Officer nominated by him/her) and authorised and countersigned by the Chief Executive (or an Officer nominated by him/her who shall not be within the originating Directorate).
- 9.4 **Register of Sealing** - An entry of every sealing shall be made and numbered consecutively in a book provided for that purpose, and shall be signed by the persons who shall have approved and authorised the document and those who attested the seal. A report of all sealings shall be made to the Board at least quarterly. (The report shall contain details of the seal number, the description of the document and date of sealing).

10 SIGNATURE OF DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 Where the signature of any document will be a necessary step in legal proceedings involving the Trust, it shall be signed by the Chief Executive, unless any enactment otherwise requires or authorises, or the Board shall have given the necessary authority to some other person for the purpose of such proceedings.
- 10.2 The Chief Executive or nominated Officers shall be authorised, by resolution of the Board, to sign on behalf of the Trust any agreement or other document not requested to be executed as a deed, the subject matter of which has been approved by the Board or any committee, sub-committee or standing committee with delegated authority.

11 MISCELLANEOUS

- 11.1 **Standing Orders to be given to Members and Officers** - It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that existing members and Officers and all new appointees are notified of and understand their responsibilities within Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions. Updated copies shall be issued to staff designated by the Chief Executive. New designated Officers shall be informed in writing and shall receive copies where appropriate in Standing Orders.
- 11.2 **Documents having the standing of Standing Orders** - Standing Financial Instructions and Reservation of Powers to the Board and Delegation of Powers shall have effect as if incorporated into Standing Orders.
- 11.3 **Review of Standing Orders** - Standing Orders shall be reviewed annually by the Board. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in Standing Orders.
- 11.4 **Statements to the media and other external organisations/bodies** - Any statements, comments, or expressions of opinion, made to the media or any other external person, body or organisation, on behalf of the Trust, either in writing, verbally, or electronically, shall be made only by the following persons:
- (a) The Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Trust, or other persons authorised by them.

- (b) The Chief Executive, or other Officer authorised by him.

The above shall be in accordance with the Trust's policy, regarding statements made externally, on Trust matters.

11.5 Joint Finance Arrangements

- 11.6 The Chief Executive or in his absence the deputising Executive Director, is empowered to take urgent action on behalf of the Trust in matters which would normally have been considered by the Trust itself, but where no meeting of the Trust is available for that purpose. On all such occasions he shall consult first with the Chairman of the Trust, or in his absence, the Vice Chair, before taking action and shall seek endorsement of his action at the first available Trust meeting after the action has been taken.