

## **CPRE Leicestershire**

### **Annual General Meeting 2024/25**

**4 December 2025**

#### **Proposed Constitution Amendment (No.1)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The 'Constitution of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Leicestershire' was agreed on 1 December 2020 and is embedded in Appendix 1.
2. An amendment is proposed to members for the purpose of the urgent continuance of the branch's work in the planning area and to help to ensure the growth strategy can be implemented.

### **CURRENT CONSTITUTION**

3. Clause 13.1 in the Constitution mandates trustees to stand down at each AGM and if their tenure has reached six years, they are currently ineligible for reappointment prior to the subsequent AGM the following year.
4. This requirement for time-limited appointments is reasonable and reflects governance best practice, but the current trustees do not consider the six-year limit to be fit-for-purpose for the current situation.

### **IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE**

5. The resourcing of the branch's work remains challenging, with trustees putting in significant time and effort, all on a pro bono basis to implement the new strategy, focused on the following:
  - a. Promoting the countryside with the community.
  - b. Protecting the countryside with policymakers.
  - c. Enhancing the countryside with like-minded organisations.

6. Our planning responses are limited to a focus on transport and energy matters. Other developments are reviewed on a 'best endeavours' basis.
7. The branch's lead (and only) trustee with the required breadth and depth of planning skills, knowledge and experience will have reached his maximum tenure of six years at the 2024/25 Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be held on 4 December 2025.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

8. It is proposed for the trustee tenure limit be extended from six years to nine years.
9. No other clauses except Clause 13.1 will be amended.
10. This amendment only relates to trustees and not to any Honorary Officers, which would be unchanged, as follows:
  - a. Clause 21.1.3 – Maximum tenure of six years for Honorary Officers.
  - b. Clause 21.2.1 – The Honorary Chair may serve a total of nine years, with a maximum of six years as Chair, following being a trustee for three years. The current Chair joined the branch in that role so his tenure will be a maximum of six years.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

11. Absent the trustee in question, there will be a substantial reduction in capacity and capability for the branch to function. Influencing transport and broader development issues would not be represented at the board.
12. In effect, without this change the board is at serious risk of being unable to function in the planning area for 12 months.
13. Members do not participate in day-to-day operational matters and while actions are in place seeking to increase organisational capacity, the trustees believe an outdated

provision should not have the unforeseen and unintended consequence of preventing the board of trustees to function fully and properly.

14. The trustee in question has decades of experience and is a well-respected expert in the planning functions across the city and county. The other trustees all support his continued engagement as a branch trustee.

## **NEXT STEPS**

15. The trustees have agreed to propose this amendment to the Constitution to members at the AGM, as required under Clause 28.1.1(a) and/or Clause 28.1.1(b) and to seek approval from National Office, as required under Clause 28.1.2.
16. The trustees are unanimous in their support for this amendment and it is recommended without any qualification or reservation.
17. The trustees are also keen to undertake a more thorough governance assessment to ensure the Constitution is fully fit-for-purpose to meet its ambitious targets over the next few years. It is hoped this assessment will be undertaken during 2026 and will include reviewing the amendment proposed in this paper.

## **CONCLUSION**

18. Based on the support of the trustees and subject to receiving approval from the CPRE National Office, this proposal will be submitted to members for formal approval at the 2024/25 branch AGM, to be held on 4 December 2025.

## **APPENDIX 1**

19. The current Constitution:



CPRE Leicestershire -  
Constitution (Decemb