Transition Bristol Volunteers  
Constitution, January 2017  transitionbristol.net  
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2339428671/

1. Background and context  
Bristol was the first city in the world to create a Transition Initiative. It has maintained a continuous and active transition presence since 2007 when Transition Bristol began. Transition Initiatives are part of a global Transition Movement. Bristol also has several neighbourhood Transition Initiatives.

From July 2007 until 2017 Transition Bristol existed as a Limited Liability Company registered with Companies House, looked after by Directors and a core team of volunteers. During this time Transition Bristol has assisted with creation of many new legal entities and constituted networks each dedicated to pursuit of aims of Transition within defined spheres. Examples include Bristol Pound, Shift Bristol, Bristol Energy Co-operative, Bristol Food Network, Bristol Energy Network, Sims Hill Shared Harvest, The Community Farm and Bristol Happy City Initiative. The existence of these theme-based legally constituted entities has removed the need for Transition Bristol to have its own registered company. The bureaucracy entailed in maintaining the company has become redundant. Therefore, in early 2017 Transition Bristol has become reconstituted as a simple Community Association.

This Constitution sets out Purpose and Ways of Working for the volunteer team looking after ‘Transition Bristol’, which is Bristol’s formal ‘Transition Initiative’.

2. Name  
From January 2017 the Bristol Transition Initiative is known as ‘Transition Bristol Volunteers’

3. Purpose and values  
The purpose and values of the Transition Movement are as set out at; https://transitionnetwork.org

The key purpose is to act as the Bristol presence for the Transition Movement, which is a global coming together of communities to reimagine and rebuild our world, working towards a healthier, happier, socially-just future within the ecological boundaries of planet earth.

Key principles and values include the engagement of head, heart and hands; fairness, inclusion, truth, care of the living earth, and non-violence.

4. Volunteer team  
A small team of volunteers maintains Bristol’s city-level Transition Initiative. This team works in a way that has gradually evolved within Transition Bristol since 2007.
5. Transition Bristol Eldership
There is a large pool of people in Bristol who have been or who still are deeply involved in the work of the transition movement. Their collective experience, knowledge, wisdom, and memory constitute a resource of 'Transition Eldership'. This resource supports the Transition Bristol Volunteer Team, and is available to help guide and inform others who are keen to help further the aims of transition.

6. Tasks of the Transition Bristol Volunteers
The tasks of the Transition Bristol Volunteer team are varied and changeable from time to time. They include the following:
   i. Maintaining a web presence and generic email contact address to enable people to find out about Transition in Bristol and about the Transition Movement
   ii. Responding kindly to requests for information or help from people within and outside the city – often it is the case that direct help cannot be offered and it is necessary to provide explanation of other ways of finding help
   iii. Convencing gatherings such as transition walks that enable people to mingle, chat, celebrate and inquire together in pursuit of the aims of transition
   iv. Convencing, often with other organisations, events that serve the aims of transition
   v. Attending to the life of the team so that essential tasks are fulfilled in a way that is fair and mutually supportive
   vi. Taking responsibility for proper and transparent use of any funds or other resources that are received by the group
   vii. Maintaining a mailing list and sending occasional news and updates to those on it
   viii. Fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with Transition Eldership in the city
   ix. Evolving the practice and form of Transition Bristol as time goes on

7. Ways of working for the Transition Bristol Volunteer Team
The Transition Bristol Volunteer team will consist at any one time of at least three people and no more than eight. The names of those currently in the team will at all times be posted on the Transition Bristol website.
Active members of the Transition Bristol Volunteer team must be familiar with and practice at least one and ideally several of the following approaches;
   • Non-violent Communication as taught by Marshall Rosenberg
   • Conscious Collaboration as taught by Nick Osborne
   • Inner Transition Training as taught by the Transition Movement
   • Holocracy
   • U Lab practice as taught by Otto Scharmer’s team at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Active members of the Transition Bristol Volunteer team will undertake to;
   • meet with existing members at least twice before a mutually agreed decision is made about whether to proceed with joining the team
   • be part of the team for at least a year
• give at least a month’s notice if they intend to leave the team
• refrain from doing anything that damages or is counter to the purpose and aims of transition, to the values of the movement, or that hampers the life of the group and its ability to fulfill its tasks
• participate in handover, celebration, and learning dialogue before they leave

Meetings will as much as possible take place through walking together, working together, skype and phone conferencing, sharing meals together, and by group email. U Lab, Conscious Collaboration, and NVC practice will be followed for all interactions and communications.

8. Changes to the constitution
Changes to the constitution, including decisions regarding dissolution of the volunteer team should this be appropriate, can be made by the volunteer team using a mutually agreed decision making process. Notification and consultation with the eldership and through the website and mailing list must be an essential part of any such process. Purpose and Values must at all times remain consistent with those of the Transition Movement.

9. Bank Account
All money transactions will be approved by at least two current members of the team. Information about money transactions will be made known to all members of the team.

Money held in the Transition Bristol Volunteer bank account can only be used for the purposes and tasks of Transition Bristol.

Should Transition Bristol be dissolved then any remaining money must be devoted to the aims of Transition Bristol or be passed on to another Transition Initiative.

Signed
(Angela Raffe) Date 23/1/17
Signed
(Jeremy LeFevre) Date 28/1/17
Signed
(Ciaran Mundy) Date 23/1/17

1 Key resources include Youtube NVC workshop recorded in 2014
ii Nick Osborne and Justine Corrie. Conscious Collaboration; Self organization beyond hierarchy http://www.consciouscollaboration.co.uk
iii Inner Transition training https://transitionnetwork.org
iv Holocracy a complete system for self organization http://www.holacracy.org
v MIT U Lab Leading from the emerging future https://www.edx.org/course/u-lab-leading-emerging-future-mitx-15-671-1x