

Campaigns and Political Activity Policy - Battle Memorial Hall

Approved by: Trustees Management Committee 2025

Review date: 2028

Purpose

This policy outlines the Hall's approach to political activity and campaigning in relation to room hire and notice boards. It ensures compliance with charity law, protects our neutrality, and upholds our constitutional commitment to non-discrimination.

The policy applies to individuals and organisations hiring rooms, including political parties, elected officials, campaign groups, and community organisers.

Charitable status and neutrality

In accordance with our constitution, the Hall does not discriminate against political parties or lawful political groups. Room hire is available to all on equal terms, provided the proposed activity complies with this policy and our standard hire conditions.

As a registered charity, the Hall is politically neutral and cannot directly or indirectly support or oppose any political party or candidate. In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, we do not engage in party-political campaigning and aim to avoid any perception of political endorsement.

We may, where consistent with our charitable purposes, engage in public policy discussions to further the Hall's charitable aims. Our contribution will remain balanced, evidence-based, and aligned with our charitable objectives.

Boundaries of political use

Political use of the Hall is permitted under the following conditions:

- The activity is lawful and does not promote hatred, discrimination, or violence.
- The event is open to the public or clearly identified as a private meeting.
- The hirer accepts full responsibility for compliance with electoral, campaigning, and data protection laws.
- The Hall is not presented as endorsing any party, candidate, or political position.

The following are not permitted:

- Use of the Hall for party-political fundraising in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

- Display of campaign materials outside the hired room or in shared/public areas.
- Activities that may compromise the Hall's charitable status or reputation.
- Events that exclude individuals based on political affiliation.

Staff and volunteers must refer any uncertain cases to the Chair of Trustees for approval.

Disclaimer requirement and booking declaration

To protect the Hall's neutrality, hirers conducting political activity must include the following disclaimer in any promotional materials or signage approved for use in the Hall at the time of hire:

'This event is not affiliated with or endorsed by Battle Memorial Hall. The Hall is hired on a neutral basis in accordance with its charitable and constitutional obligations.'

Political bookings must be declared at the time of application. The Trustees reserve the right to refuse or cancel bookings that breach this policy or pose a reputational risk. Decisions will be made in line with our duty of impartiality and charitable objectives.