Role Description for the RHS President

Overall Purpose:

To provide leadership and direction to the Society's Trustees, enabling them to fulfil their responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the RHS. As President, to develop the organisation's aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the Charter and Bye-Laws and other regulatory and legal guidelines.

To work with the Director General to ensure that Trustee decisions are acted upon and that the Society is managed in an effective manner.

Accountable to:

The President is accountable to Council and the members of the RHS and, as a trustee, more generally to the Charity Commission and the public at large.

Main Responsibilities:

To lead the development and review of the Society's strategy and policies

To ensure that the RHS functions within the legal and regulatory framework and in accordance with the Society's Charter and Bye-laws

To monitor the performance of the Director General

To ensure the smooth functioning of Council

To ensure that the Society applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects (it cannot spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile and charitable those activities are)

To uphold the fiduciary duty invested in the position, undertaking such duties in a way that adds to public confidence and trust in the charity.

Main Duties:

To develop the future direction of the RHS including participation in the preparation of strategic plans and policies as well as the annual work plan

To promote the RHS and decisions of Council and to act as an ambassador for the Society

To oversee sound financial management of the Society's resources, ensuring expenditure is in line with objectives and that investment activities meet accepted standards and policies

To monitor the work and activities of the Society including approval of the annual accounts and undertaking an annual review of the Society's performance

To support the Director General and, through them, the Society's staff in the achievement of their work

To consider any other matters that effect the work, performance and standing of the RHS

Means of carrying out the role:

To attend and Chair meetings of Council which are held at least six times per annum

To attend and Chair meetings of the Horticulture Board which are held at least four times per annum

To Chair the Society's Annual General Meeting

To meet regularly with the Director General, to give them support and guidance, and to monitor their performance

To lead the fund raising activities of the Society

To make recommendations to Council for the appointment of Vice Presidents

To serve, at the request of Council, on Committees of the Society

To represent the RHS from time to time at functions, external events and meetings both in the UK and abroad

To maintain absolute confidentiality of sensitive/confidential information received in the course of the trustee's responsibilities to the charity

To act in the best interest of the RHS at all times

Term of Office:

1 year renewable for up to 5 years.