

# Our Governance Structure

**Constitution** - The Royal African Society is a registered membership charity governed by a Royal Charter and Bye-laws, which were amended and approved by the Privy Council in November 2010.

**Royal Patronage** - Our Royal Patron is **H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge**, who succeeded The Queen in January 2017.

**Membership** - There are different types of membership: Individual, Student, Corporate, Lifetime and Honorary Life Members. Corporate members exercise their membership rights by means of nominated individuals.

**Council Members (Trustees)** - The Council is the ultimate authority controlling 'the affairs and property of the Society'. The Society's members elect the Chair of the Society, the Honorary Treasurer and the other 15 Council members – with the exception of up to 4 co-opted members and the Co-Editors of *African Affairs* (who are Council members ex officio). The Society's 3 Vice-Chairs are chosen by the Council itself. A term of Council membership runs for 3 years, so one third of elected members retire or stand for re-election every year at the Society's AGM. The Society's Council currently meets twice a year - in April (followed by the AGM) and October. Five members are a quorum.

**The Executive Committee** - Exco acts under powers delegated to it by Council and consists of the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Honorary Treasurer, and up to three other members appointed by the Council. It currently meets twice a year - in January and July - and all Council Members are invited to attend. Three Exco members are a quorum.

**Management & Staff** - The only two staff posts provided for in the Society's Bye-laws are the Director (Dr Nicholas Westcott) and Secretary (Sheila Ruiz, whose formal title is Deputy Director), both of whom are appointed by the Council. At present, other staff posts include: Fundraising Manager (Caitlin Pearson), Administrative Manager (Lizzie Orekoya), Membership Administrator (Mel Laccay), *African Arguments* Editor (James Wan), APPG for Africa Coordinator (Hetty Bailey) and Corporate & Public Events Manager (Hoda Dahir). Freelance posts include: *African Arguments* Deputy Editor (Ayodeji Rotinwa), *Africa Writes* Producer (Marcelle Akita), *Film Africa* Producer (Sarah Wechselberger), Marketing & Communications Manager (Nouria Bah) and Education Programme Manager (Olivia Danso).

