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**Spring Conference 2007**  
**March 22-25, Brangwyn Hall, Swansea**  
**First Agenda deadline: December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Final Agenda Deadline: February 8<sup>th</sup>**

## Introduction

Welcome to the Final Agenda for the Green Party's Autumn Conference 2006.

An electronic version is available on request from SOC, email address [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk). Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, telephone 020-7272-4474.

## A1: Standing Orders Committee report:

### SOC Members

The members of SOC are Keith Ames-Rook, Matt Follett, Mark Hill, Brig Oubridge, Francesca Richards and Matt Wootton. Following a dispute over the committee elections process at Spring Conference it was agreed to co-opt Quentin Tyler and Ruth Jolly as non-voting members. Chris Cotton and Graham Jones both recently resigned from the committee. SOC would like to thank them for their work.

If you would like to put yourself forward for SOC please feel free to chat to us at any time.

### Content of the Final Agenda

There are various reports, 1 voting paper (Natural Resources), 14 policy motions, and 10 organisational motions; No motions have been ruled out of order.

Motions C05, C10 and D08 have been proposed for fast-tracking by SOC.

A Draft Voting Paper on Public Administration and Government has been included for your information, along with amendments proposed by Policy Committee. Please contact Policy Committee if you have any questions or comments.

## Errors in the Agenda

If you notice any errors in the final agenda please notify SOC.

## Prioritisation Ballot

The agenda has been prioritised according to the results of the members' ballot. 28 Ballots were received, all of which were valid.

## Returning Officer

SOC have appointed Graeme Mclver as Returning Officer to replace David Carter, who has stood down from this role. We would like to thank David Carter for all his hard work.

## Executive Elections

There will be elections at Conference for Female Principal Speaker and the following GPEX co-ordinators: Chair, Campaigns, International, Policy Development, Elections, External Communications, Finance, Local Party Support, Management & Publications. Further nominations are invited for these posts so candidates for these positions are not named until the end of the extended nomination period. For details of the Male Principal Speaker Election, please see the section below.

The deadlines for receipt of new nominations are:  
Before Conference, by Midday on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September to Graeme Mclver, ERO. 5 Foxdale Close, Edgworth, Bolton BL7 OBJ. 01204 853955, [graeme\\_mciver AT btinternet.com](mailto:graeme_mciver@btinternet.com).

At Conference, 12 noon on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September to SOC at the SOC table.

Hustings will be on Saturday afternoon, 23<sup>rd</sup> September and voting will take place shortly afterwards.

If you have any queries, please contact Graeme Mclver, as above.

## Male Principal Speaker

On 16th August SOC received notice of the decision of the ERO that the nomination of Keith Taylor for Male Principal Speaker, signed by 9 full GP members, and one local party member be ruled invalid. The ERO informed the candidates of this decision reminding them that the decision could be subject to an SOC ruling. SOC ruled, by majority decision, that the nomination be ruled valid. This was voted for by 5 out of the total of 8 members of SOC. It is recorded by request that Brig Oubridge was not among those members involved in the decision.

This ruling was disputed by GPRC, stating that they were acting under their "overall responsibility for the democratic processes".

The SOC meeting on 26th August recognised that its initial ruling had become highly controversial. Brig Oubridge registered his specific disagreement with this ruling. SOC voted by 2 votes to 1 not to rescind the original decision with Brig Oubridge voting to rescind and 1 abstention (Matt Wootton).

SOC was unanimous that GPRC does not have the ability to overrule an SOC ruling in this case, but felt that the position probably needed clarifying by a future constitutional amendment. However SOC decided that the matter should ultimately be resolved by Conference, and to advise the ERO that consequently no ballot paper should be issued until after conference. Conference will be given the option of supporting or rejecting the decision of SOC with regard to Keith Taylor's nomination by consideration of an amendment to the SOC report.

The SOC report will be dealt with at 10.30 on Thursday Morning at Conference. Interested parties are advised that registration is likely to be busy prior to that and that registration is open on Wednesday evening.

### **ERO Statement**

In addition to the information above, Graeme Mclver, returning officer, has asked for the following account to be included in this report:

“Most of the GPEx nomination papers arrived at the last moment. There was one exception, which arrived about a week before the deadline. I took the nominator names off this nomination and sent them to GP office for checking against the national membership list, the practice adopted by the previous ERO - David Carter (DC). The general belief among those involved in national elections is that nominators have to be members of the national party and that is what I advised those candidates who asked me. I had advised those candidates who asked me to get more than the ten signatures in case nominators were invalid. Of the 13 nominations received, 9 had more than 10 nominators.

KT's nomination arrived as a computer file on the day nominations closed (Thursday 10th August) with the paper copy arriving on Monday 14th August - I had told him that this was acceptable based on advice from DC (previous ERO).

Early that week I sent all the nominator names to GP office for checking. GP office informed me that one of the names who had signed two nomination papers was not a national member. I phoned that person who thought he was.

One of the candidates using this nominator had eleven signatures in total and so still had made a valid nomination. KT's nomination only had ten signatures in total.

I ruled KT's nomination invalid since it didn't have the signatures of 10 GP members. I informed KT of my ruling and informed him that he had a right of appeal to SOC. I also informed the convenor of SOC of my decision and of my conversation with KT. I then informed Derek Wall and Ashley Gunstock that their nominations were accepted, that I had rejected KT's and that he had a right of appeal to SOC. All this by phone.

I had no further contact with SOC until the convenor informed me of their decision.”

### **Committee Elections**

Elections will also be held at Conference for these Committees: Campaigns, Policy, Standing Orders, Disputes Resolution, Conferences, Green World Editorial Board & International Committee. For information on these elections please contact the SOC Table at conference, or by contacting Graeme Mclver.

### **Emergency Motions**

Following confusion at the last few conferences, SOC would like to remind members of the following:

Emergency Motions will only be accepted if they are only about an issue that has arisen or significantly changed since the first agenda deadline, 22<sup>nd</sup> June. They must also specify an action to be taken by the party or one of its constituent parts. They cannot change the constitution, the MfSS, or the party's agreed strategy.

In order to clarify the procedure for prioritisation of emergency motions. You should get emergency motions

signed by 4 national party members, and then present the motion to SOC for checking. Then no less than one hour before the emergency motion session, SOC will display all valid motions on the relevant notice board in the main hall. The Motion that receives the most additional signatures will be prioritised the highest.

### **Disciplinary tribunals**

SOC have recently received a valid case to request selection of a Disciplinary Tribunal against a member. At the time of writing, this is in the process of being selected.

### **Tribunal Statute of Limitations**

SOC were asked to rule on whether it is possible for a Disciplinary Tribunal Case to be rejected if a long time is taken for the tribunal to be requested.

SOC confirmed that there was no Statute of Limitation, but this could be considered next time the Tribunal Standing Orders are revised.

### **A2: Report from Party Treasurer / Finance Co-ordinator**

The accounts for the year ending 31 December 2005 have been audited and filed with The Electoral Commission. Copies will be available at Conference.

The balance sheet as at 31 December 2005 shows a significant turnaround with assets exceeding liabilities by £23,128. This is represented by a Greenquest surplus of £29,548 and a General Fund deficit of £6,420. This is the case for two reasons. Firstly, I am please to inform members that for the year ended 31 December 2005 we had a net surplus of £380, against a zero budget set by the Executive.

The other reason is due to successful representations made by the Finance Co-ordinator to The Electoral Commission regarding the way unexpired portions of membership income are treated in the accounts. I am happy to report that The Electoral Commission has now given us dispensation to return to accounting for membership subscriptions fully in the year received instead of having to defer unexpired portions. This has also resulted in the 2004 accounts being restated.

Despite a difficult cashflow in what was a General Election year, the Executive, paid members of staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard to control expenditure and remain within budget. We have also had tremendous support from our members in the form of donations to fund the General Election campaign.

During 2005 we were made aware that the Party would be a beneficiary of the late David Gillet's estate. In July 2006 the Party received the sum of £132,000 and small final figure will be added once the estate has been wound up. This legacy does not obviate the need for the Party to be realistic in budget setting and control in the coming years.

I proposed, and the Executive agreed, that a reserve fund of at least £30,000 should be established and that this money be held on deposit. With a General Fund deficit of £6,420 brought forward and a zero budget set for 2006, I envisage that the Party will have a substantial General Fund surplus at the end of 2006. There is still reason the Party to be diligent in its budget setting and financial controls. Although there have been improvements to the collective discipline of the Executive, there is still much

to do to improve the core functioning of the Party, which must be addressed financially if we are to generate the capacity for future growth and achieve it.

I would like to thank all Party members for their generous support and assistance in 2005.

**Khalid Hussenbux**

### **A3 Party Executive Reports:**

#### **Chair**

The Executive extends thanks and congratulations to the membership and local parties across the country for another year in which we increased our tally of elected members. While we work to support local efforts and promote the party at national and international level, for instance through our Principal Speakers, it is the personal contact resulting from your canvassing, leafleting, organising events and leading local campaigns that ultimately give us success at the ballot box and enables us to deliver on our manifesto.

Campaigns have been very successful this year with a good turnout at the Climate Change march and the excellent "Green Energy Works" campaign. The work against urban 4x4 vehicles struck a particular chord with the public. The International coordinators have worked hard on a wide range of issues, working with fellow Greens across the globe.

We benefit from now having a full time press officer and re-vamped press office which has aided in raising our profile across an increasingly diverse and fragmented news media. Some high profile party members have received

media training which has also helped in this area.

Administration of our website has proved an increasing problem over the last few months and currently we are preparing the ground for an overhaul in the coming year.

Party office as a whole is operating well and we extend considerable thanks to the sterling work of our paid and voluntary staff. Changes over the year are currently leading to increased workloads and we shall seek to recruit additional staff to relieve current strains. Disability access has proved an ongoing bugbear, improvement to the building has been slow and of questionable quality; this shall be pursued further in the next few months.

The party's financial health is looking good and we continue to keep a tight reign on spending. We are in the process of setting up Direct Debit to allow donations and membership subscriptions to be paid this way.

As Chair I have sought, with I hope some success, to improve relations and decision making within GPEX and toward other party organs. The Young Greens have a standing invitation to attend all GPEX meetings, notwithstanding that all our meetings are open to any member. I have represented the party at a number of external events and most recently met with civil servants undertaking the Party Funding Review, presenting our case for public funding of political parties.

I look forward to further electoral gains and improvements in the fortune of our party in the coming year. Many thanks to my colleagues

on GPEX for their excellent work, their own reports are available below.

### **Cllr Richard Mallender**

**Policy** (See Policy Committee report)

**International** (See International Committee Report)

### **Local Party Support Co-ordinator**

In many respects, this has been a successful year for Local Party Support.

The internal communications aspect of the job has been strengthened, with responsibility not only for Green Activist, but also for the new monthly national email, which goes out to over 4000 members. This new medium of communication with Party members has been extremely successful, and has led to useful and informative feedback for GPEX and the wider Party, as well as enabling greater member participation. The members' website has also proved useful, although the resources on it continue to be sparse, and much greater use could be made of it with an investment of time on all our parts.

The LPS co-ordinator has responsibility for the Young Greens, who, I am delighted to report, continue to go from strength to strength. The excellent work of Francesca Richards, the Young Greens' administrator, has been a significant factor in this success. I can claim little credit, despite being an YG myself, as the Young Greens Committee has worked autonomously and within its own budget. They continue to be one of the most vibrant sections of the Green Party.

Support for local and regional parties themselves has continued to be reactive, given the scale of the task and the breadth of queries received. The future for local party support clearly lies in co-ordination of a regional network of local party support officers, which unfortunately there has not been the time to adequately address in 2005/2006. While many regions do excellent work in this area, others do not view it as a priority.

Despite the year's positive aspects, however, there have also been serious problems. Most worrying amongst these has been the lack of increase in national membership. At the time of writing, exact figures have not been received - but in contrast to a (now seemingly hyper-optimistic) GPEX target of 10% membership growth per annum, it seems almost certain that in 2005/2006 we have made minimal to zero gains overall. This is extremely dangerous news, both for the growth of local parties, our ability to reach out to the public, and our medium-term financial health. It is absolutely vital that next year's GPEX addresses this problem as a matter of urgency. While in 2005/2006 we have instituted both membership retention and proactive membership recruitment strategies, these must be scaled up drastically in the next year, if at all possible.

A more systematic difficulty in this post is the unrealistic assumptions that it generates. A single, volunteer LPS national co-ordinator can hardly respond in a reactive fashion to all the requests he/she receives, let alone undertake proactive local party support work and internal communications responsibilities as well.

As a Principal Authority councillor, my workload has proven too great, and as a result I will not be standing for re-election this year. However, even someone with plenty of free time and no other Party responsibilities would find it extremely difficult to adequately carry out the LPS role as it is currently constituted. Conference may wish to consider this when examining motion D47.

### **Cllr Matt Sellwood**

#### **Publications Co-ordinator**

I stood for election as Publications Co-ordinator promising to do something about the tensions that had arisen between GPEX and the Green World Editorial Board. I tried to do a great deal of listening on both sides at the beginning (not sure if being harangued down the phone by Hugo Charlton, ex-chair, for over an hour because I dared to share my initial thoughts with GPEX quite fell into this category!!) and felt that a lack of communication lay at the heart of the problem.

Now I believe things have moved onto a rather more satisfactory footing with GWEB having a better understanding of the financial constraints involved and of the necessary lines of communication to get authorisation for spending money. Equally I think GPEX has more respect for the people on the GWEB and understands that they are people of good will and ability, who are not intent upon bankrupting the Green Party.

I also produced a timeline for internal Green Party events, posted on the members section of the web site, which I hope has proved useful for planning.

In the early summer I initiated a review of the website in terms of how user-friendly it is. This brought in an offer to organise a pop-up survey of users on the front page of the website - not yet in place at time of writing, and it is clear that there are people in the party who have the expertise and the ideas to bring about many improvements in our web presence. However, my own lack of technical skills has left me floundering at times and I am less than happy with the job I have done in this area of my responsibility.

**Susan Murray**

### **External Communications Co-ordinator**

The party is at a cross roads. As green issues move up the political agenda we have a new opportunity to grow the party and capture hearts and minds - if we seize the new tools that we now have in place and get on with active membership recruitment.

However we are equally in serious danger of being eclipsed by the mainstream parties and confined to a very small part of the political fringe. This we feel would be inevitable if we were to carry on in the complacent, internally focused manner that has characterised some of the recent past.

We are driving forward a culture of focusing outwards, towards our electorate and getting our message out. It's an urgent message - it deserves to be heard.

It was perhaps the party's prior cultural expectation that success would somehow arrive as the issues ratcheted up the agenda that has meant we have done so little to ready ourselves for political opportunity. Or perhaps it was a fear of ambition.

But the result is that we are not currently benefiting sufficiently from the prominence of global warming on the political agenda. It seems to be doing both David Cameron and the Lib Dems a lot of good. Why not us? It's there for us to seize. However, institutionally, we've simply not been up to the job. We've not had the research capacity, nor sufficient elected reps, nor the policy development to always respond to the political agenda effectively.

This year we have therefore concentrated on certain strategic changes to start to meet these challenges. We cannot stress enough the importance of these, if we are to have a future as a serious political force. Together they mean self awareness, outward promotion, new members, new money and more resources.

#### *1 Promoting geodemographic info and the MOSAIC project*

Also an elections project, we worked very hard to secure regional donations and then promote the use of MOSAIC to identify strategic possibilities. There are some very interesting conclusions being reached - including a high level of untapped potential at Council and Parliamentary level, and the means to reach it, by identifying areas we might find activists. There is also interesting information about the personality of voters. All of this information forms part of the bedrock of the comms strategy.

#### *2 Creating and consulting on a new Communications Strategy*

This document forms the basis for the tone, personality and direction of our communications. We have provided extensive opportunities for consultation. MOSAIC and other survey

information have contributed to a document that provides a clear framework for our future work.

We also provided a Political Forecast for the year, and would like to thank all the contributors. We found this a very useful exercise.

#### *3 Embedding and using our Advertising agency*

Ext Comms liaises with the ad agency, directing their work with other parts of the party, including campaigns committee and publications. This is a developing relationship but has produced some very powerful campaigns material this year. The current top level work on party slogan is launched this conference after extended consultation and pre meetings along the lines outlined in the comms strategy.

#### *4 Employing a full time permanent Press Officer*

A permanent Press Officer has proved vital for our external operation, both in freeing the Ext Comms Coordinator to focus on strategic aims, and providing the necessary continuity to build a serious media profile.

#### *5 Running a recruitment / fund raising leaflet trial*

This has been another key aim this year. Using MOSAIC targeting, produced through our ad agency leaflet and featuring payment by direct debit, it will allow us to benchmark the return on investment of contacting voters directly.

#### *6 Giving media training to frontline media personnel*

We have organised media training events for key people who are likely to do media work. We regard this as a strategic need.

## *7 Reorganising the press office*

Recent system additions include a much needed new set of computers, replacing the very old and tired machines that proved a major frustration in the election period. Many thanks to Ian Ryder for his generous donation. We have also bought a TV and video, a vital part of any media monitoring operation.

## *8 Tightening our Speaker system*

New Speakers are appointed through an openly advertised selection and interview process. Inactive Speakers will be replaced if they continue to be inactive.

## *General press work*

External Comms also acts as day to day line manager for the press office. The press office however generally functions by itself, looking to Ext Comms, the Speakers and Political Committee for guidance where appropriate. I would like to extend my and the party's gratitude to our Press Officer, Charlie Woodworth, who has worked both very hard and effectively, with tact and political sense, and shown herself to be one of the party's genuine assets.

Some specific highlights include:

\*The press office coped well with the extra demands made of it during the local election period, assisting in promoting Principal Speaker Keith Taylor's tour in the run up to the day, and ensuring major regional and national coverage during the election period. National coverage included appearances on Newsnight, the Daily Politics Show, the Politics Show, The Today program, various Sky News and Adam Bolton

show slots, BBC News bulletins, Radio 5 live, Radio 2 Drive Time, BBC Breakfast etc. There was also a smashing, half page photo of Dr Shahrar Ali's shirt with a big Green rosette on it in the Grauniad in the days before the actual election!

We also took on the additional work generated in the absence of paid press assistance from the London Assembly, chiefly organising the London launch and helping the Party increase its London Cllrs numbers from 1 to 12, and nationally from 66 to 92. Thanks also to Peter Cranie of Elections for all his assistance during this period.

\* Since the elections, media coverage has included appearances by Green reps on Newsnight, BBC News bulletins, the Daily Politics Show, Sky News, Women's hour et cetera. Much of the broadcast coverage has been in the context of the government's various energy announcements, and the Tory Party's 'greening.'

\* The Press Office is also playing a vital role in assisting with the strategic development of our overall communications strategy, especially pertaining to the forthcoming set of elections. The need for greater harmony and forward planning between various wheels of the party, particularly elections, communications and policy is at the heart of this. Lessons have been learnt!

\*The Press Office is currently co-ordinating research on the environmental record of the other parties, as a corollary to the above and to add to the dossier put together during the election period in response to the rising of the green agenda.

\*Ongoing projects over the forthcoming months also include a revising and strengthening of the links

between regional party press officers and the national party, to ensure a more effective communications route, and the production of policy 'crib sheets' on some of our key issues and the most salient political issues of the day e.g energy and aviation.

\*Thanks to our sterling team of volunteers including Henry Winter, Peter Bloor and Francesca Richards, who provided tireless help and cheer in a very hectic and stressful period in the run up to May, and various policy advisors and speakers for their willingness to routinely drop everything and come to the aid of press office at a moments notice!

## *Future aims*

1 We need better stuff to promote

2 We need better policy development and research programmes

2 We need more media training particularly at broadcast level

3 We need forecasting tools such as PA Wire

4 We need more money

5 Ext Comms plays a vital role in furthering the aims and raising the profile of the Green Party, and this is particularly true of the next couple of years as we prepare for a crucial set of elections. As such, we should consider making it a paid position to ensure the post holder has sufficient time to manage the various income generating programmes such as recruitment that form a key part of this preparation.

**Jim Killock**

## **Elections Co-ordinator**

2005/06 has been a positive year of Elections for the Green Party. We now have 92 councillors after gaining 20 (11 gains in London) in the 2006 local elections, one additional councillor through a defection in Liverpool, and a further by-election gain after an outstanding result by Jonathan Dixon in Scarborough.

This year we have introduced the MOSAIC geodemographic software as a way of mapping out and analysing wards and constituencies to assess areas with the best potential for Green voters. GPEX collectively deserves credit for having the vision and determination to bring this additional electoral tool into use. I would like to thank Pete Comley on behalf of the party for his donated research and all of his hard work on the MOSAIC project.

The feedback from the use of MOSAIC information has been overwhelmingly positive. MOSAIC has been used by local and regional parties from Cumbria to Kent to collect signatures, identify good door knocking and leafleting areas, and in new areas to identify potential target wards.

We retained the services of Alex Cox, Jah Jussa and Kim Ryan who once again produced our election broadcast, possibly on the smallest broadcast budget ever, but with overwhelming positive feedback both within and outside of the party. I'm sure collectively we as a party would like to thank them for this and I'd personally extend my own thanks to them.

Our stated target this year was 100 councillors, and although we improved our results, we narrowly missed out on doing so much better. In another 7 potential seats we were 100

votes or less away from getting more councillors elected. With a little more targeting, we could have possibly picked up a few more of these. It is absolutely vital that local parties follow the tried and tested path of the agreed national strategy of Target to Win.

Any credit for my work during the year must again be passed onto the invaluable and irreplaceable Chris Rose, our National Election Agent. Chris has recently celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the job. I would ask all conference attendees to take time to thank him for his efforts through the highs and lows so far. We have recently recruited an election assistant for Chris who will hopefully share some of the workload.

For any further information, please email [elections@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:elections@greenparty.org.uk)

## **Peter Cranie**

### **Campaigns**

(see Campaigns Committee)

### **Management Co-ordinator**

The year was for me dominated by my resignation from GPEX, on April 23rd. The reasons are set out in the following text, which I emailed the following day to former GPEX colleagues.

*Yesterday (April 23rd) I informed the Chair of GPEX of my immediate resignation from GPEX.*

*On Saturday, the GPEX meeting was informed that the BBC thought that the Green Party Party Election Broadcast, due to be broadcast today (April 24th), was possibly libellous. After a lengthy, tense but not especially acrimonious discussion a decision was reached that the offending*

*passage would be excised, and that this was, though difficult, quite feasible to achieve over the remainder of Saturday and Sunday.*

*Then, later on Saturday, a small subgroup of GPEX members decided to not adhere to that decision.*

*If the broadcast is indeed libellous, our best information was that all voting members of GPEX are individually liable to unlimited damages. Attempts by a colleague to arrange an insurance policy to protect members against such risk, though underway, and apparently possible, had not net succeeded.*

*I cannot work as part of a team with people who adopt such a grossly arrogant and unprincipled attitude towards duly passed decisions of a quorate GPEX meeting and have such total disregard for their colleagues.*

*Since I cannot realistically work in the team, I must resign, so it would be very stupid of me not to resign before the broadcast of the Party Election Broadcast in question.*

*I deeply regret having to cease abruptly service on the national party's executive body, especially during an election campaign.*

I might add that the passage in question was very short and not in the slightest bit central to the messages of the broadcast, also that in fairness it was later deemed non-libellous by apparently reliable lawyers. However I deem both of these points irrelevant to the principle involved.

A few weeks later, I was persuaded to allow GPEX to co-opt me into the position of Acting Management Coordinator, which I agreed to do to provide continuity in the specific job functions of that

role, while making clear that I would not participate in any of the joint procedures, by meeting, email or however of GPEX. This position has been very unsatisfactory, and I am glad to say that two people have contacted me with a view to possibly taking over the role of Management Coordinator. I shall provide, on an ongoing basis, every assistance possible to them, or to whoever takes over the role.

Following the departure of Shyam Kataria, who had been doing splendid work for us for the best part of a year as a volunteer, the staffing position in the office is not satisfactory. At the time of writing (early August), I have advertised for volunteers and received a few responses which we are pursuing. It may be necessary to spend the modest sum in the budget for temporary staff to relieve the pressure on our paid full-time staff. However, earlier, an ad at the beginning of the 2005/6 academic year produced far more would-be volunteers than we could handle and it may well be that in September/October of this year there could be a similar glut.

It also seems that the replacement of Adrian Oliver as Office and Finance Manager by a Finance Officer has led to some confusion about roles in the office and some changes may well be needed.

Over the period from August 2005 to the end of the year I facilitated or led four recruitment exercises. These were for:

- a full-time Admin Officer, where we re-recruited Adam Stacey to more or less the same job that he had been doing before he had left our employment in March 2005,
- a full-time Finance Officer, where we recruited Meeta Depala, this being the main

replacement for Adrian Oliver, to whom we are very grateful for his four years of sterling work as, initially Finance Officer and latterly as Office and Finance Manager,

- a one-day-per-week Admin Officer for the Young Greens, where we recruited Francesca Richards, and
- a one-day-per-week self-employed Administrator for the Association of Green Councillors, where we recruited Jon Hooper.

All are, as far as I can tell, performing excellently. The first three are working in Party Office, while Jon is working from his home in Devon. Francesca's and Jon's pay is being funded by the Young Greens and the AGC respectively.

In March I arranged a new public liability insurance policy for the Party, after some difficulty in finding anyone prepared to do it - our two previous insurers had declined to continue cover for different reasons and in different ways. The new policy, which cost £1675 for one year, provides £5million's worth of public liability cover to local and regional parties undertaking such activities as stalls or anything else, apart from demos, that does not involve "manual work". Documentation about the policy, which is required by some event organisers, can be provided by Party Office.

Efforts to improve the party's online membership recruitment/donation web pages, to improve the IT at the office, and to persuade our landlords, The Ethical Property Company, to spend some money on making the premises more disabled-friendly, are proceeding, but very much more slowly than I had hoped and planned.

Party membership appears to have declined steeply since spring 2006. At the time of writing urgent investigations are underway into whether the decline is real, or partly or wholly accounted for by computer problems at Party Office. I am not optimistic, but if the decline turns out to be real, should be in a position to provide various analyses of the people who have left, by local party etc, if desired by GPRC, regional parties or anyone else. Part of the answer is probably that there were a fair number of people who joined at the time of the Euros in 2004 and another, larger, group who joined at the time of the general election in 2005 who let their membership lapse after one year.

### **Tony Cooper**

#### **Male Principal Speaker**

I have found the last twelve months as PS immensely rewarding and exciting, particularly because of our Party's renewed energy and determination to succeed at the ballot box. We've had our best ever results in this year's local elections and I'm proud to have been part of delivering that success.

My busiest time as PS was the six weeks I took out for the national "Dirty, Dangerous and Expensive" speaking tour, which dealt with the threats posed by a new nuclear power programme and championed renewable energy. I visited around 30 towns, including most of the areas which saw new councillors elected.

I felt it was important for the PS to work alongside local parties as much as possible – to reach out to the regions and demonstrate a common purpose.

Throughout the year I've worked on a daily basis alongside a small but dedicated Press Team, who have made fantastic efforts in delivering the Green message.

Also as PS I've been able to take a lead on submitting the Party's evidence to the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry into new nuclear power stations as well as giving evidence to the Power Inquiry's research into the state of British democracy. Finally, on a regional level, I've led on formulating a way toward a new and radical economic strategy for South East England (on behalf of Caroline Lucas).

I've appeared on many BBC/ITV news and current affairs broadcasts on television and radio, and have had dozens of letters and mentions in the national and local press. I've spoken at public meetings organised by the GP and other groups such as Friends of the Earth, Local Works Campaign, and conservation/ business/ community organisations.

My priority has been to effectively communicate our vision of economic, social and environmental justice in ways that are accessible and easily understood by the broadest audiences.

My thanks are due, in particular to Charlie Woodworth from the Press Team, and also to the dozens of members who've helped me on the tour and with the other, sometimes bizarre jobs that the PS is often called on to perform. My favourite was presenting Kent County Council with an ASBO!

**Keith Taylor**

#### **A4. Regional Council Co-Chairs Report**

This report includes what seemed the main issues and actions dealt with by GPRC since the last Autumn Conference up until the date of the Report.

1. A considerable amount of work arose out of the selection of candidates for the House of Lords. This resulted in a considerable amount of time being put in by GPRC, GPEX, and SOC and individual officers. GPRC held several on-call councillor meetings to make emergency decisions in relation to one particular candidate whose actions were not within the agreed procedure and which caused great controversy. Information that arose out of this led to GPRC agreeing to the revision of the agreed procedures to take account of the expectation of the Government that a Green candidate would represent all the Green parties of the United Kingdom. All three parties GPEW, Northern Ireland, and Scottish) were involved in the scrutiny group, and the Scottish Green Party provided a candidate to go on the ballot as a candidate. The electorate was the members of all three parties. A motion was put to Spring Conference to revise the selection procedures for the House of Lords to include all three parties and this was accepted by conference.

2. GPRC has to take the procedures agreed at Spring Conference for selection of candidates to the House of Lords to the other two parties to get agreement. The first step has been taken by asking the Green Islands Network to consider this.

3. GPRC has been concerned at the length of time taken over some Disciplinary Tribunals. In one case, the

local party decided to drop its Tribunal because it felt the time taken made it unfair to the defendant. In another case, GPRC recommended to GPEX that if a case was not put to SOC by a certain date, then the case should be dropped. SOC has been sent a recommendation for a time limit to be put on the length of time that a Disciplinary Tribunal can take.

4. New life has been breathed into the GPRC Strategy Group which seemed to have been moribund for the previous year. New members have been elected onto the Group, one of whom has agreed to be Secretary, and its work has been restarted.

5. GPRC had been concerned for some about the abuse of the facility to put Emergency motions to Conference. A letter was sent to SOC asking that the guidelines on Emergency motions should be adhered to, and a motion was taken to Spring Conference, and passed, putting limits on the financial and strategic implications of Emergency motions.

6. A GPRC paper on the Responsibilities of Elected Members was accepted for inclusion in the MfSS was accepted by Conference.

7. Work has been started on drawing up a procedure for the censure and recall of GPEX members by GPRC.

8. A policy statement on West Papua was approved – see Conference notice board.

9. It has been agreed to review and revise the GPRC Handbook to bring it up to date.

10. Work has continued on improving the archiving facilities for the Green Party.

11. GPRC expressed concern to GPEX about the lack of adequate disabled access to Party office. The following motion was agreed:

On a number of occasions in the last year, GPRC has called upon GPEX to address the issue of the lack of disability access at party office. (Both this GPEX and its predecessor.) Negotiations have been carried out with the landlord to carry out work to bring the building within D.D.A. law. Recent works requested by the Green Party to lower the door entry system have resulted in a new system costing £1,100 set at a higher and more inaccessible level.

For moral, ethical, and legal reasons the Green Party must not risk our public reputation by any further delay in getting a program of works started to resolve this issue. All actions to pressure the landlord to make the building legal for our use must be taken including, at the last, of seeking acceptable alternative accommodation, in order to be both an equal opportunity employer and political body.

12. GPRC considered a paper on 'Children and Politics' and recommended to GPEX that a budget be set aside for the production of Schools packs.

13. GPRC agreed to suspend members involved in the standing of one of them as an Independent candidate against a Green Party candidate.

14. Another member was suspended at the request of a local party. This is likely to go to a Tribunal.

15. GPRC aged to a statement supporting a Local Government workers strike.

16. GPRC agreed to publicise the fact that any member of the party can stand for

election to represent the Green Party of England and Wales in the Green Islands Network, and that members can also stand to represent the English parties - contact GPRC members or Secretary for further information.

17. Some concern was expressed as to how delegates to the European Green Party had been selected, and the lack of Regional balance. GPRC asked GPEX to include GPRC International Co-ordinator Friend as one of the delegates.

18. There was discussion of the need for a policy response to proposals for a Severn Estuary barrage. GPRC agreed that it would be desirable to leave the initial work on this to the relevant local and Regional parties, in particular the Wales and South- West Regional parties.

19 GPRC drew up guidelines for dealing with the approval of candidates where there is no local party. Letters will be sent to the national election agent and regional election officers.

20 Concern has been expressed by GPRC members about the problems that arise in the use of email correspondence, and in particular with email lists. Advice is being sought from the IT Committee.

**David Wall, Irene Willis**

## **A5 Policy Committee Report**

### *Conference Agenda*

There is one voting paper this conference on Natural Resources. It is brought under the procedure in the Standing Orders that requires Policy Committee to choose a section of the MfSS for review if there are no other voting papers. We have chosen

Natural Resources in part because it provides the opportunity to submit a substantial amendment on short term strategy for municipal waste, a pressing problem for many Green Councillors.

At last conference we tabled a draft voting paper on Public Administration and Government, and a revised version is tabled for this Conference. This will not be debated in plenary session, but we urge delegates to attend the workshops on this paper; it is an area where there are many opportunities to develop distinctive and radical policies. We hope to bring a Voting Paper to next conference.

Otherwise, there is quite a long list of policy motions this Conference. Two are enabling motions proposed by Policy Committee. One calls for a re-draft of the MfSS section on education, and the work towards doing so begins in earnest at this conference with a major consultation on the subject. The other enabling motion concerns the economy section of the MfSS. This is a crucial area for the electorate, and while we believe that most in the party are reasonably content with our existing economic policies, there are areas where we have little to say, or like small firms, where we could say more.

### *Other Policy Work*

There will be Policy Fair at this conference on Friday, which is a useful and enjoyable opportunity to meet, hear from and quiz the experts in the main policy areas.

We hope to take forward work on Culture, Media and Sport at a workshop at this conference.

A new policy pointer on Small Firms is now available, and I hope briefing notes on Carbon

Quotas and Peak Oil will be available by Conference.

Finally, we are only too aware that the MfSS has not to date been updated on the website following last conference. The text is checked and ready, but we have been unable to get it uploaded onto the site.

### *Policy Committee*

Can I take this opportunity to thank for all their hard work the members of the outgoing Policy Committee and my GPRC Friends. There will be elections to Policy Committee at conference, and some members of the existing committee will not be standing again. So once again we have the opportunity to elect a committee that is not entirely male. If you might be interested and want to know more do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

### **Brian Heatley**

### **A6 Campaigns Committee**

The campaigns year started as it went on, with a lot of pestering local parties (sorry for all the emails!) to send strong delegations to the big Climate March on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2005.

Both local and regional parties responded brilliantly to this, with large groups coming to London from as far away as Devon and North Yorkshire, resulting in the best visibility of the Green Party at any demonstration most people can remember. Many thanks to all who made the effort to come and all those who brought banners and costumes. This year, please make an even greater effort to support the next Climate March on 4<sup>th</sup> November. More of the very popular GP flags will be produced for this one, and orders for these are being taken at Conference.

Campaigns Committee met in November and December to decide on the two main issues we would concentrate on during the year (a limited budget means effective work can't be done centrally on all the issues we would like). Energy was an obvious first choice and, after consulting local parties and other officers, local shops proved the most popular out of a wide range of other suggestions we received.

The Green Energy Works campaign was launched in December 2005 and has continued throughout 2006, taking in a range of national and local activities. These have included local public meetings in the run up to the Climate March and for Keith Taylor's 'Dirty, Dangerous and Expensive' tour; an extensive website; a survey via the website and local parties (only around 500 responses were received to the survey, but we still released the results with some press interest); the launch of our own 'Alternative Energy Report' for which thanks go to David Toke for doing all the hard work and producing a really credible analysis of the options for future energy policy; thousands of leaflets being given out by our team at the Big Green Gathering; and a presence as 'Romans with their nuclear waste' at the London Chernobyl 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary demo (thank you fellow Roman Irene Willis for this idea!).

Thanks must also go to Darren Shirley, Chris Keene and Jonathan Essex from the Campaigns Committee for their ideas, research and writing, which helped to build the Green Energy Works website [www.greenenergyworks.org.uk](http://www.greenenergyworks.org.uk) into a really useful resource on green energy and the folly of nuclear power.

After all the public events and national materials involved in the energy campaign, we decided on a different approach for our second focus - local shops - particularly as local businesses face a diverse range of problems so a 'one size fits all' campaign was less appropriate.

An appeal for examples of Greens already working in this area produced some great results, and research by the Campaigns team turned up lots of additional ideas from other campaigns. Combined with background facts, sample leaflets and surveys, links to web resources, and organisations to contact for help with local work, these became the 'Local Shops Resource Pack' which was recently sent to all local party contacts. We hope this will lead to some innovative local campaigns in support of small businesses and the local economy in the coming months.

This year we have also supported and signed up to various campaigns being run by other organisations, including (not exhaustively) No2ID, Keep Our NHS Public, the Million Against Nuclear petition, the Welsh anti-nuclear power petition being run by Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth, the Airport Pledge, Local Works, and the campaign against the Serious Organised Crime and Police Bill (restricting protests in Westminster). We also maintained links with the Stop the War Coalition: thanks to Paul Ingram and Caroline Lucas who continue to sit on the STW Steering Committee, and to Alex Goodman, London Campaigns Co-ordinator, who helped to make sure Green Party placards were available at all major anti-war demonstrations.

The Campaigns team also had an influence on GP policy this

year. Research into both major campaigns highlighted areas of the MfSS where GP policy could benefit from an update, so look out for our motions at Hove. In Scarborough in the spring we also passed a motion adding restrictions on air travel advertising to the MfSS and created our own 'Global Warming Kills' spoof advert. This eye-catching banner also joined the big demonstration against airport expansion in June. The final thank you of this report must go to Graham Lewis from ad agency Satellite for coming up with this design, and for all the creative thinking he has applied to GP campaigns this year.

And the year isn't finished yet. Coming up we have our 'big day out' – actually a two-day trip to Scotland on 15-16 October to join the Scottish Greens blockading the Faslane nuclear weapons base. There is still time to join us: just get in touch with me via the email address at the bottom of this report if you are interested.

Leaflets for handing out at screenings of Al Gore's film 'An Inconvenient Truth' are also still available from the same source. Get in touch for your local party's free batch if you haven't already.

**Sian Berry**

### **A07 Disputes Resolution Committee Report**

Although the year started well with 6 candidates for election to the 5 member committee, this wide spread of members who could be contacted for assistance has only resulted in one dispute being brought to DRC. Even though DRC hears about disputes in various local parties no action has been taken on these since there is a view that DRC must wait to be approached before starting

any resolution action. More resolutions could be achieved if DRC could approach those understood to be involved in a dispute to point out the advantages of dispute resolution. Those approached would have the choice of accepting DRC involvement or rejecting it.

There was a very helpful Fringe meeting at the 2006 Spring Conference on how local parties could resolve disputes by themselves.

A request was made by a prominent member of the Green Party for DRC involvement in the situation of a call for a very significant Disciplinary Tribunal re his actions. Owen Clarke attended the GPEx meeting on the 4/3/06 to discover why GPEx were pursuing a Disciplinary Tribunal. Those who spoke to Owen during the GPEx lunch break said that if error was admitted and an apology made that would end the matter. This was transmitted to the member who complied, but GPEx decided to continue with the Disciplinary Tribunal process.

There was one request for action by DRC to modify an individual's attitude, the problem being so difficult that local party members were unable to cope with it. To become involved in this would be a new activity for DRC. This problem is perceived to be one of the bases of disputes, so it could be helpful to prepare a course of action. The views of Green Party members will be sought on this during the presentation of this report.

There has been some progress with the need to revise Staff Employment procedures, in particular the need to revise the Anti-Harassment Procedures.

It is hoped that there will again be a complete committee, and with more requests for action. This not only avoids breakdown in local parties, but provides the opportunity for improving the Dispute Resolution Committee's skills.

**Owen Clarke**

### **A08. MEP Trust Report**

The MEP Trust's task is to act as agent for the England and Wales Green MEPs on behalf of the GPEW. It manages certain monies and operates as employer of their staff whether they be in the UK or in Brussels.

The Trust meets quarterly in London. It is currently made up of the following members; Caroline Lucas MEP ( South East) , Jean Lambert MEP (London), Margaret Wright and Volker Heinemann (joint co-ordinators International Committee), Joseph Healy (for GPRC) , John Street (for London Region), Tony Cooper (for South East Region ) John Nairn (finance) and Emma Hallett (personnel).

#### **Staffing**

Danny Bates and Cath Miller remain as assistants to Jean Lambert MEP and Caroline Lucas MEP respectively in the London office at the Hop Exchange. Helen Frew and Erica Hope are their respective assistants in Brussels.

Morwenna Holland continues as Jean Lambert MEP's Press and Liaison officer while Ben Duncan remains Press Officer to Caroline Lucas MEP.

Caroline continues to employ Cllr. Keith Taylor and Andrea Smith as constituency workers.

Access to recent MEP publications may be found on

their websites. Both have produced and co-authored significant works since the last Trust report.

[www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk](http://www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk)  
[www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk](http://www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk)

Publications include two editions of 'MEPs In Action' and constituency newsletters both online and in hard copy.

The Green Group in the European Parliament published 'Greens in Europe' an overview of the work of the Greens in the EP to coincide with the London meeting in December 2005.

Both MEPs contributed to the Spring Conference in Scarborough and will attend, contribute and report on their work to the autumn conference in September 2006 in Hove.

During the course of the year both MEPs have made clear that they value the existence of the Trust.

Because of pressing schedules Trust meetings are usually timed for late afternoon. Some party representatives in full-time employment have therefore found it difficult to attend whereas this time is more suitable for our MEPs and their staff.

We thank all those who have worked so hard for the Trust over the past year.

**Margaret Wright, Volker Heinemann**

#### **A09. Green World Editorial Board**

Twelve months ago, Green World was at a low ebb following a major budget overspend caused in part by weak financial controls, and poor communication with GPEX which had led to friction and resentment on both sides.

There had been changes in several of the post holders connected with the magazine in a short period of time, leading to problems in continuity. The 2005 autumn conference in Lancaster chose to restrict the board's autonomous status by ending the previous method of financing of Green World through a 20% charge on membership fees in favour of an annual budget approved by GPEX.

Twelve months on I am pleased to say the general situation for Green World is healthier, and continues to improve. We have put out four 24-page issues in the last issue that have been broadly well-received, internal relationships are better, and we have stayed within our budget. Furthermore, while we pay our editor and designer at way below what the commercial rate is, we have a magazine that looks and feels credible and professional.

*High points* of the last year include:

1. Putting clearer processes in place and developing good lines of communication and trust with the party and those responsible for producing the magazine.

Restarting bulk orders for local parties following a period of two issues when none were distributed (the former GW former delivery agent departed in contentious circumstances and refused to hand over the details she had). A new list was drawn up from scratch, and rates were redesigned to make them as cheap as possible to encourage local parties to buy them for selling or giving away.

2. The design and content of the magazine has been one of its strongest points, and we have received many more complimentary

comments from members than we have received criticisms.

3. At the instigation of the editor, Richard Scrase, major improvements have been made to the Green World website

*Low points:*

Each issue has ended up coming out late, each one for different reasons. This has understandably led to several complaints. We are trying to improve on this in so far as we are able to.

Forward planning is essential for Green World; while the capitulation method had made forward planning easy, the new funding method of receiving a budget from GPEX made planning for this year's Green Worlds harder due to GPEX not agreeing on a budget until February.

Green World has for some years used an excellent print broker, Alex Cowan of Landor publishing, who has sorted out the printing and delivery of each issue. Unfortunately he has been seriously ill this year, and consequently I have had to fill in, a task which has taken time away from other needs of the magazine.

*Future development:*

There are two areas I would like to see prioritised for the year ahead. Firstly, as part of next year's budget, I intend to propose that a post of Green World business manager is set up to allow one individual to concentrate on the development of the magazine, a role that currently no-one person has the time to do properly.

Secondly, one of the weaknesses of Green World is that its infrequent appearance makes it difficult to react to ongoing events, or allow for effective interaction and

discussion between members.

To help get round this, I would like to see further development of the Green World website. Its uses could include:

1. publishing members comments and letters below relevant articles
2. the provision of audio articles through podcasts
3. setting up of a paypal account and donation facility for the party
4. more frequent changes of content
5. allowing a freer discussion of issues than could be allowed on the party's official website

(There are many more ideas on how it can be used; these are too long to put here and anyone interested in them should speak with Richard Scrase.)

Finally, I would like to thank those people who have put a lot of their time and energy into Green World this year, in particular Green World's editor, Richard Scrase, its designer Steve Chadburn, its advertising agent Jacob Saunders, the members of the editorial board, and the staff in party office.

**Matthew Ledbury**

### **A10. Conferences Committee Report**

The Lancaster conference, in Autumn 2005, was well attended and received much positive feedback from participants. However, due to circumstances beyond the conferences committees there were problems with building work, electricity supply and room changes without notice. The committee was unhappy with the service provided by the venue, St Martin's college, and made an official complaint after the conference.

The committee corresponded with St Martins for another 3 months and eventually received an apology. A small surplus was made from the conference which is being used to enhance future conferences.

The Conference in Scarborough was also rated as value for money by 95% of the respondents on the feedback forms despite it being held in a slightly chilly venue on the coldest week-end of the year. The conference returned a small surplus which is being used to try out new ideas at the Hove conference.

Finding new venues is a constant challenge for the committee and regional help would be appreciated. We particularly want to visit as many regions as possible in locations supported by strong local parties.

Spring conference in March will be at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea to support the regional elections.

Autumn conference will be a little early stating the last weekend in August/first weekend in September so that we can visit Oxford at Brookes University. We will be looking at Economics and Trade Unions.

#### *Equal opportunities*

This committee recognises the importance of giving every member a chance to come to conference and vote on policy. We attempt to do this by keeping a low fee option available, providing crash space accommodation and rotating the conference venue so that travel distance is reduced for different people each conference. There are also volunteering opportunities. We are always looking for help on front of house, qualified child carers and technicians.

Please think about ways in your regions to facilitate attendance at conference by those who cannot afford to go alone. Travel and accommodation often works out cheaper in a group and local parties are best placed to help out individuals on lower incomes.

Conference Committee over the year: Anna Baker, Leila Kiersch, John Street, Hagen Kiersch, Timothy Foster and Chris Whitehouse.

## **Green Party**

### **B10. Natural Resources Voting Paper (submitted by Policy Committee)**

#### Synopsis

There are no other voting papers for this Conference, and so under section C5 of standing orders Policy Committee has to present one existing section of the MfSS for discussion at Conference as a voting paper. The Committee has chosen the natural resources section. This motion simply tables the section as it currently stands, but the committee has added an amendment on domestic waste. Amendments to the chapter are invited for the final agenda. If you want to amend the amendment on domestic waste, you need to table a complete alternative amendment.

#### Motion

Delete the existing MfSS chapter on Natural Resources (NR100 to NR431) and replace it with the following:

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Amendment 1

*Amend the title of the chapter to read 'Natural Resources and Waste Management.'*

*submitted by Policy Committee for the First Agenda.*

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#### Background

NR100 The natural resources that are considered in this section include fossil fuels, metalliferous and bulk minerals, water and reusable or recyclable waste materials. Policies affecting the use of natural resources are also contained in the Sections on Agriculture, Forestry, Food, Countryside, Pollution, Energy, Population, Transport, Foreign Policy and Economy.

NR101 Raw materials for industrial use are obtained from three sources:  
i) non-renewable primary natural resources, such as fossil fuel and metal ores;  
ii) biologically renewable primary natural resources, such as wood and cotton;  
iii) waste or used products which have not irreversibly lost their useful characteristics in use and can be recycled as secondary raw materials.

#### Principles

NR200 Supplies of natural resources on Earth are finite or require suitable land, which is in limited supply, for their production. Increasing productivity of biologically renewable raw materials is generally coupled with a decrease in genetic diversity and an increased dependence on high-energy inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides.

NR201 Manufacturing processes using recycled materials require less energy

than those exploiting primary natural resources because of the reduced processing required. This energy saving will increase as progressively lower grades of non-renewable resources need to be exploited as richer deposits are exhausted.

NR202 The energy saved by recycling secondary raw materials is normally greater than that which could be obtained by instead recovering energy from combustible waste.

NR203 To achieve sustainable resource use with minimal environmental impact requires:

- i) social and economic policies which will encourage and maintain a reduction in the physical burden human societies place upon our planet;
- ii) further regulatory controls for some resources to ensure that the social and environmental impact of their use is acceptable;
- iii) research to identify sustainable patterns of resource use for the future.

NR204 In order to achieve increased waste avoidance and higher recycling rates, the government needs to:

- i) establish a structure for industry which secures end-use markets for secondary raw materials; and
- ii) ensure that the cost of using natural resources takes account of the environmental costs of their extraction or harvesting, processing and disposal.

#### Long Term Objectives

NR300 To determine the global availability of resources and identify sustainable patterns of resource-use.

NR301 To minimise the consumption of all natural resources and, in particular, non-renewable resources for

which supplies are reaching the limits of availability, whether for environmental, technical, physical or political reasons.

NR302 To phase out the routine use of non-renewable materials for product-uses in which they cannot be easily be recycled for the same purpose.

NR303 To minimise damage, including the reduction of genetic and ecological diversity, caused to the natural environment by extracting or growing natural resources for industrial use.

#### Short Term Objectives

NR310 To slow down the consumption of non-renewable raw materials before the onset of scarcity and at the same time give incentives to society as a whole to investigate alternatives.

NR311 To induce industry to invest in resource saving technology by:

- minimising waste during manufacturing processes;
- the manufacture of long life products which can be repaired or reused;
- greater conservation of energy in industry;
- the development of anti-pollution devices.

NR312 To introduce new priorities for waste management so that:

- unnecessary waste is avoided;
- the efficient re-use, recycling and composting or digestion of waste is maximised;
- the remaining waste is disposed of to landfill whilst measures are put in place to reduce this element towards zero in the long term.

### Amendment 2

*In NR312 delete final point "the remaining waste is*

*disposed of to landfill whilst measures are put in place to reduce this element to zero in the long term" and replace with "to work towards a target of zero waste. The zero waste concept encompasses producer responsibility, ecodesign, waste reduction, re-use and recycling all within a single framework with the aim of eliminating altogether waste sent to landfill or incinerators."*

**Submitted by:** Brian Heatley, Shahrar Ali, Tim Beaumont, Jonathan Dixon, George Graham, Darren Johnson, Alan Francis

NR313 Intensify research into the recycling of secondary raw materials.

NR314 To provide safe drinking water to all people and to encourage the adoption of levels of domestic and industrial water consumption which minimise damage to the environment through entrapment and treatment works.

NR315 Promote research into ecologically sound cultivation techniques for renewable raw materials and develop less energy intensive methods of cropping and processing.

NR316 To ensure that the transition towards sustainable resource-use occurs in such a way as to achieve and guarantee social justice, equity and economic stability.

NR317 Taking account of the genuine benefits available from trade, to encourage self-reliance, whereby people collectively within communities can determine their own needs and meet these as far as is possible from the resources available to them.

NR318 To work towards achieving international agreements on the use of natural resources, which take

full account of the need to guarantee sustainability and to minimise damage to the natural environment.

#### Policies

NR400 The Green Party believes that the policies in this section should be enacted in a coordinated manner throughout Europe. However, in the absence of pan-European or European Community agreement on these measures, a Green Party Government will be prepared to implement them unilaterally as far as possible at a national level.

#### Local and Regional Policies

NR410 Local Councils will be given full powers to establish waste recovery and sorting facilities for the collection of all domestic and commercial waste and to sell recovered materials to industry for recycling.

NR411 The duty to dispose of waste collected by District Councils will be transferred to Regional Waste Disposal Authorities, controlled by District Councils and other community representatives, with the costs of disposal charged to all District Councils in direct relation to the quantity of waste collected for disposal by each District. This will give District Councils an incentive to promote waste reduction and to increase waste recycling, as they will save directly on disposal costs. (see EN805)

NR412 District Councils will be required to recover for recycling at least 60% of recyclable domestic waste within 5 years. At the end of this period an increased target will be set, which is based on an assessment by the Standards Commission (see NR 411) of how much further unnecessary waste can be avoided and which

incorporates targets for waste reduction and the composting or digestion of organic waste.

NR413 Water Companies will be required to enter into joint arrangements with Regional Waste Disposal Authorities to build digestion plants to produce biogas and/or compost from organic waste from agricultural sources, sewage and municipal waste. The discharge into domestic sewers of polluting waste from industry which would detrimentally affect digestion or digestion products will be prohibited.

#### **Amendment 3**

*Insert the following after NR413*

*'Transitional policy on domestic waste disposal*

*NR414 In the medium to longer term we firmly believe that the policies in this chapter designed to prevent waste arising in the first place are the most important ones to adopt. However, local authorities currently have a statutory duty to dispose of domestic waste, and implementation of the Landfill Directive – which quite correctly imposes progressively diminishing targets on the maximum amount of biodegradable waste that can be sent to landfill – means that local authorities are having radically to revise their waste strategies. Green Councillors are involved in creating these new strategies, which are necessarily only second best and transitional strategies towards longer term solutions.*

*NR415 In creating any such short term strategy the following context needs to be taken into account*

*- while the economy continues to grow in wasteful ways, the domestic waste*

stream will increase in size, whatever local councils do

- there is however growing public willingness to participate in re-cycling schemes,
- councils have the limited power to require households to separate green from other refuse, but not to make more complex distinctions
- kerbside re-cycling schemes in some areas currently recover quite high proportions of dry recyclables and compostable waste
- all too often the waste recovered for re-cycling is then itself used in low value and unimaginative ways, for example glass being re-cycled into low value aggregate
- encouraging domestic composting reduces the transport of waste
- there are problems with composting foodstuffs and agricultural waste where those may be infected due to over-intensive production leading to public health concerns
- there is very considerable technical development taking place in waste management at the moment, and it is not possible unequivocally to recommend a particular technical route
- that nevertheless large scale incineration of residual waste (that is after dry-recyclables and organic waste have been removed so far as they can be) is usually dangerously polluting, and still creates a final product for landfill (see EN805)
- that modern approaches, such as mechanical and biological treatment, while being more expensive, may offer reduced pollution and less, if any, going to landfill
- that increased costs will in practice in present circumstances need to come from increased Council Taxes, or by cutting non-statutory council services
- that it is important not to invest in large capital intensive schemes that will only be cost effective over a long period,

thus creating a pressure not to reduce the size of the overall waste stream.

NR416 While there will necessarily be local variation, the most promising approaches seem likely to involve

- persuading householders to separate their waste into dry recyclables, compostable wastes and residual refuse
- encouraging home composting
- organising kerbside collection of all three streams
- investing considerable effort in educating householders
- ensuring that the dry recyclables are put to high value uses, and the compostable wastes are composted in a way that deals with any public health issues
- to usually prefer mechanical and biological treatment to incineration (or similar processes such as pyrolysis)
- to accept that in the short term some residual waste after treatment is likely to end up in landfill, which itself must be properly organised (see EN806).'

Submitted by Policy Committee for the First Agenda

#### **Amendment 4:**

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Insert the following after NR413

'Transitional policy on municipal waste disposal

NR414 In the medium to longer term we firmly believe that the policies in this chapter designed to prevent waste arising in the first place are the most important ones to adopt. However, local authorities currently have a statutory duty to dispose of domestic waste, and implementation of the Landfill Directive - which quite correctly imposes progressively diminishing targets on the maximum

amount of biodegradable waste that can be sent to landfill - means that local authorities are having to revise their waste strategies. Many authorities have opted for large scale incineration, often in the face of considerable local opposition. Green Councillors are necessarily involved in creating new waste strategies, which are only second best and transitional strategies towards the longer term solutions set out in this chapter.

NR415 In creating any such short term strategy the following context needs to be taken into account

- i) while the economy continues to grow in wasteful ways, the domestic waste stream will increase in size, whatever local councils do;
- ii) there is considerable scope to promote greater re-use of perfectly good things that have been thrown away;
- iii) there is growing public willingness to participate in re-cycling schemes;
- iv) kerbside re-cycling schemes in some areas currently recover quite high proportions of dry recyclables and compostable waste, and there is scope for replicating this far more widely;
- v) encouraging domestic composting reduces the transport of waste;
- vi) domestic waste is only a part of total waste, which also includes industrial and commercial waste and construction and demolition waste;
- vii) there is very considerable technical development taking place in waste management at the moment, and it is not possible unequivocally to recommend a particular technical route;
- viii) that nevertheless large scale incineration of residual waste (that is after dry-recyclables and compostable waste have been removed so far as they can be) is usually

*dangerously polluting, and still creates a toxic final product for landfill (see EN805);*  
*ix) that modern approaches, such as mechanical and biological treatment, anaerobic digestion and possibly even gasification, sometimes used in combination, may offer reduced pollution and a smaller amount of less damaging material going to landfill;*  
*x) there is scope with anaerobic digestion and gasification to produce biogas and syngas respectively which can be converted to hydrogen and then used for example to power public transport, such as buses, through fuel cells;*  
*xi) that it is recognised that some of these newer technologies are more expensive than incineration and landfill; and*  
*xii) that it is important not to enter into long term contracts or arrangements which require large minimum volumes of waste, and so create an incentive to maintain or increase the size of the overall waste stream.*

*NR416 While there will necessarily be local variation, the most promising approaches seem likely to involve*

- i) having a clear hierarchy of waste treatments, with reuse first, followed by recycling and composting, followed by treating the residual waste in non-polluting ways that produce useful products like biogas and the least possible quantity of inert material for landfill;*
- ii) encouraging home composting;*
- iii) investing considerable effort in educating and persuading householders to separate their waste into dry recyclables, compostable wastes and residual refuse, and not to place certain hazardous items (for example paint, pesticides and items containing NiCad batteries)*

*into the municipal waste stream at all;*  
*iv) aiming to have no more than 20% residual waste, and to re-cycle and compost more than 80%;*  
*v) organising kerbside collection of all three streams;*  
*vi) sorting the dry re-cyclables either at the kerbside or at a materials recovery facility, and ensuring that the dry recyclables are put to high value uses;*  
*vii) to prefer mechanical and biological treatment and anaerobic digestion, possibly in tandem;*  
*viii) no incineration of residual waste;*  
*ix) to cautiously explore the possibility of gasification, but not to accept it if the feedstock contains too many recyclables and if there are pollution risks;*  
*x) to accept that in the short term some residual waste after treatment will end up in landfill, but that that waste should be inert and pose no danger to watercourses (see EN806); and*  
*xi) even without central Government specifying it as a responsibility, local authorities should be looking to reduce, re-use and recycle waste from non-domestic sources within their geographic boundaries.'*

**Proposed:** *Brian Heatley, Shahrar Ali, Tim Beaumont, Jonathan Dixon, George Graham, Darren Johnson, Alan Francis*

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#### National Policies

NR420 A Natural Resources Department, a national non-ministerial government body with regional offices, will be established to be responsible for resource exploration and assessment, the maintenance of standards in mining, quarrying and forestry, and the provision of ecological, geological, archaeological and engineering advice. Working

with the pollution control bodies and with due regard to relevant pre-existing legislation, the Natural Resources Department will be able to grant and revoke operating licences. Commercial interests will not be permitted to prejudice decisions.

NR421 All mineral rights will be held in trust by the State on behalf of the communities which occupy the land or, in the case of off-shore rights, which border it. Planning consent to exploit minerals will be subject to both local and national agreement. It will be a requirement of such a consent that the environmental impact of any work is minimised and for extraction activities to maximise the resources obtained. The affected land should be returned to a similar or improved ecological status.

NR422 Industrial users of raw materials (e.g. smelters and pulp mills) shall keep annual records of the ratio of primary source materials to those recycled. Through the application of Resource Taxation (EC710) they will be encouraged to reduce raw material consumption in favour of reclaimed materials.

NR423 A system of Resource Taxation will be introduced (see EC710's, EN500) to impose a levy at the earliest possible point in the harvesting or extraction processes for all natural resources. The Natural Resource Tax will be applied at the forest, quarry, mine or port of entry with the Natural Resources Department advising the Treasury on the levels at which it should be set. Resource Taxes will be levied at a zero or reduced rate on recycled materials and at a zero rate on re-used products. The effect of Resource Taxation will be to encourage not only sustainable production but

also waste reduction, recycling and avoidance through re-use and repair. As a transitional step towards the full introduction of Resource Taxation, a zero VAT rating will be introduced for the use of recycled materials and re-used packaging.

NR 424 A Waste Avoidance and Recycling Act will include measures to:

- i) allow minimum recycled contents to be statutorily imposed upon suitable products;
- ii) to ban unnecessary disposable products and packaging, where their non-use would lead to a net reduction in environmental impact;
- iii) to introduce specifications for the design of packaging to minimise waste and maximise recyclables;
- iv) to impose a variable Recovery Charge on all packaging and short-life disposable products (such as newspapers), including on imported goods, with the revenue distributed to District Councils on a per-capita basis to finance waste recovery schemes (the Charge will be set at separate rates for different materials so as to enable the viability of their recovery to be equalised; for example, the Charge will be: much higher on plastic than on glass packaging);
- v) to introduce mandatory deposits, refundable by retailers, to encourage the separate collection of toxic waste materials, such as batteries;
- vi) to allow for the introduction of mandatory returnable deposits on drinks containers.

NR425 A Standards Commission will be established incorporating the British Standards Institute, the Design Council and the Patents Office, whose duties will be:

- i) to exercise quality control on consumer products, setting

minimum standards for safety and design, recyclability, durability, ease of repair and maximum energy efficiency in use;

- ii) to determine rates for Recovery Charges on packaging and short-life disposable products (see NR 424 iv);
- iii) to assess the maximum waste recovery levels achievable by District Councils (see NR 412);
- iv) to investigate the feasibility of an amortisation tax applied to consumer goods which rises inversely with the length of useful life of the article;
- v) to determine increased guarantees and spares availability periods required of manufacturers for all long-life products;
- vi) to set statutory targets for minimum recycled contents for suitable products, such as newspapers, glass and metal containers and all paper and plastic packaging which does not come directly into contact with food (the content targets will be set at levels sufficient to ensure that the recovery targets required by NR412 can be achieved);
- vii) to award quality labels to approved products meeting design, energy efficiency and minimum environmental standards;
- viii) to assess the comparative advantages of different packaging systems and in particular, to determine whether the re-use or recycling of drinks containers should be preferred;
- ix) to determine refundable deposit levels necessary or returnable items (see NR 424v & vi);
- x) to ensure that the ownership of patent rights are not used to restrict the application of socially and environmentally useful inventions.

NR426 Regional offices of the Natural Resources Department will be responsible for issuing

consents to abstract water for agricultural, domestic and industrial use. Consents will only be issued provided that avoidable or unacceptable environmental costs will not result and provided that the Best Available Technology is being used to minimise the pollution potential of subsequent discharges. Where granted, consents will be levied at rates which reflect as fully as possible any social and environmental costs which nevertheless may still result.

NR427 Substantial grants will be made available, via the Natural Resources Department, to universities, polytechnics and other research institutions for the investigation of waste recycling technology, renewable energy and other resource-saving strategies.

NR428 The Green Party is opposed to the private ownership of water, which will have severe environmental and social consequences, and to the implications for land ownership, particularly in upland areas. We believe that the water service should be run with the direct participation of the communities concerned. In the short term, this means a decentralised system of industrial democracy where the consumers of the service work with those who produce the service towards the following common ends:

- i) the protection of the environment, e.g. the banning of all discharges to water (from point and diffuse sources) of any toxic or bio-accumulative substances,
- ii) the provision of potable quality water for all individual consumers at a reasonable price,
- iii) meeting standards laid down at national and EU level, the removal of Crown exemption, and public debate about all the scientific evidence of the levels

necessary to safeguard the environment,  
iv) freedom of information and the direct participation of people at local and regional levels,  
v) an enforcement agency that is free of vested interests, adequately staffed and given the necessary punitive powers.  
Such principles are incompatible with either a system of private ownership or traditional State ownership. (see also EU325, PL410-425)

### Amendment 5

*Delete final sentence of NR 428. Add at end: The Green Party will bring all water resources stored and routed for public consumption, from reservoir to tap, in England & Wales back into public ownership at national level. However, local water resources will be administered and run, by democratically elected local bodies based on water catchment areas.*

**Proposed:** Geoff Collard\*, Carol Kambites, Charlie Graham, John Hills, Anne Rix

*[SOC Note: This was originally proposed as a separate motion before the first agenda deadline, but is in effect an amendment of this paper]*

### International Policies

NR430 The import and export of waste would be prohibited, unless it is to be recycled.  
NR431 Through the United Nations, or other international agencies, the Green Party calls for and supports programmes with the following aims:  
i) in the short term, to establish an international code of conduct for transnational companies to minimise environmental damage and prevent harm to indigenous populations from resource

extraction;  
ii) in the longer term, to return control over resource extraction from transnational companies to local indigenous populations (the full and fair participation of indigenous and local communities must be of paramount importance in all decisions about natural resources production, extraction and profit);  
iii) to establish agreements guaranteeing that tropical hardwoods and products are supplied and used on a sustainable basis;  
iv) to prohibit further monopolisation and standardisation of crop seeds, to encourage greater use of local varieties and to maintain a rich genetic diversity and so prevent the higher risk of large scale crop failure associated with genetic homogeneity;  
iv) to manage in a controlled manner the mineral resources of the seas, outside of territorial waters, for the common benefit of all the worlds peoples;  
v) to enforce a moratorium on the prospecting and extraction of raw materials from international wilderness areas, such as Antarctica;  
vi) to research the global availability of resources and identify sustainable patterns of resource-use.  
(see also EC921, F200's)

***This is a Policy Committee motion proposed by Brian Heatley\*, Alan Francis, George Graham, Jonathan Dixon***

## Section C – Policy Motions

### C 01: Local Shops Motion

#### Synopsis

We have campaigned and continue to campaign on local shops, but have no explicit policy in the MfSS. This motion seeks to fill that gap. A new section is proposed for the Local Planning and Built Environment chapter of the MfSS, which also contains references to the current Economy chapter.

#### Motion

Remove LP412 and LP413 (the policies they contain are included in the proposed new LP417) and renumber policies LP414 and LP415.

Insert after current LP415:

'Local independent retailing

#### Background

LP414 A wide range of local shops and services within walking distance is essential to a sustainable community. Yet local shops are closing or being replaced with chain store 'clones' and formula retailers every day, and just a few supermarkets dominate the market for groceries. Current government and local government policies are not protecting local shops and markets.

LP415 Retailing is a highly visible part of the business sector with a huge influence on society, local communities and employment. Almost half of UK shops are owned and managed by a sole trader, and many more have fewer than five employees. Retail also provides routes to self employment for groups such as migrants to the UK and ethnic minorities, who are proportionately more likely to start their own businesses. In

rural areas, retailing is now the single largest employer.

LP416 Many of the Green Party's policies on localisation and small enterprises will help local, independent retailers, such as the abolition of VAT (see EC771) and combining National Insurance with Income Tax (see EC721), and some of our policies already seek to control parking in new developments (see TR035). However, some specific planning policies to preserve the viability of local shops and the services provided by these enterprises are also necessary.

#### Policy

LP417 We will introduce national planning policy guidance so that local and regional authorities can protect and encourage local, independent retailers. This guidance would:

- (a) enable the introduction of 'business conservation areas' that empower local communities to retain the character and amenity of their high streets, and bar formula retailers from certain areas,
- (b) ensure basic facilities (food shops, banks, pharmacies and post offices) are located within all residential areas of a certain size, and within 15 minutes' walk in all urban and suburban areas, by empowering local authorities to use the planning process to influence the retail mix in their areas, and to offer subsidies or other incentives if necessary,
- (c) prohibit new out-of-town retail parks and car-based superstores,
- (d) insist that 50% of retail floor space in all new developments is affordable space for local small businesses,

(e) reduce local authority dependence on financial incentives ('planning gain') from large developers and companies, which are used to secure planning permission for developments that would otherwise be rejected,

(f) include clear policies on sustainability to enable planning authorities to favour local businesses on ecological grounds, rather than bigger firms with less sustainable practices,

(g) prohibit new private retail parking in large developments, apart from disabled parking,

(h) encourage the pedestrianisation of shopping areas within cities, towns and villages, to provide a safe and pleasant shopping environment. Where possible, delivery access should be provided outside of the pedestrianised area or should be restricted to times which are not peak shopping times.

LP418 We will require regional and local authorities to adopt a retail strategy, a retail regeneration plan and local competition policies to prevent high streets from being dominated by formula businesses, and to ensure fair market access for small, independent retailers. We would require these strategies to include policies to support and retain street markets and farmers markets, and encourage the introduction of new markets, where there is community demand.

LP419 We will empower local authorities to bring in rent controls for small shop premises, to prevent landlords from driving up rents and driving out independent retailers.'

**Proposed by: Sian Berry\*,  
George Graham, Alex  
Goodman, Noel Lynch**

## **C02: Motion on Britain's relationship with the Middle East, Energy Security and proliferation**

### **Synopsis**

Crises in the Middle East and the context of a growing energy crisis are dominating Britain's foreign policy. This motion clarifies our international policy towards the region and directs the International Committee to propose revisions to the MfSS to a future conference.

### **Motion**

The Green Party of England and Wales notes:

Britain's relationship with the Middle East has been for decades characterised by conflict and control, causing extreme suffering for the people there and obstructing progress in the areas of balanced economies, democracy and human rights. And behind it all has been the exploitation of fossil fuels, notably oil.

Conference...

Iraq

1) Supports the immediate and total withdrawal of troops from Iraq in a managed manner and the closure of all bases, leaving the administration of Iraqi territory to the Iraqis;

#### **Amendment 1:**

*Clause 1) would be deleted and replaced by the amendment.*

**AMENDMENT IS;**

*" Supports the total withdrawal of all coalition forces from Iraq, in a managed and phased manner, over a period of months, not years. Such forces to be replaced in that time, by an international force which will not include any forces from the existing*

coalition countries. The aim is to allow, eventually, fully trained Iraqi forces to assume responsibility for the security of the whole country."

**Proposed by:** Michael Stimson, Dave Walsh, Leo Littman, Amy Kennedy, Martin Grimshaw

2) Condemns attempts by the occupying powers to impose oil contracts upon the Iraqis that are unduly beneficial to the multinational oil companies that invest in Iraq to the detriment of the Iraqi people;  
3) Supports conflict resolution efforts, and urges the government to consider methods of reparation to the Iraqi people;

Iran

4) Urges Iran (without any threat) to reconsider its moves towards a nuclear power programme, and in particular a full nuclear fuel cycle, and to abandon its initiatives towards a heavy water production plant and reactor, and reprocessing at Arak, and instead to engage in a massive reform of its energy sector to encourage energy conservation and investment in renewable energy technologies;  
5) Condemns the slide back towards a repression against individual freedoms and democracy within Iran and aggressive rhetoric against other peoples in the region, and urges those within the Iranian government still able to contemplate relations with the West to resist this;  
6) Condemns the irresponsible use of unreasonable requirements and incredible threats by the US and the EU against Iran in the nuclear negotiations that has often led to an aggressive reaction by the Iranians and urges them instead to develop closer relations that will encourage Iran to see their interests as lying with cooperation.

7) Condemns the hypocrisy of those states that demand Iran abandon a full nuclear fuel cycle while they themselves maintain or expand their own nuclear power programmes, or deploy their own nuclear weapon systems, and believes that resolution of the nuclear issue lies in moves towards an inclusive global nuclear disarmament treaty and abandoning the failed and dangerous experiment of nuclear power.

Israel/Palestine

7) Condemns Israeli action against thousands of Palestinians within the occupied territories that has caused a generation to grow up in fear and hate;  
8) Is disappointed at the lack of progress, despite early indications from political leaders of their commitment to a solution;  
9) Calls upon the British government and the EU to fully restore aid to the Palestinian administration in order to avoid the hardship and chaos associated with denial of aid to the Hamas administration, whilst encouraging that administration to re-engage in negotiation with Israel;  
10) Calls upon those powers that have influence, and most particularly the United States, to cease material support for Israel's armed conflict, and upon the UK government to pressurise the United States into action;

#### **Amendment 2:**

*i) Add "/Lebanon" to the subtitle above para 7.  
ii) Insert new para 10 and renumber accordingly: "Calls upon Israel to respect internationally-recognised borders, to refrain from all aggressive military action against its neighbours, and calls upon other armed groups such as Hizbollah and Hamas to abide by international law and stop their*

*attacks upon civilians within Israel."*

*iii) Within existing para 10, after "support for Israel's armed conflict" add, "and the aggressive military actions of other armed groups,"  
iv) Add paragraph after existing 10 and renumber: "Calls for the establishment of a standing Peace Conference for the Middle East, to include states and non-state actors from Egypt to Iran, and include external states with particular influence, to achieve the recognition of boundaries, a true two-state solution, human rights and security guarantees for all peoples and states, and the ending of all occupation."*

**Proposed by:** Paul Ingram, George Graham, Sian Berry, Matt Sellwood, Joseph Healy

Energy

11) Believes that despite the real concerns over nuclear proliferation in the region, the real motivation for much military and diplomatic investment by the United States and the EU is to gain control of oil;  
12) Believes that the price is too high, in terms of human suffering, expense, and our own security when it comes to terrorism;  
13) That alongside climate change considerations this underlines the need for a more appropriate and sustainable balance of energy consumption within Britain, a massive expansion in the use of renewable energies, energy conservation, and a reduction in high energy-use activities.

Enables the International Committee to consider these issues over the coming months and requests that they bring a motion to propose comprehensive amendments to the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society accordingly.

**Proposed by: Paul Ingram\***  
Joseph Healy, James Caspell,  
Peter Murry (+ 3 others)

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### **C03 Use of NHS-trained staff:**

#### **Synopsis**

The private health care sector currently does not have to bear any cost of training health care staff. This reduces their costs artificially, while storing up longer term problems for health care as a whole.

#### **Motion**

Insert new clause H330 and renumber: "The Green Party believes it is wrong in principle that private health care companies and agencies should be able to employ or use staff who have been expensively trained by the NHS without contributing something to the cost of that training. Therefore companies, including pharmaceutical companies, employing or using NHS trained healthcare professionals outside the NHS will have to pay an additional training tax. This will take the form of a levy for each person hour during which they employ or use NHS trained staff outside the NHS. The proceeds from this levy will go directly into the NHS Tax which the Green Party is going to create."

**Proposed by Geoff Collard\***

**Stuart Jeffery, John Hunt,  
Stephen P Smith, Richard  
Lawson**

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### **C04: Taxes on High Earners:**

**Synopsis:** A small change to our taxation policy, to make it clear that we support raising taxes on high earners from the current 40% rate – something we pledged in our 2005 General Election manifesto.

#### **Motion**

"Insert at the end of EC711

'In particular, rates higher than 40% will be introduced for those on the highest incomes'."

**Proposed by Matt  
Sellwood\*, Keith Baker, Joe  
Rooney, Noel Lynch**

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### **C05: Education enabling motion**

#### **Synopsis**

The MfSS section on Education covers a central and important area of policy. Some of the current section is old, there are some areas of education policy not currently included that need to be covered, and the treatment of different topics is uneven and not very well structured. This motion instructs Policy Committee to initiate a process leading to a new draft of Education section.

#### **Motion**

This Conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process intended to bring a proposal for a re-drafted MfSS section on Education to a future Conference.

The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of any outside bodies which Policy Committee feels would be useful.

The principal aim is to replace the existing Education section of the MfSS, but Policy Committee may also propose to convert some of the detailed material that is produced in this process into policy statements, for example

detailed proposals around accreditation and assessment.

This overall process has begun to some extent by the very constructive efforts put in by conference committee in making one of the Autumn Conference 2006 days education theme day. The results of various workshops on this day will be fed into the process.

**Proposed by Policy  
Committee : Brian Heatley\*,  
Jonathan Dixon, Alan  
Francis, George Graham**

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### **C06: Repeal of the Anti-Trade Union Laws**

#### **Synopsis**

There is no legal right to strike in the UK, trade unionists may not take solidarity action with other workers and punitive legal judgments have severely restricted some other forms of Union protest. This motion calls for campaigning to redress such injustices against trades unionists.

#### **Motion**

UK workers have the least rights of any group of workers in the EU and British trade unions are constrained by the most draconian anti-trade union laws in Europe, which prevent them from fighting to their full ability for the rights of their members. The Green Party, as a party which supports social justice and trade union rights, supports the right of UK workers to receive fair and equal representation in their negotiations with employers and their organisations, and to take industrial action when their rights are threatened.

We call upon the Green Party Executive to support the Trade Union Freedom Bill and to support the Campaign for the

Repeal of the Anti-Trade Union laws.

**Proposed by The Green Party Trade Union Group: Peter Murry\*, Joseph Healy, Tim Summers, Richard Clarke, Matt Sellwood, Noel Lynch**

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### **C07 North-South High Speed Rail Line:**

#### **Synopsis**

The government is considering a new north-south high speed rail line to link London with the Midlands, the North and Scotland. The motion proposes a policy of 'in principle' support.

#### **Motion**

At end of TR244 add:  
The Green Party supports the principle of a new north-south high speed line which would reduce the number of short-haul flights within the UK.

**Proposed: Alan Francis\*, John Street, Graeme McIver, Brian Orr**

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### **C08 Full Ban on Smoking**

#### **Synopsis**

Currently, GP policy would allow exemptions to a ban on smoking in enclosed public places to be applied for, unlike the ban soon to be brought in by recent legislation. This motion would remove that exemption, allowing the Party to fully support the new ban.

#### **Motion**

In DU400, replace "would introduce" with "supports".  
In DU400, delete:  
"Exemption licences could be applied for. The Green Party would also promote, by legislation if necessary, the setting-up of workplace smoking policies."

In DU405, delete: "including allowing the establishment of cannabis 'pubs' (similar to the Dutch 'coffee shops')"

[For information, this will leave DU400 as reading:  
"Tobacco smoking is the principal cause of premature death in the United Kingdom. In view of the considerable dangers to the health of both smoker and non-smoker, the Green Party supports legislation prohibiting smoking in all enclosed premises to which the public has access."]

**Proposed by Jonathan Dixon\*, John Norris, Brian Heatley, George Graham, Stuart Jeffery**

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### **C09 :Updates to Education Policy**

#### **Synopsis**

This motion seeks to clarify our Education Policy, particularly in regard to Secondary Education. It also aims to emphasise our support for measures which promote sustainability and social inclusion, such as Community Schools and Eco Schools.

#### **Motion**

##### **i) Delete current ED365:**

Large comprehensives where alienation is seen to be a problem will be encouraged to reorganise as clusters of 'mini schools'

**Replace with: ED365:** There will be a reorganisation of schooling in the UK to deal with problems of alienation that are often felt by pupils entering large comprehensives. This reorganisation will primarily take the form of the reintroduction of Middle Schools that will limit school and class sizes and allow for a

greater range of subjects to be taught.

**Notes:** Large comprehensives are often the cause of alienation and the breeding ground for bad behaviour amongst pupils. By introducing middle schools as the 'norm' this problem will be dealt with in a pro-active way. It is envisaged that there will be less of a problem with badly behaved pupils in smaller educational establishments and by giving pupils a more step wise and flexible educational experience they will be a more obvious progression in their learning. It will also mean that teachers will become more expert in teaching particular age ranges. This new school structure would be something like:

4. Primary/Foundation Phase – Reception to Y3 (4 yrs to 7 yrs)
5. Middle School – Y4 to Y8 (8 yrs – 12/13 yrs)
6. Senior School – Y9 to Y11 (13 – 16 yrs)
7. Colleges – Y12 and 13 (16 – 19 yrs)

**ii) ED368:** LEAs will encourage and help schools to run their establishments on more sustainable, ecologically sound principles.

#### **Add new sentence at end:**

The E.U. Eco-schools programme will be considered to be a starting point for this and all schools will be expected to sign up to this scheme, with the long term aim that all schools will attain Green Flag status within 5 years of a Green Government.

**iii) ED370:** A general policy of refurbishing schools will be combined with energy conservation measures, and security measures against theft or vandalism which emphasise community ownership of buildings, and

evening and weekend use of facilities.

**Add new sub-clauses:**

**ED370a:** All schools will be required to have some form of renewable energy generation on site. In some cases this may take the form of only a small solar panel or turbine for educational purposes but wherever possible schools will be encouraged and funded to generate a large percentage of their energy through renewable means.

**ED370b:** All new build schools will demonstrate excellence in sustainability in their design, the materials used for construction and in the use of their school grounds.

**iv) ED369:** LEAs will facilitate partnerships between schools and local organic growers to enable school communities to learn how to use their land for organic cultivation.

**Add new sentence:** School grounds are an important resource and all schools will be encouraged to make full use of the potential of their grounds for learning and extension of the curriculum.

**Amendment 1:**

*At iv) ED369 Add new sentence after "...all schools will be encouraged to make full use of the potential of their grounds for learning and extension of the curriculum" "There will be a presumption against the sale of school grounds for non-educational purposes." Proposed by: Hazel Dawe, Steve Dawe, Judy Maciejowska, Mark Douglas, Sarah Birch*

**v) After ED398 add new clause and renumber subsequent clauses:**

(New) ED399: All schools will be community schools where access to their facilities by the local community will be

encouraged during evenings, weekends and holiday periods.

**vi) Add new section**

**Language Teaching:**

(ED310) Schools will provide pupils with the opportunity to learn languages other than English. This should begin in Middle School, if not earlier, and the whole school community should be involved in decisions about which languages the school teaches.

**Notes:** Language teaching at a younger age is likely to produce people who are fluent in another language. It is easier to learn a new language the younger a person is and if that person learns one more language from an early age they will find learning additional languages easier later on. The language that a school learns should be appropriate to the community and school population, i.e. Welsh is likely to be the most appropriate additional language in some areas of Wales but in some cities in the UK it may be more appropriate to teach Urdu. Learning another language will hopefully encourage a greater understanding of culture and help combat racism.

**Proposed by Swansea and Llanelli Green Party: Rhodri Griffiths\***, Jane Richmond, Linda Garrard, Keith Ross

**C10: Economy enabling motion**

**Synopsis**

Some of the very important Economy section of the MfSS is old and there are some areas of economic policy not currently included that need to be covered. This motion instructs Policy Committee to initiate a process leading to a new draft of the Economy section.

**Motion**

This Conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process intended to bring a proposal for a re-drafted MfSS section on Economy to a future Conference.

The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of any outside bodies which Policy Committee feels would be useful.

New areas that might be developed include:

a brief critique of the existing economy and its unsustainability and inequity

our attitudes to unbridled capitalism and globalisation, state socialism and relying entirely on voluntary action

our attitude to the market

gender and the economy

macro-economic policy e.g. policy on growth, inflation and unemployment scope of the public sector

regional policy

enterprise law

small enterprises

information technology and intellectual property

interaction of energy and economic policy

The principal aim is to replace the existing Economy section of the MfSS, but Policy Committee may also propose to convert some existing detailed material (e.g. that on e-commerce) in the existing Economy section into policy statements, and to move some content from other areas

of the MfSS, such as the Industry section, into the new Economy section if that seems appropriate.

Where policy already exists in the present Economy section, the Voting Paper presented to conference should reflect the main principles of that existing policy, and any alternative should be presented as an amendment to the Voting Paper.

**Proposed by Policy Committee: Brian Heatley\***, Alan Francis, George Graham, Jonathan Dixon

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## C11 End of Life Care

### Synopsis

There is increasing discussion on end of life care and this amendment seeks to establish a Green Party position in this highly emotive area. The amendment has been constructed from examples of end of life policies across the EU and seeks to establish a safe and fair framework for people to have an assisted death.

### Motion

Insert new section, after "Abortion", titled: "End of Life Care" and renumber

H324 The Green Party recognises that medical decisions taken towards the end of a person's life should never be undertaken lightly. We believe that when the quality of life is poor (e.g. due to severe dementia) life-prolonging treatments such as influenza vaccines and antibiotics should not be given routinely without consideration of the whole situation including the wishes of the patient and relatives.

H325 Many medical interventions provided at the end of a person's life will both

relieve suffering and hasten death. We recognise that this can cause concern amongst health professionals and the public and will introduce clear guidance to protect all parties.

H326 Assisted death presents moral and legal concerns to health care professionals and the public. We believe that people have a right to an assisted death within the following framework:

- \* The appointment of an independent advocate must be made when either diagnosis of terminal illness is made or the person receiving care expresses the desire to end their life
- \* Counselling must always be offered to every patient considering an assisted death
- \* Alternatives, such as palliative care must be discussed with the patient
- \* The patient's ability to make the decision must be established by joint assessment of two independent doctors, one of whom should ordinarily be the patient's GP, unless impractical in the circumstances, in which case it may be the patient's medical consultant, one of which must be a psychiatrist and a third independent registered health or social care professional who has undertaken approved training in this area and who has no prior knowledge of the patient.
- \* This decision must take into account evidence provided by the independent advocate.
- \* Treatable illnesses that may impinge of the decision making ability, e.g. depression, must be treated and excluded from the rationale for requesting an assisted death
- \* The patient has the right to appoint individuals either during or prior to the process who will have access to their medical and other records and whom they wish to be involved in discussions

- \* The patient's informed consent must be clearly documented, full discussion of the outcomes of both the illness and the assisted death must also be provided in a language and form understandable to the patient
- \* The patient's close family should be involved in all discussions
- \* There should normally be a waiting period of at least 7 days, set by local policy, for the patient to reflect on their decision.
- \* Patients could orally revoke the request at any point
- \* Healthcare professionals can refuse to be party to any stage of assisted deaths for their own moral reasons
- \* Assisted death will be notifiable

We will introduce legislation based on this framework to ensure the protection of all parties.

**Proposed by John Hunt\***, Stuart Jeffery, Geoff Collard, Stephen P Smith

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## C12 Higher Education Lecturers' Dispute:

### Synopsis

Media coverage of the 'settlement' of the UCU dispute suggested that it had ended in a victory for the Union, this is not so even solely on pay issues; furthermore the 'settlement' leaves extant threats to job security and to Higher education being provided on a basis of social justice.

### Motion

Re: The Higher Education Lecturers' Dispute  
"We congratulate GPEX for its support of the NATFHE/AUT (now UCU), Higher Education Lecturers' Dispute.

In the light of the settlement of the dispute, the Green Party

notes the danger that this will not be a binding national agreement that will be applicable to all Lecturers, Support Staff and other relevant workers.

It notes that the current settlement does not address further fragmentation, casualisation, job insecurity, long working Hours, poor contracts and the possibility of a two tier fee structure differentiating 'elite' from other institutions.

We call on the Green Party Executive to continue to support union campaigns against these educationally and socially divisive developments at local and national levels."

**Proposed by the Green Party Trade Union Group: Peter Murry\***, Dave Welsh, Larry Sanders, Brian A Luney, Susan Miles

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### **C13 Replacing MI5 and MI6:**

The GPEW demands the removal of a current threat to democracy and our real security by a fundamental review of the intelligence services with a view to abolishing MI5 and MI6 and replacing them with intelligence organisations that are properly accountable, directly to Parliament through a committee appointed by Parliament, and operating under strict constraints, and with the genuine security of the British people at the heart of their objectives.

#### **Amendment 1:**

*Delete "The GPEW demands the removal of a current threat to democracy and our real security by"*

*Add 'Insert the following new section to the Public Administration and Government section of the MfSS: "Intelligence Services. PA1000 As largely*

*unaccountable agencies, MI5 and MI6 currently represent a threat both to democracy and to our real security. The Green Party would initiate..."*

**Amendment Proposed by:** George Graham, Paul Ingram, Alan Francis, Brian Heatley, Jonathan Dixon

**Motion proposed by: Tim Summers\***, Peter Murry, Ken Burgess , Ann Garrett (+ 5 others)

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### **C14 Anti- Vivisection**

#### **Synopsis**

This motion adds to our policy on vivisection the non-animal testing methods we would support to replace vivisection. It also removes the 5 year timescale for replacement of some experiments, which has proved contentious in the past.

#### **Motion**

##### **Amendment 1:**

*Insert at the start of the motion: "Replace AR407 with:"*

**Proposed: Tim Turner, Nigel Tart, Vivien Pomfrey, Jonathan Dixon (+ 3 others)**

In view of the fact that animal experiments are:  
a) inherently cruel, and  
b) misleading and inimical to good science, The Green Party would end all animal experiments. Government research funds will be transferred from animal tests to superior non-animal technologies , including epidemiology, computer models, micro-dosing, DNA chips, Microfluidics chips, and human tissue. Greens would also fund more research into prevention of disease, looking at diet, environment, family history and lifestyle.

**Amendment 2:** Insert "the use of" before "human tissue"

**Proposed:** Tim Turner, Vivien Pomfrey, Jonathan Dixon, Marian Hussenbux, Mark Dawes, Sue Baumgardt

##### **Amendment 3:**

*Insert "most" before the first occurrence of "animal experiments" and "harmful" before the second occurrence.*

**Proposed by:** Vivien Pomfrey, John Norris, Sue Baumgardt, Tim Turner, Jonathan Dixon

##### **Amendment 4:**

*Insert "(i.e. those with the potential to cause pain, suffering, lasting harm or death, including killing animals before or after the experiments specifically for the purpose of research)" after "harmful animal experiments".*

**Proposed by:** Vivien Pomfrey, John Norris, Sue Baumgardt, Tim Turner,

*[SOC Note: If Amendment 3 falls, Amendment 4 will not be taken]*

**Signed by Sue Baumgardt\***, Shelly Willetts, Tim Turner, Rob Jarrett, Nigel Tart

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## **Section D (organisational motions)**

### **D01: MOTION TO AMEND THE EUROPEAN ELECTION SELECTION PROCEDURES**

**[SOC Note:** As this amends a bylaw to the constitution, the substantive motion requires a two thirds majority.]

#### **Synopsis:**

This motion proposes a number of changes to the selection procedures for the European Elections to address problems encountered at the 2004 selections and address other issues which have arisen since then. The changes made to the previous procedures are highlighted in bold in the motion.

#### **Motion:**

In Bye Laws to the Green Party Constitution, delete the section headed "referred to in Clause 5(ix): Selection of Party Lists;-", and replace with:

#### **referred to in Clause 5(ix): Selection of Party Lists:-**

Selection procedure to be used for a European Election held under a closed Regional List electoral system.

i) The definition of a Region in this bye-law is a European electoral Region as laid down by statute and falling within the territory of the Green Party of England and Wales. **The term 'nominee' as used herein shall be taken to apply to a person seeking selection for the List by full Regional ballot, or by any other means sanctioned in these procedures.**

ii) The selection procedure for a Regional list of candidates shall be conducted by the relevant Region

iii) Each Region shall be responsible for deciding how

many candidates it wishes to submit for its list and upon other objectives, strategy and tactics relating to the conduct of the European election campaign within the Region. In doing so, it shall have regard to any relevant decisions of conference, GPRC or GPEx.

iv) Members of the Party will be entitled to participate in the Regional selection process according to the Region in which they are resident at the time the ballot is held. GPEx shall be responsible for ensuring that an accurate membership list arranged by Region can be provided.

#### **v) Conduct of the selection process:**

a) GPRC Councillors (or if these posts are vacant the Regional Co-ordinator) shall be responsible for ensuring that a European Regional Returning Officer (ERRO) is appointed at a properly advertised Regional meeting which is open to all members resident in that Region. The National Election Agent shall be notified of the name and contact details of the ERRO forthwith.

b) An ERRO may not seek election to their Regional List **in any selection procedure over which they have jurisdiction.**

c) Such a Regional meeting may determine matters of timetabling and any details of the selection process not set out in this bye-law or otherwise resulting directly from a decision of Party conference. Guidance will be made available by the National Election Agent or other relevant Party Officer.

d) The Regional Meeting shall consider the question of gender or ethnic minority balance on the Regional List.

**e) The Regional Meeting may decide to run the selection process for the Regional List in two parts, in order to choose candidates at the top of the List in a different way from candidates lower down the List. In this case, candidates at the top of the list shall be chosen first. The names and order of the second group of candidates may be chosen at a subsequent Regional Meeting by STV, or by postal ballot. However, the Region shall take all reasonable steps to select the candidates for the top of the list and in particular positions one and two on the list by postal ballot.**

f) There shall be a European Elections Tribunal comprising 2 members chosen by GPRC, 2 members chosen by the Executive and 1 member of SOC, none of whom may be nominees for or members of a (prospective) candidate list. The Tribunal will rule on disputes relating to European Election selection procedures.

g) Any appeal concerning a Tribunal decision shall be made to GPRC. Any GPRC member who has heard that case as a member of the Tribunal may not participate in the appeal process.

vi) The Regional Party will be advised to complete its selection procedure at least 12 months prior to, and any filling of subsequent vacancies arising on the list must be completed by the expected opening date for nominations for the European election.

#### **vii) The nomination procedure**

a) Each candidate for a given Regional List must be nominated by at least ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales resident in that Region. The names of nominees and their

nominators shall be forwarded to the ERRO.

b) As part of the nomination process each nominee shall complete an application form, which may be varied by the Regional Party, which must be submitted by close of nominations. If they fail to do so the nomination will be invalid.

c) The application form will request details of their expertise, experience, skills and other relevant information.

d) Nominees shall be asked to declare anything which they consider likely, or that may in law be prejudicial to their position as a (prospective) candidate or as a MEP or would bring the Party into disrepute.

e) The application form will contain a section outlining the expected role of a Green Party MEP and nominees will be expected to state in writing how and why they can match this role. **For Regions who have decided to split their selection procedure into two parts, as outlined in v)e) above, this requirement shall only apply to those seeking selection to the top places on the List.**

f) Nominees shall state whether or not they are willing to abide by any pecuniary arrangement made concerning the GPEW and its MEPs, and previously agreed by conference, subject to changes in statute, and by any other arrangements concerning the relationship between the Party and its MEPs as may be made from time to time. **For Regions who have decided to split their selection procedure into two parts, as outlined in v)e) above, this requirement shall only apply to those seeking selection to the top places on the List.**

g) Nominees shall indicate whether or not they intend to be an active member of the list of candidates, irrespective of their position on it.

h) The information and answers provided will be made available to all members resident in the Region prior to the Regional hustings.

#### viii) Eligibility of nominees:

a) A nominee must be a member of The Green Party at the time of close of nominations for the Regional selection process.

b) Each nominee must be expected to have been a member of The Green Party continuously for one year immediately prior to the expected date of the opening of nominations for the European election. **A Regional meeting, given proper notice of the item, may extend this qualification to a period of not more than 2 years.**

c) Each nominee must expect to be qualified to be elected to the European Parliament at the opening of nominations for the European Election and must be so to be nominated as a candidate at the election.

d) Membership of a Green Party which is a member of the European Federation of Green Parties will be considered equivalent to GPEW membership for the purposes of any membership qualification.

e) In extraordinary circumstances, a person who would not normally qualify under category (b) above may be nominated for selection by 20 members of the Region for which they wish to stand and who will have been Green Party members for at least 2 years at the close of nominations.

f) A member thus qualified shall be entitled to submit a nomination for more than one Region, but if selected for more than one list, after all relevant selections have been finished, must resign from lists sufficient to retain candidacy in no more than one region.

#### ix) Conduct of ballots and hustings.

a) The ERRO for each Region will organise the ballot(s) necessary to select and order the members of the Regional List. The ballot(s) will be postal and will not close before there has been at least one properly advertised Regional meeting at which all nominees for the List are invited to present themselves and may be questioned by members.

b) The ERRO, in consultation with the National Election Agent, will issue guidance to nominees that sets out the nature and extent of campaigning allowed in pursuit of selection for the list. **Such guidance shall stipulate that:**

**(1) Nominees shall not promise or imply in any statement to voters, including at hustings, that they will give any monies, goods or services to any part of the Party dependent on their election to the list of candidates, or as a MEP, or on any particular outcome of the ballot other than as may be required by any rules agreed by the Party.**

**(2) Nominees shall not offer one another endorsements, or seek or use endorsements from other members in any statement to voters, including at hustings.**

c) The ballot(s) will require members to cast preferences

for the candidates as in an STV or AV election. There shall be provision for negative voting (Re-open Nominations). The candidate winning the first place on the list will be determined by an AV count of the ballot papers. The second, third, fourth etc. places on the list will be determined in that order by a complete STV count for each place using a quota of  $1/(n+1)$  when determining the nth place. Candidates already elected to the list will take part in later counts and may not be eliminated. Each count will therefore elect one additional candidate to the list. These terms shall be subject to any Regional Meeting decision regarding gender or ethnic minority balance.

d) A Region may re-order its list after the ballot, or following any further ballots, recounts or **appointments** made in connection with vacancies occurring on the list, subject to the consent of all the candidates thereby affected.

x) Filling vacancies on the list

a) Where, at the first time of asking, there are less nominees for a ballot than the number of candidates a Region wishes to select using that ballot, the ERRO **shall** set a new date for close of nominations which shall be at least **six** weeks later than the original deadline and will notify all members in the Region accordingly.

b) A candidate wishing to resign from the Regional List shall notify the ERRO in writing. The ERRO shall inform the National Election Agent of the resignation.

c) Where a Region wishes to fill one or more vacancies that still remain or that subsequently arise on a list due to the death, resignation or **de-selection** of a

candidate, the following rules shall apply :

(1) Where a vacancy arises on a list and there were more nominees than places to be filled, the Region shall have the option of re-counting the original ballot papers to determine who shall additionally be elected to the list and the revised order, or may decide that the next highest-placed nominee in the ballot shall be deemed elected to the list and that the candidates shall be re-ordered as in ix)(d) above so as to determine which position they shall occupy.

(2) If after the second call for nominations there are insufficient **willing** nominees to fill the top two positions on the list, dispensation may be given by the Tribunal to defer the ballot until such time as the ERRO is satisfied that sufficient nominations will be submitted. A further call for nominations will be circulated to all members in the Region along with a new deadline for close of nominations.

**(3) If, after the third call for nominations, or for one of the other reasons described, there remain or arise vacancies in any of the positions on the list, the Regional Party may decide to appoint nominees to fill them at a Regional meeting for which all Regional members must be given advance notice of this business. If agreement cannot be reached on which nominees should be appointed to the list, and in what order, a STV ballot may be held at the meeting to determine the relative order. Subject to a Region's powers under ix) d), the result of a postal ballot shall take precedence in promoting nominees already on the list to any higher position for which there is a vacancy.**

(4) In the event of any ballot being conducted to fill vacancies on the list, any person holding a position below one or more of those vacancies shall have the option of re-submitting themselves for election. The following constraint shall apply: no such person, whether so re-submitting themselves or not, will be moved to a lower position or lose their place on the list altogether, as a result of such a ballot.

(5) Any nominee whose position on a list should, on account of new legislation, fall below that of the number of MEPs to be elected from the Region, shall retain their nominal nth position and be available to fill any vacancy on the list according to the rules set out above.

(6) A nominee will be ineligible for promotion to a place on the list if they were not preferred to RON.

(7) If a Region wishes to fill any vacancy on its list too close to the election for the procedures described above to be completed in time, the ERRO may put details of nominees before GPRC for a decision as to whether or not they may be a candidate.

xi) De-selection of candidates

a) A ballot on whether to remove a particular candidate from a Regional List will be held if a petition demanding one is supported by at least 20% of the Party members in the Region.

b) A person seeking to initiate such a petition shall inform in writing the ERRO or, if none is in post, the Regional Co-ordinator of the name of the candidate and the reason or reasons why they should be de-selected. The officer receiving such notification

shall be responsible for drawing up a form of petition and for notifying the candidate in writing that they are doing so and of the charges against them.

c) The candidate targeted for de-selection shall have the right to reply to the charges at the time they are first circulated to the wider membership and will therefore be given eight working days to provide to the relevant officer up to 300 words in their defence which shall appear on the form of petition.

d) The petition will state a reason or reasons why the candidate is considered unfit to represent the Party and will be delivered to the ERRO for the Region. If none is in post it will be delivered to the Regional Co-ordinator. The officer receiving the petition will be responsible for:

(1) checking that the petition is valid,

(2) informing the National Election Agent and the candidate whose de-selection is sought of the action taken and

(3) the conduct of the ballot.

e) The question put shall take the form "[Name of candidate] be removed from the Green Party's list of candidates for the [name of election] in the [name of Region]"

f) The ballot will be accompanied by statements from the candidate and those seeking de-selection if those persons so wish. Such statements shall not exceed 300 words. There will also be a Regional meeting to discuss the matter of which all members resident in the Region will be given reasonable notification and will be entitled to attend and at which the candidate and those seeking de-selection may

present their cases and be questioned.

g) Notification of the arrangements for the ballot will be issued to members within two weeks of the delivery of the petition. All members resident in the Region will be eligible to vote. The ballot will close and the result be declared not more than four weeks after members have been notified of its arrangements.

h) The result shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. If a majority vote for a candidate's removal then the candidate shall be removed and the list amended by one of the means described above. If a majority vote to retain the candidate then no further attempt at de-selection may be made unless:

(1) twelve months have elapsed since the declaration of the result of the de-selection ballot, or

(2) in the opinion of the Tribunal there is significant new evidence that the candidate is unsuitable to represent the Party.

(3)i) If, in the opinion of a majority of a Region's members taking part in a meeting called to discuss the issue, there are sufficient grounds for the removal of a candidate but inadequate time in which to produce a petition, hold a Regional meeting to hear the case and complete a ballot to decide the matter, then the Region shall remit a decision on de-selection to the Tribunal. The candidate and those seeking de-selection shall have the right to present their cases to that body.

**Proposed by: Jonathan Dixon\*, Lindy Brett, Chris Rose, John Norris**

## **D02 MEMBERSHIP BALLOTS MOTION**

### **Synopsis**

This motion allows Conference to ask the membership to approve major changes to the Constitution / Philosophical Basis. Safeguards ensure that proper information is made available (a statement against is chosen by the largest number of signatories), that at least 15% of the membership vote, and that trivia is not put.

### **Motion**

\*\*\*New Section 10.ii\*\*\*

10.ii

The Philosophical Basis of the Party may be changed only by a two-thirds majority at Conference or by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only be proposed in advance of an Annual Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be required to pass the motion to initiate the ballot.

### **Amendment 1:**

*Proposed New Section 10.ii currently reads:  
"The Philosophical Basis of the Party may be changed only by a two-thirds majority at Conference or by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership through a party wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only [be] proposed in advance of an Annual Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be*

required to pass the motion to initiate the ballot.

*'In final sentence delete "simple" and replace with "two-thirds".'*

**Proposed by:** John Norris, John Street, Shahrar Ali, Jonathan Dixon

\*\*\* New Section 16 \*\*\*  
16. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

=====

i) The Constitution may be revised by a two-thirds majority vote, at an Annual Conference or an Extraordinary Party Conference called by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power.

ii) The Constitution may also be revised by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only proposed in advance of an Annual Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be required to pass the motion to initiate the ballot.

lii) No amendment to the Constitution shall be retrospective in nature/effect.

**Amendment 2:**

**New Section 16 currently reads:**

16. REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

i) The Constitution may be revised by a two-thirds majority vote, at an Annual Conference or an Extraordinary Party Conference called by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power.

ii) The Constitution may also be revised by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by an Annual Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only proposed in advance of an Annual Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be required to pass the motion to initiate the ballot.

iii) No amendment to the Constitution shall be retrospective in nature/effect.

*'Delete "simple" in sub ii) and replace with "two-thirds".'*

**Proposed by John Norris, John Street, Shahrar Ali, Jonathan Dixon**

STANDING ORDERS

=====

\*\*\*Amend section 6 f \*\*\*

6 f) Motions to amend the Constitution at and by Conference, to amend the Philosophical Basis of the Party at and by Conference, Enabling Motions, and to grant exceptional powers to the Regional Council, and all votes while Section A of Standing Orders has been suspended, require a two-thirds majority. All other motions at conference require only a simple majority, including amendments to motions and motions delegating the power to amend the constitution or Philosophical Basis of the Party to the membership through a ballot.

**Amendment 3:**

STANDING ORDERS

*Proposed Amendment to section 6 f of Standing Orders\*\*\**

6. f) Motions to amend the Constitution at and by

Conference, to amend the Philosophical Basis of the Party at and by Conference, Enabling Motions, and to grant exceptional powers to the Regional Council, and all votes while Section A of Standing Orders has been suspended, require a two-thirds majority. All other motions at conference require only a simple majority, including amendments to motions and motions delegating the power to amend the constitution or Philosophical Basis of the Party to the membership through a ballot.

*Delete "and motions delegating the power to amend the constitution or Philosophical Basis of the Party to the membership through a ballot".'*

**Proposed by: John Norris, John Street, Shahrar Ali, Jonathan Dixon**

\*\*\*Additional SO Section (Numbered as appropriate) \*\*\*

Procedure for Membership ballots for constitutional amendments and changes to the Philosophical Basis of the Party

1 As outlined in Section 16 of the Constitution, the constitution may be revised by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. As outlined in Section 10.ii of the Constitution the Philosophical Basis of the Party may be revised by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot.

2 Motions seeking to amend both the Constitution and the Philosophical Basis of the Party will be put to the membership only if the object

of the change can only be achieved by amending both.

3 Motions seeking to amend the Constitution or the Philosophical Basis of the Party by membership ballot will be put to Conference only if the subject matter is weighty and of wide significance to the party. Motions that are relatively trivial and more naturally dealt with by conference may be referred back to Conference by SOC in the agenda process, subject to Conference approval of the SOC report, or by Conference itself by majority vote.

4 Quorum for such a vote will be set at 15% of the membership on the day that the ballot is issued.

#### **Amendment 4:**

*Proposed new paragraph 4 currently reads:*

*"Quorum for such a vote will be set at 15% of the membership on the day that the ballot is issued."*

**Delete "15%" and replace with "a third".**

**Proposed by:** Jonathan Dixon, Clive Lord, Alan Francis, John Norris( + 5 others)

5a Two statements of not more than 500 words may accompany the motion in the form of proposing and objecting statements. The proposers of the motion will agree a proposing statement.  
5b Statements against may be presented to SOC. The statement with the greatest number of valid members' signatures will be accepted as the statement against and accompany the motion. A call for statements against the motion will be made in the official record of conference by SOC.

6 The vote will be conducted by the GPEW ERO, who will agree a timetable and procedure with SOC. The voting papers should be distributed with other Green Party materials. If the ERO is a signatory of the motion to initiate a membership ballot, SOC will be required to select an acting ERO.

7 Amendments will neither be accepted nor voted upon once the ballot has been approved by conference.

8. If more than one ballot is initiated by any given conference, these ballots should be run concurrently.

**Signed by Jim Killock\***, Darren Johnson, Daniel Perrett, Keith Baker (+ 5 others)

#### **D03: Internal Communications Post on GPEx**

##### **Synopsis**

The Local Party Support role on GPEx is too demanding. There are two aspects to the job, responding to local party requests for information and help, and communicating with the whole membership. The post of Internal Communications will take responsibility for Green Activist, internal emails, and the member's website.

##### **Proposal**

Amend the constitution, Section 7, "Green Party Executive" to

7 i) There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive) which shall be responsible for the overall and day to day direction of the Party.

ii) The Party Executive will consist of ten voting members

with the following functional responsibilities  
CHANGE to "eleven voting members"

INSERT k) Internal Communications

**Proposed by: Peter Cranie\*, Matt Sellwood, Sian Berry, Jim Killock, Howard Jago**

#### **D04: Direct Debit**

##### **Synopsis**

This motion instructs the Executive to enable funds to be collected through Direct Debit if at all possible.

##### **MOTION:**

Conference **believes** that the Executive should enable the Green Party to collect funds by Direct Debit, in order to maximise the ease -- for us and for them -- with which people can donate money with which people can donate money or make regular membership payments.

Conference therefore **mandates** the Executive to make it possible and straightforward, within the next 12 months, for members who wish to do so to pay their subscription fees -- and for anyone acceptable to the Green Party to make regular donations -- to the Green Party, via direct debit.

**Proposed by Rupert Read\*, Howard Jago, Sian Berry, Peter Cranie**

#### **D05: Motion to set up a review of constitutional procedures for selection candidates**

##### **Synopsis:**

Current procedures for candidate selection are more detailed and prescriptive than they need to be. This makes them difficult to follow, and

restrictive on local and regional parties who may need flexibility to allow their own constitutions to reflect local circumstances. This motion sets up a review of these procedures.

**Motion:**

Conference instructs GPRC to initiate and oversee a review of the Green Party's constitutional procedures for the selection of candidates, and to submit any proposed Constitutional changes resulting from this review to a future Conference.

The aim of this review should be to produce a more simplified set of outline procedures and guidelines than we currently have. The resulting procedures should provide a minimum set of standards for local and regional party selection procedures, and should create a default position for those local and regional parties who do not have their own constitutional provisions. However, the procedures should be flexible enough to allow local or regional parties to have their own set of rules within their own constitutions, which conform with the minimum set of regulations.

The review should consider changes to the procedures for candidates at all levels of elections, including GPRC's advisory rules on local government candidates, and should seek, where possible, to remove unnecessary duplication of text where standard provisions apply to all elections.

Local parties should be consulted at length to take into account existing constitutions and arrangements.

**Proposed by Jonathan Dixon\*, Lindy Brett, Chris Rose, John Norris**

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**D06: Association of Green Councillors**

**Synopsis:** A motion to acknowledge the existence of the Association of Green Councillors in the Party's Constitution.

**Motion**

To be inserted in the 'Elected Representatives' section of the Constitution:

Add a new paragraph (vii):

There will be an Association of Green Councillors, responsible for the dissemination of information and best practice between all principal authority and parish councillors in England and Wales. It will appoint a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and will employ such staff as deemed necessary to accomplish its goals. It will hold at least one meeting per year (the Annual General Meeting) at which officers will be elected. Membership will be open to all elected representatives of the Green Party of England and Wales who will be encouraged to contribute to its funds, and all other full GPEW members on payment of an AGC subscription fee.

**Proposed: Matt Sellwood\*, John Matthissen, Martin Love, Peter Lynn, David Ford**

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**D07: Principal Speaker**

**Proposal to change Constitution. Green Party Executive**

**Synopsis:**

We believe the Green Party should have just ONE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, particularly in relation to TELEVISION. This post WILL NOT BE A LEADER, but a

single focus of the party for the electorate. This will increase the willingness of the dreaded media to feature the GP in TV debates etc

**Motion**

Replace 7 iv with: There shall be a Green Party Principal Speaker (hereinafter referred to as Principal Speaker) elected annually in the same way as for voting members of the Party Executive (see 7 ii). The Principal Speaker shall be a non-voting member of the Party Executive.

**Proposed by John Phillips\*, Joan Brenda Smithson, Clive Lord, Heidi Smithson.**

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**D08: Clarification of Regional Council Section of Constitution**

Amend Green Party Constitution

Section 6 - Green Party Regional Council - Paragraph (v)

Replace 'area' with 'Region'

**Proposed Sue Bradley\*, Geoff Collard, Birgit Völlm, Joseph Healy, Michael Stimson**

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**D09: Requirement for Regional Council Members to be Elected by Postal Ballot**

Amend Green Party Constitution

Section - Bye-laws - Second paragraph - referred to in Clause 5(ii)

Purpose - To make clear the requirement for a postal ballot of Regional Council representatives in all circumstances - (for example at the end of a Councillors' 2 year term of office or when

replacing a Councillor who resigns mid-term).

Add at end of first sentence 'by postal ballot'

**Proposed & Signed: Sue Bradley\***, Geoff Collard, Birgit Völm, Joseph Healy, Michael Stimson

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## **D10: Yahoo!, Google and Microsoft Boycott**

### **Synopsis**

This motion proposes that the Green Party stops using Yahoo and Google because they have colluded with Chinese government censorship and surveillance of dissidents. A move to alternative open source software would also fit better with the Green Party ethos than contributing to the profits of Yahoo and Google.

### **Motion**

Conference notes

1 The conviction on Shi Tao last year for 10 years and Li Zhi for 8 years this year on the strength of evidence presented to the Chinese courts by Yahoo! concerning passing on government advice on press censorship and comments on state corruption in discussion groups respectively.

2 That Yahoo! recently censored a Trades union advert that drew attention the abuses of a Los Angeles airport employer to public attention, and censors such materials as a matter of policy.

3 That the investments of Google and Microsoft in China and their cooperation with the Chinese government on matters of censorship also need to be drawn to public attention and campaigned against.

Conference resolves that

1 The Green Party will call for a boycott of Yahoo and its services, starting with moving all remaining national Green Party lists currently on Yahoo! onto its own list server

2 To recommend that local and regional parties also move to using the GP's list server as a corporate-free service running on open source technologies.

### **Amendment 1:**

*In sub para 1 following 'Conference resolves that' delete ', starting with moving all remaining national Green Party lists currently on Yahoo! onto its own list server'*

*In sub para 2 delete 'also' and replace it with 'and all remaining national Green Party lists currently on Yahoo!'*

**Proposed by:** Brian Heatley, Tim Beaumont, Jonathan Dixon, Tim Turner

4 While recognising the ubiquitous nature of and current dependency of people upon Microsoft products, to call on all levels of the party to work towards removing MS products from their working lives, to boycott Microsoft where possible and to use open and free software products wherever possible and practical.

5 Conference also calls for creation of a popular open search engine funded by trusts initially set up by internet companies, foundations and governments to protect the open nature of information and to make this accessible as possible in countries with censorship.

6 Conference calls for the removal of the Google search facility from the Green Party website and for all levels of the party to boycott Google in terms of links to their site and to call for other organisations

7 Conference calls for internet companies working in China to work with human rights organisations to create a human rights code of conduct that will include a refusal to disclose personal information to the Chinese government where the offence is a matter of freedom of speech and also to provide basic workers rights including the right to associate in free trades unions.

**Proposed by Pete Murry\***, Jim Killock, Amanda Baker, Peter Cranie

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## **Section E: Draft Voting Papers**

This Draft voting paper is not for formal debate, but included in the First Agenda for information. You are invited to submit any comments to Jonathan Dixon, of Policy Committee. See Page 29 for contact details.

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### **E01: Public Administration and Government Draft Voting Paper**

#### **Synopsis (SUBMITTED FOR THE FIRST AGENDA)**

This Draft Voting Paper is not for formal debate at this Conference, but will be discussed in workshops. Members are invited to submit proposed amendments in time for the Second Agenda so that the workshops can consider them. A final Voting Paper will be submitted to a future Conference.

#### **PROPOSED NEW POLICY:**

Delete the MfSS Sections on Public Administration & Government (PA), Principles Of Government (PG), and Green Councils (GC), and replace with the following chapter of MfSS:

### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT**

#### **Introduction**

PA001. We live in a state where over centuries of struggle some democratic rights and institutions have gradually been grafted on to a feudal monarchy. In that feudal monarchy all power flowed downward from the monarch, and the people were subjects and not citizens. Gradually some of that power has been delegated to bodies like Parliament, or to local authorities, and citizens have acquired some rights.

However our constitution still has many of the elements of its feudal past, including some remnants of the royal prerogative. We believe that the basic principle of Government is the reverse of this, that is that power flows upwards from the people, and from their most local levels of Government to the higher levels. Certain principles follow from this:

#### **Principles**

PA100. All decision-making and action throughout all levels of government, including international government, shall be governed by the principle of subsidiarity: namely that nothing should be done centrally if it can be done equally well, or better, locally.

PA101. A further principle is that any democratic and accountable authority may judge for itself which functions carried out at a higher level it can do equally well, or better. Coupled with the principle of subsidiarity, this establishes the need for a structure that responds positively to demands for decentralisation from below, and that ensures that this proceeds smoothly and does not disempower other communities.

PA102. The highest form of democracy is direct participation. This is best achieved through the decentralisation of society, so that decisions can be made through face to face discussion. All the major political decisions which affect our lives should ideally be made with our active participation. This requires that all economic and social activity should be carried out on a human scale; that is, in a way that allows individuals and groups access to, and influence over, such decisions. Direct democracy will encourage cross-party co-

operation and weaken the hold of ideologies and factions.

**AMENDMENT:** *Insert new paragraph PA103, as follows, and renumber subsequent paragraphs:*

*"PA103. Such direct democratic participation requires citizens to be able to access the information they need in order to be able to take part in decision making. Freedom of information, and openness of government and its procedures, are therefore integral principles in the creation of a more democratic and decentralised society."*

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PA103. Given the scale of much activity in the world today, it is clear that not all decisions can be made locally. The best form of democracy for large scale activity is voting, in elections and referenda, in such a way that the outcome reflects the pattern of voting and no vote is wasted. Delegated authority and trust must be accompanied by full accountability.

PA104. A community cannot be self-determining unless it is to a large extent self-reliant. Self-reliance is the ability to satisfy needs without being excessively or unequally dependent upon anyone; self-sufficiency is one way to achieve self-reliance, but is by no means the only way.

PA105. Co-operation and working together in order to achieve a state of harmony with the planet and the life it supports must be fundamental to all policy decisions. Divisions, power-relations, intolerance, prejudice, wide inequalities and failures in communication all weaken communities and preclude such co-operation. A Bill to enshrine rights and responsibilities must exist to help protect against this;

positive action to build a tolerant, global awareness and to empower oppressed groups is also necessary.

PA106. Government must therefore exist at many levels, each based upon geographical areas within which a given set of functions can be carried out and with which the people themselves have some common bond. These areas will in many cases be bio-regionally based, on the geographical and ecological boundaries already existing.

PA107. The Green Party views citizenship as a set of rights and responsibilities based on a commitment to a community. It is gained by living in the community, and lost by extended absence. Responsibilities and rights include Citizens' Income, personal taxation, shelter, and participation in the democratic process.

PA108. The age of majority (at which full criminal responsibility and the power to make contracts is acquired) will be reduced to 16 to clarify the age at which children can become adults in the eyes of the law.

PA109. The basis for a decentralised society and the establishment of a Bill of Rights must be laid out in a written constitution; but in the years before the adoption of such a constitution there is much work to be done in dismantling one of the most hierarchical and centralised states in the world. While this can only succeed with the active participation of communities and local councils, and while various international bodies and institutions will heavily influence the process, the key to a smooth transition will lie in the way in which Parliament surrenders its tradition of national sovereignty.

**AMENDMENT:** *Insert new paragraphs PA110 and PA111, as follows, and renumber subsequent paragraphs:*  
*"PA110. The above principles all relate to issues of democracy and participation in the democratic processes. Important as these are, it should not be forgotten that the primary purpose of government and administration is the provision of public services, including those institutions which maintain public order and national security.*

*PA111. Public services should not be run like businesses - they must always take account of the wider social impacts of their actions. All those involved in public service provision, be they elected representatives or public sector employees, should be working for the good of the community as a whole. They should be responsive to the needs, and respectful of the wishes, of their communities. In return, their efforts and commitment should be valued by the communities they serve."*

PA110. The Constitutional Commission set up by a Green Government to carry out the task of drafting such a constitution would however take several years to present its proposals, and urgent measures are needed in the interim.

PA111. Since the process of drafting a constitution that will be widely accepted can only be consensual and participatory, the Green Party cannot specify the rights and responsibilities that it would enshrine: however, we would make strong recommendations to the commission that our commonly held principles on rights, government and decentralisation be included.

**AMENDMENT:** *Delete existing PA110 and PA111.*

## Policies

### Constitutional

PA200. A Constitutional Commission will be required to draft a written constitution, oversee and arbitrate the process of decentralisation, and take over the functions of the Boundary Commission and the Electoral Commission. This body must be accountable, representative, diverse, aware of practical requirements and grassroots concerns, and independent of Westminster. Therefore it will be formed at the earliest opportunity of elected Councillors representing all levels of Government in all parts of the UK countries involved.

PA201. The Green Party will recommend to the Constitutional Commission that the structures laid out here for a gradual but complete decentralisation are written into the Constitution; that the Constitution is based on Green principles (see PA100-111); and that it fully guarantees political rights as well as wider human rights. (see RR)

PA202. In order for councils to be sufficiently legitimate and trustworthy to take on increased responsibility, large scale electoral reform will be required, and immediate legislation for citizen's rights. (see PA500-610, RR301)

PA203. Parliament's role in the first five years of a Green Government will be, first, to devolve functions to more local bodies; second, to lift its hold over councils and enable them to realise their potential; and third, to work with the Constitutional Commission to meet demands from local Government to take on

responsibility for resources and functions which are currently dealt with at too high a level by central Government and the private sector. (see PA100-101)

PA204. The Constitutional Commission will be responsible for keeping the boundaries and structures of local and regional government under review, taking account of the views of local authorities and residents. The aim should be to move towards structures which better reflect the ecology of the land and the character of local communities, and which enable better democratic decision making and the effective provision of public services. Any significant proposed changes to such structures would be subject to a referendum of all residents affected.

PA205. There remain many functions that are most appropriately carried out at the national level or higher. These include setting minimum environmental standards (see EU300, NR400), peace and security (see PD500), protection of human rights, and regulating transnational corporations. (see EC980s ,IP400s)

**AMENDMENT:** Delete PA205.

### Local Government Structure

PA300. The current organisation of local government, with some areas being covered by Unitary Authorities whilst others still operate two tiers of County and District/Borough Councils, has arisen for a number of historical and practical reasons. The Green Party believes that different areas have different needs in terms of organisational structure, and that there is no evidence to suggest that the current arrangements do not work. We are therefore opposed to

any centralised imposition of uniform structures across the whole country.

**AMENDMENT:** Delete paragraph PA300 and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

PA301. All Councils will be asked to complete a review of the pattern of Parish councils in their area within two years; and the legislation on Parishes will be extended to cover all parts of Britain. Every effort should be made to ensure that the boundaries of Parishes reflect local peoples' wishes; the Constitutional Commission will arbitrate in disputes.

PA302. Adjoining districts may confederate to any level for the joint exercise of specific functions, provided such confederations remain fully accountable. Similarly, parishes may confederate to act on common concerns not applicable to the whole district. We support co-operation between authorities across national borders, where necessary or appropriate.

**AMENDMENT:** In PA302, replace both instances of the word "confederate" with "co-operate", and replace "provided such confederations remain fully accountable" with "provided such co-operation does not impact on the accountability of decision making".

PA303. The Green Party believes that local authorities run by single party cabinets, or by directly elected mayors, are not in the best interests of local democracy. They take decision making powers away from councils as a whole and place them in the hands of a few individuals, leading to the disenfranchisement of those councillors who are not in the ruling party and the citizens they represent. We would therefore reintroduce the old-

style committee system across local government at all levels.

**AMENDMENT:** In PA303, final sentence, delete "old-style". At the end of the paragraph, change the full stop to a comma and add "which provides for direct member involvement in decision making."

**AMENDMENT:** Before PA304, insert the following heading: "The Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly".

PA304. Provision will be made for reconsideration of the role of the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly in accordance with the wishes of these people. Scotland and Wales will enjoy the degree of autonomy, perhaps involving full self-Government, which the citizens of each, expressing their views through referenda, wish them to have. Citizens of regions in England will have a similar right. References above and below to regions will apply to Scotland and Wales so long as they choose to remain in the United Kingdom.

### Regional Government in England

PA350. There is a need for a democratic and accountable regional tier of Government in England. The Green Party seeks the formation of democratically elected Regional Assemblies throughout England to allow all parts of the United Kingdom to function in a future European Community of the regions and to allow rapid devolution.

**AMENDMENT:** In PA350, delete "all parts of the United Kingdom to function in a future European Community of the regions and to allow".

PA351. De facto regional Government already exists through the Regional Government Offices (GRO),

the Regional Development Agencies (RDA), the Regional Chambers (RCh) and numerous other regional QUANGOs. The existence of these bodies demonstrates the need, and to some extent, the remit of regional Government, but they are neither accountable nor democratic. The nomination of elected local authority councillors to a regional body, as with Regional Chambers, does not make that body either democratic or accountable.

PA352. The first transitional step towards democratic and accountable regional Government will be the establishment of directly-elected regional assemblies based on the existing Government Office regions. These regional assemblies will take over the powers of the GRO, RDA, the existing Regional Chamber and other existing QUANGOs, and adapt their existing bureaucracies to serve the new Assembly. Funding will, in these initial stages, come from diverting the existing block grant regional funding allocated by central Government.

PA353. The regional assemblies will also take responsibility for representing the region within Europe, establishing direct dialogue with other European regional Governments on areas of common interest.

**AMENDMENT:** Delete paragraph PA353 and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

PA354. The particular form and structure of these regional assemblies will vary from region to region according to regional circumstances, but all will be elected by a form of proportional representation. The regional will for the principle of a directly-elected regional assembly will be

determined by a regional referendum, and each assembly will be created at a pace and timing that suits the need of its particular region. The appropriate form and structure will be determined by regional constitutional conventions drawn from all sectors of society, similar to the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

PA355. The powers of the regional assembly will be taken from those functions currently carried out by national and European Government, and will not take powers from local authorities, except where the local authorities within the region agree to pool some of their powers for strategic purposes.

PA356. In due course, the regional assemblies will assume regional tax-raising powers to replace the proportion of national taxation being allocated to regional block grant and other funding. They will also draw down more powers from national and European Government in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. (PA100)

### **The Structure of National Government**

**AMENDMENT:** Before PA370, change the heading to "The Structure of Central Government", and in the first sentence replace "national/" with "the UK".

PA370. In a Green society, national/central government will have less power than it currently has - with many of its functions being taken over by local authorities or the regions. The central Parliament's powers will be limited to those matters that have been delegated upwards to it, and which it in turn has not delegated onwards to the European Parliament.

PA371. The Parliament itself shall be the principle decision making body of central government, with parliamentary sub-committees taking the place of ministerial positions. The political make-up of these sub-committees will be decided by Parliament itself.

PA372. No single political party or individual will have the power of patronage in selecting a ruling cabinet. In this way, the principal central government decision-making bodies will better reflect the diversity of opinion in the country. There will, therefore, be no opportunity for the build up of power in the hands of a single individual in the way that this currently happens with the Prime Minister.

PA373. The House of Lords, as presently constituted, would be abolished and replaced by a second chamber directly elected by proportional representation and open to all citizens of the United Kingdom.

**AMENDMENT:** Replace paragraph PA373 with: "PA373. The House of Lords would be abolished. A democratic parliament, as would be established by the reforms above, would not require a second chamber."

### **Finance**

**AMENDMENT:** Insert new paragraph PA400, as follows, and renumber subsequent paragraphs:

"PA400. In setting up or extending democratic practices, it is important to recognise that the finance available is not indefinite. We need a system of government and administration which best fulfils the needs and aspirations of citizens and the challenges of the future, within the limits of the resources society is prepared to devote

*to it. A balance always needs to be struck. The majority of those resources will always be directed towards the provision of public services, rather than towards the maintenance of democratic procedures."*

PA400. In order to facilitate decentralisation of functions, the collection of taxes will be devolved soon after democratic reforms have taken effect. This will ensure that councils can more easily take over the raising of revenue as they take over its spending. (see EC550)

PA401. Discussion will be held with other countries within the European Community to encourage concurrent devolution of those functions and powers over finance, more appropriately held at the regional level. (see EU227, 228)

PA402. Within a list agreed by the Constitutional Commission, councils will have discretion over which (if any) revenue raising powers they wish to use (see EC550). Levels of taxation will thus be set by the persons answerable to the electorate from whom such funding is to be raised, and for whom such services are to be provided. There will be no limits set on the revenue a council can raise to carry out its mandate.

PA403. A redistribution of wealth between areas may continue to be necessary; the formula on which this will be done will be established and revised by local authorities themselves through the Constitutional Commission. There should be no economic incentive for a wealthy area within a district or region to opt out. (see EC551)

PA404. To facilitate accountability, and to ensure the gradual reduction in the scale of central spending, the Constitutional Commission

should negotiate a rational allocation of taxation between different levels of Government.

### **Direct Democracy and Political Rights**

PA500. A Bill of political rights will be enacted at the earliest opportunity (see PA100-111) to prohibit oppressive actions by unrepresentative Governments and inaccessible bureaucracies.

PA501. There will be a compulsory register of elected representatives' and senior officers' pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, which will be open to public inspection. Town and Parish Councils will have the option of whether or not to pay Councillors a salary, depending on the responsibilities taken by the Council and the resulting workload of its Councillors.

**AMENDMENT:** *In PA501, remove second paragraph and move it to create a new paragraph PA302, renumbering subsequent paragraphs.*

PA502. Legislation will be introduced to provide for referenda to be held on any government decision at the instance of a prescribed percentage of that body's electorate.

PA503. When a Bill of Rights has been enacted, a prescribed percentage of the citizens of any area shall be able to take a Citizens' Initiative, whereby they place a proposition on a ballot paper for popular vote. Should the proposition succeed the result will, subject to the law, be binding on the relevant government body.

PA504. Government at all levels should be accountable to electors between elections and accordingly necessary legislative steps will be taken

to provide for a prescribed percentage of any representative's electors to be able to petition for the recall of any elected person, and rules will be made for the conduct of such recall petitions.

PA505. It is accepted that such recall provisions as described in PA504 above may cause some difficulties under a proportional representation method of electing representatives and accordingly the Constitutional Commission will look further at this matter. Until, however, proportional representation exists for elections to all levels of government the Green Party will campaign for recall provisions under the current "First past the post" system.

**AMENDMENT:**  
*Before PA506, add new heading "Freedom of Information".*

PA506. The Green Party believes that citizens should be entitled to access to information held by their governments and to meetings of their government. These shall be open except where specifically restricted. Restrictions shall be limited to those necessary to protect the privacy of individual citizens and to those which government can show are required to prevent real harm to the public interest. Provision shall be made for a commission to test the latter contention and require access if that contention is not sustained. The use of other bodies effectively acting in the capacity of government will not be allowed to prevent access to information and meetings held by them in that capacity. Exemptions to protect the privacy of individual citizens will not necessarily apply to corporate bodies. Commercial confidentiality should not be accepted as a valid reason for withholding information that

would have been in the public domain had the relevant public service not been privatised.

PA507. The circumstances in which access to council meetings and documents and files may be withheld from the public shall be clearly defined. In particular the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 will be tightened up in a number of ways, for example:

- i) The creation by local authorities of 'working parties', 'panels' or other such bodies, which are not covered by the Act, will be ended. All such bodies will be defined as committees or sub-committees, to ensure that the Act applies to them;
- ii) The use of valid exemptions to public access to documents pursuant to the 1985 Act, to restrict public access to matters not intended to be covered by those exemptions, will be ended; for instance the practice of excluding the public from decisions about grants given to organisations - as distinct from individuals where genuine personal privacy may apply;
- iii) Steps will be taken to curtail decision-making in secret party group meetings as this practice makes the subsequent meetings of the council or its committees or sub-committees meaningless as the decisions ostensibly taken in public will in practice have been made beforehand. Measures we would wish to prevent include: council/government officers advising only one party's group meetings; and all members of a party being required to follow a whip imposed in secret, with penalties if they fail to do so.

PA508. The remit of the various commissioners for public administration will be strengthened. There will be a Commission for Citizen's

Rights, which will be empowered to receive complaints of maladministration in any public body, to investigate them and to recommend redress. The Commission shall be empowered to accept complaints from any citizen or group of citizens. Where a complaint raises a significant question of law, the Commission shall be empowered to provide all assistance necessary to enable the complainant(s) to pursue the case at law.

PA509. The powers of the Ombudsperson and the Commission for Local Administration will be strengthened as follows:

- i) The Ombudsperson will be given power to investigate complaints which affect all or most of the citizens of a local Government area;
- ii) The Commission will be given power in appropriate cases to fund, or underwrite the costs of, legal test cases involving matters of importance concerning the actions of local Government.

**AMENDMENT:** In PA509, replace both instances of "Ombudsperson" with "Ombudsman".

### **Electoral Reform**

PA600. Elections for all levels of government should be by a system of election that provides for high proportionality, few wasted votes and good accountability, so that the political aspirations and views of each area are represented.

PA601. Elected representatives must be accountable to their electors and provision must be made for the representatives under certain extreme circumstances to be recalled and submitted to re-election.

PA602. The right to vote and stand in elections will be based on residence rather than nationality. (see also RR706)

PA603. The voting age for all elections, and the age at which people may take seats at any level of Government, would be reduced to 16.

PA604. The Green Party supports Electoral Reform in all levels of Government, with different systems being appropriate for different levels of Government. Of the various electoral systems available, we would consider the STV and Additional Member Systems to be entirely acceptable, whilst First-Past-The-Post or Supplementary Vote Systems are not.

PA605. The most appropriate system for elections to the Westminster Parliament is the Additional Member System. Electors would vote on two ballots: one for their constituency MP, and the other for the Party of their choice. MPs would be elected from constituencies as at present, but each party's representation would be topped up on a regional basis by additional members to bring its number of seats up to its proportion of votes polled, provided that proportion was above a minimum qualifying level. Additional members would be selected by a mechanism which gave electors the opportunity to exercise a choice between the different party list candidates.

**AMENDMENT:** In paragraph PA605, delete final sentence.

PA606. The most appropriate system for elections to local Government is by Single Transferable Vote (STV) in multi-member wards.

**AMENDMENT:** In paragraph PA606, delete "in multi-member wards".

AMENDMENT: Delete paragraphs PA604 to PA606, and replace with the following, renumbering subsequent paragraphs as appropriate: "PA604. The Green Party supports Electoral Reform in all levels of Government. Of the various electoral systems, the Green Party would prefer the use of the Single Transferable Vote System (STV) at most levels of government, including the national parliament."

PA607. All terms for elected representatives to all levels of Government shall be fixed in length, except when a seat is taken following a by-election. Each Parliament at Westminster should normally be for a fixed term of four years, but if the Government loses a vote of confidence in the House of Commons before the end of the fixed term then an earlier General Election should be held.

PA608. UK political parties will be funded by the State. Such political funding will be calculated and administered on a regional basis, and funds allocated in proportion to the number of votes cast in the region in the last round of proportional representation elections held across the entire region. Parties would need to exceed a threshold of 5% of the vote to become eligible for this funding. Candidates' deposits will not be required at any election and instead signatories supporting the candidate's nomination will be required, the number of signatories being dependent on the size of the electorate at any given election.

**AMENDMENT:** Delete the last sentence of paragraph PA608, and replace with "Nominating signatures would no longer be required for candidates at any election who were properly

*authorised candidates of a registered political party."*

**AMENDMENT:** Delete PA608 and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

PA609. There shall be a complete separation of church and state. Society shall not interfere with the individual's freedom of belief, but it may by law regulate conduct arising out of that belief. In a multicultural society, a privileged position for the Church of England is inappropriate.

PA610. The Church of England shall be disestablished. It shall be self-governing, and the government shall cease to have any powers and responsibilities peculiar to that church. No person shall hold office in the state, or be excluded from any such office, by virtue of their or their spouse's membership or non-membership of any religion or denomination of religion.

### **The Civil Service**

PA700. The functions of a ministry will be to act as the organ of the minister in their capacity as a coordinator of the national affairs which fall within the scope of his ministry. Policies will be formulated by the District Councils, departments of which will hold the greater financial control.

**AMENDMENT:** Delete PA700.

PA701. Senior Council/Government employees in a limited category of jobs shall not have the right to stand as candidates for the institutions in which they work. In all other respects they should enjoy full political rights. There will be a limited range of restrictions on the political and business activities of certain types of civil servants, members of the

armed forces, the police service and people employed in certain public or private institutions.

### **Provision of Watch-dog Facilities**

PA800. The function of the Ombudsman will be elevated and enlarged so that it will comprise a major part of Governmental practice. This will be done by the appointment of commissions. There will be two parts to each commission: an inspectorate and a research and advisory division.

PA801. The field of a commission will cover either the whole of one, or parts or the whole of several, Government departments.

PA802. The inspectorate will be partly staffed by permanent employees of the commission and partly by co-opted citizens. The co-opted citizens will form juries which will examine in detail and in co-operation with the permanent employees of the commission any activity of Government, a commission, industry or commerce. The jury will exist only for the length of time of the specific enquiry or series of enquiries after which it will be disbanded. The jury can recommend prosecution. Its findings, which must be made public immediately the enquiry is completed, can be used as evidence.

PA803. The research and advisory division will consist of permanent employees who will carry out primary research in all fields and examine inter-relationships between the activities of several different Government departments.

PA804. The Commission will receive, via the inspectorate, complaints from the public and will act upon them.

### **Identity and Privacy**

PA850. The Green Party believes that there must be a balance between the need of government on behalf of the community to obtain and hold information to identify individual citizens and the civil rights of individuals, particularly that of privacy. The individual's civil rights should prevail, unless waived by specific agreement or overridden by a specific public interest stipulated by law as overriding privacy. Information on individual identity so obtained should be held confidential, unless that confidentiality is waived by specific agreement or overridden by a specific public interest stipulated by law as overriding confidentiality.

PA851. Such information must be obtained and held only by government servants subject to appropriate regulations on privacy and confidentiality; the task must not be given to commercial organisations. In accordance with the Green Party's policy on a 'Freedom of Information Act' (RR401), information acquired by government agencies and other organisations for specified purposes must not be given to other such organisations or used for other purposes.

PA852. The need for the state and other organisations to obtain information on individuals for specific purposes must not entitle them to access unrelated information at other times for any other purpose. This would undermine the civil liberties of individuals. It would enable those in charge of government and other organisations to obtain and use the information to attack the legitimate rights and activities of those opposed to them.

PA853. Information obtained and held by the state or other organisations must not be

used to subvert and attack the legitimate rights and activities of those opposed to them.

PA854. The Green Party opposes the introduction of a general identity card, whether on a compulsory basis or on a "voluntary" basis tantamount to compulsion, and would seek to abolish such identity cards if introduced.

PA855. "Identity" in this context means a name by which a person may be known, and where necessary an address through which they can be contacted. For the purposes of the Electoral Roll, a location for the purposes of qualification may be required.

#### **Hereditary principle in government**

PA870. The Green Party believes that the hereditary principle should have no place in government. Therefore the Green Party advocates that:

- a) No person shall acquire the right to any office of government by inheritance.
- b) An hereditary peerage shall confer no right to sit in Parliament (see PA609).
- c) The monarchy shall cease to be an office of government. The legislative, executive and judicial roles of the monarch shall cease.
- d) Peers and members of the royal family shall have the same civil rights and fiscal obligations as other citizens.
- e) A settlement of property held by the current royal family shall be made, to divide it between that required for the private life of current members of the family and that to be public property.

#### **Greening Local Government**

**AMENDMENT:** Remove the entire section on "Greening Local Government" (paragraphs PA900-921) and put in into the Manifesto of Policy Statements.

#### **The Current Situation**

PA900. Local government exists in a permanent state of crisis, with neither the resources nor the sovereignty to implement effective Green policies.

PA901. Even within the current restraints, there are many things the Green Party will do to promote the decentralisation of power in our society and build a sense of real community within the areas in which we live.

#### **The Work of Elected Green Councillors**

PA910. One solution is to go outside the conventions of political office to mobilise the resources of the community. A priority for Green Party councillors is therefore to act as people who can co-ordinate initiatives coming from below, tapping and encouraging the ideas and potential that are latent everywhere. (see EC512, 620s)

PA911. Parish and Community Councils can be set up where they do not already exist, encouraged to take more responsibilities and empowered by the District Council to take decisions and action. Similarly, there is the potential for the establishment of town/community meetings, empowered where appropriate to take decisions.

PA912. Access to the Councils' records and information should be made more open. Also, the creation of special community forums to oversee the work of particular departments and committees may increase involvement. Where elected, therefore, Green Councillors will try to persuade their local authorities to write such provisions into their own standing orders, particularly as regards PA507(i) and (ii), thus committing the local authority

to implement them immediately.

PA913. The council can facilitate and make itself accountable to referenda and citizen's initiatives. Where elected, Green councillors will urge their local authorities to themselves, in advance of any changes in the law, set up the machinery for citizen referenda and citizen initiative as described in PA502 and PA503 above; to publicise this, to implement this and, subject to the existing law, to accept the results of such referenda and initiatives as binding. In such cases the prescribed number of signatures required on a citizen petition for either a referendum or an initiative shall be 20% of the electorate.

PA914. Individual Councillors can make themselves available for recall when petitioned to do so (see PA504). The Green Party recommends that all of its prospective councillors at future elections should voluntarily subject themselves to recall. Where the prescribed percentage of 40% of any councillor's electors petition for recall the party will (a) either organise a recall ballot of all the councillors' electors, (which will be supervised by independent persons of known integrity), and then encourage the councillors to comply with the result of any such ballot, or (b) urge its councillors to resign and fight a by-election.

PA915. Regular public meetings for neighbourhood and community councils and open agenda sections for all meetings give people a chance to make their voices heard.

PA916. Retraining of people within local authority professions with the help of trade unions and use of alternative technology will help increase environmental sensitivity, resource efficiency, and the self-reliance of the community.

PA917. Involving contractors, management and recipients of services - the stakeholders - in the provision of services can improve the service quality (see EC652). It is also important to study how the council's resources are actually allocated to different social groups.

PA918. We support the setting up of specific inter-council projects which are accessible and accountable. This enables projects beyond the capacity of a single authority to achieve, can be carried out at a local level rather than through national government.

**AMENDMENT:** Delete PA917 and PA918 and renumber subsequent paragraphs.

PA919. Councils can carry out community audits and draw up alternative indicators of well-being or quality-of-life as a

basis for the council's service provision and for public information.

PA920. In the long term, as the councils help to develop a network of community businesses and finance (the third sector - see EC620s) and work in partnership with them, so they will become less dependent on taxation to get things done. Without losing accountability or lowering standards of contract compliance, the council will become a loose coordinating body for pools of resources and the provision of services and products. (see also WR672)

**AMENDMENT:** Delete paragraph PA920 and renumber.

PA921. To make councils more responsive and effective, it will be necessary to encourage cross-party co-operation, and weaken the hold of dogmatic ideologies and factions. The Green Party will not operate a system of whipping councillors into line, and Green Councillors will call upon other parties to do the same. (see PA507iii)

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**Contact details for the motions in this agenda**

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