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Section A – Reports

A1 STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Introduction

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

The members of SOC are Mark Hill, Brig Oubridge, Francesca Richards, Dean Walton and Matt Wootton. The committee appointed Matt Wootton to the post of convener in October.

An electronic version is available from the Members Website www.members.greenparty.org.uk Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, telephone 0845 456 0277.

Conference Business

Content of the Final Agenda

There is one voting paper (International Policy), 17 policy motions, and 12 organisational motions; there are also two Draft Voting Papers; No motions (but a number of amendments) were ruled out of order; these and the reasons for ruling them out of order are included at the end of the Agenda in Section O.

Prioritisation Ballot and Order of Motions

Over 100 prioritisation ballots were received in total, one was considered invalid. Ballots

received by post after the second agenda deadline were included up until the SOC meeting on the 25th February. This was done due to complaints about the late arrival of Green World, which included the paper prioritisation ballot, and because the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference do not specify when the cut-off point for the consideration of postal ballots should be. The inclusion of these ballots anyway made little difference to the relative weight given to the motions. The order of the motions in sections C & D is as suggested by the ballot with the exceptions of the votes for D44 and D45 (which needed to be taken together) being averaged out to place the motions one step below D44's original rank, below D50.

Fast-Tracked Motions

Fast-tracked motions are ones with no amendments which are deemed to be uncontentious ie they can be voted upon without discussion. SOC is not proposing any motions for fast-tracking at this conference.

Insufficient signatures

SOC thought it helpful to have a section at the end of the agenda listing motions with insufficient signatures.

Withdrawn motions section and Young Greens motion

There is a new section created by SOC for a withdrawn motion. The Young Greens motion that appeared in the First Agenda has been withdrawn by the proposers. SOC felt it appropriate to therefore remove this motion

from the Final Agenda but it is appended in the Withdrawn section.

Basketed amendments

Some amendments that are either similar or are of a similar gravitas have been basketed to facilitate debate under 5. g) of the standing orders for the conduct of conference. This includes some amendments that the proposers wish to accept.

Committee Elections

Elections will also be held at Conference for vacancies on the following Committees:

Conferences

Campaigns

Any members currently co-opted to these committees should put themselves up for election at this Conference.

For information on these elections please contact Matt Wootton, SOC convener. Nomination forms will be available at Conference at should be returned to the SOC table before Noon on Saturday, 24th March.

Executive Elections

These elections take place in the Autumn. There is one unfilled vacancy on the Executive, that of Internal Communications Co-ordinator. The current Executive has co-opted Natalie Bennett to this post but the rules state that nominations are to be sought under section 7 (xiii) of the

constitution and SOC has agreed that a by-election should take place. This post will open for nomination at Conference, and nominations will close at Noon on Saturday 24th. When queried, SOC agreed that if D3 were to be passed before the close of nominations Natalie Bennett (all other conditions being met) would be eligible to stand. If no nominations at all are received, the post will not be contested and Ms Bennett will automatically remain co-opted.

Emergency Motions

For those of you who have missed the deadline for this Conference and are considering putting an emergency motion instead, SOC would like to remind you that although Standing Orders are suspended when an emergency motion is discussed, it is only Section A that is suspended. This is the section that deals with the requirement to submit motions by the First Agenda deadline.

The section of the standing orders that deals with reasons for SOC ruling motions out of order is NOT suspended. This is Section C9 of the standing orders, which states:

“Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being:

- a) contrary to the Constitution
- b) retrospective in their effect
- c) ambiguous
- d) vague
- e) trivial or requiring no consequential action
- f) substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas without having passed through

the agreed process of consultation (see Appendix A of the Standing Orders)”

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

- b) Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided
 - i) the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for motions
 - ii) the motion is consistent with the MfSS and neither changes nor adds to the text of the MfSS
- c) No amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders are permitted under this suspension.

Please bear these restrictions in mind when composing emergency motions.

Contacts for motions and amendments in this agenda.

The names of those signing motions are included after each motion; only the 4 are required have been included. Where there are more than 4, then the 4 are listed followed by “+ others”. The principal contact for each motion is in bold and contact details can be found at end of the agenda.

Submission of Motions And Amendments

Members are urged that it is preferable for motions and amendments to be submitted well in advance of the Agenda deadlines. A number of motions that were submitted in the last few days before the Agenda Deadlines were rejected due to a shortage of signatures. For proposers using email signatures, please note that it is good practice for the proposer to request that other members'

signatures are copied to the proposer, so that they can keep track of how many signatures their motion has and chase other signatories up if need be.

Synopses

SOC has also this year been very upset by the state of peoples' synopses. Almost none have been within the 50-word limit set out in the Conference Standing Orders. Consequently, SOC is obliged to cut verbose synopses, leading to potential unhappiness on the part of the proposer. The way to remain a happy proposer is therefore to edit one's own synopsis to within 50 words, to avoid having it done for you. This applies also to synopses that are really arguments in favour of the motion, sneaky extra background info, or political point-scoring. SOC this year has voted consensually to edit such synopses, because apart from anything else they are not useful or consistent when representing the motion in the Summary for all members. Obviously not submitting a synopsis at all is actually a missed opportunity, and this has been another noticeable trend.

Proxy vote form

There is a proxy form at the end of this agenda – agreed by SOC - to act as a standard template for people wishing to have their vote cast by a proxy. It is hoped that members will use this form and have it brought to Conference, and that this will act as an informal contract between the proxy giver and the attendee, and increase confidence in the proxy vote system.

SOC Business and Rulings

Conduct at Conference

Statement from last year's outgoing Standing Orders Committee.

This statement has not yet been published in an agenda because it was made by the outgoing SOC from Autumn Conference:

“Outgoing SOC is very concerned by the poor conduct of certain members during plenaries at the recent Hove Conference. The actions of particular individuals at Conference were highly disruptive and damaging, demonstrating a lack of respect for the Chair and our democratic procedures.

Therefore SOC unreservedly condemn the following actions:

1. The repeated use of points of procedural order in order to disrupt the flow of business. Concerns regarding the system of voting should be raised privately with SOC to see if they can be resolved by agreement before they reach the floor of Conference. Points of procedure made on the floor of Conference are inevitably more disruptive than if they are raised with the Chair or SOC before the open discussion.

2. The repeated use of points of order and points of information during the conduct of actual voting. While votes are being taken there should be silence to allow people to concentrate on the decision at hand. Points of order raised during a vote are disruptive and prevent us from reaching an accepted decision.

3. The raising of concerns regarding media presence at a

plenary, during the plenary. Any concerns regarding media presence at any part of Conference should be voiced to SOC, the press office and the Political Committee well in advance.

4. Refusal to withdraw from the microphone when asked to do so by the Chair. In one case this refusal took an aggressive and abusive form. This shows a disregard and lack of respect for the Chair and Conference as a whole.

5. The use of an emergency motion procedure to seek to overturn the constitution is expressly forbidden by the constitution.

Such disruptive behaviour as listed above prevents clear and fair debate among members of the party. By undermining and abusing our democratic procedures during plenaries, individuals threaten the entire basis of our party's philosophy. Of course, this also has a negative impact on our media profile and the experience of new members at Conference – our reputation as an open, democratic party is endangered.

Proposals

Outgoing SOC recommend to incoming SOC that guidelines on procedures and acceptable conduct during plenaries should be made available to all attending Conference, possibly in the conference pack. We hope that this will remind conference delegates of the importance of treating our chairs, committees and other conference delegates

with respect and ensure a clear and efficient democratic process is upheld.

Signed,

Outgoing Standing Orders Committee
September 28th 2006”

Conduct at Conference

Incoming SOC response to outgoing SOC statement

The present SOC has drawn up – mainly thanks to Francesca Richards – a Guide to Plenary. This includes explanations of the procedures of debate and expectations of the standards of conduct from participants. This is available freely from the Conference Desk and around the hall.

SOC motion to conference to clarify Associate Members status

Fulfilling the election pledges of some members of SOC, SOC unanimously agreed to submit a motion to conference to clear up the ambiguity surrounding the status of Associate Members and to close the “loophole” that previously existed. This motion exists as motion D8.

Creation of SOC standing orders

This SOC has been keen to demonstrate high standards of accountability and fairness. The committee have therefore agreed a set of Standing Orders

for SOC (amazingly, none have previously existed):

New SOC Standing Orders

(1) Introduction

These Standing Orders are intended to set out basic principles that should shape the way in which SOC makes decisions. It is in addition to the rules & procedures established in the Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Should there be a conflict of interpretation between these standing orders and the Constitution/SOCC then the Constitution/SOCC take precedence.

These standing orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time via the SOC report.

(2) SOC Convenor

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a convenor. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week.

Within a week following each Conference, the convenor must notify all members of SOC, the Conferences Committee Convenor, Policy Committee Convenor, the GPRC Co-chairs and the GPEx chair, of the time & place for meetings to discuss the first and second agenda for the forthcoming Conference. The Convenor will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

(3) Principles of Decision-Making

SOC will operate to the highest standards of accountability and transparency as regards

decision-making. The key principles (in addition to those set out in the Constitution are):

- (i) Decisions will always be in writing and make reference to the relevant sections of the party's Constitutional documents or other relevant principles;
- (ii) Where possible decisions will be taken by consensus of all members of SOC; where this is not possible (except where stated otherwise) all decisions will require that both a majority of members voted and that a majority voted for the proposal; In the event of SOC temporarily having an even number of voting members, the Convenor shall have a casting vote.
- (iii) Co-optees to the Committee will be allowed to vote but their votes will not count towards determining if either of the required majorities have been reached;
- (iv) All decisions shall be taken with the knowledge of each member of SOC or one of its sub-committees where possible
- (v) Some decisions must be taken at one of the two meetings in (2) above. However it is recognised that there times when it is desirable to take decisions in other ways.

(4) Decisions That Must Be Taken at a Formal Meeting of SOC

- (i) The agreement of the final agenda
- (ii) The content of the SOC report
- (iii) Changes to these Standing Orders

All other decisions can be taken at either a formal meeting, by a discussion & vote on the e-list or by telephone conference. The procedures for these are below.

(5) Decision by E-list.

The SOC Convenor will maintain an Email list ('E-list') to which all SOC members can post items and any Green Party member can join on a 'read-only' basis. SOC members must therefore ensure that the SOC Convenor has a current email address and telephone number for you.

The SOC Convenor will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision by E-list. Before doing so the Convenor should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion via the E-list. Generally, it is anticipated that prior to a request for a formal decision by email, a discussion about the issue had taken place on the E-list and this will assist the Convenor in reaching his/her decision.

Once the Convenor has decided to use the 'E-list' he/she should post a simple email covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'. In the text of the email the Convenor should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution &

SOC and confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 24 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by telephone.

Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

In particular, once the draft first agenda has been compiled and circulated to SOC members and provided there is no other business to be considered, it will be acceptable to decide by E-list to cancel the meeting to consider the first agenda established in (2) above. This option does not apply to the meeting to consider the second agenda.

(6) Decision by Telephone Conference

Notice of a telephone conference should be published on the SOC E-list along with a note of the business to be discussed during the conference at least 24 hours in advance of the telephone conference. SOC may invite relevant people to participate in the conference. Requests from members to 'listen in' will normally be accepted. However such members have no automatic right to actively participate in the discussion.

Minutes covering decisions taken, the reasons for them, and votes cast will be circulated by the Convenor (or a person nominated by the Convenor) on the E-list within 24 hours of the end of the telephone conference. So that a contemporaneous

record is kept of these conferences, when the Convenor posts the minutes onto the E-list he/she will do so by invoking the 'E-list' on a proposal to accept the accuracy of the minutes.

(7) SOC Rulings

SOC will receive requests for rulings from time to time. SOC should refrain from issuing rulings based on vague & hypothetical situations since this could lead to the application of rulings out of context.

(8) Emergency Business - Suspension of Standing Orders

If all members of SOC agree, these standing orders can be suspended for the purposes of a particular decision. However specifically business covered by (4) above cannot be discussed whilst these standing orders are suspended.

(9) Changes to these Standing Orders

These Standing Orders can only be amended at a formal meeting of the Committee.

(10) The SOC Report

The SOC Report should contain the following:

- (i) Rulings made and the reasons for them
- (ii) a list of the decisions made by E-list and telephone Conference
- (iii) full details of any decisions made under (9) above

Decision by SOC regarding the role of the ERO and the necessity for GPRC elections

In response to a question by the Returning Officer, Graeme McIver, in relation to election of GPRC representatives and what can or should be done if a Region, for whatever reason, fails continually to elect representatives, SOC agreed the following in late February:

Section 6(iv) of the Constitution states:

6(iv) "The Regional Council shall consist of two members elected by postal ballot by and from each constituted region. Each term of membership of Regional Council shall be for two years commencing from the date of election by the individual Region. Such election shall be notified, in writing, to the Secretary of the Regional Council giving the date of election and confirmed by the Region's Electoral Returning Officer. Such notice is to be given not less than two weeks prior to the next meeting of the regional Council."

We have interpreted this to mean that it is an obligation for Regional Parties to elect members for GPRC and that it is a constitutional right of members of Regional Parties to have representation on the Regional Council.

Section 6(v) explains what happens when a casual vacancy arises:

6 (v) "Any casual vacancy on the Regional Council may be filled

by the appropriate area according to its constitution".

We have interpreted "casual vacancies" as referring to the unfinished period of a leaving elected GPRC member's two year term of office, at a maximum. It is not intended to give Regional Parties the power to appoint GPRC members at will, indefinitely, as has been the case.

SOC further notes:

para 15(ii) states that elections for GPRC will be held "even when there are no more candidates than positions to be filled"

and para 15(iii):

"The SOC shall appoint a Returning Officer (RO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) each year. The RO shall conduct elections for office in the Party at national level which take place by postal or Conference ballot. The DRO shall assist the RO and deputise for the RO at the RO's request."

Given the role of the Regional Returning Officer (RRO) in 6(iv) and the role of the RO described in 15(iii) it is unclear when the RO in 15(iii) could have the right to act as the RRO without the Region's approval. Precedents in this area would need to be established on the basis of a direct refusal by the RRO either to make arrangements or to refuse assistance with a ballot. However the requirement to hold an election, and that this election is by STV of two

members at a time and takes place at least every two years is absolute.

Finally, given that some Regions already have a policy of selecting a male & female representative, SOC would like to add a further note of clarification that the Regional Party is entitled to consider the issue of gender or ethnic minority balance when electing its representatives but the final ballot must be by STV and the two members should be elected at the same time.

SOC hopes this will be a suitable and helpful compromise.
ENDS

Decision on Regional Leaders in the Green Party

At the SOC final agenda meeting in London we looked again at the SOC decision made concerning Wales Green Party's Leader and Deputy Leader, which was passed prior to the Spring 2006 Conference. The decision was reported as follows:

2) SOC were also requested to consider a question regarding the status of Wales Green Party's Leader/Principal Speaker post. This had been discussed inconclusively by the previous SOC. The question regarded interpretation of the following part of the Philosophical Basis: "PB443 We seek a society in which people are empowered and involved in making the decisions which affect them. We reject the hierarchical structure of leaders and followers, and, instead advocate participatory

politics. For this reason the Green Party itself does not have an individual leader. "

SOC responded: "Standing Orders Committee has agreed at our December meeting that the use of the term "leader" in reference to posts held within local, regional and autonomous parties is contrary to PB 443, and that the Philosophical Basis should be "binding" upon the parties in question."

We unanimously found that the basis on which the decision was made was incorrect since we find that SOC has no right to interpret the Philosophical Basis, cf Constitution 8 iii)

8 iii) Standing Orders Committee. Conference shall elect a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders, and be responsible for the order in which resolutions are taken during the conference, subject to the approval of Conference.

Therefore the decision is thus invalidated.

The implication of this is that regions are free to have whatever Leaders/Deputy Leaders post the regional parties wish, and SOC is confident that it would be wrong for an SOC to seek to ever re-impose the limit that they did.

Report of the SOC Tribunal Sub-Committee

The following – written by Cllr Dean Walton - is a factual report of events surrounding the appointment of the Tribunal established to look into the case brought against Hugo Charlton. Dean Walton, Mark Hill and Francesca Richards were appointed to a sub-committee to consider these matters.

SOC has a responsibility to appoint members to a Tribunal in a manner set out in some detail in the Tribunal Standing Orders (TSO).

During the establishment of the tribunal, a number of key principles were adopted or clarified by SOC:

- (1) The constitutional obligation that SOC interprets and applies the rules within the TSO, to determine the membership of the Tribunal Panel;
- (2) SOC adopted principles that set out what it considered would constitute an 'interest' in the case to determine who was eligible to serve on the Tribunal and applied this to the issues raised;
- (3) There is no formal right of appeal against the membership of the Tribunal Panel other than by the defendant. The timetable for such an appeal is set out in the TSO. To defend the impartiality of the process, party members, local & regional parties, GPRC & GPEx should refrain from lobbying – SOC has proposed additions to the TSO to cover these points.

- (4) The need to base SOC's decisions on the evidence submitted to it by the parties concerned;
- (5) The need to put SOC's decisions and the evidence so considered in writing;
- (6) The decision as to what (if any) penalty is imposed first of all on a defendant is a matter for the Tribunal and the Tribunal alone;
- (7) Once a Tribunal has finished, the role of GPRC is clearly set out in the TSO – to confirm (or otherwise) if a member's expulsion is to be upheld; to consider any appeal by the defendant. Except in the case of an appeal, GPRC's role is not to consider the question of 'guilt'.

Throughout the process the sub-committee issued detailed rulings. Whilst it is usual practice to publish these in full and these have already been circulated widely, after consultation with GPEx, we have taken the decision to just repeat the key principles established.

Cllr Dean Walton
On behalf of the SOC sub-
committee
March 2007

Other Tribunal rulings

SOC concerns over lack of transparency by GPRC

30th December 2006

SOC notes that the conclusions and recommendations of the Hugo Charlton Tribunal have been available for over 2 weeks but that the GPRC co-Chairs have

not forwarded them even to GPRC members. SOC notes that in its view the phrase in 5:4 of the Standing Orders "The Tribunal shall consider its' conclusions and recommendations in private, and make them available within a reasonable time to all parties and GPRC." refers to the right of any party member to see the conclusions. SOC notes that representations have been made to Co-Chair Dave Wall by email and by phone asking if not for the papers themselves but merely a timescale of their expected release, but no satisfactory response has been forthcoming. SOC notes that the members of GPEx have seen the full conclusions, but GPRC has so far been restricted, despite some GPRC members themselves appealing about this. SOC notes that this situation has already caused at least one GPRC member to threaten a vote of no confidence in those responsible. SOC recommends that the conclusions of the Tribunal - from the view of internal Green Party procedures - should now be made available immediately to GPRC at the very least, and that to not do so would in SOC's view be explicitly and wilfully continuing to contravene the Standing Orders.

SOC
Mark Hill
Francesca Richards
Dean Walton
Matt Wootton

Proposed standing order extensions to prevent lobbying and unfair conduct in future

In November, in response to what SOC agreed was lobbying of GPRC and GPEx by party members, SOC agreed proposed extensions to the standing orders for tribunals and sent these to GPRC for incorporation, although this has not yet been discussed by GPRC. These were based on the non-interference/fair-play clauses in the standing orders for the conduct of GPEx elections. Therefore the original and applied versions are below:

Comparing the GPEx Election standing orders with proposed extensions to the Tribunal standing orders:

4.2 Self-promotion

The official places for candidates to promote themselves are [Delete: in their election statement and at hustings held at conference,] when each candidate has a fair chance to present themselves and their policies, and where all are given an equal chance to get a fair hearing.

Self-promotion

The proper places for tribunal defendants and plaintiffs to promote themselves are when each side has a fair chance to present themselves and their arguments, and where all are given an equal chance to get a fair hearing. This means the tribunal itself, and in no other forum.

4.3 Canvassing

Other than under the provisions of the previous section, candidates should not publish anything advocating their candidacy or discrediting

candidates for any post. They may speak to supporters and other members of the electorate informally, whether on the telephone or face to face but they should not organise speaking tours to promote their candidature or spend hours telephoning large numbers of people. Where speaking engagements are already arranged, for instance on official party business, they should not be used to promote the candidate, although when speaking to members informally this is of course perfectly acceptable.

Canvassing

Other than under the provisions of the previous section, defendants and plaintiffs should not publish anything advocating their arguments or discrediting others.

They may contact potential witnesses informally for the purpose of asking them to speak at the tribunal, whether on the telephone, email or face to face but they should not organise opportunities to promote their arguments, canvass to groups of people or spend hours telephoning large numbers of people.

5 Conduct of other party members

5.1 Rules of conduct

The ERO has no redress against members who are not candidates in the election. A candidate should not be disqualified due to the actions of another member, unless it is clear that member has acted with the approval of the candidate. However, if, in the

opinion of the ERO, the actions of a third party may have materially affected the result of the election [except as provided above], the ERO may declare the election void. All members are therefore requested to abide by the following rules.

5.2 Candidate promotion

[Except as provided above, w]While any person is entitled to express their opinion in discussions with others, no person shall take part in systematic or large scale canvassing on behalf of a candidate

Conduct of other party members Rules of conduct

If, in the opinion of the SOC, the actions of a third party may be materially interfering with the possible outcome of the tribunal, the SOC may warn the individual that such interference is contrary to these standing orders, if the tribunal is in that phase where handover has not yet passed from SOC to GPRC, and if in that latter phase then GPRC may so warn.

Defendant/Plaintiff Promotion

While any person is entitled to express their opinion in discussions with others, no person shall take part in systematic or large scale canvassing on behalf of the defendant or plaintiff.

SOC guidance to GPRC on their (non)approval of the decision

RULING FROM SOC ON GUIDANCE FOR GPRC'S APPROVAL OF A TRIBUNAL DECISION OF EXPULSION.

Agreed by SOC, Valentine's Day 2007

Agreed:

Dean Walton

Mark Hill

Matt Wootton

Francesca Richards

(Against: Brig Oubridge).

INTRODUCTION

This ruling specifically applies to the meeting on Saturday 17th February concerning the recommended expulsion of Mr Hugo Charlton.

SOC is highly concerned at the appearance of fractious debate on the GPRC email list and apparently even more intense private discussions.

SOC has received similar concerns from members of the Executive, party members generally, and even GPRC itself. SOC is worried that there are a lot of opinions being offered as to the "how" and "why" of proceeding with GPRC's approval of the tribunal's recommended expulsion of Mr Charlton. SOC firmly believes that it is the role of SOC alone - not GPRC and certainly not individual GPRC members - to provide a definitive interpretation of the Standing Orders, especially when confusion has been sown, as in this case. SOC derives its authority to do this directly from the opening statement defining SOC in the Constitution, 8) iii)

"Conference shall elect a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders".

As such SOC expects and requires debate on this matter to respect and abide by the conclusions of this ruling and to not further add to the arguably destructive debate and directionlessness that has occurred hitherto.

CONFIDENTIALITY

SOC regrets that GPRC have already chosen to ignore a prior SOC ruling on the interpretation of the phrase "the recommendations shall be made available to all parties". However, SOC is politic enough to acknowledge that the threatened legal action by Mr Charlton has created a unique situation that neither the Standing Orders nor Constitution directly cater for. SOC is indeed further uncomfortable however that the well-established Green Party principle of openness and transparency is being stifled by the conditions imposed because of the threat of legal action. The minimum that SOC would like see to come out of this is a clearly-worded and non-coded form of words describing the ultimate action taken, naming the defendant and an extremely brief summary of the tribunal's reasons for recommending expulsion etc. This must be made available to the whole party membership via SOC/GPRC and should be available immediately. It can therefore with any luck be agreed at the GPRC meeting on Saturday 17th Feb, and will be included in the SOC report in the Final Agenda for conference. Without this form of words, SOC does not see how the need of the

wider party to be informed of decisions taken on their behalf can be met, and SOC very much hopes and expects that a suitable accommodation for this can be found within the confines of the legal threat.

TERMS OF GPRC'S INVOLVEMENT

SOC is deeply concerned by the form that some GPRC members might think their role takes in regard to a tribunal at this stage. SOC notes Mr Charlton has chosen not to appeal. SOC notes with regret that there is only half a sentence in the Standing Orders to guide GPRC in the instance of a defendant not appealing:

7:2 Expulsion

A recommendation of expulsion must be approved by GPRC before being affected, and the defendant may appeal to GPRC at the point of approval.

It is therefore not clear from the above that there is a clear option to *not* approve a recommendation of expulsion (it is merely implicit), and there are unfortunately no criteria given for the grounds of a non-approval. The presumption would seem to be for approval; essentially a rubber-stamping process.

However, drawing on the descriptions of processes that are essentially more intrusive by GPRC than (non)approval it is possible to set out some clear limits as to the magnitude and range of GPRC's possible room to manoeuvre here. SOC regards

the scope of GPRC here to be extremely limited. To illustrate this, it is necessary to contrast the non-appeal situation that we have with the situation if Mr Charlton had indeed appealed:

8:4 In an appeal, the defendant (and plaintiff) must only address the accuracy and fairness of the Tribunal's rulings, not seek to 're-run the case'. GPRC members may question the defendant and plaintiff if present."

Since the defendant has not appealed, then SOC believes the Standing Orders do not *even* mandate any addressing of the "accuracy and fairness" of the tribunal's ruling. That would only be the case if an appeal was in progress. This implies directly and specifically that GPRC do not have the right to call the accuracy or fairness of the tribunal's decision into doubt. SOC rules therefore that any GPRC decision made on the basis of having called into doubt any of either the fairness or accuracy of the tribunal's findings, would be invalid.

SOC admits that the Standing Orders are unclear as to what other option GPRC might have if for some reason it does not *wish* to approve the expulsion, but SOC would merely re-iterate that the only phrase from the Standing Orders that gives GPRC any mandate is: "A recommendation of expulsion must be approved by GPRC before being affected". SOC

agrees that this suggests a rubber-stamping procedure, and GPRC is not mandated to extend their discussion beyond that. SOC is sure that this is NOT even as much as "only addressing the accuracy and fairness of the Tribunal's rulings", so the GPRC discussion should not consider even those things. It is absolutely certainly not "seeking to re-run the case".

SOC does admit however that are aspects of this process that are left somewhat in the dark because of what SOC perceives to be an incompleteness of the Standing Order 7:2. However, it is constitutionally SOC's role to provide guidance here, and it is constitutionally GPRC's role to abide by that guidance. SOC is somewhat in the position of a clerk to the justices instructing a magistrate on the legally correct way to consider a case.

SOC would therefore like to answer some of the offers that have been made as to what GPRC's role in this situation should be:

1. The model of representation of regions versus the model of a jury. SOC is sure that the role that GPRC members should be taking in this instance is akin to the members of a jury. It is emphatically not akin - as has been suggested - to politicians in parliament taking their cue from constituents and arguing different and competing positions that have been performed. The role here is a quasi-judicial role based on an

examination of written evidence put before GPRC on (or very shortly before) the day, and SOC rules that GPRC members must consider themselves as if they were members of a jury in this instance. To justify this, SOC points to precedent of "addressing only the accuracy and fairness" of the tribunal's findings. This is clearly not an invitation to either solicit opinions from the regions or to impose one's own pre-existing opinion over the "facts" of the findings. Although GPRC does indeed represent the regions, SOC asserts that the position is directly analogous to a Planning Committee where the members are asked to participate in a quasi-judicial role and indeed would be forced to declare an interest and rule themselves out of the discussion if they were found to have a particular interest and/or bias on the matter.

The logical extension of the jury model also answers other questions, and these are the answers that SOC considers to be consistent with the constitution and standing orders, and that therefore must be abided by:

1. There is no place for proxy votes. Apart from not being mandated by a prior meeting of GPRC, there is no mandate for them in either constitution or standing orders. Furthermore, a juror would not be permitted to miss the main session of evidence on a case and simply cast their vote from home. SOC is therefore ruling GPRC must not use proxy votes in this instance.

2. There is no place for GPRC/jury members to stay away. If one is called for jury service, one is expected to turn up. Also, one is not expected to drop out of the trial half-way though because they have decided the decision might be more "difficult" than they would like.

Likewise the corollary of being a GPRC member is participation in GPRC decisions, especially ones as important as this. Of course members may not attend meetings because of a last-minute clash of dates, but deliberately planning to be absent from a meeting on the basis of not wishing to make the decision at hand is - in SOC's view - failing to fulfil one's role as a GPRC member. It is also potentially disastrous: if the scenario was that of a London Borough's Planning Committee, to have members deliberately fail to attend a meeting because they did not like the matter to be discussed could be political manipulation (especially if it made the meeting inchoate). Likewise GPRC members are hereby instructed by SOC that attendance - or at least the honest intention of attendance and participation - is an inseparable corollary of membership of GPRC.

3. SOC is particularly concerned about the neutrality of some members of GPRC on the basis of the following;

a. Certain statements on the GPRC list have shown a clearly pre-formed opinion on the outcome of the tribunal, in the absence of having seen either the case of the plaintiff or the findings of the tribunal's investigation.

b. In April 2006, a group of GPRC members asked for a minority report of GPRC asking that no formal action be taken against Mr Charlton.

c. There have been efforts to co-opt GPRC into attempting to contradict and overturn the findings of the tribunal. These efforts took place without GPRC members having been shown any evidence at all at that stage.

All these things make some individual members of GPRC seem demonstrably personally compromised, and this is accentuated by the fuss that was created with a potentially-compromised member of the tribunal. GPRC must apply the same rigorous test of personal compromise to themselves and this is why at the very least the decision to approve the tribunal's recommendation must be made by members in a purely impartial frame of mind, bringing absolutely no past experience, personal opinion, opinions of others (even of their regional constituents) or anything other than an impartial reading of the recommendations of the tribunal. It should be noted furthermore that GPRC are not required by the Standing Orders to have seen the full Case presented by the Plaintiff. They are not required to have created and recalled many many email discussions, votes or other past historical baggage. The pure question in front of them should be to assess - impartially and objectively in a quasi-judicial way - whether or not the tribunal's recommendations may be rubber-stamped. This is SOC's instruction to GPRC.

ENDS

Outcome

GPRC passed the following resolution on 17th February:

The Council decides not to implement the recommendation of the Tribunal that the Defendant, Hugo Charlton, be expelled from the Green Party. Instead, the Council substitutes a lesser penalty, a bar for seven years from seeking election internally in the Green Party for any national or regional post, and a bar for the same period from seeking selection as a candidate for the Green Party in any external election

To contact SOC, email soc@greenparty.org.uk or call Matt Wootton on 07866 704 601.

To contact SOC about a matter relating to the recent Disciplinary Tribunal, please contact the Sub-Committee convener Dean Walton on 07880 748 249 or deanwalton@btinternet.com

A2 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

There is a lot of policy at this conference – one voting paper, two draft voting papers, and no less than 16 policy motions. The Voting Paper is on International policy. 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 International because it contains quite a lot of material that is factually out of date and because the

International Policy Group was prepared to do the work. We are very grateful for their efforts, and look forward to some interesting debate.

At the last two conferences we have tabled a draft voting paper on Public Administration and Government, and a revised version is tabled for this Conference. Can we thank Jonathan Dixon for his hard work. 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.

There is a new draft voting paper on Culture, Media and Sport, where we have very little existing policy. This follows fringe meetings a number of recent conferences, and Matt Follett and Roger Creagh-Osbourne deserve our thanks for creating this draft. Once again, the paper will not be debated in plenary, but there will be a workshop on the paper which we hope will take this work forward.

At last conference enabling motions were passed to review our policies on education and economics, and both policy working groups have met since that conference to take the work forward. There will be fringe policy meetings on both areas at this conference, and if you want to participate in policy development in these two crucial areas you are urged to attend.

I'm pleased to report that the MfSS is finally right up to date on the website, and that there

are some new and revised policy pointers, together with some other briefing material now available on the site. We are exploring the possibility of making the collected policy statements in the Record of Policy Statements available on the public site (they are already on the members site).

Brian Heatley
Policy Development Coordinator

A3 DISPUTES RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

This has not been a good six months for DRC. We have had new forms of challenge and did not deal with them totally successfully.

The first was having four requests for Dispute Resolution arriving during one weekend. Previous experience has been with disputes arising individually and being dealt with immediately. Since some of these were not major disputes I tried to farm them out to other members of DRC as a training situation, but unfortunately these did not take root for a variety of reasons and I was thus left with all four at a time when I was suffering from the effects of a total anaesthetic as well as being heavily involved preparations for the Welsh Assembly elections. As a result progress has not been good.

The second problem has been trying to bring dispute resolution into the Disciplinary Tribunal situation. I was contacted by Hugo Charlton early in the proceedings to ask

for Dispute Resolution if a Disciplinary Tribunal was called against him. In my view that would be too late for effective resolution so I took the course of attending a GPEX meeting for the purpose of finding out why GPEX members were so uptight about the situation by discussions during the dinner break. The impression that I gained from those who spoke to me was that the problem was Hugo's failure to apologise or to admit guilt. Despite bad experience with trying to get apologies in past disputes I contacted Hugo to make him aware of the situation. Hugo responded by saying that he apologised and admitted guilt. I sent this in an email to the chair of GPEX, but without response. I was surprised to learn later that not all members of GPEX had been informed about Hugo's response.

When the Disciplinary Tribunal had been called I formally requested GPEX's participation in a dispute resolution, but received a curt no in answer, as is the normal situation when Disciplinary Tribunals are concerned.

During the January GPRC meeting a request was made that DRC set up regional DRC's so that problems can be dealt with locally. I was opposed to this since in my view there is not the strength in DRC necessary to support these. However since then I have been considering the problems of activists, super activists and hyper activists, the latter being over active and thus separating themselves from the local party or working group with the result that they become

a negative force despite their positive intentions. This can only be dealt with by early action by those that they work with, and two short papers are being produced for party-wide distribution to assist those who find themselves in the horrible situation of having to deal with this occasional but perennial problem.

Owen Clarke

Section B (Voting Papers)

B10. International section of the MfSS for review.

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 International Policy section. This motion simply tables the section as it currently stands. Amendments to the chapter are invited for the final agenda.

Motion

Delete the existing MfSS chapter on International Policy (IP100 to IP760) and replace it with the following:

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Principles

IP100 The Green Party recognises that co-operation is needed at a

global level in order to secure sustainable societies in this country. The Green Party also wishes to promote Green principles across the world. The world faces problems that are global in nature or extent, whose solutions require structure, institutions or co-operation at a worldwide level.

IP101 The Green Party's ecologically and socially sustainable vision is one of subsidiarity (*see PB302*). Policies on, and institutions for, global co-operation are only needed where issues cannot be addressed at a lower level. These issues may include: survival of the human species; combating global climate change; curtailing mass repression and brutality to human beings; provision of the basic conditions of human sustenance to the world's peoples; the promotion and protection of citizen's rights (*see PB304*); preservation of cultural diversity; protection of the planet's basic natural ecologies and environment.

IP102 Green principles of democracy require that structures or institutions for global co-operation be open, participatory, transparent and accessible.

IP103 The Green vision also involves a fundamental restructuring of the global economy to reverse the unsustainable trend of globalisation (i.e. ever increasing trade between ever distant nations with the primary goal of maximising profit) and a democratisation of the systems of global governance.

Multinational corporations benefit from globalisation to the detriment of the poorest in society and to democratic control of each region's economy. Localisation of trade and economies is therefore a goal of the Green Party.

Vision

IP110 Global and international structures and institutions should be based on the principle of co-operation. Power should mostly remain at the local, community level with sustainable, localised economies under democratic control (*see PA*). Power should only be ceded upwards when necessary.

Transitional Policy

IP120 Existing centralised structures of governance, such as the EU, should be decentralised to appropriate and effective levels, depending on the issue in hand. International structures and institutions need to be transformed from being nationally-based to being based on confederations of (sub-national) regions or localities.

IP121 National governments should be encouraged to decentralise their powers and functions, increase real democracy internally and increase the localisation of production and consumption.

IP122 A General Agreement on Sustainable Trade, under which fair trade rules (where producers are guaranteed a reasonable price for their products before planting, and a portion of the payment is set aside for community development) would

become a requisite for international trade and local supply of goods would be preferred, should replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). A World Localisation Organisation should replace the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

IP123 A global agreement on investment and ownership should be agreed to enshrine the right of local government to enact legislation to stabilise and protect the local economy, such as "site here to sell here" rules.

Status quo - short-term policy

IP130 We recognise that in the short-term radical change may not be possible. We will therefore support partial reforms if they are in line with our vision. For example, the deepening and extension of accountability and transparency in existing structures of global governance; making social and environmental sustainability a key concern; and bringing the workings of the global economy (e.g. trade and capital) under international democratic control.

IP131 The United Nations should be reformed and democratised. The current national basis for membership should be extended to include regional (sub-national) representation and all representatives should be democratically selected. The WTO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and similar bodies should also be reformed, democratised, or replaced.

The 'Third World'

AMENDMENT 1. Delete the headline, "The 'Third World'", and replace with "Economic Justice and Development".

Background

IP200 Colonialism and the growth of trans-national corporations have put control over natural resources into the hands of people and institutions most likely to abuse the environment and waste resources. The integration of poorer countries into a global economy, and a global system of credit and debt, have proved utterly disastrous for poor peoples throughout the world. Denied either the military technology or the purchasing power to influence an international economic system that recognises little outside these two forces, poor people starve and their life-sustaining environment is degraded and destroyed.

AMENDMENT 2. Delete IP200 and replace with:

IP200 The current consensus among rich countries' governments is in favour of ever freer international trade and the process called globalisation, which includes the free movement of capital (though not generally of labour) as well as goods and services. This form of globalisation raises profound issues of global equity and environmental sustainability.

IP201 Globalisation has led to the marginalisation of poor countries and of poorer people in the industrialised countries as the material gains from globalisation are mainly secured by the rich, especially in the northern countries, while the poorest people in the global south are getting still poorer. There is now a huge gulf

between the majority of the world's people and an extremely rich and pampered global elite.

IP202 The poor countries struggle to gain access to markets in rich countries, while burdened with debt and forced to open up their own economies. The flood of their exports has reduced prices for the commodities on which they depend, accelerated environmental destruction and destroyed the livelihoods of many poor people. For hundreds of millions of people this has meant chronic hunger, and for many of them malnutrition and starvation.

IP203 For the environment, globalisation has meant increasing resource depletion and destruction, with a disproportionate share of the environmental damage, industrial pollution and vulnerability to climate change in the global south - especially as large parts of the global south, in particular India and China, are undergoing a rapid industrial revolution. There is a conflict between global economic equity - the legitimate aspiration to improve material standards of living - and environmental sustainability: the planet simply cannot provide for everyone to live at the standards of resource and energy consumption of the rich countries.

IP204 The primary economic aim of international policy must be to resolve this conflict between the legitimate need for material growth in the south and global environmental sustainability, and lead to greater fairness and equality between people in various parts of the world. The record of globalisation has been quite the opposite of this. The rich countries need to contract their material economies to the point where they use no more than their fair share of the planet's resources, while poor countries could expand their economies to the same point.

IP205 Our policies on international trade and finance are founded on the achievement of such an equitable and sustainable world: they amount to the achievement of our original economic objectives (see EC201) on a world scale.

Overall Policy Objectives

IP210 To support the establishment and maintenance of sustainable, ecological and democratic communities throughout the world. Participatory local, regional and national institutions should be free to exercise political and economic self-determination. Sustainable ecological development must mean development which meets the needs of those alive at present without promising poverty to those unborn. Policy areas are:

- a) Indigenous peoples;
- b) Debt;
- c) Trade;
- d) Aid;
- e) International institutions;
- f) Trans-national corporations.

AMENDMENT 3. Delete IP210 and replace with:

Objectives

IP210 To support the establishment and maintenance of ecologically sustainable and democratic communities throughout the world, and progress towards a world in which all people are equal in both their economic potential and their political rights. Development must meet the needs of those alive at present without threatening poverty and vulnerability to those unborn. This means ensuring that everyone on the planet enjoys a livelihood that can be supported by the planet's resources, ecology

and atmosphere. Poverty should be defined in terms of people's rights and not their monetary incomes.

IP211 Every country must be permitted the political space to make its own decisions about economic policy and strategy, while living within global environmental limits. For most countries, this has not been the case since the 1980s. Successful development cannot be imposed by powerful institutions outside a country but must be a learning process, in which participatory local, regional and national institutions are free to exercise political and economic self-determination. The task of global institutions should be to enable countries to make their own progress, and not prescribe the methods by which they may do so.

IP212 Policy areas are:

- a) Indigenous peoples;*
- b) Debt;*
- c) Trade;*
- d) Aid.*

a) Indigenous Peoples

Background

IP220 Development has frequently meant either the attempted eradication of indigenous peoples or colonial assimilation. Their lands have generally been taken from them - a process which continues today. Trans-nationals and governments of North and South have been guilty of many assaults on the rights of indigenous peoples.

Objectives

IP221 To win the rights for the indigenous or native people which they themselves claim.

Policies

IP222 To ensure that development schemes where the British Government has influence take place only with the permission and control of indigenous people, when influencing their lands.

IP223 To secure by international campaigns the autonomy, land rights and human rights of indigenous peoples and respect for their treaties where appropriate.

IP224 To provide aid to allow demarcation of traditional lands and control over intrusions, where appropriate.

IP225 To give aid to support cultural, social and ecologically sustainable economic initiatives of indigenous peoples adversely affected by development.

IP226 To campaign either for the return of traditional lands sufficient to meet the current needs of indigenous peoples, or for compensatory lands in the case of theft and/or compensation where land rights have been violated, in accordance with the wish of the people concerned.

AMENDMENT 4. Delete IP224-IP226 and replace with:

*IP224 To provide aid to allow demarcation of traditional lands and control over intrusions, where appropriate. **Global patenting rights should not override the rights of indigenous communities to genetic and biological resources that are held in common (see [ref commons]).***

IP225 To campaign either for the return of traditional lands sufficient to meet the current needs of indigenous peoples, or

for compensatory lands in the case of theft and/or compensation where land rights have been violated, in accordance with the wish of the people concerned.

IP226 To give aid to support cultural, social and ecologically sustainable economic initiatives of indigenous peoples adversely affected by development. This includes protecting languages from extinction, and ensuring that all surviving languages are fully documented and recorded.

b) Debt

Background

IP230 Poor countries have had major debts in the past, but never with such serious effects as now. The enormous rise in oil revenues of the oil-exporting countries in the 1970s allowed these countries to invest in banks in the rich North. The resulting excess funds were lent out on a colossal scale to poor countries, often to buy arms from rich countries. A general rise in interest rates and more lending under variable interest rates meant enormous increases in the debts of poor countries. There is now more money going from poor countries to rich ones than the other way round. Obligated by International Monetary Fund, World Bank and private international bank pressures to pay their debts in hard currencies, poor countries were forced into an export drive. The flood of their exports reduced commodity prices, accelerated environmental destruction and destroyed the livelihoods of many of the poorest people. For millions this has meant hunger, for many starvation. Trapped by a system they do not control, the

governments of some poor countries starve their people and destroy their environments in order to pay their debts, by, for example, exporting to rich countries like Britain.

Objectives

IP231 To secure an international economic system where the people of poor countries are freed from the burden of debt.

Policies

IP232 The British Government should press private banks to write off un-collectable debts of very poor countries as quickly as possible, providing financial support if necessary.

IP233 The debts of the 40 countries with the lowest per capita incomes should be written off by concerted international action as soon as possible. The British Government should work especially with other EU countries towards this objective.

IP234 Loans should only go to middle-income countries - not oil-exporting or the poorest countries.

IP235 The rich countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) should agree to zero the net annual transfer of wealth from the developing countries to the North each year.

IP236 The British Government should support the right of all debtor states to limit debt service payments to 10 per cent of export earnings per year immediately.

IP237 The British Government should resist making artificial distinctions between currencies and seek to permit middle-income countries, as defined by the United Nations, to pay their debts in their own currencies. Longer periods of loan repayment at fixed interest rates should be agreed for middle-income countries.

IP238 The British Government should create a monitoring organisation to allow the development of creative reimbursement schemes. The Government should attempt to transform the debts of all poor countries into creative reimbursement schemes, either involving cash or 'kind'. Instead of repaying debts in hard currencies, governments of countries with debts to the British Government or private banks will be required to make payments in their own currencies into local development funds, which will be administered by local people to establish local, ecologically sustainable economies and projects. Each repayment will be matched by a corresponding reduction of the foreign debt. Similar reductions would be made for reimbursement-in-kind projects, i.e. conservation and reproduction of genetic species (plant and animal), soil conservation, forest set-aside and reforestation, use of traditional farming and building techniques, educational programmes for women, etc. All rich country governments will be encouraged to join the creative reimbursement scheme.

AMENDMENT 5. Delete IP230-IP238 and replace with:

b) Debt

Background

IP230 *If there is to be any chance of resolving the inequitable relations between rich and poor countries and eliminate the exploitation of global resources, the international debt crisis must be tackled. There must be wholesale writing-off and writing-down of the international debts of poor countries. There is now more money going from poor countries to rich ones (mainly due to debt repayments and the repatriation of profits) than the other way round (in such forms as investments, foreign aid and remittances by migrant workers). Obligated by these pressures, since the 1980s poor countries have been forced into an export drive. Trapped by a system they do not control, the governments of some poor countries are forced to sacrifice the wellbeing of their own people and their environments in order to pay their debts, by, for example, exporting to rich countries like Britain.*

IP231 *The Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative was launched in 1996 to reduce poor countries' external debts to economically sustainable levels. The initiative has led to some debt relief for some of the poorest countries, although subject to conditions, which often lead to privatisation and increased foreign access to their resources. There are others which are yet to receive relief, while many more countries need to be added to the programme in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including for example India and Vietnam.*

Objectives

IP232 *To secure an international economic system where the*

people of poor countries are freed from the burden of international debt. See also World Bank and IMF sections.

Policies

IP233 *All foreign debts owed by countries officially defined as "Least Developed" should immediately be written off by concerted international action, as well as those of all other countries which need such support in order to meet their MDG targets. The British Government should take a strong international lead in pressing for this objective.*

IP234 *Foreign assistance to least developed countries should be provided only in the form of grants, and not loans.*

IP235 *The rich countries should agree to write off the annual transfer of wealth which goes from the developing countries to the North each year.*

IP236 *The British Government should support the right of all developing countries to limit debt service payments to 10 per cent of export earnings per year immediately.*

c) Trade

Background

IP240 *International trade is operated by the richest countries and the trans-national corporations for their own benefit. Trade is not fair or benign, nor mutually advantageous in all cases. Trade does not automatically create the kind of economic growth which would ultimately benefit the poor.*

Objectives

IP241 *To minimise undesirable forms of trade which waste*

resources or deprive people of necessities. To ensure that all countries are free to conduct import-substituting strategies. To maintain trade which is mutually advantageous and ecologically benign.

Policies

IP242 *To secure bilateral and multi-lateral agreements to plan trade which is ecologically sustainable and beneficial for poor people.*

IP243 *Food surplus dumping as a form of trade or aid should be stopped by international agreements between the countries responsible, and by agricultural reform.*

IP244 *Aid and trade policies should aim to encourage food and energy self-sufficiency in all countries.*

AMENDMENT 6. Delete IP240-IP244 and replace with:

c) Trade

Background

IP240 *Each country and region should be more self-sufficient on both equity and sustainability grounds. Local supply of goods would be preferred. Poor countries have little prospect of improved material standards without international trade since they need to import goods they cannot make themselves and to do so must export other goods. Nevertheless, international trade is operated by the richest countries and the transnational corporations (TNCs) for their own benefit. Trade is not fair or benign, nor mutually advantageous in all cases, and does not automatically benefit the poor. Freer trade has meant greater freedom for the TNCs to operate*

to their own advantage. (See also [ref International Trade under International Institutions below].)

Objectives

IP241 To minimise undesirable forms of trade which waste resources or deprive people of necessities. To ensure that all countries are free to conduct import-substituting strategies. To maintain trade which is mutually advantageous, ecologically benign and facilitates the development of national and regional economic autonomy. All trade must comply with environmental and social legislation.

Policies

IP242 Policies will be supported which increase small-scale, local community import substitution, rather than export promotion, support local food growing in place of cash crops for the international market, and encourage forms of economic development which are consistent with the culture and aspirations of the people concerned - involving their effective participation in all areas of development and at all stages of decision-making.

IP243 Trade policies should fully encourage food and energy self-sufficiency in all countries. Every country should be sovereign over its policies for food and other essentials, as well as for energy supplies, including policies for biofuels.

IP244 The commodity markets should be radically reformed with a view to reversing the catastrophic decline in prices that has occurred under globalisation. The resulting loss of income for poor countries has seriously damaged their chances of successful economic development; this problem needs to be resolved if there is to be any progress towards economic justice and an end to

poverty. Wherever feasible, international commodity supplies should be managed in order to avoid the accumulation of surpluses. Concentrations of corporate power on global supply chains also need to be systematically reduced. More widely, development strategies should move away from export orientation.

IP245 Global institutions should support the development of regional and South-South trade in preference to global markets. They should support countries' integration processes that assure people's welfare and environmental sustainability. There should be an end to bilateral trade and investment agreements between rich countries (or groupings like the EU) that disadvantage poor countries.

IP246 International agreements on the environment, labour conditions and health must take precedence over any international rules on trade.

IP247 Corporations should be required to abide by the environmental, labour and social laws of their own country and of the country in which they are operating - whichever are the more stringent.

IP248 All global organisations, especially those with significant capacity to define the rules of international trade, should firmly adhere to principles of ecologically and socially sustainable development and pursue a governance and capacity-building programme of institutional change to fully realise this goal.

d) Aid

Background

IP250 Aid has often been conceived by former colonial countries in a paternalistic and economically colonialist fashion.

Instead of serving the needs of the poor in poor countries, Aid has often served the needs or whims of governments in both rich and poor states. Large-scale, capital-intensive projects like hydroelectric power dams have often been introduced without consultation of local people. Consultation, participation and control by local people are not guaranteed features of aid projects. Aid projects often do not even serve the development priorities as set by the host government. (see EC990)

AMENDMENT 7. Delete IP250 and replace with:

'IP250 Aid has often been conceived in a paternalistic and economically colonialist fashion. Instead of serving the needs of the poor in poor countries, it continues to be used by donors as a means of furthering political, economic or military objectives, including the promotion of business interests. The recent history of economic conditionality applied to aid flows, particularly under the so-called Washington Consensus and post-Washington Consensus, has been disastrous, in some cases decimating infant industries and public services, extending environmental degradation and entrenching poverty for millions of people. The preponderance of donors, each with its own agenda, has also tended to reduce coordination and transparency, increasing the politicisation of aid, heightening the risk of corruption and placing a significant management burden on aid-recipient countries. Genuine participation of local people, let alone local control or oversight of aid expenditures, rarely occurs in practice, despite donor rhetoric. Similarly, while 'sustainability' has become a buzzword within the aid system, it is generally framed in terms of 'sustainable economic growth';

defining poverty in terms of income alone and failing completely to prioritise equity and environmental quality, or to address ecological limits in the design and implementation of aid programmes.'

Objectives

IP251 To secure, in the long term, greater economic independence of poor countries so that an aid system need only respond to emergencies.

Policies

IP252 Aid projects sustained by British Government bodies or development agencies should observe the following real aid rules: aid should be aimed at the poorest; should mobilise the poor; and should be specific to local communities and environments. The aid machine should be re-built to reflect these principles. Sham aid should be abolished, including tied aid and independent audits of projects and programmes should be conducted. (see EC990)

AMENDMENT 8. Replace IP252 with:

*IP252 Aid projects sustained by British Government bodies or development agencies should observe the following real aid rules: aid should be aimed at the poorest; should mobilise the poor; **should be locally designed and managed; should be subject to local oversight and scrutiny; and should be specific to local communities and environments. Tied aid should remain illegal.***

IP253 Suitable aid projects should include: low-technology energy schemes based on indigenous resources; fuel-efficient stoves; fuel-wood plantations; securing

sustainable, ecological systems of food production and distribution for domestic needs; primary health care; women-centred projects including health, childcare, literacy and family-planning education; aid to establish a scientific research base in each country to facilitate research on local agricultural and environmental matters; assisting refugees for lengthy periods; housing for the poor; improved rural transport systems; training in agricultural and forestry skills appropriate to the area; aid to secure minimisation of food exports until domestic needs are met, recognising the limits to sustainable productivity of land; establishment of buffer stocks of food and animal feed; support for creating community banks.

IP254 The Department for International Development should remain a Cabinet-level ministry supporting the distribution of British aid. British aid should be coordinated by a publicly accountable body (see IP264) independent of Government, which will use appropriate non-government organisations to get financial aid and appropriate projects directly to the local communities. The body may receive contributions from various sources, including Government.

IP255 British aid should become 0.7 percent of Gross National Product (GNP) within five years and 1.0 percent of GNP within ten years. Emergency aid should be an addition to this from the Government's contingency reserve.

IP256 The Department for International Development should develop specialisation in auditing the work of the development charities and campaigns.

AMENDMENT 9. Delete IP253, IP254, IP255 and IP256, insert the following text and renumber:

*IP254 The Department for International Development should remain a Cabinet-level ministry supporting the distribution of British aid. **An independent, publicly accountable body should monitor aid-effectiveness and adherence to internationally agreed principles of good donorship.***

*IP255 British aid should become 0.7 percent of Gross National Product (GNP) within five years and 1.0 percent of GNP within ten years. Emergency aid, **aid to dependent territories and debt relief** should be an addition to this.*

IP257 British aid should be limited to countries and projects committed to a "basic needs" approach to development, coupled with a primary health care and family-planning programme culturally acceptable to the people concerned. Land reforms and wealth re-distribution should also be considered when assessing suitability for assistance, as should the locality and the ecological sustainability of the project.

IP258 Emergency aid should continue to be given to any country in need on request. It should continue until the affected region has returned to normality including the restoration of food production to a level sufficient to meet needs

and the re-housing of those made homeless, where this applies. Emergency aid should not depress prices in local markets.

AMENDMENT 10. Delete IP257 and IP258 and replace with:

'IP257 The allocation of British development aid should be based on objective, accountable and internationally agreed criteria, independent of other political or economic interests. Its goals should be consistent with global sustainability, both social and environmental. Aid agreements should facilitate local ownership and control over policy, while also promoting parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of aid expenditures in recipient countries. British development aid flows should be predictable and timely over the long term in order to enable planning and to ensure sufficient time to achieve objectives.

IP258 British aid expenditures should be coordinated with those of other major donors. Where appropriate, a significant portion of aid should be channelled through a small number of accountable multilateral organisations in order both to reduce the management burden on recipient countries and to enable better coordination and greater transparency of overall global aid flows.'

IP259 Special attention must be paid to the dangers posed by the expansion of direct budget support, especially where it is coordinated and shared among several donors. The nature of this support, and the content of any accompanying advice to recipient governments, needs to be just as transparent as is the case with traditional project aid. Where a coordinated bloc of donors acts in concert, they should be extra-careful not to abuse the dominant position

over a recipient government that this affords them.

IP260 British emergency and recovery aid should be allocated in proportion to objectively assessed needs. UK-funded humanitarian action should be guided solely by the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and should be independent from political, military, economic or other objectives. Humanitarian aid should be provided in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, striving to ensure, where appropriate, the maintenance and return of sustainable livelihoods. Beneficiaries of humanitarian aid should be involved to the greatest extent possible in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian response.

IP261 British aid should also aim to strengthen the capacity of affected countries and local communities to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises.'

IP259 The aid resources presently given to the European Development Fund should instead be channelled into British-based development charities.

IP260 All aid projects should be designed by the people who are to benefit from them, with the involvement of appropriate technical expertise.

IP262 Programmes and projects should be sufficiently long-term to achieve their minimum objectives and should be coordinated with other donor agencies in the area concerned.

IP263 British support for the Common Agricultural Policy should cease.

IP264 An Advisory Council on aid should be established to give policy guidelines to both aid agencies and Government with representatives from development charities and campaigns, churches and the academic world.

AMENDMENT 11. Delete IP259, IP260, IP261, IP262, IP2563 and IP264, insert the following text and renumber.

IP261 All aid programmes and projects should be based on robust socio-political and environmental analysis and should be designed to ensure social and ecological sustainability. The UK should take the lead on developing expertise in these areas and should actively promote their mainstreaming into both the policy and practice of the global aid system.

IP265 The Department of Education and Science (or equivalent) should fund the establishment of development education centres through local education authorities, in all district council areas. Managerial responsibility should reside with representatives of supporting local groups.

AMENDMENT 12. Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

International Law

IP300 The Green Party supports the existence of an international legal framework, both treaty-based and customary. We believe that this framework should fully provide not only for civil and political rights but also for social and economic rights.

IP301 The Green Party believes that the international legal framework should include so-

called "third generation" rights. These are not individual rights but they concern matters which affect us all. They include the right to a healthy environment and the right to self-determination (which would include regulation and judicial scrutiny of global economic activity).

IP302 The Green Party believes that the international legal framework should apply to private entities as well as public entities and that corporations should not be able to claim human rights.

IP303 These rights should have effective mechanisms of enforcement. They should not be limited to inter-state supervision and should be capable of vigilance and enforcement by individual victims or by groups which can prove they have a legitimate interest in the matter. In particular, we believe that as a minimum there should be the right of individual petition to the relevant supervisory body and the availability of legal proceedings before an international court in cases involving the most serious breaches.

IP304 In accordance with our policy on subsidiarity, we believe that international and national rights and laws should be enforced in the first instance and where possible at national level, then at regional level, and only where appropriate at global level. We would therefore ensure that international law was fully implemented in the United Kingdom. We would also fully recognise the existing principle of extra-territoriality (e.g. jurisdiction over cases of child trafficking abroad).

e) International Institutions

AMENDMENT 13. Delete "e)" in the headline, "e) International Institutions", and print the headline in larger type.

Background

IP300 The creation of United Nations structures, the International Monetary Fund and the various bodies which make up the World Bank dates back to the beginnings of the Cold War. These bodies have been dominated by the USA and allied Western democracies since their inception. They are fundamentally undemocratic in structure, under-funded and conventional in economics. Hampered by variable USA support in resources, frequently obsessed by economic orthodoxy and particularly the maintenance of economic inter-dependence, they are more often an arena of international conflict than co-operation.

AMENDMENT 14. Replace IP300 with:

*IP300 The creation of United Nations structures, the International Monetary Fund and the various bodies which make up the World Bank dates back to the beginnings of the Cold War. These bodies, **and the World Trade Organisation**, have been dominated by the USA and allied Western democracies since their inception. They are fundamentally undemocratic in structure, under-funded and conventional in economics. Hampered by variable USA support in resources, frequently obsessed by economic orthodoxy and particularly the maintenance of economic inter-dependence, they are more often an arena of international conflict than co-operation.*

IP301 Over recent decades, the powers of the World Bank, IMF and the WTO have been steadily expanded at the expense of the UN system, which has a greater claim to democracy and legitimacy. We believe that

reforms to international institutions, including to the UN, should reverse this general process.

IP302 No nation in isolation can resolve the problems of cross-border pollution, exploitation of global resources and inequitable relations between rich and poor countries. Resolution of the global economic and ecological crises requires a new order of cooperation between nations with the development of new international institutions and agreements.

IP303 There is a need to create a world environment where financial and economic institutions and organisations will nurture and protect environmentally sustainable projects that will sustain communities at all levels (local, regional, national and international).

Objectives

IP310 To obtain democratic, ecological, global and regional institutions by reform of existing bodies and by innovations.

Policies

AMENDMENT 15.

Insert the following and renumber:

IP311 Policy areas are 'European Union', 'United Nations', 'International Finance and Trade Institutions' and 'Trans-national Corporations (TNCs)'.

European Union

IP320 Refer to MfSS Europe Policy

United Nations

IP330 The process of reforming the United Nations must maintain the United Nations' power and authority over environmental, economic, social,

health and other existing responsibilities rather than narrowing its remit to one of international security.

IP320 Prevention of human rights abuses, conflict prevention and resolution, promotion of sustainable human development, coordination of humanitarian aid, global environmental research and agreements on the conservation and rational use of the planet should be the primary roles of the UN.

IP321 The international community cannot stand back and allow gross human rights abuses to take place. The emergent 'Responsibility to Protect' doctrine promises to legitimise UN intervention in cases of ethnic cleansing and genocide. However, military intervention should always be a last resort, as modern wars inevitably cause death and injury to civilians, and the post conflict situation may be problematic.

Therefore the Green Party will press for the use of a United Nations Index of Human Rights to monitor governments that commit human rights abuses and to provide an explicit basis for seeking to restrain such regimes.

IP322 All governments will have their human rights record continuously assessed by a UN agency set up for that purpose. A scale will be established measuring several indicators of human rights performance. The scale will be finalised by agreement at the UN level, but

will be centred on the following abuses:

- use of torture
- use of death penalty
- scale of 'disappearances'
- abuse of political prisoners
- denial of right to fair trial
- denial of free speech
- denial of free movement
- denial of right to political or religious freedom
- denial of rights to women
- denial of child rights
- denial of minority rights

A score reflecting their performance will be allocated to each state on an annual basis.

IP323 Once the Index is installed, governments with the worst record of human rights as measured on this Index will be referred to the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court. If the Court finds that their human rights performance falls below accepted legal standards, the regimes will be given time and assistance to improve their record. In the event of non-compliance, the matter will return to the Court, and if found at fault, the regime will suffer penalties in terms of its members' privileges in the fields of finance, diplomacy, transport and trade. The severity of the penalties will increase as their human rights performance deteriorates, and decrease as their human rights performance improves. The penalties will be targeted to hurt the ruling elite rather than the general population.

IP324 At the same time, countries lying just above the

level at which legal action will be taken will be offered help and advice to improve their human rights performance.

AMENDMENT 16. Insert the following and renumber:

IP330 The Green Party supports the creation of a World Environment Organisation by combining the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) into a single institution, with funding and power to impose sanctions to promote global sustainable development.

IP331 UN agencies working in the economic field, including the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), should be rationalised but with their total budget maintained or expanded.

IP332 The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should be built up as the only major global body which was founded at the initiative of developing countries and always had their interests in global negotiations at its heart.

IP327 Increased European and Middle East support for the UN should be used to mitigate the effects of USA's dominance and fluctuating funding.

AMENDMENT 17. Delete IP327.

IP330 The World Bank must end support for ecologically damaging projects with immediate effect. The British Government and the European Community should seek this.

IP331 World Bank loans should be without conditions unacceptable to the borrower state, be long-term and only be

given to middle-income countries.

IP332 World Bank decisions should be made on a 'one member, one vote' basis and should be made public.

IP333 World Bank project formulation should be open with control and veto power in the hands of local people. Local people should be the primary beneficiaries of Bank projects which should generally be small-scale and sustainable from indigenous resources.

IP334 World Bank projects should not damage the individual or group rights of local populations.

IP340 The British Government should resist the International Monetary Fund's imposition of austerity measures.

IP341 The IMF Board should meet at least four times a year.

IP342 IMF decision making should be on a 'one member, one vote' basis.

IP343 The British IMF representative should be a nominee of the Department for International Development.

IP344 IMF loans should be given especially for import substitution, resource conservation and the pursuit of self-sufficiency in food and energy. (see EC960)

AMENDMENT 18. Delete IP330-IP344 and replace with:

International finance and trade institutions

IP350 We would seek international agreement to replace the World Trade Organisation by a new General Agreement on Sustainable Trade, which would favour the local over the global and give back to individual states their right to discriminate over the type and quality of trade they engage in. Institutionally, the GAST would:

- *be integrated into the UN system and answerable to the General Assembly*
- *be an accountable, decentralised body*
- *allow public access to all its documents and meetings.*

IP351 In the interim, the WTO must operate according to transparent and democratic processes and include the participation of representatives from affected communities.

IP352 The settlement of trade disputes should be removed from the WTO's purview and made part of the broad mechanism of international law, to ensure the due subordination of trade rules to the higher needs of the environment and development.

IP353 All rules on international property rights (IPRs) should be removed from the WTO's remit. Let each country once again determine its own rules for patents, copyrights, trademarks and other IPRs, according to its needs. However, all patents on life forms should be internationally prohibited. A special IPR regime should be introduced to facilitate the production and distribution of medicinal drugs at prices which all countries can afford.

IP360 The IMF and World Bank have been dominated by the Western bloc. They are politically undemocratic and outmoded in their economic practice. We support abolition of the World Bank unless reformed so that

membership and decision-making are democratic as between member states, such that a majority always resides with the majority of the world's people and countries, in other words the developing countries. Operations should be made subservient to sustainability principles and to all international conventions on human and labour rights, and environmental protection. The Presidency of the Bank, hitherto always a US citizen and a position in the gift of the US President, should be opened up to people of all countries according to merit.

IP370 The IMF should return to its original role of overseeing the international monetary system, and no more than that. It should aim to limit surpluses in member countries' foreign payment, as well as deficits. The IMF has neither the skills nor the public legitimacy to interfere in countries' domestic policies, and all policy conditions on its loans and standby agreements should be brought to an end without delay.

IP371 The IMF should be reformed so that membership and decision-making are democratic as between member states, such that a majority always resides with the majority of the world's people and countries, in other words the developing countries. No country should have an effective right of veto on any decisions of the Fund, as the USA has had on all decisions since the beginning. The position of Managing Director of the Fund, hitherto always a European citizen, should be opened up to people of all countries according to merit.

f) Trans-national Corporations (TNCs)

Background

IP400 The development of capitalism and of trade led

logically to modern TNCs. Many TNCs possess resources greater than the poorest countries. The use of these financial resources to corrupt or remove governments for short-term gain at long-term environmental and human cost has intensified as debts have reached crisis proportions. Freer trade as sought by the IMF and the TNCs has meant greater freedom for the TNCs to operate to their own advantage. These bodies consequently bear a very large responsibility for global environmental damage and for the creation of vulnerability to natural disasters. (see EC980-1)

Objectives

IP410 The systematic dissolution of large international economic units and their integration into regionally-based and local-based industries serving local needs ecologically and sustainably.

Policies

Ownership & Structure

IP420 The British Government should: institute capital controls to ensure money made by TNCs in Britain is re-invested here. The TNCs should be forced to observe ecological restraints and labour standards, as suggested by the International Labour Organisation, worldwide. Failure to observe these conditions must mean that the TNC concerned should no longer be allowed to operate in the European Union. Transfer pricing activities by TNCs to reduce tax and export duty costs should be made illegal. (see WR681)

IP421 The British Government should assist developing countries in buying off TNC subsidiaries and in producing the inputs needed for them. Funds for this should be provided from the turnover tax.

IP422 International agreements should be sought to nationalise and to regionalise TNCs and control their operations in poor countries.

Products and Pollution

IP430 TNCs currently producing chemicals which damage the ozone layer, exporting damaging pesticides which are banned in the country of origin, and exporting nuclear technology, should be the subject of immediate restrictions by Government. Eventually, it should become illegal to export goods which would not satisfy standards required in Britain.

IP431 Seed monopolisation by TNCs should be prevented by British Government and European Community legislation.

AMENDMENT 19. Delete IP400-431 and insert:

Trans-national Corporations (TNCs)

IP460 With the collusion of governments, TNCs have created a legal system that puts unfettered economic activity above the public good, protects corporate welfare but attacks social welfare, and makes national economies subservient to a global financial casino.

IP461 The Green Party believes that the roles and responsibilities of trans-national corporations should be redefined

in order to: support the principles of sustainable development; establish an international emissions-reporting framework for trans-national corporations, linked to global carbon taxes and global environmental loads; and work to require corporations to abide by the environmental, labour and social laws of their own country and of the country in which they are operating, whichever are the more stringent.

IP462 TNCs currently producing chemicals which damage the ozone layer, exporting damaging pesticides which are banned in the country of origin and exporting nuclear technology should be the subject of immediate restrictions by the Government. Eventually, it should become illegal to export goods which would not satisfy standards required in Britain.

IP463 Seed monopolisation by TNCs should be prevented by British Government and European Union legislation.

AMENDMENT 20. Insert the following:

Regional Policy

IP500 Given the often fast-moving nature of international affairs, many of the Green Party's policies on particular international regions or countries are agreed as Emergency Motions or other ad hoc policy statements. For international regional policy statements, please therefore refer to the Record of Policy Statements (ROPS) and to statements and articles published on the Green Party (England and Wales) website.

Spheres of influence – Antarctica

AMENDMENT 21. Delete 'Spheres of influence –'

IP440 The Green Party supports the establishment of Antarctica as a "World Reserve", with no exploitation of the natural resources allowed.

IP441 The Green Party wishes to see the Antarctic Treaty expanded to include all nations.

IP442 Research in Antarctica must be directed towards an understanding of the local environment and ecology in order to minimise the impact of any future resource development.

The Middle East

Background

IP500 The system of states imposed on the Eastern Arab world in the wake of World War I has witnessed divisions ever since its inception, and external powers have gained from these. The Middle East today is an inter-dependent system of diverse elements, yet in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War external powers continue to gain, at severe social and environmental cost to the inhabitants. Inequality of access to resources and the denial of basic political rights, especially those of the Palestinians, create wasteful and destructive tensions. We believe that genuine "stability" will only be established in the region when the underlying causes of conflict are identified and dealt with, and when the peoples of the region begin to co-operate around their common interests, principally the threat of diminishing natural resources and the need for ecological security.

Objectives

IP510 Short-term - In Iraq and Kuwait: To alleviate suffering, to restore provision of healthcare and nutrition. To rebuild damaged infrastructure, and to return displaced people to their homes and land or jobs.

Regionally: to enable all its people to live free from the threat of repression; to prevent further ecological degradation; to make the UN a consistent and effective forum and an actor preventing further unilateral actions by powers external to the region.

Medium- to Longer-Term - participatory and democratically accountable security arrangements; a regional framework to reconcile interests and avoid conflicts; co-operation on conservation and enhancements of natural resources and technological support on alternatives; a decreased role for nation-states and support for cultural determination.

Policies

IP520 We call for an end to victimisation of states and peoples who did not support the anti-Iraq Coalition in 1991. This continues to take the form of violent reprisals against individuals, and cessation of trade, aid and tourism.

IP521 We call for urgent environmental monitoring and measurement in the Gulf countries, in Iran, Iraq (including areas of chemical attack prior to the War 1991), Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. We

welcome urgent co-operative remedial and preventative action by bodies qualified to prevent further contamination of sea, land and air. We encourage continuing co-operation by states on all shores of the Gulf.

IP522 All nuclear, chemical and biological weaponry must be removed from this sensitive region. We call on all states of the region to renounce their use. This includes Israel, signing and ratifying a non-proliferation treaty and other states also observing it.

IP523 We suggest a 'utility' audit on tenders for construction projects in the Gulf states. The evaluation would be on the use of environmentally-friendly materials, minimising waste and long-distance transportation, and encouraging utility as against the opulence which causes resentment amongst nationals and low-paid workers

IP524 We encourage oil-rich, low-population states constructively to review their labour recruitment policies:

- not to discriminate against countries which used to supply migrant workers before the invasion of Kuwait.
- to recruit from adjacent/neighbouring high-population states in order to share wealth more equitably and defuse tensions.

We call for migrant workers to acquire full citizenship rights after two years residence within a country. We call for an end to

all forms of discrimination against migrant workers and their families in housing, access to welfare services and education during their stay in a country.

IP525 We appeal to the international community to facilitate self-determination for stateless peoples of the Middle East, prioritising Palestinians and Kurds in areas with which they have historical links. We would give moral and material support to indigenously chosen leadership, but we know that exiles and homeland residents of both peoples have had difficulty in meeting to choose leaders and identify common objectives. Cultural, linguistic and/or religious minorities should be allowed full human rights. There must be greater willingness to observe basic human rights in all parts of the region. A climate of more openness and participation would reduce the incidence of repression.

IP526 Societal reform and appropriate democracy are essential prerequisites to "security" and "stability" in the region. We call for more accountability from existing leadership, and for more awareness of the needs of the needs and interests of people of the region as against those only of the ruling elites. We urge the West to use its customer capacity to favour states where democratic forces are fostered.

IP527 We call for an immediate end to the sales of arms and their components to the region as the Middle East has proved particularly susceptible to

environmental warfare (by either deliberate destruction or withholding shared natural resources). The means and the pretext to prosecute it must not be provided.

IP528 International support must be given for a regional consultative process on environmental protection and on conservation of all natural resources of the region - most urgently regarding sharing water, as take-off from head waters and aquifers is prodigious, unsustainable and discriminatory. Appropriate afforestation projects must be started urgently to conserve moisture. International law needs to reflect the seriousness of protecting the vital and final resource of water.

IP529 We agree with Schumacher's advice that where a resource is finite and unsustainable, the wealth that it generates should be used to develop its substitute; all possible will be done to find alternatives to oil in order:

- a) to reduce dependency of consumer nations
- b) to encourage oil producers to diversify away from reliance on a single exhaustible "crop"

We call for an international programme to facilitate transfer of alternative technologies world-wide, to make capital investment in, and transfer available funds to, research into solar energy use.

IP530 We call for recognition by Middle East decision-makers of

the interdependence of the Eastern Arab world: for assessment of natural resources, financial assets, and needs in framing alliances. We encourage programmes for co-operation on regional lines and a lessening of rigid nation-state behaviour with more emphasis on bio-regions. Confederal realignment can only come with encouragement not coercion. We seek the establishment of an effective regional structure which will be allowed to adjudicate on regional disputes and to ensure security - in all its senses - of the region. We would investigate adaptation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as a model for this in the Middle East.

Palestine & Israel

Background

IP600 The Arab-Israeli conflict persists owing to the failure to find a fair and humane solution to the problems of the Palestinian people and appropriate guarantees of security for a state of Israel.

Objectives

IP601 Mutual recognition of the rights of independent statehood and secure borders of Palestinians and Israelis; a rapid end to the violence and de-escalation of the arms build-up in the region; enforcement of UN resolutions 242 and 338; international assistance so that the new Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza can develop self-reliance in food production and basic services and industries; long term exploration of the possibility of

establishing a confederation with neighbouring states, with free and equal access for each state's citizens.

Policies

IP602 The Green Party believes that all Israelis, Palestinians, and their families should have and be able to exercise full human and civil rights throughout Israel and the occupied territories. Israel should be subject to the Geneva Convention concerning the rights of individuals and communities.

IP603

- a) The Green Party calls for the implementation of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.
- b) The Green Party calls on the PLO to recognise the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure borders.
- c) The Green Party calls on the Israeli Government and the PLO to unequivocally reject violence as a means of settling the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

IP604 The Green Party calls on Israel to repeal its present "law of return" because it is incompatible with the full exercise of human rights and is implicitly discriminatory.

IP605

- a) The Green Party calls on Israel and the Arab states to recognise and comply with United Nations resolutions and instruments.
- b) The Green Party calls on Israel to have direct talks with representatives of the PLO with a view to ensuring genuine religious, political,

economic and other human rights for all people within Israel and the occupied territories.

- c) The Green party calls on Israel to allow Palestinians and their families to return to their former homes and be offered full Israeli citizenship, or to compensate those unable or unwilling to return to their homes and/or property.

IP606 The Green Party calls on the Arab states to agree a mutual non-aggression pact, and a non-aggression pact with Israel. Such pacts must be guaranteed by the international community.

IP607 The Green Party calls for the United Nations and the EU to implement international sanctions against those states which refuse to comply with the calls above.

IP608 The Green Party calls on the United States government to use its special relationship with Israel to halt military and financial support until Israel enters the dialogue called for above.

British Overseas Dependent Territories

Background

IP700 Britain retains responsibility for Overseas Dependent Territories. These are colonies left over after the tide of empire receded.

IP701 If the UK pursues sustainable self-reliance, the government administration of distant colonies cannot be retained indefinitely. In

territorial disputes, the need for peaceful settlements becomes urgent. Such agreements should take into account the wishes and rights of the inhabitants, but these cannot be the sole or overriding factors. Options such as permanent British sovereignty will have to be ruled out.

IP702 Defence responsibilities for remaining outposts may have to be transferred. A stronger peace-keeping role for the UN could form part of the solution, and Britain's armed services should retain some capacity for foreign expeditions only as part of a contribution to the UN Security Forces.

Policies

IP703 For each Dependency, self-reliance with security following the withdrawal of British and foreign troops.

IP704 Vigorous and consistent application of UN human rights policies.

IP705 The Green Party recognises both the right of the people of Gibraltar to self-determination and Gibraltar's need of sustainable and amicable relations with the adjacent Kingdom of Spain and regional government of Andalusia, and with Morocco across the Strait of Gibraltar. The UK should seek diplomatic agreements to provide for such relations, with the full participation of Gibraltar's elected representatives in any diplomatic initiatives. Any agreement should be subject to the democratic decision of the people of Gibraltar.

IP706 The Green Party recognises both the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to self-determination and the need of sustainable and amicable relations between the islands and the southern countries of South America. The experience of the unsuccessful attempt by Argentina to annex the islands is a barrier to the achievement of such relations. Nonetheless, the UK should seek diplomatic agreements to provide for such relations with Argentina and neighbouring littoral states, with the full participation of the elected representatives of the Falkland Islands in any diplomatic initiatives. Any agreement should be subject to the democratic decision of the people of the Falkland Islands

IP707 Negotiations with Commonwealth nations on behalf of Dependency people wishing to migrate.

IP708 Economic reforms to give control of internal economies of the Dependencies to their residents:

- a) End the tax loopholes that make 'tax havens' of some dependencies.
- b) Consider and implement nationalisation of the companies which have large holdings in the Dependencies, in order to transfer the ownership of these holdings to the citizens of the Dependencies concerned.

IP709 Extend democracy in the Dependencies: Crown-nominated members of the

ruling bodies to be replaced by elected members, and adult suffrage to be granted for internal elections to all inhabitants over 18 years of age.

IP710 The Green Party is opposed to the use for foreign military bases of dependent territories for which the UK has responsibility. The UK should end such current use by foreign countries, and should enter into no further agreements for such use.

Hong Kong

IP750 The Green Party regrets the failure of the UK government to provide and subsequently secure in agreements with the People's Republic of China (PRC) adequate human and democratic rights for the people of Hong Kong, including self-government. We support calls for those rights by the people of Hong Kong, and urge the PRC government to grant them.

IP751 We note also the failure of the UK and the PRC to offer adequate choices of citizenship in Hong Kong, particularly for residents of non-Chinese ethnic origin, and the refusal of the PRC to recognise forms of citizenship offered by the UK to Hong Kong residents. We believe that the UK government should have offered British citizenship and the right of residence in the UK to all citizens of Hong Kong under British administration.

IP752 We recognise that Hong Kong resident holders of forms of British citizenship and their families have a special claim to the right of residence in the UK. Additional offers of British citizenship and the right of

residence in the UK should be made to those who were citizens of Hong Kong under British administration. We would facilitate such immigration under the liberal policies on migration, nationality, refugees and asylum seekers (see Migration, Nationality and Refugees & Asylum Seekers) which the Green Party would introduce.

IP753 We believe the UK should negotiate with the PRC permission for such migrants to leave Hong Kong, and urge the PRC to allow that. We believe the UK should negotiate arrangements with Commonwealth countries and other countries with established ethnic Chinese or Indian communities to provide a choice of destination for migrants from Hong Kong, and urge the governments of those countries to allow them to immigrate.

Peoples of the Pacific

IP760 The Green Party recognises the plight of the peoples of the Pacific, and condemns their economic and military exploitation by the USA, France and other industrial nations. The Green Party:

- a) Calls on all those governments who are using the Pacific as a dumping ground for their radioactive wastes, using the people as guinea pigs for nuclear tests, turning the area into a military strategic zone and who are abusing the cultural patterns and land rights, to cease such activities.
- b) Supports the establishment of free, independent and

sustainable island economies.

AMENDMENT 22a.

Move IP700-IP710 and IP760 to the Record of Policy Statements (ROPS) and delete IP500-IP530, IP600-IP608, and IP750-IP753.

AMENDMENT 22b.

Move IP600-IP608, IP700-IP710 and IP760 to the Record of Policy Statements (ROPS) and delete IP500-530 and IP750-753.

All amendments submitted by Sandhya Drew, George Graham, Paul Haseman & Sue Miles.

Proposed by **Policy Committee** (Brian Heatley, Jonathan Dixon, George Graham, Alan Francis).

In order to create a sustainable society, schools must provide environmental education through academic and practical work. This will include children attending their local community school so they are not dependent on cars for transport. Schools will be responsible for providing walking buses, cycling buses and buses so that children travel to school by car only in exceptional circumstances. Schools should be required to provide their own recycling and compost facilities and in the long term generate their own renewable energy and grey water flushing systems. This is particularly important in schools so that young people accept and expect these as part of normal daily life.

cycling buses, replacing with 'facilities'
Submitted by **Rachel Fryer**,
Seconded Brian Heatley, Alan Francis and George Graham

Proposed by **Rachel Fryer**, Ben Duncan, Peter Cranie and Jim Killock

C2. Tidal generation in estuaries

Synopsis (provided by SOC) This motion gives qualified support for the development of tidal energy from estuaries but asserts that a single continuous barrage across the Severn would not be appropriate.

Motion : In the MfSS in CY 507, delete last sentence: "The Green Party will carefully think through the short and long term effects of all estuary developments and will agree to only those which offer overall ecological benefits."

Amendment 1

Delete the first paragraph.

Submitted by Linda Garrard, Tony Young, Keith Ross, Rhodri Griffiths,

Delete existing clause EN 808. Insert new clause EN 808 :___"1) The Green Party of England and Wales believes that it is appropriate to use_the tidal energy potential from estuaries such as the Severn estuary subject_to sustainability and environmental impact assessments.___2) The Green Party of England and Wales

Section C – Policy Motions

C1. Environmental Education

Synopsis (provided by SOC)

This motion inserts into the MfSS the provision that schools must provide environmental education through academic and practical work, including walking buses, school travel, in-school recycling, composting and grey water systems. This will allow young people to accept and expect these as part of normal daily life.

Motion Insert new section under Learning for a sustainable society before ED 230, and renumber:

Amendment 1

In the sentence: 'Schools should be required to provide their own recycling and compost facilities and in the long term generate their own renewable energy and grey water flushing systems.'

After 'renewable energy and' add 'rainwater and'.

Submitted by Keith M Ross, Linda Garrard, Tony Young, Peter Jones

Amendment 2

In the first sentence change replace "must provide" with; "will undertake an energy audit of the school and provide"

In the second sentence replace "this will include children attending" with "Children will attend"

In the third sentence change walking buses to "walking buses" and delete 'buses' from

believes that any proposal for a single continuous barrage across the Severn estuary is not an appropriate means of harnessing the tidal energy potential of the river Severn estuary

Amendment 1

*In new clause EN 808 1):
Insert the word 'satisfactory'
before the word
'sustainability'.*

*Submitted by Geoff Collard,
Ricky Knight, Rhodri
Griffiths, David Taylor & 1
other.*

Amendment 2

*In new clause EN 808 2):
delete the words: "any
proposal for", so that the
sentence reads: "The Green
Party of England and Wales
believes that a single
continuous barrage across
the Severn estuary is not an
appropriate means of
harnessing the tidal energy
potential of the river Severn
estuary."*

*Submitted by Geoff Collard,
Ricky Knight, Rhodri
Griffiths, David Taylor & 1
other.*

Amendment 3

*In new clause EN 808, add at
end: "3) The Green Party of
England and Wales supports
the use of tidal lagoons as a
means of generating clean
renewable energy."*

*Submitted by Geoff Collard,
Ricky Knight, Rhodri
Griffiths, David Taylor & 1
other.*

Amendment 4

*In new clause EN 808, add at
end: "4) The Green Party of
England and Wales supports
the use of tidal stream
turbines as a means of*

*generating clean renewable
energy."*

*Submitted by Geoff Collard,
Ricky Knight, Rhodri Griffiths,
David Taylor & 1 other.*

Proposed by **Geoff Collard**, Ann
Were, Roger Creagh-Osborne,
Rhodri Griffiths and 2 others

C3. Food in schools

Synopsis (provided by SOC)

The motion makes it a minimum policy requirement that all school children are provided with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food, free from additives. Vegetarians, vegans and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks.

Motion Insert new section under Educational Provision for Children after ED303, and renumber:

It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food free from additives. Vegetarians, vegans and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks. Schools will be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food.

Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, it will greatly improve

behaviour, quality of life and learning.

Amendment 1

First sentence - 'It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and

organic non-GM food free from additives.'

Delete 'including' and replace with 'comprising'

*Submitted by Keith M Ross,
Linda Garrard, Tony Young,
Peter Jones*

Amendment 2

*Second sentence -
'Vegetarians, vegans and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks.'*

Amend to read: 'Vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirements...'

*Submitted by Keith M Ross,
Linda Garrard, Tony Young,
Peter Jones,*

Amendment 3:

Final sentence - 'Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, it will greatly improve behaviour, quality of life and learning.'

Delete 'it will greatly improve' and replace with 'and could greatly improve

*Submitted by Keith M Ross,
Linda Garrard, Tony Young,
Peter Jones,*

Proposed by **Rachel Fryer**, Ben Duncan, Peter Cranie and Jim Killock

C4. CO2 reduction targets

Synopsis Our manifesto policy regarding Annual Targets for reducing UK CO2 emissions needs to be revised to be consistent with our target for 2030, and to be *"future proofed" for the coming years.*

Motion In CC203 replace "...we will target a 6% annual reduction..." with "...we will introduce an annual reduction target of at least 9%..."

Amendment 1

Delete "of at least 9%.", and replace with "sufficient to meet this longer-term aim."
Submitted by Policy Committee

Proposed by **Jon Hooper**, Natalie Bennett, Jacob Sanders, Phillip Booth and 2 others.

C5. Climate Change, rainforests and peat

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion condemns deforestation, peat drainage, swamp drainage, peat burning and biodiversity loss and proposes emergency international agreements to tackle them. >

Add new sections CC216-CC221

CC216 The current EU emissions-trading scheme has two primary flaws; it not based on equal rights to the atmosphere, nor on global greenhouse-gas stabilization targets. As a result the highest polluters are rewarded with the greatest allocation of emission permits, full carbon life-cycle emissions are not assessed and no attempt is made to correlate with global stabilization targets.

CC217 The Clean Development Mechanism which allows credits for GHG emission reductions in Non-Annex 1 (developing) countries has become particularly damaging through its support for monoculture tree plantations in developing countries, called 'Green Deserts' by many local NGOs, and for bioenergy crop plantations. No CDM credits must be given for agro-forestry sectors linked to deforestation, peat drainage, biodiversity loss, human rights abuses or evictions. Low biodiversity tree plantations (as opposed to old growth forests and other original ecosystems) should not qualify as carbon sinks.

Amendment 1

In CC217 Replace:

...Low biodiversity tree plantations (as opposed to old growth forests and other original ecosystems) should not qualify as carbon sinks.

With:

...Low biodiversity tree plantations (as opposed to old-growth forests and other original ecosystems) should not qualify as carbon sinks as they are generally not considered to be ecologically self-sustaining; new

tree growth will not necessarily replace low diversity plantation trees at the end of their lifespan.

Submitted by Deepak Rughani, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Way & Adrian Oliver

CC218 It is particularly alarming that nations are trying to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol by using bioenergy classed as 'carbon neutral' despite large-scale greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and peat burning. By doing so, Annex 1 nations are simply exporting greenhouse gas emissions to the developing world and, in doing so, are contributing to greater emissions overall. There is a limited role for sustainable bioenergy, but this must not lead to an increase in monocultures or in the area of the planet under agriculture. There is growing opposition in many countries of the South to large-scale biofuel plantations grown to serve the OECD markets, and we support the local communities and NGOs resisting those developments. Within Europe and the UK we call for a suspension of all bioenergy targets and obligations and an import ban on products linked, directly or indirectly, to deforestation and other negative social and environmental impacts

Amendment 2

In CC218, replace;

... Within Europe and the UK we call for a suspension of all bioenergy targets and obligations and an import ban on products linked, directly or indirectly, to deforestation and other negative social and environmental impacts.

With;

...Within Europe and the UK we call for a suspension of all bioenergy targets and obligations until clear environmental and human rights standards for biofuel production accompany such targets. An import ban should also be imposed on products linked, directly or indirectly to deforestation and other negative social and environmental impacts.

Submitted by Deepak Rughani, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Way & Adrian Oliver

CC219 Rainforests.

Deforestation accounts for several billion tonnes of CO2 emissions annually, and this figure is rising. Scientists are worried that deforestation has pushed the Amazon close to a tipping point beyond which it may no longer be able to sustain its rainfall cycle and could progressively turn into savannah and even desert, vastly accelerating global warming. Emergency action is needed to implement a global moratorium on logging and burning of old growth forests; while ecological restoration must be funded to restore ancient forests which have been degraded or destroyed. The industrialised nations and multinational companies have profited the most from the cheap timber and pulp, cattle feed, meat and other food imports which result from global deforestation, and must therefore pay the cost of implementing a logging and land conversion moratorium. Trade rules must be changed to ban the international trade in

products produced at the expense of old-growth forests.

CC220 The Green Party calls for an emergency international agreement to stop global deforestation. This must be developed as a priority and implemented in full consultation with the local and indigenous communities recognising traditional land rights. This must be made an integral part of existing and future climate change frameworks and the EU and UK must begin to work towards these aims now, not delay action until adopted by the UN.

CC221 The Green Party calls for an emergency international agreement to stop swamp draining and burning of peatland. Such a convention needs to include measures to extinguish fires, re-flood and restore drained peatlands and needs to be linked to a revision of the Clean Development Mechanism in Europe and the broader climate change framework. (see also CC217).

Proposed by **Deepak Rughani**, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

C6. Climate Change policy simplification and corrections

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion updates our policy with current views on the Kyoto protocol and its mechanisms and drawbacks.

a) Change CC005 from

" The UNFCCC has organised annual "Conferences of the Parties" (COPs) since 1995. At COP3 in Kyoto in 1997 the major polluting countries agreed a plan (the Kyoto Protocol or KP) including definite commitments to reduce emissions. By COP7 in November 2001 most of the details of the KP were finalised and by 2004 it had been ratified by all the major industrialised countries except the USA, Russia and Australia. It commits them to reductions averaging 5% from a 1990 base by 2010. However it is extremely complex, and has many serious flaws. Its major technical problems are the "Clean Development Mechanism", the "Joint Implementation" proposals, allowances for countries for absorption by existing as well as new forests and the large 'hot air' allowances granted to Russia and Ukraine. These aspects all open big loopholes for profitable cheating. Also, the non-involvement of the USA is a major setback, emissions from civil aviation are not counted, and the proposed compliance mechanism is toothless."

To

"The Kyoto Protocol, negotiated under the auspices of the UNFCCC, came into force in 2005. It commits most industrialised countries to greenhouse gas emissions reductions averaging 5% from a 1990 base by 2012. it is extremely complex, and has many serious flaws. Its major technical problems are the "Clean Development Mechanism" and the "Joint Implementation" proposals,

which open big loopholes for profitable cheating. Also, the non-involvement of the USA is a major setback, emissions from international civil aviation and shipping are not counted, and the proposed compliance mechanism is toothless."

b) Change CC012 from

"Until 2002 just over half of CO₂ emissions were consistently absorbed. In the 1990s there was considerable debate about where the absorbing was happening, as it is much harder to measure than emissions. A scientific agreement was eventually reached that boreal forests, tropical forests and oceans were all absorbing significantly. In 2003 this absorption fraction dramatically decreased from about 55% to about 20%. It is still, in July 2004, unknown why this is so. Plausible causes include one or more of: very large-scale wildfires, large-scale carbon-dioxide-triggered emissions from peat bogs, and saturation of large parts of the forest sinks.

It is also unknown whether the absorption fraction is likely to revert to its previous figure of about half, restabilise at around 20%, or decline further. modelling suggests that by mid-century it will in any case become negative as most current sinks become net emitters rather than absorbers."

To...

"So far just over half of CO₂ emissions have been consistently absorbed. In the 1990s there was considerable debate about where the absorbing was happening, as it

is much harder to measure than emissions. A scientific agreement was eventually reached that boreal forests, tropical forests and oceans were all absorbing significantly.. However there is some evidence that the natural CO₂ sinks are declining in effectiveness; and some models suggest that many current sinks will become net emitters rather than absorbers over the coming decades."

c) Change the first sentence of CC202 from

" The UK's commitment under the EU basket agreement reached in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol is a reduction in the 6-gas basket by 15% by 2008-2012"

to make it read

" The UK's commitment under the EU basket agreement reached in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol is a reduction in the 6-gas basket by 12.5% by 2008-2012"

d) Change CC206 from

"Parallel targets should in principle be set for emissions of the Kyoto Protocol basket of gases (see CC110), and also for carbon monoxide, NO_x and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). CO, NO_x and VOCs are not greenhouse gases but react in the atmosphere to create such. However, emissions of some of these substances are very hard to measure accurately, and some will be drastically reduced by Green policies in areas such as agriculture, pollution control - as they are a health hazard, and waste management. (Note that NO_x, a mixture of NO and NO₂, is quite different from nitrous oxide, N₂O)."

to

"Targets should also be set to cover the other Kyoto protocol gases (see CC010) as well as other gases and black soot that are found to directly or indirectly cause global warming. UK targets must include land-use emissions including peat and moorland burning"

Proposed by **Tony Cooper**, Deepak Rughani, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 3 others

C7. ALMOs

Synopsis: The Government is pushing local authorities towards 'Arms Length Management Organisations' as opposed to stock retention. This motion would commit the Green Party to opposing new ALMOs, and illustrate how to make best use of them where they already exist.

Motion: Insert new paragraphs after HO403 and renumber subsequent paragraphs:
HO404 The Green Party opposes the transfer of council housing to Arms Length Management Organisations. The Green Party recognises the undesirable nature of ALMOs, and the difficulties of ensuring adequate representation for tenants due to the restrictions of board members under company law.

HO405 In those areas where an Arms Length Management Organisation exists, the Green Party will seek to ensure that it requires genuine tenant participation - noting that a few unaccountable council tenants

on the board of an ALMO is not equivalent to full tenant participation. It calls for a 'fourth option' in the funding of social housing, in which Government would provide equal finances for the achievement of the Decent Homes Standard, regardless of whether a local authority retains its council housing stock. It also calls for a ballot of all tenants and leaseholders on the basis of one vote per tenant/leaseholder when an ALMO is being proposed by any local authority. Tenants whose housing is represented by an ALMO should always be provided with the option of returning to local authority control, if it is requested by a majority in a democratic ballot, and ALMOs should not be used as the first stage towards full scale stock transfer.

Amendment 1

After 'by any local authority' insert 'Where such a ballot rejects the proposed ALMO, there should be a restriction preventing the Local Authority conducting another such ballot within the next five years'. In all such ballots, bodies representing tenants' opposition to transfer should be allowed equal access to funding for leaflets meetings etcetera.

*Submitted by **Linda Garrard**,
Tony Young, Keith Ross, Rhodri Griffiths,*

Proposed: Matt Sellwood, Jim Jepps, Romaine Phoenix, Anne Gray and 9 others

C8. Animal experiments

SYNOPSIS This motion seeks to update policy by distinguishing between harmful and benign experiments using animals, and by removing references to research which has already been banned.

MOTION Replace Policy AR407 with:

The Green Party is opposed, on scientific and ethical grounds, to the harmful use of animals in research and for medical purposes and would ban all research and medical practice which harms animals, including harmful procedures used to obtain animal derived materials. 'Harmful' is defined in this context as 'having the potential to cause pain, suffering, distress, lasting harm or death in animals, except where it is designed to benefit the individual animals concerned'.

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 the use of human tissue.

Greens would also fund more research into prevention of disease, looking at diet, environment, family history and lifestyle.

Replace Policy AR408 with:

The Green Party is opposed to the harmful use in education of animals and of animal-derived materials where the animals have been killed specifically for this purpose. The Party supports the replacement of the use of

animals and animal material with methods such as models, mannequins, mechanical and computer-based simulators, films and interactive videos, plant experiments and observational and field studies, and human studies including self-experimentation.

The Party supports the educational use of animal cadavers and animal-derived materials where these have been ethically sourced, such as animals who have died naturally and animals who have been euthanased for humane reasons."

Proposed by **Vivien Pomfrey**, Mark Dawes, Marian Hussenbux and Noel Lynch

C9. Tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay

(Synopsis provided by SOC) This Conference supports the proposal for a tidal lagoon for electricity generation in Swansea Bay, and the scheme launched by local Green Party members and others to enable that lagoon, when built, to be owned and operated for the benefit of local people.

Motion This Conference supports the proposal for a tidal lagoon for electricity generation in Swansea Bay, and the scheme launched by local Green Party members and others to enable that lagoon, when built, to be owned and operated for the benefit of local people. The Green Party endorses this as a model for other tidal lagoon

projects where appropriate elsewhere around the coasts of Britain, subject to favourable environmental impact studies in all cases.

Proposed by **Keith M Ross**, Jane Richmond, Peter Jones and Rhodri Griffiths

C10. West Papua

(Synopsis provided by SOC) This motion calls for an action plan by the UK, EU and UN to ensure human rights in West Papua, especially demilitarisation, and end to UK arms sales, freedom of speech/assembly, release of political prisoners and internationally sponsored talks without the current preconditions that prohibit the discussion of self-determination.

Motion: This conference notes with concern the continuing Indonesian occupation of West Papua and the denial of the West Papuan right to self-determination. We call for the following action plan by the UK, EU and UN:

1) Internationally sponsored Indonesian-West Papuan dialogue without pre-conditions. Britain currently supports dialogue in which Indonesia can veto any discussion of self-determination. This, in effect, rules out any discussion of the injustice that is the root of the conflict.

2) Release of West Papuan political prisoners; in particular the imprisoned activists Filep Karma and Yusak Pakage. They

were jailed for 15 and 10 years respectively for merely raising the West Papuan independence flag on 1st December 2004. Amnesty International has officially recognised them as Prisoners of Conscience. There are currently approximately 100 Papuan political prisoners in total.

3) De-militarisation of West Papua: There has been a significant Indonesian troop build up in West Papua in the past 12 months. The Indonesian military has refused to sign up to the 2003 Papuan Churches "Land of Peace" initiative.

4) An end to the sale of UK arms to Indonesia: In 2005, a British made Tactica water-cannon was used by Indonesia against West Papuan protesters. In the past UK-built Hawk jets have been used in West Papua to bomb and intimidate the local population. The UK continues to sell arms to Indonesia on the basis of a "gentlemen's agreement" that they will not be used for "internal repression". Given that Indonesia has minimal need for defence against external threats, it does not need such enormous military forces.

5) Freedom of speech and assembly and the right to form political parties: at present Indonesia gives West Papuans no opportunity to peacefully campaign for self-determination/independence. Raising the West Papuan Morning Star flag counts as "rebellion against the State" and results in a long jail sentence;

pro-independence political parties are banned; and any expression of a desire for independence is likely to lead to arrest, jail and torture.

6) Open access to West Papua for international human rights agencies, the UN High Commission for Refugees and foreign journalists, academics and parliamentarians. Currently access for foreigners is either banned completely or highly restricted.

Proposed by **Joseph Healy**, Matt Sellwood, Derek Wall and Sarah Farrow

C11. Road Transport Carbon Emissions Reduction

SYNOPSIS This motion promotes a policy which is already in the MfSS - a 55mph national speed limit - as a quick-win for achieving significant carbon emission reductions from road transport, with many ancillary benefits. It also "requests" the national campaigns coordinator to develop a high profile campaign.

MOTION In order to bring about an immediate reduction in CO2 greenhouse gas emissions from road transport, Conference calls on the Government and Local Authorities to immediately implement the policies contained in clause TR115 of the MfSS (a 55mph speed limit on all trunk roads & motorways). This would at a stroke both produce a significant reduction in

greenhouse gas emissions, whilst also improving road safety, at minimal cost to the economy.

Conference requests the national campaigns coordinator to develop a high profile campaign for a national speed limit reduction, and suggests that local parties highlight this as a policy which councils have some power to influence and implement on non-trunk roads.

Proposed by **Roger Creagh-Osborne**, Jon Lucas, Helen Banks, Geoff Collard, Richard Lawson

C12. Climate Change Targets

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion updates our CO2 targets with current thinking, and updates policy to plan for a post-Kyoto treaty with reference to soot.

In CC section of the MfSS

a) In section B add after CC110
CC111 The primary aim of such targets is to ensure that temperature increases in the atmosphere are kept to 2°C or less, in line with this widely accepted target for keeping the risk of catastrophic global damages to a fairly low level. This means stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at 450ppm CO2 equivalent or less.

b) In CC201
Delete
" Simple climate models consistent with IPCC findings

suggest that global average emissions need to be reduced by 65-80% by 2030."

And replace by
"Climate research from both the Manchester Tyndall Centre and the Potsdam Institute suggest that average global emissions will need to be reduced by at least 60% by 2030."

Amendment 1

*In b), insert "of the 1990 baseline" in the final sentence between "60%" and "by 2030".
In c), delete "If this policy is adopted in 2006, the required annual rate is 9% per annum. If adoption is delayed, the required rate is significantly greater, rising by about 0.5 percentage points for each year of delay in starting." Replace it with "We will introduce an annual reduction target sufficient to meet this longer-term aim."*

Submitted by **Policy Committee**

Amendment 2

In (b)

Add Amend CC203 to add the words at the end: "Science may produce evidence that shows needs for deeper cuts in emissions, and Green Party public announcements should reflect the current nature of climate change science."

*Submitted by **Jim Killock**, Chris Keene, Jon Hooper, Peter Cranie & others.*

c) Change CC203 from
"UK emissions in 2003 were 7.5% below the 1990 baseline. We should aim steadily to reduce CO2 emissions from fossil fuels to 10% of their 1990 levels by 2030. To achieve this, we will target a 6% annual reduction in UK CO2 emissions, and establish effective mechanisms for getting

back on track should an annual target be missed."

to
"UK emissions in 2005 were just below the 1990 baseline and rising. We should aim steadily to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions to 10% of their 1990 levels by 2030. If this policy is adopted in 2006, the required annual rate is 9% per annum. If adoption is delayed, the required rate is significantly greater, rising by about 0.5 percentage points for each year of delay in starting.

We will also establish effective mechanisms for getting back on track should an annual target be missed"

Add sections CC208-9
CC208 The UN should modify the way the effects of different greenhouse gases are combined to focus on the impacts over a twenty-year time period. Currently 100 years is used and this makes a big difference to the effects of methane, resulting in serious understressing of the importance of methane emissions reductions in the crucial next few decades.

CC209 The successor treaty to the Kyoto protocol should also include appropriate reduction targets for black soot. Although soot is not a gas it is a major contributor to global warming. Soot is also the cheapest and quickest greenhouse contributor to eliminate.

Proposed by **Deepak Rughani**, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

C13. Climate Change - adaptation and leadership

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion condemns “adaptation” as a primary response to climate change, calls for clear leadership from citizens and the UK government.

In CC section B, add new subsections after CC100 as follows

CC101 The GP vigorously challenges ‘adaptation’ as a primary response to climate change. Political leaders can’t have it both ways; at once setting gradual emission-reduction targets which imply that we really do have 40 or 50 years in hand, and when challenged reverting to the ‘it’s all over’ position by opting for ‘adaptation’.

Amendment 1

In CC101 Replace:

The Green Party vigorously challenges ‘adaptation’ as a primary response to climate change. Political leaders can’t have it both ways; at once setting gradual emission-reduction targets which imply that we really do have 40 or 50 years in hand, and when challenged reverting to the ‘it’s all over’ position by opting for ‘adaptation’.

With;

The Green Party vigorously challenges ‘adaptation’ as the primary response to climate change. Without targets commensurate with the scale of the problem, ‘adaptation’ becomes a get-out clause to be used by any government committed to doing less than is required to stabilise temperatures at or below 2C

warming. Long term ‘adaptation’ is an oxymoron if we cross the 2C threshold, as feedbacks in the system will ensure ongoing warming with no identifiable stabilisation point.

Submitted by Deepak Rughani, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

CC102 Leadership. It is clear that we can’t rely on strong leadership from governments or from the UN. If human civilization is to survive this period in our history, the demand for action will have to come from citizens.

Governments will respond only when societal pressure leaves no other option. In short, each of us has to become a leader in our own sphere of influence, an agent of positive change. Climate-leadership can range from initiating actions in our own family, workplace or community right through to engaged activism. It’s an “aroused citizenry” which holds the key to getting ahead of the climate curve. Failing this, we will continue to be preoccupied with symptoms rather than causes.

Amendment 2

CC102 Leadership: Replace;

It is clear that we can’t rely on strong leadership from governments or from the UN. If human civilisation is to survive this period in our history, the demand for action will have to come from citizens. Governments will respond only when societal pressure leaves no other option. In short each of us has to become a leader in our own sphere of influence, an agent of positive change. Climate-leadership can range from initiating actions in our

own family, workplace or community right through to engaged activism. It’s an “aroused citizenry” which holds the key to getting ahead of the climate curve. Failing this, we will continue to be preoccupied with symptoms rather than causes.

With;

It is clear that so far we have not been able to rely on strong leadership from the UK government, the EU or from the UN. If human civilization is to survive this period in our history, the demand for meaningful action will have to come from citizens at every level. Government can be relied upon to respond more fully when societal pressure leaves them with no other option. In short there is now a moral obligation for each of us as citizens to show climate leadership in our own sphere of influence.

Submitted by Deepak Rughani, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

CC103 On a political level the GP advocates decisive leadership by the UK government, actively seeking revisions of the current climate framework with the EU, ahead of the UN.

Amendment 3

Replace the whole of the proposed CC103...

“On a political level the Green Party advocates decisive leadership by the UK government, actively seeking revisions of the current climate framework with the EU, ahead of the UN.”

With: the following as CC121 (for section B.3.)

Political Leadership. The Green Party advocates decisive leadership by the UK government, actively seeking revisions to the current climate framework ahead of the Kyoto end date of 2012 and active promotion of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) set out by the Global Commons Institute (GCI). The Green Party advocates unilateral adoption of C&C by the UK government and sees this as an important step in its international leadership role on climate.

Submitted by Deepak Rughani, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

Proposed by **Deepak Rughani**, Tony Cooper, Andrew Boswell, Christine Wray and 1 other

C14. 9-11 inquiry

Synopsis (provided by SOC) : The motion asserts that Bush's 'War on Terror' after 9/11 became an excuse for illegal pre-emptive military invasion and therefore commits the Green Party to support the Green Party of the United States in its call for a full inquiry into all the events connected with the attacks of 911.

Motion: "Bush's endless 'War on Terror' in response to 9/11 became an excuse for illegal pre-emptive military invasion, torture, and curtailment of freedoms, with many of the worst Bush policies endorsed by both Democrats and Republicans, as well as the UK Government.

The US Green Party candidates and leaders, on the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks, therefore called for a new, independent, and expanded investigation of the attacks and the Bush Administration's response.

The Green Party of England and Wales supports the US Green Party in its call for a full inquiry into all the events connected with the attacks of 11th September 2001, both in the USA and in the UK."

Amendment 1

*Add new paragraph:
"The Green Party does not, however, believe that there is evidence that any organisation other than Al Qaida was responsible for the attacks. Nor will it support or associate with fringe elements that espouse 'conspiracy theories' that attempt to suggest that the events of 9 September 2001 in New York were devised and perpetrated in secret by US security forces, finding these suggestions in poor taste. Rather, it supports the need for an inquiry into both the handling of intelligence prior to the terrorist attacks, and the political response, with its devastating long term effects on international security."*

Submitted by Jim Killock, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Darren Johnson & Ben Duncan & others.

Proposed by **Janet Alty**, Andrew Waldie, Bill Rigby, Shan Oakes and 1 other

C15. Zimbabwe

Synopsis: This motion calls upon GPEX and the International

Committee to support pro-democracy forces, trade unions, civil society groups and non-governmental organizations in Zimbabwe that are attempting to address the HIV pandemic and ensure treatment for all who need it. At the moment, lack of treatment seems to be politically motivated.

Motion: We call upon GPEX and the International Committee to support pro-democracy forces, trade unions, civil society groups and non-governmental organizations in Zimbabwe that are attempting to address the HIV pandemic and ensure treatment for all who need it.

We urge GPEX, the International Committee and our Green MEPs to call upon the UN and the WHO to pressure the government of Zimbabwe to change its failed HIV policies, and in particular to ensure universal access to HIV treatments, without discrimination, to all who need them.

Furthermore, we ask our elected representatives in the European Parliament to bring this issue to the attention of the European Union, with a request that EU aid to Zimbabwe gives high priority to the provision of HIV treatments and that these are channelled to Zimbabwe via local NGOs, to minimise corruption and their politically-motivated distribution.

Proposed by **Joseph Healy**, James Tomkinson, Don Fraser and Romaine Phoenix and 3 others

C16. Kurdistan

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

The Green Party calls upon the UK Government and the EU to offer total support to the Kurdistan National Congress in their quest for full recognition of the cultural and political rights of the Kurdish people in all parts of Kurdistan. Green Party Executive shall publicise this resolution.

Motion The Green Party of England and Wales calls upon the UK Government and the EU to offer total support to the Kurdistan National Congress in their quest for full recognition of the cultural and political rights of the Kurdish people in all parts of Kurdistan. Green Party Executive shall publicise this resolution.

Amendment 1

Add at the end of this motion, after 'resolution.' 'Which shall be added to the Manifesto of Policy Statements'

Submitted by **Linda Garrard**,
Tony Young, Keith Ross, Rhodri Griffiths,

Proposed by **Tony Young**, Paula Montez, Keith Ross, Rhodri Griffiths

C17. Workplace Bullying

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion recognises and deplores the existence of workplace bullying and calls upon the Government to

implement legislation to outlaw bullying at work, where the bullying is unfocused and not covered by existing laws against sexual, gender, racial or disability discrimination.

Motion Conference recognises and deplores the existence of workplace bullying and calls upon the Government to implement legislation to outlaw bullying at work, where the bullying is unfocused and not covered by existing laws against sexual, gender, racial or disability discrimination.

Proposed by **Marc Schiemann**, Malcolm Bailey, Debbie Wakeham and Paul Wakeham.

Section D – Organisational Motions

D1. Creating a Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders of the Green Party

The amendments for D1 have been placed into 3 baskets under the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference:

Basket A 1-13 Amendments the proposer will accept

Basket B 1-3 Amendments which need to be automatically not be taken if earlier amendments pass

Basket C 1-13 Amendments to be debated

Also, for clarity, mutually inconsistent amendments are shown in boxes. Only one

amendment from each box can be passed.

For convenience, SOC has included a run-down list of ALL the amendments (only) at the end of the motion.

Amendment A1: Throughout the Motion

Wherever the phrase 'Leader and Deputy Leader' or any similar phrase appears, add '(or Co-Leaders)' as appropriate and where it does not already appear.

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

Synopsis: This motion would mandate a ballot of the membership to change the Constitution to remove the Principal Speakers posts and replace them with a Leader and Deputy Leader with limited powers and full accountability.

Conference notes

i. The successive majorities on Conference floor in favour of a reformed leadership structure; The public confusion over the notion of Principal Speakers;

ii. The difficulty in explaining to the media what a Principal Speaker is;

iii. The perception among the public that we as a party do not take our vital political role sufficiently seriously.

Conference believes:

(i) That a change in title and responsibilities for our leading figures will help provide a better understanding of what the party seeks to achieve;

(ii) That the title Leader and Deputy Leader are commonly understood by the public;

(iii) That any notion of Leadership must be carefully balanced by true democratic accountability.

Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place

1. After the May 2007 election
2. After a period of full, party-wide debate between May 2007 and July 2007

Amendment A2 Party-wide debate and consultation

Add to the section entitled "Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place" new paragraphs numbered as appropriate:

In order to create a party-wide debate, articles will be written by the proposers and opposers of the constitutional amendment in Green World, Green Activist, and on the member's website. An opportunity for a video presentation of three minutes will be made for both proposers and opposers on the member's website. An online forum will be established for open debate.

Local and Regional Parties will be encouraged to hold meetings to debate the amendment. GPEx, Regional and Local Parties will make every effort to compile and make speaker lists available and advertise meeting times to members.

Signed Jim Killock, Ann Were, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

FIRST BOX

Amendment C1: after 'Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place'

insert new sub-paragraph "3. After the Party has achieved a parliamentary representation of at least 3 MPs."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C2 (not taken if C1 passes)

In third paragraph, starting "Conference resolves", in point 2 change "July 2007" to "July 2008".

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C3: (not taken if C1 or C2 pass)

In third paragraph, starting "Conference resolves", in point 2 change "July 2007" to "October 2007". Add points 3 to 5, as follows:

"3. To facilitate such a genuine party-wide debate, local parties are encouraged to hold meetings to discuss the issue at which, in order to ensure members have access to informed opinion on both sides of the debate, members from outside the local party should be invited to address the meeting. Regional parties should assist the process by drawing up lists of members from either side of the debate who are willing to travel (at their own expense) to other local parties within the region to put their case.

4. Space in the timetable for Autumn Conference should be made available for debating the proposal, either in a panel debate or fringe meeting(s), at the discretion of the Conference organisers. No motion to halt or amend the referendum procedure will be permitted to that Conference.

5. The referendum timetable should ensure that the final vote can be counted and made public by the end of November 2007."

PROPOSED: Jonathan Dixon, John Norris, John Street, Shahrar Ali

END OF FIRST BOX

Conference resolves to hold a membership referendum to amend the Constitution, and Philosophical Basis as follows:

1 Philosophical Basis

Replace PB443 with:

We seek a society in which people are empowered and involved in making the decisions which affect them. We advocate participatory and democratic politics. Leadership should always be accountable, consensus-driven, and moral. The Green Party looks for inspiration in leadership figures such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

Amendment A3: In 'Replace PB443 with:'

After the end of the first sentence, insert the sentence: "We reject the hierarchical structure of leaders and followers."

Proposed by Geoff Collard, Anne Rix, Sue Bradley, Carol Kambites

Amendment A4:

After 'Gandhi' insert 'Emmeline Pankhurst';

After 'Martin Luther King' insert 'Rosa Parkes';

After 'Nelson Mandela' insert 'Aung San Suu Kyi'.

Proposed by: Lopyy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggerridge

Amendment A5

before 'Ghandi' insert 'M.K. ('Mahatma')'
Proposed by: Lopyy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggerridge

Amendment C4

Delete last sentence "The Green Party ... Mandela"

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

2 Constitution

(i) Add new Section 8; and renumber subsequent sections:

Section 8 PARTY LEADER AND

DEPUTY LEADER

(i) There shall be a Leader and Deputy Leader of the Green Party. They shall be voting members of the Executive.

Amendment C5: *In proposed new section 8(i), delete "voting", substitute "non-voting"; in proposed new section 8(iv), delete "powers and votes".*

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Geoff Collard, Lopsy Garrad.

(ii) The Leader and Deputy will be the primary public faces of the party, responsible for presenting Green Party policy and promoting its electoral activity and campaigns to the public on a day to day basis.

SECOND BOX

Amendment C6: *In proposed new Section 8, insert new clause 8(ii) as follows and re-number:*

(ii) The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader shall be unpaid voluntary posts for which the postholders may claim necessary out-of-pocket expenses within a budget agreed quarterly by GPEX.

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C7 *(not taken if C6 passes) In the proposed new section 8, insert new clause 8 (ii) as follows and renumber:*

(ii) The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader (or Co-Leaders), shall be part time paid posts for which the postholders may claim payment and necessary out of pocket expenses within a budget agreed quarterly by GPEX.'

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

END OF SECOND BOX

(iii) Candidates for Leader and Deputy Leader shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.

THIRD BOX

Amendment C8 *In proposed new section 8(iii) delete "three", add "ten"*
Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C9: *(not taken if C8 passes) In the proposed new clause 8(iii), first sentence delete "three", add "eight"*
Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

END OF THIRD BOX

Amendment C10: *In the proposed new clause 8(iii), first sentence*
After 'nominations' insert ", shall have been elected as a Green Party member of the UK or European Parliaments".
Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

Amendment C11: *In proposed new section 8(iii),*
After 'nominations' insert ", shall have served previously as a Principal Speaker, member of the Party Executive, or Co-chair of the Regional Council or of the previous Green Party Council"
Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

(iv) Two members of opposite sexes may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold

the post as a job share. The post of Deputy Leader may not be held as a job share. In the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post, they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders', no election for Deputy Leader shall take place, and the duties, powers and votes of both posts will be held by the Co-Leaders.

Amendment A6: *In proposed new section 8(iv), add at end "Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader."*

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment A7: *In the proposed new clause 8 (iv), final sentence Delete 'powers' and replace with 'responsibilities'.*

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

(v) The Leader and Deputy Leader shall be elected every two years. The election shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party, voting to close on the Friday evening of the nearest autumn conference. The deadline for receipt of ballot papers returned by post may be set up to a week prior to Conference, at the discretion of the ERO. Members will be able to cast their postal ballots at Conference if they wish. A hustings will take place on the Friday of Conference. The vote may be counted and the result announced at Conference at the discretion of the ERO.

Amendment C12 *In proposed new section 8(v) delete "every two years", add "annually"; delete "nearest".*
Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Matt Sellwood

(vi) The vote for Leader shall

be counted first. Candidates for Deputy Leader of the same sex as the newly elected Leader will then be disqualified. In the event of the Leader election being won by two people standing as a job share, they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders' and no count for Deputy Leader shall take place.

(vii) Elections for the Leader and Deputy Leader will include the opportunity for each candidate to address ordinary members through specific mailings, a party membership newsletter and web based communications. Regional parties will be encouraged to hold hustings.

Amendment A8: *In proposed new clause 8(vii), first sentence Delete 'ordinary'*
Proposed by: Lopyy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

(viii) The Leader and Deputy Leader will be accountable to party committees in the same way as other members of the Executive and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Executive and GPRC.

(ix) The Leader and Deputy Leader in exercising their duties will at all times abide by Party policy, the MfSS and Philosophical Basis.

(x) In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Leader or Deputy Leader, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. The current postholders will retain their post until the result of that election.

FOURTH BOX

Amendment A9: *To the new Section 8; replace paragraph (x) with*

(x) In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Leader or Co-Leader, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current

postholders shall be eligible to stand. Recalled postholders will be suspended from their posts until the result of that election. In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Deputy Leader, a new election for that post shall be held in which the current postholder shall be eligible to stand. The current postholder will be suspended from their post until the result of that election.

Proposed: Jim Killock, Pete Comley, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment B1: *(not taken if A9 passes) In proposed new section 8(x), delete "or Deputy Leader", add "or either or both of two Co-Leaders"; after "both posts" insert "of Leader and Deputy Leader"; after "stand." insert "In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader, a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other Members of the same sex as the current postholder shall be eligible to stand, subject to clause 8(iii) above."*

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment B2: *(not taken if A9 or B1 passes) In proposed new section 8(x), delete last sentence and substitute "Any postholder so recalled shall be suspended from office pending the result of the new election."*

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

END OF FOURTH BOX

(xi) The Leader and Deputy Leader will present an Annual Report to Conference alongside other Executive members.

Amendment A10 *To the new Section 8,*

add a new paragraph after the current paragraph (xi) and

renumber

(xii) In years where no election for Leader and Deputy Leader takes place, there will be a mandatory vote of confidence in the postholders at Autumn Conference. Should the vote of confidence in the Leader or Co-Leaders fall short of a simple majority, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. The postholders will be suspended from their posts until the result of that election. In the event of the vote of confidence in the Deputy Leader falling, a new election for that post shall be held in which the current postholder shall be eligible to stand. The current postholder will be suspended from their post until the result of that election.

Signed Jim Killock, Pete Comley, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

(xii) Should one of the two postholders resign there will be a byelection for both Leader and Deputy Leader. They shall serve a term lasting as if it were starting at the previous Autumn Conference, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting at the following Autumn Conference.

FIFTH BOX

Amendment A11 *To the new Section 8;*

replace paragraph (xii) with

(xii) Should the Leader or a co-leader resign there will be a byelection for both Leader and Deputy Leader. They shall serve a term lasting as if it were starting at the previous Autumn Conference, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting at the following Autumn Conference. Should the Deputy Leader resign, there will be a byelection for that post only.

Proposed: Jim Killock, Ann Were, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment B3 *(not taken if A11 passes)*

In proposed new section 8(xii),

After "Should" insert "the Leader or"; delete "postholders" add "Co-Leaders". After "Deputy Leader." insert "Should the Deputy Leader resign, there will be a bye-election for Deputy Leader."

Delete last sentence, substitute "SOC shall prepare regulations concerning bye-elections and new elections as may be required under this clause or clause 8(x) above, which shall be approved by, and may be subsequently amended by GPRC, but in all such elections or bye-elections clause 8(iii) regarding eligibility shall apply."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

END OF FIFTH BOX

Amendment C13: *Insert new clause 8(xiii)*

"In the event of the suspension or resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of one of two Co-Leaders, the other Co-Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of both the Leader and Deputy Leader, or of both of two Co-Leaders, the Chair of GPEx shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

(ii) Amend Section 6: Regional Council

clause x

Replace 'a member of the Party Executive' with 'an Annually Elected GPEx member'

Replace clause xi as shown below:

By a two-thirds majority of its

voting membership the Regional Council may recall the Leader or Deputy Leader, who shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for both posts at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.

Amendment A12:

in (ii) Amend Section 6: Regional Council

delete the heading "Replace clause xi as shown below", and after clause x insert the words "Insert new clause xi" and renumber the remaining clauses in 6. Green Party Regional Council.

Proposed by Geoff Collard, Anne Rix, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

(iii) Amend Section 7: Executive as follows

Amend clause ii shown below:

ii) Amend the first sentence

"The Party Executive shall consist of ten voting members with the following functional responsibilities:" with:

"The Party Executive shall consist of Leader plus Deputy Leader and an additional eleven annually elected members with the following functional responsibilities:"

And replace the final paragraph "each of whom shall be elected annually ... Further nominations will be accepted up to a new close of nominations determined by the ERO." with:

"To distinguish between the arrangements for the Leader and Deputy Leader, and these annually elected members of the executive, they shall be referred to as the 'Annually Elected GPEx' posts or members.

Elections to the Annually Elected GPEx posts shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party, voting to close within one week of the end of the annual conference, except for posts for which there are fewer than two candidates nominated by the close of nominations. Where there are fewer than two candidates, the election shall be conducted at conference, according to the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Any nominations will remain valid, but candidate's statements may be changed by the candidate, and shall not appear with the postal ballot. Further nominations will be accepted up to a new close of nominations determined by the ERO."

Replace clauses iv, v, vi, xi, xii, xii, xiii as shown below:

iv) Procedures for the election of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Green Party and their duties and responsibilities are outlined in Section 8 of this Constitution.

v) Candidates for the Annually Elected GPEx posts shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Party.

vi) Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one Annually Elected GPEx post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the

Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader.

xi) By a two-thirds majority of its membership eligible to vote the Party Executive may suspend from office any Annually Elected GPEx member if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Party Executive is against the interests of the Party, subject to any decision of the Regional Council under Clause 6(xii) and subject to the right of such a member to appeal.

Amendment A13: In part (iii) Amend Section 7: Executive, after "Replace clauses iv, v, vi," delete "xi," and delete proposed new clause 7(xi).

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

xii) In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Regional Council to recall an Annually Elected GPEx member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.

xiii) In the event of casual vacancy for an Annually Elected GPEx post, a replacement shall be appointed in an acting and non-voting capacity by the Party Executive until the next ballot is held.

(iv) Amend party by-laws "referred to in clause 5(xiv) Party Registration" as follows:

Replace 1 with:

1 For the purposes of Registration the elected Leader or one of the two job sharing at their discretion (or by drawing of straws) as outlined in Section 8 shall be registered as the leader

Proposed by **Jim Killock**, Ann Were, Cllr Andy Cooper, Richard Lawson and 18 others.

Listing of all amendments to D1:

A Amendments the proposer will accept

Amendment A1: Throughout the Motion

Wherever the phrase 'Leader and Deputy Leader' or any similar phrase appears, add '(or Co-Leaders)' as appropriate and where it does not already appear.

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

Amendment A2 Party-wide debate and consultation

Add to the section entitled "Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place" new paragraphs numbered as appropriate:

In order to create a party-wide debate, articles will be written by the proposers and opposers of the constitutional amendment in Green World, Green Activist, and on the member's website. An opportunity for a video presentation of three minutes will be made for both proposers and opposers on the member's website. An online forum will be established for open debate.

Local and Regional Parties will be encouraged to hold meetings to debate the amendment. GPEx, Regional and Local Parties will make every effort to compile and make speaker lists available and advertise meeting times to members.

Signed Jim Killock, Ann Were,

Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment A3: In 'Replace PB443 with:'

After the end of the first sentence, insert the sentence: "We reject the hierarchical structure of leaders and followers."

Proposed by Geoff Collard, Anne Rix, Sue Bradley, Carol Kambites

Amendment A4:

After 'Gandhi' insert 'Emmeline Pankhurst';

After 'Martin Luther King' insert 'Rosa Parkes';

After 'Nelson Mandela' insert 'Aung San Suu Kyi'.

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

Amendment A5

before 'Ghandi' insert 'M.K. ('Mahatma')'

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

Amendment A6: In proposed new section 8(iv), add at end "Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment A7: In the proposed new clause 8 (iv), final sentence Delete 'powers' and replace with 'responsibilities'.

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

Amendment A8: In proposed new clause 8(vii), first sentence Delete 'ordinary'

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

Amendment A9: To the new Section 8; replace paragraph (x) with

(x) In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Leader or Co-Leader, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. Recalled postholders will be suspended from their posts until the result of that election. In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Deputy Leader, a new election for that post shall be held in which the current postholder shall be eligible to stand. The current postholder will be suspended from their post until the result of that election.

Proposed: Jim Killock, Pete Comley, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment A10 To the new Section 8,

add a new paragraph after the current paragraph (xi) and renumber

(xii) In years where no election for Leader and Deputy Leader takes place, there will be a mandatory vote of confidence in the postholders at Autumn Conference. Should the vote of confidence in the Leader or Co-Leaders fall short of a simple majority, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. The postholders will be suspended from their posts until the result of that election. In the event of the vote of confidence in the Deputy Leader falling, a new election for that post shall be held in which the current postholder shall be eligible to stand. The current postholder will be suspended their post until the result of that election.

Signed Jim Killock, Pete Comley, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment A11 To the new Section 8;

replace paragraph (xii) with

(xii) Should the Leader or a co-leader resign there will be a bye-election for both Leader and Deputy Leader. They shall serve a term lasting as if it were starting at the previous Autumn Conference, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting at the following Autumn Conference. Should the Deputy Leader resign, there will be a bye-election for that post only.

Proposed: Jim Killock, Ann Were, Richard Lawson, Peter Cranie

Amendment A12:

in (ii) Amend Section 6: Regional Council

delete the heading "Replace clause xi as shown below", and after clause x insert the words "Insert new clause xi" and renumber the remaining clauses in 6. Green Party Regional Council.

Proposed by Geoff Collard, Anne Rix, Irene Willis, Angela Thomson

Amendment A13: In part (iii) Amend Section 7: Executive, after "Replace clauses iv, v, vi," delete "xi," and delete proposed new clause 7(xi).

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

B Amendments which have to be automatically not taken if earlier amendments pass

Amendment B1: (not taken if A9 passes) In proposed new section 8(x), delete "or Deputy Leader", add "or either or both of two Co-Leaders"; after "both posts" insert "of Leader and Deputy Leader"; after "stand." insert "In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader, a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other Members of the same sex as the current postholder shall be eligible to stand, subject to clause 8(iii) above."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment B2: (not taken if A9 or B1 passes) In proposed new section 8(x), delete last sentence and substitute "Any postholder so recalled shall be suspended from office pending the result of the new election."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment B3 (not taken if A11 passes)

In proposed new section 8(xii),

After "Should" insert "the Leader or"; delete "postholders" add "Co-Leaders". After "Deputy Leader." insert "Should the Deputy Leader resign, there will be a bye-election for Deputy Leader."

Delete last sentence, substitute "SOC shall prepare regulations concerning bye-elections and new elections as may be required under this clause or clause 8(x) above, which shall be approved by, and may be subsequently amended by GPRC, but in all such elections or bye-elections clause 8(iii) regarding eligibility shall apply."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

C Amendments to be debated

FIRST BOX

Amendment C1: after 'Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place'

insert new sub-paragraph "3. After the Party has achieved a parliamentary representation of at least 3 MPs."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C2 (not taken if C1 passes)

In third paragraph, starting "Conference resolves", in point 2 change "July 2007" to "July 2008".

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C3: (not taken if C1 or C2 pass)

In third paragraph, starting "Conference resolves", in point 2 change "July 2007" to "October 2007". Add points 3 to 5, as follows:

"3. To facilitate such a genuine party-wide debate, local parties are encouraged to hold meetings to discuss the issue at which, in order to ensure members have access to informed opinion on both sides of the debate, members from outside the local party should be invited to address the meeting. Regional parties should assist the process by drawing up lists of members from either side of the debate who are willing to travel (at their own expense) to other local parties within the region to put their case.

4. Space in the timetable for Autumn Conference should be made available for debating the proposal, either in a panel debate or fringe meeting(s), at the discretion of the Conference organisers. No motion to halt or amend the referendum procedure will be permitted to that Conference.

5. The referendum timetable should ensure that the final vote can be counted and made public by the end of November 2007."

PROPOSED: Jonathan Dixon, John Norris, John Street, Shahrar Ali
END OF FIRST BOX

Amendment C4

Delete last sentence "The Green Party ... Mandela"

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C5: In proposed new section 8(i), delete "voting", substitute "non-voting"; in proposed new section 8(iv), delete "powers and votes".

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, **Geoff Collard, Lopsy Garrad.**

SECOND BOX

Amendment C6: In proposed new Section 8, insert new clause 8(ii) as follows and re-number:

(ii) The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader shall be unpaid voluntary posts for which the postholders may claim necessary out-of-pocket expenses within a budget agreed quarterly by GPEX.

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C7 (not taken if C6 passes) In the proposed new section 8, insert new clause 8 (ii) as follows and renumber:

(ii) The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader (or Co-Leaders), shall be part time paid posts for which the postholders may claim payment and necessary out of pocket expenses within a budget agreed quarterly by GPEX.'

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

END OF SECOND BOX

THIRD BOX

Amendment C8 In proposed new section 8(iii) delete "three", add "ten"

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C9: (not taken if C8 passes) In the proposed new clause 8(iii), first sentence

delete "three", add "eight"

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

END OF THIRD BOX

Amendment C10: In the proposed new clause 8(iii), first sentence

After 'nominations' insert ",shall have been elected as a Green Party member of the UK or European Parliaments".

Proposed by: Lopsy Garrard, Keith Ross, Penny Kemp, Steve Muggeridge

Amendment C11: In proposed new section 8(iii),

After 'nominations' insert ", shall have served previously as a Principal Speaker, member of the Party Executive, or Co-chair of the Regional Council or of the previous Green Party Council"

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

Amendment C12 In proposed new section 8(v) delete "every two years", add "annually"; delete "nearest".

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Matt Sellwood

Amendment C13: Insert new clause 8(xiii)

"In the event of the suspension or resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of one of two Co-Leaders, the other Co-Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of both the Leader and Deputy Leader, or of both of two Co-Leaders, the Chair of GPEX shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place."

Proposed: Irene Willis, Angela Thomson, Beryl Lankester, Tim Turner

D2: withdrawn (see section O)

D3: Eligibility to stand for GPEX elections

Synopsis: This motion brings the qualification to stand for GPEX into line with the minimum qualification to stand for the Green Party as a General Election candidate.

Motion: Replace 7(v)

"Candidates for elected posts on the Party Executive shall have been a member of the Party for two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Party."

with

"Candidates for elected posts on the Party Executive shall have been a member of the Party for one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Party."

Proposed by **Peter Cranie**, Sian Berry, Jim Jepps and Matt Sellwood.

D4. Green Islands network

Synopsis: The recent agreement of all the Green parties in these islands (The Memorandum of Understanding) indicated how the Green parties of the UK and Irish Republic can co-operate. This motions seeks a framework for discussing the coming year, likely to be of considerable constitutional development in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Motion: We call upon GPEX and GPRC to encourage and support the efforts of the Green Islands Network in developing links between the Green parties in these islands and assisting and advising, when requested, the Green parties in both Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Irish Republic with their electoral and political efforts. Furthermore, we hope that the party will avail of any experience or advice which our sister parties may be able to offer us, particularly in relation to issues such as Northern Ireland, Anglo-Irish relations, the Irish community in England & Wales, joint energy issues, civil liberties, devolution, possible Scottish independence etc. We look forward to GIN meetings being a regular feature of all the conferences of the Green parties in these islands and to elected representatives of the sister parties co-operating on a range of issues.

Proposed by **Joseph Healy**, Noel Lynch, Romaine Phoenix, Graeme McIver and 1 other

D5: Proxies

Synopsis (rewritten by SOC): This motion removes the option of members not attending Conference to mandate a Conference attendee to vote on their behalf as their proxy.

Motion: "In Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference: in Section E: Conference Procedure, 6. Voting, i) delete clauses 6 b) and 6 c) and reletter the rest of 6. Voting; ii) in clause 6 e) delete the last sentence."

Proposed by **Geoff Collard**, John Street, Jonathan Dixon and Shahrar Ali

D6: Procedural motions

Synopsis This motion removes the current possibility of a motion being taken without actual debate on the substantive, by restricting the current usage of procedural motions. [**synopsis rewritten by consensus decision of SOC**].

Motion

In SOCC at end of E5(c) add:

Any procedural motion that curtails debate on a motion or an amendment, for example "to move to a vote", "to move next business" and "that the motion be not put" shall not be accepted by the chairperson (a) if there have been less than 2 speeches in favour and there are still members wishing to speak for the motion or amendment, or (b) if there have been less than 2

speeches against and there are still members wishing to speak against the motion or amendment.

Proposed by **Alan Francis**, George Graham, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Clive Lord

D7: Re-introduce Membership Cards

Synopsis (supplied by SOC) This motion proposes to reintroduce Membership Cards in order to better monitor proxy votes (note: although Membership Cards were abolished by a 2/3rds majority 2 years ago, this reintroduces them with a simple majority).

This Conference notes that Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference *section 6(b) defines proxy voting entitlement as follows "A member producing acceptable authority (a current membership card) to represent other members shall be given a voting card showing the total number of votes including his/her own.", but that membership cards are in fact no longer issued to members. We note that the precedent set at Conferences since the discontinuance of membership cards has been that a letter signed by a member is regarded as "acceptable authority" within the meaning of this clause. We note that this present system, as well as being contrary to the letter of SOCC 6(b), is open to abuse, because there is no way of checking the signatures of members, so that such letters could be created by anyone with access to any local or national membership list; whereas the previous system had the built-in safeguard of*

requiring anyone wishing to exercise a proxy vote on behalf of another member to obtain that person's membership card, which was sent directly to each member either from Party Office (in England) or from the Wales Green Party membership secretary in Wales.

Conference notes that it is very unusual for any membership-based organisation not to issue any form of membership card to its members; and that membership cards also serve the purpose of providing members with a receipt for their membership fee and clarity about whether or not they are a full member of the Party and when that membership is due to expire.

This Conference therefore instructs Party Office and the Wales Green Party membership secretary to issue membership cards to all existing members and to resume the issuing of membership cards to new and renewing members as soon as practically possible, and instructs GPEX to ensure that this process is completed before the next AGM of the Party.

Proposed by **Keith Ross**, Jane Richmond, Lopy Garrard, Neil Hooper

D8: Associate Members and nominating (SOC)

Synopsis: In light of the lack of clarity that was noted at the last Conference over the rights of

Associate Members, SOC is submitting this motion to clear up the ambiguity. It simply adds the words "nor sign nomination papers" to the list of things an Associate Member may not do.

Motion: In Constitution 4(v) add the words "nor sign nomination papers".

4(v) would now read:

A Local Party may institute any form of local Associate Membership and encourage Associates to participate in its business, but such Associates shall not vote in the business of The Green Party, nor hold office in it, nor sign nomination papers, nor receive the services of The Green Party to its members.

Proposed by SOC (**Matt Wootton**, Brig Oubridge, Dean Walton, Mark Hill and Francesca Richards)

D9: Associate Members and nominating (Dixon et al)

Synopsis: *Following the confusion at last Conference around whether or not local associate members could sign internal nomination papers, this motion seeks to clarify the position of associate members, and specifically to limit their involvement to the workings of the local party which they have joined.*

MOTION: In the Constitution of the Green Party, section 4 ('Membership'), replace paragraph (v) with:

"(v) A Local Party may institute any form of Local Associate Membership and encourage Associates to participate in its business. The rights of such Associate Members shall be set out in the constitution of the Local Party, and those rights shall not extend beyond involvement in the Local Party. Local Associate Members shall not be considered to be members of the Green Party beyond the geographic boundaries of their Local Party, and they shall not be involved in decision-making of the Party at a regional or national level, nor shall they be eligible to either contest, vote in, or nominate candidates for regional or national internal selection procedures. In the absence of any explicit provision in a local party constitution regarding the rights of Associate members to vote or be involved in the decision-making process or selection procedures of a local party, they shall be assumed not to have any such rights."

Proposed by **Jonathan Dixon**, Pete Redwood, Norman Oldham, CB Foster and 1 other

D10: Final authority of SOC/Conference

Synopsis Last year SOC pointed to ambiguity in the Constitution about the right of SOC as the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders. This amendment removes any ambiguity.

Motion In Constitution 8(i) add to the end of the first sentence: except where stated otherwise in this constitution.

In Constitution 8(iii) replace “, and” with “. SOC shall”.

8(i) first sentence would now read:

8i)The Party shall hold an Annual Conference each Autumn which shall be the supreme forum of the Party, except where stated otherwise in this constitution.

8(iii) would now read:

Standing Orders Committee. Conference shall elect a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders. SOC shall be responsible for the order in which resolutions are taken during the conference, subject to the approval of Conference.

Proposed by **Alan Francis**, John Street, Brian Heatley, Clive Lord

D11: Replacing Capitations

Synopsis

A Motion to replace the current capitation system with a system to give equal payment to all local parties. The aim of the new system is to reduce bureaucracy, simplify payments, and to boost income for the smallest parties. The new payments would be payable only to active local parties, to stop money being paid out to defunct ones.

Conference notes

The present capitation system is unwieldy and does not distinguish between active and inactive local parties. Administering it is complicated and time consuming. It has been suggested that local party funds should be distributed by regional parties instead. This motion lays out an alternative to both ending direct local party funding, and the current capitations system. Active local parties would continue to receive funding from the central party but the amount paid would not distinguish between different sized parties – simplifying the payment. Payment would be allocated only to parties that could demonstrate they were active – removing the need to pay parties that are essentially defunct, and providing a means of monitoring if the money was being spent. Through this system the amount paid to local parties would be substantially less (fewer parties would receive money and the average pay out would be lower than present, saving at least £7000 annually)[1. Regional parties could have a reward system set up to encourage local parties to recruit new members. __[1] Currently there are 174 local parties receiving approx £20,000 / annum in capitations – average payment £115. Under this system, even if every party fulfilled its obligations the maximum payout would to local parties would be £13,000 / annum.

Motion

Amend clause 4. (iii)

Amendment 1

Insert after "amend clause 4 (iii)"... Delete last sentence and reword as follows: "Capitations to Regions shall be a percentage of the total amount of subscriptions received from members within each Region."

The wording of the motion if accepted would then be:

Amend clause 4. (iii) of the Constitution. Delete last sentence and reword as follows; Capitations to Regions shall be a percentage of the total amount of subscriptions received from members within each Region. Add the following: The percentage for Local Parties will be distributed in accordance with appendix C. Insert new appendix C at end of constitution...

Proposed Leila Kiersch, Elly Foster, Ian Foster & Haagen Kiersch.

of the Constitution of The Green Party. Add the following: __The percentage for Local Parties will be distributed in accordance with appendix C. __Insert new appendix C at end of constitution: __1) Every active Local Party will receive a fixed annual payment. Inactive Local Parties will receive no payment. __2) An active Local Party must have a minimum of six current members, must have a bank account and must hold an Annual General Meeting. __3) The annual payment will be £75 in the first instance. This figure can be amended by GPEX in consultation with GPEW as part of the three yearly capitation review process. __4) The annual

payment will be distributed after completion of each financial year to the official treasurer of the Local Party upon receipt at London Party Office of an annual statement of accounts, a copy of a recent bank statement and the minutes of the latest Annual General Meeting.

_5) Should an active Local Party (Green Party Accounting Unit) fail to comply with its PPERA obligations, the GPEX Management Coordinator is empowered to halt future capitation payments until PPERA obligations are met. __The GPEX Management Coordinator decides whether any given Local Party is active or inactive (subject to appeal to the Dispute Resolution Committee under section 15 of the constitution).

Proposed by **Leila Kiersch**, Elly Foster, Ian Foster, Haagen Kiersch

D12: Requirement for Regional Council members to be Elected by Postal Ballot

Synopsis- This motion makes clear the requirement for a postal ballot of Regional Council representatives in all circumstances - (for example at the end of a Councillor's two year term of office or when replacing a Councillor who resigns mid-term).

Motion Amend Constitution section By-laws, Second

paragraph, as referred to in Clause 5(ii):
add at the end of first sentence 'by postal ballot'.

Proposed by **Green Party Regional Council** (contact secretary Sue Bradley)

Section E – Draft Voting Papers

E1 Public Administration and Government Draft Voting Paper

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Synopsis: 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 workshop 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 should be 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, provided that the devolution of such functions does not threaten the sustainability of the wider area. 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, which requires open and informed debate rather than simply voting without discussion. 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.

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.

PA104. Given the scale of human activity in the world today, and the indirect impact that much of this activity has on people living in different areas, 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.

PA105. 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.

PA106. 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.

PA107. 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.

PA108. 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 the community, and lost by extended absence. Responsibilities and rights include Citizens' Income, personal taxation, shelter, and participation in the democratic process. The Green Party believes that the age of majority (at which full criminal responsibility and the power to make contracts is acquired) should be

reduced to 16, to clarify the age at which children become adults in the eyes of the law, with accompanying full citizenship rights and responsibilities.

PA109. The basis for a decentralised society and the establishment of a Bill of Rights must be laid out in a clear and accessible 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.

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 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.

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. The Constitutional Commission will also be responsible for overseeing the appointment of an independent judiciary. The Commission 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 PA250-308, 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.

Direct Democracy and Political Rights

PA250. A Bill of political rights will be enacted at the earliest opportunity to prohibit oppressive actions by unrepresentative Governments and inaccessible bureaucracies.

PA251. There will be a compulsory register of elected representatives' and senior officers' pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, which will be open to public inspection.

PA252. 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.

PA253. 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.

PA254. 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.

PA255. It is accepted that such recall provisions as described in PA254 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.

Electoral Reform

PA300. Elections for all levels of government should be by systems of election that provide for high proportionality, few wasted votes and good accountability, so that the political aspirations and views

of each area are represented.

PA301. 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.

PA302. The right to vote and stand in elections will be based on residence rather than nationality. (see also RR706)

PA303. 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.

PA304. 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 Single Transferrable Vote and Additional Member Systems to be entirely acceptable, whilst First-Past-The-Post or Supplementary Vote Systems are not.

PA305. The most appropriate system for elections to the Westminster Parliament is the Additional Member System (AMS). Electors would vote on two ballots: one for the party of their first choice and the

other for their constituency MP. 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 of 5% of votes polled. There would be a requirement that each party's list has to be elected by a system of 'one member one vote' of the party's membership.

PA306. The most appropriate system for elections to local Government is by Single Transferable Vote (STV). This system elects multiple members for individual wards or divisions in a given election, which will either increase ward/division sizes or increase the number of councillors elected for a given ward/division. Where councils currently elected a third of members at a time, switching to electing the whole council at once could limit the increase in size. Final decisions on these matters should reflect local circumstances.

PA307. 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.

PA308. 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.

PA309. The democratic process should be as open and inclusive as is practically possible, and should not seek to put unnecessary obstacles in place which may prevent individuals from seeking election. To this end, candidates' deposits will not be required at any election, nor will there be a requirement to collect electors' signatures in order to validate a nomination - the signature of a single witness to the nomination being sufficient.

Local Government Structure

PA350. The current organisation of local government, with some areas being covered by Unitary Authorities whilst others still

operate two ties 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.

PA351. 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.

PA352. 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.

PA353. Adjoining districts may co-operate to any level for the joint exercise of specific functions, provided such co-operation does not impact on the accountability of decision making. Similarly,

parishes may co-operate to act on common concerns not applicable to the whole district. We support co-operation between authorities across national borders, where necessary or appropriate.

PA354. 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 committee system across local government at all levels, which provides for direct member involvement in decision making.

The Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Irish Assembly

PA400. Provision will be made for reconsideration of the role of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and the Northern Irish Assembly in accordance with the wishes of these people. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will enjoy the degree of autonomy, perhaps involving full self-Government or independence, 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, Wales and Northern Ireland so long as they choose to remain in the United Kingdom. (For detailed policies on Northern Ireland, see our separate NI policy section).

Regional Government in England

PA410. Many Government functions are already organised on a regional basis through the Regional Government Offices (GRO), the Regional Development Agencies (RDA), the Regional Chambers (RCh) and numerous other regional QUANGOs. Public acceptance of these agencies, and their subsequent usefulness, varies from region to region, depending on how closely the regions correlate to natural and cultural areas which people identify themselves as living within. Any such region should be able to decide, via a referendum of the citizens living within it, to create a directly elected regional assembly as an additional tier of government.

PA411. These regional assemblies would 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 would, in the initial stages, come from diverting the existing block grant regional funding allocated by central Government.

PA412. The particular form and structure of these regional assemblies set up under PA410 will vary from region to region according to regional circumstances. They should be elected by a system of proportional representation. The appropriate form and structure will be determined by regional constitutional conventions drawn from all sectors of society, similar to the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

PA413. The powers of the regional assembly should be taken from those functions currently carried out by national and European Government, and should not take powers from local authorities, except where the local authorities within the region agree to pool some of their powers for strategic purposes.

PA414. In due course, the regional assemblies should be able to 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. (see PA100)

PA415. In line with the Green Party's policy of allowing Citizen's Initiatives (PA253), a proposal to abolish a regional assembly or a regional government office could be put before the electorate of a region if proposed by a prescribed percentage of that electorate.

PA416. Where regional assemblies, the Scottish Parliament, or the Welsh or Northern Irish Assembly have taken decision making powers from central government, so that citizens within those areas are no longer subject to central government decisions on particular issues, MPs from those areas should be excluded from voting on those issues in the House of Commons. Such a provision is consistent with the concept of subsidiarity.

The Structure of Central Government

PA450. In a Green society, the UK 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.

PA451. Central Government currently revolves around the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, with the role of Parliament greatly diminished. The most important reform needed to redress this imbalance is the move to proportional representation. This will help to bring an end to the traditional dominance of two political parties in Britain. The central Parliament (House of Commons), elected under the AMS system (see PA305), will be far more representative of the diversity of opinion within the UK. There will be far less chance of an overall Parliamentary majority for one party, and, even without further reform, the resulting necessity for coalition governments would make governments and Prime Ministers much more accountable to Parliament.

PA452. In the longer-term, the Green Party would wish to introduce further reforms to increase the representative nature of central government. In order to create true cross-party working, and weaken the hold of political ideologies (see PA102), a different form of

parliamentary decision-making would be required. Replacing the current system with one in which parties form coalitions in order to gain Parliamentary majorities, and therefore form a government, may still result in the disenfranchisement of large sections of the electorate, whilst minority partners in such coalitions may hold disproportionate influence.

PA452. Over the years the power of the Prime Minister in particular has greatly increased. Not only does the Prime Minister exercise the remaining elements of the royal prerogative in making vital decisions like war and peace and having effective control of the armed forces, but his or her powers of patronage - in particular choosing the members of the government - give the Prime Minister overwhelming control of both the overall direction and the minutiae of government. Reflecting the powers of Prime Ministers, general elections have come to resemble presidential contests, with the characters of the leaders of the main political parties coming under more intense scrutiny than their policies.

PA453. We do not believe that it is either healthy or democratic to

concentrate so much power in the hands of one person. We believe too that power, executive as well as legislative, is more properly exercised by a democratically elected body than by a cabinet appointed by the prime minister (see PB443).

PA454. Accordingly, the Green Party would want the central Parliament itself to become the principal decision making body of central government. To do so the central Parliament would elect committees covering each of the major areas of government, and each committee would have its own convenor elected by Parliament, who would take the place of the Secretary of State in the current system of government. The committee, assisted by a department staffed by civil servants responsible to the committee as a whole, would be responsible for day to day decisions in its area of responsibility. Major decisions, and new legislation, would need to be ratified by Parliament as a whole.

PA455. A First Minister would also be elected by the central Parliament as a whole, who would be responsible for chairing a committee, the Coordination Committee, of all the convenors of parliamentary committees. This body would be responsible for coordinating the work

of the different committees, and for dealing with matters that affect them all, such as the allocation of public expenditure. The First Minister would act as Head of Government, in particular in dealings with other states. The central Parliament would also elect, as at present, an apolitical Speaker, who would act as Head of State (see PA600c).

PA456. The First Minister and any of the convenors could be recalled by a no-confidence vote in the central Parliament at any time. There would be time limits as to how long any individual could hold any particular post, so as to diminish the corrosive effect of personal political ambition, a major fault of the present system.

PA457. We believe that such arrangements, combined with the introduction of proportional representation, would bring to an end the sterile two party jousting of current politics. Proposals would need to gain support on their own merit within the Parliamentary chamber in order to be approved, and the real policy debates will be open for all to hear. In particular, we would expect there to be much more genuine multi-party cooperation and working in the committees. Under such a system

decisions are more likely to have the support of the overwhelming majority of the population than they are as at present when they are forced through by minority governments. In the longer run we would expect such arrangements to diminish the power of political parties as such, with individuals standing for election feeling freer to express their own views and to take an independent line once elected.

PA458. The House of Lords, as presently constituted, has no legitimate mandate because it is not elected. It should be abolished and replaced by a second chamber directly elected by proportional representation. In order to provide independence from the House of Commons, the electoral method should ideally be different for each chamber. With a Parliament elected by AMS, as above, the Green Party favours a second chamber elected by Single Transferrable Vote in multi-member constituencies. Its function would be to scrutinise legislation devised by the central Parliament, and to propose amendments where it felt necessary. The final decisions would, however, rest with the central Parliament.

PA459. Members of the second

chamber would be elected to serve for a period of ten years. In order to ensure that the chamber was able to make independent and objective assessments of proposed legislation, no member of the second chamber should be allowed to sit on it for more than one term of office - therefore meaning that they don't feel bound to follow the wishes of their party leaders to preserve their careers. Accountability to the electorate would be maintained by the option of recall (see PA254). In order to maintain some continuity, elections would be held every five years - with half the chamber being selected at each election.

Finance

PA500. 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 fulfills 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.

PA501. As the economy becomes more decentralised, more public expenditure decisions will be made at a local level. To facilitate accountability, and to ensure the gradual reduction in the scale of central spending, an independent commission should negotiate a rational allocation of taxation between different levels of Government, as well as any redistribution of wealth between different areas which is considered necessary (see EC550-551).

PA502. 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)

PA503. 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.

Monarchy and the Church

PA600. 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 PA455).

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.

PA601. 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.

PA602. The Church of England shall be disestablished. It shall become 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 civil servants working within a ministry will be to support the Parliamentary sub-committee in its capacity as a coordinator of the national affairs which fall within the scope of the ministry, and enact decisions made by Parliament as directed by its sub-committees.

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 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.

PA801. The function of the Ombudsman will be elevated and enlarged so that it will comprise a major part of Governmental practice. The powers of the Ombudsman and the Commission for Local Administration will be strengthened as follows: i) The Ombudsman 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.

PA802. Democratic participation requires the availability of independent information on which people can form an opinion. The Green Party would therefore introduce an independent body to audit national statistics, to avoid their manipulation by government departments.

Identity, Privacy and Freedom of Information

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.

PA856. 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 monopoly not been privatised.

PA857. 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. We would also wish to end the practice in which all members of a party are required to follow a whip imposed in secret, with penalties if they fail to do so.

Greening Local Government

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 PA857(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 PA252 and PA253 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 PA254). 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. 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.

PA918. 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 PA857iii)

Proposed by **Policy Committee** (Brian Heatley, Jonathan Dixon, George Graham, Alan Francis).

E2 Culture Media and Sport Draft Voting Paper

Synopsis: 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 workshop can consider them. A final Voting Paper will be submitted to a future conference. This draft is the culmination of over two years work both during and outside conferences in that period, and has included external consultation with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom among others. It is vital for a party that is serious to have things to say about professional and amateur sport, about broadcasting regulation, and about the role of art and culture, in modern society. This draft hopes to provide the basis from which a future paper will be able to fill some of those existing policy gaps. This further helps to

identify green principles which go beyond the environment and have relevance to the increasing place in society of sporting endeavour, of the increasingly influential role of the media, and the relationship between artists and the rest of society.

Motion:

Delete the existing Arts Chapter of the MfSS and replace with the following:

Culture, Media and Sport Policy

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Organisation of CMS section

This section outlines a general policy framework in the sections numbered CMSxxx and then has separate specific sections addressing Culture (CMS/Cxxx), Media (CMS/Mxxx) and Sport (CMS/Sxxx)

GENERAL

Background

CMS101. The Culture Media & Sport (CMS) section of MfSS brings together three important elements through which social identity and a sense of community can be fostered in larger social groupings than those which can be sustained by personal relationships (e.g. the village or neighbourhood).

CMS102. Cultural activities, sporting activities and communications media enable larger communities and a whole society to achieve a sense of common identity and belonging, which then promotes good relations between citizens at a personal level.

CMS103. In all areas of CMS there are two ways in which people can engage with the activity – through participation as performer or producer, or through reception as audience or spectator. Both forms of engagement with the particular activity are important; the major social value of CMS activities is the dialogue between participant and observer which enriches life.

CMS104. The rise of new media (mobile phones, internet, and independent music) at the beginning of 21st

century can be seen as a public expression of a need for better access and improved participation. Similarly the continuing existence of grass roots activity in sport and culture, despite the large scale withdrawal of public sector support, shows the continuing need and value of these activities to citizens.

CMS105. The role of the Green Party in power will be to rebalance, support and promote equality of access and participation widely across society in the fields of culture, media and sport.

Principles

CMS201. The central Green principle in Culture Media and Sport (CMS) shall be that of "participation, not passive consumption".

CMS202. Green policies should seek to democratise access to culture, media and sporting activities, ensuring that individuals are not excluded by reason of social, economic, or geographical factors.

CMS203. In line with Green principles of localisation, support should be given to ensure that there are adequate resources available to allow activities to flourish at a local level of participation. Where the private sector is unable to

provide accessible local media, local sporting activity, or local cultural support then it is the role of government to ensure that adequate provision is available to meet the needs of the community.

CMS204. Where an activity makes use of limited resources (for example media bandwidth, land for sporting activity, venues for cultural activities) then it is the role of government to reserve a proportion of the resource for 'public' access (e.g. BBC channels, public playing fields, support for local theatre infrastructure)

Policies

Specific policy frameworks for each of the three sections are outlined below. All policy proposals are aiming to reinforce the core principles of accessibility, localisation, participation, and fair management of limited resources.

Green elected members of government authorities will seek to promote the widest participation by means of grants and other appropriate initiatives and mechanisms that will encourage and reward participation in CMS activities by as wide a selection of interested people as possible.

For Cultural policies see paragraphs CMS/C101 onwards

For Media policies see paragraphs CMS/M101 onwards

For Sporting policies see paragraphs CMS/S101 onwards

CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE ARTS

Background

CMS/C101. As recognised above, there are links between the economy and cultural matters. The party recognises that the 'creative' industries sector is growing significantly in the UK. We recognise that this has consequences, good and bad for how we live.

CMS/C102. For example, as certain resources (oil/conventional jobs) diminish we predict an increased role for artists and craftspeople.

CMS/C103. What we can be certain of is that the status quo in this first decade of the 21st century is one that requires change. The arts and culture in the UK is structured and funded in a particular way that means that the 'bigger' players have dominance over smaller/community organisations and individual artists. A healthy and vibrant society does not see a necessary competition between creativity and purely financial business concerns. Indeed much commercial entertainment marries the two effectively. This need to happen on the small as well as the large scale.

Principles

CMS/C201. We value artistic expression for its openness, imagination, and importance in education. We do not value artistic expression primarily for its role in the economy. We respect individual and group creativity in all its diversity and value freedom of expression. A list of examples of the type of activity to which this statement relates would include painting, sculpture, drama, music, dance, photography, film, writing, crafts and design, and other types of creative activity not specifically mentioned here.

CMS/C202. Financial support does not entail a right to intervene in other people's self-expression. Arts policy-making, where it is needed, should be organisational in nature and empowering in character.

CMS/C203. Artistic activity has an important role to play in the sustenance of a society's culture. We believe that the UK produces some of the finest professional theatre, film and music in the world. As importantly we think it important that home grown entertainment industries are recognised for the value they add to society. If we want to maintain cultural diversity in the

21st century these industries, at national and local level, on large and small scale, need to be encouraged in the face of the homogenising influence of a dominating artistic culture produced mainly in the USA, particularly with regard to film and music.

Objectives

CMS/C301. To enable people to participate by extending opportunities to enjoy the arts.

CMS/C302. To develop more relevant structures of support for the arts

Short to mid term Policies

CMS/C401. To review existing government legislation as it affects the arts and create where necessary specific, more appropriate and less burdensome legislation.

CMS/C402. To encourage the growth of local arts associations made up of practising artists

CMS/C403. To require the representation of local arts associations, where they exist, rather than local government, on regional arts boards.

CMS/C404. To ensure levels of financial support for buildings housing cultural collections are such as to render admission charges unnecessary.

CMS/C405. To zero-rate live performance for VAT purposes.

Long term policies

CMS/C501. To shift responsibility for arts funding, where appropriate, from regional to local levels.

CMS/C502. To develop more autonomous and less dependent forms of financial support for the arts.

MEDIA

Background

CMS/M101. The media section covers three major areas:

- a. Broadcast media; primarily television and radio
- b. Print media; primarily newspapers, magazines and journals. Book publishing is dealt with in the Culture section.
- c. New media; includes telephony (mobile and fixed), internet, new wireless media. Music production and distribution is dealt with under the Culture section.

CMS/M102. A major concern for a policy framework in all these areas are ownership of the means of content production and distribution, particularly where this allows gatekeepers to control access to the medium

CMS/M103. A second concern is that some media make use of a limited resource (e.g. electromagnetic spectrum, print distribution channels, internet bandwidth) and where this is the case a proportion of the resource needs to be maintained for public access.

CMS/M104. A third concern is that, particularly in the case of the traditional one-to-many media (press and broadcast), there needs to be systems to ensure a degree of local access and content.

Principles

CMS/M201. The Green party believes that public service broadcasting is a vital part of Britain's democracy. An informed democracy is a healthy democracy. This applies equally at national and local levels.

CMS/M202. The world of mass media and digital communications is one of constant technological change and innovation. There is no reason that

such changes cannot be utilised to facilitate greater public welfare and democracy.

CMS/M203. The Green party believes that national or international commercial market mechanisms are not the best way to regulate mass communications.

CMS/M204. We believe, as across all our policy, in democratising and localising where possible, and in the use of effective and accountable regulatory structures.

CMS/M205. A key principle of green party policy regarding the media generally is the large influence it has on our democracy and our citizens. As we don't believe in private control of education, the same applies to public information supplied by the media.

Objectives

CMS/M301. We believe that there is a proper democratic case for limiting cross media ownership by trans-national companies. We would have tighter rules on cross-media ownership. We are not convinced that arguments around globalisation and competition are any justification for loosening restrictions, indeed restrictions are far too loose, with certain

individuals and companies having far too much influence, which undermines the operation of healthy informed democracy, not just in the UK, but across the EU and beyond.

CMS/M302. We would seek to encourage wider, localised, participation, and discourage any further concentration of media ownership. The use of local participation links in with our economic strategy of strong local economies.

CMS/M303. For us, having public service broadcasting means that information and education are given equal precedence to entertainment through more than just quantity of output through ghettoised channels.

CMS/M304. Part of the role of public service broadcasting is to facilitate a common space of understanding the output. Within the public service space therefore, commissioning work to be put into specialised channels or specialised time slots to cater for different audiences would be discouraged. Atomised broadcasting contributes to an atomised society, niche commercial channels can be allowed to thrive but publicly supported channels should seek to address the whole society. For

example pushing informative programmes like Newsnight (2006) and Question Time (2006) to the margins of late night programming reduces the choice of type of programme available to the peak time audience. Programmes that may not be deemed to initially be of interest to a diverse audience may be of interest if shown to such an audience at a certain time.

CMS/M305. As noted in M303 above a public service obligation includes the notion of entertainment as an equal part of the mix. A public service channel should be helping ensure that top quality entertainment is available at times and places where it may not be commercially viable. For example through facilitating the early repeat of peak time entertainment from other channels in non-peak slots, as well as through the production of high quality original programming

CMS/M306. The operation of public service media should be entirely divorced from interference by the government of the day both in terms of editorial content and in terms of economic support. Government's role should be confined to defining and reviewing a public

service remit for channels with a public service obligation.

CMS/M307. Across all the broadcasting press and media we would seek to ensure that local channels were locally owned and accountable. The concentration of regional press and radio ownership in national organisations acts to reduce diversity of output reflecting regional and local differences. The loss of locally owned television stations with the aggregation of ITV and Cable TV ownership is wholly to be deplored.

CMS/M308. New media ownership and access needs to be carefully monitored to ensure that 'digital divides' or ghettoisation of sections of the community does not occur. Just as society has historically provided a universal postal and telephone service to every address in the country without geographic penalty, so we should seek to ensure universal access to digital television and radio channels, broadband communications, and mobile telephone use.

Policies

a) General

CMS/M401. We strongly support greater media unionisation across all mass media. Trade unions in the mass media can help democratisation of access to media by

giving employee stakeholders a voice in the output of media channels. This helps balance the potential of the media owner(s) to control outputs that may not be in the best interest of wider society. The green party will support the presence and voice of unions in the media, with a view to there being a formal role for union representation on governing boards of large broadcasting institutions in the UK.

CMS/M402. Regulation: The green party's basic assumptions and principles around regulation would be greater than the present (2006) arrangement with OFCOM. We do not consider last resort regulation based predominantly on market failure to be sufficient for any communication medium.

CMS/M403. In television and radio an important component of a public service obligation is the production and promotion of non ratings-led programming.

CMS/M404. Where an existing public service medium is being supplanted by a new alternative (as for example in the switch from analogue to digital terrestrial (DTT) broadcasting, or the possible movement of some public service

programming to new media) then the government has an obligation to ensure universal access before the old medium is discontinued. In the case of the switch to DTT then the government must ensure that all households with an analogue television licence are equipped with digital reception capability.

CMS/M405. Regulations across media/print investigations: We are opposed to attempts to use privacy laws to damage proper investigative journalism. Then value of such journalism outweighs any restraining of tabloid excesses over the lives of modern day celebrities. A free press & media and free speech are fundamental to our society and should not be constrained by spurious definitions of the public interest.

b) Public Service Broadcasting

CMS/M501. The primary public service broadcaster will remain the BBC funded wholly by public money from a tax (e.g. licence fee or access levy) on other media ring-fenced (hypothecated) for public service broadcast use.

CMS/M502. Other organisations may also be given public service funding from the same source to fulfil specific

remits where the BBC is unable or unwilling to provide service.

CMS/M503. Along with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting freedom we want to "establish the principle of appointing regulatory bodies by democratic means, either through nomination from appropriate bodies, including trade unions and NGOs, as well as elections. All senior appointments, such as DG of the BBC, or Chair of ITC, should be made by regulatory bodies, and where appropriate, scrutinised by the relevant Select Committee in the House of Commons."

CMS/M504. The BBC should be organised primarily as a public service and thus not have to behave as if it operated in a commercial market. This is not to discourage innovation or indeed seeking to compete in certain markets against commercial companies, but that it is recognised that the value and success of the BBC is not solely measured in commercial terms. Following from this the funding of the BBC cannot be viewed solely through an economic prism, but through notions of public utility.

CMS/M505. The green party believes in maintaining the licence fee, as long as the BBC is

pursuing clearly stated commitments to non-ratings led programming and continuing to fulfil a public service remit defined by the government through the regulator which would include significant local production and distribution of content reflecting local communities.

CMS/M506. In the long term, we would explore new methods of funding BBC, for example through a ring fenced progressive income tax, or through a levy on other organisations given access to broadcast bandwidth (i.e. independent commercial terrestrial and satellite broadcasters)

c) Commercial Broadcasting

CMS/M601. There needs to be recognition of the need to promote and protect the needs of audiences. Therefore we believe that there is a need for stronger accountable regulation across all sectors of mass communication. The experience in other Anglophone countries where there has been deregulation has been an undermining of the quality and balance of public information (Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom 2005)

CMS/M602. Any such regulatory framework needs to be wholly accountable to sub national levels and based on the assumption that regulators represent public interests. This would need a system of democratic election to regulatory positions.

CMS/M603. We would also want to restore some public service obligations to the commercial broadcasters, including terrestrial TV, commercial radio, and the Internet. In particular we wish to see the reintroduction and protection of locally owned and run television and radio channels, possibly through more stringent controls on the licences issued to broadcasters.

CMS/M604. We would establish community media centres, at a sub-regional level, where residents of that area can be trained and produce programmes that reflect the diversity of perspectives in that area. They should be run democratically and accountable to regional public broadcasting councils, that would be independent of government, with statutory responsibilities and authority.

CMS/M605. Removal of financial and other bureaucratic barriers to small geographically

based channels that wish to show the results of free opportunities given to local people to make programmes and communicate with their fellow citizens will be part of the public service obligation on organisations receiving public funding.

CMS/M606. We would not agree to a Channel 4/5 merger. We wish to keep Channel 4 as a public corporation with a significant public service obligation as an alternative to the BBC. In general we will amend the regulations so that there is a presumption against aggregation of ownership within of across media.

CMS/M607. We are opposed to 'contesting' funds for Public service programmes ((i.e. opening up a fund for programmes which all Broadcasters can bid for). This will undermine BBC's and C4's public service platform. Only where existing public service broadcasters are unable or unwilling to meet an identified public service need would funding be opened to alternative channels.

d) Press and print mass media

CMS/M701. Ownership and control of national and local print newspapers and journals is a proper matter for regulation by OFCOM.

CMS/M702. At present we do not see the need for a public service print publisher in an analogous position to the BBC, but this shall be kept under review as the newspaper market evolves.

CMS/M703. Concentration of ownership of the distribution channels for print media acts as a barrier to new and unusual entrants. There may be a case for intervention by the regulator to ensure a vibrant print culture develops.

CMS/M704. Measures are needed to ensure that community, city and regional titles remain owned and edited within the area that they serve

e) New Media

CMS/M801. Democratisation of media/TV: the Green recognises and welcomes developments in broadband TV channels that allow participation for free. The green party believes that government at all levels should encourage such democratisation of TV, and such wider participation

CMS/M802. The Green Party believes that the development of computer communications has reached the point where BT should have an obligation to provide infrastructure capable of

delivering at least 1Mbps down/128kbps up to every household at the same base cost as the existing copper telephone line. Funding for these marginal 'uneconomic' lines may come from a small levy on every access line. Alternative (e.g. wireless/satellite) access methods may be offered to remote subscribers, but the principle of universal access at the same base price to the household should prevail as with post and telephone services.

f) Advertising

CMS/M901. It seems common sense that advertising has great impact on the world in which we live. It seems common sense that the green perspective would be that in the present context of deregulated commercial freedom and increased consumption by citizens, advertising is in need of some restraint. Whilst we must recognise the freedom of individuals to make informed choices for themselves, society has a responsibility to its children. The public will surely never find it credible that an industry that spends huge sums each year advertising to children on television does so with no actual (or intended) effect on children's consumption. Indeed modern society is highly influenced by a culture of consumption. This culture is partly engendered in children and young people through

advertising. A green government would:

- i) End all advertising specifically aimed at a child audience. This to be defined by product, content, and timing.
- ii) Exercise rigorous controls over advertising of child related products to ensure they are factual, informative, and not manipulative.

SPORT

Background

CMS/S101. Sport has a huge role to play in the culture and health of any society. We believe there to currently be an imbalance between participation and consumption of sport purely through spectating.

CMS/S102. There has been a growth in sport as a spectator based entertainment and a diminishment of sport as a means to improve physical health and co-

operative ?is anything specific needed here

official) to full participation in many sports. This is an equally unacceptable discrimination.

CMS/S304. Schools should seek to form ties with local sporting clubs (either amateur or professional) in order to share facilities, gain coaching assistance, and provide pupils with an easier route to taking up these sports outside school.

Principles

CMS/S201. Sport can have a very positive influence on the society we live in. Participation in sport improves physical fitness, and sport can help provide a sense of community and can help break down barriers between communities through engaging in friendly competition.

CMS/S202. The Green policy on sport is primarily focussed on nurturing these positive grass-roots influences. The achievement of excellence in sport at a national level can result from such a focus, but the achievement of that excellence should not be the primary focus in itself.

CMS/S203. In line with the principles above, the green party believes that there is no place in sport at any level for racism or any similar discrimination. Programmes to combat such discrimination should be introduced wherever necessary, with a particular focus on young people.

CMS/S204. The Green Party further recognises that sport is one of the main remaining areas of gender discrimination. Women face many barriers (social, cultural,

Policy

a) Sport in School

CMS/S301. Participation in physical activities such as sport is an important part of children's development. Because many sports require special facilities, equipment, or the participation of large teams, they can be things which children or parents will be unable to properly organise for themselves. Schools therefore have an important role in first introducing children to a wide range of sporting activities.

CMS/S302. Sport in school should not be treated in the same way as other lessons. Because it can involve setting up equipment, and getting to and from playing locations, all of which take time, sports are likely to suffer if they are timetabled into a school day just like any other lesson. Instead, they should be given sufficient time to make them meaningful.

CMS/S303. Schools should therefore be aiming to provide a full, unbroken afternoon per week of sport for every child. All sports should be open to all children.

CMS/S305. School playing fields should be protected from development.

b) Amateur Sport

CMS/S401. Participation in amateur sport fosters good community relations and helps maintain people's physical fitness. The aim of sports education in school should be to encourage as many people as possible to continue participating in sport after they leave school. As the vast majority of this participation will be at an amateur level, it is important to ensure that sufficient facilities exist to allow the participation of all those who want it.

CMS/S402. Local councils should ensure that facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools and sports fields are sufficient to meet necessary demand. The importance of the existence of local amateur sporting teams should be recognised by government at all levels, who should seek to

provide assistance to such clubs whenever practical. This should include the use of school fields by clubs for matches, where such clubs are unable to maintain their own grounds.

CMS/S403. Access to sporting facilities should not be restricted by gender (except in cases where a disadvantaged group may be allowed special access to encourage or enable access), ethnicity, or other social identification. As historically many groups have been denied, by official rule or social custom, local authorities should ensure that new/growing activities and groups should be allowed access to all facilities.

CMS/S404. Organisations administering sport should be required to take all practical measures to ensure competitors and spectators are not subject to any form of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other discriminatory treatment or abuse.

c) Professional Sport

CMS/S501. A strong school and amateur sports culture should, in turn, strengthen professional sport by both encouraging those who wish to pursue sport as a career and increasing the potential audience. This career should be

available to any with the desire and ability to pursue. There has been gender, race, and sexuality based exclusion from some sports in history and this discrimination should be brought to an end.

CMS/S502. Although professional sport is obviously, for those involved, a business, it should be seen as more than that. Professional sporting teams represent communities, either local or national, when in competition with others. Whilst global economics is eroding some of the connections between teams and the communities they are supposed to represent, it is important to prevent competition from becoming meaningless by allowing these connections to disappear.

CMS/S503. The Green Party would prefer professional sporting clubs to be mutually - owned by the members rather than by shareholders. For those clubs which are currently Public Limited Companies, whose shares are traded internationally, the risk is always that distant shareholders, with no regard for the community the club is supposed to represent, will take over the club and sever all meaningful links with the local community. In some instances, clubs

have even been moved to other towns and cities - making a mockery of any supposed local connection implied in the club's name.

CMS/S504. Where clubs are already set up as PLC's, the Green Party would like to see supporters trusts set up with the aim of achieving enough of a shareholding to prevent the club being taken over by outside financial interests.

CMS/S505. Those professional sporting clubs which have shareholders should also have a connection to the local authorities in which they operate. Partial ownership of the club's shares should be held by the local authority, which will therefore have a say on significant matters regarding the club. Under normal circumstances, this local authority ownership should not exceed 10% of the share capital of the club and the authorities should not have to pay for their share. Any dividends paid to the authority must be reinvested into public sporting facilities or coaching programmes in the area.

CMS/S506. We believe in 'safeguarding' for football stadia. This means that fans who wish to stand will be allocated their own space and fans who wish to be in a seated only area will also be

allocated their own space. There are examples of good practice in countries like Germany and we believe it is high time the UK committed to this practice here.

d) International Sport

CMS/S601. Whilst professional sport is a business, as noted above, its role in representing a community in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect with other communities should never be overlooked. This is especially so in the case of international sport.

CMS/S602. Therefore, in cases where a normal friendly and respectful relationship with other countries is not really possible, representative sporting events may not be appropriate. The Government should take a role in instructing teams supposedly representing the nation not to take part in such competitions, and in the case of wider international competitions (such as World Cups and the Olympics) should seek to negotiate with the organisers to see if alternative arrangements are possible. The Government should not try to avoid taking action by treating the sport as if it was a private business venture.

CMS/S603. When looking at the above, consideration should be given to those aspects of normal sporting contact which may not be possible in the host country. These would include an expectation that fans of the national team would be able to travel to games without significant hindrance by the host government, and that UK media would not be prevented from reporting honestly from the country on both sporting and other matters. If host government actions meant that such freedoms for UK citizens and journalists could not be reasonably guaranteed, there should be a presumption against a visit by a representative national team.

CMS/S604. Strategic national planning should seek to ensure that major national sporting arenas are not all sited in one part of the country and that all can be easily accessed by good public transport links. Wherever practical, the venue for international sporting fixtures should be rotated around various suitable stadia throughout the country, and should avoid being excessively focussed in London.

CMS/S605. When bidding to host major international sporting

competitions, such as World Cups or the Olympics, wherever possible existing facilities should be proposed. No new facilities should be proposed unless their existence will also prove to be useful to the wider local community in the years to follow the games.

CMS/S606. The use of specific cities to host the Olympics, rather than whole countries (or groups of countries) as happens in World Cups, can create problems for host communities - with excessive strain on local facilities and the transport infrastructure, and the need to build new stadia in order to ensure that all events can be held within the same locality.

CMS/S607. The UK should use its influence with the world sporting community to encourage the placing of games across wider geographic areas to prevent excessive negative disruption to the lives and economies of host communities.

CMS/S608. The televising of major national and international sporting events has a significant influence in inspiring young people to take up sports. It is therefore important to ensure that such events remain available on free-to-air nationwide TV. The

Government should resist proposals to remove events from the list of those protected in such a way. It should negotiate to get highlights of major events which are no longer protected in this way, and events staged overseas involving representative national teams, made available on free-to-air TV if possible.

Proposed by **Policy Committee** (Brian Heatley, **Matt Follett**, George Graham, Alan Francis and 2 others).

Section O – Out of Order Motions

The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, SOCC, set out the types of motion and amendment that can be put to Conference and the grounds on which they should be ruled out of order. Paragraphs 8 & 9 are the relevant parts of Section C and are reproduced here for the information of members.

EXTRACT FROM SECTION C OF STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT OF CONFERENCE

"8. Motions shall be accepted which propose: change, deletion, addition or alteration to the Constitution of the Party, the Organisation of the Party, Party Policy as expressed in the Manifesto for a Sustainable

Society or its Election Manifesto, or which commit the Party to activities consistent with its philosophy and policies.

9. Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being:

- contrary to the Constitution,
- retrospective in their effect,
- ambiguous,
- vague,
- trivial or requiring no consequential action,
- substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at Conference less than two years previously (see Appendix A), except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.

D42 Irene Willis et al.

Am 1: Delete first paragraph, commencing "Conference notes..." to "sufficiently seriously".

Reason: same as Dixon Amendment 1, but also inconsequential to what will appear in the Constitution.

D42 Irene Willis et al.

Am 2: Delete second paragraph, commencing "Conference believes..." to "democratic accountability".

Reason: inconsequential to what will appear in the Constitution.

D42 Irene Willis et al.

Am 13: In proposed new section 8(vii), after "communications." insert ": SOC shall prepare regulations concerning access and equality of opportunity in regard to such mailings, newsletters and communications which shall be approved by, and may from time to time be amended by GPRC. Members standing together as candidates for Co-Leaders shall count as one candidate in regard to such entitlements."

DUPLICATES EXISTING SITUATION, and under SOCC 9a) the ERO not SOC prepare such rules.

D42 Irene Willis et al.

(viii) The Leader and Deputy Leader will be accountable to party committees in the same way as other members of the Executive and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Executive and GPRC.
Am 14: In proposed new section 8(viii), before "be accountable" insert "not".

RULED OUT OF ORDER: Motion is vague and contradictory; would produce incoherent constitutional position

D42 Irene Willis et al.

Am 15: In proposed new section 8(viii), delete "accountable", substitute "even more

unaccountable"; delete "in the same way as", add "than"
Ruled out of order: vague, is a statement of opinion, not a constitutional proposal

D42 Lippy et al

Amendment 2: Delete the whole of the 'Synopsis'
 INCONSEQUENTIAL. NO ACTUAL EFFECT ON MOTION/CONSTITUTION

D42 Lippy et al

Amendment 3: Delete the section

'Conference notes:

The successive majorities on Conference floor in favour of a reformed leadership structure; The public confusion over the notion of Principal Speakers. The difficulty in explaining to the media what a Principal Speaker is. The perception among the public that we as a party do not take our vital political role sufficiently seriously'

INCONSEQUENTIAL. NO ACTUAL EFFECT ON MOTION/CONSTITUTION

Amendment 4: Delete the section

'Conference believes:

- a) *That a change in title and responsibilities for our leading figures will help provide a better understanding of what the party seeks to achieve.*
- b) *That the title Leader and Deputy Leader are commonly understood by the public;*
- c) *That any notion of Leadership must be carefully balanced by true democratic accountability.'*

INCONSEQUENTIAL. NO ACTUAL EFFECT ON MOTION/CONSTITUTION

Amendment 5: In the sentence

'Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place'

Delete 'as set out below'
 INCONSEQUENTIAL. NO ACTUAL EFFECT ON MOTION/CONSTITUTION

Amendment 6: In the section

'Conference resolves that a referendum to amend the constitution as set out below should take place

- 1. *After the May 2007 election*
- 2. *After a period of full, party-wide debate between May 2007 and July 2007'*

- 1. Delete sub-clause 1.
- 2. Delete '2.'
- 3. Delete 'July 2007' and replace with 'July 2008'.

IDENTICAL WITH WILLIS AMEND 3

Amendment 7: In the sentence

'Conference resolves to hold a membership referendum to amend the Constitution and Philosophical Basis as follows:'

- (vi) Delete 'as follows' and place full stop after 'Philosophical Basis'.
- (vii) Delete all of the Motion after this sentence.

RULED OOO: D 3 of SOCC : NEGATES THE ORIGINAL.

Amendment 9: In the section

'1.Philosophical Basis

Replace PB443 with:
We seek a society in which people are empowered and involved in making the decisions which affect them. We advocate participatory and democratic politics. Leadership should always be accountable, consensus-driven and moral. The Green Party looks for inspiration in leadership figures such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.'

Final sentence:

- (3) After 'Martin Luther King' insert '(neither of whom were leaders of political parties or ever stood for political office)'
- (4) After 'Nelson Mandela' insert '(who refused to serve more than one term as President of South Africa)'.

Reason: Clarification.

OUT OF ORDER: INCONSEQUENTIAL

Amendment 11: In the proposed new clause 8(i), final sentence

'They shall be voting members of the Executive.'

After 'They shall be' insert 'non-' before 'voting'

Reason: Reflects current situation for Principal Speakers.

Proposed by: Linda Garrard, Jan Evans Penny Kemp Steve Muggeridge, Keith Ross

NOT BE TAKEN. IDENTICAL TO WILLIS/THOMSON AMEND 7

Amendment 17: In the proposed new clause 8(v)

'The Leader and Deputy Leader shall be elected every two years. The election shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party, voting to close on the Friday evening of the nearest autumn conference. The deadline for receipt of ballot papers returned by post may be set up to a week prior to Conference, at the discretion of the ERO. Members will be able to cast their postal ballots at Conference if they wish. A hustings will take place on the Friday of Conference. The vote may be counted and the result announced at Conference at the discretion of the ERO.'

After the last sentence add 'In all ballots for Leader, Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders the option to Re-Open Nominations (RON) will be included.'

Reason: Reflects current practice within the Party.

Proposed by: Linda Garrard
Penny Kemp
Steve Muggeridge
Keith Ross

**NOT TO BE TAKEN.
UNNECESSARY. THAT PRACTICE
WILL PERTAIN ANYWAY.**

Amendment 19: In the proposed new clause 8(x)

'In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Leader or Deputy Leader, a new election for both posts shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. The current postholders will retain their post until the result of that election.'

Delete the last sentence and replace with 'Any postholder so recalled shall be suspended from office pending the result of the new election.'

NOT TO BE TAKEN. IDENTICAL TO WILLIS/THOMSON AMEND 17.

D42 Dixon

Delete opening section starting "Conference notes" and ending "sufficiently seriously."

INCONSEQUENTIAL. NO ACTUAL EFFECT ON MOTION/CONSTITUTION

D42 Collard

Amendment 3

In D42: In 2 Constitution in (ii) Amend Section 6: Regional Council,

In clause x, insert the word "an" before "Annually Elected"

Dealt with as a minor typographical amend

(iv) Amend party by-laws "referred to in clause 5(xiv) Party Registration" as follows: Replace 1 with:

1 For the purposes of Registration the elected Leader or one of the two job sharing at their discretion (or by drawing of straws) as outlined in Section 8 shall be registered as the leader

Vague: incorrect citing of Bye-laws

Motions with insufficient signatures

This is a new section to the Agenda, which SOC hope will inform people whose motions were submitted but did not succeed in gaining enough signatures:

- (1) C23 - Tidal Estuaries (Geoff Collard bundle) - Amendment 2 only has three signatures
- (2) Richard Lawson Intl - only signed by RL
- (3) Motion C27 West Papua - Cllr Maya De Souza & George Graham only
- (4) George Graham - Intl Policy Isreal/Palestine - only signed by Sandhya Drew & George G
- (5) Chit Chong Amendment... to Estuaries motion. One signature.
- (6) D43 - Duckenfield Motion - received late...can be put as a procedural motion if required

Withdrawn Motions

D41: Young Greens constitution

(Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion notes the success and vital nature of the Young Greens, proposes to change the Young Greens' status from that of local party to independent status, similar to the AGC, expands the age limit to 29 and gives Young Greens a basic capitation of £2 per Young Green member.

Conference notes:

*That the Young Greens are a vital force within the Green Party, increasing political awareness and activism among young people across England and Wales.

*That Young Greens should refer to all members under the age of 30, in line with the Federation of Young European Greens.

*That local party status is inappropriate for a national youth body and the Young Greens should have independent status.

*That as the Young Greens grow, restricted funding is limiting the size and optimum productivity of the body. Self-funding exercises are proving effective, however, a stable financial situation is required to sustain high value for money, and productive operations. The Young Greens require a basic capitation of £2 per Young Green member, irrespective of membership rate.

Motion

In the Constitution of The Green Party, remove from Bye Laws, referred to in clause 5(v):

2. Members aged less than 27 years and student members of the party may opt to be members of the Young Greens. Young Greens shall have a constitution which states that it is a constituent part of the Green Party.

Insert new paragraph in clause 5 as (iv) and re-number subsequent paragraphs:

(iv) Young Greens

a) Young Greens will form an independent national body within the Green Party and have a constitution which states that it is a constituent part of the Green Party.

b) Members of the party aged less than 30 years will be registered as Young Greens with the opportunity to opt out at any time.

c) Young Greens shall receive a

£2 capitation on all Young Greens membership fees, irrespective of membership rate.
d) The Young Greens shall have a democratically elected national executive body responsible for the overall direction and day to day running of the Young Greens.

Amendment

After clause (iv) b), add new clauses c) and d) as follows and renumber subsequent clauses:

c) Members of the Young Greens will also be members of any appropriate local party.

d) Membership of the Young Greens shall not exclude people from membership of any other group within the party.

Submitted by Keith M Ross, Linda Garrard, Tony Young, Peter Jones

Proposed by the **Young Greens** (who currently have local party status).

END OF AGENDA

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Proxy Vote Form Spring 2007- to be brought to the front desk at the start of Conference

This form has been created and approved by SOC in response to worries about the accountability of the Proxy Vote process. Although not infallible, it creates a better standard of accountability and an informal contract between the person giving a proxy and the person carrying it. Each person can hold **FIVE** other people's proxies. Fill in one form per person.

Name of proxy donor (Caps)

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

Proxy donor's signature..... Date.....

I give this proxy vote on the understanding that I shall not be attending the forthcoming conference myself. I recognise that no policing of the use of my proxy will occur and I trust my proxy holder to exercise this vote in line with the wishes I have expressed to them. I would like this vote to be exercised in relation to any card votes (procedural, suspension of S.O.s, amendment or substantive) under the following sections or motions (tick or complete one of either 1 or 2 or 3):

1. All conference business Y/N

2. All conference business under the following sections only:

- Reports (incl SOC) Y/N
- Section A motions Y/N
- Section B motions Y/N
- Section C motions Y/N
- Section D motions Y/N
- Emergency motions Y/N
- Other Y/N

3. Specific motions only (list numbers:)

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PROXY HOLDER

Name of proxy holder (Caps)

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

I undertake to the proxy donor to exercise this proxy vote in line with their wishes-

Signature..... Date.....

Bring this form to the front desk at the start of Conference. Each person can hold **FIVE** proxies **This proxy form gives the proxy holder an extra card vote to be exercised at the forthcoming Swansea Green Party conference. Vote holders and givers need to be national Green Party members**