

Final Agenda Autumn 2007

ONE WORLD.ONE CHANCE.

Vote Green Party 

**September 13th to 16th 2007 at Liverpool
Hope University, Everton Campus.**

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Introduction to Final Agenda

Welcome to the Final Agenda for the Green Party's Autumn Conference 2007.

An electronic version is available on request from SOC via the SOC email address:

soc@greenparty.org.uk or on the Members website and the Conference webpage www.greenparty.org.uk/conf erences. Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, telephone 0845 456 0277

Content of the Final Agenda

The motions submitted are on the front of these agenda. Two motions were ruled out of order and are published in the 'O' section of this agenda.

As usual, SOC continued to receive motions and amendments right up to the deadline and usually a few after. In anticipation of the next Conference, please help make our job easier by getting your items in well before the published deadlines. This also enables us to inform you if there are any problems. This means weeks, preferably, not days or hours! The Convenor – Matt Wootton - received 169 emails regarding the Spring First Agenda, almost all of them in the last 48 hours. Apologies for not having responded to each personally, but the importance of getting motions in earlier is clear!

Synopses

SOC has also this year been disappointed by the state of peoples' synopses. Few have been within the 50-word limit set out in the Standing Orders, although there has been an improvement on

Spring... 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, extra background info, or political point-scoring. Synopses must represent the motion in the Summary for all members. That is their main purpose. Obviously not submitting a synopsis at all is also a missed opportunity, and this has been another noticeable trend.

Prioritisation Ballot

The order of items in Sections C & D of this agenda are strictly in the order of members' prioritisation ballot.

Proxy vote form

There is a proxy form at the end of this agenda 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 bring it to Conference, and this will act as an informal contract between the proxy giver and the attendee, and increase confidence in the proxy vote system.

Address for corrections in this agenda

Please send any comments on this final agenda to Matt Wootton, SOC, 33 Ashfield Avenue, Lancaster LA1 5EB or by email to **soc@greenparty.org.uk**, or contact a member of SOC at the Conference itself.

Committee Elections

Elections will be held at Conference for these Committees:
Campaigns
Standing Orders
Conferences
Green World Editorial Board
International
Policy
Disputes Resolution
Committee

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

For information on these elections please contact SOC.

Executive Elections

The closing date for nominations was 6th August 2007.

Only one valid nomination was received for the following posts:

Publications
Elections
Management
Policy Development
External Communications
Campaigns
Finance
International Co-Ordinator

No nominations were for the post of Internal Communications.

As such nominations for all the above posts will re-open at Conference and be determined by a ballot of Conference. Other posts will be contested by a ballot of the members, to be conducted immediately after Conference.

Candidates for posts on the Executive must currently have been a member of the Green Party for two complete

years up to the closing date and their nominations must be signed by at least ten Green Party members.

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. Where there are more than 4 they are listed followed by "+ n". The principal contact for each motion is in bold and the name and contact details can be found at end of the agenda before the prioritisation ballot.

Errors in the Agenda

If you notice any errors in the first agenda please notify the convenor of SOC for correction in the final agenda.

Section A (Reports)

Items in section A of the agenda are required by the Constitution or Standing Orders. These are the reports of:

- A1. Standing Orders Committee
- A2. Party Treasurer
- A3. Party Executive
- A4. Regional Council Co-chairs
- A5. Policy Committee
- A6. Campaigns Committee
- A7. Disputes Resolution Committee
- A8. MEP Trust
- A9. Green World Editorial Board
- A10. Conferences Committee

A1 Standing Orders Committee Report

Making the SOC email list observable

SOC voted by majority to make its list observable. Currently John Street and Chris Cotton are also members of the SOC email list, without posting rights.

Sundry workings of Conference

As good practice, SOC agreed that:

Hustings would preferably come BEFORE Committee ballot opens.

That the Traffic lights were very effective.

SOC should make sure Chairs go to workshops they are Chairing in Plenary.

SOC should make sure Chairs (chosen in advance) are informed of their responsibilities.

SOC should agree an attendance rota to staff all debates.

SOC analysis of proxy voting

Dean Walton kindly anonymously analyzed the proxy votes from Spring Conference on behalf of SOC. He reported the following:

The results are as follows:

- (1) Proxies issued for the whole of Conference business 89
- (2) Proxies where there is no explicit statement 13

- (3) Proxies restricted to D motions only 14
 (4) Proxies restricted to D1/amendments only 22

In addition one of the (4) 'D1' proxies mentioned above was issued to use against D5, C7 & C8.

Thus 65% people appointing proxies have EXPLICITLY stated that they want them to be used in all Conference business; 75% have EXPLICITLY stated that they want the proxy to apply to the whole of Section 'D', 15% explicitly restricted the use to just D1.

The conclusion here is that members have generally understood the form and issued their proxies in full knowledge of the consequences. Further, I can't recall the last result, ie D5, but given that between 103 & 116 (depending on how you allocate the 'not stateds') proxies could be properly exercised in that vote and note that only 22 proxies were issued that could not be morally used in this particular vote, the results are entirely credible.

Proxy vote advance registration

SOC member Aled Fisher kindly agreed to process advance registration for proxy voting forms, in order to ease pressure on the Conference desk. See end of agenda.

SOC Standing Orders

SOC agreed to resubmit its proposed standing orders with the deletion of the clause about a temporary casting vote for the convener. The SOs are reprinted below

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;
- (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 are 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 & SOCC 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

Francesca Richards role as external liaison

Francesca Richards has kindly continued her role as external liaison, liaising with the ERO, Green World, GPEx and the two campaigns in the Referendum. Deadlines have been set for the arrival of statements for and against the referendum motion, with the deadline of the No statement the 30th of September and the deadline for the Yes the 20th.

Retirement of Graeme McIver and appointment of Jim Jepps as ERO.

Due to work pressures Graeme McIver stepped down in May as ERO. SOC would like to thank him for his diligent and effective work. With especial sensitivity to the need to find a candidate without an established position on the Leadership issue, SOC appointed Cambridge activist Jim Jepps. In his application for the post, Jim wrote the following: "I have a background in trade union activity which equips me to read rules and apply them in a reasonable manner. I

hope I've a bit of a reputation for being fair minded and personally principled. I'm actually changing professions at the moment and will be working with an NGO that works with the developing world on IT, but have a background working with violent and challenging people through the NHS and in some circles I'm known as "unflappable". I'm also on the editorial board of Red Pepper and write for various publications including my own blog.
<http://jimjay.blogspot.com>

Compositing

SOC collectively agreed to sign a motion on compositing. The motion is included in the final agenda.

SOC concern at limited pool of Disciplinary Tribunal Members

SOC discussed their concern at the limited pool of ex-chairs available to participate in Disciplinary Tribunals. After discussion with GPRC Co-Chair Dave Wall the matter was left with GPRC, who would apparently be seeking root-and-branch reform of the tribunal system.

Concerns about the Actions of GPRC

During the year, the actions of GPRC have caused considerable concern to SOC. GPRC seem to have gone outside

its remit on a number of occasions, including some members calling for a disciplinary tribunal to be abandoned whilst GPRC was in line to act as the appeal body for the tribunal, and pressurising a duly-selected disciplinary tribunal member to stand down, GPRC having been lobbied by the defendant in the case (who was subsequently found guilty). One of the Co-Chairs has been in discussion with the SOC Co-ordinator about these matters.

Web-working

In order to ease the bureaucracy on SOC, convener Matt Wootton has explored with online democracy expert Jason Kitcat the potential for Prioritisation ballots and motions to be submitted via email or web. A draft Prioritisation ballot program is in development and if taken forward by the next SOC would be available by next Conference. This will facilitate members' participation, almost certainly increase turnout and ease the bureaucracy put on SOC. Traditional methods would still remain open.

Late arrival of Agenda

SOC notes that Green World arriving late thereby delayed the arrival

of the First Agenda. SOC would like to remind the Green World Editorial of the importance of Green World's commitment to the smooth functioning of the party's systems. On behalf of SOC the convener would like to take full responsibility for the late issuing of the final agenda and accept that it is purely down to SOC, with no excuse good enough.

GPEX nominations deadline extended

At his discretion, and after discussion with SOC and Executive colleagues, the ERO decided to extend the deadline for GPEX nominations from the 6th to the 16th of August.

Referendum guidelines

SOC drew up guidelines by which to conduct the Referendum process. They are included below. On some points under discussion, Mark Hill and Dean Walton declared an interest and did not take part or vote in the discussion.

Leadership Referendum Campaign Rules
In force May 2007 - October 2007

The term "Green Party" is used to mean the Green Party of England and Wales, "SOC" and "ERO" are used as an acronyms for the Standing Orders Committee and Elections

Returning Officer respectively.

If there is a dispute arising from this procedure, campaigners shall accept as final determination by the Green Party Electoral Returning Officer and the Standing Orders Committee acting together.

Internal Campaigning

Green Party members shall be permitted to undertake internal campaigning within the following guidelines:

Financial

- (i) Members against the motion and members in favour of the motion should appoint an agent for their internal campaign and this must be notified in writing to the Returning Officer
- (ii) Agents must make a declaration of donations made to his or her campaign and expenditure incurred, to Returning Officer by a date decided by the Returning Officer but prior to ratification. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a report to SOC, which may then choose to postpone ratification of the result or to take alternative action.
- (iii) Nominees may spend up to £8000 towards their campaign costs to include travel expenses and mailings. Any printed material should bear a

suitable imprint identifying who has actually printed the material, who caused the material to be printed and on whose behalf the material was printed.

(iv) Spokespersons for either campaign shall not promise or imply in any statement to voters, including at hustings, that they will give any monies, goods or services to any part of the Party dependent on any particular outcome of the ballot other than as may be required by any rules agreed by the Party.

(v) Paid assistants working for elected representatives are not, as far as is possible, permitted to campaign on behalf of their principals during the period of debate. Elected representatives taking an active role in campaigning are to make this restriction clear to staff. Activities associated with general promotional work undertaken in the normal course of a staff member's duty or as a Green Party officer will not be in any way affected by this restriction.

Internal meetings and events

(i) Local and regional parties holding meetings/hustings to discuss the referendum, must publicise the event to all local and regional party members and invite an

equal number of spokespersons from the for and against campaigns and allocate them equal time to speak.

(ii) Conference organisers for the Green party Autumn Conference 2007 will allow space for a fair representation of both sides' views, for example during a panel discussion or fringe meetings.

Publications

(i) Articles on the referendum may be published on all Green Party websites including the Green World website and in all national, regional and local Green Party publications.

(ii) Articles must include contributions from both campaigns which must be of equal length and given equal prominence within the publication.

Online discussion forums

(i) There will be an online discussion forum on the members website.

Telephone canvassing

(ii) Requests for data for telephone canvassing must be refused by head office.

Mailings

(i) Campaigners may send mailings to members on the basis that all costs are

registered with the relevant agent and are within the budget set by the ERO.

(ii) Head office may provide data for this purpose to the campaign agent only.

(iii) Members' data used for mailings held by either campaign agent must be deleted by the campaign agent prior to the referendum taking place.

External campaigning

Green Party members shall be permitted to undertake external campaigning within the following guidelines:

Press

(i) Local and regional parties may publicise events organised to discuss the referendum in the local press and on websites.

(ii) Elected spokespersons of the Green Party, in interviews to represent Green Party policy should not exploit such media opportunities to express opinions on the referendum.

(iii) Members may post views on websites or in blogs external to the Green Party.

SOC will appoint an independent assessor to assist the Returning Officer in interpreting breaches of these rules during the campaign period. This assessor shall not be associated with either campaign.

GPEx election regulations

In response to an outstanding decision of a previous SOC, SOC asked the ERO to update the GPEx election regulations. The updated regs are below.

Green Party Election Regulations 2007

These regulations cover the conduct of elections by postal ballot or at conference for office in the Green Party at a national level. The authority for these regulations is clause 12iv of the Green Party constitution.

1 Method of election

1.1 Introduction

As specified in the constitution the method of election shall be the Single Transferable Vote. The constitution requires provision for negative voting only in the event of their being no more candidates than places to be filled. However it is established practice to provide for negative voting in all cases. There is a constitutional requirement that of the Party's two speakers there is one of each sex. This requirement is achieved in the counting process of the ballot.

1.2 Conduct of the election

Subject to the additional regulations below, the method of election and count shall follow the guidelines set down in How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote, 3rd edition, published by the

Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1.3 Provision for negative voting

In addition to the candidates, the ballot paper shall allow the voter to express a preference for "Re-Open Nominations" (RON). This indicates that no further candidates are acceptable to a voter. There can therefore be no transfers of preference from RON. At the count votes for RON are treated in the same way as votes for a candidate except that RON cannot be excluded. If there are no surpluses to be redistributed the lowest placed candidate, even though they may have more votes than RON, will be excluded. If votes for RON exceed the quota, one place shall be deemed to be unfilled. If votes for RON exceed twice the quota, two places shall be deemed to be unfilled, etc.

1.4 Quota when there are fewer candidates than places

If there are fewer candidates than places there is still an election because of the provision of negative voting. In calculating the quota the maximum number of places that could be filled in this election, which will usually be the number of candidates (unless there are additional constraints on the result, such as gender-balancing), shall be used in place of the number of places to be filled.

1.5 Imposing gender balance

In the elections for Principal Speakers the constitution requires that one Speaker of

each sex be elected. This will occur naturally when one Speaker is elected by postal ballot and the other by conference ballot. Otherwise this is achieved in the counting process in the following way. As soon as one candidate is deemed elected, all other candidates of the same sex shall be immediately excluded and their votes transferred. This shall be done before any surplus is redistributed. Should two candidates of the same sex exceed the quota at the same stage of the count the one with the greater vote shall be deemed elected. If at any point there is only one candidate of a given sex left in the election, that candidate shall be ignored when considering who to exclude.

1.6 Relation of Executive and committee ballots

The elections for the Executive and for Committee posts shall be considered as two sets of elections with the Executive elections having higher priority.

This means that the count of any elections to Committee posts held at conference that involve candidates for the Executive should not take place until after the count of the Executive ballot with any candidates who have already been elected to the Executive being excluded during the count. The ERO may, at his or her discretion, count the votes immediately after the conference ballot to provide one or more results conditional on the Executive elections.

If the Executive election in question is to take place as a postal ballot then the ERO may elect to count the Committee post anyway taking into account all

relevant possible outcomes of the future Executive ballot. If the result would be unaffected this result will stand, if the result would be altered then the new Committee post(s) will only come into effect once the postal ballot results are in.

2. Timetable

2.1 Posts filled by election at conference

The timetable should be decided by the ERO in consultation with the Conference organiser(s). The aim should be to hold the elections at a time when most representatives are present (i.e. probably Saturday afternoon). Voting should take place as soon as possible after close of nominations, allowing for sufficient time to make the necessary administrative arrangements. At least two hours must be allowed for voting. Hustings should take place in plenary session and conclude before the voting closes, although they may run concurrent with the voting. The counts for Committee posts should take place as soon as possible after the close of polls (unless candidates for the Executive are involved).

2.2 Executive elections

The ERO shall determine the timetable, subject to the requirements of the constitution, and in consultation with the editor of the party newspaper as the timetable is dependent on the publishing schedule of the newspaper. The counting of

any postal ballot should normally take place as soon as convenient after the published deadline for receipt of ballot papers, but to ensure a fair voting period. The ERO may accept ballot papers returned after this deadline and/or authorise a delay to the count.

3. Rules for nomination

3.1 Committee posts filled by election at conference

Nominations must be submitted to the ERO on the official nomination form, making clear the post the nomination is for, by the closing time for nominations. This form will include a space for the candidate's statement. The nomination must be made by two nominators who have both been members of the Green Party for at least a year.

3.2 Posts on the Executive

Nominations must be submitted to the ERO on the official nomination form, making clear the post the nomination is for, by the closing time for nominations. The candidate's statement may be submitted separately but must also reach the ERO by the closing time for nominations. The nomination must be made by at least ten nominators who are current members of the Green Party. Nominations may be made on separate sheets of paper provided they clearly indicate the candidate and post they refer to, and carry all the required

information. Candidates must have been members for two years, as specified in the constitution.

3.3 Withdrawal

Any candidate may withdraw from any election by written notice to the ERO at any time up until the commencement of the count. In conducting the count the ERO will pass over preferences for that candidate, passing on to the next available preference.

4. Conduct by candidates

4.1 Rules of conduct

By signing their nomination papers candidates agree to abide by these rules. If candidates, or their supporters acting with their approval are found to have violated these rules the ERO may, if he or she considers this violation may have materially effected the result of the election, either disqualify the candidate or rule the election void.

4.2 Campaigning

The official places for candidates to promote themselves are 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.

Candidates may also take part in hustings organised by local or regional parties, or other Green Party groups, provided that all candidates

for a post have been invited. Statements from candidates can be distributed at these hustings, whether or not they are able to attend. Hustings organisers should, in particular, be encouraged to commission and distribute statements from candidates who are not able to attend a hustings.

Green Party publications may carry further statements from candidates provided that any publication carrying these statements also carries statements of an equal length from all other candidates for the same post.

In addition, there will be, at the discretion of the ERO, an internet message board or email group specifically to discuss all contested posts. This will be open to all members and candidates but protected by a password to be circulated with ballot papers. Posts shall be moderated by the ERO, or a person or group appointed by the ERO, but only to remove potentially libellous posts, personal attacks on candidates, or irrelevant or repeated posts by members. All posts should contain the name and local party of the member who is posting it.

In all these cases it is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that, to the best of his or her knowledge, the required conditions are being complied with. Candidates are free to refer to other candidates for any post, but should not refer to any named "slate"

They may speak to supporters and other members of the

electorate, whether on the telephone or face to face but they shall not be issued telephone canvassing information by Green Party head office. 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.

Candidates may incur some legitimate expenses during the course of the election. To ensure an even playing field candidates will be expected to submit returns for these expenses within two weeks of the close of the election to the ERO and that these expenses shall not exceed the agreed limit for the post. This limit does not include official party mailings that are a regular part of the election period.

This limit shall be £300 for all GPEx positions except the principal speakers which shall be £600.

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 Arranging hustings

Where local or area parties, or other party groupings, arrange their own hustings for a particular post, they should invite all the candidates for that post. They should also make all reasonable attempts to ensure that the meeting is at a time and place that makes it possible for all candidates wishing to attend to be there

5.3 Publications

There should be no direct advocacy of a person's candidature in party publications, unless equal space is given to each candidate for a particular post to express his or her own views. This does not include fair comment on the elections.

A2. Party Treasurer's Report

This is my third report to conference as Finance Coordinator and registered Treasurer of the party. I am pleased to report that the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2006 have been audited and filed with The Electoral Commission. Copies will be available at Conference.

The balance sheet as at 31 December 2006 shows a very significant improvement with assets exceeding liabilities by £171,158. This is represented by a Greenquest surplus of £30,464, a Fixed Assets Fund of 8,000, a Contingency Fund of £50,000 and a General Fund of

£82,694. There are two reasons for the vast improvement in our financial stability. Firstly, The Party received a legacy of £132,000 from the estate of the late David Gillett who was a very committed member of The Party. Secondly with a lot of careful planning and discipline we achieved a net surplus of £148,030 against a balanced budget set by the Executive at 1 January 2006. I am pleased to say that even without the legacy we had a net surplus of £16,030.

For the first time ever in The Party's history, we have been able to set aside a sum of £50,000 in a Contingency Fund.

I am pleased to report that to date we have not used any of the legacy money for the day to day operations of The Party. We need to continue raising funds from internal appeals and also explore external fundraising possibilities. It is too easy to rely on the legacy money. With a possibility of a General Election this autumn, I would appeal to our members to dig deep and donate as much as you can, so that we can fight a credible General Election. In the event of an election not being called this year, the money will be set aside and used in 2008/2009.

The direct debit system has been implemented, this is being monitored closely and early indications are that it should increase our income from 2008 onwards. The costs of collecting the income through the direct debit systems will also increase some of our costs. There is much more work to be done in improving retention and increasing our membership.

The party needs to raise significant sums of money in order to operate efficiently, with more paid full time members of staff. Whilst I agree that we need to improve systems and have the personnel to manage the office in a more professional manner, we are not ready to appoint a Chief Executive. We have worked very hard to get into this solid financial position and we need to continue to build on this before making any significant appointments.

I envisage that the Party will have a small surplus at the end of 2007. There is still reason for the Party to be diligent in its budget setting and financial controls.

In spite of improvements to the collective discipline of the Executive, there is still much to do to improve the core functioning of the Party, which must be addressed financially if we are to generate the capacity for future growth and achieve it.

I would like to thank all our paid staff and volunteers for their hard work.

Finally, I would like to thank all Party members for their generous financial support and assistance in 2006.

Khalid Hussien
Treasurer and Finance Coordinator

A3. Party Executive Report

Chair's Report – Part One

First and foremost the Executive would like to thank and congratulate the membership and local parties across the country for another year in which we again increased our tally of

elected members. It is the personal contact resulting from your canvassing, leafleting, organising events and leading local campaigns that enables success at the ballot box and thereby to deliver on our manifesto commitments.

We have, and shall continue to, support local efforts and promote the party at national, regional and international level, raise funds and improve the capabilities of the party office.

Over the last year I have represented the party at a number of external events and continued dialogue with civil servants on issues such as the Party Funding Review and allocation of MEPs' seats. I have also had considerable correspondence with a wide number of charitable and non-governmental organisations and party members and non-members over the year.

The Executive extends considerable thanks to the sterling work of our paid and voluntary staff, and a number of interns who have worked with us over the year. Changes over the year include a newly recruited finance officer and a new part-time administrator. Disability access to the building housing our office is improving but is still far from satisfactory, thus we are looking out for an alternative affordable property.

Campaigns have had a successful year, continuing to work with other groups such as the Stop the War Coalition and Campaign Against Climate Change. A large number of leaflets have been printed and distributed at numerous events.

The External Communications Committee is working closely with a communications agency to turn its focus to membership growth as well as press communications. The first steps in internet television and video blogging have been taken. In the run up to the London Assembly and mayoral elections we shall be employing a second press officer, funded jointly by the national party and the London Federation.

The party's financial health is good and for the second year running we can report that the party is running a small but growing surplus. We continue to keep a tight reign on spending and seek new ways to raise further monies. Donations and membership subscriptions may now be paid by Direct Debit, and can be set up by phone, post, or through the website. This provides an easier route for people to join and make donations. We are also encouraging existing members to switch to payment by Direct Debit; over the next year we expect this to aid considerably in membership retention.

I look forward to further electoral gains and further improvements in the operations of our party in the coming year. Many thanks to my colleagues on GPEx for their excellent work and dedication over the last 12 months.

Councillor G. Richard Mallender
Chair, Green Party of England & Wales

Chair's report – part two.

A matter arose early this year when at the GPEx meeting held on 13th January the

matter of making payments to two GPEx members was discussed. As this falls outside the usual situation whereby members of GPEx only claim expenses, it was agreed to present this decision to conference.

The first event was due to the External Communications coordinator volunteering full time at the party office. In order to be eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, a claimant must be 'available and looking for work'. The External Communications coordinator felt that neither condition would be true, as he was likely to be working full time voluntarily, and would not be looking for work. He therefore felt that it would be inappropriate and illegal for him to claim benefit and lie to the state on behalf of the party. He also felt that this might put the party at some risk. The Executive therefore agreed to pay him an equivalent amount in lieu, paid with National Insurance in order to facilitate housing benefit claims. GPEx voted to allow this payment. In second was a situation where the Female Principal Speaker could either employ someone to carry out urgent research or could do the work herself, providing the cost was covered. As this was a clearly defined and specialist body of work it was agreed that she be paid to do it.

There is nothing in the constitution stating whether GPEx members should or should not be paid, though it does state in the job descriptions that the roles are expected to be voluntary. We agreed that any decision on the issue of payment should be reviewed every year by GPEx depending on the circumstances of GPEx

members; the situation would not continue automatically year on year. Any overall change, for example permitting payment of allowances to GPEx members, would have to be through a decision by conference and ensure that GPEx members were not setting the rates for any such payments. Councillor G. Richard Mallender
Chair, Green Party of England & Wales

Management Coordinator's Report 2006-2007

The year started expensively when the printer had to be replaced.

I decided to open the office on Saturdays to increase the output of the office and make better use of the space we are paying for.

Fareeda Ahmed started in May as an administrative assistant for six months working part time, including Saturdays. Her start coincided with Adam Stacey's paternity leave which made initial training more difficult. A short term part time agency worker was used in April before Fareeda started. Shortage of staff and the lack of a manager have made providing a reliable administrative service to the party more difficult and stressful for staff than I would have liked. There has been a large increase in queries from the public, members and party officers causing a new work overload for Adam.

Many thanks to the interns and many volunteers who have helped to run the office. There is now a cycle allowance and a top limit on

travel expenses for volunteers.

I appointed Tony Cooper as my IT consultant and have been working on a new staff handbook. Ken Burgess has prepared a new Health & Safety & risk assessment for the office. He has also coordinated the telephoning of lapsed members, this being an ongoing project to improve membership retention whereby we also encourage members to switch to Direct Debit.

Organising disabled access has been a huge problem. Finally our landlords said that they consider that the building is simply not amenable to conversion. We have decided that although 1a has had minor improvements we must move to fully accessible premises.

Office spending has stayed within budget.

Elections

We have had another successful local election year. We have increased our tally of Principal Local Authority councillors from 93 to 110, with substantial gains in our strongholds of Brighton and Lancaster. I'd like to thank all of the councillors, national staff and activists who worked so hard in achieving this excellent result. We should also recognise some excellent parish councillor results.

Unfortunately our Wales Elections results were down on 2003, as we saw a very tough contest and a resurgent Plaid Cymru make advances. It should be a concern for all of the member of GPEW about the advance of the BNP in these Proportional elections, as they only just

fell short of winning a Welsh Assembly seat.

In comparison with the other "minority" parties, the Green Party is now clearly putting distance at a local government level between ourselves and the BNP, who have 47 councillors, UKIP and Respect, who each have 20 councillors. In a period in which national opinion polls have shown a growth in support for "Others", it is only the Green Party who can point to significant evidence of political progress in the last two years. The positives this year have been a better focus on contesting local authority byelections, wherever possible. We have also contested the two Parliamentary byelections in Ealing Southall, where we held our 4th place, despite a plethora of minority parties standing, and Sedgefield, where we contested the seat for the first time.

In addition to my role as Elections Co-ordinator, I have been working on other areas of national business, including Fundraising, helping to organise this Conference as a late substitute venue and collective GPEX duties in other areas. The Elections Co-ordinator role is often demanding and requires a great deal of work, and since February of this year, I have been working full time for the Green Party with a very small amount claimed back in expenses. This year has been personally demanding, but also very rewarding, with the election of our first councillor here in Liverpool. However I would acknowledge that the demands of local and regional work have impacted on

timetabling Elections Committee meetings.

This will be my third and final Elections Co-ordinator report to Conference, as I have a new role and responsibility in regards to the European Elections in 2009. I will offer all the advice and support I can to the incoming Elections Co-ordinator, to ensure they have the kind of positive handover I received when I started the role in October 2004. I believe that a further 20 gains at a local level are possible again next year, and my thanks go out to all of the other hard working members of the Executive for their contributions over the last year.

Peter Cranie

External comms this year

External comms has had an extremely successful year. Si n and Derek have both had good media coverage. Si n had a particularly good run prior to the election, appearing on Newsnight twice, Question Time and Daily Politics as the guest twice. Derek got appearances on the back of this success, and took invites extended to Si n to appear on Al Jazeera and BBC's Hard Talk.

This has been built on the professional, full time paid press support that I persuaded the Exec to introduce last year. We have employed a second press officer to cover the London Mayoral election.

We have also started to seriously promote online videos, with a Youtube channel and relations with public.tv and friction.tv - as well as engaging with other

web 2.0 networks like Facebook.

In the case of video work and parliamentary questions, and external fund raising, I have built a team of volunteers in the office to increase our capacity.

A thorough review of the website is next on the list to increase traffic, joiners and build better relations with voters.

What I have done this year

When I took on working full time last Autumn, I suspected I would have a heavy workload. In fact I have been averaging a 50-70 hour week. That should give an indication of how overstretched the party is, and why we need more paid staff.

Pay in lieu of Job Seeker's Allowance

If I had signed on, and worked 50-70 hours a week, I would have been lying to the state on behalf of the Green Party. Instead, the Executive agreed to pay me £210 a month to recompense me for loss of JSA.

How I've tried to change the situation

Given that we need more paid staff, I have prioritised membership recruitment and fundraising, particularly Direct Debit. I also arranged and promoted the Political Review by James Humphries which led to the recommendation to hire a Chief executive.

Without a doubt, my presence in the office, Direct Debit would not have been implemented or would not have been implemented

online. Introducing Direct Debit online means we will finally increase our retention rates. New members are now donating an average £55 a year, rather than paying an average £25 membership fee. This should be worth an additional £100,000 annually in five years' time.

We are running membership recruitment trials in London, to around 18,000 households. If successful, this will boost our income and activity further.

Projects like this could build the foundations of the next rounds of future councillors and successful local parties, as well as increasing our income and supporting the national operation.

Jim Killock

Female Principal Speaker report

I have had a very busy year. Initially, my background in anti-4x4 campaigning, and the fact that many people in the media had already met me in that context, meant I was able to get a lot of articles and interviews along the lines of 'the new face of the Greens'.

This stood me in good stead in building up a profile, as well as reaching out into new areas such as glossy magazines and the Daily Mail. Regular comment on green issues and 'presenter's friend' guest spots on TV shows like the 'Daily Politics' followed and, from October to May, the number and range of my media hits and appearances gradually increased.

Starting with last autumn's conference I have written a weekly blog for the New

Statesman website, covering everything from bins to copyright, and drawing a good audience and regular readers. I have now (August) done 52 of these, including a special for budget day. They can be read at newstatesman.com/blogs/sia_n_berry/

I have also been asked to speak at a number of prestigious events, including London College of Fashion's ethical fashion debate 'Is green the new black?' and 'Can a boom town be green' at Tate Modern organised by the Architecture Foundation. Some other events around the country I have had to turn down because of lack of time.

Given the hard work I had put in and the growing momentum on green issues, I was dismayed to hear complaints in the spring that I was doing too many things and should 'give others a chance'. I took a step back from external work in May but, in my opinion, this loss of momentum resulted in both myself and the Green Party as a whole receiving less media attention – not a simple transfer of opportunities to the other Principal Speaker.

All year, I have found giving up just one day of paid work to concentrate on Green matters (which I have done voluntarily since September) isn't enough to make the absolute most of the role of Principal Speaker. I proposed in my budget submission in December that I should give up an extra day of work to do more research and take more advantage of opportunities that were coming in on week days. (Unfortunately, four days' pay is the minimum I can live off currently, so I needed to be recompensed

through expenses for the other day).

I finally began to work three days a week in June. However, unpleasant emails and circulars were getting worse, with some alleging corruption. I can put up with a lot, and I could have chosen to carry on facing down this sniping, but it was by then late in the year and I felt that enduring this behaviour (which came only from a vocal few) was no longer worth it, since it concerned just a dozen more days of extra work before Conference. I therefore stopped working for the party on Thursdays after five weeks, and took freelance writing jobs to make up the loss of pay instead.

I did put the five days I was paid for to good use, catching up on a couple of magazine shoots and interviews I had put off, and developing the campaign to stop Lockheed Martin from running the Census, including making a short film and writing a website for it. But I am very sad about giving up this opportunity to use more time for the benefit of the Greens, as an extra day beginning earlier in the year would clearly have made a real difference. I strongly believe that representing the Greens should not be confined to the well-off, the retired and people with jobs that give them long holidays.

Some of the main highlights of my year as Female Principal Speaker:

Infamous election article in Independent on Sunday - Sept
GMTV profile interview - Nov
Politics Show interview - Dec
Channel 4 lunchtime news debate re 4x4 sales falling - Dec

BBC Breakfast news re school run - Dec
Consultation response to the DTI Renewables Obligation review - Dec
Profile in Harpers Bazaar magazine - Jan
Grazia magazine profile - Jan
Sky News re Prince Charles' emissions - Jan
Independent feature on cheap fashion - Jan
Channel 4 Political Slot - Feb
Daily Politics, lunchtime 'presenter's friend' guest - Feb
Microsoft Vista press work with Derek - Feb
Broadcasting House, Radio 4, reviewing the papers - Feb
Sky News, Adam Boulton 'In the Crossfire' - Feb
Greenpeace Judicial Review victory over Energy Review - Feb
ITN National News: Royal flights again - Feb
Wrote foreword for Mayor's London Climate Change action plan - Feb
Question Time from Newcastle - Mar
Harper's Bazaar: named as one of Britain's 30 most influential women - Mar
Meeting with Defence Minister re Trident with Caroline Lucas - Mar
Newsnight, Ethical Man debate - Apr
Observer Ethical Awards judging panel - Apr
Daily Politics 'presenter's friend' lunchtime BBC2 - Apr
Radio 4 PM programme re cycling/red lights - Apr
Newsnight, re bins, debate with James Whale - Apr
London College of Fashion green week debate - May
'Talking with Tatchell' for 18 Doughty Street on London campaign - May
Census issue covered on The Register internet news (big for geeks) - May
Interview in Independent magazine on profile of the new face of eco-warriors' - Jun

Architecture Foundation debate at Tate Modern - Jun
GMTV debate on energy policy - Jun
Sky News re patio heaters - Jul
Emissions-based congestion charging - London radio stations - Aug
Census story in Independent on Sunday - Aug
Broadcasting House, Radio 4, reviewing the papers - Aug

Sian Berry

Male Principal Speaker.

I have worked hard to promote the Party, in what has been a short year, as I was elected towards the end of November.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/6203821.stm is a nice interview with BBC online that outlines my approach, radical, passionate and thoughtful (hopefully).

In terms of television my most exciting moment was Hard Talk

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/hardtalk/6382103.stm>, 25 minutes of intense questioning on the BBC news 24 television show broadcast globally. I have had other tough assignments debating with climate change denier Chris Horner on the David Frost Show, Johnny Ball another denier on Sky and also on Sky arguing with the organiser of the million plus petition against road charging. I have done lots of other bits of Sky, News 24, Radio 4 (PM, Westminster hour, a couple of news items) and at least 5 items for the online right wing TV channel Doughty Street.

I have had nearly 20 letters in the national press, at least 5 in the Guardian, 3 or 4 in the Independent, 3 in the Telegraph, 2 or 3 Observer, 1 in the Daily Mail. I write a couple a week. The Guardian

have asked me to provide a comment is free blog, I have completed 15 pieces, I am now being paid for about 1 of these a month, the £225 I have received so far has been set against my expenses. I have tried to keep my expenses claims as low as possible, I am not sure my final figure but it will be well under a £1,000 this year, we are not as far as I can see a wealthy party. I want to be both revenue and carbon neutral!

I have lost count of the number of items I have written or the interviews I have completed on line, it must run into the hundreds!

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk/derek_wall/2007/07/clarkson_on_trial.html is one of my pieces for the Guardian.

<http://www.politics.co.uk/in-focus/domestic-policy/environment/carbon-offsetting/offsetting-has-very-limited-role-5470796.htm> is one from politics.com.

<http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/07/376363.html> is from Indy media and the Guardian CIF.

I have lots of egov monitor, I have written 4 articles published in the Morning Star and more are in the pipeline. My personal blog is getting about 120-140 hits a day and I post at least once a day.

I have spoken to local parties in Bracknell, Croydon, Kent, Stroud, Kirklees, at the London Fed, Reading, Haringey, Havant, Twickenham, helped launch the Welsh campaign in Cardiff, locals at Millbank and spoken at the climate change protest against Exxon, outside the Indonesian Embassy for Free West Papua campaign, Glastonbury Festival, Sussex University, Manchester Carnival against Climate Change, SOAS

climate event, Permanent Revolution, Leicester Social Forum, Climate Conference in Bushey School, Hands off Venezuela, Green Left. I have undertaken numerous small events including party fringes. You can see my conference speech at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/6484987.stm

I have sent out at least 3 press releases every week and worked hard to support Victor Schonfeld's The Animal Film, Free West Papua, CWU action on postal services, anti-drm and vista campaigns, the release of Miriam Rose from an Icelandic jail for environmental protest, boycott of Npower because of Radley Lakes, against the homophobic Moscow attack on Peter Tatchell, against climate change, against Tesco's for food localisation, for Iraq withdrawal, against whaling and in support of Captain Paul Watson/Sea Shepherd and much much more. These have attracted lots of media mentions for the Party and increased good will from campaigners.

I have cultivated strong links with the Camp for Climate Action.

Networking has also helped me recruit new members including the great Nick Hutton chair of the Campaign against Climate Change (and in my view the most intelligent person I have ever met!) and Bridget Strawbridge plus disillusioned supporters of John McDonnell. My writing on eco-Islam has brought the Party message to thousands of Muslims who would never have thought of us before. It's been a tough year in some ways, I juggle parenting, work and my Principal Speaker post. I have objected to the party deciding

to employing a CEO for nearly £38,000 a year and to members of GPEx being paid beyond basic expenses, I have protested at the Irish Green Party decision to go into government with Fianna Fail despite the decision to continue building a motorway through one of Europe's most important prehistoric monuments at Tara. They may be in another country but the decision damages world heritage.

More positively I am going to be working hard to get our message across from you tube to the BBC to more letters and articles. Climate change is here, the Yangtze Dolphin is extinct and Gordon Brown's is pushing through new roads, incinerators and nuclear power, together with dodgy carbon offset. We need to change the world fast and I am doing my bit.

Derek Wall

Internal Communications 2006-2007

Internal Communications produced four editions of the Green Activist distributed with Green World, a total of 26 pages including first agendas for the spring and autumn conferences, prepared under SOC's direction. Photos were added to the format, and more variation in the layout introduced to make it more user-friendly and inviting.

Monthly email updates were sent (with a couple of extra "special updates" for election and conference) to the approximately 4,000 members for whom the party has email addresses, covering a broad range of the party's activities, with a particular focus on actions that members could take, with elections, campaigns,

conference, and other activities. Some non-party activities likely to be of interest to members were also included.

The text format has meant the number of items is restricted to about 14 items; an improvement to the membership database is required before an HTML newsletter, with much better presentation and opportunities for more items, could be developed.

The members' website has been considerably developed, within its technological limitations. The front page has been developed as a "current news" site, with media monitoring and links to new additions to other parts of the site, and the key elements members are likely to find most useful. Traffic topped 400 unique users in July for the first time – but much more could be done were individual passwords to be introduced with greater security.

A survey of members was conducted in February, with the survey being distributed through Green Activist but also able to be completed online, and proved popular with members. A detailed report on the results was presented to GPex and is available in its minutes. Members expressed a desire to be able to regularly so offer their thoughts on the party's direction.

A new "new members" guide was prepared and is being distributed, to replace the "A to Z", which has been in use for a number of years.

Some email lists that were with Yahoo and similar providers have been moved over to the Green Party

server, but it has not proved possible to complete this task. Management of email lists would be far easier were members able to self-manage their subscriptions in one place.

Natalie Bennett

International Co-Ordinators' Report

International Committee has met every 2-3 months in London.

The European Green Party Congress and Council in Geneva (Oct 07) showcased the relative success of European Green Parties, and brought home how unjust the UK electoral system is.

The Green Islands Network has been very active in recent times, and there has been progress in relationship between Northern Ireland and Comohantas Glas. The North Sea Greens' meeting seems to be losing momentum. We have linked with the Global Greens, and intend to send at least one delegate to their meeting in May 2008 in Sao Paulo (the Nairobi venue failed to materialise). We will offset the CO2 debt associated with all meetings.

We sent delegates to the Barcelona Councillors meeting, and had a meeting with delegates of the Nordic Left in the House of Lords.

We met with Oscar Palma from Colombia, a member of the Colombian Green Party which has recently recovered after the kidnapping of Ingrid Betancourt, the Colombian Green Leader, and. At our request Derek Wall had contacted the government in Venezuela to ask their help in releasing Ingrid.

Jean Lambert attended and explained that the MEPs Trust was an informal structure that handled the majority of monies of the UK Green MEPs. It was created to act as a buffer between party and MEPs, and to allow accountability of MEP activities to the Party. Final financial responsibility rested with the MEPs. The Trust's status in the EP is that of a service provider.

We had correspondence with a variety of new Green Parties across the world including from Nepal and some in Africa. It was noted that Bei Li, the China Green Party rep in the UK, has been granted asylum.

At the EGP Berlin meeting our resolution on Darfur was passed

Discussion at GPWE conference focused on the EU Constitution problem.

Papers have been prepared on the Remit of the International Coordinators, the Strategy of the International Committee, and Voting Procedures in International Meetings.

Richard Lawson, Volker Heinemann

A4 Regional Council Co-Chairs' Report

1 Introduction

The first half of this year's Regional Council business was dominated by the Disciplinary Tribunal for the previous Chair of GPex which meant that some business could not be dealt with as it should have been, in particular work on Strategy. The main business of the Tribunal is now behind us but it showed the need to revise the Disciplinary Tribunal

process and other related matters, which is now being undertaken.

2 Regional Council Handbook and Regional Council standing Orders

The Handbook needed substantial revision. This has been done. The revision includes revision of the Standing Orders which Regional Council has the right to change provided that any changes are brought to Conference for approval. The only substantive change in the Standing Orders is the clause which allows Regional Councillors to call an Emergency meeting of the Council. The revised Standing Orders are set out in Appendix 1 and GPRC requests that these are approved by Conference.

3 Disciplinary Tribunal.

The main role of Regional Council in the Disciplinary Tribunal of the former Chair of GPEx was to consider the recommendations of the Disciplinary Tribunal and any appeal that the defendant might have brought. However, it found itself having to deal with other matters related to the Disciplinary process. Regional Council was asked to consider the appointment of one of the Tribunal members to whom the defendant had objected, but whom SOC had declined to replace. Regional Council considered that the defendant's objection was reasonable, and asked SOC to reconsider their decision, but SOC stood by their original decision. GPEx voted to write to SOC in support of GPRC, but SOC again stood by their decision. Fortunately, the person himself stood down from the Tribunal, and was

replaced by another to whom no objection was raised.

The Tribunal met in early December and reached its decision. It suspended the defendant, and sent a copy of its recommendations to a representative of the plaintiff body (GPEx), the defendant, and to Regional Council Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs were asked to respect the need for confidentiality of all the Tribunal documents, including the Tribunal's recommendations. They were asked to allow time for legal advice on the appeal process to be obtained in order to avoid doing anything that might open up individuals or the party to legal action. The decision of the Co-Chairs to respect this request for confidentiality was challenged by SOC and by some Regional Councillors but at its January meeting Regional Council agreed to treat the documents as confidential until the Special Meeting at which any appeal would be heard, and at which Regional Council would consider the recommendations. The legal advice obtained from a specialist solicitor was provided to Regional Council at the January meeting.

The Special Regional Council meeting was held in Birmingham on Saturday 17 February. A short report of the meeting is set out in Appendix 2. Regional Council lifted the defendant's suspension, and decided not to implement the Tribunal's recommendations to expel the defendant but to bar the defendant from standing for national, and regional Green Party posts, and from standing for external posts, for seven years.

4 Disciplinary Tribunal Processes

Recent experiences of disciplinary matters especially, but not exclusively, the disciplinary process described above, have shown the need to improve the procedures. Regional Council has begun the process of dealing with this, which includes revising the Disciplinary Tribunal Standing Orders.

5 Confidentiality.

The need for confidentiality that arose out of the Disciplinary Tribunal referred to above, highlighted the lack of guidelines in this area, and the lack of provision for the keeping, and communicating, of confidential material. The GPEx Management Co-ordinator has been asked to consider the practical arrangements needed to keep confidential records.

6 Procedure for the Censure and Recall of GPEx Co-ordinators and Green Party Members by Regional Council

Regional Council has on occasion needed to consider whether to censure a member of GPEx and might need to use the recall process for a GPEx Co-ordinator, or consider whether to censure a member of the party. There is no process in place to guide Regional Council, and to ensure that the individuals concerned are treated fairly. Regional Council is considering whether to adopt a procedure that has been put before it.

7 Approval of Sedgefield By-election Candidate.

Since there is no local party that covers Sedgefield, and

since there was insufficient time to allow a full selection procedure for a candidate, Regional Council was asked to approve the selection of Chris Haine as candidate for the Sedgfield by-election. This was agreed by the Co-Chairs and On-call Councillors and endorsed by the July meeting of Regional Council.

8 Review of the Constitutional Provision for the Selection of Candidates.

A working group has been set up by Regional Council to follow up the decision by Conference to revise the rules for the selection of Green Party candidates. The group has circulated a paper for comment and will hold meetings at this conference in order to consult the Party.

9 By-election for a Green island Network representative

One of the Green Island Network representatives resigned and a by-election was held in July. Phelim McCafferty was elected.

10 Election of Regional Councillors

On the advice of a previous SOC, a motion was sent to SOC for the Spring conference in order to remove any ambiguity in the requirements of the constitution that election of Regional Councillors must be by postal ballot. SOC decided that their recent clarification of the constitution meant that the motion was not necessary.

11 Virtual Conferencing.

Regional Council agreed to support a pilot project by the

South-West Region to try out a virtual debate in advance of Conference.

12 Agreement with the Green Parties covered by the Green Island Network

At the request of the Green Islands Network, a memorandum of understanding was agreed to on behalf of the Green Party of England and Wales by the Regional Council – see Appendix 3.

13 Candidate Agreement for the Green Party Nominees to the House of Lords.

Regional Council agreed on behalf of the Green Party of England and Wales to the document drawn up by the Green Parties of the United Kingdom for future candidates for the House of Lords – see Appendix 4.

14 Representation on the Green Islands Network by the Green Party of England and Wales.

Regional Council agreed to support the proposal to change the constitution so that the autonomous Wales Green Party elected its own representative to the Network, and that Regional Council would elect two representatives for the Green Parties of England.

15 Guests of Regional Council.

The following members of GPEx attended Regional Council during the year. Richard Mallender (Chair), Natalie Bennett (Internal Communications), Peter Cranie (Elections), Brian Heatley (Policy Development), Richard

Lawson (Joint International), Volker Heinemann (Joint International), Derek Wall (Male Principal Speaker). In addition Noel Lynch, Staff Liaison Officer, and Jenny Jones (GLA member), and some local members attended.

16 Delegates to the European Green Party

Regional Council was concerned at the reports it received about the lack of suitable arrangements to ensure that delegates followed Green Party policy at the meetings of the European Green Party. International Committee now has an agreed procedure which Regional Council expects to be followed.

17 Censure of an International Co-ordinator.

Regional Councillors had been given assurances, in advance of the procedure for delegates being formally adopted, that arrangements would be made for delegate meetings and agreements about voting. One of the International Co-ordinators, Volker Heinemann was censured by Regional Council for not adhering to these assurances.

18 Approval of the European Trades Union Petition on Public services

Regional Council approved a paper in support of the petition.

19 Payment to GPEx Members.

Regional Council was concerned that GPEx had agreed to the payment of

some of its members without prior approval by Conference.

20 Political Committee

A new GPEx committee was set up during the year, Political Committee. Regional Council Co-Chairs are members of that committee. Co-Chairs had concerns about some aspects of the way the committee has operated, and Regional Council has asked the GPEx Chair to provide a review of its work for their October meeting.

21 Conference Committee Membership

Regional Council agreed to write to Conference Committee to remind them that all elected members of the committee were entitled to be involved in the work of the committee. However, it was decided not to send the letter when it was learnt that the person being excluded was now involved in the work of the committee.

22 Concerns about the Actions of SOC

During the year, the actions of SOC have caused considerable concern to Regional Council. SOC seem to have gone outside its remit on a number of occasions. One of the Co-Chairs has been in discussion with the SOC Co-ordinator about these matters.

23 Immigration Policy

Regional Council agreed that it would be of benefit to the party to improve its ability to speak on immigration issues and will be in touch with policy committee about this.

24 Leadership Referendum

Regional Council agreed to keep a watching brief over the Leadership referendum in its constitutional role to ensure the health of the democratic processes of the party. It appointed representatives from both sides of the debate to keep it informed. It ruled that the contact details of Green Party members should not be made available for canvassing of members.

David Wall	Nicola
Watson	
Co-Chair	Co-
Chair	

Appendix 1

Green Party Regional Council Standing Orders

1.0 Status

The Green Party Regional Council (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Council) is defined by the constitution of the Green Party (hereinafter called the Party).

2.0 Organisation

2.1 At the first meeting following the Autumn Conference, the Regional Council shall elect from within its number two Co-Chairpersons, one man and one woman in accordance with the Constitution. The Co-Chairs will normally be expected to share responsibility for organising the chairing of meetings of the Regional Council. Other members of the Regional Council or of the Party may act as the Chair, provided this is acceptable to a majority of the members of the Regional Council present at the meeting.

2.2 At the first meeting

following the Autumn Conference, the Regional Council shall elect from within its number at least one officer (hereinafter referred to as Friends) per member of the Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Executive). The Friends will normally be expected to support and advise the individual Executive member whom they have been elected to work with and to sit on any committee which their particular Executive member may create in accordance with the Constitution. The Co-Chairs of the Regional Council shall act as the Friends of the Chair of the Executive.

2.3 At the first meeting following the Autumn Conference, the Regional Council shall appoint a Secretary/Minute Taker. The role of the Secretary/Minute Taker shall be to copy and circulate the agenda and supporting papers for each meeting of the Regional Council, to liaise with the appropriate Local Party or Region in the booking and organisation of the venues for Regional Council meetings, and to take, copy, and circulate minutes of meetings. The Secretary/Minute Taker will also be expected to write letters and deal with external enquiries on behalf of the Regional Council, collect items for inclusion on the agenda for Regional Council meetings, and to keep a log of any reports sent to or produced by Regional Council members in their capacity as Regional Council Friends.

2.4 At each of its meetings, the Regional Council shall elect from within its number three On-Call Councillors until the next Regional

Council meeting. The On-Call Councillors together with the Co-Chairs will normally be empowered to take responsibility on behalf of the Regional Council for all matters not the proper business of other elected and appointed Councillors.

2.5 Voting in elections for all officers of the Regional Council shall be by the Single Transferable Vote with a provision for negative voting.

2.6 At its first meeting, Regional Council will elect a Treasurer.

2.7 At the first meeting following the appointment of a Treasurer by the Party Executive, the Regional Council shall vote whether to ratify this appointment. The vote shall be by simple majority.

2.8 Regional Council shall create Working Groups. The composition, terms of reference, power, frequency of meetings, duration and quora shall be determined at a full meeting of Regional Council.

2.9 At its first meeting, Regional Council shall appoint representatives on the Green Islands Network (GIN).

2.10 In the event of a casual vacancy arising in a post that existed at a previous Regional Council meeting and where work or agreed actions need to be carried out before the next full Regional Council meeting, the Co-Chairs shall be empowered to appoint a Regional Councillor to fill the post temporarily.

2.11 In the event of a Regional Council representative or office holder being unable to carry

out his/her duties on a temporary basis, the Co-Chairs shall be empowered to appoint someone to take their place, consulting as necessary, should that seem desirable.

3.0 Meetings

3.1 The Regional Council shall meet in accordance with the requirements of the Party Constitution.

3.2 The first meeting following the Autumn Conference shall normally take place within two months of the Annual Conference.

3.3 Regional Council may invite any person to attend a meeting as an adviser or observer.

3.4 If possible, the dates of all meetings of the Regional Council shall be published at least two weeks in advance to Local Parties and they should also be published in the Party newsletter and in activists mailings.

3.5 Business which is discussed at Regional Council meetings will have been published in advance to members of the Regional Council in an agenda. No business will be discussed which has not appeared in the agenda except emergency business - this will be considered only if a majority of the members of Regional Council present, vote to consider it. Voting on the outcome of emergency business shall be by simple majority.

3.6 Business for the agenda must be delivered to the Secretary not later than four weeks before the meeting

3.7 An agenda will be sent

to all members of the Regional Council at least two weeks before the meeting, accompanied by supporting papers where these have been provided.

3.8 The Co-Chairs and/or Secretary may highlight uncontroversial agenda items for fast-tracking. Such items must be agreed as appropriate for fast-tracking at the start of each meeting.

3.9 Business on which the Regional Council has previously reached a decision will not usually return to be reconsidered by the Regional Council for at least two clear meetings. Any reconsidered business will require a simple majority to be discussed. Voting on the outcome of the business will also require a simple majority.

3.10 The need to address emergency issues that arise between full Regional Council meetings may be met by means of electronic mail or telephone conference. Emergency issues shall be defined as those which, in the opinion of both Co-Chairs, if not addressed before the next full Regional Council meeting, may result in outcomes considered to be detrimental to the well-being of the Green Party. Such interim decisions shall be subject to the agreement of four out of the five following Regional Council Officers: two Co-Chairs and three On-call Councillors. All interim decisions shall be reported to, and ratified by the next full Regional Council meeting irrespective of agenda deadlines.

3.11 An emergency meeting of GPRC must be arranged following a request signed by ten GPRC members.

4.0 Recall of Members of the Executive

4.1 Recall petitions from Local Parties shall be submitted to the Secretary.

4.2 Recall petitions shall be validated by the Convenor of the Standing Orders Committee. A valid recall petition shall bear the signatures of three officers of the Local Party, or in the absence of sufficient officers, of members of the Local Party appointed in their stead.

4.3 The Standing Orders Committee shall be responsible for ascertaining the numbers of valid Local Parties in existence, so that the number of petitions sufficient for recall can be validated.

4.4 When a sufficient number of valid petitions has been received for recall, the Secretary shall without delay:

- a) notify the member(s) of the Executive concerned of their immediate suspension
- b) notify the members of the Regional Council of the suspension
- c) notify Local Parties of the suspension
- d) cause information of the suspension to be published in the next edition of the Party newsletter.
- e) place on the agenda for the next meeting of the Regional Council the determination of the date for a new ballot for the post(s) and request that the Electoral Returning Officer be present for the debate.

5.0 Disciplinary Matters

5.1 Disciplinary matters shall first be considered by a

Tribunal (Constitution 4vii)

5.2 Should Regional Council need to appoint members to a Tribunal, they shall be chosen by lot from among those Regional Council members who are not involved in the matter and are not Co-Chairs.

5.3 When considering appeals, Regional Council shall normally hear arguments and evidence in open session, and shall consider its decision in closed session. The following shall also be excluded from the closed session and decision:

- a) members of the Tribunal
- b) members involved in the disciplinary matter
- c) any member who as Co-chair of Regional Council or chair of the Executive approved the bringing of the matter to a Tribunal.

5.4 Clause 5.3 shall also apply if there is disagreement on whether to approve the Tribunal's recommendations, even if there is no appeal.

5.5 Regional Council may not impose a harsher retribution than the Tribunal, nor may it reinstate a suspension that the Tribunal lifted. It shall not consider appeals from the plaintiff.

5.6 In hearing appeals, Regional Council shall seek to give equal time to both sides. It shall hear first the grounds for the appeal from the defendant (eg error of fact, error of judgement, error of interpretation of the Party's rules). Regional Council shall confine its consideration to these grounds, and in other matters shall accept the position of the Tribunal.

5.7 See, in addition to the

above standing orders, 5.1 to 5.6, standing orders for Disciplinary Tribunals as set out in a separate section.

6.0 Miscellaneous

6.1 Regional Council shall determine Policy Statements in accordance with the Appendix hereto.

6.2 Regional Council shall report to Conference. It shall provide a record of its business to the Executive and make the record available to the membership.

7.0 Standing Orders

7.1 These Standing Orders are subsidiary to and dependent on the Constitution of the Party and deal only with matters which concern the dealings of the Regional Council. They should be considered only in the company of the Constitution, which lays down many regulations concerning the Regional Council, not all of which are repeated here.

7.2 These Standing Orders may be amended by the Conference of the Party or by another conference to which the power to do this has been specifically delegated by the preceding Conference. The change will require a simple majority in accordance with the Standing Orders For Conduct of Conference.

7.3 These Standing Orders may be temporarily amended by a two thirds vote of all members of the Regional Council, and the changes made will stand until the next Conference. If temporary changes are not brought about before the next Conference or are not accepted by that Conference, these Standing Orders will

revert to the unamended version, but the same amendment may be made again should Regional Council so deem necessary.

7.4 If the Constitution of the Party is amended without an appropriate change being made in these Standing Orders, the Standing Orders Committee may amend them in such a way as to bring them into line with the constitution without further authorisation.

Appendix 2

GPRC Special Meeting
Saturday 17 February - 1.00 pm-5.00 pm

Welsh Congregational Church, Bath Street, Birmingham

This special meeting was called to decide whether to ratify the recommendations of the tribunal held on 3 December 2006 to investigate the circumstances surrounding the nomination of Hugo Charlton for a seat in the House of Lords.

Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) had available all the documents provided to the tribunal. An instruction was sent by Standing Orders Committee (SOC) to GPRC on 14 February 2007 that the only document to be used was the recommendations of the Tribunal. Such a ruling had not been requested by GPRC but was noted.

In making its decision, GPRC's interpretation was that the options available to it were:

1 To approve the recommendations of the Tribunal

2 Not to approve the recommendations of the Tribunal

3 To approve the recommendations of the Tribunal with a less harsh sanction

In its discussions, GPRC took the following into account.

By the deadline of 5 February, no appeal had been received from Hugo Charlton although some correspondence had passed between him and the Co-chairs. GPRC considered whether one of these letters constituted an appeal within the rules, however the meeting agreed that it did not.

Disciplinary Tribunal Standing Order 8.4 states:

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.

This leaves open to interpretation what GPRC may consider in the absence of an appeal.

GPRC members had received in advance the following documents:

The original submission by the Plaintiff
The response by Hugo Charlton
The recommendations of the Tribunal
The notes of the Tribunal

In coming to its decision, GPRC noted that the original submission by the Plaintiff was excessive in length and scope. At well over 300 pages, it contains assertions and opinions that had no bearing on the case. Also, information had been provided in confidence which witnesses had not expected to be printed and circulated in this manner.

GPRC was concerned at the length of time it had taken to carry out the disciplinary process. There were many reasons for this, including illness. The unsuitability of the Plaintiff's submission led to delays while the Tribunal negotiated with the Defendant over which sections would be used. GPRC also noted that some delay was caused by the Defendant refusing to release papers requested by the Tribunal. As far as GPRC is aware, the Defendant has still not released one document despite many requests.

GPRC regretted that its view that one of the original Tribunal members was unsuitable due to a perceived bias was not accepted and that it took too long to resolve this situation, necessitating intervention by GPEx. However, GPRC notes that the membership of the Tribunal when it was finally agreed was satisfactory to all parties.

GPRC noted that the Plaintiff's submission contained references to the performance of Hugo Charlton in his role as Chair of GPEx. GPRC noted that there are mechanisms available to censure or remove a member of GPEx and wondered why GPEx did not act on these concerns earlier.

This was a serious disciplinary matter and GPRC was generally satisfied that the Tribunal carried out its difficult task with integrity. GPRC supported the majority of the findings of the Tribunal and there was some support for its recommendation that Hugo Charlton be expelled from the Green Party. However, GPRC as a whole was not persuaded that this was the appropriate sanction, especially given the many concerns about the conduct of the disciplinary process. A wide range of views was expressed and variety of sanctions considered; the final decision was necessarily a compromise but had the support of a clear majority of the Regional Council.

GPRC agreed that the suspension of Hugo Charlton's membership imposed by the Tribunal be lifted.

GPRC passed the following resolution:

"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."

Dave Wall Co-Chair
Nicola Watson Co-Chair

Appendix 3

Memorandum of Understanding

Mindful of the history of these islands and recognising our collective responsibilities, we reaffirm:

- a our mutual recognition of individual membership and the provision of access and observer rights at annual conferences
- b collaboration in the selection of nominees for the House of Lords, and for their ongoing accountability to the Parties of the United Kingdom
- c co-ordination of specific campaigns and policy initiatives
- d co-operation in preparation for and at times of elections
- e commitment to co-ordination of our Parties and representatives in the European Green Party
- f support of our MEPs.

We acknowledge the contribution made by elected representatives to the development of Green Politics throughout these Islands;

The Green Parties of these Islands regard Green Islands Network as an appropriate mechanism which gives expression to mutually beneficial recognition of our Parties' North-South and East-West links.

Our Member Parties join in affirming the common responsibility to further the cause of justice, peace and co-operation across these islands as embodied in Good Friday Agreement.

Appendix 4

Candidate Agreement for Green Party Nominees to the House of Lords

Preamble

The purpose of this document is to agree clear guidelines with nominees who represent the Green Parties of the United Kingdom (hereafter referred to as Parties). It is designed to foster a positive, supportive and constructive relationship with the Parties. Nominees should always bear in mind that they are responsible to the Parties and to each other, as much as the Parties are responsible to the nominees.

You are asked to sign at the end.

On taking your seat in the House of Lords

- 1 Nominees should promote and support the policies of the Parties in any materials, speeches, press releases, interviews and other occasions. Where there is a divergence in policy positions, the nominee will make reasonable efforts to consult with the relevant policy spokespersons and to reflect a consensus in line with our common values and principles.
- 2 At the start of each parliamentary session, the nominees shall make every effort to consult with each of the Parties to identify key themes and messages. This does not impact on nominees drawing on the full range of policy to react to queries.
- 3 Nominees are asked to copy press and media releases to each of the Parties. Nominees will make every effort to facilitate media

opportunities identified by each of the media teams of the three Parties.

of each of the Parties. Each annual report shall include sections on matters of concern to each of the sponsoring Parties

Policy Committee have proposed one further motion, an enabling motion covering a review of our policy on Northern Ireland. Following the resumption of devolved government, the current policy is extremely out of date and arguably unnecessary; the motion suggests a review in consultation with the other Green Parties in the Green Island's Network.

There are eleven other policy motions on this agenda. Could we endorse Standing Orders Committee's concern that people are still failing to provide proper synopses for motions, or indeed any synopsis at all. All that many members ever see of motions are the synopses published in Green Activist, and they are a key part of our democratic policy making process. Policy Committee do not support the Standing Orders Committee sponsored motion on the process for compositing motions, which potentially affects policy motions as well as organisational ones. The current position is that conference, in practice usually guided by the chair of the session concerned, has discretion to decide the order in which amendments are considered. Under the proposed new arrangement the proposers of motions will be able to undermine this discretion. Supposing for example that there are two amendments, the first deleting part of the text of the original in such a way that the second more minor amendment to that part of the text is no longer relevant. The sensible way to take this would normally be to take the second more minor amendment first, so that the first amendment can still be taken whatever has happened to the second.

- 4 Nominees are asked to help the three Green Parties by making available HMSO publications as requested and by alerting the Parties to relevant forthcoming legislations and debates. They should also take any opportunity which arises to initiate or amend legislation arising out of the Parties' policies.

If you understand and agree with the above, please sign below

Signed:

Name (Print)

Date:

A5 Policy Committee Report

For the first time for a long time we have two new Voting Papers for this conference, which are not simply existing sections of the MfSS being proposed for review.

The first is on Government. The last three conferences have discussed the Draft Voting Paper. We currently have three sections in the MfSS covering Public Administration and Government. They are inconsistent, sometimes out of date, and have some notable gaps in areas such as the organisation of central government, where the new paper proposes a radical new approach.

The second is largely on media and sport. This is all new policy in an important area we have neglected for too long. The Draft Voting Paper was discussed at last conference, but the section on culture has not been included in the Voting Paper as we do not feel it is yet ready; instead there is a separate Culture Draft Voting Paper. We owe special thanks to Jonathan Dixon for the government paper, and to Roger Creagh-Osborne, and earlier Matt Follett, for media and sport.

- 5 Each of the Parties will be responsible for keeping the nominee informed of latest news, policy ideas, new materials and any other ways in which the nominee can support their campaigns, particularly during election periods.
- 6 Nominees should conduct themselves in a manner such as not to bring the Parties into disrepute or to result in the Parties being presented in an adverse light. If nominees have reason to believe that something they have said or done is likely to be used against them or the Parties, they should contact the national offices of the three Parties.
- 7 The Parties are committed to supporting nominees and to working with them to resolve any disagreements.
- 8 The nominee agrees to prepare annual reports to the Executive bodies

However, under the proposal, the proposers of the motion can simply accept the first amendment, and so ensure that the second is not debated. It should be for conference to take such a decision, taking account of all the circumstances (and the variety of potential circumstances is endless, this is just one example), not the proposers of the motion. Other policy work since last conference has included drafting a new policy pointer on housing (thanks to Jacquetta Fewster), creating a much more comprehensive budget position than we have had in recent years, including the idea of a carbon budget, dealing as ever with routine policy enquiries and keeping the MfSS and Record of Policy statements up to date. Our recent success in council elections looks as if it is going to have a devastating effect on the membership of Policy Committee, with three members leaving because of election success or the knock on effects of other's success. So don't be shy, we will need a lot of new members next year, and please feel free to talk to me about what it involves. But my thanks are due to the members of the existing committee for all their hard work and support. Brian Heatley
Policy Development
Coordinator

A6 Campaigns Committee Report

No report submitted

A7 Disputes Resolution Committee Report

This has been a quiet six months for DRC with no new applications for DRC assistance in resolving disagreements between Green Party members. Two disagreements where

elected bodies failed to respond have re-emerged at GPRC. In two other cases no action was possible because elected bodies believed that they had already carried out their own resolution process to exhaustion. In one case the elected body wishes to continue their own efforts at resolution without DRC assistance.

Two meetings of the committee were held in the last six months, at the Spring Conference in Swansea and in Birmingham. The response by DRC to the ignoring by elected bodies of requests by others for DRC intervention was discussed in Birmingham, and as a result motion D43 on the Conference agenda has been put forward.

This requires elected bodies to send a representative to attend a resolution process if one is requested. DRC does not have power to punish non-attendance other than by reporting a failure to comply to the next conference. The real benefit will be that the party can make clear that it considers that its elected representatives should make use of the resolution process. This could avoid the tensions and expenditure of members time involved in recent Disciplinary Tribunal and Censure situations. DRC hope that conference will give the necessary two thirds majority support required to make this change to the constitution. Clear support from Green Party members is essential to continue this green operation.

The benefit of the quiet period has been that there has been time to consider the increasing experience of dispute resolution, and to condense this into advice for

resolvers on how to approach disagreements, and advice to those in disagreement with others in the Green Party on the contacts with and the benefits of Dispute Resolution.

Owen Clarke Co-ordinator
Dispute Resolution
Committee

A8. MEP Trust Report

The MEP Trust's primary task is to act as agent for the England and Wales Green MEPs, managing certain monies and operating as the employer of their staff – both in the UK and in Brussels. The monies the Trust manages are not and cannot be monies of the Party.

The Trust meets quarterly in London and is currently made up of the following members: Jean Lambert MEP, Caroline Lucas MEP, Volker Heinemann (Co-International Co-ordinator), Richard Lawson (Co-International Co-ordinator), Margaret Wright (for GPRC), Tony Cooper (for South East region), John Street (for London region), Steve Emmott (finance), and Emma Hallett (personnel).

There were fewer staff changes in the year compared to prior years. All posts are currently filled.

The MEPs have issued and disseminated a number of publications over the past year. At the Green Party conferences in particular a high volume of these publications are made available to members and the general public. Anyone wanting to receive MEPs newsletters and other materials directly may leave their email details at the MEPs' stall at conference. These reports cover the detail of the MEPs work during the

year.

Access to recent MEP publications may be found on their websites. Both have produced and co-authored significant works during the year.
www.jeanlambertmep.org.uk
,
www.carolinelucasmep.org.uk

The MEPs continue to value the existence of the Trust. Trust spending continues to be within the budget limits set by the European Parliament.

Volker Heinemann. Richard Lawson

August 2007

A9 Green World Editorial Board

The last twelve months have seen a second successive year of stability for Green World: four issues were published as planned, and each of these was well within budget. There have been both plaudits and criticisms over the content of the issues, but the balance of overall opinion has been strongly positive. Green World is the official magazine of the party, but it is not some bland official mouthpiece; it is primarily the magazine for the party's members, and as such I hope that we have provided a read that is both stimulating and informative.

Particular developments of note over the last 12 months include:

- the growth in bulk orders taken by local parties for their use. The organisation and distribution has been undertaken by two editorial board members, Susan Murray and Owen Clarke, avoiding any extra workload for party office
- the restarting of sales through specialist bookshops with the help of the distributor Central Books; a barcode has now also been added to the front of Green World to assist retail sales
- the redesign and improvement of the website to allow access to past issues, comments on articles, and audio and video streaming
- increasing use of the Green World mailing by other sections of the party to distribute information to members (particularly Green Activist and the First Agenda Summary for conference)
- the insertion of a 'Vote Green' poster as a centrespread in the issue immediately prior to the local elections in May

We have not been without our mistakes and problems; the omission of the imprint from the Vote Green poster was an embarrassing and avoidable error, although one that fortunately had no long-term consequences; and advertising revenues have remained relatively low,

although the increasing number of 'contra' deals with other organisations has been a welcome development.

Challenges for the year ahead are most notably to do with personnel – after five years as editor, Richard Scrase has announced his desire to stand down, so we are currently searching for a replacement. Our advertising agent, Jacob Saunders, who has done the job for a similar length of time is also standing down. However, we have now completed the appointment of a business manager for the magazine, and this will hopefully enable more of the ideas we have to come to fruition.

Finally, thanks are due for their work in putting each issue together over the past year to Richard Scrase, Jacob Saunders, and our designer Steve Chadburn. I'd also like to thank the other members of the Editorial Board for their help and input, and the various members who write articles and proofread – all of which is undertaken for free, and frequently at short notice.

Matthew Ledbury

A10 Conferences Committee Report

The new members of the Committee elected at Spring Conference picked up the ball

after the local election campaigns, and have organised the Autumn Conference almost from scratch. We hope that colleagues are pleased with the new arrangements. The previous arrangements at Oxford had been made for a date which was not suitable locally, nor for the media, and could not be changed.

This Autumn Conference is being held at a new venue. The facilities we are using are those of the Liverpool Hope University at their Everton campus. We believe members will enjoy the new facilities, and the chance to visit a European City of Culture for 2008. We are very grateful that they took us on at such short notice, and to Peter Cranie for suggesting a local venue.

The Conferences Committee are Joe Blakesley (stalls), Peter Cranie (co-opted from Liverpool GP, bookings), John Norris (convener, venue, general enquiries), Rob Smith (accommodation), Viv Smith (GPCRC Friend), and John Street (co-opted, treasurer, timetable).

We have been working with others in the party to deliver the arrangements, and especially with Liverpool Green Party. We have sought to divide the work between those involved rather than adopting a centralised approach. We apologise if colleagues have at times had to deal with more than one of us as a result.

FUTURE CONFERENCES
We have also undertaken investigations to identify venues not just for the next conference, but several in advance. We hope this will become the normal practice. A particular concern has been to identify venues that are economical for the party, but which also offer cheap accommodation for members

nearby. Those accommodation costs are paid directly by members. Bearing in mind that half the party subscribes on the "low waged" rate, cheapness is an essential requirement to enable attendance.

SPRING CONFERENCE 2007
We apologise that this report does not cover the Spring Conference. Of the three members elected to run that conference, two of them decided to run it and exclude the third. This was addressed by the Executive and Regional Council. The two members left the committee after Spring Conference, and additional members were elected and co-opted.

THANKS

We should like to thank all our colleagues who have contributed to the organisation of Conference. We thank Natalie Bennett in particular for sorting out problems with the party's websites and e-mail, where we have experienced some difficulties.

We should like to wish our colleague Viv Smith all the best in recovering her health. Viv suffered a heart attack at GPRC, and has had to stand down during her recovery.

John Norris

A11 Association of Green Councillors Report

SOC Note – this is not a formal report required by the Constitution but has been included at the request of the AGC.

Local Elections

This year saw the AGC finally hit the historic three figure mark with 110 Principal Authority Councillors (up from 93). In total there were 39 holds, 24 gains and 7

losses. The AGC also includes around 140 Parish and Town Councillors. AGC Assistant, Jon Hooper, prepared a "New Councillor Pack" which was sent out to 30 new Principal Authority Councillors and 62 new Town & Parish Councillors. The pack was accompanied by a letter from the AGC Chair, Darren Johnson, and Green Party Elections Co-ordinator, Peter Cranie. Likewise, we also wrote to all departing councillors in appreciation of their contribution to Green politics and local government.

Working with the Local Government Association

A key priority has been to develop our relationship with the Local Government Association, through our membership of the LGA's Independent Group, which covers all councillors who are outside the three largest parties. Such a relationship led to the Greens being offered the Deputy Chair of the LGA's Regeneration and Transport Board. Cllr John Whitelegg was elected to fill that role in July 2006 and re-elected in July 2007. The Independent Group also kindly agreed to host the first day of this year's AGC conference, as well as using their budget allocation to fund two training events for Green councillors.

AGC Annual Conference

Over 60 councillors as well as other key activists attended the AGC annual conference in London this year. The first day of the conference was held at the Local Government Association's headquarters in Smith Square. The opening speech was given by Paul Coen, Chief Executive of the LGA, and there was also a

climate change panel and a look at the implications of the current local government reforms. Workshop sessions included: Green approaches to crime, Influencing Local Development Frameworks, Making best use of Scrutiny, Green budget amendments, and Working with the major parties. At the AGC's AGM on the second day of the conference the following officers were elected:

- Cllr Darren Johnson – Chair
- Cllr Maya de Souza – Secretary
- Cllr Susan Murray – Treasurer
- Cllr Miriam Kennet – Parish and Town Councillors representative
- Cllr Adrian Ramsay – AGC Representative on Elections Committee
- Cllr John Whitelegg – Nominee for the LGA's Transport and Regeneration Board

AGC Website

The new AGC website has been fully operational for a year now. It was created as an extension of the members' website, with the intention of encouraging people to make better use of what is already a useful resource. Jon Hooper's technical knowledge and capabilities have been invaluable in setting this up. The website is now used to set out successful campaigns and motions, to list those with particular areas of expertise, to run the buddying system and to store reports of meetings and other events. An on-line web-based system has been set up to assist new councillors and learn from the large number of experienced councillors we do have.

Member Development Events

Darren worked with the Leadership Centre for Local Government to stage two training events for Green councillors. The first "Pioneer Greens" was aimed primarily at lone Green councillors while the second "Powerbroking Greens" was aimed at more established groups on No Overall Control councils.

Links with European Green Councillors

Maya and Oxford councillor, David Smith, attended a conference of Green Councillors in Barcelona in Autumn 2007. Attending this 2-day conference assisted greatly in terms of understanding what Greens had achieved elsewhere. Germany and other northern European countries appear to be many leagues ahead in terms of recycling and energy efficiency at least in part because of the campaigns fought by green parties. Other issues were also covered including: minority rights, gender equality and climate change.

AGC Assistant

The AGC officers would like to put on record their thanks to Jon Hooper, for the excellent support work he continues to carry out as the AGC's paid Assistant. In this role Jon has averaged twenty-one hours per month at the standard Green Party rate of £8 per hour which is paid for out of councillors' subscriptions to the AGC.

Cllr Darren Johnson – Chair
Cllr Maya de Souza – Secretary

Section B (Voting Papers)

B1. Media and Sport section of the MfSS .

Synopsis:

Spring Conference in 2005 passed an Enabling Motion requesting Policy Committee to bring to a future Conference a proposal for an MfSS policy section on Culture, Media and Sport. This proposal should incorporate the present Arts section of the MfSS and include within its scope commercial advertising and sponsorship.

Following well attended fringe meetings at earlier conferences, a Draft Voting Paper was presented to last conference, and discussed in a workshop. The policy development process has gone faster for the material on general principles, the media and sport than it has for culture, and in view of this and also because of the potential size of the whole Voting Paper, Policy Committee in consultation with the relevant policy group has decided to submit a Voting Paper covering just the general principles and the media and sport sections to this conference. Culture will follow at a later conference at which point the Arts chapter will be deleted and subsumed into the Culture section.

This voting paper includes policy on commercial advertising as required by the enabling motion, but makes no proposals for the existing Arts section of the MfSS, since this will be covered by the future culture section. Nor does it include material on sponsorship, which will be covered in the Culture section and added to the Sport section.

The Voting Paper covers the following main topics:

- the importance of participation rather than passive consumption
- democratisation of access and ensuring no groups are excluded
- the importance of local cultural, media and sporting activities
- reserving a proportion of limited resources for public access
- concentration of media ownership
- public service broadcasting and the BBC
- commercial broadcasting, new media, and advertising
- sport in schools
- amateur and professional sport
- international and local sport

Motion:

Insert the following new section, entitled 'Culture, Media and Sport (general principles) and Sport and Media Policy in the MFSS

Culture, Media and Sport (general principles) and Sport and Media Policy

GENERAL

Background

CMS101. Culture Media Sport (CMS) are 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.

CMS102. 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 audience.

CMS103. The rise of new media at the beginning of the 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.

General Principles

CMS201. The central Green principle in Culture Media and Sport (CMS) shall be that of promoting participation over 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 age, gender, social, ethnic, economic or geographical factors.

CMS203. There is a particular duty on organisations responsible for administering cultural, media and sporting activities to ensure that both participants and audiences are not subject to any form of discriminatory treatment or abuse.

CMS204. We believe, as across all our policy, in democratising and localising where possible. Regulatory structures need to be effective and accountable, and applied and controlled at the most local practicable level.

CMS205. 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.

CMS206. 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. public service channels, public playing fields, support for local theatre infrastructure)

General Policies

- a. Green elected members of government authorities will seek to introduce policies to promote the widest participation in culture, the media and sporting activities.
- b. Specific policy frameworks for each area are outlined below. All policy proposals are aiming to reinforce the core principles of accessibility,

localisation, participation and fair management of limited resources.

MEDIA

Media Background

CMS600. The media section covers three major areas:

- a) Broadcast media: primarily television and radio
- b) Print media: primarily newspapers, magazines and journals.
- c) New media: primarily internet delivery by landline, wireless and mobile access.

In addition this section deals with advertising in the media.

A major concern for a policy framework across all media is the ownership of the means of content production and distribution, particularly where this allows gatekeepers to control access to the medium

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 service purposes.

A third concern is that, particularly in the case of the traditional media (press and broadcast), there need to be systems to ensure a degree of local access and content.

Media Principles

CMS610. The Green Party believes that a public service element in mass communications is a vital part of Britain's democracy. A

healthy democracy is an informed democracy.

CMS611. The Green party believes that market mechanisms alone are an insufficient basis for regulation of the mass media.

CMS612. A key factor in Green Party media policy is recognition of the large influence that the mass media has on our democracy and our citizens. Public information supplied through mass media channels should not be subject to private or ministerial control.

CMS613. The world of mass media and digital communications is one of constant technological change and innovation. There is no reason why such changes cannot be utilised to facilitate greater public welfare and democracy.

CMS614. As a general principle data that is collected or generated at public expense should be made available to individual citizens for private use at no extra charge. Examples include Ordnance Survey mapping data and the Post Office postcode data

Media Objectives

CMS620. 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. Allowing individuals and companies to have too much influence undermines the operation of healthy informed democracy, not just in the UK, but across the EU and beyond.

CMS621. We would seek to encourage wider, more localised, participation and discourage any further concentration of media ownership. Local participation links in with our economic strategy of strong local economies (see EC500)

CMS622. Part of the role of public service broadcasting is to provide a shared space for all citizens. Atomised broadcasting contributes to an atomised society; publicly supported channels should seek to address the whole society, reflecting the diversity and common interests of the whole potential audience.

CMS623. Public service broadcasting means that information and education are given equal precedence to entertainment in terms of availability and are not ghettoised to inconvenient times.

CMS624. As noted above, a public service obligation also includes entertainment as part of the mix. A public service channel may help ensure that top quality entertainment is available at times and places where it may not be commercially viable. This could include offering repeats of peak time entertainment from other channels in non-peak slots, as well as the production of high quality original programming

CMS625. 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 and

providing sufficient funds to fully deliver the public service obligation through the Public Service Media Council (see CMS644).

CMS626. Across all the broadcasting media and press 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 unhelpful and we will seek ways to reintroduce and protect viable locally based channels.

CMS627. New media ownership and access need to be 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.

Media Policies

a) General

CMS630. We will establish a principle of appointing regulatory bodies by democratic means, through nomination from appropriate democratically organised bodies, including trade unions and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), as well as direct and indirect elections. All senior appointments, such as Director General of the BBC, or Chair of Independent Television Commission (ITC), should be made by regulatory

bodies, and where appropriate, scrutinised by the relevant Select Committee in the House of Commons.

CMS631. We envisage The Office of Communications (OFCOM) remaining as the primary regulatory authority across all media, but the remit will be amended to give social and cultural concerns equal weight to commercial factors. The current bias against intervention has tended to create a focus on market failure as the basis for regulation.

CMS632. Membership of the OFCOM Board and the Board Committees will be reformed to include democratically elected representatives from stakeholders.

CMS633. The role of OFCOM will be further expanded to take on statutory responsibility and regulation for matters relating to print media. In the first instance OFCOM may delegate front line complaint handling to the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), but OFCOM will provide a regulatory framework for the work of the PCC

CMS634. Regulations across media/print investigations: A free press & media and free speech are fundamental to our society and should not be constrained by spurious definitions of the public interest. Privacy laws, whilst protecting citizens' rights, should not be used to obstruct proper investigative journalism.

Amendment 4

In CMS634, delete, "Regulations across media/print investigations: A free press & media and free

speech", and replace with, "A free press and media".

signed
Roger Creagh-Osborne
Cornish Green Party (Bagas
Gwer Kernewek)
Colloggett Cottage, Landulph,
Cornwall, PL12 6ND

ALSO:

Donald Lowe
Chris Haine
Matt Follett

CMS635. 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. The Green Party will support the role of unions in the media, with a view to developing a formal union representation on governing boards of large media organisations in the UK.

b) Public Service Broadcasting

CMS640. In television and radio an important component of a public service obligation is the production and promotion of non ratings-led programming. Public service broadcasters will not be expected to maximise ratings where they can demonstrate a cultural value to their work.

CMS641. The primary public service broadcaster will remain the BBC funded wholly by public money from a tax which may be ring-fenced (hypothecated) for public service broadcast use. The operation of this tax should not be regressive. The existing licence fee will be abolished and in the first instance replaced by a guaranteed inflation linked payment from general taxation.

CMS642. As part of its public service obligation the BBC will be required to

continue to develop its centres of excellence in all regions of the UK and have a significant local presence in all regions. The centralisation of functions in London does great dis-service to the rest of the country, and modern technology makes it feasible to run a fully dispersed national organisation.

CMS643. 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 in the BBC or to prevent the BBC competing in certain markets against commercial companies, but to recognise 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 must include the idea of public utility.

CMS644. The Green Party believes in maintaining public funding, 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 regulators. This would include significant local production and distribution of content reflecting local communities.

CMS645. Whilst the BBC remains a public service organisation it is vital to distance it from Government or State interference. The level of funding available and its distribution between the BBC and other organisations fulfilling public service obligations shall be removed from direct government control through a democratically appointed Public Service Media Council.

CMS646. The Public Service Media Council (PSMC) will agree with government the total level of funding required for all public service media to deliver the agreed public service obligations. PSMC will distribute the funding to appropriate organisations including the BBC.

CMS647. Where an existing public service medium is being supplanted by a new alternative (as for example in the switch from analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television (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.

c) Commercial Broadcasting

CMS650. We would seek to restore some public service obligations to the commercial TV and Radio broadcasters. In particular we wish to see the reintroduction and protection of locally owned and run television and radio channels through more stringent controls on the licences issued to broadcasters.

CMS651. We would establish Community Media Centres, at a sub-regional level, where residents of the area can be trained and produce programmes that reflect the diversity of perspectives in their community. These Community Media Centres should be run democratically and accountable to regional public broadcasting councils.

CMS652. We will remove financial and other bureaucratic barriers to small geographically based channels built around the local output of Community Media Centres.

CMS653. 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 both within and across media.

Amendment 5

Delete CMS653 and replace with: CMS653 Broadcast media will be regulated such that there is a presumption against aggregation of ownership both within and across media.

signed
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Cornish Green Party (Bagas Gwer Kernewek)
Colloggett Cottage, Landulph, Cornwall, PL12 6ND

COSIGNED:

Brian Heatley
Claire O'Neill
Matt Follett
And 2 others

CMS654. We are opposed to 'contesting' funds for Public service programmes (i.e. opening up a programme fund for which all Broadcasters can bid). 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 through PSMC (see CMS646) be opened to alternative channels.

d) Press and print mass media

CMS660. Ownership and control of national and local print newspapers and journals is a proper matter for regulation by OFCOM.

CMS661. 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.

CMS662. 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 (OFCOM) to ensure a vibrant print culture develops. Retailers shall not be tied into single distributor agreements for magazines and national chains will be encouraged to allow local management to source and stock local material.

CMS663. Measures will be introduced to encourage local ownership and editorial control of titles particular to specific communities, cities and regions.

CMS664. We will encourage local papers to report on local government issues (parish, town, district and principal authority levels) as a public service to help re-engage citizens with their governance.

e) New Media

CMS670. Democratisation of media/TV: the Green Party recognises and welcomes developments in broadband TV channels that allow free participation. The Green Party believes that government at all levels should encourage such democratisation of media, and wider participation in generating content.

CMS671. Councils will be encouraged and helped to make their public deliberations available through streaming media.

CMS672. The Green Party believes that the development of computer communications has reached the point where BT should

have an obligation to provide broadband capable infrastructure to every household. Funding for marginal 'uneconomic' lines may come from a small levy on every access line. The principle of universal access at the same base price to the household should prevail as with post and telephone services.

CMS673. The BBC will be allowed to carry its public service role over into new media through developing its web and online services funded from its general revenue stream. In line with the principle of limiting cross-media ownership, we may wish to see the new media arm of the BBC develop into a separate organisation which carries a public service obligation specifically for new digital media and funded from public money through the Public Service Media Council.

CMS674. As technologies evolve 'spare' spectrum or bandwidth may become available. This represents a valuable 'commons' which should not simply be auctioned to the highest bidder but a proportion should be reserved for public use.

f) Advertising

CMS680. Advertising has great impact on the world in which we live. The Green perspective is that in the context of deregulated commercial freedom and unsustainable consumption by citizens, advertising is in need of some restraint. Whilst we recognise the freedom of individuals to make informed choices for themselves, regulation is needed where the impact of consumption is to the detriment of society. Regulators have a particular

responsibility towards children and the vulnerable.

CMS681. Advertising to Children. Unsustainable economic growth is highly influenced by a culture of consumption. This culture is currently engendered in children and young people by advertising, particularly on television. Children must be protected from unscrupulous marketing and aggressive advertising. A Green government would strengthen regulation of advertising in media that may be viewed by children, and of products intended for consumption by children, to ensure that they are factual and informative and not manipulative.

CMS682. As specified in DU401 we will introduce a complete ban on promotion of tobacco and alcohol products through advertising or sponsorship.

CMS683. Environmental Advertising. Products which are harmful to the environment, for example in terms of greenhouse gas emissions through use, or embodied carbon in their manufacture or distribution, will be required to carry a prominent warning in all advertising. See also policies TR550, TR552 and TR553 on air travel advertising

CMS684. Social Advertising. The costs associated with advertising space create an imbalance between commercial and non-commercial organisations in their ability to influence the public. We will investigate means to provide access to all advertising media for groups seeking to redress a perceived imbalance.

CMS685. Political Advertising

Political Parties are not fundamentally commercial organisations, and need continuing access to media channels in order to help maintain a citizenry aware of the political issues and involved in the democratic process. The system of Party Political Broadcasts should be extended to allow all registered political parties some free access to media space outside election periods and in print as well as broadcast media. Access between elections would be in proportion to their registered membership.

Amendment 1

In paragraph CMS685, headed "Political Advertising", in penultimate sentence delete the word 'all', prior to 'registered political parties'. In the final sentence, replace 'in proportion to their registered membership' with 'dependent on the party exceeding a given threshold of votes cast in the last round of proportional representation elections, in line with the rules regarding eligibility for state funding of political parties (see PA307).'

PROPOSED: Jonathan Dixon and Brian Heatley
Justine Hall, Matt Follett + 2 others

Amendment 2

Add a new section after CMS685

CMS686 The aggregate and cumulative effect of advertising taken altogether is to increase overall demand and foster a materialist and consumption driven culture which is not sustainable. The overall volume of advertising that promotes unsustainable consumption will be controlled and gradually reduced. This control will be exercised by OFCOM, who may also exercise it over

forms of advertising not otherwise within their control. They will take into account, amongst other things:

a) the extent to which advertising is straightforward and factual, and provides useful information to consumers, or promotes worthwhile causes or activities, as against unsustainable consumption,

b) the need, given the importance of advertising revenues, to maintain and encourage diversity within the media and freedom of editorial expression,

c) an overall target for the volume of advertising provided by the government to OFCOM annually in the light of economic circumstances, and

d) the need to avoid unnecessary regulation of small scale or local activities that promote the development of the local economy or community.

Proposed by Brian Heatley, Brian Leslie, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Matt Follett and one other.

SPORT

Background

CMS800. Sport has a huge role to play in the culture and health of any society. We believe that currently there is an imbalance between participation and consumption of sport. Both participation as a player and consumption as a spectator have been subject to massive commercial pressures

Amendment 3

"Delete CMS800, replace with text from CMS810 as new CMS800, renumber CMS811 to CMS813 as CMS810 to CMS812"

Proposed by
Roger Creagh-Osborne,
Brian Heatley, Brian Orr
Clare O'Neill + 4 others

CMS801. 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 behaviours. We see a need for government to encourage and provide support for participation in all sports at local level.

CMS802. National excellence in sport can best arise as a result of a widespread engagement in sporting activity across age, class, race, gender and geography.

CMS803. Any sport that involves the killing or infliction of pain or suffering upon any animal is excluded from this section (see AR411)

Sport Principles

CMS810. 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.

CMS811. There are significant wider social benefits through increased participation in sport; for example health and well-being benefits translate into reduced pressure on the NHS (see H311) and improved green economic performance (see EC310)

CMS812. In line with the principles above, the Green Party believes that there is no place in sport at any level for

racism or any other form of discrimination.

CMS813. The Green Party further recognises that sport is one of the main remaining areas of gender discrimination. Women face many barriers (social, cultural, official) to full participation in many sports. This is an equally unacceptable discrimination.

Sport Policy

a) General

CMS830. Programmes to combat discrimination should be introduced wherever necessary, with a particular focus on young people.

b) Sport in School

CMS840. Participation in physical activities such as sport is a very 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.

CMS841. Sport in school should not be treated in the same way as other lessons. Since 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. This may be achieved by extending the school day and increasing resources specifically to enable sporting and physical activities.

CMS842. Schools should be aiming to provide a full, unbroken half day per week of sport for every child, in addition to daily opportunities for physical exercise. All sports should be open to all children and all children should be expected to participate in some sporting activity appropriate to their needs.

CMS843. 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.

CMS844. School playing fields should be protected from development through rigorous planning controls. All new schools should include sufficient indoor and outdoor facilities to ensure that all pupils can be accommodated.

CMS845. School sports facilities should be open for access by local clubs and teams outside teaching hours to ensure maximum use of a valuable resource. This would apply to all types of school however funded. In addition, as noted in ED320, community resources should be fully integrated into the educational system.

b) Amateur Sport

CMS850. 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.

CMS851. Local councils should ensure that facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools and sports fields are sufficient to meet demand. The importance of local amateur sporting teams should be recognised by government at all levels, who should provide assistance to such clubs whenever practical. This could include the use of school fields by clubs for matches, where such clubs are unable to maintain their own grounds.

c) Professional Sport

CMS860. 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. Access to a sporting career should be available without discrimination to anyone with the desire and ability to pursue it.

CMS861. In addition to their commercial aspect, professional sporting teams often represent communities at local or national level and this social function needs to be recognised and supported by developing structures which would allow local stakeholders to participate in the running of the business.

CMS862. 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. We will introduce legal mechanisms to allow transformation of such PLCs into Mutual Organisations with agreement of stakeholders.

CMS863. Where clubs wish to remain as PLCs, 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.

CMS864. Local authorities should be permitted to invest in shares in professional sports clubs which operate in their area as a means of maintaining a connection between the club and its community. Any dividends paid to the authority must be reinvested into public sporting facilities or coaching programmes in the area.

CMS865. We believe in 'safestanding' for sports stadia. This means that spectators who wish to stand will be allocated their own space separated from seating only areas. There are examples of good practice in countries like Germany and we believe it is high time the UK adopted this practice. Currently (2007) UEFA does not allow the use of standing areas in grounds for its fixtures. We would seek to undo this ban where such areas are proven to be safe for spectators and where the police are satisfied that no crowd control issues would arise.

d) International Sport

CMS870. 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.

CMS871. If a team is representing the nation then the Government should take a role in deciding whether it is appropriate for the team to take part in competition against a country with whom normal friendly, respectful, or diplomatic relations are not possible. The Government should not try to avoid taking action by treating the sport as if it was a private business venture.

CMS872. In determining whether a particular country is appropriate for international sporting contacts consideration should be given to the freedom of access by supporters and media in the country. 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.

CMS873. 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.

CMS874. 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.

CMS875. The UK should use its influence with the world sporting community to encourage the placing of international games across wider geographic areas to prevent excessive negative disruption to the lives and economies of host communities.

CMS876. 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.

f) Localised Sports

CMS880. Some sports are specific to small localised areas of the country. For example Cornish Wrestling and Sussex Stoolball. Local authorities should particularly seek to encourage and support such activities both in education and in the community.

ENDS

Roger Creagh-Osborne and
Policy Committee

B20. Public Administration and Government section of the MfSS .

Synopsis:

We currently have three sections in the MfSS covering Public Administration and Government. They are inconsistent, sometimes out of date, and have some notable gaps in areas such as the organisation of central government. Spring 2005 Conference instructed Policy Committee to produce a single section, rectifying these problems. Following the submission of Draft Voting Papers to recent conferences, this Voting Paper carries out that remit.

Motion:

Delete the Green Councils (GC100-GC209), Principles of Government (PG100-PG340) and Public Administration & Government (PA100-PA907) sections from the MfSS and replace with the following:

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 residence in and commitment to a community or geographical area. Those rights include the right to basic material security and 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 such a hierarchical and centralised state. 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.

PA112. Government actions must always be subject to the rule of law, which must be overseen by an independent judiciary.

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 Commissions 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 members 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. The Central Parliament needs to be prepared to surrender many of its traditional powers, and actively assist in the process of decentralisation. To this end, Parliament has a number of key roles to play - 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. The right to vote and stand in elections will be based on residence rather than nationality. (see also RR706)

PA302. 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.

PA303. 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.

PA304. 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 3% 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.

PA305. 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.

Amendment 1

Delete PA305 and replace with the following:

"PA305 The most appropriate system for elections to local Government 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 ward councillor(s). Councillors would be elected from wards as under first past the post, but each party's representation would be topped up on a council-wide basis to bring its number of seats up to its proportion of votes polled, provided that proportion was above a minimum qualifying level of 3% 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. AMS would result in more proportional outcomes than STV and would enable smaller, more localised wards to be used. AMS could either work through electing the whole council at once or by electing half the council at each election to enable elections to take place more

frequently. Final decisions on these matters should reflect local circumstances. The Constitutional Commission will oversee the establishment of AMS voting systems for local authorities across the country and work out the exact details. It will need to consider what proportion of members should be elected from the top-up list in order to achieve proportional outcomes."

Proposed by: Adrian Ramsay,
Chris Hull
Jennifer Toms Howard Jago

PA306. 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. Under the Green Party's longer term proposals for central Government reform (PA452-459), such votes of confidence would not be necessary unless Parliament were unable to elect a First Minister or members of the Coordinating Committee.

PA307. 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 3% of the vote to become eligible for this funding.

PA308. 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.

Amendment

In PA308 delete ", 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"

Alan Francis, Martin Love
Graeme McIver, Janet Alty
and 1 other

Local Government Structure

PA350. The current organisation of local government, with some areas being covered by Unitary Authorities whilst others still operate two tiers of County and District/Borough Councils, has arisen for a number of historical and practical reasons. The Green Party believes that different areas may have different needs in terms of organisational structure, and that there is no reason why a situation in which different tiers operate in different parts of the country cannot work well. We are therefore opposed to any centralised imposition of uniform structures across the whole country.

PA351. In particular we oppose the drive by central government towards unitary councils and ever larger districts. The average

population of British districts is already significantly larger than their equivalents in continental Europe, and this tendency serves to distance them from their people and make them seem less local. Some of the larger shire districts should consider whether or not partitioning them into two separate councils would enhance civic pride and local participation, without compromising their ability to deliver quality services (see PA204).

PA352. The county level of government can have an important place in strategic decisions too large for one district to deal with - particularly while there remains no popular will to introduce a regional tier of government. Popular support has been shown for maintaining what are largely county-scale police authorities. Many additional countywide bodies remain in the metropolitan counties after the abolition of their councils. Some responsibilities of unelected bodies could also be devolved to counties (see PA415).

PA353. All Councils will be asked to complete a review of the pattern of Town and 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.

PA354. 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.

PA355. 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.

PA356. 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.

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 regional assembly or a regional government office could be abolished by a referendum of all all electorates covered by the body in question. In each case the powers would pass to individual county councils and/or unitary authorities.

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 convener 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. All committee meetings, including those of the Coordination Committee, should be open to members of the public and media as observers, except when discussing issues which deal with confidential information or matters with

security implications.

PA457. 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.

Amendment

Delete PA 454-457

Mark Hill
COSIGNED
Peter Cranie
Rob Smith
Howard Jago
PA458. In order to ensure that the business of Parliament better reflected the range of opinion in the country, time should be allocated fairly across the political groups for the submission of proposed Bills. Aside from the Parliamentary time which needs to be allocated to the essential functions of Government, the remaining time should be allocated to each political group in proportion to its representation within the central Parliamentary chamber.

PA459. 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.

PA460. 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.

PA461. 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 infinite. We need a system of government and administration which best fulfils the needs and aspirations of citizens and the challenges of the future, within the limits of the resources society is prepared to devote to it. A balance always needs to be struck. The majority of those resources will always be directed towards the provision of public services, rather than towards the maintenance of democratic procedures.

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 all levels of government and public authorities and by bodies acting on their behalf. Information should be available except where specifically restricted, and quickly and at reasonable cost. Restrictions shall be limited to those necessary to protect the privacy of individual citizens, national security, certain international relations, and information properly provided in confidence. Information on policy formulation, the conduct of public affairs, the environment and health and safety should be freely available. In addition, restrictions should only apply where the government can show they are required to prevent real harm to the public interest. Provision shall be made for an independent commission to test the latter contention and require access if that contention is not sustained.

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. Training of people within local authority professions with the help of trade unions and use of

alternative technology can 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)

ENDS

Jonathan Dixon and Policy Committee

Section C – Policy Motions

C01. Climate Change Targets

Synopsis: This motion updates the party's climate change targets with current thinking.

Motion In CC section of the MfSS

_a) In section B add after CC110_CC111 The primary aim of such targets is to significantly reduce the likelihood of catastrophic climate change by keeping atmospheric temperature rise below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Climate research at the Swiss ETH Institute has shown that

this requires stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations at or below 450ppm CO₂ equivalent

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 the Potsdam Institute suggest that average global emissions will need to be reduced by at least 60% of the 1990 baseline by 2030. This equates on average to a 90% reduction in emissions by developed countries by 2030" —

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 introduce an annual reduction target of at least 9% 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 2007, the required annual rate is 9% per annum. If adoption is delayed, the required rate is significantly greater, rising for the next few years 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. New and persuasive scientific evidence may arise that shows a need for deeper cuts in emissions and Green party public announcements should reflect the current nature of climate change science."

d) add "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 calculated effects of methane, resulting in serious understressing of the importance of methane emissions reductions in the crucial next few decades."

- **Deepak Rughani**, Adrian Oliver, Duncan Law, Andrew Boswell and 3 others

C02. MINIMUM WAGE

This motion states that the Green party calls for a national minimum wage of at least £7.20 per hr.

"The Green party calls for a national minimum wage of at least £7.20 per hr."

Peter Murray, Keith Baker, Noel Lynch, Farid Bakht and 2 others

C03. Early Replacement of Kyoto Protocol

Synopsis This motion urges adoption of a post-Kyoto way forward

Motion Change CC210 from "The Green Party

supports the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol; and will campaign for the non-use of its loopholes wherever possible. A GP Policy statement describes the KP and our views of it in more detail" to

"The Green Party calls for urgent replacement of the Kyoto Protocol with a new protocol which meets the requirement for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with prevailing science and which has an equal focus on safeguarding carbon sinks. It is dangerous to wait until the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012."

Add new sections after CC210 and renumber

CC 211 Global concentrations are now increasing at significantly over 2 ppm CO₂ each year and have been rising steadily since 1990. This is in part because targets for Annex 1 countries are not based on science, in part because the Protocol has not been ratified by the US and Australia, and in part because it excludes developing economies (notably China and India). It also not only lacks any meaningful ecosystem protection mechanism but actively facilitates ecosystem destruction via its Clean Development Method (see CC217). CC212 Measures contained in a new climate change agreement must take precedence over any international trade rules. Any international trade agreements, including regional or bilateral agreements must be fully compliant with the new

protocol and not the other way around.

Add subheading "Contraction and Convergence" after new CC212

Add subheading "EU Emissions Trading Scheme" before CC216
Add extra sentence "It needs complete restructuring in line with Contraction and Convergence principles." At the end of CC216

Add subheading "The Clean Development Mechanism" before CC217

Add subheading "Biofuels" before CC218

Move Word "Rainforests" from being the first word of CC219 to a subheading before CC219

Add subheading "Peatlands" before CC221

Add new paragraphs after CC221 and renumber

CC222 To achieve the necessary emissions reductions (see section C1) a new protocol will have to make ecosystem destruction and degradation a priority focus. Simply reducing the rate of deforestation will not be sufficient. Only a moratorium followed by a ban on industrial logging and land conversion of all old growth forest will allow us to achieve this goal; see CC219-CC221. Such a ban should be binding on all nations, including nations which currently import wood products or agricultural commodities produced at the expense of old growth forests and

ecosystems.

CC223 The Green Party considers the use of market-based mechanisms as an alternative to a moratorium to be wholly inadequate. Commodifying nature and including it in emissions trading is unlikely to slow ecosystem degradation and may even accelerate it. Further, market mechanisms are likely to increase social and economic injustice and to dispossess indigenous and local communities who have a vested interest in protecting forests and other ecosystems, and are most capable of doing so.

CC224 Ecological restoration must be an essential part of a climate change agreement, in order to reverse some of the damage done to ecosystems and to strengthen their ability to survive the now unavoidable levels of global warming. Ecosystem restoration must be based on scientific evidence and must be implemented in ways which are socially just and respect the rights and needs of local communities. Priorities for ecological restoration would include the re-flooding of peatlands, particularly the peatlands of South-east Asia which have been drained for monoculture plantations, the protection of selectively logged or 'degraded' primary forests from land-conversion and further industrial logging, and measures to reduce the fragmentation of

essential ecosystems by monoculture plantations. Biodiversity will be a key measure of the success of ecological restoration.

CC225 Sufficient funding for ecosystem protection and ecological restoration must be made available through the North-South transfer of funding which is an essential component of Contraction and Convergence. Funding will be required for enforcement of logging and land conversion bans, for fire protection and for community forestry and social incentives, including education, public awareness raising and fostering the traditional values systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, measures shown to be effective for ensuring forest protection.

CC226 A new climate change agreement must include clear mechanisms to reverse the trend towards low-biodiversity, high-chemical input monocultures, and to support mixed high-biodiversity agricultural systems based on permaculture principles which retain soil carbon. This necessitates regulatory and rights-based mechanisms, supporting the land rights of small farmers and local communities and regulating against agribusinesses which rely on destructive agricultural methods that result in ecosystem destruction and high greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Deepak Rughani**, Adrian Oliver, Duncan Law, Andrew Boswell and 3

others

C04. Enabling Motion on Northern Ireland

Synopsis

In the light of recent developments, the current MfSS section on Northern Ireland, last amended in 1997, is very out of date. This enabling motion instructs Policy Committee in consultation with the Northern Irish, Irish and Scottish Green Parties to review the policy and bring it up to date.

Motion

This Conference instructs Policy Committee in consultation with International Committee to initiate a review of Green Party policy on Northern Ireland. The policy is very much out-of-date, particularly given recent developments.

The review process should include consultation with the Green Parties of Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic (Comhaontas Glas) and Scotland, and should result in a proposal coming back to Conference to either:

- replace the existing Northern Ireland policy section in the MfSS with a new one, or
- delete the policy section entirely, if it is no longer felt a separate section is warranted, with proposed additions to other policy sections to cover specific issues where considered necessary.

In bringing these new proposals forward, Policy Committee may choose to seek to invoke the procedure in C9(f) of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference and submit the

proposals to a future Conference as a Voting Paper, without the need to have previously submitted a Draft Voting Paper to a previous Conference, if it feels that this is appropriate.

In the meantime the current Northern Ireland section of the MfSS should be preceded by the following sentence: "This policy dates from 1997. In the light of recent developments in Northern Ireland, the Green Party is currently reviewing the policy with help from the Green Parties in Northern Ireland the Irish Republic and Scotland, and an updated policy will replace the current one in due course."

Policy Committee

C05 End of Life Care

Synopsis:

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

Motion:

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

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

situation including the wishes of the patient and relatives.

H325 Many medical interventions provided at the end of a person's life will both relieve suffering and hasten death. We recognise that this can cause concern amongst health professionals and the public and will introduce clear guidance to protect all parties.

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

- * The appointment of an independent advocate must be made when either diagnosis of terminal illness is made or the person receiving care expresses the desire to end their life
- * Counselling must always be offered to every patient considering an assisted death
- * Alternatives, such as palliative care must be discussed with the patient
- * The patient's ability to make the decision must be established by joint assessment of two independent doctors, one of whom should ordinarily be the patient's GP, unless impractical in the circumstances, in which case it may be the patient's medical consultant, one of which must be a psychiatrist and a third independent registered health or social care professional who has undertaken approved training in this area and who has no prior knowledge of the patient.

- * This decision must take into account evidence provided by the independent advocate.
- * Treatable illnesses that may impinge of the decision making ability, e.g.

depression, must be treated and excluded from the rationale for requesting an assisted death

- * The patient has the right to appoint individuals either during or prior to the process who will have access to their medical and other records and whom they wish to be involved in discussions
- * The patient's informed consent must be clearly documented, full discussion of the outcomes of both the illness and the assisted death must also be provided in a language and form understandable to the patient

- * The patient's close family should be involved in all discussions

- * There should normally be a waiting period of at least 7 days, set by local policy, for the patient to reflect on their decision.

- * Patients could orally revoke the request at any point

- * Healthcare professionals can refuse to be party to any stage of assisted deaths for their own moral reasons

- * Assisted death will be notifiable

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

Stuart Jeffery, Natalie

Bennett, Payam Torabi, John Hunt,

C06. Missile Bases

Motion: We call upon GPEx and our representatives in the European Green Party to do everything possible to oppose the siting of anti-missile bases in the Czech Republic and Poland and to support the peace movement in those countries and throughout Europe in campaigning for their

removal. We further call upon GPEx and our representatives in the European Green Party to do everything possible to persuade the Czech Green Party, currently a member party in the Czech government, to demand their dismantling and removal from the territory of the Czech Republic

Joseph Healy, Payam Torabi, James Caspell, Peter Murray

C07. Climate Change-Biofuels

Synopsis This motion takes a stance against the widespread production of biofuels.

Add new sections after CC218 and renumber

CC219 The Green Party calls for an immediate moratorium on agrofuels from large-scale monocultures. Agrofuels is the term coined to describe liquid fuels from biomass, which consists of crops and trees grown specifically for that purpose on a large-scale, or derived from agricultural and forest residues that should be returned to the natural cycle because they play an important role in maintaining soil fertility and biodiversity.

The majority of biofuels are made from large-scale monocultures of oil palms, sugar cane, soya, maize, sugar beet, oilseed rape and jatropha. They contribute substantially more to greenhouse gas emissions by nitrous oxide emissions from fertiliser use and by land conversion, than are saved by burning slightly less fossil fuels. As such

agrofuels are set to significantly accelerate climate change. Other problems include biodiversity losses, water and soil degradation, human rights abuses (including the impoverishment and dispossession of local populations) and the loss of food sovereignty and food security. The impacts seen today result from a less than 1% market penetration of biofuels in Europe yet the EU target is 10% by 2020 and the UK are aiming for 5% by 2010. The European demand for biofuels is pushing up commodity prices and thus encouraging multi-billion dollar investment in infrastructure and refineries linked to large-scale deforestation. The impacts of this investment could be irreversible and will open up tens of millions of hectares of virgin forest to land conversion and logging. An immediate moratorium is the only way to put the breaks on such disastrous investment decisions.

Amendment 1

In new CC219 change the first paragraph from...

"The Green Party calls for an immediate moratorium on agrofuels from large-scale monocultures"

To...

"In line with party policy on applying the precautionary principle, the Green Party calls for an immediate moratorium on agrofuels from large-

scale monocultures – a period for scientists and policy makers in the EU and western nations to gain a greater understanding of the true impacts on the social, human rights, land rights, climate impact, and biodiversity impact issues. The Green Party supports the Agrofuels Moratorium Call launched in July 2007 in Brussels (supported by over 100 organisations in its first week)."

Amendment 2

In new CC219 delete second half of sentence in second paragraph after words 'large-scale' from...

"Agrofuels is the term coined to describe liquid fuels from biomass, which consists of crops and trees grown specifically for that purpose on a large-scale or derived from agricultural and forest residues that should be returned to the natural cycle because they play an important role in maintaining soil fertility and biodiversity."

To...

"Agrofuels is the term coined to describe liquid fuels from biomass, which consists of crops and trees grown specifically for that purpose on a large-scale."

CC221 Included in the auspices of a moratorium is an end to biofuel targets, subsidies and other incentives. In the UK, this means and an immediate suspension of the RTFO and in Europe of the EU Biofuel Directive. Internationally the Green Party calls for a

moratorium on funding for agro-biofuels including carbon market mechanisms such as the CDM and JI under UNFCCC.

Amendment 3

In new CC221 replace text entirely from...

"Included in the auspices of a moratorium is an end to biofuel targets, subsidies and other incentives. In the UK, this means and an immediate suspension of the RTFO and in Europe of the EU Biofuel Directive. Internationally the Green Party calls for a moratorium on funding for agro-biofuels including carbon market mechanisms such as the CDM and JI under UNFCCC."

To...

"The moratorium would apply to European and British public sector incentives for agrofuels and agroenergy from large-scale monocultures, including tree plantations, and a moratorium on EU imports of such agrofuels. This includes the immediate suspension of all targets, incentives such as tax breaks and subsidies which benefit agrofuels from large-scale monocultures, including financing through carbon trading mechanisms, international development aid or loans from international finance organisations such as the World Bank. The moratorium called for by the signatories will apply only to agrofuels from large-scale monocultures (and GM biofuels) and their trade.

It does not include biofuels from waste, such as waste vegetable oil or biogas from manure or sewage, or biomass grown and harvested sustainably by and for the benefit of local communities, rather than on large-scale monocultures.”

CC222 The Green Party also calls for a moratorium on the use and development of genetically engineered crops and trees, microbes and fungi for the production of any biofuels including agrofuels, due to the high environmental risks involved in GM technology.

- **Deepak Rughani**, Adrian Oliver, Duncan Law, Andrew Boswell and 3 others

Amendments 1, 2 & 3 proposed by Deepak Rughani, Rupert Read, Howard Jago, Julian Briggs and one other

Amendment 4 – falls if Amendments 1, 2 or 3 are passed

In synopsis insert 'liquid' in between 'of and 'biofuels'. Add at end of synopsis: 'from dedicated crops while supporting more sustainable use of biofuels such as locally grown crops and energy from anaerobic digestion of farm and industrial waste products.'

CC219 1st line insert 'liquid' in between 'on' and 'agrofuels' and insert 'dedicated biofuel' in between 'large-scale' and 'monocultures'. In second sentence delete 'or derived from agricultural and forest residues that should be returned to the natural cycle

because they play an important role in maintaining soil fertility and biodiversity.'

CC221 At end of first sentence insert 'for liquid biofuels produced from dedicated biofuel crops'. In third sentence insert 'liquid' in between 'for' and 'agro-biofuels'.

Add new CC223: 'Incentives should be offered for biomass schemes in the UK such as schemes involving local farmers growing crops such as elephant grass for local boilers, CHP plant and mini-power stations and also energy production from anaerobic digestion facilities that utilize farm and industrial wastes.'

David Toke, Jon Hooper Natalie Bennett Candida Spillard Gareth Ellis and 5 others

Co8. RACISM AND HOUSING

Synopsis: this motion condemns statements on prioritisation of housing for "established British families" and calls for Green party response.

Motion

"The Green Party condemns Margaret Hodge's statements on prioritization of housing for 'established British families' as it encourages racism and divisiveness. We endorse Sian Berry's statement advocating a sensible housing policy as a real solution to the problems of homelessness and extortionate home prices and that there shall be an immediate response from the Green Party to such statements"

Peter Murray, Keith Baker,

Noel Lynch, Farid Bakht and 2 others

Co9. Care for the Elderly

Synopsis: Current Green Party policy states that if residential care is needed then it will be provided free and house owners would not be required to sell their home to pay for such care. However, there is no indication of how this care is to be paid for. The following policy would go a long way towards addressing that problem in a fair and equitable way.

Motion:

Following SW406 insert new policy SW407 as follows:

"Personal care for the elderly, whether living in their own home or in a residential care home, would be funded from a combination of inheritance tax receipts and a new 'care tax'. This new tax would be set at 15% of lifetime transfers and of estates between £10,000 and the inheritance tax threshold."

Ann Were, Sam Coates, Keith Ross and John Matthews

C10. Climate Change - adaptation and leadership

Synopsis: 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. 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. Beyond 2C warming, 'adaptation' becomes increasingly unlikely as positive feedbacks threaten to speed climate change much faster than our capacity to adapt, and with no identifiable stabilisation point in sight.

However beyond a critical examination of the ethics of 'adaptation' as a primary response, funding will be required for adaptation and resettlement by UNFCCC and is a key demand of many developing nations. It will be essential to ring-fence part of the North-South transfer of funds from Contraction and Convergence for this.

_CC102 Leadership at all levels.
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. Governments can be relied upon to respond more fully when societal pressure leaves 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. _

CC103 On a political level the Green Party advocates decisive leadership by the UK government, actively seeing revisions of the current climate framework with the EU and the UN ahead of the 2012 Kyoto Protocol end date.

Deepak Rughani, Adrian Oliver, Duncan Law, Andrew Boswell and 3 others

C11. Amendments to EU policy

Synopsis

The following are amendments which are necessary because the policy has not been updated in light of events. For example, the Coal and Steel Community no longer exists yet we still have policy on it. The policy still refers to Central and Eastern European States which are now members or applicants.

Conference motion

EU423

Currently reads: "The Green Party would prefer that the project does not go ahead and we do not want our country to join it"

Replace with "The Green Party is opposed to the UK joining EMU.

EU425 vi) Delete "and the European Steel and Coal Community"

Delete EU466 – 472
However, EU470 on changing the mission of the EBRD should be retained and moved to after current EU555 on the European Social Fund.

EU502 Delete "along with the Coal and Steel Treaty".
Change reference to "Maastricht Treaty" to

"Treaty of European Union."

Delete EU510 – 513 on Coal and Steel

Hazel Dawe, Steve Dawe, Stuart Jeffery, Geoff Meaden

C12. Reforming the abortion law to promote social equity and reflect medical advances

While retaining the Party's emphasis on supporting sex education, assistance for parents and family planning, this motion reflects medical developments and the need for equity of access by removing the requirement for two doctors to approve a woman's abortion decision and unnecessary restrictions on places where abortions can be carried out.

Motion: To add to the start of H322 in the MfSS: The Green Party will support a change in the law to remove the requirement for two doctors to approve a woman's decision to have an abortion, and will support a change in the law to allow the procedure to be carried out by appropriately trained nurses and midwives up to three months of pregnancy. It will support NHS provision of such nurses and midwives and will support a widening of the number of locations at which an abortion can be carried out. This should reduce delays in service provision and prevent access being obstructed by doctors with personal anti-abortion views.

Natalie Bennett, Caroline Lucas, Peter Cranie, Sian Berry and 3 others

Amendment 1

Delete all after "to have an

abortion"

Amendment proposed by
Luke Russell, Claire Nash,
Chris Nash and Joan
Kimberley

Section D – Organisational Motions

D01. Compositing

SYNOPSIS:

This will create a formal process of compositing. This will allow complex motions with multiple amendments to be considered in a swifter manner than otherwise possible using procedures drawn from other political parties, trades unions and voluntary bodies. In essence the proposal is that amendments that are accepted by the proposers shall be considered first.

Motion

5 a) replace

If SOC considers that the volume of business renders its adequate consideration unlikely, it may recommend that a certain number of motions and amendments be provisionally excluded, Final decision to rest with Conference

with 5 a)

If SOC considers that the volume of business renders its adequate consideration unlikely, it may recommend that a certain number of motions and amendments be provisionally excluded. Alternatively SOC may recommend use of procedure 5 g) Compositing. The decision on such a recommendation will take place as part of the SOC Report to Conference.

Insert 5g) and renumber:

g) Compositing: SOC may, in its report to conference, propose a compositing procedure for a specific motion.

g)-(i) The proposers of the motion shall consider all amendments. They shall advise SOC which of these amendments which they are willing to accept into the substantive one week before the final conference agenda is published. These shall be considered the first tier of amendments.

g)-(ii) SOC shall ensure that the final conference agenda has the amendments numbered in tiers. This is to allow consideration of the amendments, which are accepted by the proposers, before any others.

AMENDMENT

delete proposed 5g)-(ii) and insert:

g)-(v) SOC shall ensure that the final conference agenda has the amendments numbered in tiers. This is to allow consideration of the amendments, which are accepted by the proposers, before any others. However where amendments are also subject to basket arrangements SOC shall be obliged propose simultaneous debate of all amendments placed in a basket. Thus SOC shall consider basket arrangements before compositing arrangements.

continued...

g)-(iii) All amendments placed in the first tier shall be considered before all other matters after the initial proposal of the raw motion.

The amendments in the first tier shall be taken sequentially. There shall be a series of debates on each of the amendments in the first tier in each case followed by a vote on the amendment. The Chair may, at their own discretion, call if there are any objections to a specific amendment, and if not, move straight to a vote.

g)-(iv) There shall be no further debate on other amendments in between.

g)-(v) Where amendments are also subject to the basket arrangements of 5h) the chair may advise the debate that acceptance of an amendment will lead to automatic rejection of the other amendments placed in the basket. When the first tier is complete the composite motion will then be subject to the amendments in a tier and then voted in substantive.

Insert to the newly renumbered 5 h)-(iv) and renumber.

iv) The principle will be that the amendment making the most significant changes to the raw motion will be voted on first.

Standing Orders Committee

D02. Local Parties and constituency ballots

Synopsis This motion adjusts the relationship between local parties within constituency ballots

Motion:

In Constitution Bye-Laws, "referred to in Clause 5(xii): Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons" 3.a) delete "that, where there are

20 or less members in the constituency the relevant Local Party/ies may take " and replace with "where the relevant Local Party/ies take(s)".

3.a) now reads:
"that the prospective candidate is democratically selected by all Green Party members resident in the constituency except where the relevant Local Party/ies take(s) a formal decision to ballot their whole membership(s). If agreement cannot be reached between all the Local Parties concerned on who should be balloted then the default position shall be to ballot members in the constituency only."

Paul Steedman, Simon Williams, Ben Duncan, Amy Kennedy and 2 others

D03. Debate on relationship between local parties and local elected members

Synopsis

This motion calls for a national debate on the relationship between elected representatives and their local parties. With a growing number of Green Party councillors the extent to which they inform and involve local party members in decision making is important if we are to maintain the underlying democratic principles of the Green Party.

Motion

"In line with our democratic principles, Conference calls for a national GP debate to be held on the accountability of elected local government councillors to their local GP organisations,

on the specific subjects of: __ - entering into coalition administrations with other parties - supporting other parties in forming administrations without formal coalition - voting for or supporting parties whose fundamental principles are contradictory to the GP principles.

This debate will examine:

- the feasibility of ensuring that such decisions cannot be made without a full, inclusive and formal democratic process, requiring the majority support of GP members in the specific local government area in question.
- mechanisms by which this can be implemented
- what monitoring, checks and balances can be put in place to manage/maintain this policy

This 'debate' would be facilitated by the Internal Communications Co-ordinator on GPEX, who would ask all local branches and regional parties to raise this topic at a relevant meeting, and would collect feedback on the issue. This information would be available before the deadline for the First Agenda of Spring Conference 2008."

Lesley Hedges, Richard Murgatroyd, Melanie Griffiths, Matt Sellwood and two others

D04. Regularising eligibility to stand for executive posts.

Synopsis: This motion enables members to stand for election to GPEX after one year's membership of GPEW with tougher conditions than for those who have been

members for longer.

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 Green Party of England and Wales for two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations and their nomination must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a minimum of twenty members of the Green Party of England and Wales, from three different regions. All candidates shall be required to complete a standard application form."

Sian Berry, Peter Cranie, Natalie Bennett, Jim Killock

D05. Running Conference Prioritisation Ballot by STV

Synopsis: This requires the system for prioritisation of conference motions (which is currently undefined) to be by the single transferable vote system, which should take into account the priorities of members more fairly.

Motion:

In Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, delete

and replace
D1ii) with "SOC shall arrange
a ballot under the single
transferable vote system."

Howard Jago, Samir Jeraj,
Lynda Edwards, Robert
Gledhill, Mark Champion

**D06. Making Disputes
Resolution Committee
involvement mandatory for
elected bodies**

In constitution, insert new
section 15 iv)

While involvement of
individual members in the
resolution process is
voluntary, for elected bodies
within the Green Party
involvement is mandatory.

Owen Clarke, Ronald Watts,
Theresa Watts, Ernest Hamer

Contact details for the motions in this agenda

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Section O – Out of Order Motions

Two motions were received that were ruled out of order by SOC. These are printed below.

NEW S/O 2.9 The Green Party Regional Council shall ensure that liaison with other Green parties of these islands is maintained through the Green Islands Network and otherwise. In particular the Council shall elect two representatives of the English Green Party (who must reside in one of the English regions) in that network to ensure adequate liaison, and only Regional Councillors from the English regions shall be eligible to vote in such an election. The autonomous Welsh Green Party shall elect its own representative in a manner it sees fit.

This is to replace the current constitutional position on electing GIN delegates which is ...

GPRC

OoO under SOCC 9e: trivial: Standing Orders should be presented to Conference via reports, and GPRC has been informed of this.

i) MIGRANT WORKERS

"The Green party agrees to support the 'PAPERS FOR ALL' campaign for migrant workers and endorses its demands:

#Regularisation for all migrants. No one is illegal.

#The closure of all detention centres, because moving country is not a crime.

#An end to all deportations & the externalisation process turning countries on the edges of the EU into holding camps.

#Full labour rights for all workers, independently of their migration status. Stop pitching workers against each other.

#End the apartheid system of benefits, healthcare, housing and legal representation, and the

#deliberate policy of destitution for asylum seekers whose cases have been refused.

#Official recognition of rape as torture and persecution."

Peter Murray

OoO under SOCC 9f substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation.

Green Party Conference Proxy Form Autumn 2007

You can bring this to the front desk at Conference, BUT the preferred method – to guarantee the timely issuing of your proxy - is to mail this form to Aled Fisher, SOC, 10 Pantglas, Penttyrch, Cardiff CF15 9TH before 11th September or fax it on 07092861453.

This form has been created and approved by SOC in response to worries about the accountability of the Proxy Vote process. Although not fail-proof, it creates a better standard of accountability and an informal contract between the person giving a proxy and the person carrying it.

Name of proxy donor (Caps)

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

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 (named below)

Proxy donor's signature..... Date.....

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
Autumn Green Party Conference in Liverpool. Vote holders and givers need to be national Green Party
members