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### **Introduction to First Agenda**

Welcome to the First Agenda for the Green Party's Spring Conference 2007.

Final Agenda deadline for amendments and reports is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 2359 hours.

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

### **Content of the First Agenda**

The motions submitted are on the front of these agenda, bar 2 motions with insufficient signatures. One motion was ruled out of order (to be published in Final Agenda).

### **Deadlines for receipt of motions / amendments**

The date announced as the deadline for receipt of motions / amendments is the last date for receipt by SOC. Motions / amendments arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

For clarity, amendments submitted by email that are in order must be received by 23:59 on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007 to be absolutely sure of inclusion in the final agenda.

Finally, SOC always receives motions and amendments right up to the deadline and usually a few after. Please help make our job easier by getting your items in well before the deadline. 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 First Agenda, almost all of them in the last 48 hours. Apologies for therefore not having responded to each personally, but the importance of getting motions in earlier is clear!

### **Synopses**

SOC has also this year been very upset by the state of peoples' synopses. Almost none have been within the 50-word limit set out in the Standing Orders.

Consequently, SOC is obliged to cut verbose synopses, leading to potential unhappiness on the part of the proposer. The way to remain a happy proposer is therefore to edit one's own synopsis to within 50 words, to avoid having it done for you. This applies also to synopses that are really arguments in favour of the motion, sneaky extra background info, or political point-scoring. SOC this year has voted consensually to edit such synopses, because apart from anything else they are not useful or consistent when representing the motion in the Summary for all members. Obviously not submitting a synopsis at all is also a missed opportunity, and this has been another noticeable trend.

### **Prioritisation Ballot**

There is a prioritisation ballot form at the end of this agenda for prioritising the motions in sections C and D. Please send prioritisation ballots to arrive by the end of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

### **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.

### **Amendments to motions**

Amendments should be addressed to the motions as they appear in the First Agenda (including the Voting Papers) and must be signed by at least four Green Party members. There is no limit to the number of amendments any Party member may sign.

They should be sent to the address below, to arrive by the end of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Please post

well before the deadline as amendments and signatures arriving after the deadline will not be considered (see section above on deadlines).

### **Address for amendments, reports, prioritisation ballots**

Prioritisation ballots and anything intended for the Final Agenda (e.g. amendments and reports) should be sent to Matt Wootton, SOC, 33 Ashfield Avenue, Lancaster LA1 5EB or by email to [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk), to arrive by the end of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Items or signatures sent to other addresses may not be accepted.

### **Email signatures**

SOC does accept e-mail signatures. To sign a motion/amendment by email please ensure you include (preferably) your membership number (which you can get from a membership card if you still have one, or your introductory letter or by calling Party Office), or your address. You must include the name of your local party and if you are the contact for a motion or amendment your address and email address that members can contact you on.

Please note that many people have not exactly followed this procedure, leaving the validity of their email signature in doubt. Please get it right; it's only you who will suffer!

Please help us by only enclosing one motion or amendment in each email and by not forwarding transcripts of the debates that have been held by members prior to agreeing to a final version of the text– this also reduces the possibility of error.

### **Committee Elections**

Elections will be held at Conference to "top-up" these Committees:  
Campaigns  
Conferences

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**

These elections take place in the Autumn. There is one unfilled vacancy on the Executive, that of Internal Communications Co-ordinator. The current Executive has co-opted Natalie Bennett to this post but the rules state that nominations are to be sought. This post will open for nomination at Conference, and close before the end of Conference. If no nominations are received, the post will not be contested and Natalie Bennett will automatically remain co-opted.

### **Emergency Motions**

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

The section of the standing orders that deals with reasons for SOC ruling motions out of order is NOT suspended. This is Section C9 of the standing orders, which states: "Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being:

- contrary to the Constitution
- retrospective in their effect
- ambiguous
- vague
- trivial or requiring no consequential action
- substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas without having passed through the agreed process of consultation (see Appendix A of the Standing Orders)"

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

- Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided

- the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for motions
- the motion is consistent with the MfSS and neither changes nor adds to the text of the MfSS
- 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 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)**

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Items in section A of the agenda are required by the Constitution or Standing Orders. The reports will be included in the Final Agenda. They are the reports of:

- Standing Orders Committee
- Party Treasurer
- Party Executive
- Regional Council Co-chairs
- Policy Committee
- Campaigns Committee
- Disputes Resolution Committee
- MEP Trust
- Green World Editorial Board
- Conferences Committee

### **Section B (Voting Papers)**

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#### **B10. International section of the MfSS for review.**

#### **Synopsis**

There are no other voting papers for this Conference, and

so under section C5 of standing orders Policy Committee has to present one existing section of the MfSS for discussion at Conference as a voting paper. The Committee has chosen the International Policy section. This motion simply tables the section as it currently stands. Amendments to the chapter are invited for the final agenda.

#### **Motion**

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

#### **Principles**

**IP100** The Green Party recognises that co-operation is needed at a global level in order to secure sustainable societies in this country. The Green Party also wishes to promote Green principles across the world. The world faces problems that are global in nature or extent, whose solutions require structure, institutions or co-operation at a worldwide level.

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

**IP102** Green principles of democracy require that structures or institutions for

global co-operation be open, participatory, transparent and accessible.

IP103 The Green vision also involves a fundamental restructuring of the global economy to reverse the unsustainable trend of globalisation (i.e. ever increasing trade between ever distant nations with the primary goal of maximising profit) and a democratisation of the systems of global governance. Multinational corporations benefit from globalisation to the detriment of the poorest in society and to democratic control of each region's economy. Localisation of trade and economies is therefore a goal of the Green Party.

#### Vision

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

#### Transitional Policy

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

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

IP122 A General Agreement on Sustainable Trade, under which fair trade rules (where producers are guaranteed a reasonable price for their products before planting, and a portion of the payment is set aside for community development) would become a requisite for international trade and local supply of goods would be preferred, should replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). A World Localisation Organisation should replace the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

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

#### Status quo - short-term policy

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

IP131 The United Nations should be reformed and democratised. The current national basis for membership should be extended to include regional (sub-national) representation and all representatives should be democratically selected. The WTO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank and similar bodies should also be reformed, democratised, or replaced. (see IP320-327)

#### The 'Third World'

##### Background

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

##### Overall Policy Objectives

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

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

##### a) Indigenous Peoples

##### Background

IP220 Development has frequently meant either the attempted eradication of indigenous peoples or colonial assimilation. Their lands have generally been taken from them - a process which

continues today. Trans-nationals and governments of North and South have been guilty of many assaults on the rights of indigenous peoples.

#### Objectives

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

#### Policies

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

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

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

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

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

## b) Debt

### Background

IP230 Poor countries have had major debts in the past, but never with such serious effects as now. The enormous rise in oil revenues of the oil-exporting countries in the 1970s allowed these countries to invest in banks in the rich North. The resulting excess

funds were lent out on a colossal scale to poor countries, often to buy arms from rich countries. A general rise in interest rates and more lending under variable interest rates meant enormous increases in the debts of poor countries. There is now more money going from poor countries to rich ones than the other way round. Obligated by International Monetary Fund, World Bank and private international bank pressures to pay their debts in hard currencies, poor countries were forced into an export drive. The flood of their exports reduced commodity prices, accelerated environmental destruction and destroyed the livelihoods of many of the poorest people. For millions this has meant hunger, for many starvation. Trapped by a system they do not control, the governments of some poor countries starve their people and destroy their environments in order to pay their debts, by, for example, exporting to rich countries like Britain.

#### Objectives

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

#### Policies

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

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

especially with other EU countries towards this objective.

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

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

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

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

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

conservation, forest set-aside and reforestation, use of traditional farming and building techniques, educational programmes for women, etc. All rich country governments will be encouraged to join the creative reimbursement scheme.

### c) Trade

#### Background

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

#### Objectives

**IP241** To minimise undesirable forms of trade which waste resources or deprive people of necessities. To ensure that all countries are free to conduct import-substituting strategies. To maintain trade which is mutually advantageous and ecologically benign.

#### Policies

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

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

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

### d) Aid

#### Background

**IP250** Aid has often been conceived by former colonial countries in a paternalistic and economically colonialist fashion. Instead of serving the needs of the poor in poor countries, Aid has often served the needs or whims of governments in both rich and poor states. Large-scale, capital-intensive projects like hydroelectric power dams have often been introduced without consultation of local people. Consultation, participation and control by local people are not guaranteed features of aid projects. Aid projects often do not even serve the development priorities as set by the host government. (see [EC990](#))

#### Objectives

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

#### Policies

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

**IP253** Suitable aid projects should include: low-technology energy schemes based on indigenous resources; fuel-efficient stoves; fuel-wood plantations; securing sustainable, ecological systems of food production and distribution for domestic

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

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

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

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

**IP257** British aid should be limited to countries and projects committed to a "basic needs" approach to development, coupled with a primary health care and family-

planning programme culturally acceptable to the people concerned. Land reforms and wealth re-distribution should also be considered when assessing suitability for assistance, as should the locality and the ecological sustainability of the project.

IP258 Emergency aid should continue to be given to any country in need on request. It should continue until the affected region has returned to normality including the restoration of food production to a level sufficient to meet needs and the re-housing of those made homeless, where this applies. Emergency aid should not depress prices in local markets.

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

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

IP261 All aid programmes and projects should be tested at the design stage for ecological and social impact, and sustainability.

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

IP263 British support for the Common Agricultural Policy should cease.

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

IP265 The Department of Education and Science (or equivalent) should fund the establishment of development education centres through local

education authorities, in all district council areas. Managerial responsibility should reside with representatives of supporting local groups.

#### e) International Institutions

##### Background

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

##### Objectives

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

##### Policies

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

IP321 The international

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

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

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

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

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

IP323 Once the Index is installed, governments with the worst record of human rights as measured on this Index will be referred to the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court. If the Court finds that their human rights performance falls below accepted legal standards, the

regimes will be given time and assistance to improve their record. In the event of non-compliance, the matter will return to the Court, and if found at fault, the regime will suffer penalties in terms of its members' privileges in the fields of finance, diplomacy, transport and trade. The severity of the penalties will increase as their human rights performance deteriorates, and decrease as their human rights performance improves. The penalties will be targeted to hurt the ruling elite rather than the general population.

IP324 At the same time, countries lying just above the level at which legal action will be taken will be offered help and advice to improve their human rights performance.

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

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

IP331 World Bank loans should be without conditions unacceptable to the borrower state, be long-term and only be given to middle-income countries.

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

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

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

IP340 The British Government should resist the International

Monetary Fund's imposition of austerity measures.

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

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

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

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

f) Trans-national Corporations (TNCs)

## Background

IP400 The development of capitalism and of trade led logically to modern TNCs. Many TNCs possess resources greater than the poorest countries. The use of these financial resources to corrupt or remove governments for short-term gain at long-term environmental and human cost has intensified as debts have reached crisis proportions. Freer trade as sought by the IMF and the TNCs has meant greater freedom for the TNCs to operate to their own advantage. These bodies consequently bear a very large responsibility for global environmental damage and for the creation of vulnerability to natural disasters. (see [EC980-1](#))

## Objectives

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

## Policies

### Ownership & Structure

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

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

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

### Products and Pollution

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

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

## Spheres of influence - Antarctica

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

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

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

## The Middle East

### Background

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

## Objectives

**IP510** Short-term - In Iraq and Kuwait: To alleviate suffering, to restore provision of healthcare and nutrition. To rebuild damaged infrastructure, and to return displaced people to their homes and land or jobs. Regionally: to enable all its people to live free from the threat of repression; to prevent further ecological degradation; to make the UN a consistent and effective forum and an actor preventing further unilateral actions by powers external to the region. Medium- to Longer-Term - participatory and democratically accountable security arrangements; a regional framework to reconcile interests and avoid conflicts; co-operation on conservation and enhancements of natural resources and technological support on alternatives; a decreased role for nation-states and support for cultural determination. Policies

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

**IP521** We call for urgent environmental monitoring and measurement in the Gulf countries, in Iran, Iraq (including areas of chemical attack prior to the War 1991), Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria and Turkey. We welcome urgent co-operative remedial and preventative action by bodies qualified to prevent further contamination of sea, land and air. We encourage continuing co-operation by states on all shores of the Gulf.

**IP522** All nuclear, chemical and biological weaponry must be

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

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

**IP524** We encourage oil-rich, low-population states constructively to review their labour recruitment policies: not to discriminate against countries which used to supply migrant workers before the invasion of Kuwait.

to recruit from adjacent/neighbouring high-population states in order to share wealth more equitably and defuse tensions.

We call for migrant workers to acquire full citizenship rights after two years residence within a country. We call for an end to all forms of discrimination against migrant workers and their families in housing, access to welfare services and education during their stay in a country.

**IP525** We appeal to the international community to facilitate self-determination for stateless peoples of the Middle East, prioritising Palestinians and Kurds in areas with which they have historical links. We would give moral and material support to indigenously chosen leadership, but we know that exiles and homeland residents of both peoples have had difficulty in meeting to choose leaders and identify common objectives. Cultural, linguistic and/or religious minorities should be allowed full human

rights. There must be greater willingness to observe basic human rights in all parts of the region. A climate of more openness and participation would reduce the incidence of repression.

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

**IP527** We call for an immediate end to the sales of arms and their components to the region as the Middle East has proved particularly susceptible to environmental warfare (by either deliberate destruction or withholding shared natural resources). The means and the pretext to prosecute it must not be provided.

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

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

b) to encourage oil producers to diversify away from reliance on a single exhaustible "crop"  
We call for an international programme to facilitate transfer of alternative technologies world-wide, to make capital investment in, and transfer available funds to, research into solar energy use.

**IP530** We call for recognition by Middle East decision-makers of the interdependence of the Eastern Arab world: for assessment of natural resources, financial assets, and needs in framing alliances. We encourage programmes for co-operation on regional lines and a lessening of rigid nation-state behaviour with more emphasis on bio-regions. Confederal realignment can only come with encouragement not coercion. We seek the establishment of an effective regional structure which will be allowed to adjudicate on regional disputes and to ensure security - in all its senses - of the region. We would investigate adaptation of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as a model for this in the Middle East.

## Palestine & Israel

### Background

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

**IP601** Mutual recognition of the rights of independent statehood and secure borders of Palestinians and Israelis; a rapid end to the violence and de-escalation of the arms build-up in the region; enforcement of UN resolutions

242 and 338; international assistance so that the new Palestinian state on the West Bank and in Gaza can develop self-reliance in food production and basic services and industries; long term exploration of the possibility of establishing a confederation with neighbouring states, with free and equal access for each state's citizens.  
Policies

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

### IP603

a) The Green Party calls for the implementation of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

b) The Green Party calls on the PLO to recognise the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure borders.

c) The Green Party calls on the Israeli Government and the PLO to unequivocally reject violence as a means of settling the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

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

**IP701** If the UK pursues sustainable self-reliance, the government administration of distant colonies cannot be retained indefinitely. In territorial disputes, the need for peaceful settlements becomes urgent. Such agreements should take into account the wishes and rights of the inhabitants, but these cannot be the sole or overriding factors. Options such as permanent British sovereignty

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

## Policies

IP703 For each Dependency, self-reliance with security following the withdrawal of British and foreign troops.  
IP704 Vigorous and consistent application of UN human rights policies.  
IP705 The Green Party recognises both the right of the people of Gibraltar to self-determination and Gibraltar's need of sustainable and amicable relations with the adjacent Kingdom of Spain and regional government of Andalusia, and with Morocco across the Strait of Gibraltar. The UK should seek diplomatic agreements to provide for such relations, with the full participation of Gibraltar's elected representatives in any diplomatic initiatives. Any agreement should be subject to the democratic decision of the people of Gibraltar.  
IP706 The Green Party recognises both the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to self-determination and the need of sustainable and amicable relations between the islands and the southern countries of South America. The experience of the unsuccessful attempt by Argentina to annex the islands is a barrier to the achievement of such relations. Nonetheless, the UK should seek diplomatic agreements to provide for such relations with Argentina and neighbouring littoral states, with the full participation of

the elected representatives of the Falkland Islands in any diplomatic initiatives. Any agreement should be subject to the democratic decision of the people of the Falkland Islands  
IP707 Negotiations with Commonwealth nations on behalf of Dependency people wishing to migrate.

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

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

IP709 Extend democracy in the Dependencies: Crown-nominated members of the ruling bodies to be replaced by elected members, and adult suffrage to be granted for internal elections to all inhabitants over 18 years of age.

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

## Hong Kong

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

the PRC government to grant them.

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

IP752 We recognise that Hong Kong resident holders of forms of British citizenship and their families have a special claim to the right of residence in the UK. Additional offers of British citizenship and the right of residence in the UK should be made to those who were citizens of Hong Kong under British administration. We would facilitate such immigration under the liberal policies on migration, nationality, refugees and asylum seekers (see Migration, Nationality and Refugees & Asylum Seekers) which the Green Party would introduce.

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

## Peoples of the Pacific

IP760 The Green Party recognises the plight of the peoples of the Pacific, and

condemns their economic and military exploitation by the USA, France and other industrial nations. The Green Party:

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

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

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## Section C – Policy Motions

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### C20. ALMOs

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

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

HO405 In those areas where an Arms Length Management Organisation exists, the Green Party will seek to ensure that it requires genuine tenant participation - noting that a few unaccountable council tenants on the board of an ALMO is not equivalent to full tenant participation. It calls for a 'fourth option' in the funding of social housing, in which Government would provide equal finances for the achievement of the Decent Homes Standard, regardless of whether a local authority retains its council housing stock. It also calls for a ballot of all tenants and leaseholders on the basis of one vote per tenant/leaseholder when an ALMO is being proposed by any local authority. Tenants whose housing is represented by an ALMO should always be provided with the option of returning to local authority control, if it is requested by a majority in a democratic ballot, and ALMOs should not be used as the first stage towards full scale stock transfer.

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

### C21. Zimbabwe

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

**Motion:** We call upon GPEX and

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

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

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

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

### C22. 9-11 inquiry

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

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

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

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

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

## C23. Tidal generation in estuaries

### Synopsis (provided by SOC)

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

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

Delete existing clause EN 808.  
Insert new clause EN 808 :\_\_\_\_"1)  
The Green Party of England and Wales believes that it is

appropriate to use the tidal energy potential from estuaries such as the Severn estuary subject to sustainability and environmental impact assessments.\_\_\_\_2) The Green Party of England and Wales believes that any proposal for a single continuous barrage across the Severn estuary is not an appropriate means of harnessing the tidal energy potential of the river Severn estuary

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

## C24. Tidal lagoon in Swansea Bay

### (Synopsis provided by SOC)

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

**Motion** This Conference supports the proposal for a tidal lagoon for electricity generation in Swansea Bay, and the scheme launched by local Green Party members and others to enable that lagoon, when built, to be owned and operated for the benefit of local people. The Green Party endorses this as a model for other tidal lagoon projects where appropriate elsewhere around the coasts of Britain, subject to favourable environmental impact studies in all cases.

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

## C25. Environmental Education

### Synopsis (provided by SOC)

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

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

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

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

## C26. Food in schools

## Synopsis (provided by SOC)

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

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

It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food free from additives. Vegetarians, vegans and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks. Schools will be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food. Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, it will greatly improve behaviour, quality of life and learning.  
Proposed by **Rachel Fryer**, Ben Duncan, Peter Cranie and Jim Killock

## C27. West Papua

(Synopsis provided by SOC) This motion calls for an action plan by the UK, EU and UN to ensure human rights in West Papua, especially demilitarisation, and end to UK arms sales, freedom

of speech/assembly, release of political prisoners and internationally sponsored talks without the current preconditions that prohibit the discussion of self-determination.

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

- 1) Internationally sponsored Indonesian-West Papuan dialogue without pre-conditions. Britain currently supports dialogue in which Indonesia can veto any discussion of self-determination. This, in effect, rules out any discussion of the injustice that is the root of the conflict.
- 2) Release of West Papuan political prisoners; in particular the imprisoned activists Filep Karma and Yusak Pakage. They were jailed for 15 and 10 years respectively for merely raising the West Papuan independence flag on 1st December 2004. Amnesty International has officially recognised them as Prisoners of Conscience. There are currently approximately 100 Papuan political prisoners in total.
- 3) De-militarisation of West Papua: There has been a significant Indonesian troop build up in West Papua in the past 12 months. The Indonesian military has refused to sign up to the 2003 Papuan Churches "Land of Peace" initiative.
- 4) An end to the sale of UK arms to Indonesia: In 2005, a British made

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

5) Freedom of speech and assembly and the right to form political parties: at present Indonesia gives West Papuans no opportunity to peacefully campaign for self-determination/independence. Raising the West Papuan Morning Star flag counts as "rebellion against the State" and results in along jail sentence; pro-independence political parties are banned; and any expression of a desire for independence is likely to lead to arrest, jail and torture.

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

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

## C28. Animal experiments

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

**MOTION** Replace Policy AR407 with:

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

Government research funds will be transferred from animal tests to superior non animal technologies, including epidemiology, computer models, micro-dosing, DNA chips, Microfluidics chips and the use of human tissue.

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

Replace Policy AR408 with:

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

models, mannequins, mechanical and computer-based simulators, films and interactive videos, plant experiments and observational and field studies, and human studies including self-experimentation.

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

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

## C29. Road Transport Carbon Emissions Reduction

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

**MOTION** In order to bring about an immediate reduction in CO2 greenhouse gas emissions from road transport, Conference calls on the Government and Local Authorities to immediately implement the policies contained in

clause TR115 of the MfSS (a 55mph speed limit on all trunk roads & motorways) . This would at a stroke both produce a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, whilst also improving road safety, at minimal cost to the economy.

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

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

## C30. Kurdistan

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

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

Proposed by **Tony Young**, Paula

Montez, Keith Ross, Rhodri Griffiths

## C31. Climate Change Targets

### (Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion updates our CO<sub>2</sub> targets with current thinking, and updates policy to plan for a post-Kyoto treaty with reference to soot.

In CC section of the MfSS

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

b) In CC201

Delete

"Simple climate models consistent with IPCC findings suggest that global average emissions need to be reduced by 65-80% by 2030."

And replace by

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

c) Change CC203 from

"UK emissions in 2003 were 7.5% below the 1990 baseline. We should aim steadily to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels to 10% of their 1990 levels by 2030. To achieve this, we will target a 6% annual reduction in UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and establish effective mechanisms for getting back on track should an annual target be missed."

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

Add sections CC208-9

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

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

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

## C32. Climate Change, rainforests and peat

### (Synopsis provided by SOC)

This motion condemns deforestation, peat drainage, swamp drainage, peat burning and biodiversity loss and proposes emergency

international agreements to tackle them.

Add new sections CC216-CC221  
CC216 The current EU emissions-trading scheme has two primary flaws; it not based on equal rights to the atmosphere, nor on global greenhouse-gas stabilization targets. As a result the highest polluters are rewarded with the greatest allocation of emission permits, full carbon life-cycle emissions are not assessed and no attempt is made to correlate with global stabilization targets.

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

CC218 It is particularly alarming that nations are trying to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol by using bioenergy classed as 'carbon neutral' despite large-scale greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and peat burning. By doing so, Annex 1 nations are simply exporting greenhouse gas emissions to the developing world and, in doing so, are contributing to greater emissions overall. There is a limited role for sustainable bioenergy, but this must not lead to an increase in monocultures or in the area of the planet under agriculture.

There is growing opposition in many countries of the South to large-scale biofuel plantations grown to serve the OECD markets, and we support the local communities and NGOs resisting those developments. Within Europe and the UK we call for a suspension of all bioenergy targets and obligations and an import ban on products linked, directly or indirectly, to deforestation and other negative social and environmental impacts

CC219 Rainforests.

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

CC220 The Green Party calls for an emergency international agreement to stop global deforestation. This must be developed as a priority and implemented in full consultation with the local and indigenous communities

recognising traditional land rights. This must be made an integral part of existing and future climate change frameworks and the EU and UK must begin to work towards these aims now, not delay action until adopted by the UN.

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

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

### **C33. Climate Change - adaptation and leadership**

**(Synopsis provided by SOC)**

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

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

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

CC102 Leadership. It is clear

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

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

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

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

### **C34. Climate Change policy simplification and corrections**

**(Synopsis provided by SOC)**

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

a) Change CC005 from

" The UNFCCC has organised annual "Conferences of the Parties" (COPs) since 1995. At COP3 in Kyoto in 1997 the major polluting countries agreed a plan (the Kyoto Protocol or KP) including definite commitments to reduce

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

To  
"The Kyoto Protocol, negotiated under the auspices of the UNFCCC, came into force in 2005. It commits most industrialised countries to greenhouse gas emissions reductions averaging 5% from a 1990 base by 2012. It is extremely complex, and has many serious flaws. Its major technical problems are the "Clean Development Mechanism" and the "Joint Implementation" proposals, which open big loopholes for profitable cheating. Also, the non-involvement of the USA is a major setback, emissions from international civil aviation and shipping are not counted, and the proposed compliance mechanism is toothless."

b) Change CC012 from

"Until 2002 just over half of CO2 emissions were consistently absorbed. In the 1990s there was

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

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

To...

"So far just over half of CO2 emissions have been consistently absorbed. In the 1990s there was considerable debate about where the absorbing was happening, as it is much harder to measure than emissions. A scientific agreement was eventually reached that boreal forests, tropical forests and oceans were all absorbing significantly.. However there is some evidence that the natural CO2 sinks are declining in effectiveness; and some models suggest that many current sinks will become net emitters rather than absorbers over the coming decades."

c) Change the first sentence of CC202 from

" The UK's commitment under the EU basket agreement reached in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol is a

reduction in the 6-gas basket by 15% by 2008-2012"

to make it read

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

d) Change CC206 from

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

to

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

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

## **C35. CO2 reduction targets**

**Synopsis** Our manifesto policy regarding Annual Targets for reducing UK CO2 emissions needs to be revised to be consistent with our target

for 2030, and to be "future proofed" for the coming years.

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

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

### **C36. Workplace Bullying**

#### **(Synopsis provided by SOC)**

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

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

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

## **Section D – Organisational Motions**

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### **D40: Requirement for Regional Council members to be Elected by Postal Ballot**

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

**Motion** Amend Constitution section By-laws, Second paragraph, as referred to in Clause 5(ii):

add at the end of first sentence 'by postal ballot'.

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

### **D41: Young Greens constitution**

#### **(Synopsis provided by SOC)**

This motion notes the success and vital nature of the Young Greens, proposes to change the Young Greens' status from that of local party to independent status, similar to the AGC, expands the age limit to 29 and gives Young Greens a basic capitation of £2 per Young Green member.

#### **Conference notes:**

\*That the Young Greens are a vital force within the Green

Party, increasing political awareness and activism among young people across England and Wales.

\*That Young Greens should refer to all members under the age of 30, in line with the Federation of Young European Greens.

\*That local party status is inappropriate for a national youth body and the Young Greens should have independent status.

\*That as the Young Greens grow, restricted funding is limiting the size and optimum productivity of the body. Self-funding exercises are proving effective, however, a stable financial situation is required to sustain high value for money, and productive operations. The Young Greens require a basic capitation of £2 per Young Green member, irrespective of membership rate.

#### **Motion**

In the Constitution of The Green Party, remove from Bye Laws, referred to in clause 5(v):

2. Members aged less than 27 years and student members of the party may opt to be members of the Young Greens. Young Greens shall have a constitution which states that it is a constituent part of the Green Party.

Insert new paragraph in clause 5 as (iv) and re-number subsequent paragraphs:

(iv) Young Greens

a) Young Greens will form an independent national body within the Green Party and have a constitution which states that it is a constituent part of the Green Party.

b) Members of the party aged less than 30 years will be registered as Young Greens with the opportunity to opt out at any time.

c) Young Greens shall receive a £2 capitation on all Young

Greens membership fees, irrespective of membership rate.

d) The Young Greens shall have a democratically elected national executive body responsible for the overall direction and day to day running of the Young Greens.

Proposed by the **Young Greens** (who currently have local party status).

## **D42. Leader and Deputy Leader of the Green Party**

### **Synopsis**

This motion would mandate a ballot of the membership to change the Constitution to remove the Principal Speakers posts and replace them with a Leader and Deputy Leader with limited powers and full accountability. It also includes the option for members to stand as "Co-Leaders".

### **Motion**

Conference notes

- i. The successive majorities on Conference floor in favour of a reformed leadership structure; The public confusion over the notion of Principal Speakers;
- ii. The difficulty in explaining to the media what a Principal Speaker is;
- iii. The perception among the public that we as a party do not take our vital political role sufficiently seriously.

Conference believes:

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

commonly understood by the public;

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

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

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

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

### **1 Philosophical Basis**

#### **Replace PB443 with:**

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

### **2 Constitution**

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

##### **Section 8 PARTY LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER**

- (i) There shall be a Leader and Deputy Leader of the Green Party. They shall be voting members of the Executive.
- (ii) The Leader and Deputy will be the primary public faces of the party, responsible for presenting Green Party policy and promoting its electoral activity and campaigns to the public on a day to day basis.
- (iii) Candidates for Leader and Deputy Leader shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years

preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form.

Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.

(iv) Two ordinary members of opposite sexes may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share. The post of Deputy Leader may not be held as a job share. In the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post, they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders', no election for Deputy Leader shall take place, and the duties, powers and votes of both posts will be held by the Co-Leaders.

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

(vi) The vote for Leader shall be counted first.

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

(vii) Elections for the Leader and Deputy Leader will include the opportunity for each candidate to address ordinary members through specific mailings, a party membership newsletter and web based

communications. Regional parties will be encouraged to hold hustings.

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

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

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

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

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

## **(ii) Amend Section 6: Regional Council clause x**

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

### **Replace clause xi as shown below:**

By a two-thirds majority of its voting membership the Regional Council may recall the Leader or Deputy Leader, who shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for both posts at a date to be

determined by the Regional Council.

## **(iii) Amend Section 7: Executive as follows**

Amend clause ii shown below:

ii) Amend the first sentence  
*"The Party Executive shall consist of ten voting members with the following functional responsibilities:"*

with:

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

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

with:

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

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

*with the postal ballot. Further nominations will be accepted up to a new close of nominations determined by the ERO."*

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

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

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

vi) Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one Annually Elected GPEx post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader.

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

xii) In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local

Parties petitioning the Regional Council to recall an Annually Elected GPEx member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.

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

**(iv) Amend party by-laws “referred to in clause 5(xiv) Party Registration” as follows: Replace 1 with:**

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

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

## **D43: Proxies**

**Synopsis (rewritten by SOC):**

This motion removes the right of members not attending Conference to mandate a Conference attendee to vote on their behalf as their proxy.

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

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

## **D44: Associate Members and nominating (SOC)**

**Synopsis:** In light of the lack of clarity that was noted at the last Conference over the rights of Associate Members, SOC is submitting this motion to clear up the ambiguity. It simply adds the words “nor sign nomination papers” to the list of things an Associate Member may not do.

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

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

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

## **D45: Associate Members and nominating (Dixon et al)**

**Synopsis:** Following the confusion at last Conference around whether or not local

associate members could sign internal nomination papers, this motion seeks to clarify the position of associate members, and specifically to limit their involvement to the workings of the local party which they have joined.

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

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

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

## **D46: Replacing Capitations**

## Synopsis

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

### Conference notes

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

obligations the maximum payout would to local parties would be £13,000 / annum.

### Motion

Amend clause 4. (iii) of the Constitution of The Green Party. Add the following: \_\_The percentage for Local Parties will be distributed in accordance with appendix C. \_\_Insert new appendix C at end of constitution: \_\_1) Every active Local Party will receive a fixed annual payment. Inactive Local Parties will receive no payment. \_\_2) An active Local Party must have a minimum of six current members, must have a bank account and must hold an Annual General Meeting. \_\_3) The annual payment will be £75 in the first instance. This figure can be amended by GPEX in consultation with GPEW as part of the three yearly capitation review process. \_\_4) The annual payment will be distributed after completion of each financial year to the official treasurer of the Local Party upon receipt at London Party Office of an annual statement of accounts, a copy of a recent bank statement and the minutes of the latest Annual General Meeting.

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

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

## D47: Eligibility to stand for GPEX elections

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

**Motion:** Replace 7(v)

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

with

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

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

## D48: Final authority of SOC/Conference

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

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

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

8(i) first sentence would now read:

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

8(iii) would now read:

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

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

## **D49: Procedural motions**

**Synopsis** This motion removes the current possibility of a motion being taken without actual debate on the substantive, by restricting the current usage of procedural motions.

## **[synopsis rewritten by consensus decision of SOC].**

### **Motion**

In SOCC at end of E5(c) add:

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

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

## **D50: Re-introduce Membership Cards**

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

This Conference notes that Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference section 6(b) defines proxy voting entitlement as follows " A member producing acceptable authority (a current membership card) to represent other members shall be given a voting card showing the total number of

votes including his/her own.", but that membership cards are in fact no longer issued to members. We note that the precedent set at Conferences since the discontinuance of membership cards has been that a letter signed by a member is regarded as "acceptable authority" within the meaning of this clause. We note that this present system, as well as being contrary to the letter of SOCC 6(b), is open to abuse, because there is no way of checking the signatures of members, so that such letters could be created by anyone with access to any local or national membership list; whereas the previous system had the built-in safeguard of requiring anyone wishing to exercise a proxy vote on behalf of another member to obtain that person's membership card, which was sent directly to each member either from Party Office (in England) or from the Wales Green Party membership secretary in Wales.

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

This Conference therefore instructs Party Office and the Wales Green Party membership secretary to issue membership cards to all existing members and to resume the issuing of membership cards to new and

renewing members as soon as practically possible, and instructs GPEX to ensure that this process is completed before the next AGM of the Party.

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

## D51. Green Islands network

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

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

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

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### Section E – Draft Voting Papers

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## E60 Public Administration and Government Draft Voting Paper

### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT DRAFT VOTING PAPER

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

#### PROPOSED NEW POLICY:

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

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT

##### Introduction

PA001. We live in a state where over centuries of struggle

some democratic rights and institutions have gradually been grafted on to a feudal monarchy. In that feudal monarchy all power flowed downward from the monarch, and the people were subjects and not citizens.

Gradually some of that power has been delegated to bodies like Parliament, or to local authorities, and citizens have acquired some rights. However our constitution still has many of the elements of its feudal past, including some remnants of the royal prerogative. We believe that the basic principle of Government should be the reverse of this, that is that power flows upwards from the people, and from their most local levels of Government to the higher levels. Certain principles follow from this:

#### Principles

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

PA101. A further principle is that any democratic and accountable authority may judge for itself which functions carried out at a higher level it can do equally well, or better, provided that the devolution of such functions does not threaten the sustainability of the wider area. Coupled with the principle of subsidiarity,

this establishes the need for a structure that responds positively to demands for decentralisation from below, and that ensures that this proceeds smoothly and does not disempower other communities.

PA102. The highest form of democracy is direct participation. This is best achieved through the decentralisation of society, so that decisions can be made through face to face discussion. All the major political decisions which affect our lives should ideally be made with our active participation, which requires open and informed debate rather than simply voting without discussion. This requires that all economic and social activity should be carried out on a human scale; that is, in a way that allows individuals and groups access to, and influence over, such decisions. Direct democracy will encourage cross-party co-operation and weaken the hold of ideologies and factions.

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

PA104. Given the scale of

human activity in the world today, and the indirect impact that much of this activity has on people living in different areas, it is clear that not all decisions can be made locally. The best form of democracy for large-scale activity is voting, in elections and referenda, in such a way that the outcome reflects the pattern of voting and no vote is wasted. Delegated authority and trust must be accompanied by full accountability.

PA105. A community cannot be self-determining unless it is to a large extent self-reliant. Self-reliance is the ability to satisfy needs without being excessively or unequally dependent upon anyone; self-sufficiency is one way to achieve self-reliance, but is by no means the only way.

PA106. Co-operation and working together in order to achieve a state of harmony with the planet and the life it supports must be fundamental to all policy decisions. Divisions, power-relations, intolerance, prejudice, wide inequalities and failures in communication all weaken communities and preclude such co-operation. A Bill to enshrine rights and responsibilities must exist to help protect against this; positive action to build a tolerant, global awareness and to empower oppressed groups is also necessary.

PA107. Government must therefore exist at many levels, each based upon geographical areas within

which a given set of functions can be carried out and with which the people themselves have some common bond. These areas will in many cases be bio-regionally based, on the geographical and ecological boundaries already existing.

PA108. The Green Party views citizenship as a set of rights and responsibilities based on a commitment to a community. It is gained by living in the the community, and lost by extended absence. Responsibilities and rights include Citizens' Income, personal taxation, shelter, and participation in the democratic process. The Green Party believes that the age of majority (at which full criminal responsibility and the power to make contracts is acquired) should be reduced to 16, to clarify the age at which children become adults in the eyes of the law, with accompanying full citizenship rights and responsibilities.

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

process, the key to a smooth transition will lie in the way in which Parliament surrenders its tradition of national sovereignty.

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

PA111. Public services must always take account of the wider social impacts of their actions. All those involved in public service provision, be they elected representatives or public sector employees, should be working for the good of the community as a whole. They should be responsive to the needs, and respectful of the wishes, of their communities. In return, their efforts and commitment should be valued by the communities they serve.

## Policies

### Constitutional

PA200. A Constitutional Commission will be required to draft a written constitution, oversee and arbitrate the process of decentralisation, and take over the functions of the Boundary Commission and the Electoral Commission. The Constitutional Commission will also be responsible for overseeing the appointment of

an independent judiciary. The Commission must be accountable, representative, diverse, aware of practical requirements and grassroots concerns, and independent of Westminster. Therefore it will be formed at the earliest opportunity of elected Councillors representing all levels of Government in all parts of the UK countries involved.

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

PA202. In order for councils to be sufficiently legitimate and trustworthy to take on increased responsibility, large-scale electoral reform will be required, and immediate legislation for citizen's rights. (see PA250-308, RR301)

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

with at too high a level by central Government and the private sector. (see PA100-101)

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

### Direct Democracy and Political Rights

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

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

PA252. Legislation will be introduced to provide for referenda to be held on any government decision at the instance of a prescribed percentage of that body's electorate.

PA253. When a Bill of Rights has been enacted, a prescribed percentage of the citizens of

any area shall be able to take a Citizens' Initiative, whereby they place a proposition on a ballot paper for popular vote. Should the proposition succeed the result will, subject to the law, be binding on the relevant government body.

PA254. Government at all levels should be accountable to electors between elections and accordingly necessary legislative steps will be taken to provide for a prescribed percentage of any representative's electors to be able to petition for the recall of any elected person, and rules will be made for the conduct of such recall petitions.

PA255. It is accepted that such recall provisions as described in PA254 above may cause some difficulties under a proportional representation method of electing representatives and accordingly the Constitutional Commission will look further at this matter. Until, however, proportional representation exists for elections to all levels of government the Green Party will campaign for recall provisions under the current "First past the post" system.

#### Electoral Reform

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

PA301. Elected representatives must be accountable to their electors and provision must be made for the representatives under certain extreme circumstances to be recalled and submitted to re-election.

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

PA303. The voting age for all elections, and the age at which people may take seats at any level of Government, would be reduced to 16.

PA304. The Green Party supports Electoral Reform in all levels of Government, with different systems being appropriate for different levels of Government. Of the various electoral systems available, we would consider the Single Transferrable Vote and Additional Member Systems to be entirely acceptable, whilst First-Past-The-Post or Supplementary Vote Systems are not.

PA305. The most appropriate system for elections to the Westminster Parliament is the Additional Member System (AMS). Electors would vote on two ballots: one for the party of their first choice and the other for their constituency MP. MPs would be elected from constituencies as at present, but each party's representation would be topped up on a regional basis by additional members to bring its number of seats up to its proportion of votes

polled, provided that proportion was above a minimum qualifying level of 5% of votes polled. There would be a requirement that each party's list has to be elected by a system of 'one member one vote' of the party's membership.

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

PA307. All terms for elected representatives to all levels of Government shall be fixed in length, except when a seat is taken following a by-election. Each Parliament at Westminster should normally be for a fixed term of four years, but if the Government loses a vote of confidence in the House of Commons before the end of the fixed term then an earlier General Election should be held.

PA308. UK political parties will be funded by the State. Such political funding will be calculated and administered on a regional basis, and funds allocated in proportion to the number of votes cast

in the region in the last round of proportional representation elections held across the entire region. Parties would need to exceed a threshold of 5% of the vote to become eligible for this funding.

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

#### Local Government Structure

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

PA351. All Councils will be asked to complete a review of the pattern of Parish councils in their area within two years; and the

legislation on Parishes will be extended to cover all parts of Britain. Every effort should be made to ensure that the boundaries of Parishes reflect local peoples' wishes; the Constitutional Commission will arbitrate in disputes.

PA352. Town and Parish Councils will have the option of whether or not to pay Councillors a salary, depending on the responsibilities taken by the Council and the resulting workload of its Councillors.

PA353. Adjoining districts may co-operate to any level for the joint exercise of specific functions, provided such co-operation does not impact on the accountability of decision making. Similarly, parishes may co-operate to act on common concerns not applicable to the whole district. We support co-operation between authorities across national borders, where necessary or appropriate.

PA354. The Green Party believes that local authorities run by single party cabinets, or by directly elected mayors, are not in the best interests of local democracy. They take decision making powers away from councils as a whole and place them in the hands of a few individuals, leading to the disenfranchisement of those councillors who are not in the ruling party and the citizens they represent. We would therefore reintroduce the committee system across local government at all levels, which

provides for direct member involvement in decision making.

The Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Irish Assembly

PA400. Provision will be made for reconsideration of the role of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and the Northern Irish Assembly in accordance with the wishes of these people. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will enjoy the degree of autonomy, perhaps involving full self-Government or independence, which the citizens of each, expressing their views through referenda, wish them to have. Citizens of regions in England will have a similar right. References above and below to regions will apply to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland so long as they choose to remain in the United Kingdom. (For detailed policies on Northern Ireland, see our separate NI policy section).

#### Regional Government in England

PA410. Many Government functions are already organised on a regional basis through the Regional Government Offices (GRO), the Regional Development Agencies (RDA), the Regional Chambers (RCh) and numerous other regional QUANGOs. Public acceptance of these agencies, and their subsequent usefulness, varies from region to region, depending on how closely the regions correlate to natural and cultural areas

which people identify themselves as living within. Any such region should be able to decide, via a referendum of the citizens living within it, to create a directly elected regional assembly as an additional tier of government.

PA411. These regional assemblies would take over the powers of the GRO, RDA, the existing Regional Chamber and other existing QUANGOs, and adapt their existing bureaucracies to serve the new Assembly. Funding would, in the initial stages, come from diverting the existing block grant regional funding allocated by central Government.

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

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

PA414. In due course, the regional assemblies should be able to assume regional tax-raising powers to replace the proportion of national taxation being allocated to regional block grant and other funding. They will also draw down more powers from national and European Government in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. (see PA100)

PA415. In line with the Green Party's policy of allowing Citizen's Initiatives (PA253), a proposal to abolish a regional assembly or a regional government office could be put before the electorate of a region if proposed by a prescribed percentage of that electorate.

PA416. Where regional assemblies, the Scottish Parliament, or the Welsh or Northern Irish Assembly have taken decision making powers from central government, so that citizens within those areas are no longer subject to central government decisions on particular issues, MPs from those areas should be excluded from voting on those issues in the House of Commons. Such a provision is consistent with the concept of subsidiarity.

The Structure of Central Government

PA450. In a Green society, the UK central government will have less power than it currently has - with many of its functions being taken over by local authorities or the

regions. The central Parliament's powers will be limited to those matters that have been delegated upwards to it, and which it in turn has not delegated onwards to the European Parliament.

PA451. Central Government currently revolves around the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, with the role of Parliament greatly diminished. The most important reform needed to redress this imbalance is the move to proportional representation. This will help to bring an end to the traditional dominance of two political parties in Britain. The central Parliament (House of Commons), elected under the AMS system (see PA305), will be far more representative of the diversity of opinion within the UK. There will be far less chance of an overall Parliamentary majority for one party, and, even without further reform, the resulting necessity for coalition governments would make governments and Prime Ministers much more accountable to Parliament.

PA452. In the longer-term, the Green Party would wish to introduce further reforms to increase the representative nature of central government. In order to create true cross-party working, and weaken the hold of political ideologies (see PA102), a different form of parliamentary decision-making would be required. Replacing the current system with one in which parties form coalitions in

order to gain Parliamentary majorities, and therefore form a government, may still result in the disenfranchisement of large sections of the electorate, whilst minority partners in such coalitions may hold disproportionate influence.

PA452. Over the years the power of the Prime Minister in particular has greatly increased. Not only does the Prime Minister exercise the remaining elements of the royal prerogative in making vital decisions like war and peace and having effective control of the armed forces, but his or her powers of patronage - in particular choosing the members of the government - give the Prime Minister overwhelming control of both the overall direction and the minutiae of government. Reflecting the powers of Prime Ministers, general elections have come to resemble presidential contests, with the characters of the leaders of the main political parties coming under more intense scrutiny than their policies.

PA453. We do not believe that it is either healthy or democratic to concentrate so much power in the hands of one person. We believe too that power, executive as well as legislative, is more properly exercised by a democratically elected body than by a cabinet appointed by the prime minister (see PB443).

PA454. Accordingly, the Green Party would want the central Parliament itself to become the

principal decision making body of central government. To do so the central Parliament would elect committees covering each of the major areas of government, and each committee would have its own convenor elected by Parliament, who would take the place of the Secretary of State in the current system of government. The committee, assisted by a department staffed by civil servants responsible to the committee as a whole, would be responsible for day to day decisions in its area of responsibility. Major decisions, and new legislation, would need to be ratified by Parliament as a whole.

PA455. A First Minister would also be elected by the central Parliament as a whole, who would be responsible for chairing a committee, the Coordination Committee, of all the convenors of parliamentary committees. This body would be responsible for coordinating the work of the different committees, and for dealing with matters that affect them all, such as the allocation of public expenditure. The First Minister would act as Head of Government, in particular in dealings with other states. The central Parliament would also elect, as at present, an apolitical Speaker, who would act as Head of State (see PA600c).

PA456. The First Minister and any of the convenors could be recalled

by a no-confidence vote in the central Parliament at any time. There would be time limits as to how long any individual could hold any particular post, so as to diminish the corrosive effect of personal political ambition, a major fault of the present system.

PA457. We believe that such arrangements, combined with the introduction of proportional representation, would bring to an end the sterile two party jousting of current politics. Proposals would need to gain support on their own merit within the Parliamentary chamber in order to be approved, and the real policy debates will be open for all to hear.

In particular, we would expect there to be much more genuine multi-party cooperation and working in the committees. Under such a system decisions are more likely to have the support of the overwhelming majority of the population than they are as at present when they are forced through by minority governments. In the longer run we would expect such arrangements to diminish the power of political parties as such, with individuals standing for election feeling freer to express their own views and to take an independent line once elected.

PA458. The House of Lords, as presently constituted, has no legitimate mandate because it is not elected. It should be abolished and replaced by a second chamber directly elected by proportional

representation. In order to provide independence from the House of Commons, the electoral method should ideally be different for each chamber. With a Parliament elected by AMS, as above, the Green Party favours a second chamber elected by Single Transferrable Vote in multi-member constituencies. Its function would be to scrutinise legislation devised by the central Parliament, and to propose amendments where it felt necessary. The final decisions would, however, rest with the central Parliament.

PA459. Members of the second chamber would be elected to serve for a period of ten years. In order to ensure that the chamber was able to make independent and objective assessments of proposed legislation, no member of the second chamber should be allowed to sit on it for more than one term of office - therefore meaning that they don't feel bound to follow the wishes of their party leaders to preserve their careers. Accountability to the electorate would be maintained by the option of recall (see PA254). In order to maintain some continuity, elections would be held every five years - with half the chamber being selected at each election.

#### Finance

PA500. In setting up or extending democratic practices, it is important to recognise that the finance available is not

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

PA501. As the economy becomes more decentralised, more public expenditure decisions will be made at a local level. To facilitate accountability, and to ensure the gradual reduction in the scale of central spending, an independent commission should negotiate a rational allocation of taxation between different levels of Government, as well as any redistribution of wealth between different areas which is considered necessary (see EC550-551).

PA502. Discussion will be held with other countries within the European Community to encourage concurrent devolution of those functions and powers over finance, more appropriately held at the regional level. (see EU227, 228)

PA503. Within a list agreed by the Constitutional Commission, councils will have discretion over which (if any) revenue raising powers they wish to use (see EC550). Levels of taxation will

thus be set by the persons answerable to the electorate from whom such funding is to be raised, and for whom such services are to be provided. There will be no limits set on the revenue a council can raise to carry out its mandate.

#### Monarchy and the Church

PA600. The Green Party believes that the hereditary principle should have no place in government. Therefore the Green Party advocates that:

a) No person shall acquire the right to any office of government by inheritance.

b) An hereditary peerage shall confer no right to sit in Parliament (see PA455).

c) The monarchy shall cease to be an office of government. The legislative, executive and judicial roles of the monarch shall cease.

d) Peers and members of the royal family shall have the same civil rights and fiscal obligations as other citizens.

e) A settlement of property held by the current royal family shall be made, to divide it between that required for the private life of current members of the family and that to be public property.

PA601. There shall be a complete separation of church and state.

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

PA602. The Church of England shall be disestablished. It shall become self-governing, and the government shall cease to have any powers and responsibilities peculiar to that church. No person shall hold office in the state, or be excluded from any such office, by virtue of their or their spouse's membership or non-membership of any religion or denomination of religion.

#### The Civil Service

PA700. The functions of civil servants working within a ministry will be to support the Parliamentary sub-committee in its capacity as a coordinator of the national affairs which fall within the scope of the ministry, and enact decisions made by Parliament as directed by its sub-committees.

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

#### Provision of Watch-dog Facilities

PA800. The remit of the various commissioners for public administration will be strengthened. There will be a

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

PA801. The function of the Ombudsman will be elevated and enlarged so that it will comprise a major part of Governmental practice. The powers of the Ombudsman and the Commission for Local Administration will be strengthened as follows:  
i) The Ombudsman will be given power to investigate complaints which affect all or most of the citizens of a local Government area;  
ii) The Commission will be given power in appropriate cases to fund, or underwrite the costs of, legal test cases involving matters of importance concerning the actions of local Government.

PA802. Democratic participation requires the availability of independent information on which people can form an opinion. The Green Party would therefore introduce an independent body to audit national statistics, to avoid their manipulation by government departments.

Identity, Privacy and Freedom of Information

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

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

PA852. The need for the state and other organisations to obtain information on individuals for specific purposes must not entitle them to access unrelated information at other times for any other purpose. This would undermine

the civil liberties of individuals. It would enable those in charge of government and other organisations to obtain and use the information to attack the legitimate rights and activities of those opposed to them.

PA853. Information obtained and held by the state or other organisations must not be used to subvert and attack the legitimate rights and activities of those opposed to them.

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

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

PA856. The Green Party believes that citizens should be entitled to access to information held by their governments and to meetings of their government. These shall be open except where specifically restricted. Restrictions shall be limited to those necessary to protect the privacy of individual citizens and to those which government can show are required to prevent real harm to the public interest. Provision shall be made for a commission to test

the latter contention and require access if that contention is not sustained. The use of other bodies effectively acting in the capacity of government will not be allowed to prevent access to information and meetings held by them in that capacity. Exemptions to protect the privacy of individual citizens will not necessarily apply to corporate bodies. Commercial confidentiality should not be accepted as a valid reason for withholding information that would have been in the public domain had the relevant public service monopoly not been privatised.

PA857. The circumstances in which access to council meetings and documents and files may be withheld from the public shall be clearly defined. In particular the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 will be tightened up in a number of ways, for example:

- i) The creation by local authorities of 'working parties', 'panels' or other such bodies, which are not covered by the Act, will be ended. All such bodies will be defined as committees or sub-committees, to ensure that the Act applies to them;
- ii) The use of valid exemptions to public access to documents pursuant to the 1985 Act, to restrict public access to matters not intended to be covered by those exemptions, will be ended; for instance the practice of excluding the public from decisions about

grants given to organisations - as distinct from individuals where genuine personal privacy may apply;

- iii) Steps will be taken to curtail decision-making in secret party group meetings as this practice makes the subsequent meetings of the council or its committees or sub-committees meaningless as the decisions ostensibly taken in public will in practice have been made beforehand. We would also wish to end the practice in which all members of a party are required to follow a whip imposed in secret, with penalties if they fail to do so.

## Greening Local Government

### The Current Situation

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

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

### The Work of Elected Green Councillors

PA910. One solution is to go outside the conventions of political office to mobilise the resources of the community. A priority for Green Party councillors is

therefore to act as people who can co-ordinate initiatives coming from below, tapping and encouraging the ideas and potential that are latent everywhere. (see EC512, 620s)

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

PA912. Access to the Councils' records and information should be made more open. Also, the creation of special community forums to oversee the work of particular departments and committees may increase involvement. Where elected, therefore, Green Councillors will try to persuade their local authorities to write such provisions into their own standing orders, particularly as regards PA857(i) and (ii), thus committing the local authority to implement them immediately.

PA913. The council can facilitate and make itself accountable to referenda and citizen's initiatives. Where elected, Green councillors will urge their local authorities to themselves, in advance of any changes in the law, set up the machinery for citizen referenda and citizen initiative as described in PA252 and PA253 above; to publicise this, to implement this and, subject to the existing

law, to accept the results of such referenda and initiatives as binding. In such cases the prescribed number of signatures required on a citizen petition for either a referendum or an initiative shall be 20% of the electorate.

PA914. Individual Councillors can make themselves available for recall when petitioned to do so (see PA254). The Green Party recommends that all of its prospective councillors at future elections should voluntarily subject themselves to recall. Where the prescribed percentage of 40% of any councillor's electors petition for recall the party will (a) either organise a recall ballot of all the councillors' electors, (which will be supervised by independent persons of known integrity), and then encourage the councillors to comply with the result of any such ballot, or (b) urge its councillors to resign and fight a by-election.

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

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

PA917. Councils can carry out community audits and draw up

alternative indicators of well-being or quality-of-life as a basis for the council's service provision and for public information.

PA918. To make councils more responsive and effective, it will be necessary to encourage cross-party co-operation, and weaken the hold of dogmatic ideologies and factions. The Green Party will not operate a system of whipping councillors into line, and Green Councillors will call upon other parties to do the same. (see PA857iii)

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

## **E61 Culture Media and Sport Draft Voting Paper**

**Synopsis:** This Draft Voting Paper is not for formal debate at this Conference, but will be discussed in workshops. Members are invited to submit proposed amendments in time for the Second Agenda so that the workshop can consider them. A final Voting Paper will be submitted to a future conference. This draft is the culmination of over two years work both during and outside conferences in that period, and has included external consultation with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom among

others. It is vital for a party that is serious to have things to say about professional and amateur sport, about broadcasting regulation, and about the role of art and culture, in modern society. This draft hopes to provide the basis from which a future paper will be able to fill some of those existing policy gaps. This further helps to identify green principles which go beyond the environment and have relevance to the increasing place in society of sporting endeavour, of the increasingly influential role of the media, and the relationship between artists and the rest of society.

**Motion:**

Delete the existing Arts Chapter of the MfSS and replace with the following:

**Culture, Media and Sport Policy**

**GENERAL**

Background ..... CMS101

Principles.....CMS201

**CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE**

**ARTS**

Background .....CMS/C101

Principles.....C201

Objectives .....C301

Short to mid term Policies..... C401

Long term policies.....C501

**MEDIA**.....CMS/Mxxx

Background ..... M101

Principles.....M201

Objectives .....M301

Policies .....M401-901

a) General

b) Public Service Broadcasting

c) Commercial Broadcasting

d) Press and print mass media

e) New Media

f) Advertising

**SPORT**..... CMS/Sxxx

Background .....S101

Principles.....S201

Policy.....S301-S601

a) Sport in School

b) Amateur Sport

c) Professional Sport

d) International Sport

**Organisation of CMS section**

This section outlines a general policy framework in the sections numbered CMSxxx and then has separate specific sections addressing Culture (CMS/Cxxx), Media (CMS/Mxxx) and Sport (CMS/Sxxx)

**GENERAL**

**Background**

CMS101. The Culture Media & Sport (CMS) section of MfSS brings together three important elements through which social identity and a sense of community can be fostered in larger social groupings than those which can be sustained by personal relationships (e.g. the village or neighbourhood).

CMS102. Cultural activities, sporting activities and communications media enable larger communities and a whole society to achieve a sense of common identity and belonging, which then promotes good relations between citizens at a personal level.

CMS103. In all areas of CMS there are two ways in which people can engage with the activity – through participation as

performer or producer, or through reception as audience or spectator. Both forms of engagement with the particular activity are important; the major social value of CMS activities is the dialogue between participant and observer which enriches life.

CMS104. The rise of new media (mobile phones, internet, and independent music) at the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century can be seen as a public expression of a need for better access and improved participation. Similarly the continuing existence of grass roots activity in sport and culture, despite the large scale withdrawal of public sector support, shows the continuing need and value of these activities to citizens.

CMS105. The role of the Green Party in power will be to rebalance, support and promote equality of access and participation widely across society in the fields of culture, media and sport.

**Principles**

CMS201. The central Green principle in Culture Media and Sport (CMS) shall be

that of "participation, not passive consumption".

CMS202. Green policies should seek to democratise access to culture, media and sporting activities, ensuring that individuals are not excluded by reason of social, economic, or geographical factors.

CMS203. In line with Green principles of localisation, support should be given to ensure that there are adequate resources available to allow activities to flourish at a local level of participation. Where the private sector is unable to provide accessible local media, local sporting activity, or local cultural support then it is the role of government to ensure that adequate provision is available to meet the needs of the community.

CMS204. Where an activity makes use of limited resources (for example media bandwidth, land for sporting activity, venues for cultural activities) then it is the role of government to reserve a proportion of the resource for 'public' access (e.g. BBC channels, public playing fields, support

for local theatre infrastructure)

### **Policies**

Specific policy frameworks for each of the three sections are outlined below. All policy proposals are aiming to reinforce the core principles of accessibility, localisation, participation, and fair management of limited resources.

Green elected members of government authorities will seek to promote the widest participation by means of grants and other appropriate initiatives and mechanisms that will encourage and reward participation in CMS activities by as wide a selection of interested people as possible.

For Cultural policies see paragraphs CMS/C101 onwards

For Media policies see paragraphs CMS/M101 onwards

For Sporting policies see paragraphs CMS/S101 onwards

### **CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE ARTS**

#### **Background**

CMS/C101. As recognised above, there are links between the economy and cultural matters. The party recognises that the 'creative' industries sector is growing significantly in the UK. We recognise that this has consequences, good and bad for how we live.

CMS/C102. For example, as certain resources (oil/

conventional jobs) diminish we predict an increased role for artists and craftspeople.

CMS/C103. What we can be certain of is that the status quo in this first decade of the 21st century is one that requires change. The arts and culture in the UK is structured and funded in a particular way that means that the 'bigger' players have dominance over smaller/community organisations and individual artists. A healthy and vibrant society does not see a necessary competition between creativity and purely financial business concerns. Indeed much commercial entertainment marries the two effectively. This need to happen on the small as well as the large scale.

#### **Principles**

CMS/C201. We value artistic expression for its openness, imagination, and importance in education. We do not value artistic expression primarily for its role in the economy. We respect individual and group creativity in all its diversity and value freedom of expression. A list of examples of the type of activity to which this statement relates would include painting, sculpture, drama, music, dance, photography, film, writing, crafts and design, and other types of creative activity not specifically mentioned here.

CMS/C202. Financial support does not entail a right to intervene in other people's self-expression. Arts policy-making, where it is needed,

should be organisational in nature and empowering in character.

CMS/C203. Artistic activity has an important role to play in the sustenance of a society's culture. We believe that the UK produces some of the finest professional theatre, film and music in the world. As importantly we think it important that home grown entertainment industries are recognised for the value they add to society. If we want to maintain cultural diversity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century these industries, at national and local level, on large and small scale, need to be encouraged in the face of the homogenising influence of a dominating artistic culture produced mainly in the USA, particularly with regard to film and music.

### Objectives

CMS/C301. To enable people to participate by extending opportunities to enjoy the arts.

CMS/C302. To develop more relevant structures of support for the arts

### Short to mid term Policies

CMS/C401. To review existing government legislation as it affects the arts and create where necessary specific, more appropriate and less burdensome legislation.

CMS/C402. To encourage the growth of local arts associations made up of practising artists

CMS/C403. To require the representation of local arts associations, where they exist, rather than local government, on regional arts boards.

CMS/C404. To ensure levels of financial support for buildings housing cultural collections are such as to render admission charges unnecessary.

CMS/C405. To zero-rate live performance for VAT purposes.

### Long term policies

CMS/C501. To shift responsibility for arts funding, where appropriate, from regional to local levels.

CMS/C502. To develop more autonomous and less dependent forms of financial support for the arts.

### MEDIA

#### Background

CMS/M101. The media section covers three major areas:

- a. Broadcast media; primarily television and radio
- b. Print media; primarily newspapers, magazines and journals. Book publishing is dealt with in the Culture section.
- c. New media; includes telephony (mobile and fixed), internet, new wireless media. Music production and distribution is dealt with under the Culture section.

CMS/M102. A major concern for a policy framework in all

these areas are ownership of the means of content production and distribution, particularly where this allows gatekeepers to control access to the medium

CMS/M103. A second concern is that some media make use of a limited resource (e.g. electromagnetic spectrum, print distribution channels, internet bandwidth) and where this is the case a proportion of the resource needs to be maintained for public access.

CMS/M104. A third concern is that, particularly in the case of the traditional one-to-many media (press and broadcast), there needs to be systems to ensure a degree of local access and content.

### Principles

CMS/M201. The Green party believes that public service broadcasting is a vital part of Britain's democracy. An informed democracy is a healthy democracy. This applies equally at national and local levels.

CMS/M202. The world of mass media and digital communications is one of constant technological change and innovation. There is no reason that such changes cannot be utilised to facilitate greater public welfare and democracy.

CMS/M203. The Green party believes that national or international commercial market mechanisms are not the best way to regulate mass communications.

CMS/M204. We believe, as across all our policy, in democratising and localising where possible, and in the use of effective and accountable regulatory structures.

CMS/M205. A key principle of green party policy regarding the media generally is the large influence it has on our democracy and our citizens. As we don't believe in private control of education, the same applies to public information supplied by the media.

### Objectives

CMS/M301. We believe that there is a proper democratic case for limiting cross media ownership by trans-national companies. We would have tighter rules on cross-media ownership. We are not convinced that arguments around globalisation and competition are any justification for loosening restrictions, indeed restrictions are far too loose, with certain individuals and companies having far too much influence, which undermines the operation of healthy informed democracy, not just in the UK, but across the EU and beyond.

CMS/M302. We would seek to encourage wider, localised, participation, and discourage any further concentration of media ownership. The use of local participation links in with our economic strategy of strong local economies.

CMS/M303. For us, having public service broadcasting means that information and

education are given equal precedence to entertainment through more than just quantity of output through ghettoised channels.

CMS/M304. Part of the role of public service broadcasting is to facilitate a common space of understanding the output. Within the public service space therefore, commissioning work to be put into specialised channels or specialised time slots to cater for different audiences would be discouraged. Atomised broadcasting contributes to an atomised society, niche commercial channels can be allowed to thrive but publicly supported channels should seek to address the whole society. For example pushing informative programmes like Newsnight (2006) and Question Time (2006) to the margins of late night programming reduces the choice of type of programme available to the peak time audience. Programmes that may not be deemed to initially be of interest to a diverse audience may be of interest if shown to such an audience at a certain time.

CMS/M305. As noted in M303 above a public service obligation includes the notion of entertainment as an equal part of the mix. A public service channel should be helping ensure that top quality entertainment is available at times and places where it may not be commercially viable. For example through facilitating the early repeat of peak time entertainment from other

channels in non-peak slots, as well as through the production of high quality original programming

CMS/M306. The operation of public service media should be entirely divorced from interference by the government of the day both in terms of editorial content and in terms of economic support. Government's role should be confined to defining and reviewing a public service remit for channels with a public service obligation.

CMS/M307. Across all the broadcasting press and media we would seek to ensure that local channels were locally owned and accountable. The concentration of regional press and radio ownership in national organisations acts to reduce diversity of output reflecting regional and local differences. The loss of locally owned television stations with the aggregation of ITV and Cable TV ownership is wholly to be deplored.

CMS/M308. New media ownership and access needs to be carefully monitored to ensure that 'digital divides' or ghettoisation of sections of the community does not occur. Just as society has historically provided a universal postal and telephone service to every address in the country without geographic penalty, so we should seek to ensure universal access to digital television and radio channels, broadband communications, and mobile telephone use.

### Policies

## a) General

CMS/M401. We strongly support greater media unionisation across all mass media. Trade unions in the mass media can help democratisation of access to media by giving employee stakeholders a voice in the output of media channels. This helps balance the potential of the media owner(s) to control outputs that may not be in the best interest of wider society. The green party will support the presence and voice of unions in the media, with a view to be there being a formal role for union representation on governing boards of large broadcasting institutions in the UK.

CMS/M402. Regulation: The green party's basic assumptions and principles around regulation would be greater than the present (2006) arrangement with OFCOM. We do not consider last resort regulation based predominantly on market failure to be sufficient for any communication medium.

CMS/M403. In television and radio an important component of a public service obligation is the production and promotion of non ratings-led programming.

CMS/M404. Where an existing public service medium is being supplanted by a new alternative (as for example in the switch from analogue to digital terrestrial (DTT) broadcasting, or the possible movement of some public service programming to new

media) then the government has an obligation to ensure universal access before the old medium is discontinued. In the case of the switch to DTT then the government must ensure that all households with an analogue television licence are equipped with digital reception capability.

CMS/M405. Regulation s across media/print investigations: We are opposed to attempts to use privacy laws to damage proper investigative journalism. Then value of such journalism outweighs any restraining of tabloid excesses over the lives of modern day celebrities. A free press & media and free speech are fundamental to our society and should not be constrained by spurious definitions of the public interest.

## b) Public Service Broadcasting

CMS/M501. The primary public service broadcaster will remain the BBC funded wholly by public money from a tax (e.g. licence fee or access levy) on other media ring-fenced (hypothecated) for public service broadcast use.

CMS/M502. Other organisations may also be given public service funding from the same source to fulfil specific remits where the BBC is unable or unwilling to provide service.

CMS/M503. Along with the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting freedom we want to "establish the principle of appointing regulatory bodies by democratic means, either through nomination from

appropriate bodies, including trade unions and NGOs, as well as elections. All senior appointments, such as DG of the BBC, or Chair of ITC, should be made by regulatory bodies, and where appropriate, scrutinised by the relevant Select Committee in the House of Commons."

CMS/M504. The BBC should be organised primarily as a public service and thus not have to behave as if it operated in a commercial market. This is not to discourage innovation or indeed seeking to compete in certain markets against commercial companies, but that it is recognised that the value and success of the BBC is not solely measured in commercial terms. Following from this the funding of the BBC cannot be viewed solely through an economic prism, but through notions of public utility.

CMS/M505. The green party believes in maintaining the licence fee, as long as the BBC is pursuing clearly stated commitments to non-ratings led programming and continuing to fulfil a public service remit defined by the government through the regulator which would include significant local production and distribution of content reflecting local communities.

CMS/M506. In the long term, we would explore new methods of funding BBC, for example through a ring fenced progressive income tax, or through a levy on other organisations given access to broadcast bandwidth (i.e.

independent commercial terrestrial and satellite broadcasters)

### **c) Commercial Broadcasting**

CMS/M601. There needs to be recognition of the need to promote and protect the needs of audiences. Therefore we believe that there is a need for stronger accountable regulation across all sectors of mass communication. The experience in other Anglophone countries where there has been deregulation has been an undermining of the quality and balance of public information (Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom 2005)

CMS/M602. Any such regulatory framework needs to be wholly accountable to sub national levels and based on the assumption that regulators represent public interests. This would need a system of democratic election to regulatory positions.

CMS/M603. We would also want to restore some public service obligations to the commercial broadcasters, including terrestrial TV, commercial radio, and the Internet. In particular we wish to see the reintroduction and protection of locally owned and run television and radio channels, possibly through more stringent controls on the licences issued to broadcasters.

CMS/M604. We would establish community media centres, at a sub-regional level, where residents of that area can be trained and produce

programmes that reflect the diversity of perspectives in that area. They should be run democratically and accountable to regional public broadcasting councils, that would be independent of government, with statutory responsibilities and authority.

CMS/M605. Removal of financial and other bureaucratic barriers to small geographically based channels that wish to show the results of free opportunities given to local people to make programmes and communicate with their fellow citizens will be part of the public service obligation on organisations receiving public funding.

CMS/M606. We would not agree to a Channel 4/5 merger. We wish to keep Channel 4 as a public corporation with a significant public service obligation as an alternative to the BBC. In general we will amend the regulations so that there is a presumption against aggregation of ownership within of across media.

CMS/M607. We are opposed to 'contesting' funds for Public service programmes ((i.e. opening up a fund for programmes which all Broadcasters can bid for). This will undermine BBC's and C4's public service platform. Only where existing public service broadcasters are unable or unwilling to meet an identified public service need would funding be opened to alternative channels.

### **d) Press and print mass media**

CMS/M701. Ownership and control of national and local print newspapers and journals is a proper matter for regulation by OFCOM.

CMS/M702. At present we do not see the need for a public service print publisher in an analogous position to the BBC, but this shall be kept under review as the newspaper market evolves.

CMS/M703. Concentration of ownership of the distribution channels for print media acts as a barrier to new and unusual entrants. There may be a case for intervention by the regulator to ensure a vibrant print culture develops.

CMS/M704. Measures are needed to ensure that community, city and regional titles remain owned and edited within the area that they serve

### **e) New Media**

CMS/M801. Democratisation of media/TV: the Green recognises and welcomes developments in broadband TV channels that allow participation for free. The green party believes that government at all levels should encourage such democratisation of TV, and such wider participation

CMS/M802. The Green Party believes that the development of computer communications has reached the point where BT should have an obligation to provide infrastructure capable of delivering at least 1Mbps down/128kbps up to every household at the same base cost as the existing copper

telephone line. Funding for these marginal 'uneconomic' lines may come from a small levy on every access line. Alternative (e.g. wireless/satellite) access methods may be offered to remote subscribers, but the principle of universal access at the same base price to the household should prevail as with post and telephone services.

#### **f) Advertising**

CMS/M901. It seems common sense that advertising has great impact on the world in which we live. It seems common sense that the green perspective would be that in the present context of deregulated commercial freedom and increased consumption by citizens, advertising is in need of some restraint. Whilst we must recognise the freedom of individuals to make informed choices for themselves, society has a responsibility to its children. The public will surely never find it credible that an industry that spends huge sums each year advertising to children on television does so with no actual (or intended) effect on children's consumption. Indeed modern society is highly influenced by a culture of consumption. This culture is partly engendered in children and young people through advertising. A green government would:

i) End all advertising specifically aimed at a child audience. This to be defined by product, content, and timing.

ii) Exercise rigorous controls over advertising of child related products to ensure they are factual, informative, and not manipulative.

### **SPORT**

#### **Background**

CMS/S101. Sport has a huge role to play in the culture and health of any society. We believe there to currently be an imbalance between participation and consumption of sport purely through spectating.

CMS/S102. There has been a growth in sport as a spectator based entertainment and a diminishment of sport as a means to improve physical health and co-operative ?is anything specific needed here

#### **Principles**

CMS/S201. Sport can have a very positive influence on the society we live in. Participation in sport improves physical fitness, and sport can help provide a sense of community and can help break down barriers between communities through engaging in friendly competition.

CMS/S202. The Green policy on sport is primarily focussed on nurturing these positive grass-roots influences. The achievement of excellence in sport at a national level can result from such a focus, but the achievement of that excellence should not be the primary focus in itself.

CMS/S203. In line with the principles above, the green party believes that there is no place in sport at any level for racism or any similar discrimination. Programmes to combat such discrimination should be introduced wherever necessary, with a particular focus on young people.

CMS/S204. The Green Party further recognises that sport is one of the main remaining areas of gender discrimination. Women face many barriers (social, cultural, official) to full participation in many sports. This is an equally unacceptable discrimination.

#### **Policy**

##### **a) Sport in School**

CMS/S301. Participation in physical activities such as sport is an important part of children's development. Because many sports require special facilities, equipment, or the participation of large teams, they can be things which children or parents will be unable to properly organise for themselves. Schools therefore have an important role in first introducing children to a wide range of sporting activities.

CMS/S302. Sport in school should not be treated in the same way as other lessons. Because it can involve setting up equipment, and getting to and from playing locations, all of which take time, sports are likely to suffer if they are timetabled into a school day just like any other lesson. Instead, they should be given

sufficient time to make them meaningful.

CMS/S303. Schools should therefore be aiming to provide a full, unbroken afternoon per week of sport for every child. All sports should be open to all children.

CMS/S304. Schools should seek to form ties with local sporting clubs (either amateur or professional) in order to share facilities, gain coaching assistance, and provide pupils with an easier route to taking up these sports outside school.

CMS/S305. School playing fields should be protected from development.

## **b) Amateur Sport**

CMS/S401. Participation in amateur sport fosters good community relations and helps maintain people's physical fitness. The aim of sports education in school should be to encourage as many people as possible to continue participating in sport after they leave school. As the vast majority of this participation will be at an amateur level, it is important to ensure that sufficient facilities exist to allow the participation of all those who want it.

CMS/S402. Local councils should ensure that facilities such as sports centres, swimming pools and sports fields are sufficient to meet necessary demand. The importance of the existence of local amateur sporting teams should be recognised by government at all levels, who

should seek to provide assistance to such clubs whenever practical. This should include the use of school fields by clubs for matches, where such clubs are unable to maintain their own grounds.

CMS/S403. Access to sporting facilities should not be restricted by gender (except in cases where a disadvantaged group may be allowed special access to encourage or enable access), ethnicity, or other social identification. As historically many groups have been denied, by official rule or social custom, local authorities should ensure that new/growing activities and groups should be allowed access to all facilities.

CMS/S404. Organisations administering sport should be required to take all practical measures to ensure competitors and spectators are not subject to any form of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other discriminatory treatment or abuse.

## **c) Professional Sport**

CMS/S501. A strong school and amateur sports culture should, in turn, strengthen professional sport by both encouraging those who wish to pursue sport as a career and increasing the potential audience. This career should be available to any with the desire and ability to pursue. There has been gender, race, and sexuality based exclusion from some sports in history and this discrimination should be brought to an end.

CMS/S502. Although professional sport is obviously, for those involved, a business, it should be seen as more than that. Professional sporting teams represent communities, either local or national, when in competition with others. Whilst global economics is eroding some of the connections between teams and the communities they are supposed to represent, it is important to prevent competition from becoming meaningless by allowing these connections to disappear.

CMS/S503. The Green Party would prefer professional sporting clubs to be mutually-owned by the members rather than by shareholders. For those clubs which are currently Public Limited Companies, whose shares are traded internationally, the risk is always that distant shareholders, with no regard for the community the club is supposed to represent, will take over the club and sever all meaningful links with the local community. In some instances, clubs have even been moved to other towns and cities - making a mockery of any supposed local connection implied in the club's name.

CMS/S504. Where clubs are already set up as PLC's, the Green Party would like to see supporters trusts set up with the aim of achieving enough of a shareholding to prevent the club being taken over by outside financial interests.

CMS/S505. Those professional sporting clubs

which have shareholders should also have a connection to the local authorities in which they operate. Partial ownership of the club's shares should be held by the local authority, which will therefore have a say on significant matters regarding the club. Under normal circumstances, this local authority ownership should not exceed 10% of the share capital of the club and the authorities should not have to pay for their share. Any dividends paid to the authority must be reinvested into public sporting facilities or coaching programmes in the area.

CMS/S506. We believe in 'safeguarding' for football stadia. This means that fans who wish to stand will be allocated their own space and fans who wish to be in a seated only area will also be allocated their own space. There are examples of good practice in countries like Germany and we believe it is high time the UK committed to this practice here.

#### **d) International Sport**

CMS/S601. Whilst professional sport is a business, as noted above, its role in representing a community in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect with other communities should never be overlooked. This is especially so in the case of international sport.

CMS/S602. Therefore, in cases where a normal friendly and respectful relationship with other countries is not

really possible, representative sporting events may not be appropriate. The Government should take a role in instructing teams supposedly representing the nation not to take part in such competitions, and in the case of wider international competitions (such as World Cups and the Olympics) should seek to negotiate with the organisers to see if alternative arrangements are possible. The Government should not try to avoid taking action by treating the sport as if it was a private business venture.

CMS/S603. When looking at the above, consideration should be given to those aspects of normal sporting contact which may not be possible in the host country. These would include an expectation that fans of the national team would be able to travel to games without significant hindrance by the host government, and that UK media would not be prevented from reporting honestly from the country on both sporting and other matters. If host government actions meant that such freedoms for UK citizens and journalists could not be reasonably guaranteed, there should be a presumption against a visit by a representative national team.

CMS/S604. Strategic national planning should seek to ensure that major national sporting arenas are not all sited in one part of the country and that all can be easily accessed by good public transport links.

Wherever practical, the venue for international sporting fixtures should be rotated around various suitable stadia throughout the country, and should avoid being excessively focussed in London.

CMS/S605. When bidding to host major international sporting competitions, such as World Cups or the Olympics, wherever possible existing facilities should be proposed. No new facilities should be proposed unless their existence will also prove to be useful to the wider local community in the years to follow the games.

CMS/S606. The use of specific cities to host the Olympics, rather than whole countries (or groups of countries) as happens in World Cups, can create problems for host communities - with excessive strain on local facilities and the transport infrastructure, and the need to build new stadia in order to ensure that all events can be held within the same locality.

CMS/S607. The UK should use its influence with the world sporting community to encourage the placing of games across wider geographic areas to prevent excessive negative disruption to the lives and economies of host communities.

CMS/S608. The televising of major national and international sporting events has a significant influence in inspiring young people to take up sports. It is therefore important to ensure that such events remain available on

free-to-air nationwide TV. The Government should resist proposals to remove events from the list of those protected in such a way. It should negotiate to get highlights of major events which are no longer protected in this way, and events staged overseas

involving representative national teams, made available on free-to-air TV if possible.

George Graham, Alan Francis and 2 others).

Proposed by **Policy Committee**  
(Brian Heatley, **Matt Follett**,

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## Prioritisation Ballot

This is for you to fill in. The ballot will be used to guide SOC in determining the order of motions in Sections C and D in the Final Agenda. You have ten votes to allocate between the motions in each section (i.e. 10 in section C and 10 in section D); do not give more than 3 votes to any one motion.

C20	C21	C22	C23	C24	C25
C26	C27	C28	C29	C30	C31
C32	C33	C34	C35	C36	

D40	D41	D42	D43	D44	D45
D46	D47	D48	D49	D50	D51

*Please complete the following:*

Name:

Signature:

Local Party:

This form may be copied, and any member may vote once.

If you have already registered an email signature with SOC, you can send your prioritisation ballot by email to ***soc@greenparty.org.uk***. If you do this, please ensure that it is clear which motions are being prioritised.

**Return to: Matt Wootton, SOC, 33 Ashfield Avenue, Lancaster LA1 5EB**

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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.....

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