

## First Agenda – Green Party Autumn Conference 2008

September 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London

### Contents:

	page
<b>Introduction</b>	2
<b>Section A (Reports)</b> – to be included in the Second Agenda	
<b>Section B (Voting Papers)</b>	
B10 Culture Voting Paper	3
<b>Section C (Policy Motions)</b>	
C21 Trade Union Reps	4
C22 Update EU Policy	5
C23 EU Policy – Biofuels	5
C24 Ammunition	5
C25 Armed Forces	5
C26 Afghan Opium	6
C27 Enabling Motion – Policing	6
C28 EU Policy - Social Chapter	6
C29 Minimum/Maximum Wage	7
C30 Free School Meals	7
C31 Daylight Saving	7
C32 State Funding Political Parties	7
C33 Adult Social Care Funding	8
C34 Economics	8
C35 Replace Personal Trading with Cap & Dividend	8
C36 Conduct of Elections	8
C37 Anti-Semitism (1) (Fox)	9
C38 Anti-Semitism (2) (Lord)	9
C39 Building Regs/Climate Change	9
C40 Broadening Climate Change	10
C41 Carbon Quotas for the Elderly	10
C42 Right to Rent	10
<b>Section D (Organisational motions)</b>	
D51 Winding up defunct parties	11
D52 MfSS Sections for Review	11
D53 SOCC Timetable	11
D54 Election Strategy	12
D55 Consensus Decision-making	12
D56 Training Day at Spring Conference	12
<b>Section E (Draft Voting Papers)</b>	
E61 Education	12
<b>Section O (Out of Order motions)</b>	
O1 Policy Motion - EU Migration (1)	17
O2 Policy Motion - EU Migration (2)	17
O3 Organisation Motion - Elected Representatives	20
O4 Organisational Motion – Criteria for funding Parliamentary By-Election	21
<b>List of contacts</b>	22
<b>Prioritisation Ballot</b>	23

## Introduction to First Agenda

Welcome to the First Agenda for the Green Party's Autumn Conference 2008.

The deadline for the Final Agenda for amendments and reports is **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008**.

An electronic version is available on request as an rtf file (approx. 400kB) from the SOC Convenor, Dean Walton, email address [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk). Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, telephone 020-7272-4474

## Content of the First Agenda

There is 1 voting paper (Culture), 22 policy motions, and 6 organisational motions; 4 motions have been ruled out of order and are included at the end of the Agenda. A number of proposals were submitted with insufficient signatures and were not therefore included at any place in this agenda.

## 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.

## Deadlines for receipt of motions / amendments

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

The Royal Mail does not guarantee that first class post will be delivered the next day. It does guarantee that mail posted using its Special Delivery service will be delivered the next day (by 1:00pm), though you should check locally for latest posting times. If you want to be sure that your submission arrives the next day then you should use the Special Delivery service and not rely on first class post.

However SOC does allow members to send motions & amendments by email – see later in this section for further information.

## Summaries and Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words which will appear in the Agenda Summary.

If motions are not accompanied by synopsis, SOC may devise a synopsis from the text included, although it is not obliged to do so. If you do not include a synopsis with your motion you run the risk that nothing will appear in Green Activist apart from the title, and it won't be prioritised, and may not be reached at Conference.

If your synopsis is more than 50 words, it will probably be cut by SOC.

## Prioritisation Ballot

The SOCC state that SOC must conduct a ballot to assist in the prioritisation of the motions. The precise format is not laid out. This time SOC has adopted a different process to enable a very straightforward on-line ballot to take place. All members are asked to vote for their top '3' motions in sections 'C' & 'D'.

There is a prioritisation ballot form at the end of this agenda for members who do not have access to the internet. Additional copies have been sent to local party co-ordinators. Please send prioritisation ballots to arrive by 23:59 on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008**.

## 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 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008. 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 the SOC

Convenor, Dean Walton, 202 Malpas Road, Brockley, SE4 1DH, 07880 748259, [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk) to reach him by 23:59 on **24<sup>th</sup> July 2008**.

## Email signatures

SOC does accept e-mail signatures. The procedure has been simplified by SOC. To sign a motion by email please ensure you include your membership number (which you can get a membership card if you still have one, or your introductory letter or by calling Party Office), 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 help SOC 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 for all Committees. These are the Standing Orders, Conferences, Campaigns, Policy, International, Disputes Resolution, and the Green World Editorial Board. For information on these elections please contact the SOC Convenor.

## Rules for Motions & Emergency Motions

SOC would like to remind everyone 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

f) substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at a Conference less than two years previously except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

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

Please bear these restrictions in mind when composing emergency motions.

### **Contacts for motions in this agenda.**

The names of those signing motions are included after each motion, up to a maximum of 4 names, although only 4 are required. Where there are more than 4, then the first 4 are listed followed by "+ others". The principal contact for each motion is indicated by (\*\*) after the name and contact details can be found at end of the agenda before the prioritisation ballot.

### **Section A (Reports & Items Requested from Previous Conference)**

*Items in section A of the agenda are required by the Constitution or Standing Orders or at the request of a previous Conference. The reports will be included in the Final Agenda.*

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

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

#### **Synopsis:**

This Voting Paper represents a new section to be inserted into the Culture Media and Sport (CMS) chapter of MfSS and which will then replace the existing Arts chapter.

It also includes material on Censorship and on Sponsorship in Sport and Media to be inserted into the relevant places in the existing CMS chapter. The paragraph numbering indicates the insertion point within the CMS chapter.

**Motion: delete the Policy Statement on National Lottery (RCMS96.1) and the existing Arts chapter of MfSS and replace with the following inserted into the Culture Media and Sport chapter.**

#### **CENSORSHIP & PRIVACY**

CMS206 The Green Party is opposed to all forms of censorship in the media and cultural activities for adults. The state and persons holding positions of power to control activities shall not censor freedom of artistic expression or freedom of speech. Where there is a conflict between the right to free expression or speech and the responsibility not to cause offence this should be dealt with by allowing the offended person equal right of reply.

CMS207 The Green Party recognises that not all freedoms may be appropriate for young persons. Parents and guardians have a responsibility to protect those in their charge from inappropriate material. In the case of material targeted directly at children the relevant authorities may have a duty to control content in loco parentis. (in the place of a parent)

CMS208 The Green Party recognises the right of citizens to enjoy privacy within their home and domestic activities. Where there is a conflict between the individual's right to privacy and legitimate public interest then the

onus is on those claiming public interest to demonstrate their case. The Green Party recognises that an individual's actions in placing their private life in the public domain (for example politicians or celebrities inviting media attention) may undermine their right to privacy.

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

### **Background**

CMS400. For the purposes of this chapter 'culture' means all forms of artistic expression, including entertainment, such as film, drama, dance, painting, photography, sculpture, crafts, architecture, design music and similar activities. It also includes the historical record of such activities.

CMS401. Culture is essential to human fulfilment. As a human need, it enhances the economy both directly and indirectly: where people are more fulfilled they are likely to contribute more to their work and to society. In a 'Green' society people of all ages and backgrounds would have access to participate in and enjoy all types of arts and cultural activities.

CMS402. The Green Party recognises that the 'creative' industries sector is growing significantly in the UK, and as we move towards a sustainable society we anticipate an increased role for artists and craftspeople.

CMS403. Arts and culture in the UK is currently structured and funded in a way that gives the 'bigger' players 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 needs to happen on the small scale and through community-based activities as well as the large and more commercial scale. Our aim is to rebalance the relationship between cultural superstars and ordinary people. The present imbalance amounts to a virtual deification of celebrity

superstars, which mirrors the economic divergence between rich and poor.

### Principles

CMS410. We value artistic expression for its openness, diversity, imagination and importance in education. We do not measure artistic value in economic terms. We believe that the state has an important role to play in supporting artistic activity in society.

CMS411. Arts and creativity play a fundamental role in education. All education should be as creative as possible, both to enhance enjoyment and to achieve greater success.

CMS412. 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.

CMS413. 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, comedy and music in the world and that home grown entertainment industries need to be recognised for the value they add to society. If we want to maintain cultural diversity in the 21st century these industries, at national and local level, on large and small scale, need to be protected and promoted in the face of the homogenising influence of a dominating global artistic culture.

CMS414. The body of historical creative work forms the basis of our culture at national, regional and local level; the preservation of this culture is a responsibility of the state through support for cultural stores such as museums, archives, libraries, heritage and major performing arts venues and companies.

### Objectives

CMS420. To enable people to participate both by extending opportunities to enjoy and participate in the arts and by providing support for non-commercial artistic organisations

CMS421. To develop more relevant structures of support for the arts, building on the work of the Arts Council and ensuring that vibrant regional and local arts cultures can thrive.

CMS422. To promote our shared cultural heritage.

### Short to mid term Policies

CMS430. To encourage the growth of local arts associations made up of practising artists

CMS431. To require the representation of local arts associations, where they exist, rather than local government, on regional arts boards.

CMS432. To ensure levels of financial support for buildings housing cultural collections are such as to render admission charges unnecessary.

CMS433. To modify the licensing regulations to ensure that small scale live performance in pubs, clubs and similar venues is not stifled.

CMS434. To zero-rate live performance for VAT purposes.

### Long term policies

CMS440. To shift responsibility for arts funding, where appropriate, from regional to local levels.

CMS441. To develop more autonomous and less dependent forms of financial support for the arts.

CMS442. We will explore the feasibility of a tax on superstar performances which is hypothecated to local cultural enterprises.

### Culture and Commerce

CMS450. Sponsorship of the Arts: There may be a role for commercial sponsorship of any cultural activity. This should not be used to reduce the total state support for the Arts, but rather to allow state funding to be redeployed elsewhere.

National Lottery  
CMS460. The National Lottery has generated vast profits for a private company, while the

portion of its income directed towards 'good causes' is distributed by unelected quangos. Conference believes that the National Lottery is no substitute for the accountable system of wealth distribution that would be required to bring about a just society. The Green Party would dismantle the National Lottery within the term of one parliament, without compensation for its operators.

### To be inserted in sport section

g) Sponsorship in Sport

CMS890. Sponsorship of sporting teams or events should not be used to circumvent regulations on advertising.

CMS891. Sponsorship arrangements should not be allowed to restrict access to events deemed of national or regional importance. In particular where a national team is playing then public service media should always be allowed to offer free access to all UK citizens.

*Proposed by Policy Committee:  
Signed by Roger Creagh-  
Osborne (\*\*), Brian Heatley, John  
Norris, Alan Francis*

## Section C – Policy Motions

### C21 Trade Union Reps

#### Synopsis

**This motion amends the current workers rights policy so the Green Party has a clear policy to grant, and to advocate for, the right of trade unions to establish workplace environmental representatives. This is being campaigned for by many unions and the TUC.**

#### Motion

Delete last sentence of WR630(1), and insert new WR631 (and renumbering):

"WR631 Trade Unions and their branches will have the right to establish workplace environmental representatives, who will have the same rights at work as other trade union representatives. This will include appropriate facilities and time off to undertake their duties. Such representatives should play a decision making role in the

development of strategies and implementation plans for making workplaces, companies and other public, private and third sector organisations greener and more sustainable."

(1) sentence to be deleted:  
In the short term the Green Party will press both the unions and the employers to create new branch officers and shop steward posts (with full facilities and time off) to cover environmental protection.

*Proposed by: Jean Lambert (\*\*), Romyne Phoenix, James Caspell, Samir Jeraj*

## C22 Update EU Policy

### Synopsis

**Parts of our European policy need to be updated in light of events. For example, the Coal and Steel Community no longer exists yet we still have policy on it. The policy also still refers to Central and Eastern European States which are now members as applicants.**

### Motion

EU423

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

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

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

Delete EU466 – 472

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

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

Delete EU510 – 513 on Coal and Steel

*Proposed by: Hazel Dawe (\*\*), Stuart Jeffrey, Teve Dawe, Caroline Lucas*

## C23 EU Policy – Biofuels

### Synopsis

**We currently oppose the use of arable land to grow biomass as it is more valuable for food crops. The existing policy appears to condone growing biofuels as an agricultural crop.**

### Motion

EU 545 currently reads: "EU545 The production of safe, nutritious food should be a prime objective, but diversification to non food crops and use of land for productive forest should be encouraged.

Replace with  
EU545 The production of safe, nutritious food should be a prime objective, but diversification to traditional non food crops and use of land for productive forest should be encouraged. Use of normal farmland to grow biofuels is discouraged.

*Proposed by: Hazel Dawe (\*\*), John Hunt, Andrew Newby, Joseph Healy*

## C24 Ammunition

### Synopsis (edited)

**The Peace and Defence section specifies our opposition to the arms trade. This motion strengthens that opposition by specifying how we can more effectively reduce the arms trade by concentrating on transfers of ammunition.**

### Motion

Insert new PD418 and renumber

PD418 The production, caching, and transport of ammunition can be more easily controlled than that of arms as it has a distinctive odour. Sniffer dogs are routinely trained to identify the presence of explosives and ammunition. Countries and agencies that invest in more sniffer dogs can more easily prevent the transfer of these lethal products across their borders. They could also use the dogs to lead searches for ammunition caches in the interior, and for ammunition factories.

PD419 In order to produce ammunition, a manufacturer needs to obtain large quantities of

certain chemicals. The Green Party will require that these chemicals to be put on a register, so that purchasers will have to give information about where and for what they will be used. In this way, the production of illicit ammunition will be made more difficult.

*Proposed by: Richard Lawson (\*\*), Charles Graham, Dave Major, Ricky Knight*

## C25 Armed Forces

### Synopsis

**Our Peace and Defence policy envisages a contracted set of armed forces under a Green Government. This addition is to update their role, formalise their contract, and to lessen the risk that they could be used to oppress the people they serve.**

### Motion

Insert new PD306:

Such standing forces as are retained will sign up to a formal contract, which will include the following points:

1 In exchange for putting their lives on the line when necessary for the security of the country, or in the protection of civilians of other countries in pursuit of the UN Responsibility to Protect, the State undertakes to respect and look after injured service personnel giving them decent living standards, whether serving or not serving due to their injury, and to their dependents in the event of their being killed.

2 All serving personnel will be required to sign a pledge that they will not obey any order which would entail any breach of international law. In particular they will be able to disobey any order that required them to fire on unarmed civilians of their own or any other country.

*Proposed by: Richard Lawson (\*\*), Charles Graham, Carol Kambites, Ricky Knight*

## C26 Afghan Opium

## **This is a Motion for inclusion in the Record of Policy Statements (ROPS)**

### **Synopsis (created by SOC) Push for a plan to license and purchase the Afghan opium crop and distribute the refined opium products to medical services in developing countries.**

Recognising that Afghanistan supplies more than 90% of the world's opium, generating about €2.1 billion in revenues a year for that country, which amounts to about 50% of Afghanistan's economic activity,

recognising that NATO soldiers are unlikely to win the battle for "hearts and minds" while they are trying to destroy the opium trade, and recognising that the military effort is immensely costly,

recognising that the illegal opium trade sustains the Taliban, and various terrorists and criminals,

recognising that illegal opium, morphine and heroin cause major medical, social and criminal problems in many nations due to addiction to opium products,

recognising that the incidence of cancer in Africa is rising, and that patients are dying in unbearable pain due to the lack of morphine and heroin,

recognising that, viewed holistically, it will be far cheaper for concerned nations to purchase the opium crop from Afghan farmers, to process it into morphine and heroin and to distribute it free or at low cost to medical services in developing countries for use in relief of terminal pain, HIV AIDS and all other medically approved purposes, than to attempt to suppress the opium trade by force.

recognising that the central objection to this proposal from governments, namely that some of the product so obtained might leak back to the street, is so weak as to lack any degree of serious credibility, since, although a small percentage may indeed leak through corrupt officials, at present the rate of leakage is 100%.

recognising that the European Parliament, the Senlis Council, the Italian Red Cross and the Afghan Red Crescent already back this course of action,

this Conference of Green Party in England and Wales resolves to ask our Principal Speakers to initiate and continue a correspondence with the UK Government, pressing it to plan for the licensing and purchase of the Afghan opium crop as a matter of urgency.

This should be implemented by a special agency set up by the UN, which will coordinate action with the Afghan Government, and other players, including the World Health Organisation, which would oversee the task of distributing the refined opium products to medical services in developing countries. Given the present unmet needs of terminally ill patients (some six million people die of cancer each year in Africa alone, mostly without the benefit of opiates) it is likely that all the present Afghan crop can be converted to good use.

The problem of leakage to the black market must be addressed by short, tightly controlled supply chains, and high standards of anti-corruption practice. The UN has effective models for inhibiting corruption, and this new process can prove to be the proving ground for these models.

*Proposed by: Richard Lawson (\*\*), Joseph Healy, Martin Deane, Sue Bradley*

### **C27 Enabling Motion - Policing**

**Synopsis**  
**All round the world, policing is based on the structure established by Robert Peel for London in 1829, and there is almost no discussion among politicians about whether that is a suitable model for the 21. century or for the ostensible objectives of policing. This is an enabling motion to commit the Party to having that debate.**

#### **Motion**

First of all, the party needs to

declare formally that the Peelian paramilitary model of policing does not work and the Policy Committee should be instructed to develop policy which is not a lazy - or expedient, considering the popularity of the 'police' among the electorate - continuation of the Peelian system. There needs to be a policy group to consider both ways of creating a new policing system and how to break the present inertia with the paramilitaries, presumably, resisting all efforts to end their hegemony, power and their role as a de facto branch of government. It should bring back a Policy Voting Paper to Conference in Autumn 2009

*Proposed by: David Wylie (\*\*), Fiona Radic, Justine Hall, John Wareing*

### **C28 EU Policy - Social Chapter**

#### **Synopsis**

**Deletes our policy to allow opt outs to the Social Chapter and environmental standards so that the UK will be held to higher standards and businesses cannot simply move within the EU to avoid their environmental and social obligations.**

#### **Motion**

Delete EU370 – 372

*Proposed by: Hazel Dawe (\*\*), Shan Oakes, Andrew Newby, Steve Dawe*

### **C29 Minimum/Maximum Wage**

**Synopsis (created by SOC):  
Campaign for an increase in the minimum wage and set a maximum income limit.**

British people work some of the longest hours in Europe, with some 3.6 million people regularly working more than 48 hours a week, yet 7 out of 10 people working over 48 hours per week say they would like to work fewer hours. For many however this is impossible, as they simply cannot afford to do so. Overwork is forcing workers into unhealthy lifestyles as they attempt to reconcile long working hours and

family responsibilities, according to a report from the charity Working Families. Half of the parents surveyed with unhappy with their work and family balance. A majority reported that work dominated their lives, and family life suffered as a result. Working long hours also led to increased levels of stress, resulting in irritability, exhaustion and depression. At the same time, the gap between the most prosperous and the poorest in society has not been as great since the nineteen thirties. In 2006, around 4 million adult employees were paid less than £6.50 per hour. Two-thirds were women. 3.8 million children in Britain live in poverty. Since 1980 the poorest quintile of the population has experienced no growth in real earnings. Nearly twice as many people have relatively low incomes as 25 years ago. The average total earnings of FTSE 100 chief executives have doubled over the last five years to a new record of £3.2 million. The top three per cent of the population own three times as much as the whole of the bottom half of the population.

Therefore, the Green Party will campaign:

A. for the immediate ending of the British opt-out of the European Working Time Directive;

B. for the National Minimum Wage level to be increased to come in line with the Council of Europe Decency Threshold, which is set at 60% of net national average earnings (this would currently mean a minimum wage of £8.17 per hour);

C. For maximum income limit of 10 times the National Minimum Wage, through the establishment of a 100% rate of income tax on taxable personal income above that level."

*Proposed by: Peter Murry (\*\*), James Caspell, Payam Torabi, Adrian Cruden*

### **C30 Free School Meals**

#### **Synopsis**

**This motion amends to MfSS to include a call for the universal provision of a free lunch in all state schools in England and**

### **Wales every school day to every pupil.**

#### **Motion**

Replace ED304 of the MfSS:

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.

with:

It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided free of charge with a balanced, nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food, free from additives.

*Proposed by: Sarah Birch (\*\*), Brian Heatley, Jenny Jones, Matt Hanley*

### **C31 Daylight Saving**

**Synopsis (created by SOC)**  
**Bring forward introduction of BST and delay change back to GMT.**

***This is motion for inclusion in the ROPS***

Recognising the substantial benefits to be derived both in terms of lives saved on the roads and in terms of carbon emissions saved through lights having to be on for shorter periods of time:

The Green Party would delay the change of British Summer Time to Greenwich Mean Time in the autumn until the middle of November, and bring forward the introduction of British Summer Time to mid February.

*Proposed by: Rupert Read (\*\*), Chris Keene, Maria Iacovou, James Abbott*

### **C32 State Funding Political Parties**

**Synopsis (created by SOC)**  
**Re-affirm support for state funding of political parties**

In 2006 the Green Party of England and Wales made a detailed submission to the Phillips Review on political party funding, the review set up in the wake of the cash for honours scandal. In March 2007, the review published

its conclusions, noting that in some areas agreement had not been possible. The review then continued with talks between the three "main" parties at Westminster and a further "compromise paper" prepared in August. However, in October 2007 the talks were suspended. In light of this stalemate, Conference:

- Re-affirms its support for public funding of political parties as a way of taking politics out of the hands of big business and the influence of the super-rich;
- Welcomes the recognition in the Phillips review of the importance of representation at devolved or European levels; and of the greater diversity of current UK politics;
- Deplores the UK Government's failure to extend the Policy Development Grant regime to smaller parties – as recommended by the Electoral Commission in 2004 – using the excuse that the Phillips Review had overtaken this recommendation;
- Laments the fact that the Phillips Review recommendations will not be implemented until at least 2012, if at all, and that this means that establishment political parties will continue to receive millions of pounds of public subsidy while smaller parties are frozen out; and
- Instructs the relevant body of the party to make further representation to the UK Government and to the Phillips Review in light of the failures of political vision which have led to this iniquitous situation.

*Proposed by Richard Mallender (\*\*), Joseph Healy, Chris Haine, Sarah Birch,*

### **C33 Adult Social Care Funding**

#### **Synopsis**

**Current Green Party policy states that: SW406 If residential care is needed then it will be provided free and house owners would not be required to sell their home to pay for**

**such care. However, there is currently no indication of how this care is to be paid for. This motion addresses this.**

### Motion

Following SW406 insert new policy SW407 as follows:

“Personal care for the elderly, whether living in their own home or in a care home, would be funded from a combination of inheritance tax receipts and a new ‘care tax’. This new care tax would be set as a percentage figure no higher than the basic rate of income tax and would be levied on lifetime transfers and estates of the deceased, where their value exceeds a set figure.”

*Proposed by: Ann Were (\*\*),  
Melinda Andrews, John  
Matthews, Andrew Were*

### C34 Economics

**Synopsis (created by SOC)  
Notes with concern the recent developments of financial crises involving the 'credit crunch' due to accumulating debts and the exclusive dependence on debt to maintain output and employment within the economy and amends Economy section of the MfSS accordingly.**

### Motion

This conferences notes with concern the recent developments of financial crises involving the 'credit crunch' due to accumulating debts and the exclusive dependence on debt to maintain output and employment within the economy.

This situation arises from the undue influence that the creation of such debt places on the banking and financial sector. This conference further notes that the amount of money created by the state has now reduced to around 3% of Sterling M4, and that this proportion has fallen from around 40% in the immediate post-war years. A return to the proportions of state seignorage prevailing in that period would be a means of reducing the dependency upon debt to maintain economic activity.

Delete and replace EC662 with:

EC662 The current banking system enables commercial banks and financial institutions to exert an unacceptably large influence on the economy as a whole due to their virtual monopoly on money creation. These commercial banking institutions work to a purely commercial agenda in which the desirability of making loans is assessed only in terms of its financial viability to the lenders.

Insert new EC663 and renumber:

EC663: The proportion of state seignorage will be increased to 40% to bring it in line with post-war years enabling a greater ability to direct money as required in EC661 and to give greater financial stability to the economy. To ensure further stability, we will enforce a fractional reserve ratio, set by government, that balances the money supply against increases in seignorage.

*Proposed by: Stuart Jeffrey (\*\*),  
Rupert Read, Molly Scott Cato,  
Richard Lawson*

### C35 Replace Personal Trading with Cap & Dividend

#### Synopsis None provided

Replace CC290 and CC291 with:

CC290 An independent committee would set a carbon budget, reducing every year in line with the need to avoid runaway climate change. This budget would be divided up into pollution authorisation permits and auctioned by an independent trust to the companies who either imported fossil fuels or mined them.

CC291 The revenue from the auction would be distributed to citizens on an equal per capita basis, except that people over pensionable age would receive extra quota, and children would receive a smaller amount, which would be based on research into their energy needs"

In CC292, replace 'quota' with

'cap and dividend'

*Proposed by: Chris Keene (\*\*),  
Molly Scott Cato, Douglas  
Copping, Rupert Read*

### C36 Conduct of Elections

#### Synopsis

**Oxford Green Party is concerned about aspects of the conduct of Elections in the UK: abuses to the postal vote; lack of ID requirements for casting a vote; undermining of secret ballot by lax supervision at polling stations and by numbering of ballot papers and stubs; student 'double votes'.**

#### Motion

The Green Party is very concerned about some aspects of the conduct of Elections in the UK:

1. Abuse of the Postal Vote.

The postal vote should only be used for voters who will genuinely be absent or physically unable to cast their own vote at their polling station on the day of the election. Such voters should return their own postal vote to the Returning Officer. Postal votes should not be collected and returned to the Returning Officer by any Candidate in the election.

2. Lack of requirement for ID at the Polling Station

The GP would like to see a requirement that effective ID (not of course the ID card which the Government is trying to force on all citizens) such as passport plus polling card should be presented to the officials before a ballot paper is issued.

3. Lax Supervision in Polling Stations.

a. Voting booths should be more enclosed and only one person should enter at a time.  
b. There should be adequate supervision to ensure that there is only one ballot paper per person entered into the ballot box.

4. Numbering of ballot papers.

The Green Party considers that the current system of issuing a numbered ballot paper to each voter, with a matching number on the stub, is unnecessary and could become open to abuse.

5 .Students 'double vote'.

The Green Party considers the registering of students both at their home address and at their place of learning – leading to the possibility of a double vote by students- to be an anomaly in the voting system which should be removed.

Students must choose one place in which they wish to be registered and exercise a postal vote if they cannot be in that place at the time of the election – as they would if on holiday abroad, for example.

(If it is considered too difficult for students to organize a postal vote, perhaps we should consider raising the voting age. )

*Proposed by: Penelope Newsome (\*\*), Elise Benjamin, Sid Phelps, Nuala Young*

### **C37 Anti-Semitism (1)**

**Synopsis (edited by SOC)**  
**The Green Party is committed to opposing racism and discrimination. The Green Party recognises that rights may be curtailed when used in ways that oppress or harm others. This motion proposes a policy on antisemitism to provide a framework when dealing with sensitive issues concerning Israel, Zionism and Judaism.**

#### **Motion**

The Green Party accepts that:

1. Antisemitism is a form of racism, and should not be tolerated.
2. Antisemitic remarks and behaviours may include a variety of imagery, caricatures and references to global Zionist conspiracies etc.
3. Recognition of the State of Israel is consistent with the party's Philosophical Basis.

4. Recognition of a State does not imply acceptance of the actions of that State.

5. Israel has the right to self-determination in the event of any regional peace settlement.

6. Contemporary antisemitism often uses the language of antizionism.

7. The actions and policies of any State may be criticised, provided such criticism is not framed in racist or antisemitic terms.

The Green Party agrees that:

8. The EU's working definition of antisemitism shall be considered when determining what counts as antisemitism.

9. Representatives of the Party should condemn antisemitism when obliged to share a platform with

(a) individuals who express antisemitic views, and  
(b) representatives of organisations that endorse antisemitism, and that such sharing of platforms should be discouraged.

10. Members proposing and implementing policy should at all times be sensitive to the fact that the Green Party does not and will not endorse or tolerate antisemitism, or discrimination of any form.

*Proposed by: Chris Fox (\*\*), Toby Green, Raphael Levy, Alan Howe*

### **C38 Anti-Semitism (2)**

#### **Synopsis**

**Some Green sympathisers and members have taken exception to the engagement of Green Party speakers with others known or believed to have antisemitic views. This motion dissociates the Party from such views.**

#### **Motion**

In pursuance of their concern as to the treatment of the Palestinian population by the Israeli government, Green Party representatives have engaged with other groups who share this common aim. Whilst reaffirming the need to engage with other

groups, especially Islamic groups, and supporting Green Party members who do this, the Green Party dissociates itself from any wider agenda. Specifically it rejects any implication of antisemitism.

*Proposed by: Clive Lord (\*\*), Tom Lines, John Norris, Alan Francis*

### **C39 Building Regs/Climate Change**

**This is a motion for the ROPS**

#### **Synopsis**

**In view of the urgency of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and making new buildings zero carbon, this motion instructs GPEX ask the Government to amend building regulations and to enable training of architects and builders**

#### **Motion**

Buildings account for a substantial proportion of CO2 emissions. In view of the urgent need to reduce the production of climate changing gases, the contribution of new buildings to the problem must be minimised. Conference therefore instructs GPEX to write to the Government demanding that:

a) Building Regulations be amended immediately so that, for domestic buildings, they are in line with the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 with immediate effect, progressing to levels 4,5 and 6 on an annual basis so that all new dwellings are zero-carbon by 2012; and similarly all other new buildings should be zero-carbon by 2012

b) any conversion or change of use of a domestic building and any extension to a domestic property will require an Energy Performance Assessment and all appropriate recommendations must be carried out.

c) the Government provide sufficient funding for the training of architects and builders to enable these standards to be achieved

*Proposed by: Dilys Cluer (\*\*), Christopher Phillips, Jason Mullen, Helen Kay*

## **C40 Broadening Climate Change Policy**

### **Synopsis**

**Given the urgency of dealing with Climate Change, and the implausibility of The Green Party forming a government in the few years that are likely available for taking the strong measures that are necessary, this motion seeks to broaden GP Policy away from an insistence on Contraction and Convergence and Tradeable Emissions Quotas, though those are still preferred.**

### **Motion**

CC225 Subsequent to the invention of C&C a number of frameworks with similar objectives have been developed by various groups. These include "Cap and Share", "Cap and Dividend", "Kyoto2" and "Greenhouse Development Rights". The Green Party would also support any such scheme providing it meets the following criteria and has a realistic chance of being formally adopted by the UNFCCC:

- There must be a hard cap - a built-in limit on global emissions, which reduces over time. (This is the contraction in C&C). The level of the cap should be set by an international authority such as the UNFCCC, and must be reviewed by it at regular intervals as more scientific and real-world evidence emerges.
- The scheme must be equitable and be seen to be equitable by negotiators from most major countries and country groups
- There must be an enforcement mechanism with teeth which addresses non-compliance by a country or countries.

It is more important that some such framework be introduced than that the world debates for another few years about the "best" framework.

And add after CC291

CC292 However, as with international negotiations, the most urgent requirement is to introduce a scheme in as short a term as possible. Such a scheme must adhere to criteria similar to those set out in CC225:

- There must be a hard cap - a

built-in limit on national emissions consistent with the actual or hoped-for international framework.

- The scheme must be equitable and be seen to be equitable by the general population
- There must be an enforcement mechanism with teeth which addresses non-compliance by individuals or organisations

And renumber subsequent sections.

*Proposed by: Chris Keene (\*\*), Janet Alty, Tony Cooper, Derek Smith*

## **C41 Carbon Quotas for the Elderly**

### **Synopsis**

**This motion gives extra quota to the elderly, who require more energy to heat their homes, both because they are at home rather than at work, and because they need to be kept warm otherwise they die of cold related illnesses (20,000 to 30,000 die every year, at the moment), and gives a smaller amount to children. (This will be needed if we do not replace personal carbon quotas with cap and dividend as a policy)**

### **Motion**

In CC291 replace "...with all adults receiving an equal amount" with "...on an equal per capita basis, except that people over pensionable age would receive extra quota, and children would receive a smaller amount, which would be based on research into their energy needs"

*Proposed by: Chris Keene (\*\*), Molly Scott Cato, Adrian Ramsey, Richard Bearman*

## **C42 Right to Rent**

### **Synopsis**

**We should promote a Right to Rent policy. This would be the exact opposite of the Tory's Right to Buy policy. Any house owner who cannot pay their mortgage and is threatened with repossession would have the right to sell to the council and then continue to live in the property and pay rent. This would avoid the disruption of repossession and in many**

**cases the need for councils to find new homes for families.**

### **Motion**

Insert as new HO411 and renumber accordingly

HO411 The Green Party would implement a 'Right to Rent' policy. Home owners who are unable to meet their mortgage payments and are under threat of repossession would have a right to transfer ownership to the council, at less than market value, in exchange for the right to remain in the home and pay rent as council tenants. There would be limits on the size and value of house covered by this policy and it would only apply to a sole house owned and occupied by a family or individual. The cost to the council would be covered by government grants or public loans."

*Proposed by: Alan Francis (\*\*), Clive Lord, Stuart Jeffrey, Matt Follett*

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

### **D51 Winding up defunct parties (Proposed by Green Party Executive)**

#### **Synopsis**

**Local parties are responsible for deciding their termination. However, where a local party ceases functioning and has no officers elected, it is unclear who has responsibility for deciding whether that party should be wound up, or how that should happen. This motion sets out procedures for this.**

#### **Motion**

In party constitution, after section 5(iv) add new section 5(v):

5(v) These appointments should normally be made or confirmed at the local or regional party's AGM. Party office should be informed of them promptly.

(for information – these refer to the 4 appointments listed in 5(iv))

Renumber section 5(v) as 5(vi) and delete its second sentence, which currently reads 'Failing this in the case of a local party, party office may be legally obliged to treat the local party as no longer existing and in such case local party capitations will be paid to the regional party unless otherwise requested by that regional party.'

Add new sections and renumber accordingly:

5(vii) The constitution of each local party should include a provision for winding up the local party. If a local party has not elected the officers outlined in iv above at a meeting held in the previous 18 months then that local party may be deemed to have ceased functioning and wound up. Any decision to wind up the local party will be taken by the GPEX local party support co-ordinator subject to the consent of the appropriate regional party, after consulting with all members in that local party area and with officers in adjacent local parties.

5(viii) In case a Local Party is so wound up, efforts should be made by the regional co-ordinator or others to arrange a merger with a geographically adjacent local party. In that case any funds from the defunct party should be transferred to the newly merged one; otherwise such funds should be transferred to the regional party. Capitations will also be paid to either the newly merged party or to the regional party, as appropriate.

*Proposed by Green Party Executive: signed by Richard Mallender (\*\*), Jon Lucas, Pete McAskie, Tony Cooper*

#### **D52 MfSS Sections for Review (proposed by Policy Committee)**

**Synopsis**  
**At present Policy Committee are obliged to submit an existing section of the MfSS for review each conference if fewer than two Voting Papers are expected. This motion amends that so that Policy Committee is obliged to submit a section only if no Voting Paper is expected.**

#### **Motion**

In the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section C, paragraph 5, sub-section (b) replace 'fewer than two policy Voting Papers are' with 'no Voting Paper is'.  
Motion ends

**SOC Note** – the section being proposed for deletion currently says:

2. For each Party Conference, after consultation with the Party Executive and Regional Council, the Policy Committee may select one section of the MfSS for the conference to discuss. "(a) Any choice of a section for review shall be advertised, and notified directly to relevant policy working groups before the deadline for motions.

"(b) If fewer than two policy Voting Papers are expected for the conference, the committee shall make such a selection. Otherwise the committee may choose whether to make a selection.

"(c) The Policy Committee shall propose the existing policy as a motion, to be amended. If the motion is lost, whether amended or not, the existing policy shall remain. Such motions shall be placed in Section B of the agenda.

*Proposed by Policy Committee: signed by Brian Heatley (\*\*), Roger Creagh-Osborne, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer*

#### **D53 SOCC Timetable**

#### **Synopsis**

**The first and final agenda timetable is amended to fixed points in the year. The deadlines for the first agenda will be 31 May & 30 November and for the final agenda 15 July and 15 January and for the publication of the final agenda 31 July and 31 January.**

#### **Motion**

Amend sections 3, 5 & 7 of Section A of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC):

3 It is expected that Motions and Policy Papers will be submitted throughout the year but, for any particular Conference they shall be delivered to the Convenor of

the Standing Orders Committee (hereinafter called SOC) not later than 31 May for an Autumn Conference and not later than 30 November for a Spring Conference. The first agenda shall be sent by such means as will ensure its arrival not later than 21 June for an Autumn Conference and 21 January for a Spring Conference to the Secretary of each Local Party, each Region Representative, the Party Office. The proposers of substantive motions shall give a contact address for amendments. In the event of any of these days falling on a weekend or a bank holiday the deadline will be extended to the next working day.

5. Amendments to motions shall be delivered to the Convenor of SOC not later than 15 July for an Autumn Conference and 15 January for a Spring Conference. In the event of either of these days falling on a weekend of bank holiday the deadline will be extended to the next working day.

7. The Final Agenda shall be sent by such means as will ensure its arrival not later than 31 July for an Autumn Conference and 31 January for a Spring Conference to the Secretary of each Local Party, each Region Representative, the Party Office. Each member who books into Conference shall receive a Final Agenda on receipt of the booking fee if requested on the Booking Form. In the event of either of these days falling on a weekend of bank holiday the deadline will be extended to the next working day.

*Proposed by Standing Orders Committee: signed by Dean Walton (\*\*), John Street, Jason Kitcat, Matt Wootton*

#### **D54 Election Strategy**

#### **Synopsis**

**This motion establishes several strategic objectives to guide Green Party electoral activity in the coming years.**

#### **Motion**

The Green Party currently faces considerable electoral opportunities. If it is to rise to the occasion and take advantage of these, it must initiate a step change in its approach to

elections. This will entail dramatic capacity enhancement in human, organisational and material resource terms.

There are several reasons for believing that Westminster elections should take priority at the current juncture: winning parliamentary seats is for the first time a realistic aim for the Party, representation at Westminster will significantly enhance our national profile, and general election success will send a strong signal to other parties that they cannot afford to neglect our core concerns.

At the same time, efforts to elect our first Green MPs should not detract from campaigns for elected office at European, regional and local level.

The Green Party therefore adopts the following strategic objectives:

1. The Party will aim significantly to increase the number of its elected representatives as well as the overall Green vote share at all levels of government.

2. In order to accomplish this, the Party will engage in rigorous targeting, which will involve the mobilisation of human and material resources to help win target seats. This will necessitate a marked increase in inter-party and inter-region mobility of activists, together with fundraising for elections.

3. Particular emphasis will be placed on electing the first Green MPs at the next general election.

4. The Party will also aim substantially to increase the number of Green candidates at the next general election

*Proposed by Sarah Birch (\*\*), Derek Wall, Chris Haine, Richard Mallender*

## **D55 Consensus Decision-making**

### **Synopsis**

**This motion seeks to tidy up an anomaly in the Constitution where details within the CONFERENCE section are more relevant to other sections. This is simply reorganisation and does not involve any change of wording.**

### **Motion:**

Introduction: In Section 9 (CONFERENCE) of the Constitution, the first two

sentences of Clause 9.vi) relate to wider aspects of Party organisation and should be moved as follows:

- a. Clause 9.vi) – first sentence: *“The general practice of the Party shall be to encourage the greatest possible autonomy of each Local Party in its pursuit of the Object of the Party.”* – move to Section 5 (ORGANISATION) and place at the end of Clause 5.i).
- b. Clause 9.vi) – second sentence: *“Every effort shall be made to reach decisions at Conference, in Regional Council, within Local Parties and elsewhere by consensus. In the absence of consensus decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote unless otherwise provided.”* – move to the start of Section 11 (DECISION-MAKING - OPENNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY & CONFIDENTIALITY) as new Clause 11.i) and renumber subsequent clauses.

Clause 9.vi) will then read: *“Conference may by a two-thirds majority grant Regional Council exceptional powers in defined areas of policy, campaign strategy or administration for a specified period of time.”*

*Proposed by: Keith Ross (\*\*), Tim Turner, David Taylor, Karl McNaughton*

## **D56 Training Day at Spring Conference**

### **Synopsis**

**This motion amends the Constitution so as to require one day of every Spring Conference to be devoted to training.**

### **Motion**

Following the success of the training programme piloted at the 2008 Spring Conference, the Party will move to include training as a core component of each Spring Conference.

To this end, this motion amends the Constitution so as to institutionalise a training day as a regular part of Spring Conference.

Add to 9(ii) of the Constitution:

(d) One full day of the Conference will be devoted to training workshops on local party organisation, campaigns, media, policy, electoral activism and other spheres of Green Party activity. GPEx members will be responsible for co-ordinating training events in their respective areas of responsibility as appropriate.

*Proposed by Sarah Birch (\*\*), Richard Mallender, Jon Lucas, Matt Follett*

## **Section E – Draft Voting Papers**

### **E61 Education Draft Voting Paper**

#### **Synopsis**

**The Autumn 2006 conference passed an Enabling Motion instructing Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for a redrafted MfSS section on Education to a future conference. This Draft Voting Paper will give those attending this conference the opportunity to comment on this work so far at a workshop session. Members can also participate in this work following conference through the Education Policy Working Group (Convenor Rachel Fryer). The Draft Voting Paper will be followed in due course by a full Voting Paper at a later conference.**

**The draft that follows reflects extensive debate within the Education Policy Working Group over the two years since the enabling Motion was passed, in meetings both at conference and outside it, and in e-mail exchanges, and reflects opinions expressed more widely in the Party.**

#### **Motion**

Delete the Education (ED100 – ED608) chapter of the MfSS and the Policy Statements 'City Academies (April 2005)' and 'Opposition to Trust Schools (Spring 2006)' in RoPs and replace with the following:

#### **Education**

### Introduction

ED001 The Green Party believes that education should provide everyone with the knowledge and skills they require to be able to fully participate and contribute to the society in which they live. Not just academic knowledge, but social skills, life skills, and respect for other people's rights and lifestyles.

ED002 Creating a healthy sustainable society will involve creative thinking and the ability to solve problems.

ED003 Children start school as eager learners. By the end of their school career, too many have no or few positive outcomes, and no desire to continue any formal education. Some have been excluded or have stopped attending.

ED004 Our education system in the UK is one of the most highly funded in the world yet is failing growing numbers of people. There are constant changes to the system which create instability and often seem to be politically rather than educationally driven.

ED005 Education should be at the heart of communities and for communities, should promote equality, inclusivity, social and emotional well-being and responsibility.

ED006 Education should be a right and entitlement and free at the point of delivery to people of all ages.

ED007 The Curriculum should be built around creating a sustainable future for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond, sustainable in terms of the environment, economy and social justice.

### Structure and Accountability of Schools

ED100 In order to maximise engagement with and good communication between parents, teachers and students, there should be considerable efforts to ensure that all parties are democratically involved in the running of the school through School Councils and Governing Bodies. The relationship between and responsibilities of the Head and the Chair of the Governing Body should be clearly outlined.

ED101 There are many good examples of successful structures, yet it would appear that this depends largely on the Head and the rules of

accountability which exist in each school. Currently schools rely on the good will of parents to volunteer their time to ensure the smooth running of the school. This creates accessibility issues as not all parents are able or willing to volunteer their time and not all schools have enough volunteers or an adequate skills base to create a successful Governing Body. Governing Bodies should be properly funded to acknowledge the high level of responsibility granted to people involved in them and should include an adequate amount of educational professionals.

ED102 The Local Authority should be involved in monitoring the structures to ensure there is consistency of standards and level of involvement.

### Curriculum

ED150 The approach to (having

a) National / School Curriculum should be revised in order to promote a diverse education within the boundaries of what is appropriate for the child, the school and its location. At the same time it should ensure that all children and young people have access to education in:

a How to learn, how to concentrate and listen.

b The development of essential numeracy and literacy skills.

c The environment, through academic work and on a practical level, including children and young people's understanding of their physical environment appropriate to their (immediate) area.

d Emotional literacy and well-being, social skills and physical well-being. This will be achieved through more rigorous teacher training which focuses on these issues and through greater emphasis on the arts which increase self-expression and through this emotional literacy.

e Practical life skills.

f Citizenship skills including understanding the history of and the politics and political structures of the area / country.

g Which caters for a variety of interests, intelligences and skills including academic and vocational training.

h Which caters for and encourages different learning styles, appropriate to the individual and, if applicable their Special Educational Needs.

i Which promote outdoor and physical activity.

j Which offers education in a second language from as young an age as is possible / from the age of 7.

k Which does not provide a fractured education through a disjointed timetable. Successful models such as those in Denmark; where there is much greater choice as to what subjects and topics each individual studies and a more cross-curricular approach will be investigated and used / implemented / encouraged.

### Admissions

ED200 Our underlying vision is for every child and young person to attend their local community school. Needs should be met on an inclusive basis.

ED201 In the short term, closer investment of higher home – school transport costs paid by the Local Education Authority will provide greater incentive for this, which will also increase as fuel costs rise.

ED202 Currently vast sums of (additional / extra) money are spent on specialist schools, City Academies and Trust Schools, all of which can discourage attendance at a local community schools and, especially in the case of specialist schools, restrict how a school chooses to spend its money. The Green Party would redistribute all available money to all schools according to their needs rather than their status.

ED203 Many of the existing problems in our admissions system stem from the emphasis on SATS and League Tables, both of which the Green Party would abolish. Ofsted Inspections would be revised or replaced with spot check inspections combined with staff and student evaluations.

ED204 There will be greater involvement and dialogue / participation / communication between the school and the parent / guardian and the introduction of a contract of agreement between both parties.

ED205 Many problems schools experience stem from both class sizes and the size of schools which can be intimidating and overwhelming for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable. This leads to disruption, a lack of engagement in class and less sense of

community in the school. There is considerable evidence that being educated in a smaller environment produces better results. The Green Party would seek to reduce both class and school sizes.

ED206 In the longer term practices would be examined in other countries where children and young people attend the same school from age 7-19 thus leading to smoother transition, greater community cohesion and better relations between staff, parents and pupils.

#### Different types of schools

ED220 All young people have a right to receive a high standard of education at their local school, regardless of their background, where they live, what their financial background or level of ability is.

ED221 Many different types of schools currently exist, including comprehensive schools, public schools, specialist schools and 'alternative' schools such as Steiner schools. In the state sector there are also specialist schools and schools for young people with special needs.

ED222 The Green Party acknowledges that there is a need in society to embrace a diverse range of educational approaches. This diversity should be available to all young people without discrimination of any factors such as financial background.

ED223 There are many problems with our current state education system. There is a need to address why people choose to send their children to private schools.

ED224 Children with a high level of ability or who are more likely to be from a background where education is valued have a positive influence on the learning experience of their peers. Sadly an increasing number of these are now learning in the independent sector and this creates additional pressure on schools in the state sector and is to some extent causing social divisions in society.

ED225 Parents pay on average twice as much per pupil in the independent sector than what is spent per pupil in the state sector. In the state sector therefore children attend larger schools, making them more anonymous and with less community

cohesion. They are educated in larger classes by teachers who do not have the same amount of time available in their paid hours for marking, preparation and other administrative work, thus making their jobs much more pressurised.

ED226 As outlined in Admissions and in Structure and Accountability in Schools an important factor in improving the education young people receive and increasing community cohesion is parental involvement. Parents need to feel valued by the schools and involved in its running and to this end should have greater powers in school governing bodies.

ED227 The state currently subsidises independent schools, for example through paying for places for children from military backgrounds. This highlights the need for the state to fully represent the diversity in our education system, for example by increasing the number of state-funded boarding schools.

ED228 In the short term we would remove the charitable status of independent schools, increase the amount of funding available to schools deemed to be in special measures and in the longer term gradually phase fee-paying schools into the state system.

OR

... but in the longer term recognise that parents have the right to arrange and pay for private education and so allow private schools to continue to exist

ED229 We would continue to aim for all state schools to provide everyone with an education which will fit everyone's individual needs through a diverse curriculum which offers choice and is appropriate for everyone's needs and ability. (See Curriculum chapter.) However, we recognise that some people will continue to choose to be educated outside mainstream schools. Therefore we would fund alternative schools so that they can continue to exist, be subject to the same quality checks as other schools and so that no schools will need to charge a fee. We would set up dialogue between all schools so that they can all learn from each others' different approaches and so there is an opportunity for integration and sharing of resources.

#### Specialist Schools

ED240 We would fund existing specialist schools such as music, dance and sport schools. However the current practice of introducing specialisms to mainstream schools means that extra funding is only released to a school if it is to be spent on its specialism. This is restrictive and any funding should be available to schools to spend in the way which it feels to be appropriate.

#### City Academies and Trust Schools

ED250 City Academies and Trust Schools are often introduced to deprived areas as the only chance the school has to attract funding. Buildings and land which belong to the state are leased to a private sponsor or outside body. In the case of a City Academy this private sponsor decides what the school's specialism will be, what the curriculum will be and what wages individual teachers receive. The sponsor does not have to know anything about education yet has the power to make these crucial decisions.

ED251 The sponsor has the power to appoint the Board who appoints the Principal and the Governors. In some academies the parents have the right to vote for as little as one parent governor.

ED252 So Academies and Trust Schools can often take power away from parents, teachers and pupils regarding how the school is run. As with Specialist Schools the funding being offered can only be spent on certain things, for example in the case of a City Academy the money is released for a new building so the school cannot choose to have a cheaper building or refurbishment instead and spend the remaining money on, for example, more teachers.

ED253 For this reason the Green Party is opposed to City Academies and Trust Schools.

#### Grammar Schools

ED260 The grammar school system decides which young people are likely to succeed academically when they are only 11 years old. For those who fail this can potentially take opportunities away from them and cause them to lose confidence in their abilities at an age when they are only just beginning to explore learning. The system can also cause social divisions. Evidence shows that the overall standard of

achievement is higher where people are educated in mixed ability environments.  
ED261 We would allow no new grammar schools and would integrate existing schools into the comprehensive system.  
Home Education  
ED270 We acknowledge parents' rights to educate their children at home. It is important to understand many of the reasons parents turn to this such as dissatisfaction with the school curriculum and bullying and attempt to alleviate the need for home education through the green party's radical reform of the education system. Ultimately the right to home education should still be there. This should be matched with quality checks to ensure that all young people have a broad and diverse education of a high quality.

#### Inclusion and Special Needs

ED300 The Green Party supports the principle of offering all people the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school, and meeting everyone's needs, whatever the level of need may be. There are many positive benefits for all people in being educated alongside people with a variety of different needs and abilities and this will lead to a more integrated society.  
ED301 In exceptional cases it is not appropriate to be fully integrated into mainstream education for all subjects, for example where there are multiple learning difficulties. In the longer term the Green Party hopes to address this through having special units in mainstream schools. Local Authorities may explore ways of meeting particular needs, for example, one school in an area can cater for people with visual impairment and another school for hearing impairment.  
ED302 Ultimately some special needs schools will continue to exist. Whether to attend a mainstream or a special needs school is a very sensitive decision and should be taken by the parent and young person together with the advice of a special needs coordinator.  
OR  
The ultimate goal is for all students to attend ordinary schools and for there to be no special schools

#### Faith Schools

ED350 Education should include a celebration and recognition of religious diversity and spirituality.  
ED351 All schools, both state-controlled and privately run will be required to embrace a multi-faith perspective throughout the exploration of the curriculum, as well as respecting the rights of children to adopt a secular world view should they wish to.  
ED352 The Green Party feels that Faith Schools can create (cultural) divisions in society and discourage children and young people from attending their local community school.  
ED353 Therefore the Green Party will not extend state funding for faith schools. Where faith schools already exist they should reflect the inclusive nature of British society and become part of the Local Authority admissions system. This non-discriminatory approach should be extended to staff who must not be more or less likely to get a job in a faith school due to their own faith.  
OR  
However, we recognise that some parents will want to send their children to faith schools, and within the conditions above will continue to fund them within the state system.  
ED354 The Green Party recognizes the right of parents to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.  
ED355 We will seek to cater for these rights and needs through ensuring that children and young people can practice their faith in schools. Religious instruction (however) will take place outside of school curriculum time.  
ED356 We recognise the importance of human values and the moral dimension in learning, often expressed through spiritual and political values. This will be achieved through the curriculum and ethos of the school and through understanding the contribution we can all make to society.

#### Health in Schools

ED400 Schools and teachers should continue to have a duty of care towards young people. Whilst we recognise that parents are more likely to have a significant influence on their children in regards to most aspects of their personal

development, it is very important to promote this through the school, as outlined in the Curriculum section. The school environment should be a loving one full of care. There should be regular health checks in schools and a return to the old system of school nurses. Crucial to all of these factors is how teachers are trained for this in their Initial Teacher Training.

#### Food

##### Environmental Education

##### Higher Education

ED500 Higher Education is essential in developing a civilized society. Education – as distinct from training - should be treated as a process and not a product. It should enable a democratisation of knowledge and skills which is available to anyone who wants to study a degree and is capable of it, regardless of their age or background. It should be free at the point of delivery.  
ED501 Higher Education should not be an expectation for young people. Evidence suggests that the best results are achieved by people who have an active desire to study at this level when they feel ready, rather than be an automatic extension of Further Education.

#### Funding

ED510 Higher Education is facing a funding crisis. Departments are closing, students are being forced to pay increasing fees for their education, lecturers are working longer hours and receiving worsening pay and conditions and the student to tutor ratio is increasing. The Green Party would support a properly funded, accessible Higher Education system which would reverse these trends.

#### Accountability

ED520 Higher Education Institutions are funded directly by the state or through Chartered Organisations and Trusts,  
OR  
All HE Institutions and their Student Unions should be publicly owned.  
ED521 All Governing bodies will adopt structures similar to the senate model used by Open Universities. Governors and Board members will be elected by both staff and students.

#### Accessibility

ED530 Higher Education will offer real support to mature students and students with families. There will be a minimum requirement for Universities and Higher Education Institutions to offer a free crèche to students and staff, nappy changing and breast-feeding facilities as well as religious facilities such as prayer spaces to cater for people from a wide range of ages, religions and ethnic backgrounds. Additional funding should be given to Open Universities to make them more accessible.

#### Targets

ED540 Where there are statistical targets for Higher Education they should have a well-founded purpose. For example the existing target of getting 50% of school leavers into Higher Education does not ensure a diverse number of subjects are studied, or that overall standards improve. Neither does it ensure that the number of people studying represent a wide cross-section of society.

#### Elitism

ED550 A disproportionate number of the highest salaries are offered to graduates of institutions which are considered to be elitist, many of which select a very high proportion of students from the independent sector. This should be addressed through a combination of these institutions offering Widening Participation Programmes and creating a series of firm targets for which will ensure increased social diversity through taking a proportionate amount of students from the state sector. (Proportionate with other institutions / proportionate with school leavers? / proportionate with school leavers applying for HE?)

#### Standards

ED560 Currently the standard of achievement of students with comparable degrees and results from different institutions is inconsistent. There should be much more rigour applied to ensure consistency through external accreditation systems. ED561 There should be systems in place to provide a quality assurance of staff and full accountability within departments.

#### Curriculum

ED570 Due to the nature of the economic growth we are experiencing there has been a shift in recent years away from manufacture and industry-related subjects. Whilst trends in the subjects students choose to study will continue to evolve there should be sufficient funding to protect minority subjects and to cater for potential swings back.

#### Research

ED580 It is essential that there is not a commercial bias in research undertaken in Higher Education Institutions. There will be sufficient funding to encourage independent and ethical research.

#### Transition into Higher Education

ED590 The Green Party recognises that under the current system the ability of students transferring from school or Further Education to Higher Education is extremely diverse, sometimes depending on their social background or the school / college they attended. Until this is no longer the case, in order to ensure full accessibility and high standards, institutions will be funded to offer an externally accredited Foundation Degree to students they consider to have the potential to study at a Higher Level but who are not yet ready for it.

#### Transition from Higher Education into Employment

ED600 Studying any subject at a higher level should provide people with transferable skills, such as developing an enquiring mind, research skills and the ability to construct well-reasoned arguments. Some subjects are naturally more vocational than others. Students should be prepared for the potential outcomes of their degrees at the outset of the course and receive guidance throughout the course in how to achieve them.

#### International Students

ED610 Currently many Higher Education Institutions are dependent on international students due to the inflated fees they pay. In some cases this can lead them to accept international students who are less able than EU students who they reject. Under a Green Government Higher Education Institutions would be properly funded by the state so that where international students are fee-paying the amount the institution charges will

mirror the fee they receive from the state for an EU student.

#### Environmentalism in Higher Education Institutions

ED620 Currently some Institutions have some of the worst records for their environmental footprint. Under a Green government Higher Education will adhere to the same stringent regulations as large businesses and other institutions.

#### Early Years education

#### Adult education

#### Further education

#### Assessment

#### Rural Schools

#### Human scale education

#### Funding'

Contact: Brian Heatley, Policy Co-ordinator

### **Section O – Out of Order Motions**

**Four motions have been ruled out of order. On the two policy motions, SOC took advice from the Policy Committee before reaching its decision. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference explain:**

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

- a) contrary to the Constitution,
- b) retrospective in their effect,
- c) ambiguous,
- d) vague,
- e) trivial or requiring no consequential action,
- f) substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at Conference less than two years previously (see Appendix A), except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the

policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.”

SOC has a duty to rule any such submitted motions out of order – it is not a choice. If the members of SOC, in their collective judgement, consider that a motion is in breach of any of the requirements above, it must rule it out of order.

SOC has provided explanations for its decisions at the end of each motion.

## **O1 Policy Motion - EU Migration**

MIGRATION section of Europe Policy  
EU781

Add at beginning:

The Green Party supports the principle of a Common Immigration Policy for the European Union. We believe that shared obligations towards Asylum Seekers (see EU780) and immigrants provides the best available way to deal with future challenges arising from refugees displaced by climate change and other factors.

EU784 (new clause)

"The Green Party believes that the greenhouse gas emissions of all European states have substantially contributed to Climate Change. This has already caused extreme weather events impacting most strongly upon the poorest states in the World. We envisage this situation may become worse until significant cuts in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are achieved. We therefore believe that European states have a general duty to alleviate the problems they have helped cause. They should relieve poverty in the poorest states and, whenever necessary, provide homes for refugees who may have been displaced as the result of European patterns of consumption and profligate use of fossil fuels."

*Proposed by: Steve Dawe (\*\*), Brian Leslie, James Caspell, Tim Turner*

The Policy Committee advised the SOC that “this is a substantial change of policy, and while there has been some debate on the Population list recently about migration, this EU point has not

been debated. And the policy contradicts MG251 but makes no attempt to amend that.”

**SOC decided therefore to apply SOCC C 9(f) that this motion substantially changes policy areas on the first point and that it has implications for other areas that have not been considered on the second point.**

## **O2 Policy Motion - EU Migration**

### **Synopsis**

At the recent European Green Party Council meeting in Ljubljana, the policy paper on Migration ‘Europe is a continent of Migration’ was passed. Our party was the only party in Europe which did not vote in favour. At a time when migration and the issue of human rights, deportation of asylum seekers and refugees and their treatment in this country is constantly in the news, we believe that our party should have a progressive and forward looking policy on this issue. Furthermore, as a party in an state of the EU, which must have policies on the rights of EU citizens seeking employment and other rights in this state, we believe that we must update our current policy on this issue in the light of recent immigration from the new member states of the European Union.

### **Motion**

We call upon the Green Party of England and Wales to adopt the policies outlined in the policy paper ‘Europe is a continent of Migration’ outlined below, as our policy in relation to immigration and the rights of migrants in this state. Furthermore, we call upon GPEX and the party’s elected representatives to ensure that the values and rights enshrined in this paper are those of the party in relation to all dealings with government and those organisations which deal with the welfare of migrants.

### **Europe is a continent of migration**

The act of free movement as well as the freedom to stay, are human rights. Migrants have shaped cultures and societies in the past, and will continue doing so. However, forced migration leads to suffering and decline,

and the root causes that force people to leave their societies must be combated. Anyone who has ever tried building a fortress Europe has failed.

The borders of the European Union are not limited to the exterior borders, but are also present at airports, in summary controls of identity within the borders and in the electronic control systems that are being implemented throughout Europe. Now more than ever we need shared positions. The European Greens agree on a common approach to Migration, emphasizing solidarity. Looking at it as a global phenomenon it provides opportunities for effective analysis. We Greens base our position on the rights that citizens must have. It is not based on the restrictions that we would impose on them.

We Greens strive for proactive policies that benefit the migrant and the society as a whole. Inclusion policy – we prefer this term to the commonly used one “integration” – is not a favour to migrants, it is needed for the whole society to function. It is an enriching process for the whole population. If it is not done well – as is the case in most European countries – problems, fears, anxieties, prejudice on both sides can and do occur.

We Greens believe in diversity as a positive value. We are not afraid of the prospect of change in our communities, being supportive of inclusion as a dialogue and not as an imposition.

We Greens want to open more bridges into Europe: it is fundamental for us. We want to broaden the legal channels through which people settle in the EU. If there are legal ways to Europe, less people will go a dangerous and potential deadly journey.

These principles will not prevent us from working on the causes that make migration a necessity and not a choice. Actions to combat climate change must be further developed and given enough funding to guarantee definite results. This will also bring about new jobs. The EU must throw all of its energy towards preventing conflicts and

restore peaceful conditions all over the world. Improving codevelopment and making sure the EU devotes part of its budget towards education and development schemes in the sourcing countries is only a means of restoring balance in European migration policies which are skewed to law-enforcement objectives rather than providing treatment characterized by humanity, care, respect and empathy.

### **Full access to the labour market for all EU residents**

Before looking at the potential labour migrants outside the European Union, Member States should first grant full access to the labour market to all present residents within the Union. That means that nationals of the “new member states” have the full freedom of movement immediately after their accession. All third country nationals already settled in the EU, including their family members, should have full access to the labour market, health and education facilities. Against the structural and factual discrimination of women the visas and working permits of female immigrants should be independent from the ones of their husbands and children so they are not dependent on the right of men and children to stay in a country. After three years of residence and work, they should receive the same social rights and freedom of movement and settlement as European Union citizens.

### **EU policy on labour migration: blue card, temporary migration and minimum standards**

To the EU proposal of a blue card for highly skilled migrants, EGP wants to add the possibility of facilitated entry for semi-skilled and unskilled workers. This would allow third country nationals to enter the EU legally, search for work and get a working permit legally. After a certain period of time – for example two or three years – it should be possible to change from a temporary to a permanent status.

Knowing that the needs and realities of the labour markets are different in each Member State, the EGP does not favour a central quota for the whole EU, but prefers choices on numbers being

made on national level. EGP calls for a legal framework on EU-level for minimum standards on the rights of labour migrants. The EU has to guarantee protection against abuse by employers and slum lords, give migrants the possibility and responsibility to integrate, develop their skills and participate. The minimum standards encompass transparency, criteria and time limits on application procedures, the right to the national minimum wage, family reunification and access to housing and education.

### **Failure of the “Guest worker system”**

All types of migration lead to a transfer of skills, ideas, knowledge, create links and interpersonal networks, contribute to social and economic development of both home and host countries, as well as contributing to workers themselves. Nowadays most migrants cannot move freely to and from their home countries, because leaving the European Union means a big risk of never being admitted anymore. EGP rejects the proposed idea of circular migration, admitting migrants only temporary, because of the risk of failure like the old “Guest worker system”. Migrants that are admitted temporarily must have the chance to obtain a permanent residence permit. Member States should stimulate migration by creating conditions for migrants, without affecting their rights and choices. Furthermore, the EU shall contribute to the transfer of skills and knowledge by granting access to their universities and high schools to a generous number of people from “developing countries”.

### **Greens, migrants and society**

We Greens recognize that Europe today is a continent in which many cultures coexist. We strive for inclusion processes through which all inhabitants from Europe can increase their equitable participation in the society. The goal of these processes and our ideal society is one in which all citizens are integrated, with equal rights and fair chances.

**Integration: it must not be a prerequisite for migrants, but a goal**

In the last years politicians from Europe consider the possibility of integration as a requisite to migrate to Europe. We Greens reject this view: integration is a goal and inclusion processes are the tool that society uses to help all citizens to participate. Inclusion must happen when the migrant is in Europe, not before. Inclusion policy is desirable and needed for the better functioning of our society as a whole

### **Green inclusion policy: a two way process**

For us Greens is fundamental to recognize that an integrated society is one that respects diverse groups as well as individuals. It is not only the migrant that should adapt to Europe: Europe must also adapt to the migrant. The inclusion process is a dialogue, and as any other dialogue has two directions. As much as we ask from migrants to adapt into a new society, we also ask the existing society to change in a way that the newcomers feel welcome.

In this dialogue it is also clear for Greens that all people have to accept the principles many women and men have fought for for decades, like secularity and separation of religion and state, women’s rights, rights of sexual minorities, democratic rules of majority decision making, with respect for minorities’ opinion, and others.

### **Green inclusion policy: organizations and networks**

Migrants organize in different ways in every country. We Greens recognize the positive role that these organized individuals can contribute to the inclusion process. As important as formal organizations, we recognize and value the existence of informal networks of individuals, as valuable in our society.

### **Green inclusion policy: rights of the migrant**

All migrants are entitled to fundamental human rights. Family reunification is one of those rights: we fully honour everyone’s right to live with his or her family, as stated in the European Convention on Human Rights. There is a tendency of EU Member States to restrain people from exercising this right, making

unreasonable demands to migrants who want to reunify their family in the European Union. Barriers such as having to pass a language test in their home country or requiring that they earn much more than the minimum wage are prejudicial. We Greens reject these requirements and guarantee the right to live in family. Other rights can be incremental in time, up to the point in which migrants have the same equal rights that European citizens have. We strive for a society in which all individuals are equal against the law.

#### **Access to asylum**

Every person who needs shelter according to the Geneva Conventions must have the possibility to get access to a fair asylum procedure in Europe. The Greens demand that access to a fair asylum procedure is always granted to those who need it, in a language the asylum seeker understands or with the help of translator and with free legal assistance at all stages of the procedure. In each case an individual assessment is needed, based on objective information of the human rights situation in the home country. Agencies should never use lists of "safe third countries" which rarely reflect the harsh living conditions in some countries. The agency responsible for processing the claim should be independent from the government.

#### **Protection on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation**

Gender reasons to escape the country of origin like genital mutilation, oppression and religious persecution because of gender, 'honour crimes', rape, forced abortion or sterilisation must be accepted as reasons to get asylum in all EU countries, as well as persecution on grounds of sexual orientation. Neither the acknowledged difficulty of bringing the proof of the aforementioned persecutions nor the concept of "safe countries" should have a negative impact on granting the status of refugee according to the Geneva Convention.

#### **Protection of persons fleeing a conflict**

Asylum seekers fleeing a conflict should be granted a high quality protection, with minimum rights,

such as family reunification and access to the labour market. If the conflict they fled is still going on after three years, they should be granted a permanent residence permit.

#### **Climate change refugees**

There are now migrants, displaced persons and their families, who must leave their land because of environmental disaster that results from both incremental and rapid ecological and climatic change that includes sea level rise, coastal erosion, desertification, collapsing ecosystems, water contamination and weather events that are more frequent and unpredictable. As a result, inhabitants are unable to live safe or sustainable lives in their immediate environment. Some island nations may cease to exist. The word refugee has been used with strong moral connotations of societal protection in most world cultures, and it must now be extended to those who are forced to migrate because of climatic change.

#### **The Dublin convention**

The EGP favours the revision or removal of the Dublin II convention on the grounds that it creates a disproportionate burden for some countries and complicates the processing of asylum claims. The removal of this Convention is essential for small former "transit" countries. Member States should show more mutual solidarity in taking the responsibility for asylum requests. The European Union has to guarantee an overall high level of protection. We end the system that border countries carry most of the migration burden: asylum seekers are allowed to seek asylum (only) once in the country of their choice, which is not necessarily the country where they entered Europe. The European Refugee Fund will compensate financially Member States dealing with the biggest share of asylum seekers. Asylum seekers may not be deported to neighbouring countries without having assessed the asylum claim.

#### **Borders**

The EGP favours an EU-competency for surveillance of external borders of the Union, in order not to overwhelm border-countries. Frontex has to

acknowledge the International Refugee Conventions and the European Convention on Human Rights. Human Rights must be integrated in the training of Frontex personal. The EGP criticizes Frontex, the EU agency with the responsibility to manage borders, for rather aiming at deterring migrants than protecting them when they arrive in the EU. The EU should never stop people from eventually claiming asylum and becoming recognised refugees. Since addressing the reasons for migration is not Frontex's responsibility it cannot decrease the number of irregular migrants coming to the EU, however, it should save lives by rescuing boat people.

#### **Detention**

The European Greens oppose the principle of detaining persons not found guilty of any crime but who just violated an administrative rule (i.e. entering or staying without proper documentation in the European Union). Detention is a juridical paradox. As long as detention still exists the EGP calls for a detention as short as possible (preferably only a few days) and in the best conditions possible (as regards to recreation, hygiene and privacy), and never be applied to minors, asylum seekers and those in vulnerable positions. All detainees should have access to free legal advice, social assistance and medical support within the centre. For a better transparency, centres should be checked by an institution responsible for controlling the standards of detention places. Centres should also be made accessible to politicians, media, NGOs and international organisations. The use of handcuffs and other degrading treatment on migrants is condemned.

#### **Improving the situation for irregular migrants**

Many irregular migrants suffer from their insecure situation, the lack of rights and the risk of abuse and exploitation. Irregular migrants should have access to basic provisions such as health care, and education for children. EGP wants to diminish their number by creating more legal ways for entering the European Union. Furthermore, EGP favours regularisations for irregular

migrants who have contributed to the Member States for a number of years.

### **Assistance to irregular migrants**

The EGP recognizes a distinction between people helping out irregular migrants (smugglers, people offering a shelter or rescuing them at sea...) and people abusing migrants (traffickers, slumlords...). Although the abuse of migrants is to be sanctioned, helping undocumented migrants should be tolerated and not considered a crime. Captains who rescue boat people should not be punished by law. Instead all member states should open their harbours for castaways.

### **Human trafficking, smuggling networks**

The best way to attack the smugglers networks is to deprive them of their profits. There are policies that have indirect effects on the profitability of the trafficking business. Regularization campaigns, amnesties for illegal migrants, job training reduce the expected profits of traffickers as they reduce the enforceability of debt contracts between intermediates and migrants. In the legal sector trafficking agreements are harder to enforce, the migrant defaults and can turn to the police for protection once he or she receives legal status. In order to fight against human trafficking, the victims of human trafficking who have been forced (or are meant to be forced) to work in the sex industry or in diplomatic or other households, who have been or are meant to be forced into marriage, etc. in the EU against their will should get the right to stay and get a regular working permit.

*Proposed by: Joseph Healy (\*\*), Pete Murry, Derek Wall, Andy Hewett*

The Policy Committee advised SOC that "The European Green's migration motion should we think be ruled out, but we are divided about the grounds...some think the motion is simply 'trivial or requiring no consequential action' in that it doesn't actually amend our policy at all. And some of us think it does change our policy

towards that of the European Green Party, but that it is inconsistent with the MfSS policy against a common European migration policy (MG251). Either way it should be ruled out."

**SOC agreed that the motion should be ruled out of order on the following grounds SOCC 9(c) – in that it was ambiguous. The motion is not considered trivial – if it had been passed it would have been entered in to the Record of Policy Statements. However, a motion that flatly contradicts the MfSS without attempt to amend the MfSS is clearly ambiguous in that it does not lead the party to a clear position on what is its policy in this area.**

### **O3 Organisation Motion - Elected Representatives**

#### **Motion**

The existing statement within the constitution in Section 10, which refers to Elected Representatives, says;

v) When entering into agreements with other political parties, politicians and groups, elected members and other representatives must take into consideration the long-term best interests of the Party. Such decisions should be made after consultation with the relevant local or regional party/ies.

To be replaced with

v) When entering into agreements with other political parties, politicians and groups, elected members and other representatives must take into consideration the long-term best interests of the Party. An 'agreement' is taken to include joining a coalition or voting another party into a controlling position on an elected body. Such decisions should be made only after consultation with the relevant local or regional party/ies. The consultation must be conducted in such a way that every member of the local party is aware of the process, and coordinators of other local parties within the region are informed and their opinions taken into consideration. If no consensus is reached, a vote must be taken within the local party. As a decision may need to be made at

short notice, a vote at a meeting to which every member of the local party has been invited will be deemed sufficient. The decision of the local/regional Party is binding on all elected representatives who are members of that Party and they are required to act upon it.

*Proposed by: Clare O'Regan (\*\*), Lynda Pickersgill, Paul Cooney, James Caspell*

### **SOCC 9(a) Contrary to the Constitution – on two grounds**

**(1)** Elsewhere in the Constitution it states "Local Parties may be formed by groups of members of The Green Party who shall determine their own constitution, in accordance with bye-laws to be approved from time to time by the Annual Conference."

The motion seeks to tell how local Parties will take certain decisions that are not within the remit of the by-laws. Instead it could be said that such decisions are the very stuff of local parties. By setting out a Constitutional requirement as to the method of such an important decision without seeking to amend other parts of the Constitution, we consider the motion to be contrary to the Constitution.

**(2)** Further, the Constitution also states elsewhere:

"Elected members and other representatives have a responsibility to promote the policies of the national and local green parties, as expressed in the MfSS and national, regional and local manifestos. Where they do not agree with Party policy and publicly state their own position, they should at the same time state and explain the position of the Green Party."

The motion set out to introduce a local party 'whip' without the opportunity for an opt-out as offered as a Constitutional right to members of the Party. As above, we consider this motion therefore to be contrary to the Constitution.

SOCC 9(d) vague & SOCC 9(c) ambiguous

**In addition SOC considers that the motion is 'vague' and/or 'ambiguous'.** It sets out a method of taking a decision but uses terms such as 'short notice'.

However it does not attempt to clarify what is 'short notice' – in those terms it is 'vague' and as a consequence it is 'ambiguous' as the interpretation of 'short' will vary from member to member and party to member. Therefore SOC does not consider there is enough detail in the motion for it be interpreted.

#### **O4 Organisational Motion – Criteria for funding Parliamentary By-Election**

- (a) No direct national funding or subsidy will be provided to pay for campaign expenses in any parliamentary by-election except where the following conditions are met:
  - (i) The constituency in question must be covered by one or more active and properly constituted local parties;
  - (ii) Wards comprising at least 50% of the constituency electorate must have been contested\* in the last regular local elections in the area (i.e. excluding local by-elections);
  - (iii) There has been effective all-year round campaigning in at least one ward in the constituency in the past 12 months (i.e. regular leafleting or canvassing, or where the party has elected representatives). The local party/ies will be expected to provide evidence of this; and,
  - (iv) All local parties in the area fully support the candidature.
- (b) In addition, at least one of the following criteria must be met:
  - (i) The selected candidate has a demonstrable record of political and/or community

activity within the constituency (evidence should be provided); or,

- (ii) The Green Party saved its deposit in the seat at the last General Election.
- (c) This motion shall not preclude the offer of general advice or support of a non-financial variety where requested by the local party/ies (e.g. media support, advice from national election agent).
- (d) The final decision on whether to stand and on the choice of candidate shall rest with the local party/ies, or with the regional party where no local party exists; however, unless the above criteria above are met, no direct financial support will be provided from national funds. The decision of the local or regional party/ies on whether to stand shall be final and a candidate will not be "imposed" where they have decided not to contest the seat.
- (e) This policy does not constitute an obligation on the national party to provide direct financial support where the above conditions are met.
- (f) GPEX are requested to find a way of developing a "package", including leaflet and freepost templates, and a list of potential by-election helpers and advisers, so that this can be offered to the local party/ies in by-elections where the above criteria have been met.

\* Note: a single candidature in a multiple vacancy ward will count as being "contested" for the purposes of this motion.

Amendment:

Add at the beginning of clause (a) the words: "Until this policy is amended by conference or by GPEX (see clause (g)),"

Add additional clause (g) as follows:

- (g) The motion shall be binding on GPEX until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010, after which they may review the policy and amend it as they consider appropriate, subject to compliance with any future decision of conference on this topic.

*Proposed by York Green Party:  
signed by John Norris (\*\*),  
Andrew Collingwood, Andy  
Chase, Dave Taylor*

#### **The Constitution states elsewhere:**

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

#### **SOCC 9(a) Contrary to the Constitution**

**The decisions referred to by this motion are considered by SOC to be properly those of GPEX – in particular its right to raise funds, and spend such funds. SOC therefore considers this to be contrary to the constitution and therefore rules the motion out of order under SOCC9(a)**

## Contact details for motions in this agenda

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## Prioritisation Ballot

This ballot is to be used to guide SOC in determining the order of motions in Sections C and D in the Final Agenda. Please choose up to three motions in each section.

This ballot is being conducted online:

[http://www.brightonandhovegreenparty.org.uk/h/f/GREEN/show\\_survey/////?ans\\_id=7](http://www.brightonandhovegreenparty.org.uk/h/f/GREEN/show_survey/////?ans_id=7)

However if you don't have access to the internet please complete this form

Please indicate which THREE motions are your top priorities in each section. You may only cast one vote for any particular motion.

<b>C21</b>	<b>C22</b>	<b>C23</b>	<b>C24</b>	<b>C25</b>	<b>C26</b>
<b>C27</b>	<b>C28</b>	<b>C29</b>	<b>C30</b>	<b>C31</b>	<b>C32</b>
<b>C33</b>	<b>C34</b>	<b>C35</b>	<b>C36</b>	<b>C37</b>	<b>C38</b>
<b>C39</b>	<b>C40</b>	<b>C41</b>	<b>C42</b>		

<b>D51</b>	<b>D52</b>	<b>D53</b>	<b>D54</b>	<b>D55</b>	<b>D56</b>
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Please complete the following:

Name:

Signature:

Local Party:

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

You can also send your prioritisation by email to [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk) – look at the introduction to this agenda for details of the additional information SOC require to validate your email signature.

**Return to: Dean Walton, SOC Convenor, 202 Malpas Road, Brockley, LONDON, SE4 1DH by the end of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008.**