

**AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2017**

# **FINAL AGENDA**

**HARROGATE**



**Green Party**  
for the common good

# CONTENTS

## Section A / Reports and Motions required by Previous Conference Resolution

- A01 SOC Report \_4
- A02 Treasurer and Finance Coordinator Report \_9
- A03 GPEx Report \_10
- A04 GPRC Report \_17
- A05 Disputes Resolution Committee Report \_23
- A06 Disciplinary Committee Report \_24
- A07 Leaders' Report \_25
- A08 Conference Committee Report \_26
- A09 Policy Development Committee Report \_27
- A10 Campaigns Committee Report \_29
- A11 Equality and Diversity Report \_29
- A12 Reform Conference Voting Working Group Report \_29
- A13 Governance Review Working Group Report \_30
- A14 Principles For Incorporation Of The Party \_31
- A15 Proposed New Constitution to go to Ballot \_31

## Section B / Voting Papers

- B01 Climate Change Voting Paper \_32
- B02 Forestry And Woodlands Voting Paper \_35

## Section D / Organisational Motions

- D01 An Urgent And Holistic Review Of How The Green Party Operates \_37
- D02 Election Messaging Strategy That Highlights Economy And Environment \_38
- D03 Changing The Green Party Message And Target–To–Win \_39
- D04 Updated Policy On Electoral Alliances For The Period Up To The Next General Election \_39
- D05 Relinquishing “Progressive Alliance” \_41

- D06 Future Electoral Deals With Other Parties \_42
- D07 Compositing Of Motions To Conference \_43
- D08 Conference Accessibility \_43
- D09 Interim Policy Positions \_44
- D10 Campaigning Priorities \_44
- D11 Set Up A Constitutional Reform Working Group \_45
- D12 Introduce A Procedural Card To Conference Plenaries \_45
- D13 Parliamentary Candidates May Remain In Place Up To 18 Months After General Election \_46
- D14 Election Of Leadership Team Using STV For Ordered List \_46
- D15 Include A and F sections in Pre-agenda process \_47
- D16 Allow One-Year Members To Stand For GPEX \_48
- D17 Reform of Conference Voting Working Group Extension \_48

## Section E / Policy Motions

- E01 Reducing Plastic Waste \_49
- E02 Enabling Motion For Small Business \_49
- E03 Widen Application of Precautionary Principle \_49
- E04 Culture, Media And Sport PSS Enabling Motion \_50
- E05 Improving Trans Rights Policy \_50
- E06 Updating Sexual Orientation Policy \_51
- E07 Oppose Stonehenge Tunnel Plan \_52
- E08 Bank Holiday Marking The Contribution Of Migrants And People Of Colour \_53

## Section F / Draft Voting Papers

- F01 Energy Policy Draft Voting Paper \_54
- F02 Tax And Fiscal Policy Draft Voting Paper \_55

## Late Motions

- 1 Campaigning Against the EU Repeal Bill \_59

# A

# Reports and Motions

## Required by a Previous Conference Resolution

### AO 1 SOC REPORT

*Martin Hemingway, Andy Hunter–Rossall, Jen Law, Jill Mills*

#### Introduction

The team from the last Conference has carried on to prepare for this Conference, with the exception of Kat Boettge who resigned after the General Election. SOC would like to thank her for her contribution over most of the year. Jen Law took 6 weeks leave from SOC duties in August/September but we are glad to have her back for the final conference preparations.

In pursuit of its aim of making Conference procedure more open and flexible, and our documentation more consistent, SOC has brought forward two motions to Conference. One to make the sections of the agenda clearer, the other to seek to simplify the procedure for the compositing of motions. We hope to bring more to Spring Conference 2018.

#### Content of the Final Agenda

There are 13 motions to accept reports (Section A) provided to Autumn Conference, which also forms the Annual General Meeting of the party. There are also two A section motions required by previous conferences. One of these (A15) has an appendix which is printed after Section F of the Agenda (Appendix 3), and this has 13 amendments.

There are two Section B voting papers at this conference. B01 includes 3 amendments submitted as part of the motion.

The Policy process divides Policy motions into two groups: those that have received accreditation from the Policy Development Committee (PDC) (the Section C motions), and those not so accredited (the Section E motions).

No motions have been accredited for this conference. It is important that those seeking accreditation make contact at the earliest opportunity with PDC to ensure that they are clear about what the accreditation process requires.

There are 8 E motions with a single amendment to one of them.

There are 17 organisational and other (Section D) motions, which propose changes to the way the party organises itself. There are 25 amendments across these motions.

There are two Draft Voting Papers (Section F).

Where an amendment proposal related to different parts of a motion, the amendment has been split and the relevant parts linked to the relevant parts of the original motion.

10 motions proposed failed to gain the support of 12 co-proposers as required by the new process, and these are listed after section F of the Agenda (Appendix 1)

SOC ruled 1 motion, and parts of three other motions, and parts of four amendments out of order, and these are printed after section F of the Agenda (Appendix 2).

The prioritisation ballot fell into two parts: Section D 104 valid ballots, and Section E 83 valid ballots. The initial data for the prioritisation ballot was collected using webforms on the members' site that only allowed one submission per user and was restricted to Green Party members only. The ballot result was created by running successive STV elections with the same data but each time decreasing the size of the group elected by 1 thus ejecting 1 option – that is the last one on the list. This is done in ever decreasing numbers until 1 option is elected – and that is the top one on the list. In consequence there are no “points” attached to each motion in this conference to report. The ballot data is available on the SOC section of the website.

The results and data can be accessed at: [my.greenparty.org.uk/node/220/resources](https://my.greenparty.org.uk/node/220/resources)

SOC is proposing several deviations from the agenda order suggested by the prioritisation ballot, and makes the following proposals for timetabling and agenda order.

#### Section A

The reports from the Green Party Executive (GPEx) have been grouped as a single motion, with separate sections for those co-ordinators that do not have to provide separate reports to Conference. Only one report required by Conference (Equality & Diversity Co-ordinator) was not submitted since there is currently a vacancy for this role.

The Governance Review is timetabled for this Conference, and the second plenary is allocated to this, however one of the organisational motions to Conference (D1) would, if passed without the final amendment, end the current review and start a new review.

SOC have decided to start the second plenary with Report A13

(Governance Review Group), followed by Motion A14, which at Spring Conference was separated from the Governance Review process. Motion D1 will be taken next as required by Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC) Section E(3)(e) (ii) “the need to debate motions which affect other motions in an appropriate order” and perhaps (iii) “to give special priority to any motion in section d) which SOC considers to be urgent for the resolution of controversy or for the continuing functioning of the Party.” If the final amendment to motion D1 falls and motion D1 is passed, motion A15 will not be taken. If the amendment passes or the motion falls, Conference will continue to motion A15.

### **Section B**

There are two Voting Papers proposed for discussion at Conference, on Climate Change and on Forestry and Woodlands Policy which will be taken in the order they were submitted for the Agenda.

### **Section C**

There are no accredited Policy motions.

### **Section D**

There are two motions on electoral messaging, and three on electoral alliances. It would have been useful if these could have gone through the compositing process being proposed by SOC.

- » Motion D3 ‘Changing the Green Party Message and Target to Win’ has been moved up from D5 to follow on from Motion D2 on electoral messaging.
- » Motion D6 ‘Future electoral deals with other parties’ has been moved up from D9 to follow on from D4 and D5 on electoral alliances.
- » Motion D7 has been moved up from D13 to follow on from the motions that should have been composited.

SOC propose the Fast tracking of motions D15 and D17. D17 was missed from the First Agenda since one of the co–proposers had not been listed, SOC apologise for this oversight.

### **Section E**

SOC has moved motion E07 up one place on the agenda from the position achieved on the prioritisation ballot so that two motions on similar topics can be heard together.

**SOC propose the Fast tracking of motions E02 and E04.**

### **Section F**

There are two Draft Voting Papers that have derived from Enabling Motions agreed at previous conferences, on Energy Policy, and on Tax and Fiscal Policy. These will not be discussed in Plenary, but will have workshop time for discussion.

SOC would like to remind groups that have brought an enabling motion (EM) to Conference of the requirements that follow from this under section 4(e) of the Policy Process (Appendix 1 to SOCC). A Draft Voting Paper must be submitted to Conference

within 2 years and 3 months of the passing of the EM, and a Voting Paper passed within 4 years and 3 months, or the EM will be considered to have lapsed.

### **Late Motions**

The new policy process agreed at Autumn Conference 2016 introduced a category of Late Motions for issues arising after the First Agenda deadline, up to a new Late Motions deadline. One Late Motion has been accepted and is printed in the Agenda after Section F.

This Late Motion will be heard first in the first Late Motion/ Emergency Motion slot in the plenaries.

### **Errors in the Agenda**

If you notice any errors in the final agenda please notify SOC by emailing: [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk)

This agenda was prepared using guidance from the Dyslexia Association and the Royal National Institute for the Blind. If there are any accessibility issues you’d like to tell us about for future action please email SOC at the same address.

### **Summaries and synopses**

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words (300 for policy papers). It is the practice of SOC to cut synopses at the appropriate length and note that this has happened. A couple of motions that included a ‘preamble’ in the text of the motion also had these cut.

### **Original text of documents proposed for amendment**

Where a policy does not appear in a motion in its original format, SOC has sought to include the original text in a note, or as an appendix, depending on its length.

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

The names of those signing motions are included in each motion. The principal contact for each motion is indicated by (\*) after the name with their contact details.

### **Proxy votes**

Members unable to attend conference may give a Proxy to a member able to attend. This can be done via a webform on the members’ website, or by notification to SOC by the proxy giver, identifying their name and local party, and the name and local party of the proxy holder. A physical form will be available at conference for those leaving but wishing to allocate their vote.

A member may hold a maximum of five proxy votes.

## **Committee Elections**

Elections will take place at Conference for all committees.

These are:

5 places on Campaigns Committee

- 5 places on Equality & Diversity Committee
- 5 places on Conferences Committee
- 5 places on Standing Orders Committee
- 5 places on Green World Editorial Board
- 5 places on International Committee
- 5 places on Dispute Resolution Committee

For information on these elections please contact the ERO via e-mail at [ero@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:ero@greenparty.org.uk)

## Submission of Emergency Motions – deadlines at conference

There will be Emergency Motion slots where available in the timetable, and these will be clearly identified. There is no guarantee that any emergency motions will be heard in these slots. The deadline for handing signed emergency motions to SOC for discussion the following day will be 6pm on the previous evening eg by 6pm on Saturday for the Sunday slot. Emergency motions will not be accepted on Tuesday, the final day of conference, however they may be submitted before the start of Conference.

Before Emergency Motions can be posted on the boards they have to be agreed by a member of SOC as falling within the requirements. Motions that have not been endorsed by SOC will be removed.

These arrangements enable SOC to make the necessary preparations for the emergency motion session.

The order in which emergency motions are taken is a simple majority. The more members' signatures you obtain before SOC count the motions on the emergency motion board the more likelihood there is of it being discussed in your desired slot.

Presentation of emergency motions on screen is ideal, and SOC would encourage proposers to supply an electronic version of their emergency motions, so we do not have to type them up at the last minute ourselves. A typed copy would be the next best option, and ideally would be of a length to fit legibly onto a screen. The maximum word count is 250 words.

Section H(1)(b) of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conferences (SOCC) states:

- b) Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided
- i. the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for Late Motions; an explicit commentary must be provided by the lead proposer which explains why the issue is an emergency including evidence that the issue has arisen or has substantially changed since the deadline.
  - ii. the motion is consistent with PSS (Policies for a Sustainable Society) and neither changes nor adds to the text of the PSS
  - iii. the motion has been proposed by a minimum of 50 individual members

iv. the motion is no longer than 250 words

c) No amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders are permitted

d) An emergency motion shall not:

- > Commit the Party to expenditure of more than one hundred pounds without the approval of the relevant budget holders
- > Significantly alter the party's agreed strategy.

### SOC stall at conference

In addition to their table in the plenary hall, SOC will have a stall with the other stalls at Conference, and will have someone in attendance as much as possible out the conference to give advice and accept speaker slips and nomination forms, and advise on emergency motions.

## Electoral Returning Officer Report

*John Allison-Walsh (Electoral Returning Officer)*

The elections for posts on GPEx closed on the 31st August 2017. Two posts did not receive valid nominations and were not included in the ballot:

- > Policy Development Co-ordinator
- > Trade Union Liaison Officer

Five posts were filled on election:

### Equality & Diversity Co-ordinator

Sahra Taylor & Mollie Scharaschkin	1796 Elected
Theo Routh	781
Re-open Nominations (RON)	132

### Finance Co-ordinator

Emma Carter	2537 Elected
RON	123

### Internal Communications Co-ordinator

Lee-Anne Lawrance, Tom Pashby & Mollie Arthurs	1685 Elected
Peter Barnett	1025
RON	41

### Local party Support Co-ordinator

Douglas Rouxel	2412 Elected
RON	260

### Publications Co-ordinator

Aimee Challenor	2430 Elected
RON	244

Owing to further resignations from GPEx there are now vacancies for External Communications Co-ordinator and Campaigns Co-ordinator.

Five posts for membership of Policy Development Committee are currently being elected. The result of this election will be

announced at Conference.

## Guidance, rulings, advice

On occasion members of the party approach individual members of SOC for advice or guidance on a specific issue in relation to the written documents of the party. While members of SOC will often respond, and give what help they can, such advice from an individual does not constitute a ruling by SOC, nor does it constitute the opinion of SOC.

If members wish to obtain a ruling on the specifics of a situation in relationship to the written documents of the party they should contact [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk) and the committee will deliberate on this and issue a formal response that clearly identifies the response as a ruling of the committee.

### Rulings

#### Clarification of “Two–Thirds Majority”

On the 14th March 2017 Liz Reason asked for a ruling on the meaning of ‘two–thirds majority’ in the Constitution sections 13 (i) and (ii), and whether it meant “two–thirds of those voting (even if it is only 2% of members) or a majority vote in which two–thirds of members have participated”.

Section 13 (Revision of the Constitution) says:

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

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

SOC understand this to mean that “two thirds majority” is all one phrase, referring to a “majority of more than two thirds”, ie more than two thirds of those casting a vote voting for the winning option. This is in accord with practice at conference where a ‘simple majority’ and ‘two–thirds majority’ refer to those present and voting.’

#### Subscriptions to Green Party of Wales

On the 7th April 2017 Ann Were requested a ruling in relation to the payment of subscriptions by members of the Green Party of Wales. The Membership Secretary of the Wales GP had had their editing rights to CiviCRM withdrawn and payments of subscriptions and donations had to go to the GPEW.

Appendix B ‘Wales Green Party’ to the Constitution of the GPEW is unequivocal in relation to the payment of subscriptions to the Wales GP:

**“3. Wales Green Party shall receive the whole of the Green Party and Regional Party portions of each membership subscription payable within its Region, and shall pay an**

amount to the Green Party determined by agreement between the Wales Green Party and the Regional Council. This amount shall include a basic component calculated having regard to the number of members in the Region in each membership category. In addition to this basic component, the amount payable may also include components in respect of specific services supplied to the Regional Party by the Green Party.” (SOC emphasis).

SOC rule that the diversion of payments to the GPEW is unconstitutional and that the whole of any subscriptions and donations received from members in Wales since the date Wales stopped being able to collect its own income should be returned to the Wales GP.

In her request for a ruling Ann Were also noted that the Membership Secretary of the Wales GP had had ‘his editing rights of CiviCRM withdrawn’.

This again appears to be in conflict with Appendix B of the Constitution of the GPEW:

**“1. Wales Green Party shall be responsible for its own membership administration, including the maintenance of membership records and provision of services to members except for items introduced by the 2010 membership database.”** (SOC emphasis).

SOC rule that the withdrawal of editing rights of CiviCRM of the Membership Secretary of the Wales GP is unconstitutional in relation to Appendix B of the Constitution. It is also questionable as a matter of equity, and in relation to the general principle of the autonomy of local parties.

This ruling has also been sent to the Chair and Treasurer of GPEX, and to the Co–Chairs of GPRC.

#### Autonomy of Local Parties in the pursuit of Electoral Alliances

Following the workshops on motions D01/D02 at Spring Conference 2017 the Chair of the Plenary asked for a ruling on the position of local parties in decision making on electoral alliances.

Section 5(i) of the Constitution of the GPEW says inter alia: “The general practice of the party shall be to encourage the greatest possible autonomy of each Local party in its pursuit of the Objects of the Party”

Section 3 of the Constitution at (b) includes: “to that end to win seats at all levels of government”

SOC rule that in relation to this issue the ultimate decision rests with the local party under the principle of local party autonomy.

#### Richmond & Twickenham by–election

On the 6th May 2017 Freda Davis on behalf of GPRC asked for a ruling on whether the Richmond & Twickenham Green Parties could not only stand aside in the constituencies of Richmond

and Twickenham in favour of Liberal Democrat candidates but also endorse an agreed statement to be included in campaign literature supporting the Liberal Democrat candidate.

SOC considers the relevant clause of the constitution to be Section 4(vi) which says inter alia:

“No member may campaign for any candidate standing against a properly selected Green Party candidate”

In the absence of a properly selected Green Party candidate Richmond and Twickenham Green Party are not excluded from supporting the campaign of another candidate, and an endorsement would fall under this heading.

#### Closing Date for Nominations to GPEX

On 3rd July 2017 Rustam Majainah requested a ruling on the constitutionality of the extension of the deadline for GPEX nominations from the 30th June to the 6th July 2017.

The Constitution of the GPEW at Section 9(iii) is quite explicit on the timing of the Nomination process for the Annual ballot: “The nominations for all posts included in an annual ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week day in June, and close at noon on the last week day in June”

SOC has already been informed of the change in deadline and had contacted the ERO to question this change.

Nothing in section 17 of the Constitution allows 9(iii) to be over-ridden.

SOC accordingly rules that the extension of the nominations deadline was invalid, and that any nominations received after noon on the 30th June 2017 will be invalid in consequence.

#### Is there a ‘Chair’ of the Green Party?

On July 24th Ann Forsaith wrote to SOC to request a ruling on “whether there is a position designated as ‘Chair of GPEW’ under the Constitution”, having seen such references on the members’ website and Wikipedia.

Martin Hemingway, Convenor of SOC, recused himself from this decision.

SOC ruled that there is no such role identified anywhere in the Green Party Constitution and so the references to this are incorrect.

#### Substituting for the Chair of GPEX

On the 10th August the co–chairs of GPRC asked two questions, one of these SOC referred back to GPRC as falling within their remit. The other question asked whether:

Since a conflict of interest had arisen in relation to the line–management of the CEO by the Chair of GPEX could the Deputy Chair take over this part of the role of the Chair? They also

asked if one of the Management Co–ordinators would not be more suited to take on this role.

The constitution of GPEW says at section 7(xii):

“The Executive shall elect from among its elected members a deputy chair, to assist the chair in his/her duties, and to act in the role of the chair at any time when the chair is unable to do so”.

Standing Orders of GPEX also refer to the role of the Deputy Chair, but refer only to a more limited role:

1.8: The membership of the Executive will appoint a Deputy Chair from among voting members;”

2.1 says that job descriptions will be provided for roles on GPEX, but this does not apply to internal roles, and there is no Job Description for Deputy Chair.

3.1.1 is concerned with “Deputising for the Chair – Where the Chair is unavoidably absent for a meeting the Deputy Chair of the Executive will act in the stead of the Chair. Where the Deputy Chair is unavailable then the Chair will appoint another member of the Executive to fulfil the functions of the Chair for that meeting”

There is no other mention of a role for the Deputy Chair in the Standing Orders of GPEX.

Clearly the Constitution takes priority over the Standing Orders, so the issue relates to how far the Deputy Chair can act in the role of the Chair allowing that they have not been elected to that role in a party wide ballot (as part of a job–share) but are an internal appointment among members of GPEX.

SOC are being asked in their role as ‘final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders’ (Constitution section 10.3) to decide on the scope of Section 7(xii) of the Constitution.

Both Constitution and Standing Orders would agree that the Deputy Chair can substitute for the Chair in relation to the internal activity of GPEX.

SOC are of the view that Section 7(xii) is designed to allow the activity of GPEX to continue during a temporary absence of the Chair eg on holiday, due to illness ie at any time when the chair is unable to do so.

SOC are of the view that Section 7(xii) does not cover taking over long term the function or any of the functions of the Chair. This latter scenario is similar, but not identical to, the position if the Chair of GPEX were to leave post completely. In this circumstance the role of Chair would be filled by co–option (Constitution Section 7(xv)).

One option would be co–option of a line manager, but this would almost certainly be unworkable. In this novel

circumstance SOC would suggest that GPEx select an existing member of the Executive to take on this line—management function. This could be the Deputy Chair or any other member of the Executive, including one of the Management Co—ordinators.

The role description for the Management Co—ordinator includes: Supporting the work of the CE in organising and managing the Party Office, supporting the CE in the Party’s contract management, and supporting the work of the CE in the development, delivery and integration of national Party IT and online systems.”

## A02 TREASURER AND FINANCE COORDINATOR REPORT

*Emma Carter, Treasurer and Finance Coordinator*

In Spring I concluded my treasurer report with “Elections, Elections, Elections!” and what a prediction that turned out to be. Within weeks of our conference in Liverpool a general election was called. What could have been a time of progressing a number of new pieces of work into the summer, was transformed into the intensity of running the finances for a general election.

Despite the election being called the ongoing work in the finance team could not come to a halt and our financial controls that we put in place were particularly useful in the running of a slick operation for the election.

We have transitioned from one accounting system to another, moving from using SAGE to a cloud based accounting system called Xero. So while some may accuse finance of not moving with the times that is certainly not the case for us!

We have also completed our filing and registration for VAT which was a complex and highly important piece of work. Thanks to the finance team for all their hard work on that. In addition we filed all of our donations and loans reports on time to the Electoral Commission and worked with our treasurers across England and Wales to ensure our records were complete and accurate. This included a number of weekly pre—poll reports during the election. Thanks to them for their continued work and I look forward to speaking to even more of you.

### General Election

The election clearly presented a significant challenge for the team at an already busy time. Theresa May waited for no one, but sadly neither do our auditors so it was plenty of multi—tasking for us juggling the year end accounts!

### Budgeting

We structured a full election budget within a matter of days after the election was called and I convened an emergency Administration and Finance Committee (AFCOM) meeting and

extended the invite to our elections coordinator and regional managers to discuss election priorities on which the budget would be based.

The budget was tiered in priority order based on the needs of the teams on the ground with budgets released to their holders when our fundraising thresholds were met. This ensured we did not commit to spend any funds we did not have in the bank as we started the election without a fighting fund.

A purchase order system was implemented to control our spending and to make sure that no funds were spent or any suppliers engaged with that were not signed off previously or in the budget. This allowed us greater visibility of our spending, scrutiny over the suppliers we engaged with, and simplified aspects of producing our election return.

### Fundraising

Our fundraising was immensely successful considering our resources and the short timeframe in which to raise the money.

The key two ways in which we raised funds for the election was through Crowdfunder, which raised c.£236,000 excluding charges, and our individual and major donors which raised an additional c.£80,000. Our most heartfelt thanks go to the fundraising team and all of our members and supporters who so generously donated to the campaigns. We raised our largest ever total through Crowdfunding and through their advice we were able to do this effectively and employ tactics we have not previously used.

### What did we spend it on?

The funds for the general elections were primarily spent on supporting our activities contributing to retaining our seat in Brighton Pavilion and our target seat both directly and indirectly. We funded a number of staff members to support in a number of target campaigns and with our broader work on policy, communications, social media, and design. We produced a PEB for the general election, produced some very captivating videos, polling, leaflets, advertising and increasing our head office capacity.

One of the things I am most pleased about was our ability to fund the deposits of a number of candidates across the regions whose local parties could not afford a deposit. These candidates were all from diverse backgrounds and otherwise may not have been able to stand in the election. We asked for parties to put people forward through our regional managers and paid out over £10,000 in deposits. This not only made a difference to our overall candidate numbers but also improved the diversity of our candidates which was an action from the last conference. Being able to do this is a small contribution to supporting candidates that can have a big impact.

In order to communicate our up to date financials and activity during the election I produced weekly email updates to keep GPEx and the GPRC co—chairs informed of progress. These were engaging, had a theme each week and always were

followed with an action to share our fundraising link. I will ensure these emails are posted on the member's website.

### **What was the outcome?**

Ultimately the general election produced a surplus for the party. This is the first time this has occurred since before we had our first MP and is a representation of how clear priorities that are closely followed can result in a successfully operated campaign. The way our campaigns were run is a real credit to this party, and whilst we did not succeed in gaining a second MP, we can all be proud of what we achieved and the capacity we built.

We achieved a c.£75,000 surplus thanks to a significant late increase in our fundraising which provides us with a real opportunity to progress with future elections and from a position of having a fighting fund.

This fighting fund is reserved for elections and is planned to be utilised in a number of ways to return more elected representatives for the party. A second snap election is always possible so this will allow us to progress with this as soon as it is called, we are also able to support in building our elections capacity through initiatives like the Campaign School, and we will be able to support target local elections and any by-election which may occur.

### **Our 2016 financial year**

Whilst the general election was ongoing the team and I were communicating with our auditors and ensuring we were compliant for our year end audit. We had our audit clearance meeting during the general election campaign and I am pleased to report we received another clean audit. Our ability to fulfill our responsibilities as a party and maintain our solvent status were strengthened and the steps we took to improve our financial position contributed significantly to that.

We maintained tight controls on our expenditure, but when required and approved we were also able to spend on areas that were of great importance to the running of the party. We maintained our regional staff network and our headcount at head office and welcomed a number of new team members in areas such as social media, design, communications, membership and finance. This all strengthened our ability to run the party more effectively and efficiently without affecting our overall financial performance.

Overall for the year ended 31st December 2016 we made a surplus which reduced our overall negative position carried over from 2015 by around £70,000. A summary of this was included in the packs for Spring Conference, and copies of our key financial statements are in the final agenda [Appendix 5]. The full accounts will have been published by the Electoral Commission which provides breakdowns of all of our financials.

Looking to the end of 2017 we are currently forecasting another small surplus. This is dependent on delivering our

fundraising activity in the last few months of the year and will need a significant level of work and focus to deliver. We are confident that with the right application of resources and careful planning that we will be able to deliver this for 2017 and continue in the recovery of the party finances.

In Spring 2017 we passed the capitations and subscriptions review which made adjustments to capitations calculations and subscription amounts for party members following a consultation. You may have received a communication changing your subscription rate as a result and the team have been working hard to make all of the appropriate updates in the time scales provided. The information from the survey of the review has proven useful in understanding more about our members and the financial makeup of local party funds. This information will be used to assist local parties in training for treasurers and support by a number of GPEX members.

### **Administration & Finance Committee (AFCom)**

In the past year AFCom has continued in its work supporting finance, HR and legal aspects of the party. Our terms of reference have been updated and are as always available to members through the members' site. Minutes of AFCom meetings when we meet, which isn't always on a regular timetable are also made available with GPEX minutes and reports for members to read and digest.

### **Donations Scrutiny Committee**

This committee has met once in the last 12 months to scrutinise a donation offered to the party by a new donor. The donation did not pass our ethical criteria and therefore was politely rejected. The details of this were posted by me on the members' site at the time in late 2016 and also fully communicated with GPEX and GPRC. Donations Scrutiny committee wait with great eagerness to be more busy with scrutinising offers of funds to the party!

Finally I would like to thank the finance team and all our treasurers for their hard work and dedication this year. We are running a few sessions for treasurers so take a look in the timetable for more details.

If you have any questions particularly if you are unable to attend conference then please contact me anytime at [finance@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:finance@greenparty.org.uk). I am always available to help, advise, or answer your queries.

## **A03 GPEX REPORT**

*Clare Phipps, Chair*

[In addition to the report below, GPEX have included their updated Standing Orders for approval by conference, which can be found in Appendix 4]

*"There shall be a Green Party Executive which shall be responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party."*

The constitution specifies that the Executive is responsible for the direction of the Party. However, the direction of the Party since our interim report to Spring Conference has, in the event, been down to Theresa May and friends. From the moment she called a press conference outside no.10, our work has been largely dominated by the Snap General Election (as I'm sure it has been for members!). This is covered elsewhere in a report from our Elections Coordinator, but suffice to say here that I was incredibly proud of the speed with which the Executive and staff switched to election mode, and of the work of activists up and down the country in extremely challenging circumstances: not only politically but squeezing months of work into only 6 weeks. Special thanks of course to our Elections Coordinator, but also to our Policy Development Coordinators for their work on mini-manifestos and our Green Guarantee, our Co-Leaders and Deputy for representing the Party so impressively, and our External Communications Coordinator for their work especially on our Party Election Broadcast (especially so soon after the last one!).

While several items have frustratingly been delayed, we are still a third of the way through our current organisational strategy (led by CEO Nick Martin and largely implemented by our Party staff). Now the election is over (for now, we hope!) we are able to return to implementing the measures identified, and are currently looking at our Digital Engagement plus our Publications Strategy. Thanks to our Internal Communications Coordinators in particular, who are currently planning a major overhaul of all our communication channels between the membership, local, regional and national parties and all the various committees and other bodies within. Publications like Green World, Green Activist and the rest will be transformed into more relevant, better targeted, more interactive organs fit for the 21st century, whilst new ways of communicating will take full advantage of the opportunities and technologies available in this digital age. The Coordinators would like to remind members that we email the membership at least 2 or 3 times a month – sometimes much more. If you are not receiving these messages and have not deliberately opted out of getting them, please contact [memberships@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:memberships@greenparty.org.uk).

Our work has also included:

- » Improving our conference processes led especially by Sam Riches. In liaison with Conferences Committee, PolCom and our staff Conferences Coordinator Louisa Greenbaum as well as our communications team, we have changed the way in which panels are to be agreed for Conference, in order that they tally closely with our strategic aims and so that we can agree content far enough in advance to attract high quality speakers for our members. We have also agreed that a large portion of the fringe slots should be allocated according to a ballot of members: we hope you like the results this conference! We thank in particular Louisa, plus our Policy Development Coordinators and our International Coordinators for the work they put into making our historic “tri” conference in Liverpool a success.

- » Liaising with GPRC on Political Strategy, paying particular attention to the ruling from SOC regarding which body should lead on this. We are currently working with the Council to agree membership of their Strategy Working Group so that the leaders and other key members are best able to feed in.
- » Other areas which come under our oversight: Appointing members to Disciplinary Committee where regional vacancies have arisen; Appointed Tom Chance to the House of Lords Selection Panel, following the resignation of Charlene who was initially elected to represent GPEx.

It is also the responsibility of GPEx to ensure the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of the funds of the Party. This is covered by our Finance Coordinator in a separate report.

### **Membership of GPEx**

Throughout the period since Spring Conference Richard Clark continued to serve as Secretary to GPEx. As this is such an onerous role it was agreed that the majority of the secretarial work should be carried out by a member of staff. Richard generously offered to stay on to support, but GPEx opted to switch entirely to a staff member for this function, and so have officially appointed Matthew Browne as our new Secretary as part of the role he began as Assistant to the CEO and Governance Administrator.

GPEx has since our last report changed our cooptions process, led by the Management Coordinators, to standardise the process. We have unfortunately been unable to Co-opt to the vacancies highlighted in our report to Spring Conference, with the exception of Local Party Support, to which Douglas Rouxel was co-opted in May (he has submitted a separate paper for members' perusal). We have also received two applications for the post of Trade Union Liaison Officer, so we are on course to have someone in this position by the time this goes to print!

Matt Hawkins and Penny Kemp stepped down from GPEx at the first conference following Spring Conference. Matt was in his second term as Co-External Communications Coordinator. Penny has been a long standing member of both the Executive (having been Principal Speaker of the Party prior to the advent of Leaders) and other committees, and thus as we thanked them both for their work the Executive made the exceptional decision to give Penny life membership in recognition of her many years of service. Jennifer Nadel continues as sole External Communications Coordinator.

Alice Hooker Stroud also stepped down as Wales Leader with effect from the end of Spring Conference, and we therefore welcomed incoming leader Grenville Ham into our midst. We have also welcomed as a non-voting member Adrian Cruden from GPRC, who has been job-sharing the role of Co-Chair of GPRC with Sandy Irvine (Freda Davies has remained in post as the other GPRC Co-Chair).

Following the General Election, we sadly lost Samantha

Pancheri as Co–Policy Development Coordinator (Sam Riches has continued in the position as sole post holder) and Charlene Concepcion as E&D Coordinator from the Executive. Sam played a major role in Manifesto and Policy work involved in the General Election, and Charlene had been working for the course of her term on improving diversity in the party and furthering measures to promote equality, in liaison with our CEO Nick Martin.

A number of our meetings have looked at the way we function as an Executive, including the best way to report to each other and our members, and the way in which our committee structure works, kicked off by the discussions at our Away Day at the beginning of the year. We continue to work on this area, as we are aware that the Governance Review is still in progress and that the Party needs an effective Governance Structure to be continued in the meantime. We have continued to revise the descriptors for GPEX members, and are now in the position where we are able to review these according to the timetable specified in our Standing Orders (i.e. one year into each term), rather than rushing to do so before they are advertised in the Annual Ballot, so hopefully this will be the last year that that approach was necessary. A particular change we have made following advice from the Green Party Lawyers Group was to amend the descriptors from “job” to “role” descriptors, to make the distinction clearer that GPEX members are Office Holders and do not have the status of Party Employees. We will be continuing to revise the Role Descriptors to make this distinction as clear as possible, especially regarding the leadership team allowances.

GPEX continues to have a high rate of turnover. Each person’s reasons are individual, but there are three general themes running through: 1) Compatibility of the role with having a job/particular types of job/family commitments 2) The volume of work involved, in a difficult environment 3) A mismatch in skillset in overseeing both a specific area and the overall direction of the Party. While these are difficult issues to tackle, we are seeking, through measures such as our conference stall, to provide as much information as possible about what being on GPEX is like before people apply. At our next Away Day we will also be continuing the work of our previous Away Day, looking at how we can provide the most supportive environment for members of GPEX.

### **Committees of GPEX:**

We have reviewed all of the terms of reference of our committees following a useful ruling from SOC. Reports from the following committees have been submitted to conference:

## **Elections Coordinator Report**

*Judy Maciejowska, Elections Coordinator*

### **Introduction**

This report will attempt to address the issues for which, as Elections Coordinator I have responsibility. This has been a very busy year and for the sake of brevity I shall not go into details that will no doubt appear in the reports from other colleagues

and staff, and especially that of the Chief Executive. I shall of course, be pleased to answer questions that may arise. This report will cover the following topics:

- » The general election, including headline figures, the Election Room, manifesto and Freepost
- » The County Council elections
- » Parliamentary By elections
- » Electoral Pacts and ‘progressive alliances’
- » Candidate diversity

### **The General Election**

The snap election working group was set up following the election of Theresa May to the Tory leadership. When the election was called it had already begun preliminary plans: target constituencies were meeting both physically and by telephone conference; the Regional Managers and Field Organisers had begun training sessions, both through the structured campaign school and within regions. Although the announcement of the June election was unexpected – I was anticipating an October poll – we were able to pull together the Election Room within hours of the announcement.

**The Election Room** met by phone conference every day. It included key members of GPEX, senior staff and personnel from the target constituencies, and was chaired by the Chief Executive who managed the whole campaign. These meetings enabled efficient coordination of all the key elements of the campaign. In addition to the Election Room calls, regular meetings were held with target constituencies.

**The manifesto** – It was decided not to produce a full manifesto in the style of that of 2015. Instead a shorter document, ‘The Green Guarantee’, was produced that outlined a number of issues that Green MPs would work towards if elected. The 2015 manifesto was deemed still to be relevant as a more in depth briefing to candidates. In addition a number of mini manifestos were produced by working groups. Although some of these were helpful many were not commissioned by the campaign, and because each one needed to be approved by GPRC, the amount of work they generated was unhelpful. This will be addressed for the next election.

**Freepost** – Because of the short time frame the national freepost scheme was offered to only 75 non–target constituencies. The project was very successful, with leaflets delivered to the printers and to Royal Mail ahead of schedule. It also made a small surplus enabling us to refund £150 to the constituencies. I was extremely grateful to Sara Dryden, Gina Grainger–Windridge, Cai Williams, Kat Saliba, Diane Sharpe and Chris Williams for pulling out all the stops to complete the project in superfast time.

On this occasion we only printed 40,000 leaflets per constituency – fewer than the size of most constituencies. Nevertheless I feel that the national Freepost scheme is a valuable project for local parties that wish to contribute to it. I recommend that in future elections it should be available to

150 constituencies and that the number of leaflets provided should be 50,000.

### **Electoral Pacts (Progressive Alliances)**

There has been considerable discussion both inside the party's forums and on social media, on the wisdom or otherwise of the moves towards so-called progressive alliances.

Liverpool conference motion D1 was clear about the objectives of the tactic – it was to build support in parliament for electoral reform, NOT to get the Tories out. Support for the idea was expected to be built up over three years and overseen by the Elections Coordinator, but it was condensed into two months.

Whilst there is no doubt that we made mistakes, the tactic was misunderstood and misinterpreted by some local parties. Many were confused about what the D1 motion intended and were convinced that it was their duty to get the Tories out at any cost.

I believe we should have abandoned negotiations with other parties earlier than we did, and made it clearer that they should only enter into agreements when there was a reciprocal deal on offer. But even though we put out plenty of calls to stand, several local parties were keen to pursue different lines.

Of the 116 constituencies that didn't contest in June, 21 stood down in favour of other parties, and only seven of those involved reciprocal agreements with other parties – The Women's Equality Party or Liberal Democrats. Labour either offered nothing in return, or didn't honour agreements that were made locally.

**Headline figures** – The result of the general election was disappointing to all those local parties, activists and voters who had hoped for another Green breakthrough. We underestimated how much support Corbyn was getting, and didn't anticipate his rise to rock star status. We also made some strategic mistakes. The detail will be reported upon elsewhere, but I would like to remind the membership of a number of positive points:

- » We had 457 candidates – 79.75% – more than 2010 or any elections before 2015 when we had more than six months to prepare.
- » 39.4% female candidates (more than 2015) and 13.9% disabled candidates
- » We gained 512,033 votes, double that of 2010
- » The campaign was within budget, raising a small excess, providing good seed corn for another possible snap election
- » Brighton Pavilion was saved with a greatly increased majority.

**In the May County Council** elections Greens performed very well, winning forty seats – the only party apart from the Tories to make gains. This was largely overlooked by the BBC and other broadcast media. A formal complaint was made to the BBC.

### **By-elections**

The first six months of the 2016/17 year were punctuated by six parliamentary by-elections: Batley and Spenningsdale, Witney, Richmond Park, Sleaford and North Hykeham, Stoke on Trent and Copeland. We contested three, Witney (3.5%), Stoke (1.4%) and Copeland (1.7%).

Historically the party has performed poorly in first past the post by-elections. The lost deposit is only one of the drawbacks of contesting a losing election. Activist morale and a public message that the Greens aren't in real politics are two equally damaging points that need to be borne in mind. Because of the national profile of a by-election, this message also impacts on the wider party. I have been working with others on the Elections Steering Group to develop a national by election strategy that will address the need for national support and input, as well as providing advice to local parties on considerations needed when deciding whether to contest. Depending on the pressure of other business I am hoping that this will be approved by GPEx before conference.

### **Candidate Diversity**

Motion D.08 at the Liverpool spring conference requested a number of measures to improve candidate diversity. The Elections Steering Group has considered this and has proposed the following immediate actions:

- » Provision of a budget to match diverse candidates with seats. This was a scheme that worked effectively in June and will be built upon for future elections.
- » Development of strong internal messaging to encourage candidates to come forward
- » Provision of election training for diverse candidates in time for an early election.

A task and finish group is being set up to ensure these actions are carried forward. It will also consider a further number of measures that will improve the percentage of our candidates from diverse gender or ethnic backgrounds and with different physical abilities. It is anticipated that the task and finish group will begin work before conference.

### **Finally**

I have worked on very many national or regional elections campaigns since 1983. Without doubt this was the best organised and most professional of them all. I am hugely grateful to the CEO Nick Martin and all his staff, the two Regional Managers Chris Williams and Cami Ouzerdine, as well as Head of Finance Diane Sharpe and her team for the many hours of sheer hard work that made my task so much easier than on previous occasions. I would also like to thank my colleagues on GPEx and my GPRC Election 'friend' who work voluntarily, and sometimes just as hard as our staff teams. It wasn't the outcome we hoped for, but not for the want of trying.

## **Young Greens Report**

*Hannah Clare & Sam Murray, Co-Chairs*

There is so much to put in this report, so we have tried to give you the highlights. However, you can view the minutes of our meetings, our individual monthly reports and our quarterly reports on the members' website.

### **Elections**

The pleasure of two sets of elections this year meant it took up a large part of our focus. The Young Greens Senate worked on our 'Spring Action Day' in April, organising an action day for Young Greens in each of the regions of England and two in Wales. We also worked on support networks for young green candidates and organised an event in Cardiff in February to encourage Young Greens to put themselves forward for election.

Following the announcement of the general election, we mobilised quickly and organised a number of action days in both Brighton and Bristol. We also wrote and launched the Youth Manifesto, produced support networks for young green candidates and distributed mock election packs for schools and colleges.

The work of supporting Young Greens candidates and councillors is continuing and we encourage any Young Greens reading this to consider putting themselves forward as a candidate for any upcoming elections.

### **Campaigns**

At our annual convention, Young Greens have the chance to vote on three priorities for the upcoming year and two of those were campaign based – focussing on migration after Brexit and mental health.

Therefore we launched our People Not Numbers campaign at spring conference, which works to celebrate the benefits of migration and worked closely with Educating Beyond Borders, a campaign organisation run by international students. In recent months we have been working on a mental health campaign, ready to be launched by the next Young Greens committee. Outside of these campaigns, we have shared a piece of information every week on both topics on our social media, to ensure a constant narrative.

This year we also launched our save the bees campaign, which included providing a grant for young greens groups to participate in their local area. Congratulations to Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Young Greens and London Young Greens for being selected in the bid process and we hope the next co-chairs can report on your progress in later reports.

### **30 Under 30**

You will hopefully have the pleasure of meeting some members of 30 under 30 at conference, as they are once again volunteering at this event – including running mics in plenaries, chairing workshops and selling raffle tickets for the Young Greens raffle. For those unaware, each year we train up a group of activists to ensure they can take positions within the Green Party and represent it externally. Previous members

include Amelia Womack (Deputy Leader) and Emma Carter (Finance Coordinator).

This year's cohort have had their three training weekends, which were themed around campaigns (April, Sheffield), policy (June, London) and media (August, Brighton) skills and will finish at the close of our convention in November. We expect applications for the next cohort to open in December.

### **Events & Demos**

We have focussed on building networks this year and have attended a number of events to support likeminded campaigns. These have included TeenVoice UK's votes at 16 demo, the NUS demo in November and the May demo to the Yarl's Wood Detention Centre. This work continues, with our events officer preparing for the next Yarl's Wood Demo and the NUS demo, both in November.

The third priority voted on by our convention was collaboration between liberation groups and we are pleased they hosted an event this year in Sheffield. Alongside this, we have held two 'team' residentials for all the elected committees within the Young Greens to promote greater collaboration within our structures. Many Young Greens groups have also held great events on a local level and we want to congratulate them on their hard work and effort towards these.

### **Global Young Greens**

As the host organisation for the Global Young Greens congress which happened alongside the global conference in March, we had a continual input into the preparations for this event. Alongside this, we have worked closely with the Federation of Young European Greens, attending every event possible and we would like to congratulate Alice Hubbard for being elected to the Global Young Greens committee and Tariq Khan to the Federation of Young European Greens committee this year. Members who want to get involved in both these organisations can find out more at [fyeg.org](http://fyeg.org) and [globalyounggreens.org](http://globalyounggreens.org).

### **Messaging**

This year our messaging team have worked to increase a strong and prolific social media presence and this has included the production of the Young Greens Podcast. We have already released a number of episodes across a variety of themes, including progressive alliances (featuring Jonathan Bartley), the bees and a post-election reflection (featuring Jenny Jones). You can get them from iTunes or on our website at [younggreens.org.uk/podcast](http://younggreens.org.uk/podcast).

### **Staff Recruitment**

After some patience while we were dealing with some financial difficulties as a party, we saw the return of a dedicated Young Greens member of staff this May. Thank you to all the members of the Young Greens committee over the 18 months we were without a member of staff, who covered a number of their previous duties on a voluntary basis. You can contact Georgia at [admin@younggreens.org.uk](mailto:admin@younggreens.org.uk).

## **Going Forward**

Our election season is now underway and this will be both our last reports as co–chairs. Young Greens can soon elect not only their new co–chairs but also their new executive committee, structures and procedures committee, green students committee and liberation group co–chairs in online elections taking place between Saturday 28th October and Saturday 11th November. Nominations for all of these roles close on Saturday 14th October and you can find out more information on our elections by visiting our website – [younggreens.org.uk/elections](http://younggreens.org.uk/elections).

With election season also comes our annual convention – which serves as our annual general meeting and our biggest event of the year. It will be held on 11th and 12th November at the University of York and we encourage all Young Greens to join us there.

Thank you to all for your support this year and in particular, thank you to those who have served with us on the executive committee.

## **Spokespeople Committee Report**

*Hannah Clare, Acting Chair*

The spokespeople working group met to review the spokespeople network in autumn last year, as a result of GPEX’s constitutional requirement to appoint a panel of speakers.

Unfortunately the process was met with large delays, including some concerns raised with the process we had begun, the resignation of the external communications coordinator who was leading on the review and the general election.

However we have now resumed our work on this review and hope to complete it as soon as possible. At the stage of writing, there is not much to report on the progress of this review.

## **Local Party Support Report**

*Douglas Rouxel, Local Party Support Co–ordinator*

I was co–opted to the role of Local Party Support Coordinator in May of this year during the course of the General Election campaign. I went through this period supporting everything that was already going on rather than trying to do anything new, and waited for the election to finish before really getting to grips with the fullness of the role.

It is important to note that the support of local parties is something which is not undertaken directly by the GPEX post holder, and the vast majority of it is undertaken at local level by our fantastic team of Field Organisers and Regional Managers. A lot of the work which I have been doing since being co–opted has been getting up to speed with what is going on, and looking where my input can most usefully help, support and push things forward.

The election will be discussed in lots of reports, from a local party support perspective, and in broad organisational terms, it was a great success. The party was able to mobilise more activists to target seats over the course of the campaign than the party has ever done previously. Whilst this did not lead to more seats being won, it was a significant logistical success, and something which the party can be proud of, and sets us in good stead for future campaigns.

An area where my skills as a teacher and educator have come in useful has been working with the Regional Managers on reviewing the success of the parties Campaign School. This ran for the first time in January this year, and was a real success. The Regional Managers had already written a review, and we used this as a template to see how we can ensure that the next iteration of Campaign School, already booked to take place this autumn, is of the highest possible quality, and gives the best possible value to the party.

The area where I will be working over the coming period is to look at the overall capacity of local parties, looking to see what the capabilities of local parties are, and how the party as a whole is supporting them to improve their position, and moving them ever closer to being a party which can be a serious contestant in local elections. This is an ongoing piece of work, and one which will require cooperation with our Field Organisers, Regional Managers and also regional committees to complete fully, but I think it is a worthwhile exercise to ensure that there are no local parties left behind. Whilst as a party we have made great strides to employ a great team of people to support local parties, there is simply too much for them to do in order to support every local party to the extent we would like. There are a number of ways that we can fill the spaces which we cannot afford to fill with staff at the moment, and I’m hoping a proper audit of our local parties will give the overall picture on which we can base a plan.

I hope that this gives an overall impression of the work I have done in the summer months, and gives a good indication of the work which goes on to support local parties – of which there is too much going on to give credit to all the excellent work taking place. I hope to be able to give a much more accurate and full report for 2018 once I have been in the role longer than a summer.

## **International Committee Report**

*Jessica Northey and Derek Wall, International Coordinators*

International Committee includes the joint International Coordinators (Jessica Northey and Derek Wall), Ellie Chowns GPRC International Friend. Sam Murray, John Street, Miriam Kennet and Michal Chantkowski, there is a vacancy because Joseph Harmer left the Party.

The main work has been putting together the successful Global Greens Conference in Liverpool in the spring, where Green Party representatives from the entire planet, Mongolia to Norway took part.

The European Green Party Council and Congress took part at the same time. And the International Conference of Young Greens.

Jessica Northey continued our Westminster Foundation for Democracy work supporting East African Green Parties. This included a successful training event for African Green Party women activists at the Centre for Alternative Technology in North Wales. Additional training has taken place in East Africa.

The Young Greens have significantly expanded their cooperation with international work including a successful project, funded by WFD, with the Serbian Young Greens.

Derek Wall has continued with Kurdish Solidarity work including attending the founding meeting of the Kurdish Solidarity Campaign.

Michal Chantkowski has organised a Facebook group for Polish Greens in the GPEX and we hope to prioritise work with Polish Greens.

Both the unexpected General Election and the Global Greens and allied events have tended to dominate our work.

## PolCom Report

*Jonathan Bartley, Co-leader*

The Political Committee serves as a forum for discussion and to help nationally significant elected members reach decisions on our political positioning and strategy. It is accountable to GPEX. Discussions take place via an email list. Teleconferences happen quarterly and there are additional meetings as required. At GPEX in March, it was agreed that chairing of the Political Committee should change hands as Matt Hawkins resigned from GPEX. From March PolCom was chaired by Jonathan Bartley co-leader of the Green Party, with administration assistance from the Leadership Assistant.

### **Responding to changes in the Labour Party and Witney By-election (Sept 2016)**

In a PolCom teleconference in September 2016 responses to the anticipated re-election of the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn were discussed. It was agreed to continue the approach of:

- » Being a “critical friend” to Corbyn: open to working with him on issues of agreement but challenging him on issues where we disagree
- » Contrasting Labour’s disarray with our unity as a party.

New terms of reference for PolCom were also agreed.

### **Political strategy (January)**

In January co-leader Jonathan Bartley brought a paper to Polcom on political strategy, following concern that the party didn’t have one. It incorporated feedback after the political strategy session at conference and looked at which voters and

seats the party should be targeting, highlighting successes at council level, political positioning toward other parties and Brexit. There was discussion on the need to ensure that any alliances formed with other parties were on the basis of winning electoral reform. There was discussion of our developing response to the Brexit vote the previous summer. It was agreed to continue a focus on a ratification referendum and that the public should have a final say on the terms of any deal.

### **General Election (April)**

In March Jonathan Bartley took over the chairing of PolCom. The snap general election was called in April and an electoral strategy was written by the chief executive and signed off by GPEX 4 days later, also going to GPRC for approval.

### **Post-election debrief (June)**

A special post-election Political Committee meeting was called a few days after the general election to look at the implications and political strategy moving forward. The topic of electoral alliances was discussed and what the impact was of aiming to minimise a Conservative majority (contained in the electoral strategy approved by GPEX)

It was agreed that if there was another snap general election we should aim to stand in as many places as possible and maximise vote share with a distinctive narrative. It was also agreed that the focus moving forward should be on council elections, and building from the ground up, to obtain second places in order to target Parliamentary seats.

### **Grenfell, People’s Audit, conference (July)**

Taking forward the focus on building our council base, there was a review of our work following the Grenfell tragedy, the work of the London AMs and the People’s Audit in Lambeth. It was agreed to circulate the lessons that could be learned and models to local parties around the country. There was discussion of using panels and meetings at conference to embed and build our political strategy and priorities.

### **Selection of member to the House of Lords interviewing panel**

PolCom asked Jonathan Bartley to email the parties elected (non council) representatives to come forward for the House of Lords interviewing panel in accordance with GPRC guidance. Candidates discussed via email who should be selected. It was decided that Jean Lambert would be selected as a member of the panel, with support from Caroline Lucas’ office.

We also have the “Report Abuse Button Group” who monitor the members’ website flags, whose report can be found here:

The report abuse button is the ‘flag as inappropriate’ link that appears beneath each new post and each comment on the member’s website discussion forums, and was re-introduced about a year ago.

The button allows members to file a complaint against any

posting which they deem unacceptable for some reason. Details of complaints are automatically copied to a restricted page where the site's monitors can examine them and decide what action to take, if any.

The site's initial monitors comprised five GPEX members, collectively known as the Report Abuse Button Monitoring Group. i.e. Paul Jenkins, Peter Barnett (Internal Comms), Sam Riches and Sam Pancheri (Policy Development) and Charlene Concepcion (Equality & Diversity), but Charlene and Sam P later resigned from GPEX leaving only three monitors.

If a monitor found a comment which was a clear and serious breach of Party rules they could take immediate action, such as removing the comment, prior to consulting the others.

To date, 11 posts have been reported and about 120 comments. For most of these the group agreed that no action needed to be taken. In some cases, the action taken involved contacting the poster and with a few the offending comment was replaced with a "This comment breached..." statement.

Where there was disagreement over what action to take a simple majority vote between the 5 would settle the case. Occasionally, when there were two sides to a debate, we found those on one side reporting the comments of those on the other side, whilst overlooking similar transgressions of their allies. There is a danger that a tool such as this can become a weapon people use to shut down their opponents, and as a Party that "is opposed to all forms of censorship in the media and cultural activities for adults" we have tried to avoid censoring the expression of political views.

There was an intention to contact every member who reported a complaint to tell them how it had been dealt with or why it had been rejected. But because of the heavy workload of the group members, all of whom are part-time volunteers, only the most serious cases received this degree of attention.

The next step is to recruit and train volunteers to become moderators from the party membership so GPEX members are relieved of the task.

## A04 GPRC REPORT

*Freda Davis, Co-chair*

### Introduction:

Last year was a tumultuous one for Green Party Regional Council (GPRC). The main reason, of course, was the 'snap' General Election. But there had been significant issues before then, often combining two core roles of GPRC: oversight of party strategy and of party wellbeing.

Strategy is implemented by GPEX and the paid staff, who have a keen interest in its development, but the membership decide the direction of the Party at Conference and in between

Conferences via their Regional Council.

Party wellbeing involves the external reputation of the party and, internally, discipline and due process. A significant issue in that respect was the by-election at Richmond, about which GPRC produced a report.

GPRC's role regarding party wellbeing has been immeasurably helped by the establishment of the Disciplinary Committee (DC). In this respect, GPRC now focuses on immediate 'crises' where there may be a need for a suspension from membership to protect the wellbeing of the party and on appeals over DC decisions. It is good, then, to report that a productive relationship has grown between GPRC and DC.

## A. GPRC Membership

In October 2016, there were 20 members of GPRC. As of July 2017, GPRC has 17 members with two elections in the pipeline (South East) and one vacancy London. One Wales representative has missed a few meetings due to family circumstances. There have otherwise been no routine absences and none without apologies. The newest members are from East Anglia (1) and West Midlands (2). London has only one representative.

GPRC will be undergoing a significant change of personnel, with several experienced individuals stepping down and more due to do so between September and December.<sup>1</sup>

## B. GPRC Meetings

Date	Location	Attendance	Key Guest Participants
15/16 October	London	17 + 2 apologies	Jonathan Bartley (Co-Leader), Clare Phipps (Chair of GPEX), Matt Hawkins (Ext Comms Coordinator)
14/15 January 2017	London	14 + 4 apologies	Clare Phipps Chair of GPEX (Saturday), Ricky Knight Conferences Committee (Sunday)
21 March 2017	Phone conference	11 + 2 apologies	N/A
22-23 April 2017	Newcastle	13 + 3 apologies	Clare Phipps (Sunday pm)

<sup>1</sup> GPRC member's contact details, and date and type of election, are shown on the GPRC page on the members' website: <https://my.greenparty.org.uk/myparty/regional-council>. The role and workings of GPRC are also described here.

Date	Location	Attendance	Key Guest Participants
22/23 July 2017	London		Judy Maciejowska, <i>GPEX election coordinator</i> (Saturday pm)
The next meeting is scheduled for 28/29 October in Birmingham			

The agenda varies from meeting to meeting but always includes regional reports.

The Co–Chairs plus three ‘on–call’ GPRC members, acting on a rota basis, make urgent decisions between quarterly meetings. Draft minutes of GPRC meetings are placed on the members’ website as soon as practicable after the quarterly meeting, and final minutes are placed on the site once they have been approved at the following meeting.

The co–chairs have regular weekly telephone conversations. For most of June and the start of July, Sandy Irvine was abroad and therefore Adrian Cruden (Yorkshire and the Humber) was elected to job share with Sandy in April.

GPRC reps report quarterly on activity in their regions. Major concerns this year focused on the need for joint management of regional staff when their funding is shared with the regions, the importance of regional representation at national level and the effect that the poorly–explained ‘progressive alliance’ idea had on our membership during the snap election campaign. GPRC reps are able to share good practice as well as work together on problems.

## C. GPRC Work During the Year

### 1. Work stemming from Conferences:

**Legal Guidance:** relating to internal complaints of sexual harassment. GPEX facilitated a broad enquiry to a barrister for guidance about the viability of the party complaints system. The guidance has led the Disciplinary Committee to revise a few of its standing orders. GPRC has kept an overview of this work.

**Reform of Conference Voting** lists a member of GPRC as the member of the working group so set up. Nicole Haydock (NW) is on this Committee.

**Updating the policy process:** A requirement for GPRC to agree the archiving of policy statements proposed by Policy Development Committee. The GPRC Policy Working Group has worked with Policy Development Committee on this. See Report.

**Review of the Code of Conduct:** This review has started jointly with the convener of the Disputes Resolution Committee. A consultation process has begun which we hope will bring

together the various matters that form the ethical base of the party. GPRC will report to conference in Spring 2018

**Late Motions:** A new class of **Late Motions** has been agreed in which GPRC will have a role in both proposing such motions and agreeing with SOC that such motions meet the criteria set.

### 2. Relations between GPRC and GPEX

GPRC Co–chairs have regularly participated in GPEX meetings and telephone conferences and have a voting place on the Administration and Finance Committee (AFCOM). Some individuals from GPEX and Political Committee have also attended GPRC meetings. GPRC has voting representation on all GPEX Committees, and our member on Political Committee (PolCom) was included in the ‘Election Room’ set up to run the Election campaign (Sue Shipley, East Midlands) while other members have contributed to the work of other bodies.

The Co–chairs had a meeting in summer 2016 with the outgoing Leader and Chair of GPEX with a full and frank discussion of differences between the two bodies. As a result, a list of actions was drawn up for each body to address. GPRC has made efforts to action their list, the first step being to build positive relations with the new members of GPEX and develop better communications. The section below on Strategy goes into more detail.

All GPRC members agree to establish a ‘friend’ relationship with a GPEX Coordinator. As the ‘friend’ of a coordinator the member attends any committee they convene, and attempt to understand the challenges and scope of their role. GPRC members also take on roles on other party committees including the editorial board of ‘Green World’ and various working groups. These tasks are divided out on a hopefully fair basis. Members struggle to cover all these commitments. This workload needs to be considered in any revision of governance structures.

In the Autumn GPEX appointed their Finance Coordinator as Treasurer of the Green Party. GPRC ratified this appointment. GPRC would like to record thanks to the CEO, the Head of Finance and the Finance Coordinator for their excellent work on maintaining budgets in spite of fluctuating income. GPRC are also conscious of the need for a Treasurer to maintain an objective distance from the general day–to–day workings of the Party.

### 3. Party Wellbeing

GPRC has dealt with several potentially damaging incidents. During the General Election, political clashes and personal disagreements became somewhat more entangled. At present, however, there is only one current suspension by GPRC.

**a. Members suspended in 2016–17 by GPRC pending investigation of complaints or for posing a risk to the party.** In October, there were three members suspended by GPRC until January, pending Disciplinary Committee action. One of these was suspended again in January. DC

subsequently made decisions about these cases. Later in January the Co–chairs agreed to suspend another member following a court judgement, but the member immediately resigned. Another member was also suspended in February by the co–chairs as posing a risk to the local party, and that ended in April, but due to no change in the circumstances the suspension has been applied until October meeting. Another member was suspended following the Spring Conference but resigned from the party.

During the ‘Snap’ election three members were suspended for posing a risk to the reputation of the party, by promoting another party despite having a properly selected Green Party Candidate. In one case, the suspension was lifted as the member acknowledged the problem created, and made efforts to undo the damage. One member was suspended again at the July meeting but after communication he resigned from the party, saying he had not realised he was a member. A third member ceased to be suspended at the July meeting in the hope that efforts at the local level would restore local harmony.

So only one member is currently suspended as we go to press.

Last summer there were several examples of unacceptable posts to the party discussion lists. GPRC delegated oversight of this area to the Internal Comms coordinator. GPEX developed a report button for the party forums. Action on these has led to an improved tone of discussion on these forums now.

The temporary suspension by Co–chairs or GPRC is intended to protect the party where there is a risk continuing which suspension would mitigate. It is not a disciplinary sanction. It must be stressed here that GPRC is not a pro–active body in suspending members. It can only react to properly submitted and appropriately evidenced cases of reputational damage and serious risk to the party or to individuals within party activities.

It must also be underlined that it is the Disciplinary Committee that deals with matters relating to internal party discipline. Suspension by GPRC is not a quick solution to a disciplinary problem. The two processes are separate. Ideally complaints should be resolved by the local party, or at Regional level, with unresolved problems escalated to the Disciplinary Committee.

GPRC will be taking steps to better communicate how the suspension process should and can be used where there is a real danger of the party being brought into disrepute in the public eye.

#### **b. Members refused renewed membership (2016–17)**

There are currently three members who are refused re–joining the party. In one case for two years and in two cases for five years. In all cases the reason is the level of disruption they caused to the party by their actions.

#### **4. Wales**

There is an on–going discussion of the position of the Wales region regarding administrative rights (CiviCRM). The lesson

would appear to be an old one, namely that there must be proper consultation and full explanations all round. This is the relevant motion, unanimously carried:

*“GPRC agrees in principle that access to CiviCRM be restored to the Wales GP membership secretary, with the instruction that there be no editing of audited data. If national staff identify risks with this proposal, they should draw up and implement an action plan in co–operation with the Wales GP”*

GPRC are also currently consulting finance staff and Wales officers about reviewing capitations for Wales in accordance with the constitution.

#### **5. Selections: By–elections and candidate approvals**

**a. Oxford rapid selection:** Co–chairs approved a rapid candidate selection for the Witney by–election.

**b. Bromley approval:** GPRC approved a candidate for the Orpington constituency whose membership had lapsed earlier in the year.

**c. Richmond Park:** The Co–Chairs approved an emergency selection procedure for this by–election. In the event no candidate was selected.

Events surrounding this campaign caused considerable controversy and dismay possibly exacerbated by events during the preceding Witney by election. As a result, two members of GPRC investigated the Richmond Park campaign. The issues concerned local party autonomy, internal democracy and the transparency of decision–making. Inevitably questions about appropriate strategy and tactics also surfaced.

The investigation proved difficult, not least because some of those involved have left the party and/or moved elsewhere. Where possible relevant individuals were contacted and interviewed. The statements though gave conflicting accounts of exactly who decided what, when and why.

The final report summary is available on the GPRC page of the members’ website. A key insight is that local parties must involve all members as fully and as transparently as possible and accurately record all significant decisions.

**d. Stoke:** GPRC worked closely with the Field Manager (Elections) to enable a democratic selection procedure to be carried out for the Stoke by–election

**e. Manchester Gorton:** GPRC worked with the ERO for the Gorton selection and approved the proposed procedure

#### **Emergency Candidate Selection procedures:**

GPRC has produced new guidance on emergency candidate selection. These guidelines are intended for use up to June 30th, 2018 in anticipation of a ‘snap’ general election by that date. They should also be used in the event of a by–election. If

there is no such election then parliamentary selections will be expected to follow the full procedure. Both full and emergency selection procedures are posted on the elections page of the members' website. If a risk of an early general election in the autumn of 2018 remains, then new guidance will be issued by GPRC.

## **6. Party staff issues and conflicts of interests**

The party has many elected national posts but also a growing number of paid workers, most in the London office. It is critical that appointments to paid roles be conducted in a proper way. Pre-existing personal relationships can always create the possibility of conflicts of interest, not least in line management. GPRC has endeavoured to ensure that appointments have been — and, critically, are seen to be — in line with good practice.

## **7. House of Lords**

**a) Selection of a new List:** A House of Lords Selection Committee has been set up, with representation from GPEW and the Northern Ireland Party. It is currently advertising for an experienced ERO to supervise the election of candidates for the next vacancy in the House of Lords that comes the way of the Party. An interview panel has also been formed to interview candidates in accordance with the constitution.

**b) House of Lords Liaison Group:** See section D1 of this report.

## **8. Policy and Policy Statements**

**a)** The Regional Council has overall responsibility for interim policy statements between Conferences, which includes election manifestos. Only Conference can agree new policy, but statements extending an existing policy can come to GPRC for approval. Since Autumn Conference GPRC has revived its Policy Sub-Committee, and established a Rapid Policy Approval Group. See Report in Section D2. Those proposing any policy statements need to include with their draft all links to the relevant sections of Policies for a Sustainable Society. The same is expected of groups producing proposed specialist manifestos.

**b)** Several specialist 'mini-manifestos' aimed at specific audiences, were produced which were scrutinised and approved by GPRC, mainly via its Rapid Policy Approval Process. This time pressure could have limited due scrutiny but three GPRC members worked indefatigably with Policy Committee to check and consider these.

See Section D2 for report.

The Manifesto prepared for the 2015 election is to be reviewed. A recent GPRC motion called for the manifesto to be treated as a 'living document', to be revised and improved on a rolling basis as far as practicable, rather than replaced by a brand new one in the event of another snap election. GPRC are mindful of a request from Conference to improve consultation with members in Manifesto discussions.

## **9. Strategy**

In December 2016, a ruling by the Standing Order Committee confirmed that it is GPRC who are responsible for the formation and approval of strategy:

*"In relation to the request made SOC can advise that in relation to the elaboration of political strategy GPEX has no responsibility, apart from individual co-ordinators feeding in to the deliberations of GPRC. In taking on any more involved role in strategy formation GPEX would be acting beyond the powers given to it under the constitution.*

*GPRC do have a serious responsibility under the Constitution for the elaboration of strategy, including electoral strategy, and it is important that they take this responsibility seriously so that the Party can benefit from a clear set of processes being actively pursued.*

*If the proposed statement by the Elections Co-ordinator is a part of strategy it must be fed in to the strategy formation process in GPRC. GPEX do not have a role beyond this.*

*If the proposed statement by the Elections Co-ordinator is a political statement it is again the role of GPRC to agree and issue that statement."*

GPRC Standing Orders make clear that we work on strategy development in full consultation with other bodies, most notably GPEX, the Political Committee and the Association of Green Councillors. The Strategy Working Group convened by Mike Shipley is developing our strategy along with the co-leaders, other GPEX members and the Chair of AGC. Links with GPEX were helped by regular attendance by its chairperson, Clare Phipps, at GPRC meetings. The operation of the strategy working group is described in its standing orders. See Section D3.

A contentious issue this past year concerned the party strategy agreed at Spring Conference 2017 ('Electoral Alliance for Proportional Representation') and the subsequent election strategy which, some feel, was more about a broad 'progressive alliance', emphasising a shared opposition to the Tories. No such Progressive Alliance strategy has ever been formally agreed.

After the snap election attention in GPRC discussions focused on a line inserted into the election plan as agreed by GPEX at the start of the snap election, which was included without consultation with the election coordinator or with GPRC:

*To call for electoral alliances with the objective of defeating an authoritarian and right-wing Conservative Party.*

This statement has not been approved as party strategy and has no validity. The Chair of GPEX agreed in her report to GPRC in April that the motion passed at Conference made it clear alliances were solely to achieve support for PR.

The practical consequences of this insertion were many

references to making alliances to defeat the Conservatives, as if this were part of an agreed progressive alliance with Labour, when no such alliance was formed. At our July meeting GPRC members therefore expressed concern about how the content of party communications are managed and controlled.

In the hope of helping to create a period of calm before conference, GPRC passed this resolution in July in its role as advising GPEX on strategy:

*The motion D01 on 'electoral alliances for PR' passed at Spring Conference asked GPEX to identify which parties were concerned, and to produce guidance for local parties. In the absence of this guidance, the key message about PR was drowned out by mixed messages about 'kick out the Tories'. This misinformation and subsequent divisions has caused harm in local parties and to party morale. Any future action on Alliances will be decided by Conference in October. We therefore ask that in the meantime the leadership and spokespeople make no more statements about electoral or progressive alliances. In the event of a snap election we advise that the party strictly follows D01, identifies the constituencies concerned, and works with them in negotiating an agreement. Other than such constituencies a clear message on the importance of standing candidates should be delivered. The same should apply to any by-elections.*

In subsequent communications with the co-leaders GPRC confirmed that media questions on the issues should be answered appropriately, as GPRC were seeking a moratorium on any public and pro-active advocacy of a policy ("progressive alliance") not agreed by conference.

## **10. Governance Reviews**

GPRC has taken part in the long-standing Governance Review Process and support the efforts to consider how the party should be governed, but have not taken a collective decision about how these matters should go forward. We represent the membership's views between conferences and support the regional representation of party members, but recognise that there is a need for a more diverse representation of members than currently happens. We also recognise that members are active in policy and campaign groups as well as in local parties. Whatever structure is decided, there is a great need for members standing for election to bring professional knowledge of administration and running organisations to the governance bodies, particularly GPEX, to improve the way we work.

## **D Reports**

### **1. House of Lords liaison group Report**

*Sue Shipley, Group Convenor*

This group was set up in accordance with the bylaws for setting in motion the House of Lords selection Committee, in clause 5 section 7 it states:

*"Following the nomination of a Green Party Peer, all the UK Green Parties ruling bodies will develop a mechanism for input and management of the Peer's workplan, campaigns and*

*public position on issues to ensure consistency of messages on a UK wide basis."*

The group was set up late and slow to begin work. The personnel involved were two members of GPRC and two members of GPEX. GPEX have not yet set up a budget for the group.

The two members of GPEX have now left the group and replacements are needed.

We have had two meetings in the House of Lords and several exchanges of emails.

Originally, we intended to organise help and support for admin and research for our peer. But she now has two new staff and her overload situation has improved.

In addition to the work Jenny Jones does when invited by regional or local parties, she has offered to do 6 days of additional strategic National GP work to be organised by the group. We enabled two days this year – a visit to Nottingham in support of a target council candidate visiting endangered trees and an anti-fracking event, also a visit to the Isle of Wight in support of a target parliamentary candidate. Both visits were successful and more will be organised.

We have agreed a method of working and will meet face to face 4 times a year. Finding convenient time for this in 2017 has been problematic mostly due to over commitment and the general election, we hope the situation will improve next year.

We have briefly looked at the remit and intend to discuss the Peers accountability to the Green Party, and the Green party's commitment to the peer.

### **Concerns and future plans**

We strongly feel that our Peer is an underused resource, noticeable during the General Election. We will work to correct this, especially as we are in imminent danger of losing our Euro MPs, leaving us with only two members in government. We need to give our peer more opportunities to improve party visibility.

The work on accountability may be useful for all elected representatives. We are considering the future on this, as we feel that there is no real system in place, and without accountability to the party there is possible danger. We expect to consult widely and bring a motion to conference.

### **2. GPRC Policy Statement Sub-Committee, 2016-17. and Rapid Policy Statement Group [RPAG]**

*Mike Shipley, Policy Statement Sub-Committee*

The Policy Statement Sub-committee receives requests to approve policy statements between conferences. Policy statements are extensions of policy published in the PSS. The sub-committee does not produce or approve new policy.

Where there is urgency to approve a policy statement a Rapid Policy Statement Group [RPAG] is convened by the sub-committee. This group includes the convener of Policy Development Committee plus one other nominee from PDC usually a relevant policy expert. Rapid responses are usually requested by ExtComms, leaders or speakers.

Further details of the sub-committee and RPAG are in the GPRC handbook.

#### **October 2016:**

a) Agreed a policy statement on Brexit, drafted by Molly Scott-Cato and requested by CL's office, posted in ROPS by Policy Development

b) Agreed a policy statement on the Frequent Flier levy raised by CL in response to the announcement of the Heathrow 3<sup>rd</sup> runway

c) Agreed a policy statement on funding Cadet Units in schools in response to a request from CL's office

d) Produced a full analysis of the Green Guarantee with respect to consistency with PSS in response to a request from the leadership in preparation for a snap election. Most points in the GG were supported by policy. Two items did not follow policy, the proposal for an 'immigrant premium' for host communities and rights for digital privacy. We also cautioned against making uncosted promises and suggested that the GG should be clearly a policy statement and not use abrasive sound-bites.

#### **January 17:**

a) Clarified the intent of the Brexit policy statement in response to a request from CL's Parliamentary Office looking for guidance on Brexit strategy relating to messaging to the Remainers V Leavers. The 'unity' message in the original Brexit statement was stressed in this communication.

b) Request from CL's office relating to policy on Euratom post Brexit, agreed to support a position to remain in Euratom in the interests of securing a continuity of nuclear safety research and standards while negotiating a shift in Euratom policy away from promotion of nuclear power.

c) Review of policy position on High Speed Rail concluded that the policy statement from Cardiff was now out of date in the light of a position agreed in the 2015 manifesto to oppose HS rail and that this statement should be deleted from ROPS.

d) Request from Policy Development Committee to consider archiving a policy statement from 2009 on the 2008 economic crisis – it was concluded that much material in the 2009 statement continued to be relevant and while much of this was incorporated into the 2015 manifesto, the 2009 statement was succinct and remained valuable. We recommended that it remained in ROPS.

#### **February 17:**

a) Request from CL's office to clarify our policy position on environmental legislation ahead of a statement from CL on protecting such law post Brexit.

b) Request from CL's office for clarification on policy relating to the single market. Suggested that we should continue to criticize the single market as a growth and consumer oriented mechanism but accepted pragmatically that in its ability to offer worker and environmental protection post Brexit, aims supported by policy, we could support membership of the SM as a means to achieving these ends.

#### **'Snap' General Election manifestos**

The RPAG was involved in the approval of specialist manifestos and asked to comment on policy announcements made during the election campaign. The Green Guarantee Policy Statement was adapted by the Election team to act as a manifesto, removing statements that were not accepted in October. This was approved by GPRC on a Loomio vote after scrutiny by RPAG.

The approval of Specialist (mini) manifestos was largely delegated to the RPAG. It became evident there would be many of them and that full GPRC discussion would compromise the speed needed by the 'snap' election.

The amount of material coming to RPAG placed a very heavy load on all members of the group. Their task is both essential and largely thankless. There were some serious criticisms aimed at the group largely through failings elsewhere. We met all requested deadlines, even where these were 24 hours, and put reasoned arguments to proposers of manifestos and statements when their submissions could not be approved.

#### **a) Approvals**

Manifestos approved were: Animals, BAME, Disability, Environment, LGBTQA+, Pensioners, Youth and Women. These were uploaded to the national website.

In addition, policy statements were approved on: Education, Green Guarantee headings, and a Clean Air Guarantee.

#### **b) Not Approved**

We did not approve a Small Business Manifesto because it contained too many points not in the PSS. We advised the author to bring these matters to conference, this being an important policy area.

We approved as a Statement but not a Manifesto a paper on Agriculture largely because the format was not consistent with other manifestos. This was required for a statement and media appearance by our Agriculture spokesperson which was possible to do with the PSS.

#### **c) Other referrals**

References to new tax bands in the Green Guarantee were referred to RPAG. This reference was eventually dropped pending further work on tax policy.

A statement on the wording of a second EU referendum was sent back to ExtComms with the advice not to over complicate the issue by referring to the detail of the second referendum. The principle of a second referendum had already been approved by GPRC.

We also received requests to approve some briefings. After discussion, we concluded that these fell outside the remit of the group unless such briefings did contain any policy extensions. It is normal for policy briefings to be fully drawn from the PSS backed up with evidence.

### **3. Rapid Policy approval (Summary)**

*Change approved by GPRC in October 2016*

#### **The Rapid Response to requests to approve Policy Statements is summarised here.**

RPAG added as part of Policy Working Group Standing Orders [as described in GPRC Handbook]

- c) quick approval of Policy Statements
- d) Responds to new situations requiring policy content which is not explicit in the PSS.
- e) enables a quick turn-around of the request for approval of a policy statement.

Composition [5 members]

- » GPRC Policy Approval sub-committee [3 members]
- » Policy Development Coordinator [One of]
- » Specialist policy WG member or member of Policy Committee.

Method of Working

- » Policy Statement commissioned by one of: ExtComms, Leader, or Deputy, Campaigns Committee, Policy Development Committee or Chair[s] of GPEX or GPRC
- » To be unanimously approved by RPAG
- » Members to appoint deputies if unavailable

Note that this group is not empowered to make new policy.

### **4. Strategy Working Group – Standing Orders (appended to GPRC Standing Orders).**

Title: The Strategy Working Group shall be known as the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) Strategy Working Group.

#### **Status and Definition**

GPRC Strategy Working Group Standing Orders shall be incorporated as an appendix to GPRC Standing Orders under the title Green Party Strategy.

#### **Membership**

At each Annual General Meeting, GPRC shall elect four members including:

- » A Co-chair of GPRC
- » The Strategy Secretary
- » Two members of GPRC

The GPRC Strategy Working Group is empowered to request comment and to consult as widely as it requires.

#### **GPRC Strategy Working Group Communications**

GPSG should expect to consult widely in the party. Up to date communications methods should be used to involve members including:

- » All GPRC members
- » All GPEX members
- » A representative of the Association of Green Councillors
- » Paid Staff responsible for implementation
- » A representative of the Young Greens
- » Members of PolCom (Political Committee)

#### **Role of Strategy Group Secretary**

The Convener of the Strategy Working Group shall henceforth be known as the Strategy Secretary. The Strategy Secretary shall be elected by the full membership of GPRC at the AGM.

#### **The Duties of the Strategy Working Group Secretary shall be:**

- » To supervise the Strategy Working Group communications
- » To manage the Strategy agenda for GPRC meetings.
- » To action the Strategy decisions of GPRC
- » To ensure a report to each GPRC AGM to facilitate GPRC's assessment and appraisal of the implementation of agreed strategy

#### **Further, the Strategy WG Secretary shall:**

- » Organise Strategy Working Group meetings as necessary
- » Organise communication and consultation using Loomio and other platforms as necessary.
- » Take minutes of Strategy Working Group meetings
- » Provide the Strategy Working Group minutes or reports to GPRC

#### **Funding of the Strategy Working Group**

Funding of the Strategy Working Group is to be separate from GPRC budget. The Strategy Secretary is to prepare the relevant budget bids.

## **A05 DISPUTES RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Bernard Ekbery, Convenor*

### **Committee**

Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) has continued to function well both in terms of being available to members and party bodies that seek our assistance, improving how we work

together and working on internal projects.

One of our members recently completed training as a mediator and another will be stepping down due to pressure of other responsibilities. The whole of DRC is up for re-election this Conference in any case. We would like to encourage members who feel this work is suited to them to consider standing for election to DRC. The role is not a decision making one, in the sense that nobody on DRC ever determines who is right or wrong in a dispute. It is very much a working role as we provide a service. We act as mediators ie a neutral third party who tries to bring together both sides so they can jointly cooperate on discussing the dispute and come up with their own solutions to a situation. We act as consensus builders and do not steer disputants towards our preferred outcome. It is a confidential process.

Availability – a DRC member needs to have time available to work on a case when one emerges. Cases cannot be planned, as committee meetings are planned to suit members' availability, so although we are volunteers DRC members need to be flexible and able to reprioritise things and free up time to work on a case with minimum delay when we are contacted for help. An empathetic attitude is essential. Our standing orders require that DRC members either already have a qualification or training in dispute resolution or that they train after they're elected. We tend to assign two members to each case and the convener would support or cover if no one else is available. We elect our convener after each Conference.

I would encourage any member who has the time and aptitude to do this work to consider standing at Harrogate. The perennial issue is encouraging enough candidates who can do this work to come forward so that DRC's makeup is diverse. For example, if only men stand for DRC, as a consequence only men will be elected. I raised in the Governance Review Group the issue of whether all national committees ought to have a diversity rule. The prevailing opinion was that this is extremely hard to achieve in small committees of 5 people. DRC will particularly welcome candidates from all backgrounds who feel they are suited to the role described above.

## Non-casework

We will be offering conflict resolution training at Harrogate Conference for members and officers who are interested. Buying professional training is hugely expensive and this will not be a substitute for a full mediator training course but should be a good introduction that can help those dealing with disputes with practical tools and a take on where dispute resolution fits within the Green Party. We also hope to be launching our Dispute Resolution training pack, which will probably be in beta mode by then.

We are working on proformas and have started recruiting names for the party wide mediators register resource. The disputes resolution and disciplinary capacity survey, a joint project with Disciplinary Committee and GPRC, has had to be recirculated to regions.

## Casework (anonymised)

Since the report to Spring Conference 2017, submitted on 2nd March, we have been contacted confidentially in connection with 10 separate disputes. Of those contacts: 1 was a request from Disciplinary Committee to carry out dispute resolution prior to a complaint being considered; 1 was an exploratory contact made by an individual member; 4 were exploratory contacts made by local party officers; 1 was an exploratory contact made by a regional party officer; 1 is an ongoing case; and 2 closed cases re-emerged as needing further work. Of the 7 new cases, only 2 contacts resulted in requests to carry out dispute resolution. Of those requests 1 dispute resolution process has been begun. The second is at the stage of verifying disputants' readiness to proceed. (Another longstanding process is currently paused.) All of the 7 new contacts required significant work in the form of initial discussion by email, Skype or phone.

Most work takes place immediately after first contact, discussing the dispute, then contacting the other disputants and confirming everyone's willingness to engage then designing the dispute resolution process to suit the situation. There is a pyramid effect, with the number of cases that drop out earlier in the process outnumbering those that progress fully and the ones in which full agreement is reached being at the very tip. Unwillingness to resolve a conflict is a classic difficulty that is exacerbated by the fact that most cases we see are deeply entrenched but we hope to address the issue of readiness to resolve in our training pack.

## A06 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE REPORT

*Leo Littman, Chair*

Disciplinary Committee is now in its second year of existence. Our membership has changed somewhat over the last year. I'd like to thank all those Committee members, past and present, who have served the Party so diligently.

I'd especially like to thank our Deputy Chair; Ann Forsaith; without whose sterling efforts, I do not believe the Committee could have functioned successfully.

Over the coming months, several Regions will be running elections for Disciplinary Committee representatives. Can I please encourage members to stand for this important role? Please see myself; Ann; or any other Committee member for details; should you be interested in serving on the Committee, and would like to learn a little more about what we do and how we do it.

Since its inception; the Committee has been extremely lucky to have benefitted from the extraordinary hard work and dedication of the Party's Governance Assistant; Lyuba Herbert; who sadly left her role in June this year. We wish Lyuba all the best in her future endeavours. She is an extraordinary person,

and deserves all the success in the World.

In August, the Party appointed Matt Brown as Executive Assistant to the CEO. Part of Matt's remit will be to take over from Lyuba in supporting the Disciplinary Committee in its work. We welcome Matt and look forward to working with him.

The Committee has also benefitted hugely from the input of Zoe Hollands; our Minutes Secretary. Previously minutes had been taken by Committee members, which was unfair on the member in question, as it meant they had to split their attention between two tasks. Zoe has helped ensure the Committee works smoothly, and effectively. Many thanks.

During the last 12 months; the Committee has met six times; five times physically and once virtually. As well as holding hearings, the Committee has welcomed visitors from others Party bodies. Clare Phipps; Chair of GPEx, and Bernard Ekbery; Chair of Disputes Resolution Committee; have both attended the non-confidential parts of meetings during the year.

In the last 12 months, we have ruled on 16 complaints. As a result; four members were expelled from the Party; three members were suspended for fixed periods of time; two cases were referred back to the relevant Local or Regional Parties for resolution; three Members resigned from the Party prior to their hearings; and four cases were dismissed.

The bulk of our investigations have revolved around social media and/or email exchanges. Largely these were cases where people said things to or about one another; which they would not have said face-to-face. Netiquette is really important; and we must try to remember to treat each other with the appropriate amount of respect online as well as off. We are all responsible for our own behaviour; but in order to try to help ensure that we are; the Party has instigated a 'Report Button' protocol on its online fora etc.,

During the year, the Committee has fine-tuned our processes to reflect legal advice; most especially in relation to the Party's obligations under the Equality Act.

We have identified areas of training-need for Committee members, as well as members of some of the Party's other bodies. We hope the relevant members will receive the requisite training as soon as possible.

Alongside colleagues on GPRC and SOC; we have further refined the definition of the term 'suspension'.

We have improved the protocol for identifying members who have been expelled or suspended, or who resigned whilst under investigation, on our membership database.

We are looking at developing a methodology to ensure seamless working on disciplinary matters, within the Party at Local, Regional, and National Levels.

We are also looking at a protocol to deal with the danger that the disciplinary process might be used as a form of harassment or bullying.

Finally, we have agreed to a process whereby, in light of both the way the Committee operates in practice, and the legal advice we have received; we can redraft the Standing Orders which pertain to the running of the Party's Disciplinary process. This is likely to be a fairly time-consuming process, but we hope to bring the updated Standing Orders to Conference for approval soon. In the interim; we will be interpreting the existing Standing Orders in line with advice from legal counsel.

## A07 LEADERS' REPORT

*Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Barley, Co-Leaders  
Amelia Womack, Deputy Leader*

When we were elected as your leadership team in autumn 2016 we certainly didn't anticipate there would be a General Election this year or that the political landscape would shift so dramatically. Both during the election campaign and outside of it, we have been working hard to ensure we are joined up as a team.

One of our key objectives has been to support local parties and the membership to the best of our abilities. Between us we have visited local parties across the UK: canvassing, campaigning, speaking at public meetings and promoting the target to win strategy, including Exeter, Truro, Bristol, Norfolk, Bangor, Shrewsbury, Manchester, Newcastle, Cambridge, Isle of Wight, Derby, Shepway, Wealden, Scarborough, Durham, Leamington Spa, Norwich, Bath, Sheffield, Cardiff, Oxford, Totnes, Liverpool, London, Shipley, Lewes, York, Leeds, Birmingham, Redhill, Preston, Swanage, Norfolk, Solihull, Totnes...

We've loved hearing from so many people why they are members or are voting Green. There have been some real highlights and for Jonathan these were meeting refugees at the camps at Calais and Dunkirk camps; a visit to a 4 day a week factory run by a Green Party member; and meeting 85 year old Anne Power who is a relentless anti-fracking campaigner and Kai Taylor who was elected this year to Prescot Town Council at the age of 19. He also enjoyed playing the drums on The Wright Stuff, speaking as well as performing with his band at Glastonbury, and feeling like a rock star speaking at the Unite for Europe march to a packed Parliament Square.

Amelia has really valued continuing to Chair the Party's Green Yes group and support the development of ongoing strategy around Brexit. She attended and represented GPEW at the European Green Party conference in Rome, which was on the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. And she's been hugely inspired during visits to schools, including one where three 15 year old students had set up their own votes at 16 campaign. She has also been inspired by the members that she has

canvassed shoulder to shoulder with across the country who are pulling together strong strategies for supporting their communities and getting more Greens elected.

Caroline's highlights include being able to attend the start of the successful UN talks to ban nuclear weapons and joining the rolling Green Mondays anti-fracking camp at Preston. She was hugely inspired by the incredible people who attended the Global Greens gathering and very proud of GPEW for hosting it – sincere thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a success. And speaking at Hawkswood Seed festival in Stroud, has filled her with a renewed sense of purpose when it comes to making sure a strong environmental message is at the heart of the story we tell people about the future.

We have clear goals as a leadership team that relate to the way the Green Party operates. It's been very positive to work with senior staff in particular to progress these, especially around digital innovation, equalities and external communication. Significant achievements include improvements on the diversity of our general election candidates, a roundtable with key liberation group contacts and high level meetings with potential digital partners. There's still lots to do but we've come a long way in a short time.

Raising awareness of what Greens stand for has been a priority for us all, and we have sought to do this through national media in particular. We've had an impressive number of platforms from which to talk about our unique policies on everything from redistributing wealth and power, to equalities for all genders. Thank you to all the comms staff that have supported this work and for helping us significantly shape and shift the political debate by talking about ideas like a shorter working week, basic income and electoral alliances.

The latter was a key feature of the general election campaign and there's strong evidence that Greens standing aside in a handful of marginal seats helped deny Theresa May her majority. We are disappointed that the other political parties were not brave enough to join GPEW in our bid to break open the political system and secure electoral reform. We also share widespread frustration that what was originally a very focussed strategy targeted at a handful of marginal seats to help bring about PR, was turned by others into a much wider anti-Tory tactical voting campaign. Having less than 7 weeks to roll out an electoral alliances strategy, originally intended to span 3 years running up to 2020 and giving us time to visit far more local parties, help them build up capacity in negotiation and so forth, was also challenging for the Party.

We were incredibly proud to represent GPEW in the various TV and radio debates during the election campaign and Caroline definitely looks back at confronting Amber Rudd on arms sales to Saudi Arabia as a perfect opportunity to showcase the principles and values for which Greens stand. Jonathan feels that his half hour on his own taking questions from a live studio audience on BBC1 in the last week of the campaign, marked the point at which the distinctiveness of the Green Party was

clearest. Amelia's work on condemning the coalition of cruelty so soon after the election result, highlighted the regressive policies of the DUP and the need for electoral reform. The leadership team are so proud of all our election candidates, and in particular of our target seat candidates Molly Scott Cato, Vix Lowthian, Natalie Bennett and Eleanor Field, alongside whom it was an absolute privilege to campaign.

The General Election was always going to be tough: a snap election, no funds built up, framed by Brexit, and squeezed by a resurgent Labour Party who moved into the Green 2015 manifesto territory. As we promised to do when you elected us, we have listened carefully to the many voices taking part in the post-election analysis and have heard a wide range of perspectives. We have celebrated the huge amount we did well, reflected carefully on what we could have done better, and share disappointment at the overall result. We are now focussed on how to build going forward and to learning the lessons that will enable us to work with the Party to help shape future strategy. Our number one shared goal for the next year couldn't be clearer – getting more Greens elected. We are already planning targeted visits in support of the 2018 local elections, working closely with the Party's dynamic field team and looking at how our national and communications work can best help local election candidates to set out the party's distinctive messages and position.

Amelia is fronting a long term piece of work around flooding in the UK, making the links between flooding and climate change & social justice. This will include touring the country visiting areas where Green councillors are really having a positive impact. One of her other goals is to continue to be a voice for women and young people. Caroline will be living and breathing all things Brexit in Parliament, with an ongoing focus on making sure freedom of movement and the environment are at the heart of the debate. Her other priorities for the year ahead include mobilising around climate change, whilst she and Jonathan want to make the links between our natural environment, our wellbeing and a genuinely future facing economy far more explicit. Jonathan's other priorities for the coming year include a renewed focus on refugees, the commercial arms trade, work around disability and welfare as well as inclusive and meaningful education. And as the new Chair of Political Committee he will be overseeing the development of future political strategy.

A huge thank you to everyone that has been so supportive and positive during an incredibly challenging but enjoyable year, especially our immediate staff teams and long suffering families.

## A08 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

*Ricky Knight, Convenor*

The journey from Birmingham University last September to Harrogate was via what was probably the most magnificent

event in the GPEW's short-ish history – not that I'm biased nor nuffin': the Joint Congress at the ACC in Liverpool, miraculously merged with our own Spring Conference by osmosis. What a feat! Forgive me therefore if I dedicate a paragraph to that unique event.

Many moons ago, over breakfast at an embarrassingly luxurious hotel in Istanbul, the setting for the biannual EGP Council meet-up, I mused with John Street and the late-lamented Steve Emmott about just how wondrous it would be if the UK were to be chosen as the venue for the rarest of rare stellar concurrences: the 'co-incidence' of the European Green Party and the Global Greens' Congresses. I remember saying at the time, if this were to materialise, I would die a happy chap. Well, I'm not dead yet (discuss) but, without dwelling too much on the massive commitment by so many extraordinary people over an eighteen month period to enable this to take place, come the final curtain call that Sunday afternoon, well, I was pretty damn happy! I could go on for (p)ages: the unfolding of the saga of the 2017 Joint Congress is an epic which needs to be archived. It seemed like a hopeless aspiration at the time, although so many people were quite excited about it (Derek not so much!). Our 'business plan' was up against Sweden and France, very Eurovision (Davis versus Junker and Barnier?). Not a chance, surely. Then they both pulled out and ours was the only bid on the table. Panic. The rest is history.

This is my last Conference Committee report for your edification; of course I'll take questions but really it has all been down to Louisa as per usual, with me cheering her on from the sidelines. She's amazing and we are blessed. At least the party has been magnanimous enough to award her a side-kick – go Ruby! Please put your names forward to support them on this Committee and let's see if slowly but surely we can keep improving what Conference can offer, improving communication, inclusivity, accessibility, affordability, quality food, attractive entertainment, value for money etc etc – and maybe one day, we'll get to pass either the Governance Review or an equivalent version of it. Please can we progress the popular preference for just the one Conference a year, liberating the 10 regions to promote their own regional conferences? It's not impossible, but we need the constitutional niceties worked through. We're very proud of having delivered 'Live-streaming' – this will get better and hopefully gain more viewers. And surely it cannot be much longer before we can facilitate a secure on-line voting system for all interested members unable to attend plenaries.

Conference is an essential ingredient for every political party. Ours is unique. It's how our policies have evolved over 40+ years – thanks to the grass-roots membership's input from the plenary floor. Given the mountain we have to climb electorally, it's a minor miracle that we have matured into a party that is no longer side-lined, that is now on everyone's radar, one which picked up all those dropped batons from the Blair years and has never compromised its ethical and philosophical basis. To have maintained biannual Conferences for so many years is no small feat – the commitment of those

who organise and those who then take part, the time, energy and money invested, is a token of how important the Green Party is to us – now more than ever! Enjoy Conference, and please come again – that's all we want.

## A09 POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Sam Riches, Policy Development Coordinator*

Policy Development Committee has met regularly since the Spring Conference. As a result of the snap General Election, called in mid-April, much of our work has been focused on advising on preparation of the Green Guarantee and specialist manifestos, and we note with regret that some of the work which ideally would have been undertaken to support GE candidates – especially in relation to costings and briefings – was simply impossible with the time and resources available to us. Sam's job-share partner as Policy Development Co-ordinator, Samantha Pancheri, resigned from the post a week before the GE (and subsequently left the party). In the period since the GE two members of Policy Development Committee have resigned (Ronald Stewart and Lee-Anne Lawrance); we have gained one member through co-option (Theo Routh). We should also note that we had some temporary freelance policy staff in the period before the GE, working in particular on briefings and costings, and our thanks go to them for the help that they were able to give.

One of the effects of the GE was to require us to change the date of Policyfest, our one-day policy discussion event, as this was originally intended to be held on 10 June in Oxford (and was advertised for this date and location in our report to Spring Conference). Ultimately it was held on 29 July at the West Oxford Community Centre, with over 60 members attending; particular thanks are offered to Steve and Hazel Dawe for their immense efforts to make this event a success; a significant contribution was also made by Simeon Jackson of Policy Development Committee. Three strands were offered – on Transport and Europe as specialist topics, and a more general strand that focused on how we currently make policy and how it can be improved; a full report is forthcoming. Policyfest is open to all members but it is particularly aimed at active members of Policy Working Groups. This is in part a response to the shorter timetable of recent conferences, which limit the opportunities for Policy Working Groups to meet, but also aims to encourage more creative thinking by offering an opportunity to meet outside the confines of Conference Standing Orders. We are aware of feedback from members asking for longer notice of this type of event – we entirely sympathise with the intention of the request, but ask members to take account of the fact that this type of event is complex to arrange and is entirely run by volunteers; it is also worth noting that on this occasion we were restricted in terms of a new date by the availability of the venue and risked losing a substantial deposit if we tried to change venue to enable a longer lead-in time. All named Policy Working Group contacts were informed of the date and venue as soon as practicable, before bookings

were opened, and they were asked to help to disseminate this information out to members associated with their Policy Working Group. We sincerely hope that the Policyfest concept will be continued, but as there is no confirmed replacement for Sam as Policy Development Co-ordinator at time of going to press it is currently impossible to know who will take responsibility for organising it. If any local parties or individuals would like to offer to host a Policyfest event please contact [policy@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:policy@greenparty.org.uk) or give us a note of your contact details at the Policy Development Committee table. The basic requirements are that the venue should hold 100 people, ideally with space available for at least two parallel sessions, and be easily accessible by public transport from main rail lines. Ideally it will also offer competitively-priced catering that can cope with a range of dietary needs.

In our last report we commented that in the wake of the passing of our Policy Process motion at Autumn Conference 2016 a lot of our time was taken up with the new requirements on us, especially the introduction of the concept of Accredited Motions. We are disappointed to report that we were not able to accredit any motions for this conference; a couple of informal approaches were made that did not lead to a formal submission, and one formal submission did not meet our requirements around consultation and – in particular – evidence of formal endorsement by a recognised body of the party. Doubtless the timing of the snap GE contributed to the fact that many members did not engage with the process of preparing motions for Conference until a rather late stage, but we would like to take this opportunity to remind members that guidance on the current policy process is available on the Policy Process section of the members' website, including a downloadable presentation which is suitable for use in local party meetings.

We continue to face challenges with our workload given the reduced staff structure across the party, but are striving to provide support to everyone who approaches us for it. Lack of capacity has meant that we have not engaged with Policy Working Groups as much as we would have wished, but we are delighted that two Draft Voting Papers are being presented to this Conference and – even better – two Voting Papers that were discussed as Draft Voting Papers at the Spring Conference have been tabled. It is excellent to see such committed work taking place – and we would like to see some of the other Policy Working Groups starting to produce concrete proposals for updated policy chapters/sections. If no Policy Working Group exists in a policy area we are happy to assist interested members to set one up. Contact us via [policy@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:policy@greenparty.org.uk)

Finally, Autumn Conference 2015 agreed to give Policy Development Committee limited powers to make small updates to Policies for a Sustainable Society in between conferences, on condition that these are reported to the next Conference. We have three sets of changes to report to this Conference, relating to updating our policies in relation to terrorism and NATO, and also regularising the use of an acronym, 'LGBTIQ+'.

### **In the Peace and Defence Chapter**

*PD443 Those accused or found guilty of atrocities, or planning to commit, aid or abet in their execution, should be dealt with under the same principles as those accused of more conventional criminal activities. In particular, those accused of supporting terrorist acts should have normal rights against arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. It should not be a crime simply to belong to an organisation or have sympathy with its aims, though it should be a crime to aid and abet criminal acts or deliberately fund such acts.*

#### **Has been reworded to read:**

*PD443 Those accused or found guilty of atrocities, or planning to commit, aid or abet in their execution, should be dealt with under the same principles as those accused of more conventional criminal activities. In particular, those accused of supporting terrorist acts should have normal rights against arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. It should not be a crime simply to have sympathy with its aims, though it should be a crime to aid and abet criminal acts or deliberately fund such acts.*

*PD513 The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a military-oriented body, which imposes conflict cessation rather than encouraging peace building. As such, it is not a sustainable mechanism for maintaining peace in the world. We would take the UK out of NATO. We would also end the so-called "special relationship" between the UK and the US unilaterally.*

#### **Has been reworded to read:**

*PD513 The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is a military-oriented body, which imposes conflict cessation rather than encouraging peace building. As such, it is not a sustainable mechanism for maintaining peace in the world. In the long term, we would take the UK out of NATO. We would also end the so-called "special relationship" between the UK and the US.*

### **In the Rights & Responsibilities chapter**

the 'LGBTIQ' acronym has been amended to the full 'LGBTIQA+' in the one clause where the old usage still stood.

#### **It now reads:**

*RR509 All legislation on equality and diversity will include LGBTIQA+ people so that, for instance, they are given explicit protection against harassment and discrimination. Opt-outs from equality and discrimination laws by religious organisations will not be allowed.*

### **In the Health chapter**

the acronym 'LGBTIQ' acronym occurred in HE1000;

#### **The relevant clause now reads:**

*LGBTIQA+ people are more likely to have contact with the mental health system and are at much higher risk of mental health issues, self-harm and suicidal ideation than heterosexual people. They are also more likely to come up*

against negative reactions from mental health staff. The Green Party would therefore ensure that guidance for good practice is included in staff training. We would also ensure that LGBTQIA+ community specific health programs are funded and able to identify and support at risk individuals.

## A 10 CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT

*Elisabeth Whitebread and Tamsin Omond, Campaigns Coordinators*

Elisabeth Whitebread and Tamsin Omond have held the post of Campaigns Coordinator on GPEX for the past year. Over these twelve months they have regularly attended GPEX meetings and have used their campaigning experience and strategy skills to further establish the Green Party as part of widespread movement for a fairer, environmentally conscious and peaceful society.

Working with the campaigns committee and with campaigns staff at HQ the Campaigns Coordinators have gone some way to achieving the three priorities that they set out before their election to GPEX:

1. Use online tools to poll Green Party members to discover what social and environmental justice campaigns they want to be part of.
2. Work with local parties and campaigns staff to craft long-term campaign plans that are locally relevant and flexible to a fast changing political scene

They have also put in place some campaign structures that will allow the realisation of their third priority:

3. Involve the skills and passion of our Green Party membership to strategically execute these campaigns and ensure that everyone's voice is heard

They have been especially proud of:

1. Our campaigns strategy day – pulling in key party figures and external experts, several ideas taken up/taken forward
2. The new CC campaigns officer – identifying that the Climate Sense money could be spent on this, agreeing the process with the committee and HQ
3. Budget – negotiating a small monthly budget for campaigns run by HQ
4. Processes – our processes document, outlining how campaigns should be developed in the Party
5. Campaigns committee – meeting once in person and regularly (at least every other month) via Skype, linking with our GPRC friend and the Young Greens campaigns officer
6. The campaigners' network – pushed this and increased sign ups to c 3000 members, conducted an online poll to assess campaign priorities from the network. We should say the top responses were climate change and democracy.

Over the past twelve months we have also been active coordinating: Campaigns committee, supporting and advising HQ staff, supporting the wider movement (Bridges not Walls), strategizing and staff recruitment.

Elisabeth and Tamsin stood for election to be the Campaigns Coordinator jobshare because they are both experienced campaigns and campaigns strategists and thought these skills could be useful to the Party. They hope to continue to offer their skills to the Party on a voluntary basis but unfortunately neither have the time required to fulfill their GPEX role with the scrutiny that is required and so from September 1<sup>st</sup> they hand in their resignation. They look forward to a complete overhaul of GPEX – to modernize member participation in the organizing and the governance of the Green Party by using digital tools.

## A 11 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY REPORT

[Report not received]

## A 12 REFORM CONFERENCE VOTING WORKING GROUP REPORT

*Nicole Haydock, Convenor*

Reform of Conference Voting Working Group was set up by authorisation of Autumn Conference 2016 via motion D1 of that Conference. The goal of the group is to consider new ways of voting on motions that would improve democratic participation of the membership.

Summarised, the tasks currently set out are : –invite and encourage all regional and local parties internal groups and individual members to submit ideas for reform; – produce a maximum of five options with feasibility studies for voting forms, including the status quo; –present these five options to a ballot of members.

The group submitted its first Report at the Spring Conference of 2016 which was approved. At that same Conference, members of the WG publicised the work of the group with a stall and held a lively workshop. A suggestion box generated 19 useful comments from Conference participants. A forum created on the members' site (<http://my.greenparty.org.uk/forum/working-groups-reform-conference-voting/15976>) has generated much discussion since around specific ideas produced by members of the group and other interested members. The minutes of the WG's meetings have been posted on the same.

Since the Spring 2016 Conference, members of the WG have met twice face-to-face in Birmingham and held two Skype meetings. Members communicate regularly with each other via email and Loomio. In spite of the "snap" General Election " of June 2017 and the unfortunate resignation of the

elected Convenor Ronald Stewart from the Policy Development Committee just prior to the General Election, members of the group have worked hard towards producing a number of draft options feasibility studies. These are very much “work in progress” as posted on the Forum above and will be the object of a further Fringe meeting and workshop at the Autumn 2017 Conference in Harrogate. Hard copies of those will be made available at our Reforming Conference Voting stand.

In order to allow for the inevitable disruption in our work caused by the “snap” General Election, a new motion has been submitted for the Autumn 2017 Conference requesting a 6 month extension to our schedule as per the original D1 Reforming Conference Voting motion.

Members of the group are: Peter Allen, Main Proposer of D1 motion – Nicole Haydock, GPRC rep – Paul Weaver from the Equality and Diversity group – Paul Jenkins & Peter Barnett, GPEx Internal communication officers – Neil Basil from the Conference Committee – Theo Routh was appointed by the Policy Development Committee to replace Ronald Stewart – David Wild, Rosemary Warrington & Glyn Heath. Charlie Allen and Charlene Conception resigned from the group in June and July 2017 respectively, thus leaving two vacant posts to be duly filled from our list of applicants. Nicole Haydock was elected as convenor in July 2017.

The group has made a start with plans for the launching of an in–depth period of awareness raising about our remit and consultation with regions, local party members and GPEWs formal groups which we aim to be completed by the end of 2017. This will consist of a survey and the holding of focus groups meetings across a number of local parties. Some assistance from technical experts in designing an appropriate questionnaire has been secured by the group, but we are keen to hear from members who can help with this vital exercise in the delivery of our remit.

GPRC’s reps and members of GPEx have had regular reports from the WG. We understand that the leadership of the GPEW and the CEO are aware of the existence of this working group.

## A13 GOVERNANCE REVIEW WORKING GROUP REPORT

*Alan Francis, Chair*

Following a conference motion in 2013 the Governance Review Working Group (GRWG) was set up to devise a new governance system for the party. It has been reporting back to conferences since then. This is the last report from the group because its term of office ends at this conference. The culmination of the group’s work is the submission of motions A01 in first agenda, A14 in final agenda, for principles on which to base the incorporation of the party and A02 in first agenda, A15 in final agenda for a revised constitution to go for a referendum of the party membership.

At the Autumn 2016 conference two workshops were held to consult interested members on proposals emerging from the group. Following these workshops the group developed a survey that could be taken by all members. It became clear at the workshops that many members, particularly those fairly new to the party, did not know much about the present governance arrangements of the party. So along with the survey and proposed changes the group also provided information about the present system of governance.

The members’ survey took place during February this year. Around 650 members responded which is a good level of response. The group would like to thank all those members who took the time to complete the survey. The overall outcome was that members generally supported the proposals. That was from the quantitative analysis, eg just counting the number of yeses vs the number of noes. However there were hundreds of comments submitted via the text boxes and these were analysed by group members and a report was published on the members’ website just before Spring conference. There has also been some face to face consultation with the regions by GRWG members attending regional meetings.

Based on the feedback from the conference workshops, regional meetings and the members survey a draft constitution has been produced and that forms part of motion A14. The group has tried to take on board members’ comments but many of the comments wanted diametrically opposite changes. Eg some were happy with a proposed number while some wanted it to be higher and some wanted it to be lower. Obviously not all of those views could be accommodated. We generally tried to go with the majority, but we realise that will leave the minority unhappy. A guide to the proposed changes has been produced and is available on the members’ website [https://my.greenparty.org.uk/system/files/Guide%20to%20the%20Governance%20Review%20changes%20v1\\_0.doc](https://my.greenparty.org.uk/system/files/Guide%20to%20the%20Governance%20Review%20changes%20v1_0.doc) (the link was in the synopsis of our motion A14 but was not published in first agenda).

There are nominally a dozen members of the GRWG but only about half of that number are actively participating in the work of the group. I would like to thank the members of the group for their hard work over the last year.

Within the group we have tried to reach consensus on issues. Where this has not been possible we have gone with the majority view. Again this sometimes leaves the minority unhappy.

Party members have had the opportunity to propose amendments to the motion and the draft constitution in the normal way. If it is approved by conference the new constitution will then go to a referendum of all the party members.

### Minority Report

*Liz Reason, Governance Review Working Group member*

I have been a member of the Governance Review Working Group since its inception in 2013. I was appointed as a party member who held no other party roles – I had in fact only just joined and was keen to make myself useful at national level. Since September 2016, I have been job-sharing the Management Coordinator role with Tom Chance.

When the review was conceived of, the party had 14,000 members; within two years, it had 68,000 members. This growth represented interesting challenges for how the party would operate – and significant opportunities for extending our reach and influence.

Unfortunately, the terms of the original governance review motion set constraints on what could be considered. It excluded specifically delegate conferences (although this came to be interpreted as conference altogether), and the policy-making process, both of which it is generally agreed need fundamental reform. The larger membership provides us with new digital opportunities for engaging with people and making decisions – another topic excluded from GRWG discussions.

The report from the GRWG has resulted in a new constitution whose basis is thin on evidence about which party structures and functions work and don't work. The various consultation exercises undertaken were ill-designed so any conclusions drawn were more ones of interpretation. It concerns itself more with representation than effective governance.

I therefore feel duty bound to state the reasons why I am not able to support the GRWG's motion. My time in the party has demonstrated time and again that its governance arrangements currently are better at stopping decisions being made than making worthwhile and necessary progress.

## A 14 PRINCIPLES FOR INCORPORATION OF THE PARTY

**Governance Review WG, Alan Francis** alan.francis@greenparty.org.uk

*Bernard Ekbery, Douglas Rouxel, John Street, Tom Bolitho*

### Synopsis

Spring Conference 2017 instructed the Governance Review Group to compile a set of principles on which to base the incorporations of the party. These are those proposed principles.

### Motion

The party should be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee following a yes vote through the process agreed at Spring Conference 2017. The drawing up of the articles of association should be drawn up and implemented on the following basis:

- » The construction of the articles of association should start

with the template which Co-ops UK use as their exemplar for co-op certified CLG's, removing those elements which are not relevant for a political party (e.g. profit sharing etc.).

- » All members of the party shall be offered the opportunity to take on Company Membership, there should be no two tier system of membership.
- » Members must be removable as company members by virtue of their removal from membership of the party under the constitution.
- » Directors of the company are in position by virtue of being elected to the relevant position on the executive.
- » Directors of the company are removed from position by virtue of being removed following the provisions outlined in the constitution
- » That there is provision for job-share candidates through the provision of alternates for directorships

## A 15 PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION TO GO TO BALLOT

**Governance Review WG, Alan Francis** alan.francis@greenparty.org.uk

*Bernard Ekbery, Douglas Rouxel, John Street, Tom Bolitho*

[SOC note: If D01 Amendment 6 falls, and motion D01 passes, then motion A15 will not be taken]

### Synopsis

The autumn 2013 conference set up the Governance Review process. That dictates that after widespread consultation a draft proposal for the review of the party governance be brought back to a future conference to be amended prior to going to a party wide ballot.

### Motion

Conference accepts this Draft Proposal as outlined in the proposed constitution and approves it to go forward for a decision by a party wide ballot. That ballot will require a 2/3rds majority in order to adopt the new constitution.

The question posed in the party wide ballot shall be:

“There has been a lengthy process of discussion and deliberation within the party on what its governance arrangements should be. The proposals for change based on this process are outlined in the enclosed documentation. Do you agree to adopt these changes to the party governance structures?”

### [Appendix 3 Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, including Amendments 1–13](#)

# B

# Voting Papers

## BO1 CLIMATE CHANGE VOTING PAPER

Climate Change PWG, David Flint (\*) davidcflint@gmail.com

*Caroline New, Chit Chong, Jonathan Fuller, Liz Reason, Paul Jenkins, Paul Sousek, Tony Firkins*



[An accompanying background paper can be viewed here:

[tinyurl.com/CCBPV16](http://tinyurl.com/CCBPV16)]

### Synopsis

This voting paper will rewrite the Climate Change chapter of the PSS.

It is proposed by the Climate Change Policy Working Group

### Motion

CC001 Climate change is the greatest issue of our time. It is a global crisis demanding a global response. The UK should play a leading role by strengthening international agreements and rapidly reducing its own emissions.

#### The Global Crisis

CC011 We face a climate emergency. Earth's climate is already changing at unprecedented speed, exemplified by higher temperatures, rising sea levels, ocean acidification and more frequent and severe floods, droughts, and storms. The consequences of climate change already include wars, starvation, disease, desertification and forced migration; not to mention species extinction. The UK itself has seen increased flooding.

CC012 Climate change is caused by the release of greenhouse gases, and is already set to get worse. Unless it is checked, there is a real danger that positive feedback will lead to rapid, runaway effects.

CC013 Climate change is a global problem and can only be tackled by global action. Such action must be based on the work of the UNFCCC and especially on the Paris Agreement of 2015 (which the UK has ratified). We support the aims of the Agreement to hold "the increase in the global average

temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels". In aggregate, the national emissions plans (NDCs) will not meet the aims of the Agreement.

CC014 As the first country to industrialise and a major emitter of greenhouse gases over many decades the UK bears a particular responsibility. It should:

1. Act as an advocate for the Paris Agreement.
2. Increase its Paris Agreement commitments on emissions reductions, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer.
3. Make the case for compensation for climate-related loss and damage and begin to pay such compensation.
4. Advocate an emergency international agreement to conserve and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs including forests, peatfields and coastal and estuarine areas.
5. Reduce, by international collaboration, the emissions associated with its imports.
6. Support the Sustainable Development Goals.

CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity and the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C. These principles entail the UK reducing its own emissions to net zero by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero as soon as possible. The urgency of these objectives requires the UK to make overcoming the technological, political and social obstacles a national priority.

#### Amendment 1

*David Flint, Caroline New, Chit Chong, Jonathan Fuller, Liz Reason, Paul Jenkins, Paul Sousek, Tony Firkins*

Delete paragraph CC015 and substitute

"The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity and the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5C. These principles entail the UK reducing its own emissions to net zero as soon as possible. The urgency of this objective requires the UK to make overcoming the technological, political and social obstacles a national priority."

CC016 A zero carbon society in the UK should be achieved through action in the UK and not through international carbon trading or offsets.

**CC017** In addition to its mitigation efforts, the UK should create an adaptation programme which ensures the safety of its citizens, as well as of key property and infrastructure.

### **UK Domestic Emissions**

**CC100** To reduce its domestic emissions the UK requires a centrally-led transformation programme which will involve substantial state funding and require changes in the behaviour of ordinary citizens. To gain public consent for the necessary changes the government should conduct a major public education campaign.

**CC101** The transformation needed for climate change mitigation will provide significant benefits. In the short-term the work needed will provide economic stimulus and satisfying and secure work for many workers. In the longer term there will be substantial improvements in health and wellbeing.

### **Governance**

**CC110** For clear accountability the UK should:

- » Strengthen the Climate Change Act to require the Committee on Climate Change to set budgets on the basis of the need to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, respect for climate science and equity.
- » Create a strategic Climate Change Agency directly responsible to the Prime Minister. It will have the power of veto over any government policies that are inconsistent with our climate change targets.
- » Require all public bodies and businesses to define their own adaptation plans and Locally-Determined Contributions (LDCs) to climate change mitigation.

### **Demand reduction**

**CC120** To reduce the demand for high-carbon products and services, especially space heating, travel and meat consumption, UK policy should encourage small families, a circular economy, less avoidable consumption and a shift to low carbon products, services and processes.

**CC121** To drive change throughout society the UK should combine a carbon tax and dividend with publicity campaigns. For instance, it should require all adverts for high carbon products, including food, to carry an 'environmental health warning'. The carbon tax would reflect all emissions of greenhouse gases, not just CO<sub>2</sub>. It should have a progressive element to deter high individual emitters.

### **Amendment 2**

*David Flint, Caroline New, Chit Chong, Jonathan Fuller, Liz Reason, Paul Jenkins, Paul Sousek, Tony Firkins*

Delete "and dividend."

### **Amendment 3**

*David Flint, Caroline New, Chit Chong, Jonathan Fuller, Liz Reason, Paul Jenkins, Paul Sousek, Tony Firkins*

After "campaigns" add "and possibly rationing".

### **Energy efficiency**

**CC130** To improve energy efficiency the UK should:

- » Invest heavily in energy efficiency in all sectors, especially in housing (including funding for retrofitting), industry and transport.
- » Set energy efficiency standards for vehicles, appliances and equipment at the best currently available and tighten them progressively thereafter.

### **Decarbonise the energy system**

**CC140** To decarbonise the energy system the UK should:

- » Switch its sources of energy system from fossil fuels to renewables by changing incentives and by direct investment.
- » Greatly increase the use of electricity, expand the grid and develop heat networks.
- » To provide resilience it should implement interconnectors with overseas electricity systems, a smart grid and a variety of energy storage systems.

**CC141** It should also convert to less intensive agriculture and convert grassland to forest where possible. There should be transitional arrangements and compensation for farmers where appropriate.

### **Finance**

**CC150** To encourage long-term ecological thinking in the finance sector the UK should:

- » Require full disclosure of the climate-related risks on all investments.
- » Require all managers of pension and investment funds based in the UK to divest themselves of holdings in fossil fuel companies, most urgently from coal.

### **Capturing greenhouse gases**

**CC160** The UK should develop, and expect to deploy, systems to remove CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from the air and from the exhaust from industrial processes such as cement making. This will require investment in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) systems which may also need to be used with some power plants.

### **R&D and pilots**

**CC170** The UK should fund R&D and pilot projects in key emerging technologies such as NETs, Solar Radiation Management and artificial meat.

### **The long-term**

**CC200** In the long-term the UK should seek to reduce the need for people and goods to travel by a new approach to planning that will place work, living, retail and leisure facilities close together.

## **Other chapters**

**CC300** Climate Change is also covered in the following chapters of the PSS:

- » Countryside
- » Economics
- » Education
- » Energy
- » Europe
- » Food and Agriculture
- » Forestry
- » Housing
- » Industry
- » International
- » Local Planning and Built Environment
- » Marine and Coastal
- » Pollution
- » Transport

*[Note from SOC: the remainder of this motion was missing from the First Agenda]*

## **CHANGES TO OTHER CHAPTERS**

### **In the Economics chapter**

#### **In EC783, which currently reads:**

**EC783** The principal way of reducing UK carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels will be through a system of tradable quotas (see **CC290**). A resource tax on fossil fuels may be levied to reflect other environmental impacts of their production and use.

Delete the first sentence. Insert after “fossil fuels” in the second sentence “, in addition to a carbon tax,”

#### **In EC786, which currently reads:**

**EC786** Import duties will be levied on both raw materials and finished products which will reflect the ecological impact of the production, extraction and transportation of such goods where sufficient eco-taxes are not considered to have been levied in their country of origin. This system will include a re-introduction of duties on goods imported from other European Union countries where considered necessary (see **EU443** and **EC777**). Enforcement procedures exercised by Customs and Excise must be sufficient to prevent a rise in the levels of organised crime in relation to smuggling and evasion of duties. Energy-intensive products imported from countries which have not entered an international contraction and convergence agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (see ‘Climate Change’ policy), or which are not meeting their obligations under such an agreement, will be taxed on import to reflect the greenhouse gas emissions produced during their manufacture and transport.

Delete from “not entered” in the final sentence, and replace with “insufficient or no Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or which are not meeting their NDCs, will be taxed to

reflect the greenhouse gas emissions produced during their manufacture and transport.”

### **In the Energy chapter:**

#### **In EN411, which currently reads:**

**EN411** We will legislate to separate large energy generators from suppliers. The price of power will continue to be set according to the wholesale market where we expect the majority of electricity to be traded. Renewables (wind, wave, tidal stream, solar and hydro) will receive a fixed price feed-in tariff. Flexible renewable generators that can decide when to operate (biogas, tidal stream) will receive a premium feed-in tariff to incentivise provision of capacity at times of peak demand. Demand reduction will be incentivised through demand-side feed-in tariffs available to customers and third parties acting on behalf of customers., working alongside the system of tradable energy quotas (see **CC290**). We will remove existing market barriers that prevent demand-shifting by large energy users and aggregators working on behalf of or supplying small end-users. Community and decentralised generation will be supported by fixed price feed-in tariffs. All of the above feed-in tariffs will be reduced gradually, in accordance with each technology’s cost reduction curve. Sufficient time between the announcement of revised tariffs and their implementation will be provided for industries to plan for any reduction in tariff rates.

Delete “, working alongside the system of tradeable energy quotas (see **CC290**)”.

### **In the Europe chapter:**

#### **Delete EU483, which reads:**

**EU483** The collapse of the price of carbon in 2012 and the widespread abuse of emissions trading means we must acknowledge the failure of carbon trading. To tackle climate change the EU must halt the actions of corporations who are accelerating the production of fossil fuels globally and reduce consumption of fossil fuels in the EU via a Green New Deal.

#### **Delete EU485, which reads:**

**EU485:** The ETS system should be assessed for its effectiveness in reducing emissions as part of the EU’s strategy to combat climate change and its future reform evaluated against other policies which could be more effective in tackling the actions of corporations who are causing an acceleration in the production of fossil fuels globally. A Green New Deal is needed to both reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and promote the development of sustainable, renewable energy resource.

### **In the Food and Agriculture chapter:**

#### **Remove CC references from**

FA420, FA485, FA502, FA614, FA655, FA720, FA741.

### In the Industry chapter:

Delete section heading 3.3.1 National Climate and Resource Use Targets for Industry and renumber 3.3.2 as 3.3.1

Delete **IN501**, **IN502** and **IN503** currently in section 3.3.1, which read:

**IN501** The UK's Climate Change Act should be reviewed in light of the latest research and its thresholds to avoid dangerous climate change updated (link to Climate Change policy). These thresholds for overall emission reduction should be viewed as a cast-iron commitment, and treated as maximum emissions scenarios.

**IN502** Greenhouse gas emission reduction targets shall be set below this level (so that the actual targets will not be exceeded due to accounting errors, business/delivery lagging policy, carbon leakage and offsetting errors). No allowance should be made for grid decarbonisation or carbon capture and storage and cross-sector programmes until they are in place.

**IN503** Industrial investment decisions should be scrutinised by the Committee on Climate Change, and the fiscal framework and incentives (see below) adjusted to ensure that businesses operate within the climate targets set. This should focus on investment with a short payback in terms on Energy Return on Energy Investment (EROEI) and where the scale of resource use is reduced to within that available: locally and globally.

### In the Transport chapter:

**TR502** currently reads:

**TR502** Global warming produced by air transport is not covered by the international negotiations led by the IPCC to address climate change. The actions taken by the International Civil Aviation Organisation in response to the Kyoto Agreement on Climate Change on allocating emissions of greenhouse gases to countries and developing means of reducing aircraft emissions have been wholly inadequate.

Replace with:

**TR502** Air transport is not covered adequately by the Paris Agreement. Emissions from both national and international air travel shall be addressed by country's National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

## **BO2 FORESTRY AND WOODLANDS VOTING PAPER**

**Forestry PWG, James Greenwood (\*)** jamesgreenwood@forestofdean.greenparty.org.uk

*Bob Rhodes, Chris McFarling, Eddie Parsons, Louise Elliott, Michael Dunwell, Molly Scott Cato, Sam Riches*

## **Motion**

### **Background**

**FR100** A successful, thriving and well-managed UK forestry and woodlands estate will be achieved through the application of ecosystem and silvicultural principles, to enhance the ecology, landscape, monetary and health economy, whilst mitigating CO2 and climate change risks.

### **Objectives**

#### **FR200**

1. Sustained cooperative relationship between public and private estates.
2. Increase the area of cover in the UK to average cover across Europe.
3. UK self-sufficiency in forest products.
4. Optimise the quantity and quality of all forest products.
5. Increase the involvement, employment and enjoyment of local communities.
6. Maintain and protect ancient woodland and priority habitats.
7. Protect and increase the Public Forest Estate (PFE).

### **Policy**

Forest and Woodlands within national and local government

**FR300** A Green Government will create an independent publicly funded 'UK Forestry and Woodlands Council' (UKFWC), to hold an advisory role to all UK ministries and agencies.

**FR301** A Green Government will introduce Local Forestry Coordinators (LFC), as employees of the local authority/ local representative of the UKFWC, advising and liaising with communities and the sector.

### **The Public Forestry Estate (PFE)**

**FR400** A Green Government will ensure that the PFE remains in public hands and will be constituted as land held in trust for the nation, with Trustees and Ministers accountable to Parliament.

**FR401** A Green Government will drive the expansion of the UK estate/tree cover, through three component parts:

- » Forest Services, to manage the land cover of the PFE, allocate grants, enforce regulations and implement and police pest control.
- » Forest Research, to oversee and coordinate research through the PFE, academia and the commercial sector.
- » Forest Enterprise, to manage the PFE sustainably, plant, grow and fell standing timber, sustain balanced supply chains and encourage access.

### **Charitable Trusts & Estates**

**FR500** The Church Commissioners, the Church of England dioceses, the Crown Estates, and trusts such as the National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trusts and significant private estates will be required to facilitate the creation of forestry and woodland serving biodiversity, energy, construction and social needs.

### **Increasing Forest Cover**

**FR600** A Green Government will facilitate an increase in overall tree cover so that it reaches a level that is on a par with average coverage in countries across Europe, consisting of unmanaged forest and woodland; harvested forest and woodland; unharvested (but managed) forest and woodland; short rotation forest and woodland; short rotation coppice; and agroforestry.

**FR601** There will be a strong presumption against the permanent removal of woodland; any loss will be balanced by equivalent forest and woodland creation elsewhere, under the ultimate supervision of the UKFWC.

**FR602** In particular, there will be a strong presumption to protect ancient woodland cover and veteran trees, both in rural and urban environments.

**FR603** Furthermore, the planting of new forest and woodlands will be prioritised towards Grades 4 and 5 agricultural lands and land classified as ‘severely disadvantaged’.

### **Energy Forestry**

**FR700** A Green Government will facilitate extensive planting of short rotation forestry and coppice for energy production.

### **Building and Packaging Materials**

**FR800** Supporting Green Party Industrial Policies IP202 and IP241, and climate change policy CC260, a Green Government will work to reduce UK imports of timbers that can be grown in the UK to zero, and also promote a ‘Wood First’ policy in all new buildings and in retrofitting existing ones.

**FR801** A Green Government will work to facilitate the provision of sustainable and non-polluting packaging and fencing, maintain a regular output, and encourage the replacement of oil-based packaging with wood products that do not meet construction grades.

### **Biodiverse Ecosystems**

**FR900** A Green Government will work to maintain, enhance and restore forest ecosystems’ resilience and multi-functionality, to provide key environmental services, including flood mitigation, air, soil and water quality.

**FR901** Elected Greens will work to introduce a moratorium on the sale of ancient woodland from the PFE, as defined under the Ancient Woodlands Inventory.

**FR902** Elected Greens will work to amend the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to exclude ‘biodiversity offsetting’.

**FR903** Elected Greens will encourage rewilding in certain areas to encourage natural regeneration.

**FR904** A Green Government will promote appropriate planting to enhance biodiversity, both within woodland cover and related habitats, particularly understorey.

### **Biosecurity**

**FR1000** A Green Government will recognise the significance of this critical area of research. This will include aspects such as improving the regulation and practice of biosecurity, embracing the Biosecurity Continuum, ensuring the updating and analysis of the risk register, improving training Border Agency staff in identifying problem plants and products, and including biosecurity management in relevant course curricula and increasing the capacity of Plant Health Services.

### **Building a Wood Culture**

**FR1100** A Green Government will promote access for children and young people into wooded areas, and ensure schools across England and Wales are fully aware of the roles available in forestry. Forest schools will be encouraged.

**FR1101** A Green Government will ensure that forest ecosystems and management are incorporated into school curricula; in Further and Higher Education there will be encouragement to include wood, forest and woodland cover into relevant subject areas.

### **Public Access and Health Benefits**

**FR1200** A Green Government will work to ensure that no person lives more than 500m from green spaces with trees and encourage community woodland.

**FR1201** Elected Greens will work to promote the health and well-being benefits of access to trees and woodlands.

**FR1202** Elected Greens will work towards maintaining and improving current levels of public access, and pay special attention to community and urban woodland within the planning process.

### **Standards**

**FR1300** In enacting this policy elected Greens recognise the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the Forest Stewardship Council’s (FSC), UK Forestry Stewardship Standard (UKFSS) and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) for forestry and woodland management; the Woodland Carbon Code for sustainable forest-carbon sequestration management; the Grown in Britain licence for ensuring provenance; the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) for chain of custody and the Soil Association Organic Standards for Woodland.

### **Research & Development**

**FR1400** A Green Government will fund innovative and targeted research, including different timber species’ strengths and utility; CO2 sequestration potential, future planting needs and species suitability under climatic changes; mapping research on land areas most suited to energy creation, food growing, urban growth and conservation; planting opportunities mapping; research into organic pest control; climate change adaptation and resilience opportunities, particularly flood mitigation.

# D

# Organisational Motions

## DO 1 AN URGENT AND HOLISTIC REVIEW OF HOW THE GREEN PARTY OPERATES

**Peter Frings (\*)** peterfrings@macace.net

*Benjamin Groom, Brian Heatley, Caroline Lucas, Cate Cody, David Flint, Elise Benjamin, John Macefield, Judy Maciejowska, Liz Carlton, Mark Redding, Natalie Bennett, Oliver Dowding, Robert Buckman, Sam Riches, Sandy Irvine, Sian Berry, Tom Chance, Tom Harris*

[SOC note: If D01 Amendment 6 falls, and motion D01 passes, then motion A15 will not be taken]

### Synopsis

To become a dynamic party fit for the 21st century the Green Party needs a holistic review of how it organises and operates. Because this review needs to be conducted urgently and with agility, it should be performed by a commission of people selected for their skills and experience.

[a fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order by SOC]

### Motion

Conference instructs GPEX and GPRC to immediately:

1) Establish a Commission, chaired by a respected member of the party, to conduct a full and open review of the Party's structure and organisation, and produce a final report for approval, no later than the Party's autumn conference in 2018, and for the submission of proposals so approved to a referendum of the Party's full membership immediately thereafter.

#### Amendment 1

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

In paragraph bullet 1:

After "final report for approval" insert:  
"ideally for Autumn Conference 2018 but"

Delete "2018" and replace with: 2019

So that it reads:

"1. Establish a Commission to conduct a full and open review

of the Party's structure and organisation, and produce a final report for approval, ideally for Autumn Conference 2018 but no later than the Party's autumn conference in 2019, and for the submission of proposals so approved to a referendum of the Party's full membership immediately thereafter."

#### Amendment 2

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

In paragraph bullet 1:

Delete "approval" and replace with: "deliberation and where required amendment"

So that it reads:

1. Establish a Commission to conduct a full and open review of the Party's structure and organisation, and produce a final report for deliberation and where required amendment, no later than the Party's autumn conference in 2018, and for the submission of proposals so approved to a referendum of the Party's full membership immediately thereafter.

2) Agree a terms of reference for the review that confirms that the review is bounded only by the twin pillars of the Party's philosophical basis and its belief that Party members should have ultimate democratic control and ownership over Party policy. Apart from these two pillars, the terms of reference should make it clear that all other questions regarding Party organisation and structure should be open to debate and discussion in a manner consistent with the Party's codes of conduct and democratic values.

3) Appoint a Chair to the Commission and agree the basis on which up to ten additional members may be appointed, selected for their skills and experience, and also agree that the Commission's work will be supported by a small secretariat provided by national party staff.

#### Amendment 3

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

[SOC ruled a fragment of this amendment Out of Order]

In the first sentence which starts "Conference instructs":

Delete: "instructs GPEX and GPRC to"

And replace with: "shall"

In paragraph bullet 1:

Delete: “, chaired by a respected member of the party,”

In Paragraph bullet 2:

At the start of the first sentence delete: “agree”

And replace with: “Instruct GPEx to collate”

Between “the review” and “that confirms” Insert:

“, to be ratified by GPRC,”

In Paragraph 3:

At the start of the first sentence insert: “Instruct GPEx to”

Between “Commission” and “and” insert: “, to be ratified by GPRC.”

Delete “and agree” from the first sentence and replace with: “Instruct SOC to establish”

After “skills and experience” insert: “with no more than 2 being appointed by GPEx and no more than 2 being appointed by GPRC with the rest of the members being appointed from across the party.”

Delete “and also agree that” replace with: “Conference requests that GPEx makes a thorough assessment of the availability of staff time and budgetary pressure, and if possible,”

So that it reads:

Conference shall immediately:

1. Establish a Commission to conduct a full and open review of the Party’s structure and organisation, and produce a final report for approval, no later than the Party’s autumn conference in 2018, and for the submission of proposals so approved to a referendum of the Party’s full membership immediately thereafter.

2. Instruct GPEx to collate a terms of reference for the review, to be ratified by GPRC, that confirms that the review is bounded only by the twin pillars of the Party’s philosophical basis and its belief that Party members should have ultimate democratic control and ownership over Party policy. Apart from these two pillars, the terms of reference should make it clear that all other questions regarding Party organisation and structure should be open to debate and discussion in a manner consistent with the Party’s codes of conduct and democratic values.

3. Instruct GPEx to appoint a Chair to the Commission, to be ratified by GPRC. Instruct SOC to establish the basis on which up to ten additional members may be appointed, selected for their skills and experience, with no more than 2 being appointed by GPEx and no more than 2 being appointed by GPRC with the rest of the members being appointed from

across the party. Conference requests that GPEx makes a thorough assessment of the availability of staff time and budgetary pressure, and if possible, the Commission’s work will be supported by a small secretariat provided by national party staff.

4) Instruct the Commission to agree a structure, including key questions for the review, and to engage with all members and common interest groups within the Party at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### **Amendment 4**

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

In paragraph bullet 4:

Between “and to” and “engage with” insert “attempt to”

So that it reads:

“4. Instruct the Commission to agree a structure, including key questions for the review, and to attempt to engage with all members and common interest groups within the Party at the earliest possible opportunity.”

5) Conference further agrees to:

Suspend further consideration of proposals from the Governance Review Group (GRG) but integrate the work of, and current proposals from, the GRG to date into the review of the Commission.

#### **Amendment 5**

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

In paragraph bullet 5.

Delete “of the Commission”

Between “into the” and “review” insert: “Commission’s”

“5. Conference further agrees to:

Suspend further consideration of proposals from the Governance Review Group (GRG) but integrate the work of, and current proposals from, the GRG to date into the Commission’s review.”

#### **Amendment 6**

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

Delete Paragraph bullet 5.

## **DO2 ELECTION MESSAGING STRATEGY THAT HIGHLIGHTS ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**East Midlands Green Party, Gerhard Lohmann–Bond (\*)**  
Lohmann–Bond@live.de

*Alan Borgars, Denise Donaldson, Harry Mellor, Martin Blake, Scott Manbuttt, Steve Miller*

## Synopsis

Conference notes with regret that key issues of environmental degradation and climate change were ignored by the main political parties in the run-up to the 2017 general election. We are aware that these issues will blight the lives of millions of people over the coming years leaving them without adequate food, water, or shelter and leading a permanently precarious existence.

## Motion

Conference instructs GPEX and in particular the Elections and External Communications Coordinators to bring forward an election messaging strategy that will highlight our distinct policies on the economy and the environment, and emphasise at every opportunity how these radical policies will contribute to building a more equal and peaceful society that allows all to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

## DO3 CHANGING THE GREEN PARTY MESSAGE AND TARGET-TO-WIN

**Martin Harrison (\*)** martin@vistecprivat.net

*Alan Borgars, Brenda Gosling, Caroline Bowes, Chit Chong, Clive Lord, David Flint, Drodney Tunstall, Edward Gildea, Gary Simpson, Jonathan Tyler, Joyce Barnett, Judy Maciejowska, Lucy Sommers, Mike Shone, Peter Barnett, Ray Cunningham, Rich Daley, Richard Clark, Rodrigo Capucho Paulo, Rupert Read, Sandy Irvine, Susan Ryland*

## Synopsis

Conference instructs GPEX to commission two reports for conference on a change in Green Party message and target-to-win approach.

## Motion

Conference notes the collapse in the Green vote at the 2017 general election. Conference proposes a change in message so that The Green Party sounds like an ecological party, demonstrating its distinctive standpoint from all other parties. This should be done by bringing an ecological dimension to issues wherever possible and giving ecological issues a higher priority in its messages.

Conference therefore instructs GPEX to provide research and resources in the form of talking points and background to the talking points, to party members generally and especially our representatives. The purpose of this briefing is to help them emphasise and explain ecological themes and bring ecological issues into discussion of topics not normally associated with them. “Ecological” themes and issues are those which relate to our core value:

“The Earth’s physical resources are finite. We threaten our

future if we try to live beyond those means, so we must build a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future.”

This research should include as its priority, an examination of the following themes

- 1) the problem of “Abrupt climate change.” Abrupt climate change is the process by which climate change suddenly begins to accelerate, due to positive feedback. Climate change has now become an emergency.
- 2) “Sustainability” as the foundation of a green economy, the positive solution to (1) and other problems.

This research will take the form of a “Talking points” report which GPEX will present to spring conference with a view to allow the Green Party to message green themes more effectively.

Further to this, conference mandates GPEX to commission an investigation by a committee of appropriate personnel as to which constituencies hold promise for us to focus on once we have adopted this new approach. Special attention should be paid to constituencies where the Green Party vote held-up or out-performed in the 2017 election.

This report, called the “Target report”, will run in parallel with the Talking points report, with communication and co-operation between those working on the two reports. The Target report will also be presented by GPEX to spring conference.

### Amendment 1

[a fragment of this amendment has been ruled out of order by SOC]

*Mark Sleightholm, Alison Whalley, Frances Hinton, Andrew Gray*

Delete the final two paragraphs, from “Further to this” onwards.

## DO4 UPDATED POLICY ON ELECTORAL ALLIANCES FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

**Sian Berry (\*)** sianberrylondon@gmail.com

*Aimee Challenor, Caroline Lucas, Caroline Russell, Charles Dreyer, Elise Benjamin, Ewan Jones, Gerald Turner, James Corré, Jonathan Bartley, Klina Jordan, Natalie Bennett, Richard Savage, Rob Shepherd, Tom Chance*

## Synopsis

Conference is asked to recognise the impact made by electoral

alliances on the outcome of the June 8 General Election, and to update its policy on electoral alliances for the period up to the next General Election.

[a fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order by SOC]

## Motion

Conference acknowledges that this was an exceptional General Election in difficult circumstances, and thanks all its candidates for their hard work and commitment; recognises that while our vote share went down the 2017 election result is the Party's second best on record and that the hung parliament which resulted represents a potential opportunity to avoid an extreme Brexit, as well as the absence from the Queen's Speech of controversial and damaging policies like the dementia tax, extension of the grammar school programme and fox-hunting.

Conference notes that a hung parliament was the consequence, at least in part, of the decision of a number of local Green parties choosing to stand aside in marginal constituencies

Conference recognises that while some of these arrangements were made in return for the candidate who benefitted committing to fight for electoral reform if they were elected, they cannot generally be regarded as electoral alliances, since there was no reciprocation.

Conference further recognises that the concept of an alliance, and the widespread non Green Party tactical voting initiatives promoted by other organisations that took place during this general election had a positive outcome on mobilising anti-Tory voters but had a negative impact on the Green vote and on electoral alliances strategy.

Conference regrets the fact that, while there was support and enthusiasm for the concept of electoral alliances from the general public and within many local Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, this was not matched by serious commitment from the national leadership of either party.

### Amendment 1

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Aimee Challenor, Caroline Russell, Paul Philo, Andree Frieze**

Delete paragraphs 1–5 and insert three amended paragraphs: “Conference acknowledges that this was an exceptional General Election in difficult circumstances, thanks all candidates for their hard work and commitment, and recognises that while our vote share went down the 2017 election result is the Party's second best on record.

Conference notes that the hung parliament resulting from the election was the consequence, at least in part, of the decision of a number of local Green parties choosing to stand aside in marginal constituencies.

Conference recognises that the broad concept of an alliance, aided by tactical voting initiatives promoted by organisations that did not have electoral reform as their primary aim, had a positive impact on mobilising anti-Tory voters but had a negative impact on the overall Green vote share.”

### Amendment 2

**John Coyne, Mike Shone, Jenny Rust, Janet Alty, Hilary Wendt, Fiona Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Lawrence Brown**

In the first paragraph of the motion, delete all after “hard work and commitment”.

And delete paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Conference notes that the electoral landscape post the 2017 General Election is very different, that the grounds for electoral alliances have evolved and that any electoral alliance entered into in future must be in the best interests of the Green Party of England and Wales.

Conference welcomes the fact that motions are being passed at Constituency Labour Parties around the country to support devolving the power to decide whether or not to field General Election candidates from the national party to local parties.

### Amendment 3

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Aimee Challenor, Caroline Russell, Paul Philo, Andree Frieze**

Delete paragraph 7 [SOC note: paragraph beginning “Conference welcomes”] and replace with:

“Conference notes that motions are being passed at Constituency Labour Parties around the country both in support of proportional representation and in support of devolving to members in each constituency the power to decide whether or not to field General Election candidates.”

### Amendment 4

**John Coyne, Sian Berry, Mike Shone, Jenny Rust, Janet Alty, Hilary Wendt, Fiona Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Lawrence Brown**

Delete the paragraph beginning “Conference welcomes the fact that ...”

### Amendment 5

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Aimee Challenor, Caroline Russell, Paul Philo, Ewan Jones, Andree Frieze, John Coyne, Mike Shone, Jenny Rust, Janet Alty, Hilary Wendt, Fiona Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Lawrence Brown**

Before the heading “Conference therefore instructs:”, insert the following paragraph.

“Conference considers that, while it is right to acknowledge as positive or progressive certain policies and positions of other parties, assigning a “progressive” political category to whole parties whose platforms differ in important respects from ours

is problematic.”

### Conference therefore instructs:

#### Amendment 6

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Aimee Challenor, Caroline Russell, Paul Philo, Andree Frieze**

Insert an additional numbered point as point (1.) and renumber the points that follow.

“1. GPEX, GPRC and the leadership to ensure that Party messaging reflects both Spring 2017 Conference Resolution D01 and the difficulties of defining a consistent ‘progressive’ category to parties with which we share a limited number of policy positions, and to refer in official communications only to ‘electoral alliances’, as D01 sets out.”

#### Amendment 7

**John Coyne, Mike Shone, Jenny Rust, Janet Alty, Hilary Wendt, Fiona Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Lawrence Brown**

Insert an additional numbered point as point (1.) and renumbering

1. GPEX, GPRC and the leadership to ensure that, in official communications, there is no further reference to the noun “progressives” as a collective term to include GPEW, Labour, Lib Dems and other parties;

1. GPEX and the Leadership to use all appropriate opportunities to continue to highlight the clear policy differences between the Green Party and other parties and to maximise the Green vote.

#### Amendment 8

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Aimee Challenor, Caroline Russell, Paul Philo, Andree Frieze**

In point 1. under “Conference therefore instructs”, replace “maximise the Green vote” with “maximise the Party’s national impact and profile, including by taking steps that support the rapid introduction of proportional representation”.

2. The Leadership to actively prioritise and support the election of more Green councillors.

3. GPEX and GPRC to ensure that any proposals for electoral alliances between GPEW and other parties are governed by the terms of Resolution D01, Spring 2017, with the replacement of the 2020 end date by 2022;

4. GPEX, GPRC and the Leadership to emphasise that any future decisions by local parties to enter into electoral alliances should be both conditional on genuine reciprocation (at local and/or national level) and strategically focused, for example on marginal constituencies.

5. Officers of the national party to prepare guidance for local

parties on how best to approach negotiations about electoral alliances and for such guidance to include examples of best practice and successes.

6. The Elections Coordinator to publish a list of genuine marginal constituencies to guide local parties that might want to explore electoral alliances at the next General Election.

#### Amendment 9

**John Coyne, Mike Shone, Jenny Rust, Janet Alty, Hilary Wendt, Fiona Coyne, Sarah Jennings, Lawrence Brown**

After the final numbered point underneath “Conference therefore instructs:” insert an additional numbered point. “GPEX, GPRC and the leadership to ensure that there is no further use of the term “progressive alliance” or “progressive alliances” on behalf of GPEW or by the GPEW leaders; noting that the term “electoral alliance” was endorsed by resolution D01 in the Spring 2017 Conference.”

## D05 RELINQUISHING “PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE”

**Rupert Read (\*)** rupertread@fastmail.co.uk

*Alan Borgars, Charlie Bolton, Hazel Dawe, Hilary Wendt, Ian Sadler, John Coyne, John Knight, John Whitelegg, Mike Shone, Richard Firth, Scott Bartle, Shahrar Ali, Steve Dawe, Steven Neville*

### Synopsis

Conference is asked to settle the GPEW position on “Progressive Alliance” and to give a clear request to the leadership not to use the term. Conference reaffirms the intentions of Resolution D01 Electoral Alliances for Proportional Representation, Spring 2017 and gives some further guidance.

### Motion

Conference applauds the skill and commitment of the current leadership and deputy leadership team and appreciates their hard work and outstanding media performances. Any direction from Conference to the leadership should be seen in that positive context.

Conference considers that any further promotion of a “Progressive Alliance” project by the Green Party or its leadership would be unwise given the clear rejection of the idea by the Labour and Lib Dem party leaderships.

Conference considers that, while it is right to acknowledge any positive or progressive actions and positions of other parties from time to time, it is unhelpful to try to define a “progressive” political category including the Greens, Labour, Lib Dems and some other parties.

#### Amendment 1

**James Corré, Sian Berry, Aimee Challenor, Paul Philo, Caroline**

*Russell, Ewan Jones, Andree Frieze*

Delete paragraphs 2 and 3, from “Conference considers that any further promotion...” to “...some other parties.” and replace with:

”Conference considers that, while it is right to acknowledge any positive or progressive actions and positions of other parties assigning a “progressive” political category to whole parties whose platforms differ in important respects from ours is problematic.”

Conference therefore requests the leadership, GPEX and GPRC each to ensure that;

- » there is no further advocacy of “progressive alliances” on behalf of GPEW or by the GPEW leaders;
- » in Party messaging, there is no further reference to the noun “progressives” as a collective term to include GPEW, Labour, Lib Dems and other parties;

### **Amendment 2**

*James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Andree Frieze, Aimee Challenor, Paul Philo, Caroline Russell*

Replace bullets one and two with:

- neither the Party’s communications nor electoral strategy includes any further proactive promotion of electoral alliances in the absence of a clear commitment on the part of the allied candidate or party to electoral reform.
  - any further public and private advocacy of electoral alliances on behalf of GPEW is consistent with the Party’s electoral strategy.
  - all Party messaging reflects the spirit of this motion and of D01 (Spring 2017).
- » any proposals for electoral alliances between GPEW and other parties are governed by the terms of Resolution D01, Spring 2017, with the replacement of the 2020 end date by 2022;
  - » given the limited prospect of other parties also seeking a credible electoral alliance for proportional representation following the general election of 2017, the GPEW scales back public positioning on electoral alliances but continues to campaign for PR as a fair electoral system where every vote counts; and

### **Amendment 3**

*James Corré, Sian Berry, Ewan Jones, Andree Frieze, Aimee Challenor, Paul Philo, Caroline Russell.*

Replace “given the limited prospect of other parties also seeking a credible electoral alliance for proportional representation following the general election of 2017” with “Until such time as there is a credible electoral alliance for proportional representation”.

- » this motion is noted at the first available meeting of GPEX and of GPRC.

Conference notes that the decision to stand or not stand candidates in local and general elections is one for each local party to take. Conference recommends to local parties that any local agreements with other political parties should always include an element of reciprocity – give and take – between the parties.

Conference considers that, despite the normal expectation for the Green Party to compete in and seek to win elections at all levels of government, there should be no barrier to cooperation between elected representatives of different political parties when that is in the public interest. Nothing in this motion should be taken as a prohibition of such cross party work.

## **D06 FUTURE ELECTORAL DEALS WITH OTHER PARTIES**

**South Lincolnshire Green Party, Martin Blake (\*)** martinb4@btinternet.com

*Daniel Wilshire, Gerhard Lohmann–Bond, Heather Violet*

### **Synopsis**

Achieving a fairer voting system must be at the heart of any future electoral deals with other political parties.

### **Motion**

Conference notes with regret that, in the General Election 2017, some local parties stood aside to give Labour or the Liberal Democrats a clear run at unseating an incumbent Conservative MP, without the Green Party receiving any corresponding benefit in return. Conference acknowledges that this was not in line with motions previously passed by Conference, which made clear that the purpose of electoral alliances was to increase the number of MPs who have made a clear commitment to support electoral reform. It also notes with regret the damage done to the Green Party’s long-term electoral prospects by the outcome of the General Election, not least because of tactical voting by former Green supporters, sometimes to no logical purpose in seats which were never marginal enough to change hands.

Conference further regrets that tactical voting by Green supporters may have been encouraged by mixed messages coming from national level, resulting in a widespread assumption that our first priority was to get rid of the Conservative government. Desirable as this may be as an outcome, it was contrary to the intentions of the earlier motions advocating the limited use of progressive alliances. Conference therefore resolves to instruct GPEX to remind local parties that:

- 1) The future prospects of the Green Party, in terms of both income and media coverage, depend on maximising the number of votes for the Party at every election.

- 2) It remains Green Party policy to try to put up a candidate in every constituency at General Elections.
- 3) Any local party wishing not to stand a Green candidate in order to help the candidate of another political party should first seek advice from GPEX or GPRC. GPEX/GPRC will remind the local party concerned that such electoral deals should only be entered into where the purpose is to secure the election of a candidate who has made a formal commitment to support a bill for electoral reform in the following parliament, and/or where the other political party has signed up to a reciprocal deal to stand down for the Green Party in another constituency.

*Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Aimee Challenor*

In the final paragraph:

Delete “may be composited in at this stage, or” and replace with “shall”

After “to the composited motion” insert “, SOC shall be responsible for ensuring that the amendment remains grammatically correct”

After the final paragraph insert a new paragraph:

“The composite motion shall be put by SOC to Conference for acceptance or rejection and shall be accepted or rejected on a simple majority. In the event of such a rejection, the individual motions shall be voted upon in an order to be determined by SOC subject to approval by Conference.”

So that it reads:

“If two (or more) motions submitted to the First Agenda overlap in purpose, SOC will work with the proposers of the motions to create a single composite motion. In the event of the two proposers being unable to reach consensus SOC may composite the motion. Amendments to the motions on the First Agenda shall stand as amendments to the composited motion, SOC shall be responsible for ensuring that the amendment remains grammatically correct. Any composite motions will be reported to conference via the SOC Report and both the original motions and the composite will be published in the Final Agenda.

The composite motion shall be put by SOC to Conference for acceptance or rejection and shall be accepted or rejected on a simple majority. In the event of such a rejection, the individual motions shall be voted upon in an order to be determined by SOC subject to approval by Conference.”

## DO7 COMPOSITING OF MOTIONS TO CONFERENCE

**SOC, Martin Hemingway (\*)** mhemingway1@virginmedia.com

*Andrew Hunter–Rossall, Jen Law, Jill Mills*

### Synopsis

Compositing is an important mechanism in preparing a single motion to conference from two related motions. It may refine thinking, while also saving plenary time. This motion proposes a simplification of the procedure for compositing.

### Motion

Delete clause A(7) of Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC)

“If it is necessary to combine some of the motions into a composite motion both the original and composited motions shall be published in the First Agenda (see Section E2)”

Section E(2) currently reads:

“SOC may consolidate motions into a single composite motion and publish the composite motion together with the individual motions. The composite motion shall be put by SOC to Conference for acceptance or rejection and shall be accepted or rejected on a simple majority. In the event of such a rejection, the individual motions shall be voted upon in an order to be determined by SOC subject to approval by Conference.”

Replace section E(2) with:

“If two (or more) motions submitted to the First Agenda overlap in purpose, SOC will work with the proposers of the motions to create a single composite motion. In the event of the two proposers being unable to reach consensus SOC may composite the motion. Amendments to the motions on the First Agenda may be composited in at this stage, or stand as amendments to the composited motion. Any composite motions will be reported to conference via the SOC Report and both the original motions and the composite will be published in the Final Agenda.”

### Amendment 1

*Douglas Rouxel, Hannah Clare, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole,*

## DO8 CONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY

**LGBTQIA+ Greens, Aimee Challenor (\*)** aimee.challenor@lgbtiq.greenparty.org.uk

*Baloo Challenor, Chandler Wilson, Jenny Jones, Katrina Swales, Lee–Anne Lawrance, Molly Arthurs*

### Synopsis

This motion aims to ensure that members who may face difficulties in attending conference and other large Green Party events are more able to do so in future

### Motion

Conference instructs Conference Committee and the Equality and Diversity Coordinator(s) on the Green Party Executive (GPEX) to work together ahead of all future Green Party Conferences and any other major or large events hosted by the Green Party of England and Wales, to ensure that the following accessibility issues are dealt with. Conference instructs Conference Committee and the Equality and Diversity Coordinator(s) on GPEX to work with the relevant Liberation

Groups on these issues.

- » Live subtitling and BSL interpreters should be available and accurate including on any livestreamed video
- » The venue should have accessible wheelchair friendly toilets that can be accessed by wheelchair users without the need for another person to be present, for example, these toilets should not be behind heavy doors, these must be available on all floors, which are accessible during the whole conference time and clearly signposted
- » The venue should have accessible Gender Neutral Toilets available on all floors, which are accessible during the whole conference time and clearly signposted
- » All areas of the conference should be accessible to those in wheelchairs, accommodations must be made so that lifts work for multi-floor access and there are not excessive distances between areas
- » Childcare must be available to party members for all periods that conference is 'open' this can be done in the form of a crèche.
- » Large print and other accessible versions of the final agenda and timetable should be made available on the members' website
- » Provision must be made for information packs in Braille for visually impaired attendees who cannot access print material.
- » Signage must be in a large print font that can be read easily from a distance of 3 metres, this must be in contrasting colours, and printed signs must include embossed braille, the braille must be at a height which can be read easily by those with visual impairments.

## DO9 INTERIM POLICY POSITIONS

**Sam Riches (\*)** sandwiches@hotmail.com

*Brian Heatley, Caroline Lucas, Clare Phipps, David Rey, Elise Benjamin, Emma Carter, Emma Randall, Gabor Valter, John Coyne, John Street, Liz Carlton, Oliver Dowding, Paul Jeater, Peter Barnett, Richard Clark, Samantha Jordan, Simeon Jackson, Steve Betteridge, Stuart Jeffery*

### Synopsis

This motion establishes a method for policy vacuums to be filled when there is an urgent need to provide clarity on the Green Party's position on an issue. It allows for a rapid response that includes transparency and accountability, and allows Conference to subsequently amend the interim policy position.

### Motion

#### **Subsection 1.**

Insert into the Constitution a new clause, at **13. vii.**:

'Interim Policy Positions.

Political Committee are enabled to propose Interim Policy

Positions on a specific issue provided:

(a) Policy Development Committee agree that there is no relevant policy in Policies for a Sustainable Society on this issue;

(b) The Regional Council agree that there is urgency to provide clarity on the Green Party's position on this issue.

An Interim Policy Position can clarify or expand upon existing policy, or can be completely new policy, but it cannot contradict existing policy in Policies for a Sustainable Society or Records of Policy Statements.

Proposed text is sent to the Regional Council for interim ratification as urgent business through the provisions of the Rapid Policy Approvals Process.

The text of all Interim Policy Positions will be published on the members' website in a dedicated Interim Policy Positions forum. This will have the same effect as raising a topic in the pre-agenda forum as a necessary prelude to proposing a policy motion to the next Conference.

The motion put to Conference will be to ratify the text in the form of an Interim Policy Statement, open to amendments as per a policy motion in the standard policy process, with the exception that an amendment cannot be ruled out of order for tending to negate the original text.

Policy Development Committee will be expected to ensure that the outcome of the debate on the Interim Policy Statement leads to a motion to update Policies for a Sustainable Society in accordance with the Conference decision; that motion will be raised through the standard policy process and will be subject to amendments as usual.'

#### **Subsection 2.**

Conference instructs Policy Development Committee and the Green Party Regional Council to bring forward a motion to the next practicable Conference with the intention of transferring Political Committee's role in this situation to a mainly-elected body of which the leadership team are members ex-officio, some places are nominated by GPRC to cover diversity criteria and gaps in policy expertise among the elected members. The motion will also outline the new body's remit, including a duty to consult as widely as practicable within the time constraints, especially with relevant Policy Working Groups and party spokespeople.

## D10 CAMPAIGNING PRIORITIES

**Peter Allen (\*)** peter.allen@greenparty.org.uk

*Charlotte Farrell, Chris Cuff, David Lander Raby, David Taylor, Declan O'Neill, John de Carteret, Julie Taylor, Nicole Haydock, Paul Philo, Peter Murry, Simon Hales*

## Synopsis

The party will prioritise campaigning for action to respond to the various health emergencies, recognising that the best hope for such action is by the election of a Labour led government under pressure from a broad popular movement, which the Green Party has a vital role in building.

(references... (cut due to excessive length)

[a fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order by SOC]

## Motion

Conference recognises that climate change and other environmental threats pose the biggest challenges to good health **(CC01)** It also recognises that poor health and health inequality is directly related to poverty and wealth inequality **(HE100–102)**

The GPEW will prioritise campaigning for Public Health and Safety in the broadest sense and for a programme of emergency measures including:

- 1) The immediate funding of a programme of work to make all homes and public buildings fire safe, combining such work with safe energy efficiency measures (EN121)
- 2) The immediate funding of an extensive expansion of low carbon public transport (TR200)
- 3) The immediate funding of a programme of renewable energy , to greatly increase the rate at which the UK moves away from the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation (EN001)
- 4) An immediate and ongoing increase of funding for the NHS and Local Authorities, to substantially increase real spending on health and social care, bringing spending at least to the current EU average, paid for in part by the introduction of a dedicated NHS Tax

**(HE1301) (SW103) (HE 1303)**

The GPEW will also campaign in support of

- » Client Earth’s call for a new Clean Air ( ROPS Spring 2017)
- » the TUC’s 2016 Welfare Charter which demands an end to the benefit sanctions regime, an end to Work Capacity Assessments, an end to compulsory work for–benefit–programmes (workfare), together with a high legal minimum wage, and ‘a non–means tested, non–discriminatory benefit payable to all, with housing costs met, allied with extensive provision of low–cost housing’ ( ROPS Spring 2017)

## D11 SET UP A CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM WORKING GROUP

**Brig Oubridge (\*)** brig@phonecoop.coop

*Alan Francis, Alex Raws, Joshua Baker, Ken Taylor, Linda*

*Oubridge, Michael Pope, Peter Matthews, Richard Bolton, Rob Steel, Shane Collins, Steve Muggeridge, Sue Wright, Teresa Fallon*

## Synopsis

The 2017 Labour Party manifesto included a commitment to set up a Constitutional Convention. John McDonnell has indicated that this will be done shortly, and will be open to cross–party representations. It is important that the Green Party takes part in this process and appoints a group to represent it.

## Motion

This Conference instructs GPRC, in consultation with the Political Committee, to appoint without delay a Constitutional Reform working group with the specific task of representing the Green Party’s views to any Constitutional Convention which may be established by the Labour Party in fulfilment of its 2017 general election manifesto pledge so to do.

## D12 INTRODUCE A PROCEDURAL CARD TO CONFERENCE PLENARIES

**Rich Daley (\*)** rich@richd.me

*Bill Walton, Clive Lord, Declan Walsh, Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Jane Clifford, Lucas North, Rachel Hartshorne, Richard Firth, Ruthi Brandt, Thomas Pashby*

## Synopsis

The procedure for interrupting Conference plenaries is to stand up and shout or run to the front. This isn’t appropriate for those with anxiety or mobility issues.

This motion introduces a new card to be waved for procedural matters. It has a lower, discretionary, priority than the existing Inclusion Card.

## Motion

Insert into **SOCC, §F7**: “Calling members to speak”:

“(c) Conference attendees on request will be issued with a procedural card, which can be used during Conference plenaries. Attendees can wave the card to alert the chair to their desire to interrupt the plenary for one of the following reasons:

- » Point of Order / Information
- » Question for Chair, Proposer or Committee
- » Procedural Motion (e.g. to take the current motion in parts, or refer back)

The chair may use their discretion on whether to interrupt the plenary to hear the attendee speak. All of these procedural interruptions may also be raised using a speaker slip as described in 7a above.”

# D13 PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES MAY REMAIN IN PLACE UP TO 18 MONTHS AFTER GENERAL ELECTION

**Brig Oubridge (\*)** brig@phonecoop.coop

Alex Raws, Joshua Baker, Ken Taylor, Linda Oubridge, Michael Pope, Peter Matthews, Richard Bolton, Rob Steel, Shane Collins, Steve Mugeridge, Sue Wright, Teresa Fallon

## Synopsis

Add new byelaw to those concerning selection of parliamentary candidates to enable duly selected candidates to remain in place up to a maximum of 18 months after a general election without a fresh selection process. At present there is no byelaw stating when a fresh process has to take place.

## Motion

In the Green Party Constitution, Bye-laws referred to in **clause 5(xvii)** Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons, insert new sub-section 11 as below, and renumber subsequent sub-sections:

11. Duration of candidacy: a duly selected parliamentary candidate shall remain as such until a period of eighteen months has elapsed since the general election next following the selection of that candidate, unless before that time either (a) the candidate voluntarily steps down or agrees to submit themselves to a re-selection process; or (b) the candidate is formally de-selected (see below); or (c) there is a significant change to the boundary of the relevant parliamentary constituency; following which a fresh selection process must take place.

# D14 ELECTION OF LEADERSHIP TEAM USING STV FOR ORDERED LIST

**Shahrar Ali (\*)** shahrar.ali@greenparty.org.uk

*Aimee Challenor, Amelie Boleyn, Anthony Slaughter, Clare Phipps, Jemima Luanga, Jenny Jones, Lenia Evans, Matthew John Hodgkinson, Nico Fekete, Nigel Rolland, Rachel Collinson, Rashid Nix, Ricky Knight, Ronald Stewart, Scott Bartle, Steve Jackson*

## Synopsis

The motion seeks to elect a Leaders team in accordance with STV for an ordered list on a single ballot, in conjunction with balancing rules. We seek to improve (a) democratic accountability (b) allow candidates to stand for all positions; (c) improve minority representation and opportunity; (d) provide for reserves.

## Motion

In constitution:

Delete **8.iv**:

The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined. Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a jobshare in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader.

Replace with new 8.iv:

Candidates standing as individuals for the leadership team may stand simultaneously for leader, co-leader or deputy. Each position enjoys an equal vote on GPEx.

Candidates may stand as a job-share where circumstances mean that the role could not be carried out by one or more of the job-share alone due to restrictions on their time. In this case, the job-share shall be treated as a single candidate.

Whether standing for selection as an individual or as a job-share, all candidates should submit a single nomination, and no more than one, indicating which vacancies they are interested in.

The top three candidates constitute the leadership team, after achieving gender balance (or applying it as necessary) such that at least one of the three must be of a different gender (as self-determined), and after adopting any other balancing rules, e.g. on ethnicity, as stipulated by GPRC. At least one whole role (either comprised of the parts of any job shares or one sole candidate) shall not be a man.

The leadership team will negotiate their permutation of roles for duration of office as either leader and two deputies or co-leaders and single deputy, with the proviso that the top-placed candidate in the ballot will have first refusal on whether to serve as leader or in identifying a member of the team with whom they can serve as co-leader. They may take a lower position on the list should they prefer to serve as deputy or not at all.

## Amendment 1

*Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sabrina Poole, Thomas French, Kat Driscoll, Hannah Clare*

In the new 8.iv, paragraph one, delete:

"Each position enjoys an equal vote on GPEx"

And replace with:

"Each of the three people elected shall be treated as a single post on GPEx and all three shall have a vote each."

So that new 8.iv paragraph one reads:

“Candidates standing as individuals for the leadership team may stand simultaneously for leader, co–leader or deputy. Each of the three people elected shall be treated as a single post on GPEx and all three shall have a vote each.”

To existing 8.v:

The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co–Leaders shall be elected every two years. The election shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the Party.

Add the following:

The ballot(s) will require members to cast preferences for the candidates as in an STV or AV election. There shall be provision for negative voting (Re–open Nominations). The candidate winning the first place on the list will be determined by an AV count of the ballot papers. The second, third, fourth etc. places on the list will be determined in that order by a complete STV count for each place using a quota of  $1/(n+1)$  when determining the nth place. Candidates already elected to the list will take part in later counts and may not be eliminated. Each count will therefore elect one additional candidate to the list.

The final list order shall be subject to the gender balance rule for the top three and any additional rules in place as determined by GPRC prior to the call for nominations stage.

Where, at the first time of asking, there are fewer nominees for a ballot than the number of vacancies, or where the balancing rules could not be met, including any additional balancing rules set by GPRC, the ERRO shall set a new date for close of nominations and will notify all members.

Delete existing 8.xi:

If there are Co–leaders and one of the Co–Leaders resigns, there will be a by–election for both Co–Leaders. If there are two deputy leaders, should one of the deputy leaders resign, there will be a by–election for both deputy leaders.

Replace with new 8.xi:

If one of the leadership team resigns, an additional member will be sought from the next position on the ordered list, subject to balancing rules and renegotiation of the permutation of leadership roles as necessary.

## Amendment 2

*Clare Phipps, Rachel Collinson, Matthew Hawkins, Aimee Challenor*

Delete “Each position enjoys an equal vote on GPEx” from the first paragraph of the new 8iv.

Delete the second paragraph of the new 8iv and replace with “Candidates may stand as a job–share, whereby a role otherwise carried out by one person is split between more than one. Job–shares shall be treated as a single candidate. Each successful candidate will have one vote on GPEx (with those

standing as job–shares exercising this right as per the GPEx standing orders).”

Delete “, indicating which vacancies they are interested in” in the third paragraph of the new 8iv.

Where the motion currently specifies “Delete current 8xi”, replace this with “Delete the current first sentence of 8xi”

Where the motion currently specifies “Replace with new 8.xi.”, delete “new 8xi” so that the subclause reads “Replace with”

Insert the words “or is recalled” to the new first sentence of 8xi so that it reads:

“If one of the leadership team resigns or is recalled, an additional member will be sought from the next position on the ordered list, subject to balancing rules and renegotiation of the permutation of leadership roles as necessary.”

Append to the end of the motion “Delete current 8xii”

## D15 INCLUDE A AND F SECTIONS IN PRE-AGENDA PROCESS

[Proposed for fast–tracking]

**SOC, Martin Hemingway (\*)** [mhemingway1@virginmedia.com](mailto:mhemingway1@virginmedia.com)

*Andrew Hunter–Rossall, Jen Law, Jill Mills*

### Synopsis

The motion seeks to amend section C(1) of SOCC to include section A motions and section F draft briefing papers in the online discussion stage of the pre–Agenda process.

### Motion

The first sentence of **Section C(1) of SOCC** currently reads:

“In order to be included in the First Agenda, online discussion must be initiated for motions for Sections B, C, D and E of the Agenda by the Pre–Agenda deadline for inclusion in a Pre–Agenda”

SOC propose to amend this sentence to include motions (but not reports) submitted for Section A, and draft voting papers submitted for Section F, so that the sentence would read:

“In order to be included in the First Agenda, online discussion must be initiated for sections A (motions only), B, C, D, E and F of the Agenda by the pre–Agenda deadline for inclusion in a Pre–Agenda”.

**Section D(11)** will require some consequential stages:

SOC propose changing ‘five’ to ‘six’ in the introduction to the section so that it reads:

“11. The SOC shall compile the motions accepted into a First Agenda, which shall be divided into six sections which shall be”

SOC propose deleting the final words from D(11)e

“and motions proposing that a DVP proceeds to the VP”

SOC propose creating a new section D(11)f

“f) Draft Voting Papers for discussion at Conference”

## D16 ALLOW ONE-YEAR MEMBERS TO STAND FOR GPEX

**Ronald Stewart (\*)** green@ronald.gl

*Alexander Catt, Alice Saunders, Erin Donovan, Joshua Alston, Louise Young, Lucas North, Molly Arthurs, Peter Marinov, Samuel Porter, Shahrar Ali, Stephen Lloyd, Thomas Pashby*

### Synopsis

This section of the constitution creates unhelpful complication for people who might wish to stand for GPEX.

We should trust the democratic process of the all-member ballot, and allow everyone who has been a member for a year to stand for election to GPEX.

### Motion

In the constitution, **section 7**. Replace the section which currently reads:

7. vi. Candidates for the GPEX Chair and Co-ordinator posts shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPRC members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.

with the following:

7. vi. Candidates for the GPEX Chair and Co-ordinator posts shall have been a member of the Party for the one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales.

## D17 REFORM OF CONFERENCE VOTING WORKING GROUP EXTENSION

[Proposed for fast-tracking]

[Note from SOC: this motion appeared in Appendix 1 of the First Agenda with the motions that lacked sufficient co-proposers. Evidence has since been provided that an additional co-proposer attempted to submit the motion]

Reform of Conference Voting Working Group, **Nicole Haydock (\*)** nicolehaydock@yahoo.com

*Peter Allen, Neil Basil, RoseMary Warrington*

### Synopsis

Due to the “snap” General Election of 8th June 2017 and the unfortunate resignation of the WG’s Convenor since, to give this group sufficient time to continue to engage more fully with regions, internal groups, local parties and individual members and to further explore the practical feasibility of a (cut due to excessive length)

### Motion

Conference resolves to extend the Reforming Conference Voting Working Group’s time-table as per D1 motion “Reforming Conference Voting” approved at the Autumn 2016 Conference for 6 months.

If agreed by Conference, this would enable the Working Group to bring a maximum of 5 options to the Spring 2018 Conference which will then be the subject of a non-binding vote by the whole of the membership as per motion D1. The result of this non-binding vote to be the object of a motion for voting on the preferred option at the Autumn 2018 Conference as per D1.

If approved, this will be followed by a pilot to further test the practicality of the approved option with the aim of becoming fully operational for the Autumn 2019 Conference as per D1.

The mandate of this Working Group to therefore expire at the end of the 2019 Autumn Conference.

# E

# Policy Motions

## EO1 REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE

**Natalie Bennett (\*)** natalieben@gmail.com

*Caroline Lucas, Cathryn Symons, Emily Abbott, Gary Simpson, Graham Wroe, Gus Hoyt, Indar Picton–Howell, Janette Brookes, Jenny Vernon, Jo Poland, Lucy Day, Matthew Buckler, Reece Stafferton, Samir Jeraj, Wendy Stephen*

### Synopsis

There have been recent campaigns and some limited action on microbeads, plastic cotton bud sticks, single–use beverage cups and drink bottles and drinking straws, but far more needs to be done. This motion calls for the party to campaign for an end to the use of all unnecessary single–use plastics.

### Motion

To be added to the **Record of Policy Statements**:

Conference notes that the Ellen MacArthur Foundation has calculated that the weight of plastics in the ocean is likely to exceed that of fish by 2050, and that there's been recent campaigns and some limited action on microbeads, plastic cotton bud sticks, single–use beverage cups and drink bottles and drinking straws, but that far more needs to be done.

It calls on the national executive to campaign to reduce and end the environmental damage done by unnecessary single use plastics, both these products and others, and for our elected representatives to take what action they can to this end.

## EO2 ENABLING MOTION FOR SMALL BUSINESS

[Proposed for fast–tracking]

**Paul Woodhead (\*)** paul.woodhead@greenparty.org.uk

*Andrew Gray, Arlette Carmichael, Ben Groom, Elise Benjamin, Glen Tapper, Hilary Wendt, Ian Sadler, Janet Alty, John Macefield, Jonathan Chilvers, Margaret Okole, Mark Redding, Max McLoughlin, Mike Shone, Rachel Collinson, Richard Jenking, Simon Bull, Steven Neville, Susan Jones*

### Synopsis

One element of achieving our overarching objective for a sustainable society is to develop local, sustainable economies

which help move away from a reliance on corporations to deliver jobs and prosperity and bring locally owned and managed businesses, services and goods within their own locality. Enabling local action to create... (cut due to excessive length)

### Motion

Instruct the Policy Development Committee to facilitate policy development specifically related to small business, the self–employed, sole traders and entrepreneurs.

## EO3 WIDEN APPLICATION OF PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

**Rupert Read (\*)** rupertread@fastmail.co.uk

*Alan Borgars, Andrew Boswell, Anne Chapman, Atus Mariqueo–Russell, Brian Heatley, David Rey, Deepak Rughani, Emma Randall, Jenny Jones, Jim Fisher, Liz Carlton, Martin Harrison, Maximillian Fries, Molly Scott Cato, Paul Jeater, Ray Cunningham, Sandy Irvine, Shahrar Ali, Steven Betteridge*

### Synopsis

The Green Party currently acknowledges the importance of applying the Precautionary Principle to genetically modified organisms (**ST363**). This policy extends its remit to cover threats of ecocide, catastrophe and human extinction that may be posed by some technologies. The policy also commits us to funding research into existential threats.

### Motion

Add to the Science and technology section after **ST300**:

**ST301:** There is a risk that further rapid technological change will bring about new and catastrophic threats to human survival and flourishing, and to the natural world. In line with our moral obligations to future generations, the Green Party supports the creation of a law formalising the Precautionary Principle to be applied to technologies that pose a plausible risk of ecocide, catastrophe or human extinction. The Precautionary Principle applies especially to those risks where we are uncertain or ignorant of their magnitude or likelihood.

**ST302:** Government funding will be allocated through research councils to projects investigating threats of ecocide, catastrophe and human extinction. The findings of such research will be used to inform public policy.

# EO4 CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT PSS ENABLING MOTION

[Proposed for fast-tracking]

**Samuel Murray (\*)** samuelgemurray@hotmail.co.uk

*Anne Poole, Benedict Allbrooke, Caitlin Evans, Emily West, Frankie–Rose Taylor, Hannah Clare, Hannah Graham, Henry Stanton, Michael Poole, Patricia Marsh, Paul Valentine, Sabrina Poole, Samantha Bristow, Samir Jeraj*

## Synopsis

This is an enabling motion to commit the party to review the **Culture, Media & Sport section of the PSS.**

## Motion

This conference instructs Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for a redrafted PSS section on Culture, Media and Sports to a future Conference. The policy development process will be undertaken by a working group, which should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of NGOs, and other relevant organisations and professionals.

# EO5 IMPROVING TRANS RIGHTS POLICY

LGBTQIA+ Greens, **Aimee Challenor (\*)** aimee.challenor@lgbtiq.greenparty.org.uk

*A C Baker, Chandler Wilson, Clare Phipps, Denis Walker, Lee–Anne Lawrance, Lucas North, Molly Arthurs, Rich Daley, Sean Mulcahy, Stephen Lloyd*

## Synopsis

This motion improves the trans rights section of **Responsibilities & Rights** by:

- » articulating what change to law or government policy the party is seeking;
- » explicitly referencing non–binary people;
- » addressing the need to simplify the process for obtaining a gender recognition certificate;
- » addressing discrimination against trans, non–binary and intersex sportspeople.

## Motion

That the policy entitled ‘Trans rights’ be amended to state: ‘Trans and non–binary rights’

That the relevant policies be amended as follows:

**Current RR525:** The Green Party would push for root and branch efforts to address transphobia in society, initiating public education programs both in schools and wider society.

Current anti–discrimination legislation should be reviewed so as to provide protection to all trans individuals. Current exemptions to anti–discrimination legislation should be scrapped

Amend to read:

**RR525** The Green Party would push for root and branch efforts to address transphobia and discrimination or harassment based on gender identity in society, initiating public education programs both in schools and wider society. Current anti–discrimination legislation should be reviewed so as to provide protection to all trans and non–binary individuals. Current exemptions to anti–discrimination legislation should be scrapped

**Current RR526:** The Green Party recognises the following issues and would ensure the reviews of the acts outlined above resolves the following issues:

- » There is currently NO legal recognition for non–binary people
- » There is currently NO legal recognition for trans youth (trans people under the age of 18)
- » There is no provision for the alteration of birth certificates for intersex people
- » Married trans people in England require permission from their spouse before gaining Legal Recognition (the spousal veto)
- » Trans people are often forced to conform to stereotypical gender roles before being able to transition
- » There are few protections for trans people to access services and gendered spaces (such as toilets, sporting facilities or hospitals) that match their affirmed gender.

In sport, trans people are often ‘outed’, subjected to humiliating treatment, forced to provide unnecessary medical details and proofs of ‘genital surgeries’ that have no relevance to the stated aim of ‘ensuring that all of the same gender compete on a level playing field’. This is due to the extensive amount of exemptions contained within the existing Gender Recognition Act, not least of which is that a trans person’s birth certificate does not have the same legal standing as a cis person’s.

**Replace current RR526 with new RR526 and RR527:**

**RR526** A Green Government would review the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the Equalities Act 2010 and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 as they contain significant flaws that discriminate against some trans and non–binary people and thus they are not fit–for–purpose. The Green Party recognises the following issues and would:

- » introduce legal recognition for non–binary people (see RR513)
- » introduce legal recognition for trans and non–binary youth under the age of 18
- » allow trans and non–binary people to self–declare their gender without the need for medical diagnosis or treatment

- » remove any requirement for trans people to conform to stereotypical gender roles before being able to transition and/or to access gender affirmation surgery or hormonal therapy
- » simplify and, where possible, reduce the amount of documentation required to obtain a gender recognition certificate, and ensure that there is a consistent process
- » introduce protections for trans and non–binary people to access services and gendered spaces (such as toilets, sporting facilities or hospitals) that match their affirmed gender.

**RR527** In sport, trans people are often ‘outed’, subjected to humiliating treatment, forced to provide unnecessary medical details and proofs of ‘genital surgeries’ that have no relevance to the stated aim of ‘ensuring that all of the same gender compete on a level playing field’. This is due to the extensive amount of exemptions contained within the existing Gender Recognition Act, not least of which is that a trans person’s birth certificate does not have the same legal standing as a cisgender person’s birth certificate. The Green Party would remove exemptions that allow discrimination against sportspeople who are trans and non–binary (and intersex, see RR511).

## E06 UPDATING SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY

LGBTQIA+ Greens, **Aimee Challenor (\*)** [aimee.challenor@lgbtiq.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:aimee.challenor@lgbtiq.greenparty.org.uk)

*Alexandra Devreux–Swift, Ely Hadaway, Gavin Brown, Ieuan Hall, Lee–Anne Lawrance, Lucas North, Rich Daley, Ronald Stewart, Sahra Taylor, Sean Mulcahy, Stephen Lloyd, Steve Crietzman*

### Synopsis

This motion improves the sexual orientation section of **Responsibilities & Rights** by:

- » specifically recognising bisexuality, asexuality and aromanticism;
- » recognising discrimination based on relationship status;
- » removing the ban on Anglican churches conducting same–sex weddings;
- » allowing recognition of same–sex attracted, gender diverse and more than two parents on a birth certificate.

### Motion

That the following policies

**RR502** Young people should be brought up to understand that they may experience feelings for people of all genders, and that these feelings have potential to enrich their lives. The Green Party would ensure that every teacher is qualified and skilled to provide an LGBTQIA+ inclusive education.

**RR503** Sexual orientation shall not affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person’s work, their sexual orientation is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required.

**RR505** Sexual orientation of a parent, parents or any individual, shall in no way determine or reflect upon their ability and worth in caring for children.

**RR506** We also believe that different–gender couples should be able to have a civil partnership, as an alternative to marriage. In other words, both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination.

**RR507** The Green Party also supports an end to the ban on civil partnerships being conducted in places of worship whilst recognising it is up to religious bodies to make this decision and not for the state to dictate to them prohibitions on civil partnerships.

**RR508** Ensure legal parity for parents and those wishing to become parents regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Maternity services are to provide equality of service without discrimination or prejudice to lesbian and bisexual women, trans people and partners.

be amended to state:

**RR502** Young people should be brought up to understand that they may experience sexual and/or romantic feelings for people of all genders or none, and that these feelings have potential to enrich their lives. The Green Party would ensure that every teacher is qualified and skilled to provide an LGBTQIA+ inclusive education.

**RR503** Sexual orientation or relationship status shall not affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person’s work, their sexual orientation or relationship status is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required.

**RR505** Sexual orientation or relationship status of a parent, parents or any individual, shall in no way determine or reflect upon their ability and worth in caring for children.

**RR506** The Green Party believe that everyone has a right to have their partnerships legally recognised. We also believe that different–gender couples should be able to have a civil partnership, as an alternative to marriage. In other words, both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all couples, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination.

**RR507** The Green Party also supports an end to the ban on civil partnerships being conducted in places of worship and the ban on same–sex marriages being conducted in Anglican churches, whilst recognising it is up to religious bodies to

make this decision and not for the state to dictate to them prohibitions on civil partnerships and/or marriage.

**RR508** Ensure legal parity for parents and those wishing to become parents regardless of sexual orientation, relationship status or gender identity. Maternity services are to provide equality of service without discrimination or prejudice to lesbian and bisexual women, trans people and partners. Equal rights and protections, including recognition of legal parentage on the birth certificate, for children with same–sex attracted and gender diverse parents, and with more than two parents.

That the following be added [and subsequent sections renumbered accordingly]:

**RR510** The Green Party recognises that there are many sexual orientations that are within, and outside of, the traditional sexual binary of heterosexual and homosexual. The Green Party recognises that bisexual people are real and are valid. We recognise that stigmatisation and erasure can be offensive, hurtful and detrimental to bisexual people’s wellbeing.

**RR511** The Green Party reject any stigmatising of asexual and aromantic people and recognise that asexuality and aromanticism are part of the diverse range of human experience. The Green Party would expand the Equality Act to be inclusive of asexuality.

### **Amendment 1**

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, A C Baker*

Insert the following text at the start of the motion, after “That the following policies be amended to state”:

“RR504 The Green Party would ensure that local authorities, housing associations, co–ops and building societies adopt a general statement prohibiting any discrimination towards LGBTIQ+ people in publicity, housing advice, allocations, transfers and mortgage provisions, in line with current law. This would include a provision outlawing discrimination on the basis of relationship status, except where such measures are in place to prevent overcrowding or under–occupation”.

Delete the new RR502 and replace with:

“RR502 Young people should be brought up to understand that there is no “one size fits all approach” to relationships, that they may experience sexual and/or romantic feelings towards people of any or no gender, or they may not experience sexual and/or romantic feelings at all. The Green Party would ensure that every teacher is qualified and skilled to provide an LGBTIQ+ inclusive education which portrays different relationship statuses and styles as valid.”

Delete the last sentence of the new RR506 and replace with “Both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination, including as to relationship status. The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non–romantic/sexual

relationships being recognised in law, including with regards to the legal benefits legal recognition brings.”, so that the full text reads:

“RR506 The Green Party believe that everyone has a right to have their partnerships legally recognised. We also believe that different–gender couples should be able to have a civil partnership, as an alternative to marriage. Both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination, including as to relationship status. The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non–romantic/sexual relationships, including carer relationships, being recognised in law with the benefits legal recognition brings.”

Delete the new RR508 and replace with:

“RR508 The Green Party will ensure

(a) legal parity for parents and guardians and prospective parents and guardians regardless of sexual orientation, relationship status or gender identity;

(b) adoption, education, pre– and post–birth health and social care facilities provide equality of service without discrimination or prejudice to all people seeking to use them, regardless of sexual orientation, relationship status or gender identity;

(c) equal rights and protections, including recognition of legal parentage, for children with same–sex attracted and gender diverse parents, and with more than two parents.”

Insert the following text at the end of the motion:

“RR512: The Green Party recognises that relationships come in different forms and that different relationship statuses are equally valid. Relationship status in this and the above contexts include those who are consensually and without exploitation: in relationships not legally formalised in a marriage or civil partnership; cohabiting as partners; not in a relationship; in long distance relationships or in relationships where the partners do not live together; in relationships which do not involve sexual contact, or exclusively involve sexual contact; with or without children; and those in relationships which involve more than one partner.”

## **E07 OPPOSE STONEHENGE TUNNEL PLAN**

**Brig Oubridge (\*)** brig@phonecoop.coop

*Alan Francis, Alex Raws, Joshua Baker, Ken Taylor, Linda Oubridge, Michael Pope, Peter Matthews, Richard Bolton, Shane Collins, Steve Muggerridge, Sue Wright, Teresa Fallon*

### **Synopsis**

Opposes government plan to build new dual carriageway road and 2.9km tunnel within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and urges the government to abandon this plan.

## Motion

Insert in **ROPS**:

This Conference notes that the plan by the government and Highways England to build a new dual carriageway road and 2.9km tunnel within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site has been unanimously condemned by all the leading British archaeologists and by UNESCO, because it would cause serious and irreparable damage to the World Heritage Site. We also note that the historical evidence of other road building schemes shows that they do not solve problems of traffic congestion, but rather shift that congestion from one place to another while encouraging further traffic growth overall, and that any increase in road traffic is directly contrary to the overwhelming imperative of reducing the emissions which are driving climate change. In this context, we need to conserve our future as well as our past.

We therefore strongly urge the government to abandon the present tunnel plan, and to seriously examine all other options to improve transport links in the area whilst avoiding any further damage to the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. This examination should not be limited to alternative road routes, but should include more environmentally sustainable options for infrastructure investment such as improving the capacity of the London to Exeter rail line to carry more freight in order to relieve pressure on the A303.

## E08 BANK HOLIDAY MARKING THE CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS AND PEOPLE OF COLOUR

**Samir Jeraj** (\*) sa.jeraj@gmail.com

*Alastair Binnie–Lubbock, Arran Rangji, Benali Hamdache, Cleo Lake, Emma Carter, Esther Obiri–Darko, Frankie–Rose Taylor, Gabor Valter, Hannah Clare, Jay Pancholi, Minnie Rahman, Rachel Collinson, Sam Coates*

## Synopsis

Migrants and people of colour have and continue to make a huge contribution to the UK. This should be recognised by making the 22nd June, Windrush Day, a public holiday.

## Motion

Insert new **MG442**

“The Green Party will recognise the contribution of migrants and people of colour to the UK by making the 1st Monday on or after 22nd June, Windrush Day, a public holiday.”

# F

# Draft Voting Papers

Policy Development Committee (PDC) invites members to comment on the Draft Voting Papers (DVP). Comments can be sent to PDC by emailing [policy@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:policy@greenparty.org.uk) or by contacting the convenor of the relevant working group directly (email addresses below).

## FO1 ENERGY POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Energy PWG, **Ceri Jones (\*)** [cerihysjones@gmail.com](mailto:cerihysjones@gmail.com)

*David Flint, Liz Reason, Pamela Harling, Tony Firkins*

### Synopsis

This is a draft voting paper to update the **Energy chapter of the PSS**. It is proposed by the Energy Policy Working Group.

### Motion

The aim is an energy system based on fair and efficient use of electricity and heat from renewable sources within the UK providing security of supply and replacing fossil fuels.

Producing and using energy is a major source of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore the energy system must address the temperature targets of the 2015 Paris agreement on Climate Change (see also Climate Change chapter), taking into account fairness within and between nations.

**EN001** The principal objective is to decrease overall energy use to the minimum possible through reductions in activity, changes in materials and improved efficiencies.

**EN002** Transformation of the energy system will bring with it significant health benefits, improved social well-being and environmental safeguards. The positive economic effects on employment and across all sectors of the economy will be maximised.

**EN003** Changes to the energy system will take into account population growth and demographic change, changing behaviour patterns, changes in transport and assist adaptation to changing weather and climate.

**EN004** Central and local government will collaborate in developing energy plans in consultation with local communities and businesses, setting energy and emission targets for buildings, industry and transport to encourage very low carbon

energy use.

### Power

**EN010** In line with the move from fossil fuels, clean electricity generation will be substantially increased, based primarily on renewable, very low carbon sources with offshore wind as the primary source, supported by onshore wind, marine, solar photo-voltaic and hydro power.

**EN011** Continuity of supply will be ensured by using the UK's renewable energy sources and a variety of storage technologies, including links to other countries' grids and minimal use of natural gas consistent with meeting demand in real-time. Surplus electricity will be transformed into heat and synthetic gas and stored or exported.

**EN012** Change in the organisation of energy transmission and distribution will be accelerated to cater for increases in dispersed energy sources, demand side management and storage.

**EN013** Nuclear power and coal will be phased out.

**EN014** Biofuels will be sustainably sourced within the UK.

### Buildings

**EN020** Large-scale refurbishment programmes will be carried out to increase greatly the energy efficiency of existing buildings.

**EN021** Heating of buildings will be transformed by the use of solar thermal, heat pumps, combined heat and power, stored heat and electricity; the use of natural gas for heating will be phased out entirely.

**EN022** New buildings will be built to energy efficient very low carbon standards.

### Industry

**EN030** Industrial processes will be transformed to be more efficient; renewable heat and very low carbon electricity will be prioritized over the use of fossil fuels.

**EN031** Change to low carbon energy processes will be encouraged by incentives to avoid long-term lock-in of high-carbon technologies.

**EN032** Carbon capture and storage (CCS) will be deployed

where removal of fossil fuel energy is not practical.

### **Transport**

**EN040** Walking, cycling, rail and public transport will be the main substitute for car travel (see Transport chapter).

**EN041** Cars and vans, and later HGVs, will become increasingly based on ultra–low emission engines using batteries and fuel cells; electrification will proceed in step with deployment of clean energy sources.

**EN042** Electrification of rail, coach and bus services will continue.

**EN043** Energy efficiency standards for internal combustion engine vehicles will be set reflecting real life conditions, and progressively tightened.

**EN044** Air travel will be radically discouraged.

**EN045** Greater efficiency in sea transport will be encouraged to minimise energy use per tonne/km.

### **Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D)**

**EN050** Substantial RD&D will be made available to promote large–scale cost–effective deployment especially for marine power, energy storage, building energy performance improvements including insulation, techniques and technologies, HGVs, CCS and shipping.

**EN051** Research will be continued into the best technologies and processes to address the energy system considering cost, timescale, governance and function.

### **Skills and Training**

**EN060** The workforce needed to implement these changes will be developed through extensive national and local programmes covering construction, transport, manufacturing and energy at all skill levels and to the wider public.

### **Social Well Being and Health**

**EN070** Fuel poverty will be addressed by a comprehensive range of policies, including home energy improvements, and related policies on income, health, and housing as well as and energy pricing and regulation.

### **Finance**

**EN080** A carbon tax will be applied at a level high enough to encourage the shift from fossil fuels to renewables at the speed and scale required.

**EN081** Transformation of the energy system at the right speed and scale will require funding from general taxation, in combination with private finance; all fossil fuel subsidies will be removed.;

**EN082** Incentives will address particular challenges in the

energy system, including HGVs and industrial plant.

**EN083** Partnership between energy users and producers will be encouraged in order to assist energy management at all levels.

**EN084** Financial instruments to assist efficiency measures will be developed.

### **Regulation**

**EN090** Regulation will play a large part in ensuring each sector of the economy is energy efficient and to ensure the deployment of very low carbon devices and systems.

**EN091** Regulations will ensure all new buildings are built to the best energy and carbon performance standards and are monitored in use.

**EN092** Wildlife, landscape and heritage will be safeguarded and air quality improved as the energy system changes.

**EN093** Existing policy frameworks will be reviewed, and following consultation, will be changed to reflect the increased ambition.

**EN094** Fair competition will be ensured to encourage diversity of ownership of the energy system including public, municipal and community schemes.

**EN095** Energy regulation will be aimed at helping to achieve environmental and social objectives, and a fair and accountable energy sector.

### **International**

**EN110** Border tariffs and bans will be applied to discourage and avoid imports of products with high embodied energy/emissions.

**EN111** Transfer of leading UK energy technologies around the world will be ensured, and international action promoted to ensure higher efficiency standards.

**EN112** The UK will take a leading part in capacity–building in developing countries as part of international aid, as well as in international efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

## **F02 TAX AND FISCAL POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER**

Tax and Fiscal PWG, **Brian Heatley (\*)** [brianheatley@me.com](mailto:brianheatley@me.com)

*Clive Stevens, Dan Hill, Peter Sims*

### **Synopsis**

This Draft Voting Paper (DVP) contains proposals to replace the main text on taxation at **EC700** to **EC793** inclusive of **Policies for a Sustainable Society**; details on reasons for the changes

and rates of taxation and methods of calculation will be added in a forthcoming Background Note.

The new proposals mainly concern the principles of taxation, fiscal policy, a new approach to personal income taxation incorporating capital gains and inheritance, Land Value Tax and a little on enforcement.

We have much still to do on corporate taxation, on VAT and environmental taxation and on funding local government, but there are broad summary proposals here. The DVP also does not contain proposals on references to tax elsewhere in the PSS, but these will be addressed in a background paper.

## Motion

Delete **EC700 to EC793** inclusive and replace with the following text:

### Tax principles

**DVP700** There are four main reasons for taxation:

- a) to provide the money to fund public expenditure;
- b) to redistribute income and wealth; and
- c) to influence behaviour, including behaviour that promotes ecological sustainability
- d) as part of broader management of the economy.

**DVP701** While these are the main purposes of taxation, there are a number of other features that we believe are desirable in a taxation system:

- a) the system should be as simple as possible;
- b) the system should be fair, that is treat people in the same position in the same way;
- c) taxes should, as far as possible, command wide public acceptance and be difficult to avoid or evade;
- d) taken as a whole the system should be progressive, that is those on higher incomes or with higher wealth should pay proportionately more than those with lower incomes or with lower wealth;
- e) subject to the imperatives of ecological sustainability and social justice, taxes should be neutral economically, that is have a minimally distorting effect on the economic decisions made by people and companies.

**DVP702** Simplicity, fairness and reducing avoidance and evasion are all served by ensuring that exemptions and allowances should be confined to where these are warranted by clear environmental or social aims. Examples are a differential vehicle purchase duty favouring electric over fossil-fuelled vehicles, and the rent-a-room allowance (H0531). Considerations of general fairness may also apply, e.g. avoiding double taxation, and maintaining equitable treatment of different forms of employment status.

**DVP703** Public acceptance may be increased in some cases by hypothecating taxes, that is tying the proceeds of particular taxes to specific spending areas. This should be restricted

to areas where transparency and accountability make this desirable, and there must be a duty on the level of government responsible for levying the tax in question to provide reliable and verifiable information on the extent to which the policy of earmarking is being respected in practice.

### Fiscal Policy

**DVP705** We accept that we need to devote a significant part of our national resources to the common good, and reject moves to a 'smaller state' for its own sake. We would expect Government expenditure to pay for our policies elsewhere in this PSS in normal times to lie somewhere in the range 40% to 55% of GDP (this would include Citizens Income payments equalling around 15% of GDP, which are arguably personal, rather than public, expenditure). Any increase in Government expenditure would be phased in evenly over a 5-year Parliament.

**DVP706** The cumulative National Debt must be constrained to preserve the Government's ability to borrow, and to prevent too much taxation simply going to pay interest. Some National Debt is however desirable as a safe reliable savings vehicle for individuals and pensions.

**DVP707** We would seek, in each year that per capita tax receipts are higher than the previous year, to pay off part of the amount by which the debt exceeds the desirable level.

**DVP708** We would aim to balance spending and taxation over the economic cycle, with government tax and spending plans following the precautionary principle that there will be a recession some time in the next ten years. Policy would aim to at least fund the natural deficit that appears due to higher social security payments and lower tax receipts in a recession, and may go further to apply some counter cyclical stimulus to the economy.

**DVP709** The level of Government expenditure will be adjusted periodically to correct any anticipated whole-cycle deficit or surplus (net of National Debt repayment) and to account for moneys paid (or forecast to be paid) to the Government to be spent into circulation under any implementation plan for monetary reform (EC664d).

Personal and Corporate Income taxes, including National Insurance and Citizen's Income

**DVP710** Under the present system individuals receive money in many and various ways, for example wages and salaries, pensions and other benefits and the tax they pay and benefits they receive depend both on the type of money concerned, and upon their or others' personal circumstances.

**DVP711** Our aim in individual taxation would be to replace this with a far simpler and fairer system of individual income taxation and social security support, but with the same aim of overall redistribution. This would have two principal elements:

- a) Every citizen would receive an unconditional Citizen's Income to secure their basic social security (see DVP730–733 below); and
- b) All money of any kind received by an individual would be treated in the same way in a new consolidated income tax.

**DVP712** Consolidated income will include all money received in a given year by an individual, and also benefits in kind and transfers of wealth. It will exclude assets and rents covered by Land Value Tax (DVP791ff.), but will include:

- a) earned income, such as wages and salaries;
- b) income from self–employment after the deduction of reasonable expenses;
- c) unearned income, such as interest and dividends;
- d) capital transfers, such as gifts and inheritance;
- e) realised capital gains;
- f) gaming, lottery and similar income;
- g) a person's Citizen's Income or pension;

though this list is for illustration and is not exclusive.

**DVP713** Personal allowances will be adjusted and perhaps eventually removed to take account of the introduction of Citizen's Income. Income tax will be levied on all consolidated income above any personal allowance.

**DVP714** Tax rates will be banded and will increase progressively so that those on higher consolidated incomes are paying higher marginal rates of tax.

**DVP716** As a consequence of the consolidated income tax, separate dividend taxes, capital gains tax, capital transfer taxes and inheritance tax will be merged into the consolidated income tax.

**DVP717** Employee National insurance will be abolished as a separate tax. Because it is levied only upon earned income, in practice the combined current income tax/NI rate is lower for pensioners than for people of working age. Pensioners will be compensated for the fact that they will no longer be contributing to pay for state pensions, by reduced consolidated income tax rates and/or higher personal allowances than for those of working age.

**DVP730** A Citizen's Income sufficient to cover an individual's basic needs will be introduced, which will replace most social security benefits. A Citizen's Income is an unconditional, non–withdrawable income payable to each individual as a right of citizenship. It will not be subject to means testing and there will be no requirement to be either working or actively seeking work.

**DVP734** The changes proposed here to the income tax and benefit systems are far reaching, and would not all be carried out at once; in particular a gradual approach is needed to monitor the effects of Citizen's Income on the labour market. We will introduce transitional measures designed in the longer

term to move towards the unified system proposed here.

### **Taxes on Businesses and Financial Services**

**DVP760** Corporation tax will be abolished and, instead, all distributed profits will be taxed at the point of payment by the Single/Consolidated Income Tax. This will include increases in cash holding, share buybacks, distributions to parent or subsidiary bodies (onshore or offshore), dividend payments and all other forms of distributed income payments.

**DVP763** Employers' National Insurance contributions will be phased out, initially – to favour smaller enterprises – by raising the Employment Allowance.

**DVP765** We would increase the Bank Asset Tax (Bank Levy) to the amount required to capture the value of public assets, subsidies and protections currently extended to the banking sector.

**DVP766** We would extend Stamp Duty on Shares to all shares. This will include all publicly traded shares, as well as shares in large private companies (currently those with an annual turnover in excess of £100m).

### **VAT and sales taxes**

**DVP770** VAT rates will be calculated so that essentials (to include tampons and sanitary towels) are zero–rated or exempt, and luxuries are taxed at the highest rate. Rates will also reflect the environmental impact of the product or service in question, in order to discourage ecologically unsustainable consumption.

**DVP771** The administrative overhead imposed by VAT is a burden, especially on smaller businesses, but the accounting trail makes it a relatively difficult tax to evade. Threshold turnover for obligatory registration for VAT will be raised at a rate which outstrips inflation.

**DVP772** VAT on non–polluting/pollution reducing goods and services will be reduced by up to the amount raised by any eco–taxes introduced or increased (see DVP780).

### **Taxes designed to change behaviour**

**DVP775** Taxes designed to encourage changes in behaviour do not, if they are successful, provide large amounts of government revenue in the longer term. Their effectiveness should be judged in conjunction with other non–fiscal measures that aim to reduce the prevalence or impacts of the behaviour that is being tackled. To reassure the public that such taxes are not being imposed for purely revenue purposes, a robust system of reporting will provide transparent comparisons between revenues and remedial spending.

**DVP776** Taxes on the consumption of alcohol and tobacco will be extended to other recreational drugs that remain or become legal, to the extent that their use imposes costs on the health system. Taxes on alcohol will more closely reflect the alcohol content of different drinks.

**DVP777** Money will be spent at a cost-effective level to ensure that the aims of this kind of taxation are not undermined by smuggling from countries where a lighter regime prevails or where enforcement is inadequate.

**DVP780** The current range of environmental tax measures (“eco-taxes”) will be expanded to promote sustainability and combat pollution more effectively. These taxes too will be combined with remedial measures such as regulation, as set out in the Energy chapter. They will take a variety of forms, but the common aim will be to ensure that the environmental costs of emitting and polluting activity are borne by those responsible, and hence to promote more environmentally benign processes.

**DVP783** A revenue-neutral carbon tax and dividend will be introduced whereby a steadily rising price will be placed on sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including those embedded in imports. The proceeds of this tax will be distributed in equal dividends, paid monthly to each adult resident of the UK. The current Carbon Price Floor mechanism will be incorporated and adapted to embrace more forms of economic activity, to avoid the arbitrary and inconsistent prices now applied to emissions from different sources. The net effect of this tax will be progressive, as individuals’ carbon footprints tend to correlate with their wealth or income.

**DVP784** Road fuel duties currently address different detrimental effects of road traffic – congestion, local pollution and noise, accidents and greenhouse gas emissions. Only the last of these is appropriately tackled by a uniform nationwide tax that takes account only of engine efficiency and miles travelled. The others will gradually become a local responsibility, underpinned by increased local authority powers to tax, charge and regulate vehicle movements (see DVP552).

#### **Land Value and similar taxes**

**DVP791** A system of Land Value Taxation (LVT) will be introduced. The LVT rate will be set at national level, and will be based on the capital value of the land itself, not including any buildings etc. built upon it. Local authorities may levy an additional local land value tax, and keep the proceeds locally. It will be collected by local authorities. LVT will eventually replace other land and real-estate related taxes, such as Stamp Duty Land Tax and Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings.

**DVP792** There will be no exemptions for different land uses from this policy. LVT will be introduced gradually over a number of years. Where land was subject to a mortgage on the day the tax was introduced, the tax would apply only to the value of the land net of the mortgage.

**DVP793** Proceeds from national LVT will be distributed to local authorities with the amount based upon the procedure set out in DVP551 below.

#### **Local Government finance and taxation**

**DVP550** For reasons of democratic accountability, taxes should

in general be levied at the level of government at which they are to be spent. Currently, however, calls on local government finance are overwhelmingly to meet obligations imposed by central government. This burden will be reduced over time by decentralising measures, but will never be eliminated. There needs to be transparency about what proportion of local spending reflects the local authority acting effectively as an agent of central government and how much is due to local political initiative. The sources of funding should reflect this distinction.

**DVP551** Central government has two fiscal obligations to local authorities: to distribute adequate funds from central taxation to fund centrally imposed obligations, and to allow local authorities the latitude to raise taxes to fund their own initiatives, without a priori restrictions on the rates and types of taxes chosen for this purpose, subject only to the general tax principles outlined above at DVP700–703. Any nationally imposed limits on local authorities’ power to raise taxes or borrow must be applied in a consistent and non-partisan way, at arm’s length from the Treasury.

**DVP552** Allocation of central funds should also include a redistributive element in favour of less well-off areas. A distribution formula, involving inter alia LVT revenues (see DVP793) that takes into account the capacity of a local authority to raise its own funds should operate, again in a consistent and non-partisan way, at arm’s length from the Treasury. It should embrace incentives to achieve measurable improvements in pollution and emissions levels within the local authority area, to the extent these are achievable using existing and further decentralised powers (see e.g. DVP784).

#### **Collecting Taxes**

**DVP799** Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs will be converted into an independent agency answerable directly to Parliament and free of Ministerial control. It will be adequately resourced – it can be expected to more than pay for itself over time – and in particular will include a network of local tax offices.

Other approaches and measures to promote tax compliance will include:

- » a general anti-avoidance principle;
- » obliging banks to provide information about companies automatically to HMRC;
- » abolishing the rule that allows non-domiciled residents not to pay tax on foreign income;
- » making the industry of designing, promoting and selling tax avoidance schemes illegal.

# Late motions

## 1 CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE EU REPEAL BILL

**Molly Scott Cato (\*)** [molly@gaianeconomics.org](mailto:molly@gaianeconomics.org)

*Ewan Jones, Lizzie Woodman, Cory Fletcher, Jon Carpenter, Bethan Thomas, Diana Moore, Peter Cleasby, Linda Oubridge, Chris Walford, Phil Sandford, Carla Denyer, Kiera Jones, Martin Fodor, Steve Pagett, Tony Nicholson, Jean Lambert, Trevor Holding, Chantelle Smith, Richard Barrington, Gerhard Lohmann–Bond, Gary Simpson, Sue Bosley, Jonathan Dawson, Hattie Wragg, Chris Dent, Simon Hales, Tess Brookes, Jonny Peters, John Marjoram, Biff Vernon, Stuart Maule, Robert Triggs, Jenny Vernon, Robert Irving, Hannah Conway, Marie Hillcoat, Karen Pilkington, Rod Hebden, Jennifer Miles, Clare Pringle, Emma Hallett, Steve Thompson, Francesca Hebden–Leeder, Sabrina Poole, Paul Enock, Brian Heatley, Ricky Knight, Steve Hynd, Liam Ward*

### Motion

On 13th July the government published its repeal bill to facilitate the process of leaving the European Union. This transcribes EU law into UK but also allows sweeping powers for the executive to change laws without further reference to Parliament. This will limit scope for scrutiny and meaningful debate on the content of the exit deal negotiated with the remaining members of the European Union.

‘The publication of the Bill for Leaving the European Union is the constitutional equivalent of a blank cheque. The Green Party will campaign for the passage of the Bill to be suspended until the detail of the negotiations with the EU–27 is clear. Conference instructs the GPEX campaigns coordinator to develop a campaign in conjunction with the Party’s parliamentarians.

‘The Green Party is also alarmed by the extent to which the Government intends to rely on fast–track statutory instruments to deal with the details of Brexit, fears that a lack of proper scrutiny would result from their approach, and will campaign for changes to the EU Repeal Bill to exclude key policy areas from this procedure, including regulations on environmental protection, employment rights, and citizenship rights.

‘Conference instructs the GPEX campaigns coordinator to develop a campaign in conjunction with the Party’s parliamentarians to oppose the EU Repeal Bill.

**AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2017**

# **APPENDICES**

**FOR THE FINAL AGENDA**



**Green Party**  
for the common good

# CONTENTS

## Appendix 1:

**Motions Lacking Sufficient Co–Proposers** \_62

## Appendix 2:

**Out of Order Motions** \_63

- OoO 01 Updating Diversity Targets \_63
- OoO 02 Fragment of D06 Updated Policy On Electoral Alliances For The Period Up To The [...] \_63
- OoO 03 Fragment of D10 Urgent and Holistic Review of How the Green Party Operates \_63
- OoO 04 Fragment of D16 Campaigning Priorities \_64
- OoO 05 Fragment of A15, Amendment 3 \_64
- OoO 06 Fragment of A15, Amendment 5 \_64
- OoO 07 Fragment of D01, Amendment 3 \_64
- OoO 08 Fragment of D03, Amendment 1 \_64

## Appendix 3:

**Proposed Constitution Of The Green Party Of England And Wales** \_65

## Appendix 4:

**Standing Orders of the Green Party Executive (GPEX)** \_98

## Appendix 5:

**Green Party Accounts, selected** \_105

# APPENDIX 1

## Motions Lacking Sufficient Co-Proposers

### **Extension of Disability Group remit as Disability Policy Working Group**

**Disabilities PWG, Paul Weaver, *Clare Phipps,***

### **Reform of Green Party Regional Council (GPRC)**

**Peter Barnett,** Carolyn Weston, Chit Chong, Clive Lord, Gary Simpson, Gerry Weston, Joyce Barnett, Judy Maciejowska, Martin Harrison, Richard Lawson

### **Terminate the Governance Review project**

**Peter Barnett,** Carolyn Weston, Chit Chong, Clive Lord, Gary Simpson, Gerald Weston, Joyce Barnett, Judy Maciejowska, Liz Reason, Martin Harrison, Mike Shone

### **Reforming Emergency Motions**

**Sam Riches,** Hannah Clare, Tom Chance, *Clare Phipps, Elise Benjamin*

### **Better fire safety regulations for housing**

Cleo Lake, Jim Stuart, Peter Murry, Simon Hales, *Gary Simpson*

### **Supporting children's right to access to nature**

**Natalie Bennett,** Caroline Allen, Declan Walsh, Douglas Johnson, Katherine Myles, Leila Kiersch, Liz Reason, Wendy Stephen

### **Update our policy on Genetic Engineering**

**Alexander Price,** Andrew Tinson, Benedict Allbrooke, Daniah Mohammed, Eve Lennie, Gillian Kirkup, Kenneth Green, Keri Edmonds, Paul Jenkins, Samantha Bristow,

### **Update our Science and Technology policy**

**Paul Jenkins,** Alexander Price, Benedict Allbrooke, David Flint, David Wild, Richard Clark

### **Mental health policy update**

Chandler Wilson, Denis Walker

### **Providing allowances for GPEW level positions**

**Clare Phipps,** Anne Poole, Michael Poole, Sabrina Poole, Hannah Clare, Corin Ashwell, Thom French, Rachel Smith, Robert Irving, Mollie Scharaschkin, Tom Bolitho

Three members co-proposed more than the allowed four motions. The co-proposals in red italic text above were discounted.

# APPENDIX 2

## Out of Order Motions

### 000 01 UPDATING DIVERSITY TARGETS

[SOC ruled this motion out of order for being ambiguous. The intended changes to the constitution are unclear.]

LGBTQIA+ Greens, **Aimee Challenor** aimee.challenor@lgbtiq.greenparty.org.uk

*Denis Walker, Lee–Anne Lawrance, Molly Arthurs*

#### Synopsis

This motion would:

- » ensure gender neutral language in diversity targets whilst maintaining equitable representation of gender
- » remove equivocal language from diversity targets and replace with absolute language
- » replace reference to ‘sex’ with ‘gender’
- » ensure that diversity targets and their enforcement mechanisms apply to European elections and House of Lords appointments

#### Motion

Amend **clause 5(xix)** of the Constitution to read:

‘The elections and equality and diversity coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local and regional parties to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to achieve an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates in PR elections such as European elections and at General election...’

Amend **clause 8(ix)** of the Constitution to read:

‘In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader(s), a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members shall be eligible to stand so long as their election would not result in all of the leadership team being of the same gender’

Amend **clause 1** of the ‘Selection of candidates for the House of Commons bylaw to read:

‘GPEW will set targets for the proportion of candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self–identified gender (including non–binary people)...’

Amend **clause (v)(d)** of the ‘Selection of party lists’ bylaw to read:

‘The Green Party shall have an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates on regional lists, and a proportion of the list being people from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background, people with a disability, power of lower socio–economic status, young people and LGBTQIA+ people. This proportion should be representative of the region’s demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for candidates that meet the required diversity. If after this time no eligible candidate puts themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota and the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet the quota in future elections as part of their report to conference’

Amend **clause 5(iii)** of the ‘Selection of nomination for the House of Lords bylaw to read:

‘The panel shall interview the candidates and write a report for which will be circulated with the ballot papers and the candidates’ statements to the members. The report should note the diversity of the candidates...’

### 000 02 FRAGMENT OF D04 UPDATED POLICY ON ELECTORAL ALLIANCES FOR THE PERIOD UP TO THE [...]

[SOC ruled this out of order on the basis that it required no consequential action.]

7) The Leadership to continue to campaign for proportional representation.

### 000 03 FRAGMENT OF D01 URGENT AND HOLISTIC REVIEW OF HOW THE GREEN PARTY OPERATES

[SOC ruled this out of order on the basis that it is excessive background commentary, requiring no consequential action.]

Much of the Green Party’s structure and processes date back to the mid 1970s. Many of the assumptions about how we should organise ourselves have been unquestioned for over

40 years. But the world (and the party) has changed beyond recognition since then.

The terms of reference of the governance review set in 2013 were a missed opportunity to address this challenge. A lot of hard work by the governance review working group over 4 or 5 years has resulted in 35 pages of constitutional detail. But we need to recognise that we have put the cart before the horse. Instead of further piecemeal changes to a 40 year–old framework, we need to step back and start with this question: how can we build a more visionary and ambitious organisational platform for a dynamic and radical party fit for the 21st century?

One simple thought experiment demonstrates the need for this type of holistic review: if we were setting up the Green Party today, with all the new digital opportunities of engaging with people and making decisions, would our organisational structure look anything like the revised constitution proposed by the Governance Review? You know it wouldn't.

We are also very arthritic when it comes to organisational change. We need to experiment with much more agile ways of working together. Otherwise we will continue to fail to adapt to the speed at which the world is changing around us. That's why the motion is proposing to carry out the holistic review in a way which will act as a test–bed for new ways of delivering change. A commission of the best people we can find for the task will be asked to quickly develop high–level principles about how we should organise and operate, which members can then either approve or reject.

## 000 04 FRAGMENT OF D 10 CAMPAIGNING PRIORITIES

[SOC ruled this section out of order due to being contrary to constitution article 3.]

Conference recognises that the best hope of introducing any of the above measures in the foreseeable future is by the election of a Labour led government which is subject to pressure from a broad based campaign for social and climate justice. It encourages local Green Parties to engage with local Labour Parties and their members, and with other local progressives, promoting joint campaigns in support of common interests and stressing the need to recognise the central importance of addressing climate change and other environmental threats.

## 000 05 FRAGMENT OF A 15, AMENDMENT 3

[SOC ruled this section out of order as it is not part of the proposed amendment]

**Reason;** This amendment is to ensure that, within the federal structure of the Green Party of England and Wales, there is the continued, unchanged representation of any Party of a Nation at Green Party Council. It will ensure current representation of Wales Green Party is not diluted and afford equal provision should any other Party of a Nation assert itself.

## 000 06 FRAGMENT OF A 15, AMENDMENT 5

[SOC ruled this section out of order as it is not part of the proposed amendment]

**Reason;** This amendment is to ensure that, within the federal structure of the Green Party of England and Wales, representation is given by each Party of a Nation on the Green Party Executive. This amendment will ensure the present representation of the Wales Green Party on GPEx, as provided in the existing constitution under section 7 ii, and remove the compulsion that it be part of the Wales Green Party leader / spokesperson role. It will also ensure that should any other Party of a Nation assert itself it too will be represented.

## 000 07 FRAGMENT OF D01, AMENDMENT 3

[SOC ruled this section out of order as it is not part of the proposed amendment]

4. Instruct the Commission to agree a structure, including key questions for the review, and to engage with all members and common interest groups within the Party at the earliest possible opportunity.

5. Conference further agrees to:  
Suspend further consideration of proposals from the Governance Review Group (GRG) but integrate the work of, and current proposals from, the GRG to date into the review of the Commission.

## 000 08 FRAGMENT OF D03, AMENDMENT 1

[SOC ruled this section out of order as the title is not part of the motion]

Delete from title: “and target–to–win”

# APPENDIX 3

## Proposed Constitution Of The Green Party Of England And Wales

### 1. Title

- 1.1. The name of the Party shall be The Green Party of England and Wales.
- 1.2. Each National, Local and Regional Party shall be called The {geographical name} Green Party.
- 1.3. For electoral purposes either the national title or the local title shall be used.

### 2. Form

- 2.1. The Green Party of England and Wales (“The Party”) shall be a federation constituted by Wales Green Party and the 9 Regional Parties set out in Appendix A.
  - a. Regional Parties or other regional groupings may seek recognition as Parties of Nations (any such recognition requiring a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at The Party Conference).
  - b. Wales Green Party shall be the national party for Wales and hold the status of a Party of a Nation.
  - c. Regional Parties shall be federations, constituted by the local parties within the geographic region which they cover, as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2. Parties of Nations shall have such rights and responsibilities and be governed by such rules as are laid down in Appendix B of this Constitution. Parties of Nations status shall not affect the rights of members within it as provided in this Constitution and in Standing Orders, nor shall it affect the rights of any Local Party within that Nation.
- 2.3. Co-operation between Local Parties may take any form. In particular, Local Parties may federate for any appropriate purpose provided that such federations are named as in Clause 1.2. Regional Parties may be one such federation, but federations may be formed at any other level either within or across the boundaries

determined in this constitution.

- 2.4. This Constitution and any standing orders, bye-laws or organisational policies it refers to bind the Party, Parties of Nations, the Regional Parties, Local Parties and non-geographically aligned member groups (as set out in Sections 7 and 8). In all other regards the constituent parties and groups shall set their own constitutions and be afforded the greatest possible autonomy in pursuit of the Object of the Party and shall be entitled to exercise any power not reserved to the Party in this Constitution.
- 2.5. The following functions are reserved to The Party (subject to the decision making processes outlined in this Constitution):
  - a. The determination of policy, as expanded in Section 23 in those areas which might reasonably be expected to fall within the remit of the overarching institutions of England and Wales.
  - b. Allowing, refusing/entry criteria for membership of the party
  - c. The suspension of membership and expulsion from The Party;
  - d. The Party’s overall strategy;
  - e. Overall preparations for campaigns in England and Wales for UK wide elections;
  - f. The overall presentation, image and media relations of the Party;
  - g. International relationships;
  - h. Setting and collecting membership fees;
  - i. Setting and distributing membership fees via capitations.
- 2.6. The Party shall also facilitate campaigning throughout England and Wales, and may raise funds and do anything else incidental to its functions.

### 3. Geographical Remit and Links

- 3.1. The geographical remit of the party shall be England

and Wales.

- 3.2. The party shall maintain links with the Scottish Green Party, and Comhaontas Glas (the Green Party in Ireland).

#### 4. Objects and Aims

- 4.1. The object shall be to promote the aims of The Green Party, which are:
- to develop and implement ecological policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in Policies for a Sustainable Society;
  - to that end to win seats at all levels of government;
  - to organise any non-violent activity which will publicise and further the first two aims.

#### 5. Membership

- 5.1. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the object of the Party, and is not already a member of another political party, other than Green Parties abroad, subject to Clause 5.7 below.

##### Amendment 1

*Derek Wall, Emily Blyth, Jess Northey, Kenneth Green, Michal Chantkowski, Simon Hales, David Raby, Adam Ramsay*

5.1. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the object of the Party, and is not already a member of another political party, other than Green Parties abroad, subject to Clause 5.7 below.

after 'Green Parties abroad' insert 'excepting the Partido Verde Ecologista de México'

- 5.2. Membership shall be of the smallest appropriate Party. Such membership shall automatically impart membership of The Green Party, and membership of the appropriate Regional or National Party, once the national proportion of the membership has been paid.
- 5.3. The Party will carry out equality monitoring of members, candidates, officers and office holders. The aggregated anonymised data will be presented to conference as part of the Equality and Diversity report to Conference. This section of the report will include national, regional and local actions to address issues of underrepresentation.
- 5.4. The rates of subscription for membership, and the proportions in which they shall be divided between Local Parties, Regional Parties and The Green Party shall be set by the Party Conference. Following a quorate 2/3rds majority vote of GPEx, they shall be authorised to offer discounts for new members joining on direct debit, of up to a third, for a period not more than 3

months in any calendar year. Membership subscriptions and capitation rates shall be subject to regular reviews on a 3 yearly basis by GPEx in consultation with GPC. Capitations to Regions and Local parties shall each be a weighted average subscription value per member of the relevant party.

- 5.5. Membership of The Green Party shall entitle members to vote on the business of the Party and hold office in it, in such ways as are laid down in this Constitution and Standing Orders made under it, and to receive certain services.
- 5.6. A Local Party may institute any form of Local Associate Membership and encourage Associates to participate in its business. The rights of such Associate Members shall be set out in the constitution of the Local Party, and those rights shall not extend beyond involvement in the Local Party. Local Associate Members shall not be considered to be members of the Green Party beyond the geographic boundaries of their Local Party, and they shall not be involved in decision making of The Party, nor at a regional or national level, nor shall they be eligible to either contest, vote in, or nominate candidates for internal selection procedures of The Party, nor regional or national parties. In the absence of any explicit provision in a local party constitution regarding the rights of Associate members to vote or be involved in the decision-making process or selection procedures of a local party, they shall be assumed not to have any such rights.
- 5.7. The Green Party Council (or GPC) shall have the power to expel or suspend any person from membership and/or refuse membership to any person for a specified period if in its opinion it is in the Party's interest to do so. Where necessary to avoid or reduce the likelihood of further harm to the Party, a member under investigation may be suspended temporarily by decision of The Green Party Council or those members of it empowered to act on its behalf while that takes place, but no member may be expelled without proper consideration. The Local Party shall not offer Associate Membership to any person who has been expelled from or refused membership of the Green Party.
- 5.8. As Green Party members we are committed to attempting, wherever possible, to resolve disagreement through mutual respect and discussion. Expelling members of an organisation is painful and should be avoided wherever possible. A diversity of opinions is likely to exist within any organisation, and political difference should not automatically be the basis for expulsion of a party member. Mediation must be attempted on an informal basis before expulsion of a member is considered.
- 5.9. A member giving written notice of resignation shall

cease to be a member of the Green Party. A member for whom the national proportion of their membership subscription is more than two months in arrears shall be issued a reminder via the appropriate local party and, if they do not respond within a further four months from the date of the reminder, shall be deemed to have left the Green Party.

## 6. Organisation of local, regional, and national parties

6.1. All Local, Regional, and National Parties must register the following officers with Party Office:

- a. One or more Nominating Officers, with the task of accepting authorisations from the National Agent to nominate candidates in the local/regional/national party area for elections to any level of government. This person is commonly, but need not be, the Election Agent for some or all elections in the local/regional/national party's area.
- b. A Treasurer who has the legal obligation under the PPERA to maintain proper accounts for the local/regional/national party. They must record all donations received and submit to The Green Party Treasurer quarterly reports of donations, copies of annual accounts and any other information required to comply with government legislation.
- c. A coordinator or contact person to receive general information from the national party.
- d. An enquiry recipient whose telephone number can be given to members of the public.
- e. These people must all be members of The Green Party but need not be members of the local/regional/national party of which they are officials. For example adjacent local parties may share some officers, or regional/national party officers may do some of the jobs for a local party.

6.2. These appointments should normally be made or confirmed at the local, regional or national party's AGM. Party Office should be informed of them promptly.

6.3. When an officer leaves their post for any reason Party Office should be informed and a replacement appointed within twenty-eight days, to enable compliance with the PPERA.

6.4. The constitution of each Party of a Nation shall include;

- 6.4.1. a statement that the Party of a Nation is a constituent party of The Green Party
- 6.4.2. a democratic procedure for the election of their representative to the Green Party Council.

6.5. The constitution of each Regional Party shall include;

- 6.5.1. a statement that the Regional Party is a

constituent party of The Green Party

6.5.2. a democratic procedure for the election of their representative to the Green Party Council.

6.6. The constitution of each Local Party shall include;

6.6.1. a provision for winding up the Local Party. If a Local Party has not elected the officers outlined in Clause 6.1 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 coordinator subject to the consent of the appropriate regional or national party, after consulting with all members in that local party area and with officers in adjacent local parties.

6.6.2. a statement that the Local Party is a constituent part of The Green Party

6.6.3. a democratic procedure for the selection of candidates to all levels of government in line with the relevant requirements outlined in this constitution.

6.7. In case a Local Party is so wound up, efforts should be made by the regional or national 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 or national party. Capitations will also be paid to either the newly merged party or to the regional or national party, as appropriate.

6.8. Each local party shall define its boundaries unambiguously and in a fashion that is determinable from a postal address, either by parliamentary constituency or by local authority boundary; and inform Party Office thereof. Local party areas so defined may cover more than one Parliamentary Constituency or local authority area but shall not overlap, nor shall a ward be split between two local parties.

6.9. When a new local party is proposed within the area of one or more existing local parties, or an existing party wishes to split, it/they shall be deemed to be brought into existence when Party Office is so informed by the coordinator/contact people of the existing local parties and the regional or national coordinator as well as by the registration of the new party's or parties' officers.

6.10. In the case of a dispute of any issue relating to sections 6.6 and 6.7 above within its region the regional or national party should in the first instance attempt to resolve it, involving GPC and/or DRC as appropriate.

- 6.11. The Green Party are committed to providing an open and inclusive environment for activism. As such all bodies shall follow the Safe Space policy.

## 7. Common Interest Groups

- 7.1. Members with interests in common may self organise into groups in order to provide a space to organise, discuss and provide mutual support. By mutual agreement with the Party Council any common interest group may be accorded some or all of the rights of a Local Party
- 7.2. Conditional upon having a formally agreed constitution, the officers of the group being annually elected, and fulfilling the membership criteria as outlined in bye-laws which will be approved by conference from time to time, groups shall be recognised by The Party. On receipt of notification of these criteria being met, Standing Orders Committee will record the details in the Record of Organisational Statements and pass on the details to the Communications Coordinator to be included within regular communications within the party.
- 7.3. There shall be three designations of Common Interest group:
- 7.3.1. Liberation Groups – these are groups that exist to provide a space in which groups can organise inside and outside the party to campaign for freedom from oppression that the members of the group experience. These groups shall be permitted to restrict their membership along the lines democratically agreed by the group in their constitution.
- 7.3.2. Campaign Groups – these are groups that exist to organise and campaign to further a specifically identified single issue. These groups shall be permitted to restrict their membership where this is required for the membership of an independent external organisation. If there is no requirement for membership of an external organisation, then membership shall be open to all members of the party.
- 7.3.3. Policy Working Groups – these exist to ensure an effective and continuous space in which to discuss, develop, and formulate policy on a specific area. Membership of all policy working groups shall be open to all members of the party.

### Amendment 2

*Bernard Ekbery, Douglas Rouxel, Alan Francis, John Street, Sean Mulcahy*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

Add at end of 7.3.1.

The Equality Subcommittee shall have responsibility for assessing whether liberation groups meet the relevant criteria for recognition by The Party (as set out in Bye-laws section 5) and reporting on this to Party Council.

Add at end of 7.3.2

The Campaigns Subcommittee shall have responsibility for assessing whether campaign groups meet the relevant criteria for recognition by The Party (as set out in Bye-laws section 5) and reporting on this to Party Council.

Add at end of 7.3.3

The Policy Development Subcommittee shall have responsibility for assessing whether policy working groups meet the relevant criteria for recognition by The Party (as set out in Bye-laws section 5) and reporting on this to Party Council.

## 8. Young Greens

- 8.1. The Official Youth and Students Wing of The Party shall be the Young Greens.
- 8.2. Members may opt to become members of the Young Greens. The age and eligibility of Young Greens shall be as outlined in the Young Greens' constitution.
- 8.3. Young Greens Groups of members temporarily resident at educational institutions shall be accorded some or all of the rights of a Local Party by mutual agreement with the Regional or National Committee of the relevant geographic area, subject to reference to the Dispute Resolution Committee in the event of any unresolved dispute.

## 9. Election and Appointment to Public Office

- 9.1. No member of the Party may be a candidate for any other party in an election for any level of government and no member of another party may be a candidate for The Green Party in any such election except in cases of joint candidacies. No member of the Party may stand as an independent candidate against properly selected Green Party candidate(s). No member may campaign for any candidate standing against a properly selected Green Party candidate.
- 9.2. Joint PR lists involving regional or national lists of candidates that include both Green Party and non-Green Party members are permitted unless prohibited by GPEx, from whom permission must be sought. The selection of Green Party candidates on those lists shall

be conducted under bye-laws prepared by GPEX and agreed jointly with the relevant region in the case of a regional or national list.

- 9.3. Joint candidacies between Green Parties and other parties are permitted unless prohibited by GPEX from whom permission must be sought. If GPEX prohibit joint lists or joint candidacies, then local parties, regional or national parties can appeal to GPC.

9.3.1. In Wales, permission must also be sought from Wales Green Party Council for joint candidacies and joint lists and will not be granted unless there is agreement between Wales Green Party Council and GPEX.

- 9.4. Campaigns for regional and national elections where there are single member constituencies shall be conducted by Local Parties in accordance with bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference

- 9.5. Campaigns for European elections where parties are required to submit regional or national lists of candidates or nominating a new MEP when a Green Party MEP dies or resigns shall be conducted in accordance with bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference.

- 9.6. The elections and equality and diversity coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local, regional and national parties to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to work towards the proportion of female candidates reaching at least 50% in candidate lists in PR elections such as European elections and at least 50% of General election candidates. Taking into account the need to put forward effective candidates, they will work with local/regional/national parties to try to ensure that female candidates will comprise at least 50% of those selected to stand for winnable seats. A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the GPEX report to conference after each relevant election.

#### **Amendment 10(a)**

[Amendment 10 has been split in to 5 parts, a – e, for to allow easy comparisons. It may still be taken as one motion.]

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lucas North, A C Baker*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

Amend clause 9.6 to now read: The Elections and Equality and Diversity Coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local and

regional parties to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to achieve an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates in PR elections such as European elections and at General election. Taking into account the need to put forward effective candidates, they will work with local/regional/national parties to ensure that:

(a) cisgender men comprise no more than 49% of candidates selected to stand for winnable seats;

(b) women (cisgender and transgender) comprise no less than 50% of candidates selected to stand for winnable seats; and

(c) transgender and non-binary people comprise no less than 1% of candidates selected to stand across all seats and are supported to stand in winnable seats. A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the GPEX report to conference after each relevant election.

- 9.7. The Party shall register and maintain registration as a political party in accordance with the relevant government legislation. It shall follow bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference.

- 9.8. Selection for nomination to the House of Lords shall be conducted in accordance with bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference

#### **10. Elected Representatives**

- 10.1. Green politicians work hard to further the cause of Green politics and the Party should offer practical assistance and support wherever possible.

- 10.2. Green Party members who are elected or otherwise appointed to public office have responsibilities to the public, to the body on which they serve and to the Green Party. Whilst they must fulfil public duties, they also remain accountable to the Party.

- 10.3. Elected members and other representatives should seek to further the Object and Aims of the Green Party (as set out in section 4). Their accountability in fulfilling this is to the appropriate Green party/parties corresponding to the Authority they have been elected to.

- 10.4. Elected members and other representatives have a responsibility to promote the policies of the national and local green parties, as expressed in the PSS 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.

- 10.5. The Party will set targets for the proportion of

candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self-identified gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, age, and sexual orientation based on their respective proportion of the England and Wales population. The Elections Coordinator will report on this to conference. If targets are not met, the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to conference.

- 10.6. 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, regional or national party/parties. In the case of MPs and MEPs, both the Chair of GPEx and the Co-Chairs of GPC must be consulted in the first instance. Where the arrangement could have the effect of Green MPs entering into a national coalition or supporting another party or parties to form or continue a government, GPEx shall be consulted at every stage of the negotiations and, once an arrangement has been proposed, the arrangement must be supported by GPEx and put to GPC for agreement on behalf of the Party. GPC shall assess what level and methods of further consultation of party membership are practical, given the timescales involved and resources available, and ensure that the maximum practical consultation shall occur.
- 10.7. Green parties and their elected representatives should establish and use appropriate structures and channels for communicating both with the Party and with the electorate, such as liaison groups, meetings and publications.
- 10.8. There will be an Association of Green Councillors, responsible for the dissemination of information and best practice between all principal authority and parish councillors in England and Wales. It will appoint a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and will employ such staff as deemed necessary to accomplish its goals. It will hold at least one meeting per year (the Annual General Meeting) at which officers will be elected. Membership will be open to all elected representatives of the Green Party of England and Wales who will be encouraged to contribute to its funds, and all other full GPEW members on payment of an AGC subscription fee.

## **11. Conferences**

- 11.1. The Party shall hold two Conferences a year, each Autumn and Spring. Conference shall be the supreme decision-making body of the Party. Its procedure shall be governed by Standing Orders. All paid up members of the Green Party shall be eligible to attend and vote at Conference.

- 11.2. The Autumn conference shall be the Annual General Meeting of the Green Party.
- 11.3. Conference may by a two-thirds majority grant Green Party Council exceptional powers in defined areas of policy, campaign strategy or administration for a specified period of time.
- 11.4. Any Conference may decide to convene a Conference which will take place earlier than the next Conference and which shall have those powers delegated to it by the convening Conference. Such a Conference shall be called an Extraordinary Party Conference and shall be governed by the same Standing Orders as Spring and Autumn Conferences. Any or all of the powers of a Conference may be so delegated, including the power to amend this Constitution, but the resolution convening such a Conference must specify which powers are being delegated.
- 11.5. The Spring Conference shall finish at least 5 weeks before the local government elections unless the Conference the preceding Autumn decides otherwise. The Spring Conference shall be governed by the same Standing Orders and have the same powers as the Conference, except that:
  - 11.5.1. it shall be required to receive reports only from the Standing Orders Committee, Policy Development Subcommittee, and the Dispute Resolution Committee;
  - 11.5.2. it shall hold elections only for vacant posts, not those still filled by members elected by the Conference;
  - 11.5.3. its powers may be limited and its priorities may be specified by a resolution of the Conference the preceding Autumn.
  - 11.5.4. a total amount of time equivalent to one full day of the conference, and always offering a choice of other activities, 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 events in their respective areas of responsibility as appropriate.

## **12. Committees and Other Bodies Within the Party**

- 12.1. The following sections (13 – 21) outline the committee and other bodies which make up the party. The responsibilities of each committee and subcommittee are outlined in the section which defines it within the constitution.

12.2. Unless otherwise stated, each committee will be accountable to the Autumn Conference where all committees defined in the constitution will be expected to submit the following:

12.2.1. A factual report on their work over the previous 12 months;

12.2.2. An outline plan for their work over the next 12 months.

### 13. Green Party Council

13.1. There shall be a Green Party Council (known as The Party Council) which shall be responsible for the following:

- a. To hold the Green Party Executive to account
- b. Reviewing the general well-being of The Party
- c. Collaborating with the Party Executive to develop the long term strategy of the party
- d. Approving interim policy statements between Conferences
- e. The agreed democratic procedures within the Party
- f. To be the final point of escalation for concerns of party members outside conference

13.2. Membership of the Party Council shall be of members elected to positions over terms of 2 years in the ways outlined in section 13.4 to 13.9 below.

13.3. The election of members of the council will take place as follows; the election process for the members defined in section 13.4.1, 13.4.2 and 13.4.3 will take place between January and May. Once these results are known, and the diversity of those members known, then the election process for the other members as defined in 13.4.4 below will take place following the diversity provisions outlined in 13.5 and using the election regulations issued jointly from time to time by Standing Orders Committee and the Electoral Returning Officer for The Party.

13.3.1. In order to effectively manage the transition from the historic constitution to this constitution, the following process will be followed. All members of GPRC who were elected after 1st March 2016 will have their term of office extended and transferred to be GPC members until the close of GPC elections in 2019. All GPRC members who were elected prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 will have their term extended to the conclusion of the first GPC elections in 2018. This clause (13.3.1) is time limited and will be deleted following the conclusion of the GPC elections in 2019.

13.4. The membership of the Green Party Council shall be as follows:

13.4.1. Geographic Representatives. A group of 9 representatives consisting of one representative per English Region as defined in Appendix A.

13.4.2. One National Representative elected from each Party of a Nation.

#### **Amendment 3**

*Keith Watts, Mirka Virtanen, Pippa Bartolotti, Benjamin Smith, Peter Varley*

Delete proposed 13.4.2. and replace with;

Two National Representatives of each Party of a Nation, as elected by each Party of a Nation

13.4.3. One group of 2 members elected by the whole membership from those currently holding public office including but not limited to Councillors, Assembly Members, MPs, MEPs, and Peers.

13.4.4. One group of 10 members elected via STV by the entire membership as a single group. Within this group there shall be no more than 2 members from any one region or Party of a Nation.

13.5. In order to ensure that the diverse communities within the party are represented across the Green Party Council, the following provisions will be made:

13.5.1. The diversity of members elected in 13.4.1, 13.4.2 and 13.4.3 will be surveyed using a standard, anonymous, diversity monitoring form.

13.5.2. If less than 5 of the members elected to the positions in 13.4.1, 13.4.2 and 13.4.3 identify as women, non-binary and other marginalised genders, then the eligibility for election to the members outlined in section 13.4.4 will be adjusted to ensure that at least 10 members of Green Party Council will be people who identify as women, non-binary and other marginalised genders.

13.5.3. If there are no members of the diverse communities below elected to the positions in sections 13.4.1, 13.4.2 and 13.4.3, then the eligibility for election to the positions in 13.4.4 will be adjusted to ensure that there is at least one of the following:

- a) A member of the LGBTIQ+ community
- b) A disabled member
- c) A young person (under 25)

- d) A person over the state retirement age
- e) A person of colour

#### **Amendment 4(b)**

*Shirley Ford, David McKechnie, Helmut Izaks, Andy Blanchflower, Caroline Robinson*

In Appendix 3 Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales Section 13

In paragraph 13.4.1: Delete “9” and replace with “18”

Delete “one representative” and replace with “two representatives”

So that paragraph 13.4.1 now reads: Geographic Representatives. A group of 18 representatives consisting of two representatives per English Region as defined in Appendix A.

Delete paragraphs 13.4.3, 13.4.4, 13.5, 13.5.1, 13.5.2, 13.5.3 and renumber accordingly.

- 13.6. The business of the Party Council shall be governed by Standing Orders.
- 13.7. The Party Council shall meet at least four times a year.
- 13.8. A quorum of The Party Council shall comprise one third of its membership eligible to vote.
- 13.9. The Party Council shall elect from within its number two Co–Chairpersons, at least one of whom should identify as a woman, non–binary or other marginalised gender, and shall appoint a Secretary from outside its membership.
- 13.10. The Party Council shall keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Green Party Executive and make available to the membership of the Party, and shall present a written report to the Annual General Meeting.
- 13.11. By a two–thirds majority of its voting membership the Party Council may suspend from office any member of the Party Council, if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Party Council is against the interests of the Party, subject to the right of such a member to appeal.
- 13.12. By a two–thirds majority of its voting membership the Party Council may recall the GPEX Chair or a Co–ordinator post holder, who shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Party Council.
- 13.13. By a two–thirds majority of its voting membership the

Party Council may recall the Leader or Deputy Leader(s) or Co–Leaders, who shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for both posts at a date to be determined by the Party Council.

13.14. In the event of the Green Party Executive suspending one of its members under Clause 14.5, the Party Council may decide whether to remove or reinstate that member, subject to the right of such a member to appeal against removal.

13.15. The Party Council may request with reasonable notice any member of the Green Party Executive to attend one of its meetings to report on their area of responsibility.

#### **14. Green Party Executive**

14.1. There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive) which shall be responsible for the following at The Party level:

- a. the overall and day–to–day direction of the Party;
- b. to implement the decisions of the Conference;
- c. to ensure the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of the funds of the Party;
- d. to act as the Green Party’s employer of Green Party staff;
- e. to keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Green Party Council and make available to the membership of the Party;
- f. collaborating with the Party Council to develop the long term strategy of the party;
- g. to present a full written report on its activities and on the financial state of the Party to the Autumn Conference;
- h. To present a full plan for the work of The Party Executive for the following 12 months to the Autumn Conference;
- i. To present a three year financial plan to Party Council to be reviewed and updated annually.

14.2. The Party Executive shall consist of the following three groups, all members elected to serve for two year terms, except where stated otherwise:

- 14.2.1. One group of 4 members, directly and individually elected to specific roles
  - a. Chair;
  - b. Communications Co–ordinator;
  - c. Elections Co–ordinator;
  - d. Finance Co–ordinator;

#### **Amendment 5**

*Keith Watts, Mirka Virtanen, Pippa Bartolotti, Benjamin Smith, Peter Varley*

Amend 14.2.1 to include;

e. A representative from each Party of a Nation,  
as elected by each Party of a Nation

- 14.2.2. One non–portfolio group of 6 members, elected as a single group.
- 14.2.3. One representatives group of 2 members currently in public office, including but not limited to Councillors, Assembly Members, MPs, MEPs, and Peers.
- 14.3. In addition to the elected positions, the CEO or equivalent position within the party will be appointed ex officio as a non–voting member of The Party Executive.
- 14.4. The Party Executive will distribute the following responsibilities between themselves using an appropriate methodology to ensure an appropriate workload and skills within the Party Executive are matched to these responsibilities.
- Vice–Chair
  - Strategic Human Resources
  - International
  - Non–electoral campaigning
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Local Party Support
  - Training and development
  - Policy Development
  - Youth and Student organising
  - Trade Union Liaison
  - Party Conference

**Amendment 6**

*Derek Wall, Adam Ramsay, Jess Northey, Kenneth Green, David Raby, Michal Chantkowski, Simon Hales, Sean Mulcahy, Emily Blyth*

14.2.1. add ‘e. International Coordinator’

14.4. remove c. International and re–letter.

- 14.5. Elections for the GPEx Chair and Co–ordinator posts shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party with voting included within the Annual Ballot. The elections for the directly elected posts outlined in 14.2.1 and 14.2.3 will be taken as one group and the posts outlined in 14.2.3 will be the second group, with elections to each group taking place in alternate years.
- 14.6. There will be a transitional period over the first two years of operation which are outlined below. This is time limited and following 2 years of operation of this constitution (following the annual ballot 2019).
- 14.6.1. In the first year of operation (Annual Ballot 2018); The posts outlined in section 14.2.1,

with the exception of the Finance Coordinator, will be elected for two year terms in line with their normal election cycle.

- 14.6.2. The Finance Coordinator will have their term extended to a three year term from 2018 to 2020 to synchronise the election with the rest of the posts outlined in 14.2.1
- 14.6.3. The two posts representing members elected to public office outlined in section 14.2.3 will be elected by and from within those members for two–year terms at the annual ballot 2018.
- 14.6.4. The non–portfolio posts outlined in 14.2.2 will be filled with from the GPEx roles elected in the 2017 annual ballot till 2019, in addition, there will be an election to 1 non–portfolio position in the 2018 annual ballot. In the second year of operation, the non–portfolio posts will be elected for two years.
- 14.7. In line with the commitment within the Philosophical Basis of The Party of the need for social institutions to aid the powerless against the powerful, the following electoral provisions will be used to support the Executive to reflect the wider membership of the party.
- 14.7.1. At least one of Chair and Finance Co–ordinator should be a member who identifies as a woman, non–binary, or other marginalised gender. If at initial close of nominations for these two posts, none of the candidates fit the above criteria, nominations will be reopened for 2 weeks to allow members who do fit this criterion to come forward. If, at the end of this two week extension, there are still no candidates who do fit this criteria, then the election will continue with the candidates who have already applied.
- 14.7.2. At least 3 of the combination of the 6 non portfolio positions outlined in 14.2.2 and the Elections and Communications Co–ordinators outlined in 14.2.1 should be members who identifies as a woman, non–binary, or other marginalised gender. If at initial close of nominations for these two posts, none of the candidates fit the above criteria, nominations will be reopened for 2 weeks to allow members who do fit this criterion to come forward. If, at the end of this two week extension, there are still no candidates who do fit this criteria, then the election will continue with the candidates who have already applied.
- 14.7.3. At least one of the two positions for members currently holding public office outlined in

section 14.2.3 should be a member who identifies as a woman, non-binary, or other marginalised gender. If at initial close of nominations for these two posts, none of the candidates fit the above criteria, nominations will be reopened for 2 weeks to allow members who do fit this criterion to come forward. If, at the end of this two week extension, there are still no candidates who do fit this criteria, then the election will continue with the candidates who have already applied.

- 14.7.4. At least 4 of the positions outlined in section 14.2.1, 14.2.2 and 14.2.3 on the Executive should be filled by members who self define as belonging to any one of the following diverse communities within the party; An LGBTIQ+ person, a disabled person, a young person (under 25), an older person (over 50), a person of colour. If there is insufficient diversity in the members nominated to the executive to achieve this in any one annual ballot at the initial close of elections, then nominations will be reopened for 2 weeks to allow further members of these diverse communities groups to come forward. The extension will be advertised specifically to the relevant groups where possible. If, at the end of this two week extension, there is still insufficient diversity among the candidates, then the election will continue with the candidates who have already applied.

#### **Amendment 7**

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lee-Anne Lawrance*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

At clause 13.5.3(a), change “LGBTIQ+” to read “LGBTIQA+”

At clause 14.7.4, change “LGBTIQ+” to read “LGBTIQA+”

- 14.8. Candidates for posts on the Party Executive shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, not be disqualified from being a director of a company within England and Wales and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPC members in attendance at a quorate

official meeting of that body.

- 14.9. Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one Party Executive post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader(s).
- 14.10. The roles which are directly elected as defined in section 14.2.1 and the representatives of Elected Greens defined in section 14.2.3 shall be open to election on a job share basis. The constituent members of the job share team shall only have a single vote on the executive and it shall be the normal practice that only one of them attends meetings or takes part in subcommittee business at any one time. The roles without a specific portfolio in section 14.2.2 shall not be open to election on a job share basis, as the responsibilities as outlined in section 14.4 can already be shared amongst members elected.
- 14.11. Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out 14.1, each member of the Party Executive shall ensure that the needs of the Party are being met in their particular area of responsibility as adopted and published in the minutes of the Party Executive. Within that area of responsibility set out in 14.2.1 and 14.4), the member shall be individually responsible for all decisions except those which have been made collectively by the Party Executive.
- 14.12. The Party Executive shall meet as necessary and at least once every six weeks.
- 14.13. A quorum of the Party Executive shall comprise a majority of its membership eligible to vote.
- 14.14. The Party Executive shall appoint the following posts:
- a National Election Agent;
  - a Treasurer, whose appointment shall be subject to ratification by the Green Party Council;
  - a Panel of Speakers, who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy. In addition the Party Executive may create such posts as it considers necessary.
- 14.15. By a two-thirds majority of its membership eligible to vote, the Party Executive may suspend from office any member of the Party Executive, if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Party Executive is against the interests of the Party, subject to any decision of the Green Party Council under Clause 13.4 and subject to the right of such a member to appeal.

- 14.16. In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Green Party Council to recall a GPEX post holder, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Green Party Council.
- 14.17. In the event of casual vacancy for a GPEX post a replacement shall be appointed in an acting and non-voting capacity by the Party Executive until the next ballot is held.
- 14.18. The Chair, and other Executive members that the Green Party Council may from time to time invite, shall attend every meeting of the Green Party Council to report on the work of the Party Executive, without prejudice to Clause 13.15.
- 14.19. Sub-committees and Task and Finish Groups of the Executive
- 14.19.1. The Party Executive may from time to time create such Task and Finish Groups as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business. Green Party Executive shall determine prior to the start of their operation, their terms of reference, powers, and composition. The duration of these groups will have an explicitly stated limited lifespan and shall not continue indefinitely. The Green Party Executive retains full responsibility for the conduct of such task and finish groups and will report on the activities, and be accountable for the conduct of those Subcommittees to the Autumn Conference. Any such group shall include at least one member of The Party Council.
- 14.19.2. The Sub-committees outlined in clauses 14.20 to 14.30 are permanent sub-committees of the Party Executive. The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Executive will be members of the subcommittees ex officio; they shall decide between themselves which of them is a member of which subcommittee.
- 14.20. Communications sub-committee.
- 14.20.1. There shall be a Communications Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the Communications Coordinator and shall be responsible for planning and setting key communications focus for both the internal and external communications for the party.
- 14.20.2. In addition to the Communications Coordinator, the Communications Subcommittee shall include, the party leader, the members of the executive responsible for local party support, training and development, policy development and one of the two representatives of members in public office. In addition to those executive members, the relevant staff within the current party structures and a member of GPC shall be non-voting members.
- 14.20.3. The Communications Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.
- 14.20.4. The Communications Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.
- 14.21. Elections sub-committee.
- 14.21.1. There shall be an Elections Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by Elections Coordinator and shall be responsible for the planning and direction of the party's election activities ranging from local elections, to Westminster elections and referendums as well as over-seeing initiatives to increase electoral success and training would-be politicians.
- 14.21.2. In addition to the Elections Coordinator, the Elections Subcommittee shall include, The Finance Coordinator, The Leader, the members of the executive responsible for local party support, policy development and one of the two representatives of members in public office. In addition to those executive members, the relevant staff within the current party structures, the treasurer and agent if not members of the executive, and a member of GPC shall be non-voting members.
- 14.21.3. The Elections Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.
- 14.21.4. The Elections Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.
- 14.22. Administration and Finance sub-committee
- 14.22.1. The Administration and Finance Subcommittee exists to provide short turnaround decision making for the party executive on finance, HR,

legal and administrative matters.

14.22.2. The Administration and Finance Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.

14.22.3. Membership of the Administration and Finance Subcommittee shall be the Finance Coordinator, GPEx Chair, the executive members responsible for Equality and Diversity and Strategic HR. Any relevant staff members in the current party structure and a representative from GPC will be non-voting members of the committee.

14.22.4. The Administration and Finance Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

#### 14.23. Donations Scrutiny Subcommittee

14.23.1. There shall be a Donations Scrutiny Subcommittee, it will operate using the Donations Screening Process to ensure that all donations to The Party are made in line with the external regulatory and internal ethical standards which are required.

14.23.2. The Donations Scrutiny Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.

14.23.3. The Donations Scrutiny Subcommittee shall comprise the Chair of GPEx, the Finance Coordinator, the executive members responsible for Strategic HR and Local Party support. Relevant members of staff as appropriate to those currently employed by the party and a representative from GPC will attend as non-voting members of the committee.

14.23.4. The Donation Scrutiny Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

#### 14.24. Equality sub-committee

14.24.1. There shall be an Equality Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for Equality and Diversity and shall be responsible for monitoring, training

and leading on taking action within the party to improve access and engagement at all levels of the party.

14.24.2. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for Equality and Diversity, the Equality Subcommittee shall include, a member of Green Party Council, a representative of each Liberation Group as defined in section 7 of the constitution, nominated by the group and 5 members elected for one year terms at the Autumn Conference, with vacancies to be filled by co-option until the end of the term.

14.24.3. The Equality and Diversity Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.

14.24.4. The Equality and Diversity Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

#### 14.25. Local Party Support sub-committee

14.25.1. There shall be a Local Party Support Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for Local Party Support and shall be responsible for the direction of membership development, training, organising and local party capacity building.

14.25.2. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for local party support, the Local Party Support Subcommittee shall include, the members of the executive responsible for training and development, youth and student organising, trade union liaison and party conference. In addition to those executive members, the relevant staff within the current party structures and a member of GPC shall be non-voting members.

14.25.3. The Local Party Support Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

14.25.4. The Local Party Support Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.

## 14.26. The Political Subcommittee

- 14.26.1. The Political Subcommittee represents the outward face of the party and serves to allow our politicians to effectively input into our political strategy, align their work with others in the party, and make short turnaround decisions on rapidly developing issues.
- 14.26.2. The Political Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.
- 14.26.3. The Political Subcommittee cannot make decisions which elaborate or change our existing policy positions, as decided through the relevant processes.
- 14.26.4. Membership of The Political Subcommittee shall be;
  - 14.26.4.1. The following members in public office: MPs, MEPs, Regional or National Assembly Members, Members of the House of Lords, The Leader of any Green Group on a council where The Green Party is the largest group.
  - 14.26.4.2. The following members of GPEx: The Leader, the Chair, The Communications Coordinator, the members of the executive responsible for policy development and Equality and Diversity and the two members of the executive elected to represent members currently in public office.
- 14.26.5. Any relevant members of staff in the current structure, and a member of Green Party Council shall also be included as non-voting members of the committee.
- 14.26.6. The Political Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

## 14.27. Policy Development Subcommittee

- 14.27.1. There shall be a Policy Development Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be convened by the executive member with responsibility for policy development and which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy options consistent with

the Philosophical Basis.

- 14.27.2. Policy Development Committee is empowered to make minor changes to Policies for a Sustainable Society between conferences, such as updating out-of-date terminology (for instance, mention of organisations which no longer exist) and ensuring that Acts of Parliament referred to are current. All such changes will be reported to Conference through the Policy Development Committee report, so that an opportunity is provided to challenge each change and, if Conference so decides, reverse it.
- 14.27.3. The Policy Development Subcommittee shall include five members elected by ballot of the entire membership, usually as part of the annual ballot. Up to an additional five non-voting members may be co-opted by the elected Committee. This co-option shall take place after an annual skills audit carried out immediately following the election of the elected members, and will take account of
  - 14.27.3.1. the views of Equality Subcommittee
  - 14.27.3.2. the views of relevant Common Interest Groups within the party
  - 14.27.3.3. views of the Association of Green Councillors,
  - 14.27.3.4. and should ensure that at least two members of the Committee have direct experience of serving as a principal authority councillor.
- 14.27.4. This Subcommittee shall be responsible for enabling, co-ordinating and promoting policy formulation for the Green party and shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.
- 14.27.5. The PDC shall submit a written report to each Conference.

### **Amendment 8**

*Sam Riches, Douglas Rouxel, Alan Francis, Bernard Ekbery, John Street*

Amend the listing of roles at 14.4 to read:

a. Vice-Chair

- b. Strategic Human Resources
- c. International
- d. Non–electoral campaigning
- e. Equality and Diversity
- f. Local Party Support
- g. Training and development
- h. Policy
- i. Youth and Student organising
- j. Trade Union Liaison
- k. Party Conference

Amend the wording at 14.26.3 to read:  
The Political Subcommittee cannot make decisions which elaborate or change our existing policy positions, as decided through the relevant processes, though its members are encouraged to raise areas of concern to Policy Development Subcommittee.

Amend the wording at 14.27.1 to read:  
There shall be a Policy Development Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy options consistent with the Philosophical Basis.

Amend the wording at 14.27.4–5 to read:  
14.27.4 This subcommittee shall elect its convenor from within its voting members. The Policy Co–ordinator shall sit on PDC in an ex officio capacity and shall not ordinarily act as convenor of this subcommittee.

14.27.5 This subcommittee shall be responsible for enabling, co–ordinating and promoting policy formulation for the Green Party and shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive and published in a location and format that is accessible to members.

14.27.6 The PDC shall submit a written report to each Conference.

#### 14.28. Campaigns Subcommittee

14.28.1. There shall be a Campaigns Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for Non–Electoral Campaigning and shall be responsible for organising campaigning consistent with the Objects and Aims of the party.

14.28.2. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for Non–Electoral Campaigning, the Campaigns Subcommittee shall include 5 members elected for one year terms at the Autumn Conference, with

vacancies to be filled by co–option until the end of the term. Relevant staff members in the current party structure and a member of GPC will also be non–voting members of the committee.

14.28.3. The Campaigns Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

14.28.4. The Campaigns Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive.

#### 14.29. International Subcommittee

14.29.1. There shall be an International Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for International Issues and shall be responsible for maintaining the ongoing relationships and developing new relationships with our International Partners.

14.29.2. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for International Issues, the International Subcommittee shall include a member of Green Party Council and 5 members elected for one year terms at the Autumn Conference, with vacancies to be filled by co–option until the end of the term.

14.29.3. The International Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.

14.29.4. The International Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive.

#### 14.30. Conferences Subcommittee

14.30.1. There shall be a Conferences Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for Party Conferences and shall be responsible for the strategic oversight and organisational support of the running of Party Conferences and any other conferences to be held by the party.

14.30.2. The aim of the Conferences Subcommittee shall be to provide Autumn and Spring Conferences which meet a wide range of needs for the party and members, offer a wide range of activities, and attract a wide range of members. This encourages participation and empowers members to make decisions for

the Party. In general, the Committee shall hold successive Conferences at different locations to facilitate attendance from the range of Regions and Nations.

- 14.30.3. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for Party Conference, the Conferences Subcommittee shall include, a member of Green Party Council, one member of the Local Party covering the location of the next conference, nominated by the local party, and 5 members elected for one year terms at the Autumn Conference, with vacancies to be filled by co-option until the end of the term. To be eligible for nomination for election, such members shall have attended at least two Party Conferences, including one in the current year. These may include the Conference at which they are nominated. Conferences Subcommittee can also appoint any further non-voting members for specific purposes.
- 14.30.4. The Conferences Subcommittee shall submit a written report to each Annual General Meeting.
- 14.30.5. The Conferences Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive.

#### **Amendment 9**

*Sam Riches, Douglas Rouxel, Alan Francis, Bernard Ekbery, John Street*

Amend the wording at 14.14c to read:

c. a Panel of Spokespeople, who shall each be responsible for publicly representing designated areas of policy. This panel shall be selected through a process to be determined by the Spokespeople Subcommittee, and its composition and output will be reviewed at least annually. In addition the Party Executive may create such posts as it considers necessary.

Insert new wording after 14.30.5:

14.31.1. There shall be a Spokespeople Subcommittee of the Green Party Executive which shall be convened by the member of the executive with responsibility for Communications and shall be responsible for the appointment and oversight of the working of a panel of Spokespeople.

14.31.2. The aim of the Spokespeople Subcommittee shall be to provide comprehensive coverage of the key policy areas to be presented to the public through the media and speaking opportunities, through the appointment of a range of spokespeople who have the required skills.

14.31.3. In addition to the member of the Green Party Executive responsible for Communications, the Spokespeople Subcommittee shall include the GPEX members responsible for Policy and Youth and Student Organising, one of the GPEX members from the representative group of public office holders, a member of Green Party Council, and at least one member of the media team employed as party staff. The Spokespeople Subcommittee can also appoint any further non-voting members for specific purposes.

14.31.4. The Spokespeople Subcommittee shall maintain and publish a set of Terms of Reference, which will be subject to ratification by the Green Party Executive.

### **15. The Interaction Between the Party Executive and the Party Council**

- 15.1. In order to facilitate the closest possible working relationship between the Party Council and the Party Executive, to avoid duplication of any work and the oversight of the Party Executive by the Party Council, the following processes will be used:
  - 15.1.1. Direct sharing of the agenda, papers and minutes, including any and all confidential papers, agenda and minutes of meetings of the Party Council and the Party Executive will be shared across the full membership of both the Party Executive and the Party Council
  - 15.1.2. The Party Council and the Party Executive shall hold a joint planning meeting at least once a year, usually in the period between May elections and Autumn Conference final agenda deadline, to review, reformulate and republish the Party's long term strategy as appropriate. The party strategy will be a jointly published collaborative document and formulated to cover a 5 year cycle with every effort to ensure that it is as closely aligned as possible to the general election cycle.
  - 15.1.3. Where decisions are made jointly between the Green Party Executive and Green Party Council, it will be undertaken as a simple majority vote of each committee separately.

### **16. Party Leader and Deputy Leader**

- 16.1. There shall be a leader and two deputy leaders of the party. The leader shall be a voting member of the Executive and the deputy leaders be treated as a job-share.
- 16.2. The Leader and Deputy or Co-Leaders will be the primary public faces of the party, responsible for

presenting Green Party policy and promoting its electoral activity and campaigns to the public on a daily basis.

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lucas North, A C Baker*

Amend clause 16.10 to now read: In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Green Party Council to recall the Leader or either or both of two Co-Leaders, a new election for both posts of Leader and Deputy Leader(s) shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader(s), a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members shall be eligible to stand so long as their election would not result in all of the leadership team being of the same gender, subject to clause 16.3 above. The current postholders will retain their post until the result of that election.

- 16.3. Candidates for Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leader shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.
- 16.4. The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined.
- 16.5. Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a jobshare in which case they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders'. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader.
- 16.6. The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders shall be elected every two years. The election shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the Party.
- 16.7. Elections for the Leader and Deputy Leader(s) will include the opportunity for each candidate to address members through internal party communications. National and regional parties will be encouraged to hold hustings.
- 16.8. The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) will be accountable to party committees in the same way as other members of the Executive and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Executive and GPC.
- 16.9. The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) in exercising their duties will at all times abide by Party policy, the PSS and Philosophical Basis.
- 16.10. In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Green Party Council to recall the Leader or either or both of two Co-Leaders, a new election for both posts of Leader and Deputy Leader(s) shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader(s), a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members of the same gender as the current postholder shall be eligible to stand (where appropriate), subject to clause 16.3 above. The current postholders will retain their post until the result of that election.

- 16.11. The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders will present an Annual Report to The Autumn Conference alongside other Executive members.
- 16.12. If there are Co-leaders and one of the Co-Leaders resigns, there will be a by-election for both Co-Leaders. If there are two deputy leaders, should one of the deputy leaders resign, there will be a by-election for both deputy leaders. They shall serve a term lasting as if they were starting following the result of the previous Annual Ballot, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting following the result of the next Annual Ballot.
- 16.13. In the event of the suspension or resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader(s) shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of one of two Co-Leaders, the other Co-Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of both the Leader and Deputy Leader(s), or of both of two Co-Leaders, the Chair of GPEx shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place.

## **17. Regional and National Coordinators Network**

- 17.1. There shall be a Regional and National Coordinators Network the purpose of which will be to provide a forum for dialogue between the regional and national parties.
- 17.2. Membership of the Regional and National Coordinators Network will be open to all Regional and National Party Coordinators within The Party.
- 17.3. The Regional Coordinators Network will principally communicate electronically either via the members website or other communication methods decided by the members of the network.
- 17.4. Along with the geographically elected members of

## **Amendment 10(b)**

the Green Party Council The Regional Coordinators Network shall be considered as the first port of call for consultation and consideration of issues within The Party as they relate to the Regional and National Parties.

17.5. As part of the annual budget setting process, the Regional and National Coordinators Network will be asked to approve that the budget proposed by GPEX is not unduly biased towards a small geographic area.

17.5.1. In the event that the Regional and National Coordinators Network fail to approve the budget first time, then the executive will endeavour to remedy the problems outlined in it.

17.5.2. If agreement cannot be reached after adjustments are made through dialogue between the Regional and National Coordinators Network and GPEX, then GPEX may only pass the budget with a two thirds majority of the executive.

## **18. Standing Orders Committee**

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

18.2. The SOC shall consist of not more than five members elected by Conference (who should not be members of any other committee of The Party).

18.3. Standing Orders Committee will be responsible for compiling and maintaining a Record of Organisational Statements to include instructions made by conference to bodies within the party.

18.4. The SOC shall also carry out such duties as are provided for in Standing Orders.

## **19. Disciplinary Committees**

19.1. There shall be a Disciplinary Committee, elected to handle all complaints of a disciplinary nature and appeals of a non-disciplinary nature that have not been resolved at Regional, National, or Local Party or other appropriate level. The committee will comprise eleven members, one member from each region, one from the Wales Green Party and a member elected biennially at the autumn conference. The term of office will be two years.

19.2. Complaints will be considered on the following grounds:

- a. that a member has contravened the Constitution of the Party as interpreted by Standing Orders Committee (SOC)
- b. that a member has made a serious breach of one or more of the number of Standards in the Party's Code of Conduct
- c. that a member has brought the Party into disrepute

19.3. Non-disciplinary appeals will be considered on the following grounds:

- a. that a non-disciplinary element forms part of a decision or situation from which a disciplinary complaint has come forward to be considered
- b. that a decision containing no disciplinary element, made by a body or person in the party entitled to do so, has been disputed and proper attempts have then been made unsuccessfully to resolve the matter via the appropriate levels

19.4. Complaints and non-disciplinary appeals may be dismissed by the collective agreement of the Chair of GPEX, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee and the senior manager of the GPEW whose job description specifies the processing of complaints, if they fall outside the terms set out clauses 19.2 and 19.3 above.

19.5. Members have the right to appeal to the Party Council's Appeals Subcommittee against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee on the following grounds:

- a. That on the information before the Disciplinary Committee it was unreasonable for the Disciplinary Committee to find the ground of the complaint to be established or, with non-disciplinary matters, to have reached the decision it did.
- b. That there is relevant, reliable, and significant information that was not before the Disciplinary Committee that would have been likely to cause the Disciplinary Committee to find that the Ground of the complaint was not established or, with non-disciplinary matters, to have reached a different decision.
- c. That the Disciplinary Committee's consideration of the complaint or non-disciplinary matter was procedurally unfair to the member.

19.6. The Disciplinary Committee and all appeals against it considered by the Party Council Appeals Subcommittee shall be governed by Standing Orders for Party Discipline and Standing Orders for Non-Disciplinary Appeals, which can only be amended by a simple majority at conference.

19.7. When considering non-disciplinary matters the Disciplinary Committee shall have the power to impose sanctions and give directions as part of its decision. It may substitute its own decision for the one that is

appealed against. If prior attempts at resolution have not yet produced a decision, the Committee shall issue one. Directions will be confined to instructing a person or body within the party to take actions which they are constitutionally empowered to take, as defined by SOC. Sanctions will be imposed as a form of direction.

19.8. Disciplinary Committee shall have joint responsibility with Disputes Resolution Committee for developing, in consultation with relevant staff, a unified approach and customer service standards, as well as a comprehensive, party-wide case tracking system, for the handling of all formal grievances, complaints, discipline & disputes cases at every level within the party. These shall be subject to approval by the Party Council. Under this approach all such matters will first be treated as disputes, with limited clearly defined exceptions.

19.9. Disciplinary Committee shall have joint responsibility with Disputes Resolution Committee for developing model disciplinary procedures that dovetail with disputes resolution approaches, as a resource for local, regional and national parties and other party bodies. They shall be subject to approval by the Party Council.

19.10. Disciplinary Committee shall have responsibility to monitor, develop and support the capacity of local, regional and national parties and other party bodies to deal with grievances, complaints & discipline

## **20. Disputes and Resolution Committee**

20.1. There shall be a Committee called the Dispute Resolution Committee to serve the needs of Green Party members in resolving disputes arising in any matter relating to the membership and activities of The Green Party, National Parties, Regional Parties and Local Parties.

20.2. The Committee shall consist of five members elected at Autumn Conference, with vacancies to be filled by election, or by co-options to be ratified, at an intervening Conference. No member of the Dispute Resolution Committee shall be a member of any other body of The Green Party elected by the whole membership or by Conference, nor employees, nor Officers of The Green Party.

20.3. All formal grievances, complaints and disciplinary matters within the party will be treated as disputes in the first instance, with clear exceptions, to be set out in Dispute Resolution Committee Standing Orders.

20.4. Dispute Resolution Committee shall encourage resolution of disputes to be engaged in initially at the most appropriate and lowest level possible. Dispute Resolution Committee may however permit disputes to

be escalated for resolution by itself if adequate dispute resolution is not available at the appropriate level or in its opinion it is in the interests of the wellbeing of the Party to do so.

20.5. Dispute Resolution Committee shall have responsibility jointly with Disciplinary Committee, with input from the Party Council, for drafting and reviewing codes of conduct concerning the behaviour of party members. These codes shall require the approval of Conference. Such codes may cover various spheres or levels of activity of members or groups of members, as may be thought appropriate.

20.6. Dispute Resolution Committee shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a register of party members it approves to act as mediators or resolvers of disputes within the party. It shall also monitor, develop and support the capacity of local, national and regional parties and other party bodies to deal with disputes.

20.7. The role and organisation of the Dispute Resolution Committee shall be set out in the Dispute Resolution Committee Standing Orders agreed from time to time by Conference

## **21. Green World**

21.1. The Party shall publish Green World content at least four times a year to all its members without additional charge

21.2. Green World content shall be designed to be suitable for circulation outside the Party.

21.3. The aim of Green World shall be to assist the Party to fulfil its constitutional aims through the retention of members.

21.4. There shall be an editorial board, consisting of: a. Five voting members to be elected at the Autumn Conference, with vacancies to be filled by co-option until the end of the term, and the following non-voting members:

- a. An editor or editorial team
- b. A member of GPC, nominated by them whose function on the board shall be to represent GPC in order to ensure maximum cohesion between the operations of Green World and of Green Party Council
- c. A member of the Party Executive, nominated by GPEx, whose function on the board shall be to represent GPEx in order to ensure maximum cohesion between the operations of Green World and of the Party Executive
- d. Any other members, whom the elected members of the board may co-opt in order to assist the board's

work. The appointment of an editor or editorial team shall continue until the appointee(s) or the board wish to end the appointment. In either case three months' notice in writing shall be given prior to the date on which the appointment shall end.

- 21.5. The role of the editorial board shall be to ensure that Green World fulfils its aim, in accordance with the Standing Orders for the editorial board.
- 21.6. The elected members of the board shall appoint an editor or editorial team, by advertising throughout the Party and arranging appropriate appointing procedures. If an editorial team is appointed, the board shall nominate one of the team to be executive editor, who shall be the chief point of contact between the editorial team and the editorial board.
- 21.7. The editor, or the editorial team under the direction of the executive editor, shall be responsible for executing the production of Green World and shall be accountable to the Party through the editorial board. The board and the editor/editorial team shall jointly strive to ensure that the content of Green World is at all times legal, decent and honest.
- 21.8. The publication shall be financed by the Party Executive and such income as may be raised from sales and advertising.

## **22. Decision-Making – Openness, Accountability and Confidentiality**

- 22.1. Every effort shall be made to reach decisions at Conference, in Green Party Council, in Green Party Executive, within Local Parties and elsewhere by consensus. In the absence of consensus decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote unless otherwise provided.
- 22.2. The Green Party is committed to open and accountable decision-making. The party also recognises that confidentiality is required in certain, limited circumstances.
- 22.3. All decision-making meetings of elected and appointed Green Party bodies within regional and national parties and the party shall be minuted, and reported to the appropriate body. It is the responsibility of each body to inform Party members of their decisions which affect them, and to answer queries about decisions promptly and without obstruction. Common requests which are not urgent may be deferred until there can be broad dissemination of the information. Records of past decisions shall be kept so long as the decisions continue to be relevant.
- 22.4. Decisions made by procedures used between meetings of a body covered by clause 22.3 shall be fully reported

to its next meeting, which shall be deemed a meeting covered by clause 22.3.

- 22.5. All meetings of Green Party bodies covered by clause 22.3 shall be open to members as observers. Nonetheless, a party member may be excluded from observing all or part of such a meeting for any of the following reasons which apply generally or to a member or some members in particular:
- the business in question is covered by a general agreement, adopted by and available from the appropriate body of the party, which provides for confidentiality in defined cases, such as under the conditions of service of staff and procedures for competitive tendering;
  - the business in question is covered by a specific undertaking given by the responsible body of the party providing for confidentiality in this particular case, such as a commercial contract with a confidentiality clause;
  - if the party member has not given the body reasonable notice of their wish to observe its meeting, and there is not room to accommodate them at the venue;
  - the member's current continuous period of membership of the party has lasted for less than a year.
- 22.6. A decision to exclude a party member or members from observing all or part of a meeting of a body under clause 22.5 shall require the assent of not less than two-thirds of the members of the body present, except that a decision to exclude those designated and notified by the Green Party Council as its observer(s) from an Executive meeting shall require the unanimous assent of the Executive members present.
- 22.7. Where and when an agreement or undertaking which provides for confidentiality under Clause 22.5 section a–b is entered into, this shall be minuted and reported as part of the decision to adopt that agreement or give that undertaking.
- 22.8. Business from which observers have been excluded to ensure confidentiality shall nonetheless be fully minuted. The published minutes shall indicate the decisions taken, but the extent of information in those minutes may be restricted where required by the general agreement or specific undertaking of confidentiality concerned.
- 22.9. In order to maintain accountability between committees elected within the Green Party and the wider membership, there shall be in place the following mechanisms
- Ask Me Anything. There shall be in place an easy

to use and access anonymous question answering process either by e-mail or other appropriate communication method which allows members to directly ask questions of the bodies outlined in part 3 of this section, and expect an appropriate response within a two week time frame.

- b. Petitioning the Party Executive. There shall be in place a method by which any member can set up and make available for other members a petition system to request that the party executive undertake a particular course of action within the bounds of its constitutional power. Following the petition receiving signatures of 2% of the party membership at the time, it will be required to be discussed at the following Party Executive meeting, and a formal response issued.

## **23. Policy Making**

- 23.1. The Philosophical Basis of the Party may be changed only by a two-thirds majority at Conference or by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by a Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only be proposed in advance of a Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be required to pass the motion to initiate the ballot.
- 23.2. Proposed alterations to the policies of the Green Party to be approved by Conference must have passed through the process of consultation specified in Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. In this process, every effort shall be made to achieve effective consultation with appropriate bodies both inside and outside the Party, with a view to achieving consensus within the party, or where that is unattainable the widest attainable agreement. When such alterations to policies are approved they shall be published in the Party's policy book, Policies for a Sustainable Society.
- 23.3. Major elaborations of policy shall be considered as Policy Statements by Green Party Council in accordance with its Standing Orders. When such policy statements are approved they shall be published in the Party's 'Record of Policy Statements' (RoPS).
- 23.4. The contents of manifestos for Westminster and European elections shall be considered as Policy Statements by Green Party Council. The final editing and presentation of such manifestos shall be the responsibility of the Elections Co-ordinator.
- 23.5. Conference may make elaborations of previously agreed policy as Topical Motions and Emergency Motions.
- 23.6. Policies included in RoPS may be amended or deleted by the approval of a motion to Conference. In addition,

all policies in RoPS should be reviewed by Policy Development Committee two years after their adoption and at regular intervals thereafter. If the Committee considers that all or part of any of the policies therein are now outdated they can propose their amendment, archiving to a dedicated area of the members' website or deletion by a subsequent meeting of Green Party Council. Archived RoPS entries will remain in force as policy statements, but will not be actively promoted through the public policy website. All decisions to alter, archive and/or delete RoPS entries will be reported to Conference through the Policy Development Committee report.

- 23.7. A complete record of all decisions on policy by Conference shall be held and made available on request by the Standing Orders Committee, and a similar record of decisions on policy by the Green Party Council shall be held and made available on request by the Green Party Council.

## **24. Internal Elections**

- 24.1. All elections in the Green Party shall be conducted by Single Transferable Vote when electing to a group of positions, and the Alternative Vote when electing to a single position. All elections in the party shall also have a provision for negative voting via the use of a "re-open nominations" candidate on the ballot paper. The candidate shall be treated in the same way as all other candidates. Any candidates receiving less support than the "re-open nominations" candidate will not be elected.
- 24.2. No member may be elected to the same post or sit on the same body for more than 5 terms consecutively, nor be a member of the Green Party Council or Green Party Executive for more than 3 terms consecutively.
- 24.3. The SOC shall appoint a Returning Officer (RO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) each year. The RO shall conduct elections for office in The Party which take place by postal or Conference ballot. The DRO shall assist the RO and deputise for the RO at the RO's request.
- 24.4. The RO shall prepare election regulations for the conduct of such elections. Such regulations shall be subject to the approval of SOC, and shall be published to candidates. SOC shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the regulations, and within that interpretation the decision of the RO shall be final.

## **25. Annual Ballot**

- 25.1. There shall be held a nationally organised Annual Ballot that will include the election of the following posts as they fall due for election:

- a. Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders;
  - b. The members of the Green Party Executive as outlined in section 14.2 taking into the requirements as set out in 14.7.
  - c. The members of Green Party Council as outlined in section 13.4 taking into account the requirements set out in 13.5.
  - d. Any casual vacancies occurring for any of these posts that are notified to the ERO before the opening of nominations;
  - e. Any two-year terms posts that require a re-run election due to recall either by membership petition or GPEx or GPC vote.
  - f. Members of the Policy Development Subcommittee of GPEx as outlined in section 14.27 of the constitution.
- 25.2. All elections held as part of the Annual Ballot shall be subject to a set of Standing Orders drawn up by the ERO and agreed by SOC.
- 25.3. The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner.
- 25.4. If 5% of paid up national members of GPEx petition the ERO concerning any particular GPEx member (including Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders) that post must be subject to election for its second year of the term and will be included within the next Annual Ballot. Existing post holders can be nominated. Whomsoever is elected in this circumstance shall serve the remaining year of the term.
- 25.5. In the event of a GPEx casual vacancy coming in existence, whether or not filled by co-option, in the first year of its term and before the opening of nominations for the Annual Ballot, that post shall be included within the Annual Ballot and any person so elected in this circumstance shall serve the remaining year of the term.

## 26. Revision of the Constitution

- 26.1. The Constitution may be revised by a two thirds majority vote, at Conference or an Extraordinary Party Conference called by Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power.
- 26.2. The Constitution may also be revised by a two thirds majority vote of the membership through a party-wide ballot. Such a ballot will be initiated by Conference in a resolution explicitly delegating this power. Such a resolution may only be proposed in advance of Conference through the normal First Agenda process. A simple majority at Conference will be required to pass the

motion to initiate the ballot.

- 26.3. No amendment to the Constitution shall be retrospective in nature/effect.
- 26.4. Changes to this constitution take effect at the close of the Conference in which they were agreed. Or for changes that come about via a members' ballot when the result of that ballot is agreed.
- 26.5. Where errors arise within the numbering, lettering and references within The Constitution, Standing Orders Committee are permitted to correct and republish them without recourse to conference for prior approval. All corrections made by Standing Orders Committee outside of conference will be reported to the next conference as part of the Standing Orders Committee report.

## Bye-Laws

### 1. referred to in Clause 9.4: Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons

- 1.1. The Party will set targets for the proportion of candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self-identified gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, age and sexual orientation based on their respective proportion of the England & Wales population. The Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to Conference.

#### Amendment 10(c)

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lucas North, A C Baker*

Amend clause 1.1 of the 'Selection of candidates for the House of Commons bylaw' to now read: The Party will set targets for the proportion of candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self-identified gender (including non-binary people), race, disability, socio-economic status, age and sexual orientation based on their respective proportion of the England & Wales population. The Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to Conference.

- 1.2. Any Green Party member wishing to stand as a candidate for the Green Party in a Parliamentary election in a constituency where there is no Local Party must have the written consent of the Regional Council.
- 1.3. In the event of a dispute concerning the selection of a prospective candidate the Regional Council may be called in to arbitrate.

- 1.4. Where one or more local Green Parties cover a constituency the procedure for selection of a candidate must ensure the following:
  - 1.4.1. that the prospective candidate is democratically selected by all Green Party members resident in the constituency except that the relevant Local Party/ies may take a formal decision to ballot their whole membership(s). If agreement cannot be reached between all the Local Parties concerned on who should be balloted then the default position shall be to ballot members in the constituency only.
  - 1.4.2. that there is provision for postal voting;
  - 1.4.3. that there shall be at least one hustings meeting at which members may ask questions of nominees. At least one notice will be sent in reasonable time to each member eligible to vote in the selection ballot. giving the timetable for the selection process; details of the hustings meeting(s); the procedure for nomination; and the procedure for voting.
  - 1.4.4. that the voting procedure used is the Single Transferable Vote and that there is provision for negative voting (Re–open nominations).
  - 1.4.5. If, following the first close of nominations, there is not at least one female nominee, there must be a second call for nominations.
- 1.5. The relevant Local Party/ies shall appoint an Electoral Returning Officer (ERO) who shall be responsible for ensuring that the selection of the candidate is conducted democratically and in accordance with the procedure in Clause 1.3 above. In conducting the selection, the ERO may use any recommended guidelines for the practical conduct of the selection procedure as may be published by the Elections Co–ordinator and the Party Executive from time to time.
- 1.6. Exceptionally, in the event of a Parliamentary election being called at short notice and the procedure being declared operative by the Regional Council Co–chairs, where no Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC) is in place, the relevant Local Party/ies may adopt a candidate by vote at a meeting called for that purpose, of which all Green Party members of those local parties have been notified in advance in writing.
- 1.7. Nominees may not campaign for votes other than through written statements and an official hustings process managed by the ERO, except where other means have been specifically authorised by the relevant Local Party/ies.
- 1.8. Each nominee must have two nominators who must be fully paid up members of the GPEW. Nominators must be members of the relevant constituency except that, where the Local Party/ies concerned have agreed to ballot their entire membership(s) under 3). above, they may be members from anywhere in the Local Party's/ies' territory/ies.
- 1.9. Each nominee must have been a member of the GPEW for at least one year by the last possible date for the election and must hold continuous membership up to the date of the election. However, an exemption from this requirement may be granted by GPC if at least ten nominating signatures are obtained from fully paid up members resident in the area which the Local Party has agreed as the area from which selection will take place. This could be the constituency or the territory covered by the Local Party (see 3a).
- 1.10. Nominees must expect to be legally qualified, and not disqualified, from being a candidate at the time of the election.
- 1.11. Nominees shall be asked to declare anything which they consider likely, or that may in law be prejudicial to their position as a (prospective) candidate or as a MP or would bring the Party into disrepute.
- 1.12. De–selection of candidates
  - 1.12.1. A ballot on whether to de–select a Parliamentary candidate will be held if a petition demanding one is supported by at least 20% of the Party members in the territory originally balloted.
  - 1.12.2. A person seeking to initiate such a petition shall inform in writing the ERO or, if none is in post, the relevant Local Party Election Agent(s) of the name of the candidate and the reason or reasons why they should be deselected. The officer receiving such notification shall be responsible for drawing up a form of petition and for notifying the candidate in writing that they are doing so and of the charges against them.
  - 1.12.3. The candidate targeted for de–selection shall have the right to reply to the charges at the time they are first circulated to the wider membership and will therefore be given eight working days to provide to the relevant officer up to 300 words in their defence which shall appear on the form of petition.
  - 1.12.4. The petition will state a reason or reasons why the candidate is considered unfit to represent the Party and will be delivered to the ERO for

- the constituency. If none is in post it will be delivered to the relevant Election Agent(s), The officer(s) receiving the petition will be responsible for (1) checking that the petition is valid, (2) informing the National Election Agent and the candidate whose de-selection is sought of the action taken and (3) the conduct of the ballot.
- 1.12.5. The question put shall take the form “[Name of candidate] be de-selected as the Green Party’s candidate for the [name of constituency]’
  - 1.12.6. The ballot will be accompanied by statements from the candidate and those seeking deselection if those persons so wish. Such statements shall not exceed 300 words. There will also be a meeting to discuss the matter of which all members resident in the territory originally balloted will be given reasonable notification and will be entitled to attend and at which the candidate and those seeking deselection may present their cases and be questioned.
  - 1.12.7. Notification of the arrangements for the ballot will be issued to members within two weeks of the delivery of the petition. The ballot will close and the result be declared not more than four weeks after members have been notified of its arrangements.
  - 1.12.8. The result shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast. If a majority vote to retain the candidate then no further attempt at de-selection may be made unless (1) twelve months have elapsed since the declaration of the result of the de-selection ballot or (2) in the opinion of the GPEW body charged with considering selection disputes there is significant new evidence that the candidate is unsuitable to represent the Party.
  - 1.12.9. If, in the opinion of a majority of members in the territory originally balloted taking part in a meeting called to discuss the issue, there are sufficient grounds for the removal of a candidate but inadequate time in which to produce a petition, hold a meeting to hear the case and complete a ballot to decide the matter, then the meeting shall remit a decision on de-selection to the GPEW body charged with considering selection disputes. The candidate and those seeking de-selection shall have the right to present their cases to that body.
  - 1.12.10. Entitlement to vote in a selection and deselection ballot will be limited to members of the GPEW at the time of the opening of nominations for the relevant constituency or, if so agreed under 3). above, such members in the whole of the Local Party’s/ies’ territory/ies.
- 2. referred to in Clause 9.5: Selection of Party Lists:–**
    - 2.1. Selection procedure to be used for a European Election held under a closed Regional List electoral system.
    - 2.2. The definition of a Region in this bye-law is a European electoral Region as laid down by statute and falling within the territory of the Green Party of England and Wales. The term ‘nominee’ as used herein shall be taken to apply to a person seeking selection for the List by full Regional ballot, or by any other means sanctioned in these procedures.
    - 2.3. The selection procedure for a Regional list of candidates shall be conducted by the relevant Region
    - 2.4. Each Region shall be responsible for deciding how many candidates it wishes to submit for its list and upon other objectives, strategy and tactics relating to the conduct of the European election campaign within the Region. In doing so, it shall have regard to any relevant decisions of conference, GPC or GPEx.
    - 2.5. Members of the Party will be entitled to participate in the Regional selection process according to the Region in which they are resident at the time the ballot is held. GPEx shall be responsible for ensuring that an accurate membership list arranged by Region can be provided.
    - 2.6. Conduct of the selection process:
      - 2.6.1. GPC Members (or if these posts are vacant the Regional Co-ordinator) shall be responsible for ensuring that a European Regional Returning Officer (ERRO) is appointed at a properly advertised Regional meeting which is open to all members resident in that Region. The National Election Agent shall be notified of the name and contact details of the ERRO forthwith.
      - 2.6.2. An ERRO may not seek election to their Regional List in any selection procedure over which they have jurisdiction.
      - 2.6.3. Such a Regional meeting may determine matters of timetabling and any details of the selection process not set out in this bye-law or otherwise resulting directly from a decision of Party conference. Guidance will be made available by the National Election Agent or other relevant Party Officer.

2.6.4. The Green Party shall work on a basis of 50%+ of all candidates on regional lists not defining as male, and a proportion of the list being from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background. This proportion should be representative of the region's demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for BAME candidates. If after this time no eligible candidate puts themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota.

#### **Amendment 10(d)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lucas North, A C Baker*

Amend clause 2.6.4 of the 'Selection of party lists' bylaw to now read: The Green Party shall have an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates on regional lists, and a proportion of the list being people from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background, people with a disability, power of lower socio-economic status, young people and LGBTIQ+ people. This proportion should be representative of the region's demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for candidates that meet the required diversity. If after this time no eligible candidate puts themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota and the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet the quota in future elections as part of their report to conference.

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

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

to European Election selection procedures.

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

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

2.10. The nomination procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

requirement shall only apply to those seeking selection to the top places on the List.

- 2.10.7. Nominees shall indicate whether or not they intend to be an active member of the list of candidates, irrespective of their position on it.
- 2.10.8. The information and answers provided will be made available to all members resident in the Region prior to the Regional hustings.
- 2.11. Eligibility of nominees:
  - 2.11.1. A nominee must be a member of The Green Party at the time of close of nominations for the Regional selection process.
  - 2.11.2. Each nominee must be expected to have been a member of The Green Party continuously for one year immediately prior to the expected date of the opening of nominations for the European election. A Regional meeting, given proper notice of the item, may extend this qualification to a period of not more than 2 years.
  - 2.11.3. Each nominee must expect to be qualified to be elected to the European Parliament at the opening of nominations for the European Election and must be so to be nominated as a candidate at the election.
  - 2.11.4. Membership of a Green Party which is a member of the European Federation of Green Parties will be considered equivalent to GPEW membership for the purposes of any membership qualification.
  - 2.11.5. In extraordinary circumstances, a person who would not normally qualify under category (b) above may be nominated for selection by 20 members of the Region for which they wish to stand and who will have been Green Party members for at least 2 years at the close of nominations.
  - 2.11.6. A member thus qualified shall be entitled to submit a nomination for more than one Region, but if selected for more than one list, after all relevant selections have been finished, must resign from lists sufficient to retain candidacy in no more than one region.
- 2.12. Conduct of ballots and hustings.
  - 2.12.1. The ERRO for each Region will organise the ballot(s) necessary to select and order the members of the Regional List. The ballot(s) will

be postal and will not close before there has been at least one properly advertised Regional meeting at which all nominees for the List are invited to present themselves and may be questioned by members.

- 2.12.2. This procedure may take place before the list is submitted for the relevant European Election, in which case the consequence is to remove the de-selected person from the Party's list for that election, or after that submission of the list, in which case the consequence is to remove the de-selected person from the possibility of nomination as a replacement MEP under bye-law clause 2.14 below.
- 2.12.3. The ERRO, in consultation with the National Election Agent, will issue guidance to nominees that sets out the nature and extent of campaigning allowed in pursuit of selection for the list. Such guidance shall stipulate that:
  - 2.12.3.1. Nominees shall not promise or imply in any statement to voters, including at hustings, that they will give any monies, goods or services to any part of the Party dependent on their election to the list of candidates, or as a MEP, or on any particular outcome of the ballot other than as may be required by any rules agreed by the Party.
  - 2.12.3.2. Nominees shall not offer one another endorsements, or seek or use endorsements from other members in any statement to voters, including at hustings.
  - 2.12.3.3. The ballot(s) will require members to cast preferences for the candidates as in an STV or AV election. There shall be provision for negative voting (Re-open Nominations). The candidate winning the first place on the list will be determined by an AV count of the ballot papers. The second, third, fourth etc. places on the list will be determined in that order by a complete STV count for each place using a quota of  $1/(n+1)$  when determining the nth place. Candidates already elected to the list will take part in later counts and may not be eliminated. Each count will therefore elect one additional candidate to the list.

These terms shall be subject to any Regional Meeting decision regarding gender or ethnic minority balance.

circulated to all members in the Region along with a new deadline for close of nominations.

- 2.12.3.4. A Region may re-order its list after the ballot, or following any further ballots, recounts or appointments made in connection with vacancies occurring on the list, subject to the consent of all the candidates thereby affected.
- 2.12.4. Filling vacancies on the list
- 2.12.5. Where, at the first time of asking, there are fewer nominees for a ballot than the number of candidates a Region wishes to select using that ballot, the ERRO shall set a new date for close of nominations which shall be at least six weeks later than the original deadline and will notify all members in the Region accordingly.
- 2.12.6. A candidate wishing to resign from the Regional List shall notify the ERRO in writing. The ERRO shall inform the National Election Agent of the resignation.
- 2.12.7. Where a Region wishes to fill one or more vacancies that still remain or that subsequently arise on a list due to the death, resignation or de-selection of a candidate, the following rules shall apply:
- 2.12.7.1. Where a vacancy arises on a list and there were more nominees than places to be filled, the Region shall have the option of recounting the original ballot papers to determine who shall additionally be elected to the list and the revised order, or may decide that the next highest-placed nominee in the ballot shall be deemed elected to the list and that the candidates shall be re-ordered as in 2.12.3.4 above so as to determine which position they shall occupy.
- 2.12.7.2. If after the second call for nominations there are insufficient willing nominees to fill the top two positions on the list, dispensation may be given by the Tribunal to defer the ballot until such time as the ERRO is satisfied that sufficient nominations will be submitted. A further call for nominations will be
- 2.12.7.3. If, after the third call for nominations, or for one of the other reasons described, there remain or arise vacancies in any of the positions on the list, the Regional Party may decide to appoint nominees to fill them at a Regional meeting for which all Regional members must be given advance notice of this business. If agreement cannot be reached on which nominees should be appointed to the list, and in what order, a STV ballot may be held at the meeting to determine the relative order. Subject to a Region's powers under 2.12.3.4, the result of a postal ballot shall take precedence in promoting nominees already on the list to any higher position for which there is a vacancy.
- 2.12.7.4. In the event of any ballot being conducted to fill vacancies on the list, any person holding a position below one or more of those vacancies shall have the option of resubmitting themselves for election. The following constraint shall apply: no such person, whether so re-submitting themselves or not, will be moved to a lower position or lose their place on the list altogether, as a result of such a ballot.
- 2.12.7.5. Any nominee whose position on a list should, on account of new legislation, fall below that of the number of MEPs to be elected from the Region, shall retain their nominal nth position and be available to fill any vacancy on the list according to the rules set out above.
- 2.12.7.6. A nominee will be ineligible for promotion to a place on the list if they were not preferred to RON.
- 2.12.7.7. If a Region wishes to fill any vacancy on its list too close to the election for the procedures

described above to be completed in time, the ERRO may put details of nominees before GPC for a decision as to whether or not they may be a candidate.

## 2.13. De-selection of candidates :

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

2.13.2. A person seeking to initiate such a petition shall inform in writing the ERRO or, if none is in post, the Regional Co-ordinator of the name of the candidate and the reason or reasons why they should be de-selected. The officer receiving such notification shall be responsible for drawing up a form of petition and for notifying the candidate in writing that they are doing so and of the charges against them.

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

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

2.13.4.1. checking that the petition is valid,

2.13.4.2. informing the National Election Agent and the candidate whose de-selection is sought of the action taken and

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

2.13.5. The ballot will be accompanied by statements from the candidate and those seeking deselection if those persons so wish. Such statements shall not exceed 300 words. There will also be a Regional meeting to discuss the matter of which all members resident in the

Region will be given reasonable notification and will be entitled to attend and at which the candidate and those seeking de-selection may present their cases and be questioned.

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

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

2.13.7.1. twelve months have elapsed since the declaration of the result of the de-selection ballot, or

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

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

## 2.14. Nominating a new MEP when a Green Party MEP dies or resigns

2.14.1. When a Green Party MEP dies or resigns, the Electoral Returning Officer for the region concerned will ask the next person on the party's list for the preceding European Election whether they consent to being the replacement and will ask the Green Party's Nominating Officer to provide a certificate. The Nominating Officer will provide that certificate except in the following circumstances

- 2.14.1.1. the person concerned has been deselected under the process in bye-law Clause 2.13) above, that process having been completed before the date the vacancy occurred; or
- 2.14.1.2. the person concerned has not remained continuously in Green Party membership until the date of the nomination, or has been suspended from membership, or is a member of another political party, other than a Green Party abroad.
- 2.14.1.3. If the next person on the list does not become the MEP under sub-section a) above, then the procedure in shall be repeated for the next person on the list.

### 3. referred to in clause 9.7 Party Registration

- 3.1. For the purposes of Registration the elected Leader or one of the two job sharing at their discretion (or by drawing of straws) as outlined in Section 8 shall be registered as the Leader.
- 3.2. For the purposes of Registration the National Election Agent shall be regarded as the “nominating officer”.
- 3.3. The Party may register such names and emblems for the Party as seem appropriate. The Party Executive shall have final responsibility for determining these.
- 3.4. For the purposes of enabling verification of bona fide Green Party candidates under the legislation each Local Party, Regional Party, or group of Local Parties planning to stand candidates in elections at any level of government shall notify in writing the National Election Agent of the name and address of their Election Agent by 31st January of the year in which the election is to be held. The notification shall also include details of the electoral territory covered by the Local Party, Regional Party, or group of parties. Any Green Party member who is not a member of a Local Party and intends to stand as a candidate for the Green Party in any election should notify the National Election Agent of their intention by 31st January of the year in which the election is to be held. In the case of by-elections notification shall be accepted up to 4 weeks before the close of nominations.
- 3.5. The Nominating Officer will only issue authorities to certify Green Party candidates to Election Agents and/ or some other person agreed by the relevant Local or Regional Party.
- 3.6. The Nominating Officer will only provide direct

certification to any candidate:

- 3.6.1. if the Election Agent or otherwise authorised person of the relevant Local or Regional Party agrees to them doing so or
- 3.6.2. if such a person cannot be contacted in time, then the candidate, or other person making the request for a certificate on their behalf, furnishes sufficient evidence that they were selected according to the required democratic procedures or
- 3.6.3. if in the absence of a formally constituted Local Party, an appropriate Regional Party Officer gives their consent to them doing so.

### 4. Referred to in clause 9.8: Selection for nomination to the House of Lords

- 4.1. The Green Parties of the United Kingdom shall select one or more people to be its nominee(s), should they be invited by the government to make nomination(s) to the House of Lords. Nominee(s) shall be selected even in advance of an invitation. Throughout this procedure, “members” refers to members of the Green Party in England and Wales, the Scottish Green Party (SGP) and the Green Party in Northern Ireland (GPNI). Other UK Green Parties may be added with the agreements of the executives of all those parties included in this procedure at the time.

#### 4.2. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- 4.2.1. Whilst there are some seats in the House of Lords offered by appointment, a House of Lords Selection Committee shall be convened, consisting of up to three members appointed by GPRC, up to one appointed by SGP and up to one appointed by GPNI.. The Selection Committee shall be responsible for:
  - 4.2.1.1. Initiating each selection
  - 4.2.1.2. Deciding on the number of nominees to be selected
  - 4.2.1.3. Appointing the ERO
  - 4.2.1.4. Agreeing the timetable and supplementary selection rules with the ERO – these shall be set before nominations are opened
  - 4.2.1.5. Organising the ballot mailing with the ERO

- 4.2.1.6. Making arrangements for national hustings (at conferences and/or through online means)
- 4.2.1.7. Ruling on disputes outside the remit of the ERO consensus decision making will be preferred but a majority of three members of the Committee including representatives of two parties will be sufficient. Committee members will be expected to consult their parties before making decisions.

#### 4.3. STARTING THE SELECTION PROCESS

- 4.3.1. This selection process shall chose nominee(s) for a period of 5 years. If no nomination is made within that period then a new selection process shall be undertaken.
- 4.3.2. Subsequent selection processes shall be started either a reasonable time before the end of the term specified in (i) or when the Green Parties make nomination(s).

#### 4.4. MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS

- 4.4.1. The selection committee will decide on the number of nominees to be selected, with advice from the chairs of GPEX, SGP and GPNI. This decision will be made before nominations open. The count will be as for an ordered list. Once any nominations are made from the top of the list, a new selection process shall be started.

#### 4.5. NOMINATION

- 4.5.1. The ERO shall arrange for the start of the selection process to be publicised to all members to invite nominations with a copy of these rules. The timetable for the ballot and count shall be advertised at such time. There may be no subsequent variation to the timetable without the consent of the candidates in the ballot.
- 4.5.2. Nominations shall be supported by at least twenty signatures of members. No member may sign more nomination papers than there are nominees to be selected In the event of a member signing more than their allowed number of nomination papers, the signatures will be considered in the order in which the nominations were received and opened by the ERO. Excess signatures by the member shall be considered invalid.

- 4.5.3. All nominations must be sent separately from each other. (to make (ii) work!)
- 4.5.4. Nomination may be supported by up to 350 words from the candidate and shall include details of their experience in the Green Party and length of time of membership.
- 4.5.5. Nominees shall be asked to declare anything which they consider likely, or that may in law be prejudicial to their position as a Green peer or would bring the Party into disrepute.

#### 4.6. SELECTION

- 4.6.1. The nominee(s) shall be chosen by all national members.
- 4.6.2. GPEX, GPC and the Association of Green Councillors shall each appoint one person to an interviewing panel. A fourth person may be appointed by majority decision of the MEPs, MPs, Lords and Assembly members of GPEW. SGP and GPNI shall each be invited to appoint one member to the interviewing panel. This panel shall select a chair from among their number. This panel of six people shall select a chair from among their number. If the panel is deadlocked then the chair shall be selected from among the contenders by lot.
- 4.6.3. If there are more than six candidates, the interviewing panel may exclude some from consideration and the ballot on a paper sift. In any event they shall interview at least three candidates (if available). If multiple nominations are to be made, they shall interview at least twice as many candidates as there are nominees to be selected.
- 4.6.4. The panel shall interview the candidates and write a report for which will be circulated with the ballot papers and the candidates' statements to the members. On receipt of the report, the voters shall vote on the STV system with provision for negative voting (Reopen Nominations). Balloting of the voters may be timed to coincide with a due mailing of the membership and to allow hustings at conferences.

#### **Amendment 10(e)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Aimee Challenor, Katrina Swales, Lucas North, A C Baker*

Amend clause 4.6.4 of the 'Selection of nomination for the House of Lords' bylaw to now read: The panel shall interview the

candidates and write a report for which will be circulated with the ballot papers and the candidates' statements to the members. The report should note the diversity of the candidates. On receipt of the report, the voters shall vote on the STV system with provision for negative voting (Reopen Nominations). Balloting of the voters may be timed to coincide with a due mailing of the membership and to allow hustings at conferences.

4.6.5. For a single nomination ballot, the ballot papers shall be recounted with the winning candidate excluded to give a reserve nomination, should the selected nominee become unavailable (through resignation or otherwise).

#### 4.7. POST–SELECTION MANAGEMENT

4.7.1. Following the nomination of a Green Party Peer, all the UK Green Parties ruling bodies will develop a mechanism for input and management of the Peer's workplan, campaigns and public position on issues to ensure consistency of messages on a UK wide basis.

### 5. Referred to in clause 7.2: Common Interest Groups

5.1. Recognition criteria – Common Interest Groups are required to meet the minimal criteria set out below in order to be recognised by the Party and to remain so recognised but shall in all other material respects remain autonomous. A Common Interest Group that ceases to fulfil these criteria shall be de–recognised by the Party Council.

5.2. Constitution – A Common Interest Group shall not be recognised by the Party until it has formally and democratically agreed a constitution, the contents of which may not contradict the Constitution of the Green Party of England & Wales – nor limit or remove rights of members that are conferred by it. Amendments to an existing Common Interest Group constitution shall require a two–thirds majority in favour.

5.3. Annual election of officers – These must be conducted in accordance with the internal election requirements set out in the Constitution of the Green Party of England & Wales, without unreasonable delay or other irregularity.

#### 5.4. Membership

5.4.1. If a Liberation Group decides to incorporate into its constitution a provision to restrict its membership, the proposal for such a provision must be adequately notified to its members in

advance and will need to achieve a two–thirds majority vote in favour.

5.4.2. Liberation Groups may restrict the membership of the whole group on the following grounds:

5.4.2.1. to provide a safe space for discussion or other activities;

5.4.2.2. to provide a confidential space for discussion or other activities.

5.4.3. If such a restriction is duly agreed, as set out in 5.4.1 above, members of the group may also request that their name and membership of the group is kept confidential, subject to a vote to do so, in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 22 of The Party's Constitution.

5.4.4. If a Liberation Group wishes to set up a subgroup with restricted membership to provide either a safe or confidential space for some of its discussion or other activities, this should also follow the procedure set out in 5.4.1 above and the names of members of that subgroup may be kept confidential from other members of the Common Interest Group on their request, providing the procedures set out in Section 22 of the Party's Constitution are followed. However such a restricted membership subgroup may not take decisions that bind the whole group.

5.4.5. Any Common Interest Group may restrict observers from their meetings, and respect confidentiality in their minutes, by following the procedures set out in section 22 of The Party's Constitution. This applies equally to restricted membership situations.

#### **Amendment 11**

*Lucas North, Aimee Challenor, Sean Mulcahy, Denis Walker*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

Replace clause 5.4 of bylaw 5 ('Common Interest Groups') with the following wording:

#### 5.4 Membership

5.4.1 A Liberation Group shall be able to restrict its membership via a constitutional clause present in the constitution presented to the relevant party body when ratified.

5.4.1.1 Such a clause shall be amendable as any other clause, subject to the Liberation Group's rules.

5.4.1.2 A Common Interest Group wishing to become a Liberation Group (or an existing Liberation Group with no such existing clause) shall be able to add such a clause in line with that Group's rules, save that those entitled to vote shall be those who were a member when the clause was first notified to the membership.

5.4.2. Liberation Groups may restrict the membership of the group on the following grounds:

5.4.2.1 to provide a safe space for discussion or other activities;

5.4.2.2 to provide a confidential space for discussion or other activities.

5.4.3 If such a restriction is duly agreed, as set out in 5.4.1 above, that Liberation Group will not be required to publish a membership list. Such a group will, however, disclose how many members it has.

5.4.4. If a Liberation Group wishes to set up a subgroup with restricted membership to provide either a safe or confidential space for some of its discussion or other activities, this should also follow the procedure set out in 5.4.1 above and the names of members of that subgroup may be kept confidential from other members of the whole group. [However such a restricted membership subgroup may not take decisions that bind the whole group.]

5.4.5 Any Common Interest Group may restrict observers from their meetings, and respect confidentiality in their minutes, by following the procedures set out in section 22 of The Party's Constitution. This applies equally to restricted membership situations.

## 5.5. Transparency

5.5.1. Section 22 of the Party's Constitution on Decision Making, Openness, Accountability and Transparency is binding on all groups in The Party and must also be adhered to by Common Interest Groups. Each Common Interest Group shall also ensure a copy of their constitution, as well as meetings minutes, a document setting out its aims and an annual report are easily accessible for all GPEW members to see. Membership numbers and lists will also be made available, except as set out in 4.5.4 above.

### **Amendment 12**

*Bernard Ekbery, Alan Francis, John Street,*

*Sean Mulcahy, Douglas Rouxel*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

In Bye-laws section 5.5.1, in "as set out in 4.5.4 above." delete the first '4' so that it reads "as set out in 5.4 above."

## 5.6. Discipline & Disputes resolution

5.6.1. Common Interest Groups shall comply and cooperate reasonably with duly agreed national policies and procedures on: discipline; dispute resolution; safe spaces; anti bullying, harassment & discrimination (& whistleblowing); and safeguarding.

## 5.7. Termination

5.7.1. If in the view of Party Council a Common Interest Group becomes dysfunctional or inactive it shall be de-recognized by The Party and closed down.

### **Amendment 13**

*Lucas North, Aimee Challenor, Sean Mulcahy, A C Baker*

In the Proposed Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales, Appendix 3

Delete clause 5.7 of bylaw 5 ('Common Interest Groups')

## **APPENDIX A: Regional Parties**

1. The Regional Parties referred to in Clause 2.1 of the Constitution shall cover the following regional areas:

1.1. **London** (All London Boroughs);

1.2. **South East** (Wokingham, Windsor & Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest, Slough, Reading, West Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, East & West Sussex, Brighton and Hove, Medway, Southampton, Portsmouth);

1.3. **South West** (Unitary Authorities of Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire and the Counties: Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset (including the Unitary Authorities of Bournemouth and Poole), Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire (including the Unitary Authority of Swindon));

1.4. **Eastern** (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Peterborough, Thurrock,

Southend, Luton);

1.5. **East Midlands** (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincs, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Leicester City, Nottingham City, Derby City);

1.6. **West Midlands** (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton and the Counties of Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire (including The Wrekin), Staffordshire (including Stoke-on-Trent) and Warwickshire);

1.7. **North West** (Cheshire, Lancashire, Wigan, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Trafford, Manchester, Tameside, Salford, Stockport, Rochdale, Sefton, Wirral, Liverpool, St Helens, Halton, Blackpool, Blackburn, Cumbria);

1.8. **North East** (Durham, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Darlington);

1.9. **Yorks & Humberside** (East Riding, Kingston upon Hull, North Lincs, North East Lincs, Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster, Calderdale, Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Kirklees, North Yorkshire, York);

2. Clause I of this Appendix may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between Regions. Such an agreement shall be notified to the Regional Council and to the Convenor of SOC by the appropriate Regional officers in the form of resolutions by properly constituted Regional meetings or postal ballots of all the Regions concerned in any change. Such changes shall be deemed to come into force immediately upon the fulfilment of this procedure, provided that they do not entail or imply any change in the total number of Regional Parties requiring representation on the Regional Council. 3. This Appendix may also be amended by means of a resolution passed by a simple majority vote of a party Conference.

## APPENDIX B: Parties of Nations

1. All Parties of Nations constitutions shall include a statement that the Party of a Nation is a constituent party of The Green Party and shall lay down a democratic procedure for the election of representatives to the Green Party Council.

2. Parties of Nations shall be responsible for their own membership administration, including the maintenance of membership records and provision of services to members except for items introduced by the 2010 membership database.

3. Parties of Nations shall, when so requested by SOC,

provide SOC with a membership list or other appropriate means of verifying the entitlement of members within that party to attend and vote at or to propose or second motions or amendments to each Green Party of England and Wales Conference. Parties of Nations shall, when so requested by the Conference Coordinator, provide the Conference Coordinator with a list of Local Parties within that party and the number of members in each Local Party, or other agreed means of determining the entitlements of Local Parties to representation at Conferences of The Green Party of England and Wales.

4. Parties of Nations shall receive the whole of the Green Party and Parties of Nations portions of each membership subscription payable within its geographic area, and shall pay an amount to The Party determined by agreement between the relevant Party of a Nation and the Green Party Council. This amount shall include a basic component calculated having regard to the number of members in the Party of a Nation in each membership category. In addition to this basic component, the amount payable may also include components in respect of specific services supplied to the Party of a Nation by The Party.

5. In the event of a dispute between a Party of a Nation and the Green Party Council concerning the amount payable to The Party under clause 3 above, either party may refer the dispute to the Dispute Resolution Committee for resolution.

6. If, after investigation of complaints received, the Green Party Council believes that the Party of a Nation is failing to fulfil its obligations under the Constitution or this Appendix, it may, by a two-thirds majority of its members present and voting at a Green Party Council meeting, suspend the Party of a Nation status pending a fresh postal ballot of the membership in that nation. This postal ballot shall be carried out within three months of the suspension decision, and shall be paid for by The Party, and shall be conducted by The Party's Electoral Returning Officer on the basis of the most recent membership list of the Party of a Nation available to SOC. The ballot shall be on the question of whether the Party of a Nation Status should be revoked: the ballot mailing shall include a statement by Green Party Council of its reasons for seeking the ballot, and the officers of the Party of a Nation shall be given an equal opportunity to reply. The result of this ballot shall be determined by a simple majority of those voting, and shall be effective immediately.

7. If Green Party Council votes to suspend the Party of a Nation status under clause 5 above, but no postal ballot is conducted within the period required, the suspension will lapse at the end of that period and may not be reimposed by Green Party Council before the expiry of a further period of six months.

## APPENDIX C: Definitions

1. Postal Ballot.
  - 1.1. The term Postal Ballot wherever used within this Constitution or any Standing Orders of any GPEW body shall mean either:
    - a. all the ballot papers are sent out and all the votes are cast by post or;
    - b. all the ballot papers are sent out by post and the votes are cast, at the discretion of the voting member, either by post or by such electronic means that has been approved by the ERO supervising that particular election or;
    - c. Subject to the agreement of the ERO, ballot information can be sent electronically to members who have provided an e-mail address, and by post to those who have no e-mail address or have expressed a preference for postal ballot information. Votes may be cast, at the discretion of the voting member, either by post or by such electronic means that has been approved by the ERO supervising that particular election.

# APPENDIX 4

## Standing Orders of the Green Party Executive (GPEX)

Amendments passed by GPEX since Spring Conference 2017 highlighted in blue

### 1. General provisions

1.1. **Terms** – In these Standing Orders, ‘Party’ means The Green Party of England and Wales, ‘Conference’ means a Party Conference. ‘GPEX’ means the Green Party Executive, ‘GPRC’ means the Green Party Regional Council, ‘Returning Officer’ means the Electoral Returning Officer, and ‘the Constitution’ means the Party Constitution.

1.2. **Constitution** – These Standing Orders are made under the Constitution. They are to be read and applied in conjunction with the relevant provisions of the Constitution. Nothing in these Standing Orders shall contradict any provision of the Constitution, and in the event of any conflict between these Standing Orders and the Constitution the latter shall prevail.

1.3. **Standing Orders** – These Standing Orders shall apply at all times. They shall apply not only to the members and meetings of GPEX but also to anyone engaged in activity for which GPEX have a responsibility. These Standing Orders may not be suspended.

1.4. **GPEX Business** – GPEX will conduct its business in accordance with section 12 of the Green Party Constitution. The Green Party is committed to open and accountable decision-making, but recognises that confidentiality is required in certain, limited circumstances.

1.5. **Silence** – Where these Standing Orders are silent, the Chair of GPEX shall make a ruling. Such a ruling shall be provided to GPEX, and may be changed by a decision of GPEX.

1.6. **Membership** – The membership of GPEX will be as required by the Constitution. The following non-voting members of the Executive will also be expected to

attend meetings of the Executive and provide regular written reports:

– Co-chairs of GPRC (one of); Senior members of Green Party staff, as determined by the Chair, Leader/s and Deputy Leader/s.

A representative of Conferences Committee is also entitled to attend meetings (no report constitutionally required)

1.7. **Quorum** – A quorum of GPEX shall comprise a majority of its membership eligible to vote. (Constitution, section 7(ix)). If a meeting is not quorate the Chair will have the authority to continue the meeting, with the proviso that no decisions can be taken unless and until the meeting achieves quoracy. An inquorate meeting is free to discuss and make recommendations, which be recorded in the minutes and communicated to a future quorate meeting to enable a decision to be taken.

1.8. **Deputy Chair** – The membership of the Executive will elect a Deputy Chair from among voting members; this role is open to job-share. This appointment should be reviewed annually and notice given of the intention to review the appointment in the form of an agenda item. The provision of notice is to allow interested members to prepare a statement on their suitability for the post. Statements of suitability must be circulated in advance of the relevant Executive meeting. A secret ballot will be conducted in a manner which allows members who are not present at the relevant meeting to participate in the ballot. The ballot must include an option to reopen nominations, and the voting system shall be by Single Transferable Vote, as specified in section 17 of the GPEW Constitution.

1.9. **GPEX Handbook** – The GPEX Chair shall maintain a Handbook providing GPEX members with information

about the how GPEX conducts its business, agreed strategies and policies and any other documents.

## 2. Responsibilities and accountability

2.1. **Job descriptions** – GPEX shall agree job descriptions for each of its members, which shall be provided to GPRC and the Returning Officer and made available to Party members on the members' website and in hard copy on request to the Chair of GPEX. GPEX Coordinators shall review and update their job description at the end of the first year of their two-year term.

2.2. **Secretary** – GPEX shall appoint a Secretary, who shall be responsible to GPEX, and between meetings to the Chair, for the Secretary's duties laid down in these Standing Orders and such other duties as GPEX may determine. GPEX shall agree a role description for the GPEX Secretary, which the GPEX Chair and the GPEX Secretary shall review annually prior to the last meeting in the GPEX annual cycle of meetings. The GPEX Chair shall propose revisions of the role description for GPEX agreement at that final meeting.

2.3. **Accountability** – GPEX shall seek to ensure that a clear line of accountability exists for every decision for which GPEX or any of its members are responsible. A clear distinction shall be made between decisions for which GPEX are responsible collectively, and those for which an individual member of GPEX is responsible. A member of GPEX who does not wish to be accountable for a collective decision shall register his or her dissent from it at the time the decision is made.

2.4. GPRC may request with reasonable notice any member of GPEX to attend its meetings to report on their area of responsibility. GPEX members should normally agree to attend. (Constitution, section 6 (xiii)).

2.5. **Consultation** – In taking decisions and acting in their particular area of responsibility, postholders on GPEX will take the likely opinion of other members and Green Party staff into consideration and, where appropriate, consult with them in advance.

2.6. **Record keeping** – Members of GPEX will undertake to copy make available significant documents, minutes etc., including notes of all decisions taken by GPEX severally or collectively. These documents will be held on the members' website or another appropriate location. The Secretary will ensure the safe-keeping and eventual archiving of this material.

2.7. **Relationships with staff and volunteers** – Members of GPEX should take note that they are expected to exercise discretion in their relationships with paid staff and volunteers, ensuring that line management arrangements are respected at all times. Members

of the Executive should also be mindful of the responsibilities of GPEX under employment law, and ensure that no decisions are taken precipitately in relation to employed staff. In the same way, the rights of Green Party volunteers are to be respected, with attention paid to maintaining positive and harmonious working relationships which recognise the responsibilities of all individuals involved.

2.8. **Recall and censure** – Under the terms of the Constitution, at section 7 (xiii), GPEX may decide to suspend from office any member of the Executive, if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Executive is against the interests of the Party. A vote to suspend a postholder requires a two-thirds majority of the membership of the Executive, and is subject to any decision of GPRC under Section 6 (xii) of the Constitution, which states that the Regional Council may decide whether to remove or reinstate that member following such a vote by the Executive. The postholder concerned has a right of appeal against their removal, both in relation to the GPEX vote and the GPRC decision.

2.8.1. Under the terms of the Constitution at Section 7 (xiv), if twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petition the Regional Council to recall the GPEX Chair or a Co-ordinator postholder, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.

2.8.2. It is recognised that recall is a very serious action, and it is noted that a motion of censure may be brought against any member of the Executive as a more measured response to a perceived concern about the conduct of the Chair or other postholder. A motion of censure may be put at any time in the same way that other motions are proposed to the Executive, with the expectation that the member who is censured will take the opportunity to reflect on their actions and modify them accordingly.

## 3. GPEX Meetings

3.1. **Responsibilities** – The Chair and Secretary shall be responsible for arranging meetings of GPEX. The Chair shall arrange and obtain agreement of the date and place of meeting (for physical meetings) or date, time and mechanism (for telephone or online meetings) at the first meeting of the annual cycle of meetings, prepare the agenda to be taken, approve the draft minutes for submission to GPEX, and chair the meeting. The Secretary shall make all other arrangements, circulate the agenda, minutes and papers, and take the minutes.

- 3.1.1. **Deputising for the Chair** – Where the Chair is unavoidably absent for a meeting the Deputy Chair of the Executive will act in the stead of the Chair. Where the Deputy Chair is unavailable then the Chair will appoint another member of the Executive to fulfil the functions of the Chair for that meeting.
- 3.2. Business to be discussed at meetings of GPEX shall normally be published in advance to its members in an agenda; this should be made available to members of the party via the GPEX area of the members’ website, along with papers supporting non–confidential items. Emergency business may be considered if this is agreed by GPEX. Only issues or events which have arisen or taken place since the publication of the agenda shall be discussed as Any Other Business.
- 3.3. **Papers** – All papers for meetings are to be dated and attributed to one or more authors. Elements within papers should also be clearly marked where there is an issue for decision. Items submitted to the GPEX agenda should clearly state whether they are for decision, discussion or information, and should be taken in that order. There should also be a section of the agenda for minutes of previous meetings (including any decisions taken by online vote), and a further section for reports of GPEX members and appropriate staff, including any minutes for any committees of GPEX they convene. The GPEX Chair shall decide on the structure of the agenda, taking into account the time available and the relative requirements of the business on the day.
- 3.4. **Public and Confidential Sessions** – Items submitted for the GPEX agenda should clearly specify whether they are suitable for the public section, which Party members may attend and papers for which may be published on the non–confidential section of the members website, or if they require a confidential session from which Party members may be excluded, subject to the provisions in section 4 below, and thus papers should only be uploaded to the confidential GPEX section of the members website . Papers for the public session of a GPEX meeting shall be posted on the Members’ Website in advance of each GPEX meeting.
- 3.5. At the beginning of the public session of the GPEX agenda, if there are observers present GPEX shall confirm, by a two thirds majority vote, the distribution of agenda items between the public and confidential sessions.
- 3.6. *At the beginning of each GPEX meeting, there shall be a standing item during which Executive members shall have the opportunity to declare any conflicts of interest, both relating to the contents of the meeting or newly arisen since the previous meeting. It is the*
- duty of GPEX members to keep abreast of the conflict of interest policy, which shall be included in the GPEX handbook with new revisions circulated, and to declare any interests at this point in meetings. Should a situation arise during the course of the meeting or in the intervening period which presents such a conflict, it is similarly the responsibility of the member to highlight this to the Chair along with any other relevant persons. Any conflicts of interest declared shall be minuted at each meeting, along with conflicts which have arisen since the Executive last met. Appropriate steps shall be taken to manage conflicts in accordance with the process specified in the GPEX handbook.*
- 3.7. Minutes shall be taken of GPEX meetings. The minutes shall record attendance, decisions and votes, and such supporting discussion as are considered worthy of record. Following the meeting, the GPEX Secretary will issue the draft minutes to the GPEX Chair for approval.
- 3.7.1. **Recording online and telephone meetings** – In addition to compiling minutes the Secretary shall circulate action points as soon as possible after the meeting, in advance of the distribution of the formal minutes.
- 3.8. **Timetable in advance of meetings** – Business for the agenda shall be notified to the Chair not later than a deadline specified in the call for agenda items. The agenda, draft minutes of the previous meeting and other papers to be circulated with that agenda shall be provided to the Secretary not later than the date specified in the call for agenda items. The agenda and papers shall be made available to members of the Executive through the GPEX areas (confidential and non–confidential) of the members’ website.
- 3.9. **Timetable after meetings** – The GPEX Secretary shall circulate minutes for amendment within seven days of a GPEX meeting. The Secretary shall collate amendments into the draft minutes, identifying any requests for amendments where there is a difference of opinion on the discussion or decision taken. Proposed amendments to the draft minutes shall normally be provided in writing.
- 3.9.1. The final version of the draft disclosable minutes shall be circulated to the GPEX e–list and published on the GPEX area of the Members’ Website within eighteen days of the previous GPEX meeting. Minutes of closed sections of a GPEX meeting shall be published on the confidential GPEX area of the Members’ Website, and circulated to GPEX members privately.
- 3.10. **Attendance** – Members of GPEX shall normally attend all its meetings, and shall provide a sufficient apology in

advance if absent. Members joining a meeting via video/ on–line conferencing (such as skype) shall have the same rights and responsibilities as members physically present at the meeting. In cases of job–share it is expected that only one member of the job–share will participate in each meeting – if more than one member of a job–share attends they are asked to ensure that their combined contribution to the meeting is no greater than that of other individual postholders on the GPEX. GPEX shall invite attendance by any representative(s) of bodies within the Party, and/or any Party members or staff, as they wish.

3.11. **Speaking** – Members of GPEX shall have the right to speak at meetings. Speaking rights shall normally be extended to representative(s) of other Party bodies invited by GPEX. Others present may speak at the discretion of GPEX. The number and order of speakers shall be at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair shall seek to ensure that debate is fair, informed and expeditious. This may include limiting the contributions of job–share postholders so that only one member of a job–share can contribute per item.

3.12. **Making decisions** – Every effort shall be made to reach decisions by consensus. In the absence of consensus, decisions shall be made by voting on proposals. The Chair may call an indicative vote which is not binding, a “straw poll”, to ascertain the level of support for possible decisions.

3.12.1. **Online discussion and decision–making** – Where decisions are to be as a result of online discussions (rather than in a regular meeting or phone conference), there must be a clear and specific call for a decision with information on options and implications. A deadline for the decision must be set which balances the urgency of the situation against the need to allow time for engagement and reflection by all members of the Executive, including cooptees and relevant staff. Where possible a phone conference should be arranged or online collaborative decision–making platform used, in preference to discussion and voting purely on email.

**Proposals** – Items for the agenda or proposals within agenda items may be put by any two members of GPEX (proposer and seconder) or by the Chair. When more than one proposal has been tabled, the order in which they are taken shall be at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair shall have discretion whether to take a procedural proposal, and whether to take a proposal which conflicts with a previous decision of the meeting.

3.13. Voting shall be by show of hands (or equivalent for

online and telephone meetings), except where the Standing Orders specify otherwise. Each voting member of GPEX shall have one vote; job–share members of the Executive will have one vote per role, and they are encouraged to discuss the issue among themselves in advance in order to agree how to cast their vote. The Chair shall have a casting vote if there is a tie in which the Chair has not voted for or against. This right shall not extend to the Deputy Chair for sessions which they are chairing; in such cases they shall only have a vote by virtue of the position they hold on the Executive, which may be as a job–share. For a proposal to be carried, it must have more votes for than against, and more votes in favour than to abstain. A proposal for which there are not more votes for than against is lost.

3.14. Notification of meetings to the Party membership – The dates of all meetings of GPEX shall normally be published on the members’ website in the non–confidential GPEX area, unless they have been called at insufficient notice for that to be possible. In the latter event other opportunities to inform local parties and activists shall be taken if available.

3.15. The agenda, minutes and other papers for meetings of the Executive shall be made available by the Secretary to Party members via non–confidential areas of the members’ website, with confidential items indicated and removed from the text. Full versions will be available to members of the Executive and relevant staff through the members’ website in the confidential area of the members’ website.

3.16. **Reports** – The Chair shall ensure that reports on the work of GPEX are provided to the Annual General Meeting of the Party (Autumn Conference) and meetings of GPRC. Members of the Executive are encouraged to make regular reports to the membership both through their non–confidential reports for publication on the members’ website and by contributing to Green World and activists’ mailings.

#### 4. Openness and Confidentiality

4.1. GPEX will make every effort to conduct its business in public. However, the Green Party’s Constitution (section 12(ii)) recognises that confidentiality is required in certain limited circumstances. If certain business were to be made public, this could potentially compromise the successful day–to–day management of the Green Party, its strategies, campaigns and other business. For this reason, the GPEX Agenda is divided into public and confidential sessions (section 3.4).

4.2. The public section of GPEX meetings are open only to Green Party members as observers. Normally, non–members are not admitted. However, by a majority vote GPEX may invite someone who is not a Party member to

attend for all or part of a meeting.

4.3. In line with Constitution 12(v), a Party member may be excluded from observing all or part of a meeting because:

- » GPEX is contractually required to maintain confidentiality because of the subject matter, such as staff terms and conditions or procedures for competitive tendering;
- » the party member has not given reasonable notice of their wish to observe its meeting, and there is not room to accommodate them at the venue;
- » the member's current continuous period of membership of the party has lasted for less than a year.
- » Additionally, GPEX may decide to exclude observers to protect the Green Party from external damage if the subject matter became public in accordance with the following principles:
  - » the business relates to a strategy or plan the publication of which would undermine the achievement of the Green Party's stated Aims (Constitution, section 3).
  - » the business is of a financial or political nature where, if the subject matter were made public outside the Green Party, this could damage the Green Party, regional parties or local parties and elected representatives.
  - » the decision relates to distinguishing between different candidates for a role, allocation of limited funding between applicants or other comparison where frank discussion in front of observers could embarrass individuals concerned.
  - » the decision relates to individual behaviour where frank discussion in front of over observers could embarrass the individuals concerned.

4.4. The GPEX Chair shall organise the agenda for each GPEX meeting in accordance with these principles.

4.5. A decision to exclude a party member or members from observing all or part of a GPEX meeting requires the assent of two thirds or more of GPEX members present at that meeting. However, the decision to exclude those designated and notified by GPRC as its observer(s) requires the unanimous assent of the Executive members present (Constitution, section 12(vi)).

4.6. Business from which observers have been excluded to ensure confidentiality shall nonetheless be fully minuted. Confidential minutes shall record the overall discussion. The public minutes shall indicate the decisions taken in the confidential session.

## 5. Committees

5.1. GPEX may create such committees as it considers

necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, retaining responsibility for the conduct of such Committees and accounting for the conduct of those Committees to the Annual Conference. Committees of GPEX shall be distinguished from committees elected at Conference that support the work of GPEX.

5.2. **Committees Elected By Conference** – This section shall apply to committees elected by Conference only where agreed by that committee, because they are not committees established by GPEX.

5.3. **Committee Authority** – GPEX shall agree Terms of Reference for each committee which shall cover remit and the specific powers delegated to the committee by a decision of GPEX. Where appropriate, GPEX shall review the Terms of Reference of its committees at the first meeting of the GPEX year.

5.4. **Committee Membership** – The Terms of Reference shall specify the composition of the committee, which shall have a minimum of 2 voting members of GPEX. They shall also provide that the convenor of each committee be elected by and from GPEX. GPRC shall be invited to nominate at least one member of the committee.

5.5. **Voting** – The voting membership of the committee shall be specified in the Terms of Reference. Committee decisions shall be taken in accordance with sections 3 and 5 of these Standing Orders.

5.6. **Committee Meetings** – The business of committee meetings shall be in accordance with section 3 of these Standing Orders. The quorum for meetings shall be at least three members of the committee of whom at least two shall be voting members. Meetings shall be open to Party members and advertised. Minutes shall be taken of meetings.

5.7. **Accountability to GPEX** – Notice and minutes of each committee meeting shall be circulated to all members of GPEX. Committee convenors shall submit minutes and provide a report on the activities of their committees to the next GPEX meeting after the committee meeting.

5.8. **Information** – The formation and role of committees and their Terms of Reference shall be published on the Members' Website.

## 6. Finance

6.1. **Standing Orders** – GPEX shall have the power to agree procedures relating to finance which shall have effect as if part of these Standing Orders.

6.2. **Authority** – No-one shall commit the Party to any expenditure, loan or contract without proper authority to do so. Anyone who does so without proper authority knowingly or recklessly shall be held personally liable; anyone who does so without proper authority otherwise may be held personally liable. Unless covered by a general or specific delegation, matters not already confirmed as included within the Party Budget for the relevant year with the Finance Coordinator, must be considered a voted upon by a meeting of GPEX, alongside a proposal of how the finances will be obtained for the requested expenditure. Such matters should only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

6.3. **Record** – All expenditure, loans and contracts on behalf of the Party shall be properly recorded in writing, and shall be given written assent by electronic or paper form by those responsible.

## 7. Job-Shares and Co-options

7.1. **Job-shares** – from time to time, two people may be elected to GPEX as a job-share. Each job-share is for a single role. The rights and responsibilities of that role are shared equally between both people. A position that is a job-share shall have one vote. There is no provision for fractional votes.

7.2. If one member of a job-share resigns, is suspended (section 2.8) or otherwise is unable to carry out their role, the other elected member may choose to continue in the role. In this case, the rights and responsibilities of that person shall be the same as those of any GPEX member not elected as a job-share and no further action is required. This section does not apply to the case of Co-Leaders or Deputy Leaders, for which other provisions apply as per the Constitution.

7.3. **Co-options** – In the event that no-one is elected to a GPEX post, or where a GPEX member or both members of a job-share resign or are otherwise no longer able to carry out their GPEX role, GPEX shall co-opt to fill that role. Co-opted members of GPEX do not have a vote; [it is not possible to co-opt part of a job-share](#)

7.4. **Co-option Process** – Co-option to vacant roles on the Executive will be undertaken by means of an advertisement of the vacancy to all members of the Party, usually through a 'news' item on the members' website, including the role descriptor, process for applying and other relevant information such as the closing date. Applications will normally be in the form of a CV and a statement of suitability for the role, with the potential for an interview. Applicants should have a minimum of two year's continuous membership of the party, and be nominated by a specified number of members of the party, in accordance with the process for nominating members who stand for ballot. As

per section 7.vi of the constitution, nominations of applicants who have been a member for less than two years but a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations must be supported by a majority of GPRC members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.

7.4.1. All applications received by the closing date will be circulated to Executive members for comment and decision, with a vote usually taken at a full meeting of the Executive. In cases of urgency a vote may be taken during a telephone conference or online, but adequate notice must be given of the date and time of decision-making to allow time for engagement and reflection.

## 8. Changes of GPEX

8.1. **Taking office** – Those declared elected as members of GPEX shall be notified by the Returning Officer forthwith. [The outgoing postholder shall stay in post until the first meeting of GPEX following the announcement of the result of the Annual Ballot, with the incoming postholder shadowing. The outgoing postholder remains responsible for decision-making in the handover period; any decision which the incoming postholder disagrees with can be revisited at the first meeting of the new GPEX \(which explicitly does have power to overturn previous decisions, as noted at 8.3\). On taking office, members of the Executive shall on request notify the Head of Finance in a timely manner of any relevant related parties and submit any identification as is required for reasons of financial compliance and audit purposes.](#)

8.2. The first meeting of GPEX shall normally take place within one month of the Autumn Conference.

8.3. **Term of decisions** – Decisions of previous GPEXes continue to apply, unless they are changed or suspended. A new GPEX may change or suspend decisions of its predecessors.

8.4. **Appointments and committees** – The appointment of officers, and the remit and membership of existing committees, shall be submitted to the first meeting of each new GPEX for confirmation. If such a decision is deferred, the status quo will continue until it is made.

8.5. If a member wishes to resign from the Executive before the end of their term, they are required to first notify the Chair of their intent. Resignations may only be noted at a meeting of GPEX, with the member remaining in post until that point. These requirements may only be by-passed in exceptional circumstances.

## 9. Conduct

- 9.1. GPEX shall agree a Conduct Policy for GPEX members, which shall be included as an appendix to the GPEX Handbook. This Policy shall incorporate and develop a procedure for Section 7(xiv) of the Party Constitution regarding suspension of GPEX members.

## 10. Amendment of These Standing Orders

- 10.1. **Review process** – It is advised that these Standing Orders are reviewed annually, usually by the incoming Executive following Autumn conference.
- 10.2. **Amendment** – These Standing Orders may only be formally amended by Conference including a special conference to which power to do this has been specifically delegated by Conference.
- 10.3. Modest temporary amendments of these Standing Orders may be made by GPEX, following discussion of draft changes and voting on amended text; the agreed text will stand until the next Conference to which they can be proposed for approval. If the temporary amendments are not brought before Conference, or are not approved by that Conference, the Standing Orders will revert to the unamended version. Any temporary amendment not brought before Conference or rejected by that Conference may not be made as a temporary amendment during the following year.
- 10.4. **Implementing constitutional amendments** – If the Constitution is amended without necessary and appropriate amendment of these Standing Orders, by agreement with GPEX the Standing Orders Committee may amend these Standing Orders as required to accord with the amended Constitution, without further authorisation.

# APPENDIX 5

## Green Party Accounts, selected

[The full accounts can be found at <http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/Api/Accounts/Documents/19380>. References in the “Notes” column, below, refer to the full accounts]

**The Green Party of England and Wales**  
**Income and Expenditure Account (incorporating a Statement of Income and Retained Earnings)**  
**For the period ended 31 December 2016**

	Notes	General Fund £	Green-quest Fund £	Leader's Project Fund £	Climate Sense Appeal	Total 2016 £	Restated Total 2015 £
<b>Income</b>							
Membership income		874,155	-	-	-	874,155	1,058,749
Friends' dues		5,964	-	-	-	5,964	-
Donations		944,605	348	225	50	945,228	1,526,449
Income from fundraising activities	2	24,337	-	-	-	24,337	19,802
Commission income	3	17,815	-	-	-	17,815	56,363
Income from publications and other materials		-	-	-	-	-	1,063
Campaign Income		-	-	-	-	-	-
Freepost sales		-	-	-	-	-	154,925
Green Campaign Shop		479	-	-	-	479	77,743
Income from legacies		13,294	-	-	-	13,294	-
Interest receivable net of tax		216	280	-	62	558	1,216
Conference income		67,346	-	-	-	67,346	129,173
Other income	4	215,856	-	-	-	215,856	159,056
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>2,164,067</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>2,165,032</b>	<b>3,184,539</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Cost of appeals and donations		43,598	-	-	-	43,598	114,584
Cost of fundraising activities		6,126	-	-	-	6,126	16,771
Cost of publications and other materials	5	19,149	-	-	-	19,149	90,560
Campaign expenditure	6	119,972	-	-	-	119,972	1,007,807
Green Campaign Shop costs		13,019	-	-	-	13,019	81,393
Bank and credit card charges		59,131	-	-	2	59,133	70,864
Cost of Conferences		91,990	-	-	-	91,990	212,177
Regional and local party capitations		211,582	-	-	-	211,582	245,096
Local party support		17,751	-	-	-	17,751	27,933
Staff costs	7	1,160,898	-	-	6,063	1,166,961	1,312,597
Office and premises costs		159,359	-	-	-	159,359	186,869
Management and administration		156,198	-	722	-	156,920	263,877
External communications		21,032	-	-	-	21,032	30,996
Equality project		-	-	-	-	-	1,824
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>2,079,805</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>6,065</b>	<b>2,086,592</b>	<b>3,663,348</b>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		£ 84,262	£ 628	£ (497)	£ (5,953)	£ 78,440	£ (478,809)
Total funds brought forward		£ (299,179)	£ 34,650	£ 950	£ 27,740	£ (235,839)	£ 242,970
Total funds carried forward		£ (214,917)	£ 35,278	£ 453	£ 21,787	£ (157,399)	£ (235,839)

The Green Party of England and Wales  
**Balance Sheet**  
as at 31 December 2016

	Notes	£	2016 £	Restated £	2015 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		3,759		4,322
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	12	20,904		16,887	
Debtors	13	73,346		88,921	
Cash at bank and in hand	14	211,694		65,549	
		<u>305,944</u>		<u>171,357</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	(467,102)		(411,518)	
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>			<u>(161,158)</u>	<u>(240,161)</u>	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>(157,399)</u>	<u>(235,839)</u>	
<b>Net (liabilities)/assets</b>			<u>£ (157,399)</u>	<u>£ (235,839)</u>	
<b>Funds</b>					
	16				
Fixed Assets Fund			3,759		4,322
Greenquest Fund			35,278		34,650
Leader's Project Fund			453		950
Climate Sense Appeal			21,787		27,740
General Fund			(218,676)		(303,501)
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>£ (157,399)</u>		<u>£ (235,839)</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Party's Executive on 1 July 2017.

Emma Carter  
Registered Treasurer

**The Green Party of England and Wales**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the period ended 31 December 2016**

	2016 £	Restated 2015 £
<b>Cash flow from operating activities (see below)</b>	<u>151,355</u>	<u>(452,518)</u>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(2,370)	(1,468)
Interest received	558	1,216
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>	<u>(1,812)</u>	<u>(252)</u>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>	-	-
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	146,145	(461,307)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2016	<u>65,549</u>	<u>526,856</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2016	<u><u>211,694</u></u>	<u><u>65,549</u></u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	211,507	49,487
Short term deposits	<u>187</u>	<u>16,062</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	211,507	49,487
Short term deposits	<u>187</u>	<u>16,062</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2016</b>	<u><u>211,694</u></u>	<u><u>65,549</u></u>

**Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2016 £	2015 £
Net income/(expenditure) for year	78,440	(478,809)
Interest receivable	(558)	(1,216)
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,314	2,380
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	15,575	(58,868)
Increase in creditors	55,584	83,995
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<u><u>151,355</u></u>	<u><u>(452,518)</u></u>

# Contact details for main proposers:

Tom Bolitho: [tom.bolitho@younggreens.org.uk](mailto:tom.bolitho@younggreens.org.uk)

Emma Carter: [emma.carter@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:emma.carter@greenparty.org.uk)

Geraldine Coggins: [geraldine.coggins@gmail.com](mailto:geraldine.coggins@gmail.com)

Freda Davis: [freda.davis@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:freda.davis@greenparty.org.uk)

Oliver Dowding: [oliver.dowding@sheptonfarms.com](mailto:oliver.dowding@sheptonfarms.com)

David Flint: [davidcflint@gmail.com](mailto:davidcflint@gmail.com)

Anne Gray: [amgggg2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amgggg2@yahoo.co.uk)

James Greenwood: [jamesgreenwood@forestofdean.greenparty.org.uk](mailto:jamesgreenwood@forestofdean.greenparty.org.uk)

Brian Heatley: [brianheatley@me.com](mailto:brianheatley@me.com)

Samir Jeraj: [sa.jeraj@gmail.com](mailto:sa.jeraj@gmail.com)

Ceri Jones: [cerirhysjones@gmail.com](mailto:cerirhysjones@gmail.com)

Sean Mulcahy: [sean\\_mulcahy@hotmail.com](mailto:sean_mulcahy@hotmail.com)

Paul Philo: [paulphilo@gmail.com](mailto:paulphilo@gmail.com)

Clare Phipps: [clare.phipps@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:clare.phipps@greenparty.org.uk)

Alexander Powell: [apowell1995ap@gmail.com](mailto:apowell1995ap@gmail.com)

Emma Randall: [emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk](mailto:emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk)

Rupert Read: [rupertread@fastmail.co.uk](mailto:rupertread@fastmail.co.uk)

Tanja Rebel: [tanjarebel@hotmail.com](mailto:tanjarebel@hotmail.com)

Caroline Russell: [carolinerussell3@me.com](mailto:carolinerussell3@me.com)

Mike Shipley: [sue.mikeshipley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.mikeshipley@yahoo.co.uk)

Sue Shipley: [sue.mikeshipley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sue.mikeshipley@yahoo.co.uk)

Amelia Womack: [amelia.womack@greeparty.org.uk](mailto:amelia.womack@greeparty.org.uk)

Alan Francis: [alan.francis@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:alan.francis@greenparty.org.uk)

Bernard Ekbery: [bernard.ekbery@googlemail.com](mailto:bernard.ekbery@googlemail.com)

Martin Hemingway: [mhemingway1@virginmedia.com](mailto:mhemingway1@virginmedia.com)