

FINAL AGENDA – Green Party Autumn Conference 2008

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

Contents:

	page		
Introduction	2		
Section A (Reports)			
A01	Standing Orders Committee	2	
A02	Party Treasurer (not received)	-	
A03	Party Executive	6	
A04	Regional Council Co-Chairs	12	
A05	Policy Committee (see GPEX policy co-ord's report)	-	
A06	Campaigns Committee (see GPEX campaigns co-ord's report)	-	
A07	Disputes Resolution Committee (not received)	-	
A08	MEP Trust	13	
A09	Green World Editorial Board (not received)	-	
A10	Conferences Committee	13	
A11	Association of Green Councillors	14	
Section B (Voting Papers)			
B01	Culture Voting Paper	15	
		prioritisation votes	
Section C (Policy Motions)			
C01	(C21) Trade Union Reps	17	37
C02	(C29) Minimum/Maximum Wage	17	33
C03	(C42) Right to Rent	18	29
C04	(C30) Free School Meals	18	19
C05	(C32) State Funding Political Parties	18	19
C06	(C22) Update EU Policy	18	14
C07	(C28) EU Policy - Social Chapter	19	6
C08	(C23) EU Policy – Biofuels	19	14
C09	(C26) Afghan Opium	19	14
C10	(C40) Broadening Climate Change	19	13
C11	(C36) Conduct of Elections	20	12
C12	(C24) Ammunition	20	9
C13	(C34) Economics	21	9
C14	(C39) Building Regs/Climate Change	21	9
C15	(C37) Anti-Semitism (1) (Fox)	22	6
C16	(C38) Anti-Semitism (2) (Lord)	22	2
C17	(C25) Armed Forces	22	5
C18	(C27) Enabling Motion – Policing	23	5
C19	(C31) Daylight Saving	23	5
C20	(C33) Adult Social Care Funding	23	5
C21	(C41) Carbon Quotas for the Elderly	24	4
C22	(C35) Replace Personal Trading with Cap & Dividend	24	0
Section D (Organisational motions)			
D01	(D54) Election Strategy	24	62
D02	(D51) Winding up defunct parties	25	40
D03	(D56) Training Day at Spring Conference	25	28
D04	(D52) MfSS Sections for Review	25	26
D05	(D55) Consensus Decision-making	26	26
D06	(D53) SOCC Timetable	26	20
Section E (Draft Voting Papers)			
E01	Education	27	
Section O (Out of Order motions)			
O1	Policy Motion - EU Migration (1)	33	
O2	Policy Motion - EU Migration (2)	33	
O3	Organisation Motion - Elected Representatives	36	
O4	Organisational Motion – Criteria for funding Parliamentary By-Election	37	
List of contacts		38	
Proxy voting form		39	

Introduction to the Final Agenda for Autumn Conference 2008

Welcome to the Final Agenda for the Green Party's Autumn Conference 2008. The introduction and SOC report follow the same format as for the Spring Conference.

An electronic version of the Agenda is available from the SOC Convenor, Mark Hill, email address soc [at] greenparty.org.uk. The size of the file is approx 400kB. Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London, N19 5NJ, 020-7272-4474.

Content of the Final Agenda

There is 1 voting paper in section B, the Culture Voting Paper. There are 22 motions in section C (policy) and 6 motions in section D (organisational and other). The Education Draft Voting Paper is included towards the end of the Agenda. Please note that this is an updated version of the DVP which was printed in the First Agenda. Please direct any questions about this to the Policy Co-ordinator, Brian Heatley. Four motions were ruled out of order and are included after the DVP.

Amendments

There were no amendments to the Voting Paper; amendments were received to four section C motions and two section D motions. In addition, a handful of amendments were received with insufficient signatures and are not included in this agenda.

Committee elections at Conference

Elections will be held for the following committees at Conference; Campaigns, Conference, Dispute Resolution, Green World Editorial Board, International, Policy, Standing Orders. Hustings and voting will be on Sunday.

Executive elections at Conference

The following Executive posts had zero or one nominations at the original close of nominations and so nominations will be re-opened at Conference and voting will be at Conference –

Elections Coordinator (1 nomination)
Finance Coordinator (1)
Internal Communications Coordinator (1)
International Coordinator (1)
Local Party Support Coordinator (1)
Management Coordinator (1)
Publications Coordinator (1)
Campaigns Coordinator (0)
Policy Coordinator (0)
Close of nominations will be on Saturday 6th September at 12noon and hustings and voting will be on the Saturday afternoon. **ONLY MEMBERS REGISTERED TO ATTEND CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER WILL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE.**

Leader / Deputy Leader elections at Conference

Both these posts will be the subject of a postal ballot. There will be hustings at Conference on Friday afternoon. Members may vote at Conference (Friday afternoon only) but must bring their ballot paper with them – ballot papers will not be issued at Conference. It is hoped that the result of the ballot will be announced on Friday evening.

Email signatures

SOC continues to accept email signatures. In fact, hardly any written submissions are received these days. To sign a motion by email please include your name, address and local party, and your membership number if you know it. Please only enclose one motion or amendment in each supporting email; it helps SOC immensely and reduces the possibility of error if you include the text of just the motion / amendment you are supporting and not previous email correspondence.

Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss Emergency Motions

Please remember that it is only Section A that is suspended. This is the section that deals with the requirement to submit motions by the First Agenda deadline.

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

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

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

In addition, section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

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

Section A (Reports & Items Requested from Previous Conference)

A01. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT

PART A – ORDER OF BUSINESS AND OUT OF ORDER MOTIONS

Order of Business

SOC conduct a **prioritisation ballot** to assist in the ordering of motions in sections C and D. This time, 95 prioritisation ballots were received, 82 online and 13 by email or post. This compares with 55 received for the Spring Conference.

The six motions in section D have been ordered according to the prioritisation ballot results.

In section C, SOC have varied the order in two instances.

1. Policy Committee asked that Conference prioritise two motions in advance of the Euro elections next year. These are motions C22 Update EU Policy and C28 EU Policy – Social Chapter. These were prioritised as C06 and C14. However, SOC have moved C14 to C07 and propose that if either or both of these motions has not been debated by the start of the Remaining Business session on Monday then they should be discussed at the start of that session.

2. Two motions were received on anti-semitism, one from Chris Fox (C37) and one from Clive Lord (C38). These were prioritised as C15 and C21. SOC have moved C21 to C16 and propose that these two motions be discussed together.

Fast-tracked motions.

SOC have not proposed any motions for fast-tracking at this Conference.

Out of Order motions

SOC received four motions which were ruled out of order. These are in Section O of this agenda, after the Draft Voting Paper.

Timing of SOC reports

SOC has split this report into two parts, this part dealing with the conference agenda and the second part dealing with actions

taken by SOC since the last Conference.

END OF SOC REPORT PART A

Motion – SOC proposes that Conference accepts part A of its report.

PART B – REMAINING BUSINESS

Summaries and Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions should be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words which will appear in the Agenda Summary. If your synopsis was more than 50 words, it was probably cut by SOC.

Electoral Returning Officer (ERO) and Electoral Reform Services (ERS)

Since the resignation due to personal time issues of ERO Jim Jepps in February this year, the SOC convenor Dean Walton tried a number of times to recruit an ERO, culminating in July in the election of Roger Creagh-Osborne from the Mid & East Cornwall Green Party, in accordance with clause 16 iii) of the constitution. Before the appointment of an ERO the SOC Convenor led in working to appoint the Electoral Reform Society's Electoral Reform Services to conduct this year's internal elections.

Fixed timetable for agendas.

After various discussions about the role of SOC, Green World and Conference, SOC voted to propose a motion to conference that will clarify and fix the timing of conference agenda publications, as seen in Section D of the agenda.

Haltemprice and Howden by-election

On the 23rd of June, SOC discussed the issue of the GPRC's role in not approving the selection of a local by-election candidate. The convenor's view was this:

"I am not at all convinced that we, as SOC, can instruct GPRC to do anything. They have used a power offered to them in the Constitution - albeit ... possibly in the wrong context."

That evening Shan Oakes, the selected prospective candidate, appealed to SOC to formally review GPRC's decision for its compliance with the constitution.

The general view on SOC was to agree with the convenor, and informal conversations were conducted between SOC and the GPRC Co-chairs to advise them of the constitutional position that GPRC's power was to "declare the [emergency selection] procedure operative" or not. Before SOC had time to complete any deliberations – and within the space of a day - the Co-Chairs had changed their minds.

Internal Election Regulations 2008

On 18th April the SOC convenor Dean Walton circulated the following issues to the GPRC Co-Chairs, chair of GPEx, former EROs and SOC for consultation:

- * The importance of increasing turnout,
- * The importance of securing a free and fair election,
- * The need to enshrine PPERA rules within the campaign rules
- * Enabling fair, appropriate and legal communication between candidates and the membership commensurate with the above objectives
- * Making provision to ensure any eligible member can stand for the posts
- * What assistance with promotion of candidacies the Party should offer - a free mailing, an enhanced booklet of information etc
- * What is a good threshold for candidacies to ensure that frivolous candidates are discouraged - especially if the candidates are offered free resources & assistance by the Party. (For instance, how many signatures should we expect, should we insist that these be spread around the regions ('5 or 10 signatures per Region' for instance), that these are received on official forms rather than email etc etc
- * Expense limits for campaign expenditure - adopt a £X + Yp per member formula - or no limit ; what differences between Leader, Deputy Leader and Co-Leader candidates if any?
- * What are your thoughts on insisting that candidates hand

over a proportion (say 15%) of all income raised to the Party to pay towards the ballot expenses

* The timetable for the opening of nominations, closing of nominations, the count etc. It is proposed to announce the results at the September conference - should the ballot for the other posts on GPEX be closed prior to the announcement of the Leader election.

No substantive comments from GPEX and no comments from GPRC were received. In discussion with Jon Nott, Head of Office it was agreed to provide an 'opt-out' from contact by candidates, going beyond the requirements of data protection law.

Canvassing and provision of electoral rolls including members' information for use in internal elections

On 18th July Management Co-ordinator Tony Cooper fully endorsed Dean Walton, SOC convenor's views on how canvassing of members was to be facilitated. This was based on a discussion between the SOC convenor and the Information Commissioner's Office, concluding that "there is no reason why members data can't be released to candidates". The wording of the Opt-out statement to be made in Green Activist was also agreed by the Management Co-ordinator and Jon Nott, Head of Office.

Debate on Green Party Election Regulations 2008

A paper by Keith M Ross was presented at the 19th July GPRC meeting in Oxford at the request of "Members from Wales and elsewhere; Green Empowerment". The paper made a number of criticisms about the Green Party Election Regulations 2008.

After nearly a week of an unprecedented level of email and phone communication between the convenor and members of GPRC and other members, the convenor proposed to SOC that SOC concede to GPRC's demands.

John Street asked that it be recorded that he was, and continued to be, of the opinion that in this instance SOC should

abide by the motions agreed by GPRC, whether or not GPRC are entitled to instruct SOC in this way. The questions of whether to share member data and whether GPRC had the power to direct SOC could be discussed without the pressure of imminent close of nominations. This did not meet with consensus from SOC and Dean felt that he would prefer to step aside as convenor rather than continue (Dean had previously indicated he would step down at the Conference in any case).

In response to GPRC's concerns SOC felt obliged to re-write election rules after nominations had opened. Mark Hill had now been elected as SOC convenor and at the same time Roger Creagh-Osborne from the Cornwall Green Party was appointed as Electoral Returning Officer. The ERO originally favoured the spirit of the original rules but SOC felt obliged to ask him to amend the proposals in order to take account of points raised at GPRC.

ERO proposals to SOC to amend Green Party Election Regulations 2008

SOC acknowledges that some GPRC members had reservations about the published rules. To foster consensus and compromise, both between SOC and GPRC and within the party as a whole, and to maintain confidence in the electoral and campaigning process, SOC reluctantly decided that it would be better to alter the rules of the election even though the nomination process for that election had begun. Hence the ERO and SOC amended the rules. SOC was happy to have input from GPRC via the Co-Chairs on this issue.

We were exceedingly reluctant to make further rules changes after the close of nominations on the 31st July, and chose not to enter into any further discussions whilst the election was taking place.

The changes

The GPRC changes and concerns are presented in italics below followed by the response and/or changes from SOC and the ERO.

GPRC (or the Co-chairs) will

make revisions to the current regulations in consultation with SOC, before close of nominations (if this falls then motions 3-5 will be considered as recommendations to SOC if passed).

It is clearly SOC's role as laid down in the constitution, to approve Election Standing Orders, and to have the final authority on them:

"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."

SOC will therefore mirror the suggested process above by consulting with the GPRC Co-Chairs on these proposals before confirming them before the 31st July.

No membership data will be released to candidates.

It has been established beyond doubt by Party officers, after discussions with the Office of the Information Commissioner and with the Party's solicitors, that the proposed use of membership data is legal and acceptable, Previous decisions that mandated the issuing of membership data have not been challenged on their constitutionality (even though there have been legal and ideological arguments either way). There is no obvious constitutional basis for GPRC issuing a binding instruction to SOC. However, in order to create a compromise, and to take on GPRC's specific concerns about possible misuse of member's contact details into account, the ERO and SOC propose the following major new restrictions on the use of membership data:

Electoral rolls for telephone canvassing will contain only the Name, Local Party, Regional Party and telephone number(s) of a member. They will *not* contain the member's postal address or email address. This will ensure that the data provided is not excessive and can only be used by that one method.

Electoral rolls for postal canvassing will now NOT be provided at all. This is a major change from the previous version of the regulations. Instead, pre-printed mailing labels will be provided by the office to a candidate that requests them.

Electoral rolls for telephone canvassing will be protected electronically by passwords, and be in a PDF form that will have had its ability to be copied-from removed. Each roll provided will have a different password, so their use can be tracked back to individual candidates. The documents will also be protected so as to make them un-printable. Any paper copies provided by the office for candidates not using a computer will be printed on dark green (un-photo-copiable) paper, watermarked, and marked with a code that identifies the candidate to whom it was issued.

Some members would find numerous telephone calls from candidates particularly intrusive.

Taking this point into account, the ERO and SOC propose that the regulations be amended so that only candidates for the Leadership posts be given access to a membership list for telephone canvassing purposes. While SOC believes that several phone calls can constitute engagement with members; however were all GPEX candidates to take up their previous right to phone canvass, it could lead to potentially dozens of phone calls, even if this were unlikely in practice at this point in time. Therefore candidates for annually elected GPEX posts will not be given this information and thus will be discouraged from making large numbers of such calls. Disallowing non-Leadership candidates from telephone canvassing should be sufficient to drastically cut the number of phone calls and thus the potential level of intrusion.

Also, the proposal that members can request candidates to ensure that they do not receive further calls is simply unworkable. Not only is this proposal open to abuse, whereby the first candidate who calls might be able to persuade the member involved to opt out of further calls – it also begs the question of just how it

would be possible to ensure that all other candidates remove the member concerned from their lists.

SOC accepts this advice. We have cut the “opt out of further calls” clause, which, as Keith has helpfully brought to light, could indeed be used in an abusive fashion by unscrupulous candidates.

Allowing this level of expenditure might seriously disadvantage those candidates who are unable to raise the sums involved. Moreover the total amount of money to be potentially spent on GPEX elections is huge – a considerable expenditure that would be better used in other ways.

Although no GPRC decision sought to address Expense levels, it seems sensible to take this opportunity to redefine expenditure levels. This may be fine-tuned in future Leadership elections once we have learnt from the experience of the election to come. Leadership campaigns will have sufficient support behind them to raise respectable amounts of money, and therefore the maximum expense limit (on a membership of 7500) of £2750 is not a high sum at all to convince members of one's suitability to act as the leader of a national political party. However, with the other GPEX posts a concession can be made to address this point.

The ERO and SOC therefore now propose that the expense limit for other GPEX posts be adjusted to £100 + 10p per member, not 30p per member.

Direct tele-canvassing of members should not be permitted. Instead, candidates should publicise a contact number and times when members may call them if they choose.

We cannot stop members from talking to each other. This principle was established in SOC's election regulations last year. A ban on members talking to each other by phone about elections is unrealistic, cannot be policed, and may possibly even a breach of people's right to free speech. The ERO and SOC

consider the safeguards and restrictions are now sufficient to ensure members are not unduly bothered by campaigning, and that the imperative for free communication, and for campaigning (now only for the leadership-posts), needs to be protected. Since only the leadership candidates will have access to the telephone canvassing data, this should hopefully address the major part of the original objection.

Other means of participation in this and future elections should be encouraged, for example, visits of candidates to local and regional parties, email or web-based hustings, subject to fair access to all candidates.

The ERO and SOC encourage all such developments

Conclusion

SOC consulted with GPRC on election regulations but received no response until nominations had opened. By this point a controversy had formed with a difficult tone and many unfounded allegations. SOC had a change of convenor but working with the ERO we believe a fair compromise was reached. It is far from best practice to make changes to election regulations once nominations have opened so we hope that in future consultation responses will be more timely.

The Co-Chairs of GPRC and the Chair of GPEX have indicated that they are satisfied with the election regulations.

ERO Email to members

On 28th July the returning officer with the help of the Internal Communications Co-ordinator sent an email to all members with email addresses in which he wrote “As a member of the party you should have a reasonable expectation that you will be contacted on party matters such as important internal elections by any means, post, phone, email, which you have provided to the party or which are publicly accessible.”

On 31st July, Roger Creagh-Osborne informed SOC that no candidates would be requesting membership data from party office for their campaigns.

Clarification on cross-promotion between candidates

The Green Party's Head of Office asked for clarification on a point from the ERO about cross-promotion between candidates. The ERO replied that other materials outside of the formal statements may include cross promotion between joint candidates but cross promotion may not be done in the ballot paper statements.

Guidelines to candidates

On 31st July, Roger Creagh-Osborne published a 7 page document on guidelines to candidates for GPEX and committee posts. These are available separately on application.

Election Regulations in Future to come to Conference

Due to the interest seen in the election regulations this time around, it has become the view of the SOC convenor that regulations should be brought to conference in future, although this is not required by the constitution.

END OF SOC REPORT PART B

Motion – SOC proposes that Conference accepts part B of its report.

Motion – SOC proposes that Conference accepts the SOC report as a whole.

A02 - PARTY TREASURER'S REPORT

None received

A03 - PARTY EXECUTIVE REPORT

GPEX – CHAIR'S REPORT

The Executive would like to thank and congratulate the membership and local parties across the country for yet another year in which we increased our tally of elected members. It is the personal contact resulting from your canvassing, leafleting, organising events and leading local campaigns that enables success at the ballot box and thereby to deliver on our manifesto commitments.

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

The Executive extends our thanks to the excellent work of our paid and voluntary staff, and a number of interns who have worked with us over the year. There have been some major changes in the office over the year, including the appointment of a new finance officer, press officer and the creation of the post of Head of Office to directly line manage other staff and to carry forward the projects required by GPEX. Conference last year was clearly in favour of a move in this direction and we are happy to report that this is progressing well.

This year has, regrettably, seen resignations by the elected Internal Communications, Publications and Elections Coordinators.

For Elections Sarah Birch put in a huge amount of effort over the year and we were very sad to see her go; our thanks to Sarah and also to Chris Haine for taking on the work in addition to his co-opted role as Publications Coordinator. Thank you also to Eamonn Ward for providing administrative assistance.

The resignation of the original Publications Coordinator caused a severe setback in our plans to replace GreenTrade, a situation still to be wholly remedied but which I am confident will be swiftly addressed in the coming weeks.

Natalie Bennett was co-opted as Internal Communications and has continued her excellent work in that role.

A sad note this year was the death of our Peer Tim Beaumont, Lord Beaumont of Whitley. I attended his service of remembrance along with a number of former party chairs and other officers. His presence is sadly missed.

I have made approaches to government seeking to have a new Green peer created, at the

time of writing this report I have received no reply.

The party's finances are on a firm footing, despite our having to incur costs in preparing for "Gordon Brown's election" that never was. We continue to keep a tight rein on spending and seek new ways to raise further monies. While most political parties are hugely in debt we maintain a reserve of £50,000 and will seek to maintain that in the future. Members will have noticed improvements to the website and a greater Green Party presence on YouTube, Facebook and elsewhere; this trend is also set to continue.

I look forward to further electoral gains and further improvements in the operations of our party in the coming year. I am not seeking re-election as Chair this year, so I shall conclude with thanks to my colleagues on GPEX for their excellent work and dedication over the last 12 months, and indeed to all GPEX and GPRC members with whom I have worked as Chair over the last three years.

Councillor G. Richard Mallender

Chair, Green Party of England & Wales

GPEX – CAMPAIGNS CO-ORDINATOR

One important aspect of campaigns is to build strong local campaigns, in targeting and through our elected members. There have been many local campaigns including against incinerators, including James Abbott's continuous efforts in Essex. On junk mail thanks to Colchester GP for helping pull together a "campaign pack" now on the members website. Other actions include opposition to academy schools, success in pressing for a Living Wage, carrier bags and in many places building the strength of the Transition Towns movement. Locally there remains a real need to challenge for real recycling (separated at source) instead of yet more incinerators (see UKWIN for UK-wide map of PFI plans). We should also build on Kirklees excellent insulation success and call for house-by-house energy retrofit.

Health campaigns, like many have spanned the whole year and combined research, turning policy into campaign material and getting out there and getting media coverage. This included top coverage on our Keep our NHS Public demo in October (thanks to Jim Killock and Romaine Phoenix from day one), and our first campaign action on Facebook (thanks to Sue Luxton and Andy Hewitt), successful Picture of Health campaigning in South London, Stuart Jeffrey's challenges to NHS stealth privatization and our response to the Darzi report launched at Spring Conference. It has certainly been a busy year – and also an increasingly effective one.

Outside London, actions included the CND Block the Builders action and the anniversary demo at Aldermaston, challenging the proposed fluoridization of our tap water and backing Biofuelwatch actions pressing for the true food security and climate change impacts of biofuels to be recognized. We also were highly visible in standing up for Palestinian refugees, on the Stop the War demo and in Europe-wide solidarity with asylum seekers in December.

This has been an excellent year for campaigning with the Trade Unions (thanks Pete et al) with the Campaign against Climate Change TU conference in February a noticeable first. Other actions include support for Unison strikes and presence at Tolpuddle Martyrs festival.

Our election campaigns were a success with the 20mph speed limit motion being put many councils, and adopted in Norwich. Opportunity to repeat here. We also, thanks to Lord Beaumont, built on the housing campaign launches and ran a productive series of questions in the House of Lords, and continue to call for more social housing and challenge ever more housing and 'eco-towns'.

Some of our most effective campaigning has been in building and strengthening our links to the NGO movements. On Aviation, following on from sessions at last summer's Heathrow's Climate Camp and a plethora of meetings we have been active in the

campaign against Heathrow runway including the Central London rally, Heathrow 'Make a Noise' and lobbying of the GMB. Similar excellent campaigning work has been done against expansion of regional airports, including Manchester (well done Vanessa).

Our profile on climate change remained high – from calling to 'Keep Cool and Cut the Carbon' at the Climate March in December (well done for all who came and braved the rain), through the Climate Conference in May to Kent GP leading our presence at the Kingsnorth March and taking action inside and around the Climate Camp this summer. Lets call for a Climate Bill that inspires a zero carbon future. And stand together not just to Stop Coal, Heathrow and biofuels but call for true Green leadership through a global agreement on the global climate day of action on December 6th.

Finally, a campaign success! The Local Works Campaign has led to the Sustainable Communities Act. Encourage your council to 'opt-in' and use this for more effective campaigns such as protecting local shops and post offices. See the stall or contact campaigns for details.

Thanks to an active committee of Chris Keene, John Spottiswoode, Richard Mallender, Chit Chong, Mark Douglas and Jay Ginn (including initiating work on Citizen's Income) for their ideas, support, and contributions. Also thanks to a long list of activists taking a stand for things. And thanks to Romaine Phoenix's London Campaigns organizing and all the placarding and dropping off by Ken, Alex, Steve and others.

What next: it is up to you. Please get involved and lets turn each part of our Manifesto into reality. Lets Campaign for a Sustainable Society. And Win.

Jonathan Essex, Campaigns Co-ordinator

GPEX –ELECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Steady improvements in this year's local elections were personally rewarding for the newly elected Councillors and a

credit to their campaign teams. We increased our principal authority representation to 117 councillors on 40 councils. Notable breakthroughs were made in Solihull, Cambridge, Stroud, Sheffield and Norwich where the Greens now form the official opposition. Once again the benefits of Target To Win campaigns paid dividends where consistent work was done on the ground. Regrettably the overall number of candidates was down on recent years.

An even more impressive effort was made in London where we successfully defended our 2 seats on the London Assembly and came a news-worthy fourth place in the London Mayoral election. Sian Berry not only proved a serious challenger to the Liberal Democrats, she also gained high media exposure from Darren Johnson and Jenny Jones' record of working alongside Ken Livingston. The London campaign achieved a first for the Green Party: a national newspaper editorial endorsement in The Observer and strong support too in The Independent and The Guardian. Despite these successes our national share of the vote in the local elections outside of London actually declined slightly.

In the 3 parliamentary by-elections that were contested we polled erratically - from 0.9% in Crewe & Nantwich, 7.4% in Haltemprice & Howden (in spite of the Lib Dems and Labour boycotting the poll) and 3.8% in Henley where we beat Labour. Disunity over the merits of contesting the H&H by-election raised serious concerns and contradictions in our selection procedures and national strategic aims. The Elections Co-ordinator has undertaken to present proposals to Conference in 2009 to avoid a repetition of such rancour that ultimately led to the resignation of Sarah Birch.

During her 9 months in post Sarah brought a new level of professionalism to the Elections department. An updated Elections Strategy paper was endorsed by GPEX and the Elections Committee. In addition the groundwork for next year's European elections was laid together with an increased

commitment to the Target To Win Constituencies of Brighton Pavilion, Norwich South, and Lewisham Deptford. New committees and working parties were established to support these strategic projects and specific national funding allocated. New criteria for additional Key Seats were established with Oxford East and Lancaster and Fleetwood securing immediate support.

The urgent, though ultimately unnecessary, plans for a snap election last October resulted in some unplanned expenditure from the Elections budget for the Freepost leaflet. The episode also highlighted widespread unpreparedness for a General Election that is still to be rectified, not least in the level of fundraising and candidate selection. There are 142 candidates in place, but only 25 further selections have been made since mid October 2007, against an agreed minimum target of a half-slate of 286.

The Elections department could not operate without the tireless commitment of Chris Rose, National Elections Agent, and a host of Local and Regional party agents, campaign managers and, crucially, candidates.

I was appointed as successor to Sarah Birch by GPEX in June and have been working with colleagues across the country to ensure that preparations for the forthcoming elections get back on track. Substantial investments in canvassing software, campaign planning, focus group research and training are ongoing.

Looking ahead, the sustained resurgence in Tory poll ratings makes a change of Government look increasingly likely. Our recent results suggest that we are already suffering a 'squeeze' effect, and will have to work harder just to get the same overall vote share. This makes it even more important that we target our efforts in an intelligent and strategic fashion if we are to win more seats.

Chris Haine, Elections Co-ordinator

GPEX - EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

The national press office this year helped London with their election campaign. We recruited a second press officer initially to help with this work. We gained an unprecedented amount of press coverage including two national paper endorsements for our candidate.

I managed our agency work, delivering a high impact broadcast as well as other election materials.

I also pushed forward with our Youtube channel, delivering videos for Kirklees, Norwich and Oxford as well as the MEP, Assembly members and mayoral candidate.

We also developed our online presence on sites and services such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace.

I would like to thank our staff this year, including Charlie Woodworth, Matt Hanley, Gary Dunion and Siân Berry.

I would also like to thank Jon Nott for taking over the management of the press office and being staunch in the defence of staff employment rights and good working conditions.

Jim Killock, External Comms Co-ordinator

GPEX -INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Four Green Activist members' newsletters were sent out in the mailing with Green World, and 16 members' email updates were sent out (one per month plus special reminders about deadlines and events). An immediate post-conference email outlining the main decisions started after the Liverpool conference proved popular with members and the same model has since been implemented following other significant events such as elections, as well as conferences.

Work is proceeding slowly on improving the contents of the members' website and organisation of the email lists; limitations of the current content

management system and email system have restricted progress in this area.

Increasing numbers of local parties are hosting their email lists on the Green Party server. This means that technical support can be provided and passwords reset should they be lost or forgotten, so parties can be assured of continuity with their lists.

A new guide for new members was produced, aiming to be an accessible, entertaining introduction to the party. A further improvement to a colour, bound guide is planned. The guide was updated after the autumn conference elections.

Natalie Bennett, Internal Communications Co-ordinator

GPEX - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Several of the international committee members were those who I had been working with in previous years as GPRC Friend and having experience on the committee was helpful. As usual most of my time and activity was concentrated on Europe and more especially the EU. This is because of our MEPs and our role in the European Green Party. There were two EGP Council meetings this year. The first was in Vienna in October and Miriam Kennet and Richard Lawson attended as our delegates, with others as observers. Because of the experience of recent years, a rigorous process for briefing delegates and liaising with Policy Committee was established and a pre-meeting was held in London.

During the course of the year we actively contributed to the EGP's Climate Change Working Group and Economics Working Group, with reps travelling to meetings. We were not able unfortunately to contribute to the Migration Working Group to the extent that I wanted. These Working Groups presented final reports to the EGP Council meeting in Ljubljana in April, where I attended as a delegate, together with Shan Oakes.

We voted against the Climate and Migration policies because the first was considered not to have sufficiently ambitious targets and

the second to be inconsistent with our policy. I spoke in favour of the Migration policy, which I find progressive and humane and hoped that the GPEW would adopt it soon. We were the only country in the EGP not to do so. We voted for the Economics policy. All of these are now part of the EGP common manifesto for 2009.

We are also currently involved in the Social Policy Working Group which will report back to the EGP Council meeting in Paris in October. I have also been involved in feeding comments back to the Campaign Group for the European elections on the common manifesto. The manifesto will be voted on at the EGP Council in Paris in October.

I also assisted local parties in applying for funding from the European Green Institute, along with Miriam Kennet and instituted a GPEX subcommittee to deal with this. Our number of delegates to the EGP was increased from 2 to 4 and our votes from 3 to 4. We also had motions on the Beijing Olympics and Afghanistan adopted at EGP Council meetings.

I was very concerned about the expulsion of the Danish Green Party from the EGP due to their position on the EU and also on the generally rightwards orientation of the EGP and especially the decision of the Czech Greens in government to support the US missile bases there. I wrote to Prague about this and criticised them at the EGP Council meeting. The Lisbon Treaty debate has also seen us fairly isolated in the EGP but the current setbacks have, in my opinion, proved that the European project has become one of the elites and lost touch with the citizens.

We also played a part in the Global Greens Congress in Brazil in May and Richard Lawson attended as our delegate. The global movement is very important and contacts with Green parties in the developing world are vital. I organised a fringe on global issues at spring conference with speakers from Palestine, Nigeria and the first time an ambassador has been at conference, the Venezuelan

ambassador. I also organised an event in London where the proceedings of the Global Greens Congress were screened live from Brazil. Our MEPs paid for the weblink, which was a method of addressing the carbon imprint of long distance travel.

The issue of Israel and Palestine has been very live in the party this year. Debates on the international list have been extremely aggressive and personal at times, and I have had to intervene as moderator on a number of occasions. The lack of a policy on Israel and Palestine has proven difficult and I have been working with Policy Committee on dealing with this. The sanctions motion which I supported at spring conference led to a concerted campaign of emails from Israel, UK and the US attacking the Green party and the formation of Greens against the Boycott. But it also led to support from the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign and Jewish Socialists among others. We have also continued to play an active role in the Stop the War Coalition and to participate in marches against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have also met Green representatives from Japan, China and New Zealand. I also attended a meeting with Cuban representatives at the Cuban embassy. One of my main aims was to involve more members in international activities and particularly those outside the committee. This included having a Euro candidate from Yorkshire (Shan Oakes) as a delegate to the EGP Council and including a newly elected councillor from Norwich (Sameer Jeeraj) as a rep on one of the EGP Working Groups.

Joseph Healy, International Co-ordinator

GPEX - LOCAL PARTY SUPPORT

After taking over this role last October, I spent much time ensuring we have the correct contact details for all local parties, and making contact with all local parties on a regular basis. This has been a two way process, ensuring local parties are kept aware of national party issues and finding out what local parties need in the way of support. I have made a priority attempting to

encourage regional parties to take on the mantle of supporting their local parties.

This support has involved the following:

1. Responding to many queries by email and phone.
2. Assessing local party needs.
3. Liaising with other national party members who can help deliver these needs, especially publications and websites.
4. Building up and running a series of training sessions for local parties in a variety of issues relating to their organisation.
5. Ensuring local parties understand their legal and constitutional requirements, and helping them comply with these.
6. beginning the process of building up a starting pack for new local parties.

During the last year we have had several new local parties taking off, and I'm keen to publicise their successes and lessons learnt through Green Activist. I am also aware of some local parties that have become completely dormant, or are in various stages of dispute between members, and have looked at ways of helping these become resolved, working with both GPRC and the Disputes Resolution Committee.

Because of many of these issues, I haven't been able to make as much progress as I would have liked with creating properly structured support for local parties. This needs to be a priority for the forthcoming year.

Jon Lucas, Local Party Support Co-ordinator

GPEX – MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR

The party's insurances have been renewed, slightly rationalised and are a bit cheaper than last year. We still have £5 million's worth of public liability insurance which covers local parties' stalls.

A new set of PCs and associated equipment have been installed and are working successfully, and a maintenance contract taken out.

Several steps have been taken to improve computer security in the office, and to improve the Party's compliance with the Data Protection Act.

We are in the course of a major revision and updating of the employee staff handbook, a hefty tome.

The Management Coordinator's role has changed significantly, and become smaller, since Jon Nott was appointed as Head of Office in April.

Tony Cooper pp Tony Cooper and Pete McAskie

GPEX - POLICY COORDINATOR

For this conference there is one Voting Paper, on Culture, a Draft Voting Paper, on Education, and a total of 22 Policy motions.

Diligent students of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference will have spotted that this is wrong. Under the existing rules if there are less than two Voting Papers, Policy Committee is obliged to submit an existing section of the MfSS for review. We have not done so. This is because after a number of years we have found it increasingly difficult to find parts of the MfSS that are suitable for review by this procedure, and rather than burden this Conference with a section for review for the sake of it, we decided instead to submit a motion that will in future oblige us to present a section for review only when no Voting Paper at all is expected.

The Culture Voting Paper completes the chapter on Culture, Media and Sport, and we owe thanks to Roger Creagh-Osborne for bringing it to conference. The Education Draft Voting Paper follows the enabling motion passed two years ago, and is a substantial piece of work for which we are grateful to Rachel Fryer and the Education group. It will be debated at this conference at a workshop and at fringes, and a full Voting Paper will come to a subsequent conference. An Economy Draft Voting Paper went to last conference but has not been re-submitted to this one mainly to keep the size of the Final Agenda within bounds; it will however be the subject of a fringe.

There are a large number of other policy motions on this agenda, some of which are identical to

motions not reached at previous conferences. Policy Committee remains concerned about the level of discussion and preparation of many of these motions. Policy motions have real effects on the conference timetable even if they are not reached, and absorb resources in the form of rooms at conference, paper and ink, and the time and patience of delegates. The time may come when conference will need to think seriously about raising the requirements for motions to be accepted.

Last conference there was an enabling motion on Population. After extensive discussion on the population list, it proved impossible to submit a Draft Voting Paper to this conference that adequately reflected the range of views expressed. There will be a fringe at this conference to take the work forward. This discussion has raised general issues about how conference can discuss highly controversial issues without attracting unwelcome attention. Policy Committee is committed to our values of free and open debate.

At last conference a motion on Palestine and Israel was referred back to Policy Committee. There will a fringe on a proposed draft at this conference. We are grateful to John Norris for taking this work forward.

Autumn 2007 Conference passed an enabling motion asking for a review of our policy on Northern Ireland. The Greens in Northern Ireland have become a region of the independent Irish Green Party, An Comhaontas Glas. We are proposing the replacement of the MfSS chapter on Northern Ireland with a statement similar to the present statement about Scotland which says that Green policies for Scotland are decided by the independent Scottish Green Party. We have been consulting through the Green Islands network and have so far got no response from the Irish, North or South. We intend to bring a proposal to Spring 2009 conference.

There will also be a fringe on the future of the MfSS, asking whether this is the best way to organise and record our policy.

Other policy work since last conference has included drafting policy briefings for candidates in the local elections, carrying forward the work on generating short positive policy ideas, dealing as ever with routine policy enquiries and keeping the MfSS and Record of Policy statements up to date. Thanks to Roger Creagh-Osbourne the policy part of the website has been considerably improved, with the addition of a search facility.

I am grateful to the members of the existing Policy Committee and my GPRC friend Lesley Hedges for all their hard work and support over the past year. But the elections to Policy Committee are coming up again, and I hope we will see some new members, especially from outside the ranks of grizzled old male policy hacks.

Brian Heatley, Policy Development Co-ordinator

GPEX – PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

This has been a difficult year for Publications. Pete Sanderson resigned his post in February. Amongst the work that he initiated was a review of printing services available to the Green Party, specifically printers who can provide truly sustainable production processes. A decision was also taken early on to share the Publications budget with that of External Communications, particularly in light of the demands on the party to produce a Party Election Broadcast for the spring elections.

When I was co-opted by GPEX to fill the vacant post I was therefore faced with few resources and zero budget to produce anything with. It was not possible to have any hand over either. Despite this unsatisfactory state of affairs I began my term of office by consulting as widely as possible with members in the regions and local parties to establish what my priorities should be. There were three main conclusions:

1. That the party should co-ordinate a successor to Green Trade

2. A number of key documents require re-designing and printing including recruitment literature, mini-manifestos and policy

pointers.

3. That the party should utilise the design skills and local resources that exist throughout our membership far more effectively.

Since then I have been working on 3 key projects: researching a business plan for a third-party trading company that could provide goods and other materials through a service agreement, an on-line shop for ordering those products, and a Design Collective of local party members to contribute to specific publications projects.

Unfortunately little progress has been made on any of these since the early summer as I was asked to take on the additional - and arguably more important - role of Elections Co-ordinator. I informed my GPEX colleagues at the time that whilst I would continue to oversee the Publications post until the autumn I could not be expected to work for both.

I hope that my successor in this post will want to take forward my preliminary work as the Publications Co-ordinator is a key player in the effectiveness of the national party especially in the run up to national elections. I will give whatever help and encouragement I can to the new Co-ordinator.

Chris Haines

GPEX – FEMALE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

Summary of Activities: September 2007 – July 2008

As female Principal Speaker this year, I've done all I can to highlight the urgent need to elect Green politicians at all levels of government, and was particularly active in support of a number of local election campaigns. Particular highlights include the following:

I spoke at the December *Campaign Against Climate Change* rally in London, where I also produced a short recording for the Party website, and again at the Campaign's *Climate Summit* last month. I will be spending time at the Climate Camp at Kingsnorth, and will be speaking at a number of events there.

I was again a keynote speaker at the *Guardian* Climate Change Conference in July, highlighting the urgent role government must play in fighting climate change. However, I also took part in the protests outside the Conference over the fact that E.ON had been chosen as the lead sponsor for the event (see my website for footage of a great demo!), and used much of my speaking time to strongly criticise the *Guardian* for handing E.ON such a public relations gift.

Campaigning against the expansion of Heathrow airport has been a major theme of the year, involving speaking at numerous events – including a packed-out public meeting in Westminster, and a “carnival” event at Sipson village.

I have continued to show support for the Transition Towns network and recently opened its annual conference in Cirencester with a speech focusing on Peak Oil, April 2008.

I spoke at the 50th anniversary of protests at Aldermaston in March 2008, and at Menwith Hill during a protest against US bases on 4 July. I also spoke on women's rights and the need to stamp out gendered violence at the Million Women Rise rally in Trafalgar Square on International Women's Day.

I have voiced my concerns to the UK government on behalf of the Party on a number of human rights cases, including that of Malalai Joya, the Afghan politician who was removed from parliament due to her progressive views, Mehdi Kazemi, the gay Iranian who has finally been granted permission to stay in the UK, and Pegah Emambakhsh, the Iranian lesbian whose fate is still undecided.

I have achieved a very broad portfolio of media coverage for my work in the national, regional and local broadcast and print media, in both consumer and trade publications and on the internet. In particular, my comments on shipping emissions and the UK wind energy sector appeared on the front page of the *Guardian*, with relating full-page features in the ‘Environment’ and

‘Finance’ sections. I was a guest on the BBC's *Any Questions*, and the *Andrew Marr programme*, and appeared on several *Today programme* interviews. I was on the panel of *BBC Question Time* at the end of May.

I have been increasing my work on trade union issues, and was invited to be a keynote speaker at a fringe during the GMB Congress in June to discuss climate change and jobs, as well as meeting with SERTUC on broader trade union issues.

I have also been strengthening the Party's profile on health issues, and outlined the Green agenda for mental health at a conference organised by MIND, and spoke at a Royal Society of Medicine conference on the issues of food, agriculture and health.

**Caroline Lucas, Female
Principal Speaker**

GPEX – MALE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

I am very proud to have served as the last male Principal Speaker. I helped embarrass the Government of Papua New Guinea into stopping Woodlark Island from being clear cut for a palm oil plantation. I encouraged Cynthia McKinney to leave the Democrats and run for the Green Party USA as their presidential candidate. I have fought a campaign against biofuels which included criticism of the Earthrace a biofuel speed boat.

I have helped during the Henley and Haltemprice and Howden by-elections, and in the Regency by-election in Brighton which we won. However I fractured a vertebrae that put me out of action for nearly three months in the spring during the local elections.

I have had letters in the *Guardian* and done the usual TV and radio work. I have spoken quite literally to tens of thousands of people at packed public events ranging from climate conference, Morning Star globalisation conference with Caroline Lucas, Hands Off Venezuela, Tolpuddle Martyrs Rally, etc.

I have spoken to local parties in Wales, Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, University of Sussex.

A major focus has been working with radical environmentalists in Latin America, I invited Samuel Moncada the Venezuelan Ambassador to speak at our spring conference. I personally lobbied President Hugo Chavez to help use his influence to persuade the FARC to release kidnapped prisoners such as Green candidate Ingrid Betancourt. I have discussed in some detail Cuban efforts to improve environmental sustainability at their Embassy. I also work closely with Hugo Blanco the indigenous leader in Peru, who is one of the most important green activists on the continent. I have maintained a no fly policy as principal speaker.

I have been blogging virtually daily on my own another green world plus the socialist unity site.

Published articles include 'Confessions of an Eco-Sinner' review in the Morning Star 19th May, Cuban Solidarity magazine article on Greening Cuba in their spring edition plus dozens more

Finally I was pleased to signed the Nakba statement in the Times along with Caroline Lucas. I intend to keep speaking and campaigning for radical green politics in the future.

Derek Wall, Male Principal Speaker

A04 - REGIONAL COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS' REPORT

Not all regions are fully represented on Regional Council but currently there are currently 16 members. The West Midlands, East Midlands, North East and London Federation have only one member.

GPRC continues to hold meetings around the country and since last Conference has met in Birmingham, London, Newcastle and Oxford. The Chair of GPEX attends regularly and Regional Council Co-chairs attend GPEX meetings. There is good liaison between the two bodies. GPEX members, and other guests are invited to attend from time to time

and we welcome hearing from local party members. We appreciate Jon Nott taking the time to come to Newcastle and speak to us about his role as Head of Office. GPRC Councillors had many questions for him, particularly on the topic of computer security and choice of software in Party Office.

The Disciplinary Tribunal Standing Orders have been revised and are included in the Regional Council Members' Handbook which will shortly be available on the members' website.

GPEX Budget
GPRC was concerned at the length of time it took for GPEX to set a budget for 2007-08 and that this budget then underwent several revisions. Although there is no requirement, GPRC expects that the incoming GPEX will produce a budget by its second meeting following Conference. GPRC expects to have sight of this budget as soon as it is finalised.

Constitution
The latest version of the Green Party Constitution is available via the members' website.

Leadership ballot
Regional Council instructed the Co-chairs to investigate the conduct of the leadership referendum following a representation by London Federation at the January GPRC meeting. Co-chairs talked to the relevant parties and our report is attached below.

The Co-Chairs were unable to obtain any usable evidence in order to substantiate the claim that the Green Party database had been used by named individuals. The information we received however indicated that the database information had been accessed by an unknown person or persons.

Regional Council agreed at its meeting in May that no further action would be taken by GPRC.

Regional Council was firmly of the view that an external agency, preferably the Electoral Reform Society, should be used to conduct the GPEX elections in 2008 to ensure that members

could have complete confidence in the ballot. We are pleased to note that this will be done.

Haltemprice and Howden by-election
The Green Party has a long-standing policy not to stand in by-elections where: there is no prospective parliamentary candidate in place; there is no active local party; there is no history of standing in elections in the constituency - however, there can be exceptions and an emergency candidate selection procedure can be used. If a candidate is to be selected by an emergency selection procedure, the Green Party Constitution requires that Regional Council Co-chairs declare the emergency selection procedure operative. This procedure was invoked in the case of Haltemprice and Howden.

Following investigation, Co-chairs took the decision that the Hull and East Riding party should not contest the by-election, in line with policy. This led to a campaign of emailing and telephoning by members who felt that the local party should have the right to make the decision.

Political Committee, a sub-committee of GPEX, reversed its previous stance and declared that the local party should be allowed to stand. Regional Council Co-chairs, mindful that our remit is "keeping under review the general wellbeing of the Green Party" and aware of the divisions that this polarised debate was creating, reversed our decision and Shan Oakes stood in the election on 10 July.

We commend Shan and, Mark Stevenson who fought in the Henley by-election, for their hard work and good results.

GPEX Elections Regulations

The Electoral Returning Officer of the Party (ERO) has the responsibility of drawing up election regulations but in the absence of an ERO the Convener of SOC had produced a set of regulations to be used for the GPEX and Party Leadership elections in 2008.

At its meeting in Oxford on 19 July, GPRC instructed the Co-

chairs to liaise with SOC to make revisions to these regulations. At the time of writing, Co-chairs are not aware that a decision has been made by SOC on whether to accept revised regulations.

GPRC Budget

It is expensive to hold GPRC meetings and our annual budget of £3,900 does not meet our costs. This budget also has to fund GPRC representatives on national committees of the Green Party. Co chairs submitted a much increased budget bid but this was, unsurprisingly, rejected by GPEx. We have no quarrel with the need to reduce party expenditure but would like to bring to the attention of Conference that without the willingness of many GPRC reps to pay many of their own expenses the Council would not be able to function effectively.

**Mike Toms and Nicola Watson,
Co-Chairs**

Conduct of Leadership Referendum

As agreed at the last meeting of GPRC, Co-chairs, with the assistance of Dispute Resolution Committee, conducted an investigation into the conduct of the leadership referendum.

Two individuals were reported at the January meeting of GPRC as possibly having used the Green Party national members' database. They were contacted by phone and in person to discuss this. Co-chairs learned that these individuals had undertaken telephone canvassing. They had used lists of contacts which they had built up from different sources over a long period. It remained unclear whether any of these sources included, directly or indirectly, use of the GP national database. The individuals concerned may not even have been sure themselves.

Co-chairs formed the opinion that canvassing had been undertaken with good motives in order to increase voter participation and to raise awareness of the leadership referendum. Anecdotal evidence would indicate that there was no consistency in the effect of this canvassing in influencing voter's decisions. Both individuals

ceased telephone canvassing when asked to do so.

According to the report of the ERO, the referendum turnout was 48.3% and the necessary majority of 2/3 was easily achieved with the vote in favour of a leader being 73%.

Co-chairs are not complacent about the security of membership records held in Party Office and this is addressed in the IT report by Mike Toms. However, Co-chairs are content that the referendum was conducted in line with the procedure which had been laid down and confident that the result represents the views of the Green Party members.

Paper to GPRC in May 2008

A05 - POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT –

SEE GPEx POLICY CO- ORDINATOR'S REPORT

A06 – CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE –

SEE GPEx CAMPAIGNS CO- ORDINATOR'S REPORT

A07 – DISPUTES RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT –

Not received

A08 - MEP TRUST REPORT

The Trust acts as the official service provider to our MEPs, under rules set by the European Parliament, recruiting and employing all staff working for Jean and Caroline in Brussels and the UK. The EP secretarial allowances are paid directly into the Trust account. The EP has recently confirmed that our use of these monies from the beginning of this legislature in 2004 to date conforms fully to the rules.

In addition the Trust manages other monies, notably the general allowance, for which the MEPs are directly responsible. Such allowances are not and cannot be monies of the Green Party and are managed separately from any Party monies.

In order to respond to continuing controversies about these allowances, it is likely that the EP will change its rules as from the next legislature in mid 2009. The Green Group has been at the forefront of the campaign for such changes.

The Trust meets quarterly in London and is currently made up of the following members: Jean Lambert MEP, Caroline Lucas MEP, Joseph Healy (International Co-ordinator), John Norris (for GPRC), Hellen Barlow (for London region), Tony Cooper (for South East region), Steve Emmott (finance), and Emma Hallett (personnel). Margaret Wright was the GPRC representative until May 2009 when she was elected a councillor in Cambridge. John Street was the London region rep until the end of September 2008.

All posts are currently filled.

The MEPs have issued and disseminated a range of publications and other materials over the past year. At the Green Party conferences in particular a high volume of these materials are made available to members and for the general public. Anyone wanting to receive MEPs newsletters and other materials directly should leave their contact details at the MEPs' stall at conference.

Access to recent, and past, MEP publications can be found on their websites.

The MEPs continue to value the existence of the Trust, and thanks Trust members for their work over the past year.

**Joseph Healy, GPEx
International Coordinator and
MEP Trust Chair**

A09 – GREEN WORLD EDITORIAL BOARD REPORT –

Not received

A10 - CONFERENCES COMMITTEE REPORT

A lot has changed over the past 18 months, with many new faces and changing structures.

The conference at Liverpool was first organised by the committee

members, taking full responsibility for the organising – and running – of conference. Whilst I would consider the conference a success, it was clear that the overall running was too much to be done by a committee alone. It was therefore proposed that a contract was made for some of the work to be sourced outside of the committee in order to facilitate the basic running of conference, still allowing the committee to make overall decisions. This arrangement has been now with us for the past year, and it has worked very well, bringing the experience of John Street and Leila Kiersch to the group in the form of Clover Events, and have done a fantastic job.

There were many challenges that each conference has produced:

Liverpool (Autumn 07):

Advantages:

The venue had superb facilities, with a significant amount of computer facilities that people found useful.

Catering was cheap, but of good quality, many people praised the food at the venue.

The venue was fairly central, with people able to get there from the north and south alike.

The evenings entertainments worked out well with the ceilidh and shortened revue

Disadvantages:

The venue itself had a "distant" feel, with few facilities close by. The bar was low key and closed early.

Accommodation proved to be restrictive, especially those on lower incomes, and crash space was limited to people's houses (and at a distance from the venue).

Travel on the Sunday was problematic due to rail engineering works.

Reading (Spring 08):

Advantages:

The venue was of a high quality Located in the South-East, the conference had a higher than average attendance

Crash and Accommodation was more organised (with thanks to Clover Events).

Front of house was more efficient, with superb help from Reading members.

Disadvantages:

The price of the venue was incredibly high (Highest ever paid for a venue)

Some members would have liked a more northerly conference.

Food was expensive at the venue The evening entertainments on one of the nights was poorly patronised.

There have also been other issues that had an effect on the committee, namely:

Inexperience of myself, and others, of organising conference. This was a major setback, especially at Liverpool (causing me to be very stressed!) This has been solved somewhat by Clover Events.

Issues regarding payment for the venue at Liverpool, with payments not received until sometime after the conference. (This has now been paid)

The increasing gulf between the aspirations/expectations of conference delegates GPEX and within conferences committee, and the finances needed to fund the various areas of conference – ultimately compromises have had to be reached.

Busy schedules, with members of the committee being hard to contact.

Finances have as always been tough to deal with on Conferences Committee. Reading lost approximately £1,900, and unfortunately, I do not have a record of the financial position of the Liverpool Conference, as I wasn't responsible for the budget at the time

At the time of writing, conferences committee are currently working towards the London Conference, and I hope that people will be happy with the venue that we have found for this important occasion and hope that things are running smoothly! As you will have noticed, we have had to revise the conference prices – we are open to comments on this new system but would like to point out that with the current financial constraints that we have to modify them in order to try and meet the increasing costs incurred in all areas of the budget. This is not a decision taken lightly and I hope members understand the need to do this.

This will be my first (and last) conference committee report, as I now feel it is time for me to step down, as I feel that I do not have the time required to pursue this alongside my full time job and local party interests. I hope that people put themselves forward for standing on conferences committee, as whilst it can be stressful at times, it can also be very rewarding.

Rob Smith, Convenor

A11 - ASSOCIATION OF GREEN COUNCILLORS – REPORT TO CONFERENCE

New Councillors

The May local elections saw our numbers rise from 110 to 117 Principal Authority Councillors. Our records also show 149 Parish councillors (although there may be up to 200). The AGC's "New Councillor Pack" continues to evolve and a welcome letter and pack was sent to all newly elected councillors. We also sent out letters thanking retiring councillors for their work.

AGC Annual Conference

The AGC annual conference was held at Norwich City Hall in July of this year. Sessions included greening trade unions, waste reduction, councillor-officer relations, green energy, free insulation schemes, 20mph speed limits, affordable housing, access and equality for ethnic minorities and the Sustainable Communities Act. At the AGC's AGM both Cllr. Darren Johnson as Chair and Cllr. Maya de Souza as Secretary stood down after two years in these roles. The following officers were elected:

- Cllr Jon Barry – Chair
- Cllr Richard Mallender – Secretary
- Cllr Susan Murray – Treasurer
- Cllr Adrian Ramsay – AGC Representative on Elections Committee
- Cllr John Whitelegg – LGA Transport and Regeneration Board

Finances

The AGC is funded by subscription from councillors and other members who wish to support its activities. The

Treasurer reported a balance of around £6,000 at the AGM. Members have asked that priorities for future investment include looking at enhanced research support for councillors and the production of a more regular newsletter.

Website

The AGC Website has a growing library of Green councillor achievements, council motions and other resources to help inspire councillors. Most of these are harvested from the pages of local party websites and from the AGC email lists. The list of councillor achievements is also useful for the national press office, and for local parties writing election leaflets and wanting examples of Greens in action.

Working with the Local Government Association

We have continued liaising with the Local Government Association (LGA) through the Independent Group, which covers all councillors outside the three main parties. The Independent Group have confirmed they wish to continue the arrangement whereby a Green councillor is Deputy Chair of the LGA Regeneration & Transport Board. Cllr John Whitelegg continues in this role where he has been very active on the local transport bill, concessionary fares and the sub-national review. John has chaired sessions at a number of LGA conferences and has also asked officers of the LGA to prepare a report on peak oil and oil price increases and how these will affect local government.

Member Development Events

We worked with the Leadership Centre for Local Government who put on a further two free weekend training events for Green councillors – one in January 2008 aimed primarily at councillors in established groups and one in July 2008 aimed primarily at newly elected councillors. One of the highlights this year was a training workshop on effective press work for councillors.

Policy and Research

An AGC briefing was produced on the Government's Housing Green Paper and its implications for councillors. Work on Local

Development Frameworks has also been a popular topic this year and Jon Hooper has collected examples of Green Party LDF responses which are now available on the website. Jon will also be producing a report on LDFs as one of his next priority tasks, which will distil some of the best ideas from the collected LDF responses. One new initiative this year has been "policy liaison councillors". We've nominated several councillors to liaise with policy groups and represent the needs of councillors, and they are due to report back to the AGC very soon.

AGC Assistant

Jon Hooper is now part way through his third year of working for the AGC as paid assistant, averaging the equivalent of three and a half hours per week. Jon continues to play an invaluable role in supporting the AGC in all its key activities and both incoming and outgoing officers wish to express their thanks to him.

Cllr Darren Johnson (outgoing Chair of AGC)

SECTION B (VOTING PAPERS)

B01. Culture Voting Paper (submitted by Policy Committee)

SOC Note – No amendments have been received to this Voting Paper

Synopsis:

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

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

Motion:

Delete the Policy Statement on National Lottery (RCMS96.1) and the existing Arts chapter of MfSS

and replace with the following inserted into the Culture Media and Sport chapter.

CENSORSHIP & PRIVACY

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

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

CMS208 The Green Party recognises the right of citizens to enjoy privacy within their home and domestic activities. Where there is a conflict between the individual's right to privacy and legitimate public interest then the onus is on those claiming public interest to demonstrate their case. The Green Party recognises that an individual's actions in placing their private life in the public domain (for example politicians or celebrities inviting media attention) may undermine their right to privacy.

CULTURE, CREATIVITY & THE ARTS

Background

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

CMS401. Culture is essential to human fulfilment. As a human

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

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

CMS403. Arts and culture in the UK is currently structured and funded in a way that gives the 'bigger' players dominance over smaller community organisations and individual artists. A healthy and vibrant society does not see a necessary competition between creativity and purely financial business concerns. Indeed much commercial entertainment marries the two effectively. This needs to happen on the small scale and through community-based activities as well as the large and more commercial scale. Our aim is to rebalance the relationship between cultural superstars and ordinary people. The present imbalance amounts to a virtual deification of celebrity superstars, which mirrors the economic divergence between rich and poor.

Principles

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

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

CMS412. Financial support does not entail a right to intervene in other people's self-expression. Arts policy-making, where it is needed, should be organisational in nature and empowering in character.

CMS413. Artistic activity has an important role to play in the sustenance of a society's culture. We believe that the UK produces some of the finest professional theatre, film, comedy and music in the world and that home grown entertainment industries need to be recognised for the value they add to society. If we want to maintain cultural diversity in the 21st century these industries, at national and local level, on large and small scale, need to be protected and promoted in the face of the homogenising influence of a dominating global artistic culture.

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

Objectives

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

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

CMS422. To promote our shared cultural heritage.

Short to mid term Policies

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

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

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

CMS433. To modify the licensing

regulations to ensure that small scale live performance in pubs, clubs and similar venues is not stifled.

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

Long term policies

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

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

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

Culture and Commerce

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

National Lottery

CMS460. The National Lottery has generated vast profits for a private company, while the portion of its income directed towards 'good causes' is distributed by unelected quangos. Conference believes that the National Lottery is no substitute for the accountable system of wealth distribution that would be required to bring about a just society. The Green Party would dismantle the National Lottery within the term of one parliament, without compensation for its operators.

To be inserted in sport section

g) Sponsorship in Sport

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

CMS891. Sponsorship arrangements should not be allowed to restrict access to events deemed of national or regional importance. In particular where a national team is playing

then public service media should always be allowed to offer free access to all UK citizens.

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

SECTION C – POLICY MOTIONS

C01 (was C21 in First Agenda) Trade Union Reps

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

"WR631 Trade Unions and their branches will have the right to establish workplace environmental representatives, who will have the same rights at work as other trade union representatives. This will include appropriate facilities and time off to undertake their duties. Such representatives should play a decision making role in the development of strategies and implementation plans for making workplaces, companies and other public, private and third sector organisations greener and more sustainable."

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

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

C02 (C29) Minimum/Maximum Wage

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

British people work some of the longest hours in Europe, with some 3.6 million people regularly working more than 48 hours a week, yet 7 out of 10 people working over 48 hours per week

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

Therefore, the Green Party will campaign:

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

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

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

Amendment 1

Delete "(c) and **Replace** with (c) a new top rate of income tax to be levied on incomes over 10

times the National Minimum Wage

Proposed by Darren Johnson, Sue Luxton, Ute Michel, Keith Magnum + 1

*Motion proposed by: Peter Murry (**), James Caspell, Payam Torabi, Adrian Cruden*

C03 (C42) Right to Rent

Synopsis

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

Motion

Insert as new HO411 and renumber accordingly

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

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

C04 (C30) Free School Meals

Synopsis

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

Wales every school day to every pupil.

Motion

Replace ED304 of the MfSS:

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

with:

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

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

C05 (C32) State Funding Political Parties

Synopsis (created by SOC)

Re-affirm support for state funding of political parties

In 2006 the Green Party of England and Wales made a detailed submission to the Phillips Review on political party funding, the review set up in the wake of the cash for honours scandal. In March 2007, the review published its conclusions, noting that in some areas agreement had not been possible. The review then continued with talks between the three "main" parties at Westminster and a further "compromise paper" prepared in August. However, in October 2007 the talks were suspended. In light of this stalemate, Conference:

- Re-affirms its support for public funding of political parties as a way of taking politics out of the hands of big business and the influence of the super-rich;
- Welcomes the recognition in the Phillips review of the importance of representation at devolved or European levels; and of the greater diversity of current UK politics;
- Deplores the UK Government's failure to extend the Policy Development Grant regime to smaller parties – as recommended by the

Electoral Commission in 2004 – using the excuse that the Phillips Review had overtaken this recommendation;

- Laments the fact that the Phillips Review recommendations will not be implemented until at least 2012, if at all, and that this means that establishment political parties will continue to receive millions of pounds of public subsidy while smaller parties are frozen out; and
- Instructs the relevant body of the party to make further representation to the UK Government and to the Phillips Review in light of the failures of political vision which have led to this iniquitous situation.

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

C06 (C22) Update EU Policy

Synopsis

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

Motion

EU423

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

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

EU425 vi) Delete "and the European Steel and Coal Community"
Delete EU466 – 472

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

EU502 Delete "along with the Coal and Steel Treaty"
Change reference to "Maastricht Treaty" to "Treaty of European Union."
Delete EU510 – 513 on Coal and Steel

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

C07 (C28) EU Policy - Social Chapter

Synopsis

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

Motion

Delete EU370 – 372

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

C08 (C23) EU Policy – Biofuels

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

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

C09 (C26) Afghan Opium

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

Synopsis (created by SOC)

Push for a plan to license and purchase the Afghan opium crop and distribute the refined opium products to medical services in developing countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C10 (C40) Broadening Climate Change Policy

Synopsis

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

Motion

CC225 Subsequent to the invention of C&C a number of frameworks with similar objectives have been developed by various groups. These include "Cap and Share", "Cap and Dividend", "Kyoto2" and "Greenhouse Development

Rights". The Green Party would also support any such scheme providing it meets the following criteria and has a realistic chance of being formally adopted by the UNFCCC:

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

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

And add after CC291

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

- There must be a hard cap - a built-in limit on national emissions consistent with the actual or hoped-for international framework.
- The scheme must be equitable and be seen to be equitable by the general population
- There must be an enforcement mechanism with teeth which addresses non-compliance by individuals or organisations

And renumber subsequent sections.

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

C11 (C36) Conduct of Elections

Synopsis

Oxford Green Party is concerned about aspects of the conduct of Elections in the UK: abuses to

the postal vote; lack of ID requirements for casting a vote; undermining of secret ballot by lax supervision at polling stations and by numbering of ballot papers and stubs; student 'double votes'.

Motion

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

1. Abuse of the Postal Vote.

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

2. Lack of requirement for ID at the Polling Station

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

3. Lax Supervision in Polling Stations.

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

4. Numbering of ballot papers.

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

5. Students 'double vote'.

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

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

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

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

C12 (C24) Ammunition

Synopsis (edited)

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

Motion

Insert new PD418 and renumber

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

PD419 In order to produce ammunition, a manufacturer needs to obtain large quantities of certain chemicals. The Green Party will require that these chemicals to be put on a register, so that purchasers will have to give information about where and for what they will be used. In this way, the production of illicit ammunition will be made more difficult.

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

C13 (C34) Economics

Synopsis (created by SOC)

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

Motion

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

Amendment 1

In the first paragraph of the Motion, delete everything from the word 'concern' and substitute: "horror the present financial crisis and its central features, including:

- "the reliance of banks on inter-bank lending rather than customer deposits;
- "excessive mortgage and consumer lending
- "the complexity and opaqueness of recently invented financial instruments;
- "the failure of the authorities to adequately regulate this area.

Proposed by Tom Lines, Derek Wall, Brian Heatley, Chris Padley + 2

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

Amendment 2

Delete the second paragraph (beginning, 'This situation arises...').

Proposed by Tom Lines, Derek Wall, Brian Heatley, Chris Padley + 2

Delete and replace EC662 with:

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

Amendment 3

In the proposed new text for EC662, delete 'economy as a whole due to their virtual monopoly on money creation. These commercial banking institutions work to a purely commercial agenda in which' and substitute with: 'economy. In these commercial institutions'

Proposed by Tom Lines, Derek Wall, Brian Heatley, Chris Padley + 2

Insert new EC663 and renumber:

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

Amendment 4

Delete the proposed text for the new paragraph EC663 and substitute:

EC663: We will strictly control the financial sector to ensure that it serves the purposes of a sustainable economy. We will regulate all financial instruments firmly and permit only those that are transparent, that offer limited risk of financial destabilisation and are clearly beneficial for society. We will ensure there is stricter regulation of the banks, limiting them to their main purposes, and require transparency in all financial

trading, including that undertaken by private funds."

Proposed by Tom Lines, Derek Wall, Brian Heatley, Chris Padley + 2

*Motion proposed by: Stuart Jeffrey (**), Rupert Read, Molly Scott Cato, Richard Lawson*

C14 (C39) Building Regs/Climate Change

This is a motion for the ROPS

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

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

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

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

C15 (C37) Anti-Semitism (1)

Amendment 1

Reinstate the submitted title "Antisemitism".

Proposed by Chris Fox, Alan Howe, Toby Green, Tristan Smith + 1

Synopsis (edited by SOC)

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

Amendment 2

Reinstate the synopsis as submitted for the first agenda: "The Green Party is committed to opposing racism and discrimination of all forms (PB303), and respects the rights of minorities (PB306). The Green Party recognises that rights, such as free speech, may be curtailed where they are used in ways that are oppressive (PB402) or harm others (PB403). As an antiracist party, it is imperative that an explicit policy on anti-Semitism be adopted to provide a framework when dealing with sensitive issues concerning Israel, Zionism and Judaism."

Proposed by Chris Fox, Alan Howe, Toby Green, Tristan Smith + 1

Motion

The Green Party accepts that:

1. Antisemitism is a form of racism, and should not be tolerated.
2. Antisemitic remarks and behaviours may include a variety of imagery, caricatures and references to global Zionist conspiracies etc.
3. Recognition of the State of Israel is consistent with the party's Philosophical Basis.
4. Recognition of a State does not imply acceptance of the actions of that State.
5. Israel has the right to self-determination in the event of any

regional peace settlement.

Amendment 3

Replace the text of clause 5 by the following:

"5. The people of both Israel and Palestine have the right to self-determination in the event of any regional peace settlement."

Proposed by Chris Fox, Alan Howe, Toby Green, Tristan Smith + 1

6. Contemporary antisemitism often uses the language of antizionism.

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

Amendment 4

Replace clause 7 by the following text:

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

Proposed by Chris Fox, Alan Howe, Toby Green, Tristan Smith + 1

The Green Party agrees that:

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

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

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

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

Amendment 5

Replace the text of clause 10 by the following:

"10. Members should at all times, including when proposing and implementing policy, be sensitive to the fact that the Green Party does not and will not endorse or

tolerate antisemitism, or discrimination of any form."
Proposed by Chris Fox, Alan Howe, Toby Green, Tristan Smith + 1

*Motion proposed by: Chris Fox (**), Toby Green, Raphael Levy, Alan Howe*

C16 (C38) Anti-Semitism (2)

Synopsis

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

Motion

In pursuance of their concern as to the treatment of the Palestinian population by the Israeli government, Green Party representatives have engaged with other groups who share this common aim. Whilst reaffirming the need to engage with other groups, especially Islamic groups, and supporting Green Party members who do this, the Green Party dissociates itself from any wider agenda. Specifically it rejects any implication of antisemitism.

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

C17 (C25) Armed Forces

Synopsis

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

Motion

Insert new PD306:

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

- 1 In exchange for putting their lives on the line when necessary for the security of the country, or in the protection of civilians of other countries in pursuit of the

UN Responsibility to Protect, the State undertakes to respect and look after injured service personnel giving them decent living standards, whether serving or not serving due to their injury, and to their dependents in the event of their being killed.

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

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

C18 (C27) Enabling Motion - Policing

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

Amendment 1

Amend C27 to read "Policy Committee is instructed to establish a working group to review party policy on policing

and give the party the opportunity to debate the role of the police in a Green society. Such a review should emphasise the principle of policing by consent of the community and develop policies that ensure the safeguarding of civil liberties and provide for democratic accountability and effective engagement with local communities. Policy Committee should bring back a Policy Voting Paper to Conference in Autumn 2009."

Proposed by Darren Johnson, Jenny Jones, Shahrar Ali, Martin Bleach + 1

Amendment 2

1) Delete

'First of all, the party needs to declare formally that the Peelian paramilitary model of policing does not work and the'

2) Delete

'which is not a lazy - or expedient, considering the popularity of the 'police' among the electorate - continuation of the Peelian system. There needs to be a policy group to consider both ways of creating a new' and **insert in place of this** 'on crime and'

3) Delete

'system and how to break the present inertia with the paramilitaries, presumably, resisting all efforts to end their hegemony, power and their role as a de facto branch of government.'

and **insert in place of this**

' . Subject to sufficient interest being shown in creating a Crime and Policing Policy Working Group'

4) Insert between 'Policy and 'Voting' the word 'Draft'

5) Delete 'in Autumn 2009'.

6) Insert before the final 'Conference' the words 'a future'

Note: the motion would now read:

Policy Committee should be instructed to develop policy on crime and policing. Subject to sufficient interest being shown in creating a Policing Policy Working Group it should bring back a Policy Draft Voting Paper to a future Conference.

Proposed by Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Matt Follett

*Motion proposed by: David Wylie (**), Fiona Radic, Justine Hall, John Wareing*

C19 (C31) Daylight Saving

Synopsis (created by SOC)

Bring forward introduction of BST and delay change back to GMT.

This is motion for inclusion in the ROPS

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

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

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

C20 (C33) Adult Social Care Funding

Synopsis

Current Green Party policy states that: SW406 If residential care is needed then it will be provided free and house owners would not be required to sell their home to pay for such care. However, there is currently no indication of how this care is to be paid for. This motion addresses this.

Motion

Following SW406 insert new policy SW407 as follows:

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

their value exceeds a set figure."

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

C21 (C41) Carbon Quotas for the Elderly

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

C22 (C35) Replace Personal Trading with Cap & Dividend

Synopsis

None provided

Replace CC290 and CC291 with:

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

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

their energy needs"

In CC292, replace 'quota' with 'cap and dividend'

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

SECTION D (ORGANISATIONAL MOTIONS)

D01 (D54) Election Strategy

Synopsis

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

Motion

The Green Party currently faces considerable electoral opportunities. If it is to rise to the occasion and take advantage of these, it must initiate a step change in its approach to elections. This will entail dramatic capacity enhancement in human, organisational and material resource terms.

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

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

Amendment 1

Add to above sentence: 'nor from building up base support in areas where we currently have only a few isolated activists.'

*Proposed by Jon Lucas, Eamonn
Ward, Chris Haine, Jenny Rust
+1*

The Green Party therefore adopts the following strategic objectives:

1. The Party will aim significantly to increase the number of its elected representatives as well as the overall Green vote share at all levels of government.
2. In order to accomplish this, the Party will engage in rigorous targeting, which will involve the mobilisation of human and material resources to help win

target seats. This will necessitate a marked increase in inter-party and inter-region mobility of activists, together with fundraising for elections.

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

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

Amendment 2

Add additional section:

5. To widen the party's electoral base, emphasis will also be given to supporting candidates in other areas where there is a prospect of future electoral success, and to bringing weaker areas up to this potential.

Proposed by Jon Lucas, Eamonn Ward, Chris Haine, Jenny Rust +1

*Motion proposed by Sarah Birch (**), Derek Wall, Chris Haine, Richard Mallender*

**D02 (Was D51 in First Agenda)
Winding up defunct parties**
(Proposed by Green Party Executive)

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

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

Renumber section 5(v) as 5(vi) and delete its second sentence, which currently reads 'Failing this in the case of a local party, party office may be legally obliged to treat the local party as no longer existing and in such case local

party capitations will be paid to the regional party unless otherwise requested by that regional party.'

Add new sections and renumber accordingly:

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

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

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

**D03 (D56)
Training Day at Spring Conference**

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

Add to 9(ii) of the Constitution:

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

Amendment 1

Replace 'One full day of the Conference'

with

'A total amount of time equivalent to one full day of the Conference, and always offering a choice of other activities'

*Proposed by Brian Heatley
Richard Mallender, Matt Follett,
John Norris + 1*

*Motion proposed by Sarah Birch (**), Richard Mallender, Jon Lucas, Matt Follett*

**D04 (D52)
MfSS Sections for Review**
(proposed by Policy Committee)

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

Motion ends

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

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

groups before the deadline for motions.

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

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

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

D05 (D55) Consensus Decision-making

Synopsis

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

Motion:

Introduction: In Section 9 (CONFERENCE) of the Constitution, the first two sentences of Clause 9.vi) relate to wider aspects of Party organisation and should be moved as follows:

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

Clause 11.i) and renumber subsequent clauses.

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

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

D06 (D53) SOCC Timetable

Synopsis

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

Motion

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION E – DRAFT VOTING PAPERS

E01

Education Draft Voting Paper

SOC Note – This replaces the version in the First Agenda. If you have any questions please direct them to Brian Heatley, Policy Co-ordinator

Synopsis

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

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

Motion

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

Education

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Structure and Accountability of Schools

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

ED101 There are many good examples of successful structures, yet it would appear that this depends largely on the Head and the rules of accountability which exist in each school. Currently schools rely on the good will of parents to volunteer their time to ensure the smooth running of the school. This creates accessibility issues

as not all parents are able or willing to volunteer their time and not all schools have enough volunteers or an adequate skills base to create a successful Governing Body. Governing Bodies should be properly funded to acknowledge the high level of responsibility granted to people involved in them and should include an adequate amount of educational professionals.

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

Curriculum

ED150 The approach to (having a) National / School Curriculum should be revised in order to promote a diverse education within the boundaries of what is appropriate for the child, the school and its location. At the same time it should ensure that all children and young people have access to education in:

- a How to learn, how to concentrate and listen.
- b The development of essential numeracy and literacy skills.
- c The environment, through academic work and on a practical level, including children and young people's understanding of their physical environment appropriate to their (immediate) area.
- d Emotional literacy and well-being, social skills and physical well-being. This will be achieved through more rigorous teacher training which focuses on these issues and through greater emphasis on the arts which increase self-expression and through this emotional literacy.
- e Practical life skills.
- f Citizenship skills including understanding the history of and the politics and political structures of the area / country.
- g Which caters for a variety of interests, intelligences and skills including academic and vocational training.
- h Which caters for and encourages different learning styles, appropriate to the

individual and, if applicable their Special Educational Needs.

i Which promote outdoor and physical activity.

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

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

Admissions

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

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

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

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

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

ED205 Many problems schools experience stem from both class sizes and the size of schools which can be intimidating and overwhelming for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable. This leads to disruption, a lack of engagement in class and less sense of community in the school. There is considerable evidence that being educated in a smaller environment produces better results. The Green Party would seek to reduce both class and school sizes.

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

Different types of schools

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

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

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

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

ED224 Children with a high level of ability or who are more likely to be from a background where education is valued have a positive influence on the learning experience of their peers. Sadly

an increasing number of these are now learning in the independent sector and this creates additional pressure on schools in the state sector and is to some extent causing social divisions in society.

ED225 Parents pay on average twice as much per pupil in the independent sector than what is spent per pupil in the state sector. In the state sector therefore children attend larger schools, making them more anonymous and with less community cohesion. They are educated in larger classes by teachers who do not have the same amount of time available in their paid hours for marking, preparation and other administrative work, thus making their jobs much more pressurised.

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

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

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

OR

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

ED229 We would continue to aim for all state schools to provide

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

Specialist Schools

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

City Academies and Trust Schools

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

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

ED252 So Academies and Trust Schools can often take power away from parents, teachers and pupils regarding how the school is run. As with Specialist Schools the funding being offered can only

be spent on certain things, for example in the case of a City Academy the money is released for a new building so the school cannot choose to have a cheaper building or refurbishment instead and spend the remaining money on, for example, more teachers.

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

Grammar Schools

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

ED261 We would allow no new grammar schools and would integrate existing schools into the comprehensive system.

Home Education

ED270 We acknowledge parents' rights to educate their children at home. It is important to understand many of the reasons parents turn to this such as dissatisfaction with the school curriculum and bullying and attempt to alleviate the need for home education through the green party's radical reform of the education system. Ultimately the right to home education should still be there. This should be matched with quality checks to ensure that all young people have a broad and diverse education of a high quality.

Inclusion and Special Needs

ED300 The Green Party supports the principle of offering all people the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school, and meeting everyone's needs, whatever the level of need may be. There are many positive benefits for all people in being educated alongside people with a variety of different needs and abilities and this will lead to a more integrated society.

ED301 In exceptional cases it is not appropriate to be fully integrated into mainstream education for all subjects, for example where there are multiple learning difficulties. In the longer term the Green Party hopes to address this through having special units in mainstream schools. Local Authorities may explore ways of meeting particular needs, for example, one school in an area can cater for people with visual impairment and another school for hearing impairment.

ED302 Ultimately some special needs schools will continue to exist. Whether to attend a mainstream or a special needs school is a very sensitive decision and should be taken by the parent and young person together with the advice of a special needs coordinator.

OR

The ultimate goal is for all students to attend ordinary schools and for there to be no special schools

Faith Schools

ED350 Education should include a celebration and recognition of religious diversity and spirituality.

ED351 All schools, both state-controlled and privately run will be required to embrace a multi-faith perspective throughout the exploration of the curriculum, as well as respecting the rights of children to adopt a secular world view should they wish to.

ED352 The Green Party feels that Faith Schools can create (cultural) divisions in society and discourage children and young people from attending their local community school.

ED353 Therefore the Green Party will not extend state funding for faith schools. Where faith schools already exist they should reflect the inclusive nature of British society and become part of the Local Authority admissions system. This non-discriminatory approach should be extended to staff who must not be more or less likely to get a job in a faith school due to their own faith.

OR

However, we recognise that some parents will want to send their children to faith schools, and within the conditions above will continue to fund them within the state system.

ED354 The Green Party recognizes the right of parents to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ED355 We will seek to cater for these rights and needs through ensuring that children and young people can practice their faith in schools. Religious instruction (however) will take place outside of school curriculum time.

ED356 We recognise the importance of human values and the moral dimension in learning, often expressed through spiritual and political values. This will be achieved through the curriculum and ethos of the school and through understanding the contribution we can all make to society.

Health in Schools

ED400 Schools and teachers should continue to have a duty of care towards young people. Whilst we recognise that parents are more likely to have a significant influence on their children in regards to most aspects of their personal development, it is very important to promote this through the school, as outlined in the Curriculum section. The school environment should be a loving one full of care. There should be regular health checks in schools and a return to the old system of school nurses. Crucial to all of these factors is how teachers are trained for this in their Initial Teacher Training.

Food

Amendment 1

Add the following
ED 420 It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided free of charge with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food, free from additives. Vegetarian, vegan and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks

and not crisps, carbonated drinks and sweets. Schools will be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food. Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, it will greatly improve behaviour, quality of life and learning.

Amendment 1 ends

Environmental Education

Amendment 2

Add the following
ED450 In order to create a sustainable society, schools will undertake an energy audit of the school and provide environmental education through academic and practical work. This will include children attending their local community school so they are not dependent on cars for transport. Schools will be responsible for providing "walking buses", cycling facilities and buses so that children travel to school by car only in exceptional circumstances. Schools should be required to provide their own recycling and compost facilities. In this time of rising energy prices schools will have solar panels, solar water heating, be well insulated and where appropriate have wind turbines. They should also have rainwater and grey-water flushing systems. This is particularly important in schools so that young people accept and expect these as part of normal daily life.

ED451 Providers of education should manage their own resources in a sustainable way. They may act as research establishments for the development of sustainable lifestyles.

Amendment 2 ends

Higher Education

ED500 Higher Education is essential in developing a civilized society. Education – as distinct from training - should be treated as a process and not a product. It should enable a democratisation of knowledge and skills which is available to anyone who wants to study a degree and is capable of it, regardless of their age or background. It should be free at the point of delivery.

ED501 Higher Education should not be an expectation for young people. Evidence suggests that the best results are achieved by people who have an active desire to study at this level when they feel ready, rather than be an automatic extension of Further Education.

Funding

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

Accountability

ED520 Higher Education Institutions are funded directly by the state or through Chartered Organisations and Trusts,

OR

All HE Institutions and their Student Unions should be publicly owned.

ED521 All Governing bodies will adopt structures similar to the senate model used by Open Universities. Governors and Board members will be elected by both staff and students.

Accessibility

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

Additional funding should be given to Open Universities to make them more accessible.

Targets

ED540 Where there are statistical targets for Higher Education they should have a well-founded purpose. For

example the existing target of getting 50% of school leavers into Higher Education does not ensure a diverse number of subjects are studied, or that overall standards improve. Neither does it ensure that the number of people studying represent a wide cross-section of society.

Elitism

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

Standards

ED560 Currently the standard of achievement of students with comparable degrees and results from different institutions is inconsistent. There should be much more rigour applied to ensure consistency through external accreditation systems.

ED561 There should be systems in place to provide a quality assurance of staff and full accountability within departments.

Curriculum

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

Research

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

Transition into Higher Education

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

Transition from Higher Education into Employment

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

International Students

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

Environmentalism in Higher Education Institutions

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

Early Years education

Amendment 3

Add the following:

ED700 The Green Party acknowledges that in most countries academic learning is not compulsory before the age of 7.

ED701 Most of these countries are considered to have higher levels of attainment than those of British schools.

ED702 In order to encourage a creative approach to education and a willingness to learn there should be an emphasis on learning through play up to the age of 7.

ED703 With a child-centred approach to learning the needs of these children who show a willingness and readiness for academic learning will still be met.

ED704 In accordance with the values outlined in the Introduction there should be an emphasis on social cohesion, play, relatedness and character building rather than knowledge and skills particularly in the early years.

ED705 Early years education should be equally accessible to all children regardless of their parents' income (and so should be free).

ED706 Free (or subsidised) nurseries / early years education combined with Citizens' Income would help to create structures that encourage and support parental involvement (and nurture) in these important years.

ED707 We would be in communication with the National Children's Bureau to help guide our policies.

ED708 All early years (or where possible) establishments should enable regular outdoor access for children.

ED709 As with our policies on schools, early years establishments should be small community units with continuity and consistency of staff for all children.

ED710 There should be greater health involvement in these important years and health visitors should make regular visits to all early years establishments.

Amendment 3 ends.

Adult education

Amendment 4

Add the following

ED800 As stated in the Introduction the Green Party believes that life-long learning will help to create a healthy society.

ED801 Adult education comprises of a wide variety of courses including vocational courses and evening classes, some of which will lead to qualifications.

ED802 As adult education is constantly evolving it demands a flexible approach to new courses whilst ensuring core aspects of education are preserved even where enrolment is low.

ED803 To promote accessibility it should be provided in town centres rather than in out of town universities where possible.

ED804 Ideally all adult education will be free at the point of delivery. If this is not possible there should be a minimum requirement to provide free education for adults to learn essential literacy, numeracy and life skills and to gain skills and qualifications which will help them directly gain employment.

ED805 Adult education should embrace and encourage learning for learning's sake and as such funding for additional courses should be decided at a local level without it having to be target-driven and focused only on qualifications.

Amendment 4 ends

Further education

Amendment 5

Add the following

ED 800 Currently Further Education colleges are run independently from Local Authorities. They receive a much lower unit cost per pupil than

schools and the teaching salaries are lower.

ED 801 The Green Party believes that Further Education colleges should be publicly owned and funded at the same rate as secondary schools and be subject to the same requirements as schools regarding Sustainability, Environmental education and health.

ED802 Further Education teachers should enjoy the same pay and conditions as Secondary teachers.

ED803 The Green Party would continue to encourage a broad education and as such would move towards / adopt / consider implementing courses and qualifications similar to Scottish Highers and the International Baccalaureate.

Amendment 5 ends

Assessment

Amendment 6

Add the following:

ED900 Assessment is a generic word which incorporates styles of assessment ranging from internal ongoing informal monitoring to external exams.

ED901 A healthy education system would include a broad range of cumulative and formative assessment.

ED902 However there is currently too much emphasis on external tests, particularly in the form of SATS which create a great deal of unnecessary pressure on children as young as 7.

ED903 Assessment should be unobtrusive and in the interests of the individual child.

ED904 Assessment should not oppress or suppress learning, for example fulfilling marking schemes should not dominate teaching and learning.

ED905 The Green Party would stop external SATS exams.

ED906 The Green Party would stop / would not encourage league tables which, if they do not

contain value added results, give an over-inflated impression of schools with a higher ability intake.

ED907 Having a broad range of assessment techniques which allowed for rewarding work which displayed creativity and ability but did not otherwise meet the demands of a task would also help to encourage a more creative approach to education.

ED908 Assessment should feed into strategies for educating the individual child and education strategies nationally.

ED909 Assessing many aspects of education necessarily requires subjectivity. This is to be embraced rather than avoided. This would help to reverse the current culture whereby teaching and learning are dominated by fulfilling marking schemes.

Amendment 6 ends

Rural Schools

Human scale education

Funding'

Contact: Brian Heatley, Policy Co-ordinator

SECTION O – OUT OF ORDER MOTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

O1 Policy Motion - EU Migration

MIGRATION section of Europe Policy
EU781
Add at beginning:
The Green Party supports the

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

EU784 (new clause)

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

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

The Policy Committee advised the SOC that "this is a substantial change of policy, and while there has been some debate on the Population list recently about migration, this EU point has not been debated. And the policy contradicts MG251 but makes no attempt to amend that."

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

O2 Policy Motion - EU Migration

Synopsis

At the recent European Green Party Council meeting in Ljubljana, the policy paper on Migration 'Europe is a continent of Migration' was passed. Our party was the only party in Europe which did not vote in

favour. At a time when migration and the issue of human rights, deportation of asylum seekers and refugees and their treatment in this country is constantly in the news, we believe that our party should have a progressive and forward looking policy on this issue. Furthermore, as a party in an state of the EU, which must have policies on the rights of EU citizens seeking employment and other rights in this state, we believe that we must update our current policy on this issue in the light of recent immigration from the new member states of the European Union.

Motion

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

Europe is a continent of migration

The act of free movement as well as the freedom to stay, are human rights. Migrants have shaped cultures and societies in the past, and will continue doing so. However, forced migration leads to suffering and decline, and the root causes that force people to leave their societies must be combated. Anyone who has ever tried building a fortress Europe has failed. The borders of the European Union are not limited to the exterior borders, but are also present at airports, in summary controls of identity within the borders and in the electronic control systems that are being implemented throughout Europe. Now more than ever we need shared positions. The European Greens agree on a common approach to Migration, emphasizing solidarity. Looking at it as a global phenomenon it provides opportunities for effective analysis. We Greens base our position on the rights that citizens must have. It is not

based on the restrictions that we would impose on them.

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

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

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

These principles will not prevent us from working on the causes that make migration a necessity and not a choice. Actions to combat climate change must be further developed and given enough funding to guarantee definite results. This will also bring about new jobs. The EU must throw all of its energy towards preventing conflicts and restore peaceful conditions all over the world. Improving codevelopment and making sure the EU devotes part of its budget towards education and development schemes in the sourcing countries is only a means of restoring balance in European migration policies which are skewed to law-enforcement objectives rather than providing treatment characterized by humanity, care, respect and empathy.

Full access to the labour market for all EU residents

Before looking at the potential labour migrants outside the European Union, Member States should first grant full access to the labour market to all present residents within the Union. That

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

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

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

Knowing that the needs and realities of the labour markets are different in each Member State, the EGP does not favour a central quota for the whole EU, but prefers choices on numbers being made on national level. EGP calls for a legal framework on EU-level for minimum standards on the rights of labour migrants. The EU has to guarantee protection against abuse by employers and slum lords, give migrants the possibility and responsibility to integrate, develop their skills and participate. The minimum standards encompass transparency, criteria and time limits on application procedures, the right to the national minimum wage, family reunification and access to housing and education.

Failure of the “Guest worker system”

All types of migration lead to a transfer of skills, ideas, knowledge, create links and interpersonal networks, contribute

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

Greens, migrants and society

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

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

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

Green inclusion policy: a two way process

For us Greens is fundamental to recognize that an integrated society is one that respects diverse groups as well as individuals. It is not only the migrant that should adapt to Europe: Europe must also adapt

to the migrant. The inclusion process is a dialogue, and as any other dialogue has two directions. As much as we ask from migrants to adapt into a new society, we also ask the existing society to change in a way that the newcomers feel welcome.

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

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

Green inclusion policy: rights of the migrant
All migrants are entitled to fundamental human rights. Family reunification is one of those rights: we fully honour everyone's right to live with his or her family, as stated in the European Convention on Human Rights. There is a tendency of EU Member States to restrain people from exercising this right, making unreasonable demands to migrants who want to reunify their family in the European Union. Barriers such as having to pass a language test in their home country or requiring that they earn much more than the minimum wage are prejudicial. We Greens reject these requirements and guarantee the right to live in family. Other rights can be incremental in time, up to the point in which migrants have the same equal rights that European citizens have. We strive for a society in which all individuals are equal against the law.

Access to asylum
Every person who needs shelter according to the Geneva Conventions must have the possibility to get access to a fair

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

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

Protection of persons fleeing a conflict
Asylum seekers fleeing a conflict should be granted a high quality protection, with minimum rights, such as family reunification and access to the labour market. If the conflict they fled is still going on after three years, they should be granted a permanent residence permit.

Climate change refugees
There are now migrants, displaced persons and their families, who must leave their land because of environmental disaster that results from both incremental and rapid ecological and climatic change that includes sea level rise, coastal erosion, desertification, collapsing ecosystems, water contamination and weather events that are more frequent and unpredictable. As a result, inhabitants are unable to live safe or sustainable lives in their immediate environment.

Some island nations may cease to exist. The word refugee has been used with strong moral connotations of societal protection in most world cultures, and it must now be extended to those who are forced to migrate because of climatic change.

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

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

Detention

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

Improving the situation for irregular migrants

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

Assistance to irregular migrants

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

Human trafficking, smuggling networks

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

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

The Policy Committee advised SOC that "The European Green's migration motion should we think be ruled out, but we are divided about the grounds...some think the motion is simply 'trivial or requiring no consequential action' in that it doesn't actually amend our policy at all. And some of us think it does change our policy towards that of the European Green Party, but that it is inconsistent with the MfSS policy against a common European migration policy (MG251). Either way it should be ruled out."

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

O3 Organisation Motion - Elected Representatives

Motion

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

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

To be replaced with

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

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

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

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

from time to time by the Annual Conference.”

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

(2) Further, the Constitution also states elsewhere:

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

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

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

In addition SOC considers that the motion is ‘vague’ and/or ‘ambiguous’. It sets out a method of taking a decision but uses terms such as ‘short notice’. However it does not attempt to clarify what is ‘short notice’ – in those terms it is ‘vague’ and as a consequence it is ‘ambiguous’ as the interpretation of ‘short’ will vary from member to member and party to member. Therefore SOC does not consider there is enough detail in the motion for it to be interpreted.

O4 Organisational Motion – Criteria for funding Parliamentary By-Election

(a) No direct national funding or subsidy will be provided to

pay for campaign expenses in any parliamentary by-election except where the following conditions are met:

- (i) The constituency in question must be covered by one or more active and properly constituted local parties;
 - (ii) Wards comprising at least 50% of the constituency electorate must have been “contested” in the last regular local elections in the area (i.e. excluding local by-elections);
 - (iii) There has been effective all-year round campaigning in at least one ward in the constituency in the past 12 months (i.e. regular leafleting or canvassing, or where the party has elected representatives). The local party/ies will be expected to provide evidence of this; and,
 - (iv) All local parties in the area fully support the candidature.
- (b) In addition, at least one of the following criteria must be met:
- (i) The selected candidate has a demonstrable record of political and/or community activity within the constituency (evidence should be provided); or,
 - (ii) The Green Party saved its deposit in the seat at the last General Election.
 - (c) This motion shall not preclude the offer of general advice or support of a non-financial variety where requested by the local party/ies (e.g. media support, advice from national election agent).
 - (d) The final decision on whether to stand and on the choice of candidate shall rest with the local party/ies, or with the regional party where no local party exists; however, unless the above criteria above are met, no direct financial support will be provided from national funds. The decision of the local or regional party/ies on whether to stand shall be final and a candidate will not be “imposed” where they have decided not to contest the seat.
 - (e) This policy does not constitute an obligation on the national party to provide direct financial support where the above conditions are met.

(f) GPEX are requested to find a way of developing a “package”, including leaflet and freepost templates, and a list of potential by-election helpers and advisers, so that this can be offered to the local party/ies in by-elections where the above criteria have been met.

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

Amendment:

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

Add additional clause (g) as follows:

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

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

The Constitution states elsewhere:

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

SOCC 9(a) Contrary to the Constitution

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

Contact details for motions and amendments in this agenda

Contact details are available from Green Party Office.

Green Party Conference Proxy Vote Form Autumn 2008

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

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE **PROXY GIVER**

Name of proxy donor (Capitals)

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Proxy donor's signature.....

Date.....

I give this proxy vote on the understanding that I shall not be attending the forthcoming conference myself. I recognise that no policing of the use of my proxy will occur and I trust my proxy holder to exercise this vote in line with the wishes I have expressed to them. I would like this vote to be exercised in relation to any card votes (procedural, suspension of Standing Orders, amendment or substantive) under the following sections or motions (tick or complete one of either 1 or 2 or 3):

1. All conference business Yes/No
 2. All conference business under the following sections only:

Reports (incl SOC)	Y/N
Section A motions	Y/N
Section B motion	Y/N
Section C motions	Y/N
Section D motions	Y/N
Emergency motions	Y/N
Other	Y/N
 3. Specific motions only (list final agenda numbers):
-

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE **PROXY HOLDER**

Name of proxy holder (Capitals)

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I undertake to the proxy donor to exercise this proxy vote in line with their wishes-

Signature.....

Date.....

Bring this form to the front desk at the start of Conference. Each person can hold FIVE proxies. This proxy form gives the proxy holder an extra card vote to be exercised at the forthcoming Swansea Green Party conference. Vote holders and givers need to be *national* Green Party members