

Final Agenda - Green Party Autumn Conference 2012

Friday 7th September to 10th September, Council House, Bristol

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Section A (Reports)

A01. Standing Orders Committee Report

Rustam Majainah

Welcome to the Final Agenda for the Green Party's Autumn Conference 2012. An electronic version of this agenda is available on request as a pdf file from the SOC Convenor, Rustam Majainah, soc@greenparty.org.uk. Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 56-64 Development House Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT (0207 549 0310)

Content of the Final Agenda

There is one Voting Paper (Section B) at this conference. There are 13 policy motions (section C) and 10 organisational and other motions (section D); one motion has been ruled out of order, and is listed at the end of the agenda. Four motions were submitted with insufficient signatures and were therefore not included in this agenda.

Voting Paper

Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (section C4) give Policy Committee the authority to select for review a chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society (available at <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/>). When no other voting paper has been proposed, SOCCs require Policy Committee to make a selection. No other voting papers have been proposed for this conference.

The voting paper received 8 amendments, all of which were in order. One amendment was submitted with insufficient signatures and was therefore not included in this agenda.

Should the motion to accept the policy be rejected, either as amended or not, the existing policy remains in place.

Policy Committee has selected the Disability policy for review.

Draft Voting Papers (DVPs)

No draft voting papers have been submitted for this Conference.

Composited Motions

SOC has decided that no motions require compositing at this conference.

Amendments

4 amendments to motions were received for section C. 1 amendment was received to a section D motion, and 1 was submitted with insufficient

signatures and was therefore not included in this agenda.

Order of Motions

Motions O1 was ruled out of order for falling foul of SOCCs *Section D8(h): 'this motion significantly changes the policy agreed at Cardiff Conference in Spring 2011. One year and nine months need to pass before that policy can be changed again.'*

Prioritisation Ballot

The prioritisation ballot was conducted on-line via the Borda Count method. 42 people voted on-line, a further 1 did so by post and 2 by email.

Fast Track Motions

SOC recommends that the following motions, which have not received amendments, should be fast tracked: D17. Amending GPRC Standing Orders D18. Constitutional Tidy Up D19. Proposed Changes to the International Committee Section of the Constitution.

Summaries and Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words. If your synopsis is more than 50 words, it will be cut by SOC. Any instances in this agenda are identified by the words "[excessive length, cut by SOC]" after the truncated synopsis.

Errors in the Agenda

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

Contacts for motions in this agenda

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

Committee Elections

Elections will be held at Conference for the following internal committees (5 places on each): Campaigns, Conferences, Disputes Resolution, Green World Editorial Board, International, Policy, Standing Orders, Equality & Diversity.

The nomination form for Committee Elections is available on the Members' Website.

For information on these elections please

contact the SOC Convenor.

Members are reminded that they may not serve for more than 5 successive years on any of these committees (3 years in the case of SOC.)

Rules for Motions & Emergency Motions

SOC would like to remind everyone that although Standing Orders are suspended when an emergency motion is discussed, it is only Section A that is suspended. This is the section that deals with the requirement to submit motions by the pre-agenda deadline. The section of the standing orders that deals with reasons for SOC ruling motions out of order is NOT suspended. This is Section C8 of the standing orders, which states:

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

- a) contrary to the Constitution,
- b) retrospective in their effect,
- c) ambiguous,
- d) vague,
- e) trivial,
- f) requiring no consequential action,
- g) substantially changing policy areas or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation
- h) seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than one year and nine months previously,
- i) 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.
- j) seeks to overturn, or fundamentally amend, the result of a party-wide ballot held under the provisions of clause 11 (ii) or clause 17 (ii) of the Constitution, or to initiate a new party-wide ballot seeking to do so, within two years of the result of the original ballot being announced. An exception to this should be allowed if the motion is submitted by GPRC, having been supported by a 2/3 majority vote at a properly convened meeting of GPRC, on the grounds that GPRC believe that exceptional circumstances render it necessary to revisit the original decision in order to protect the well-being of the Party"

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

- b) Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided
 - i) the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for motions
 - ii) the motion is consistent with the PfSS and neither changes nor adds to the text of the PfSS
- c) No amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders are permitted under this suspension.
- d) An emergency motion shall not:
 - Commit the Party to expenditure of more than one hundred pounds without the approval of the relevant budget holders
 - Significantly alter the Party's agreed strategy.Please bear these restrictions in mind when composing emergency motions.

Submission of Emergency Motions – deadlines at conference

There will be an Emergency Motions slots on both Saturday and Sunday, and also at the end of the Remaining Business session on Monday. The deadline for handing signed emergency motions to SOC for discussion the following day will be 6pm on the previous evening, i.e. by 6pm on Friday for the Saturday slot. This means that emergency motions will not be accepted on Monday (the final day) for discussion that day. These arrangements enable SOC to make the necessary preparations for the emergency motion session. A member of SOC will be available between 4pm and 6pm outside the main conference hall for proposers to seek advice on the content of their motions.

The order in which emergency motions are taken is a beauty contest. The more members' signatures you obtain before handing your motion to SOC the more likelihood there is of it being discussed in your desired slot.

SOC would particularly appreciate proposers who are able to supply an *electronic version* of their emergency motions, so that we do not have to type them up ourselves. Otherwise, if you can provide SOC with a typed copy of the motion that would be greatly appreciated.

SOC Rulings

SOC was not asked to make any rulings since the last conference, however rulings may be made between the publication of this report and conference.

Arrangements at Conferences

SOC has noted the recent increase in Conference voting down requests to suspend standing orders in order to hear emergency motions. SOC would like to remind Conference that reasons for voting not to suspend standing orders in order to hear an emergency motion are listed in the above section 'Rules for Motions & Emergency Motions'. A member of SOC reviews each motion before it is heard by conference, and although we have been known to make mistakes and let motions slip through that should not, in most cases we believe that motions brought before conference are in line with the standing orders. As such, a member of SOC will take the speech against any objection to the suspension of standing orders for the discussion of an emergency motion after the case for not suspending standing orders has been put.

Twitter

You can now follow SOC on twitter! In the run up to conference and throughout the weekend, members of SOC will be tweeting from @GP_SOC with information, and will be available to reply to questions you may have. The ERO has also joined twitter, and will be tweeting from @GP_ERO about elections within the Green Party.

Proxy Votes

Party members not attending Conference may mandate another member to vote on their behalf using a proxy voting card. Any member wishing to exercise this right should give written authority to the person they wish to vote for them. There is a form at the end of this agenda which can be used to provide such authority. On production of this written authority at the SOC table, the bearer will be issued with a proxy voting card. Proxy voting cards can only be used when there is a card vote. They cannot be used when a vote is taken through a show of voting cards.

Electoral Returning Officer's Report Jon Nott

The ERO will give a verbal report to the conference about the running of the annual ballot

A02. Treasurer's Report Michael Coffey

GPEW Financial Results, 2011

The 2011 Budget was set against a

background of depleted party reserves following the successful 2010 General Election Campaign, the move of Party HQ and the need to maintain investment in vital Party infrastructure such as the website and canvassing software. A cautious approach was also taken to fundraising, given the generosity of members in 2010. Accordingly, the budget set was for a net loss of some £43,000. In the event, the Party recorded a surplus of some £19,000, thanks to the tremendous response to the December 2011 Member fundraising Appeal (see below) and prudent management of expenses.

This result was a major step towards building the resources to fight the European elections in 2014 and the probable General Election of 2015, and I would like to record my thanks, on the Party's behalf, to the outgoing Finance Co-ordinator, Dean Walton, for his stewardship of the Party's finances during his term of office. Dean, ably assisted by the Office Finance Manager, Kate Barnett, worked extremely hard through 2010 and 2011 not just in the strategic management of our finances, but also in the day to day effort of rebuilding our financial reporting systems. The Party owes him a great debt.

GPEW Budget 2012 and Background

The challenge to GPEW Finances in 2012 was to manage expenditure and replenish resources to give the Party sufficient firepower to fight the 2014 and 2015 elections. The 2012 Budget was therefore set to be neutral, with expenditure prioritised on activities:

1. Keeping the Party legal, solvent and functioning;
2. directed towards development of the Party's administrative and revenue base;
3. visible to and valued by the membership;
4. strengthening the Party's wider public image and credibility.

It should be borne in mind that some 70% of the Party's costs are "fixed" in the medium term; this means that as investment in membership and canvassing systems, and in our fundraising programme has been given priority, other activities have had to be constrained. The budget setting process followed was:

- October 2011: income budget agreed by Gpex
- Oct/Nov 2011: individual discussions with all budget holders on expenditure requirements
- November 2011: Gpex agreed

expenditure budget and draft overall budget

- January 2012 – adjustments to Budget, revised budget agreed

- March, June and September 2012: Budget holders submit additional in-year spend requests.

Following this process, total expenditure for 2012 was set to balance with income of just below £600,000, the majority of which comes from annual member subscriptions. A small surplus was also created to cater for unexpected additional costs, though by mid year this had been used up.

Financial performance for 2012 so far

As at mid year, a balanced budget for the year end will be a challenge.

Additional costs and cost overruns had materialised, partially offset by increases in income, mainly in membership subscriptions. In its income, the Party has benefitted both from investment decisions in membership systems taken in recent years, and from the continuing and remarkable generosity of our members. The switch to direct debit for membership subscriptions has increased the overall contribution per member, improved member retention and reduced administration. Our last fundraising appeal of 2011 raised about £85,000, a spectacular result, which has significantly stabilised our base for fighting 2014-15.

We have also benefited from significant donations from individual members and supporters; their magnificent generosity has enabled us to fund specific new activities, in the Regions and centrally, that had not been anticipated in the Party Budget

Following the excellent work by Mark Cridge and his team in developing and rolling out the new membership system, a major membership renewal campaign was conducted in Spring 2012. Some 690 ex members renewed, which has not only helped our income this year, but will, hopefully, boost revenue in future years as well.

The expenditure budget was acknowledged to be tight, and it has proved difficult to keep costs down, despite the best efforts of all concerned. The running costs in the new HQ office have risen, reflecting the growth of the Party generally; costs of overhauling the Party website and the membership system have also been higher than planned, though with commensurate improvements in performance, and indirectly in revenues. It should be noted in particular that external communications under Penny Kemp and

Tracy Dighton, despite serious cash constraints, did a remarkable job of supporting the 2012 GLA/local elections, while the budget, tight though it was, was still able to materially support key initiatives by Brighton and Norwich Green parties.

Looking Ahead

The experience of 2012 has shown that the Party can break even while investing in infrastructure, improving its all-important communication with members and growing its national presence. The challenge ahead is threefold:

- with success come even greater demands on that infrastructure, and it is doubtful that cost economies are available to fund these;
 - although we can remain financially healthy, and income is rising, we are not yet making step-change growth in fundraising to really enable us to create the war chest we would like for 2014 and 2015;
 - the membership remains our prime source of income; this is justifiably a source of pride, but over-reliance on any single source is inherently risky.
- My task, and indeed that of GPEx, in 2012/3 is to address these issues.

A03. Green Party Executive Report

GPEx Chair's Report Jo Steranka

This has been an excellent year for GPEx. Although the year did not start on a good note, with the controversy over a redundancy setting the tone for the first two months, that issue was swiftly resolved. Damaged relations with GPRC have been mended and the focus firmly set on Party development.

Reading my colleagues reports you will see how much has been achieved. On behalf of the Party, I would like to thank every member of GPEx for the quiet, largely unrecognised work that they have put into keeping the Green Party running this year. In a world where the Green Party had enough paid staff, roles on GPEx would look very different. In the real world, GPEx members forfeit earned income to do essential work that the Party cannot afford to pay staff to do. There are few GPEx posts in which the incumbent can get away with doing less than a 15 hour week. In many roles, my colleagues have been doing more than a full-time job. Thank you all.

I have been saddened to see the passing this year of 3 people who have been immensely important to GPEx and to the Green Party. Gayle O'Donovan was a member of GPEx 21 - young, beautiful,

vital, imaginative, deeply committed. John Norris - immense intellect, known for his hats and his insistence on doing things properly - was a past International Co-ordinator, Policy Co-ordinator and Green Party Council (GPC) member, without whom the Green Party would not be quite the same. Margaret Wright - kind, humorous, compassionate, brave - was a past Principal Speaker, Cambridge councillor, committed internationalist and tireless fighter for so many causes. We will miss them all.

We are now almost half way between the last General Election and the next - assuming that the Coalition lasts the full 5 year term. This is an important place to be. We have enough perspective to look back on the election of our first MP and how we have evolved the Party and its organisation to support her. We should now be looking forward towards double election years of 2014 and 2015. These will be difficult elections for the Green Party because the big 3 will be fighting for their futures. It is essential that the Green Party is not squeezed. Future GPExes can take forward the 2014 European Election and 2015 General Election campaigns. From the GPEx Chair's point of view now, the most important task is to look to developing Green Party administration. There is a consensus that the structure we have now - GPEx and GPRC - does not work effectively. Many would say it never has. My final report on this is posted on the GPEx and GPRC forums on the Members' Website under GPEx 21.9 and GPRC's Birmingham Meeting. Please do take a look. The effectiveness of your Party might depend upon it.

Party Leader's Report Caroline Lucas MP

This has been another eventful year and I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me so well in the role of Party Leader. It has been an honour to serve in this role over the last few years, particularly since it's been a period that has seen us secure so many fantastic successes. I said in my first speech to conference as Leader that each and every one of our thousands of members was a leader too, and in that spirit I very much look forward to continuing to work with you all to build an even stronger Green Party. I have continued to do all I can to position the Party as the most credible and effective voice opposing the cuts, and to demonstrate how the economic and environmental crises are linked.

Highlights of the last 12 months have been many and varied but include joining Jenny Jones on the campaign trail around London in her bid to become mayor, protesting at Hinkley Point about a new generation of nuclear power stations, and spearheading a campaign with Compass to bring the Big Six Energy Companies to account.

I have tried to squeeze in as many visits as possible to local parties around my commitments as an MP, in order to support Green efforts at election time in particular. Visits that stand out this year are to the West Midlands where we secured new councillors earlier this year and to Redhill for a fundraising meal and also some canvassing. I went to Portsmouth to speak at a Compass meeting co-organised with Greens there, to Bristol to speak at a festival to mark Schumacher's anniversary and again for Bristol Green Week, and to Oxford to give a lecture at Mansfield College interspersed with some door knocking.

I have given the annual Hansard lecture and a talk at the Institute of Directors, protested at DSEI arms fair (managing to get a stall shut down for selling illegal weapons), joined pensioners rallying for a fair deal, spoken about small being beautiful at the Southbank, joined solar power supporters to oppose cuts to feed in tariffs, joined a UK Uncut "dole queue" outside Downing Streets to highlight the impact of public spending cuts, been inspired by visits to Occupy at St Paul's, spoken at a Fabian conference and the Guardian Festival, met People and Planet students in Warwick, joined striking public sector workers over fair pay - and been outraged at the behaviour of undercover police and their supervisors, and the treatment of victims of the UK-US extradition treaty

Media coverage has been extensive and includes national TV, radio and newspapers, as well as considerable local and regional coverage, together with regular appearances on Newsnight, Question Time and Any Questions.

With the Greens placed ahead of the Lib Dems now in London, and fresh from local election success around the country, we are well placed to make the most of every opportunity in the run-up to the European Elections in 2014.

Party Deputy Leader's Report Adrian Ramsay

My main focus over the last year has been directly supporting local parties through personal visits. I have given talks on green economics in

Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol, Hull, Beverley, Colchester, Lewisham, Norwich and Leamington Spa (at the Young Greens Convention). I have supported local party campaigns in visits to Solihull and Exeter and have visited several local parties in London to support local by-election and the London Assembly election campaign. I have also given advice and support to a number of local parties in developing their electoral strategies.

I have spoken at public events on a wide range of issues including higher education funding, the NHS, Afghanistan and political reform. I have regularly contributed to debates on Radio 4, Five Live, Talk Radio and Sunday Politics East on a wide range of issues.

A key focus has been engaging with young people through a variety of talks and events. I spoke at the British Youth Council Conference about political activism and took part in two school events about sustainability, which inspired an article I wrote for Total Politics magazine on practical citizenship education.

In April I launched our national campaign for the local elections in Solihull alongside Andrew Cooper, Chair of the Association of Green Councillors. Thanks to the efforts of our press officer we achieved national television coverage on BBC, ITV and Sky.

As a member of GPEX I have been contributing to the development of our political strategy and helping to plan our media work.

I have been honoured to serve as the Green Party's first Deputy Leader for the last four years and would like to thank party members for giving me the opportunity. It's a busy role but a very rewarding one and I have particularly enjoyed visiting local parties, representing the party in the media and working with colleagues on GPEX and GPRC. The Green Party has grown and developed significantly over the last four years and I look forward to continuing to contribute to the party's future success and working for a fairer world and healthy planet.

Wales Green Party Leader's Report Pippa Bartolotti

The past 12 months have seen leadership change in Wales. Jake Griffiths, stood down in 2011 and I was elected as Leader with Chris Were as Deputy Leader.

The party in Wales has been working hard on local campaigns from incineration and fracking to open cast mining and the M4 widening proposals. This locally based approach is showing results as our

electoral campaigns are getting more media coverage, the Green Party is being seen as more active, and we are getting more votes. We stood 66 candidates for the Wales Council Elections and came very close to a seat in Cathays, in Cardiff where Jack Parker was just 174 votes away from victory.

I have travelled to boost local campaigns all over the region and was delighted to meet many new members along the way. Membership in Wales has doubled in the past 18 months, and I believe our outgoing campaigns are resonating with more people than ever. As Convener for Conferences until March 2012, I very much enjoyed being part of the team which brought record attendances to Cardiff, Sheffield, and Liverpool to the members. I am also a voting member on GPEX and am on the Political Committee of GPEW.

My time as Deputy Leader and Leader has brought me a myriad of speaking opportunities. I was guest speaker at the launch of the Wales Equalities Council, Gwyrddio Penarth Greening, and have spoken at the CND conference in Cardiff. My part in bringing a convoy of humanitarian aid to Gaza has opened up many new doors, and an introduction to several peace and justice campaigns. I am a founder member of the Wales Palestine Network.

When my visit to Palestinian Civic Society Groups on the West Bank was interrupted by arrest and imprisonment in Israel, I became front page news. This has (inadvertently) lifted the profile of the Green Party in Wales considerably, and provided evidence that we are more than a single issue environmental group.

As an experiment to bring the subject of sustainability to a wider audience I took part in the Channel 4 series Come Dine With Me which was broadcast in February 2012. I was amazed by the amount of people who watched it, and again it went some way to dispel the 'hippy' label and broaden our profile.

More recently I have been interviewed on BBC Cymru Eye on Wales, The Sunday Supplement, Golwg magazine, BBC4 Westminster Hour and BBC Wales News. Our press releases are used by local papers on dozens of occasions and internet coverage is close to one mention a day.

I am earnestly grateful to the members in Wales for their increasing hard work. We are all volunteers, and the hours which have been freely given are, and will be, the route to our future election successes.

Young Greens Co-chairs' Report Ash Haynes and Sam Coates

This is the first ever Young Greens report to a Conference, as we have only been on GPEx since Spring 2012. Since that time (and before!), we've attended every GPEx meeting as well as doing a wide range of work with the young members of the party at conferences, our own events, and those of third party organisations.

Our main focus this year has been on our 30 under 30 project, which aims to take promising members of the Green Party and provide them with skills and experience in the political sphere. We've taken on fifteen brilliant people, with a plan to recruit the other fifteen next spring. As part of this we went on a trip to Brussels and had an amazing time at the European Parliament, the Belgian Parliament, and visiting NGOs.

In addition to this, we have launched our Fair Pay Campus campaign, aiming to bring down pay ratios on university campuses so that the highest paid is earning no more than ten times that of the lowest paid. We had a launch event in York with Richard Wilkinson (co-author of the Spirit Level) and a fringe at NUS conference to publicise it, as well as getting an official motion of support from the NUS.

Young Greens have started to get more involved internationally, with four of our members nominated for Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG) working groups. We've also been in contact with the Belgian, Canadian and Scottish Young Greens to foster better links between our groups and share ideas.

We have also spoken at a wide range of events, including Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival, Student Broad Left conference, the UK Youth Parliament's Annual Sitting, debates with the chairs of other youth political parties, and many other events.

At Autumn Conference in Bristol we'll be hosting our tenth birthday party, so come along and share the cake!

Finance Co-ordinator and Treasurer Report

Michael Coffey

Please see A02. Treasurer's report

Campaigns Co-ordinator's Report

Matty Mitford

Not yet received

Elections Co-ordinator's Report

Geoff Smith

Since joining Gpex last year I have had to embark on a pretty steep learning

curve, so firstly a big thanks to Chris Rose for all his help and to Jo Steranka for keeping me straight on procedure. Whilst in byelections the Respect result in Bradford caught not only GP but everyone else by surprise. In other elections we had some, but not all, encouraging results, on the whole the positive outweighing the negative; retaining our London Assembly seats, in mayoral elections gaining 3rd place in London and saving deposit in Liverpool, retaining all defended seats in Norwich were all notable achievements. The major breakthroughs though came in the West Midlands as a result of determined use of target to win strategy from which every region and local party must learn.

Looking to the future I think it was with some relief that only in Bristol did the referenda result in a Mayoral election being needed, and a selection procedure based on GE selection advised. The other "new" election due being that of Police Commissioners, a step not welcome by those opposed to the politicisation of police, the majority if not all of which we will not contest. We do, however, need a statement of our rationale for this position. Looking forward all regions have/are producing strategy papers to 2015 and beyond, the contents of these to be included in an updated national strategy document.

Regions are at different stages in preparation for 2014 Euro elections, but the campaign does need to be started, and I am in the process of organising a meeting at Bristol conference to accommodate this. The 2 defending regions and NW, SW and Eastern have been designated target regions, and a small amount funding has already been allocated to NW and SW to assist in paid staff to work towards 2014; hopefully this will soon be followed by similar to Eastern to put them on an equal footing.

Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator Shan Oakes

Building on last year's Conference's call for a much greater emphasis on E and D, we built up email lists, and organised several fringes for Liverpool Spring Conference covering a range of issues affecting vulnerable and marginalised groups. This year has seen a big step forward for E and D in that we now have a committee (agreed at Spring Conference). The 8 current members are coopted until elections at Bristol Autumn Conference. We have been working with the Government Equalities Office on the issue of Access to elected office for people with disabilities, and have sent a

different representative to each meeting, contributing a wealth of experience and expertise to the discussions. Currently we are tackling the fast-track review of the disability policy.

There is an expectation that, as a parliamentary party, we collect diversity data. This is harder than it sounds, so we have decided to start by promoting diversity and equity in participation and representation within the party. To this end we have proposed a pilot of a Reflect-type process to manage any oppressive behaviour at Conference, which will complement the work already done on email conventions. There is much else to do to improve E and D within the party, such as implement a hardship fund, and update and review existing policies practice and guidance. We also need to improve our out-facing communications to be far more invitational.

External Communications Co-ordinator's Report

Penny Kemp

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to Tracy Dighton, my job share coordinator for most of this term. Sadly, due to personal reasons, she decided to resign before the term was up. Tracy is a wonderfully talented media operator and together we made an excellent team. She kindly stayed in post until the end of the local elections and I am immensely grateful to her for that. I am sure the whole party will wish her well in her future endeavours and thank her for the enormous contribution she has made. Local elections, Mayoral elections and Assembly elections were top of our agenda this year. In London, Jenny Jones, our Mayoral candidate beat the Lib/Dems and John Coyne in Liverpool came within a percentage point of beating them and saved his deposit. The London Assembly safely returned Jenny and Darren. London voters allowed us to say that we are now the third political force in London behind the Labour and Conservative party. We also gained first time seats in the Midlands, consolidated our position where we already hold seats and despite a determined effort by Labour, we retained all our seats on Norwich Council thus remaining the second largest party. None of this would have been possible without a wonderful media team consisting of paid and volunteer staff. I especially want to say thank you to Zoe Hall, who stepped in to cover Scott's shoes whilst he took a years sabbatical to look after his beautiful daughter, Verity. Zoe has been a tower of strength,

taking a pro-active stance with journalists and quickly learning the ropes. Zoe worked tirelessly on the campaign as did Joe Williams, the London press officer. Both Zoe and Joe went far beyond their call of duty and worked very long hours to broadcast our election messages to the country. I am very sad that we cannot afford to keep such talented people on our payroll. Simon Williams, our strategic communications adviser in Brighton was a joy to work with as was Rob Shepherd, who is external communications coordinator on the Brighton and Hove Executive. Brighton and Hove have had their own set of communication problems and without the efforts of Simon and Rob, the political opposition in Brighton and Hove would have made even more mischief. I want to pay tribute to them all and all our hard working press officers around the country.. We are extremely fortunate that so many talented people are happy to give up so much of their free time to ensure the success of the Green Party. And, of course, this is all done on a shoe string budget.

We are extremely grateful to Jennifer Nadel who stepped in at the last moment and found producers and directors to make our election broadcast after the original team could not continue. Our work with our elected members continues and at this point I would like to pay tribute to the hard work our members and their staff do on behalf of the Green Party. Our monthly team meetings mean we are able to coordinate our efforts and make best use of our limited resources. We have met with the Council leaders in Brighton to ensure that their profile is advantageous to the national effort and are continuing to have regular meetings. Jason Kitcat has taken over as Leader of Brighton and Hove Council and Bill Randall is enjoying a year as Mayor. Yet again, it has been a very busy year due to the outrageous pronouncements from this coalition government and thanks to Caroline, Adrian and our elected Councillors, we have been able to challenge Government and Opposition policy and get our point of view across.. This has shown an increase in our membership and without the continued effort of all involved, this would not be possible. I cannot list everyone here who has contributed to the media effort but without them my job would be impossible. We rely on volunteers to complement our paid staff and they have my heartfelt thanks.

Internal Communications Co-ordinator's Report Emma Pruen

Over the year I have produced 2 mailings per month to members; on the first of each month they were sent a short bulletin, typically with info on upcoming deadlines etc. Mid month they received an e-newsletter with a message from the leader, updates from our MP and MEPs, and news from around the party.

Every three months this was replaced with Green Activist, which was in a e-magazine format, with colour photographs and live web-links. With increased member involvement and input the most recent version ran to 11 pages. These months were supposed to coincide with the delivery of Green World, and I was also responsible for supplying copy for the cover sheet, typically contact details for elected party officers and committees.

The number of members receiving these mailings has risen over the year by approximately 700, from under 11,000 to around 11,600 now.

In an attempt to improve the use of the members website have been trying to increase the number of local party web administrators. Although I have filled in some of the gaps there are still very many local parties who prefer to use the mailman lists as opposed to the members' site because there lacks the option to discuss and many members are on a default set up to only receive weekly digests of their messages.

When I started this role there were daily 'offensive flags' on the members website. This prompted discussions about how we could ensure appropriate behaviour on the site. As a result I emailed any member whose post was flagged as offensive to let them know their comment had been flagged, and to send them the netiquette guidelines. The number of posts flagged has dropped dramatically and most months now go by without any. A group from GPRC and GPEx have committed to look at this issue and I will be putting a document to July 2012 GPEx on this subject.

I ran a 'Using the members' website' fringe session at Spring conference, which was well attended and I took proposals from that session to the Management Co-ordinator as a suggestion for improving the site. I ran other training sessions at Spring Conference as well as co-ordinating the GPEx members training sessions.

International Co-ordinator's Report John Street

The members of international committee are currently: Constantine Buhayer, Rebecca Johnson, Ricky Knight (all elected at Autumn Conference 2011); Danny Bates and Martin Deane (both elected at Spring Conference 2012. Mark Douglas (resigned February 2012, ill-health) and Nishma Doshi (resigned October 2011) were also elected at Autumn Conference 2011. The committee has met six times during the past year.

Most of party members' involvement in international matters has been to do with the European Green Party. We were well represented at the EGP's 2011 Autumn Council / Congress, held in Paris last November, and our delegates also attended the 2012 Spring Council, held in Copenhagen in May. We also had two official representatives at the Global Greens Congress, held in Dakar, Senegal at the end of March. Funding for our delegates to attend EGP, and other such, meetings does not currently come from the national party. This year it's coming from the final remnants of the MEPs' excess travel money. After attendance at the EGP 2012 Autumn Council in Copenhagen in November, this fund will be exhausted. Future funding will need to come from the GPEW budget unless other sources can be found.

The EGP has so far funded the attendance of GPEW representatives at meetings of its working groups. Ute Michel has continued to represent us at meetings of the Green New Deal Social Dimension working group and John Street has represented us on the working groups that led to the production of the new EGP Rule Book and Statutes and the "Paris Declaration", agreed at the Paris Council / Congress. Tim Turner represented us at a meeting of the GND Agricultural Dimension working group and Caroline Allen represented us on this working group at the Paris Congress.

As a result of having an MP, we are entitled to funding from the Westminster Foundation for Development. We don't receive actual money from the WFD but the funds available have enabled party involvement in projects in Moldova and Tunisia. International committee are in the process of re-evaluating our involvement in Moldova.

International co-ordinator reports to GPEx have been posted on the members' website, as have the minutes of international committee meetings,

reports from EGP Council meetings, and the various calls for members wishing to represent GPEW at EGP and Global Greens meetings and on WFD projects. Unlike in recent years, the International email list has been very quiet, as has the Palestine and Israel email list. As agreed by the 2011 Autumn Conference, the MEP Trust has been wound up and replaced by the Green MEPs' Advisory Board. As international co-ordinator, I have attended meetings of both bodies.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the deaths of two former international co-ordinators, John Norris in March and Margaret Wright towards the end of June; both John and Margaret had longstanding interests in the Party's international affairs. We also learned, at the end of last year, of the death of Caroline Hoffmann. Caroline was a member of the Scottish Green Party and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen; she died after a long struggle with leukaemia. Anyone who remembers the North Sea Greens will almost certainly remember Caroline – I do.

Local Party Support Co-ordinator's Report

Matt Townsend

Since I was co-opted in February 2012, I have been regularly attending GPEx meetings, met with head office staff, made initial contact with key people around the party and distributed a number of copies of Party in a Box to growing local parties.

Party in a Box is now also easy to find on the members' website. I plan to develop this further over coming months with a simple roadmap which local parties can assess themselves against and plan ahead. I also will be putting together case studies showing good practice from local parties which can be replicated. I am seeking out good practice examples from local parties which can be used to inspire other local parties to thrive, grow and win everywhere.

My aim is to enable and support local parties to go from creation to getting councillors elected, and beyond. For this, local parties will require ideas and strategies but these must be backed up with the resources required. As we formulate a much needed 3-year plan for success in the council, European and general elections we will have major decisions to make about our ambitions for fundraising at both a local and national level and also how we prioritise

resources to achieve success. This will include decisions about whether to recruit co-ordinators to gain us electoral success across England and Wales and how we prioritise these strategically.

Management Co-ordinator's Report

Mark Cridge

Over the past 12 months I have been working hand-in-hand with the staff at Party Office to undertake a thorough review and upgrade of the Party's systems in order to put in place the tools and processes that will help us better grow the party, succeed in elections and make a greater impact through our campaigning.

Since being elected in 2011 we have completely overhauled the troubled membership system, ensuring it is fully functional and up to date, clearing the backlog of late membership renewals and rolling out access to Regional and Local membership Secretary's. The result being that Membership Secretary's now have live access to their membership details, are able to update these details themselves and ensure all of our records are easier to keep up to date.

In doing so we have given a boost to long-term party finances by increasing membership renewals, reducing the time members spend in Grace Period and put crucial information about our membership into the hands of those who can use it most at a local level to encourage members to become more active and involved.

By the end of July we will have completely overhauled the Party's national, regional and local Websites, placing them on a stable, modern and secure platform, opening the door to a proper redesign and rethink to ensure our digital presence becomes the important campaigning and recruiting platform it needs to be. I'd like to extend specific thanks to Daniel Goldsmith who has voluntarily led this project in collaboration with me - it would not have been possible to make the progress that we have done if he had not taken this on.

At Autumn Conference we shall begin the rollout of a new national canvassing software system, the preparation for which has been slowly taking shape since the beginning of the year for a pilot which will take place over the summer. This will put in place a key tool for the long-term electoral success of the party and I'm sure will be welcome news for many across the party who have been calling for this for some time.

Over the next two years these upgraded systems will with further development, allow us to place a greater emphasis on

attracting and recruiting supporters across the country, a move that will greatly enhance our ability to attract more members and allow us to gain help and additional funding from those outside of the Party.

Finally I have worked closely with staff and the Chief Executive to further improve our employment practices as Chair of the Working Practices Group and this includes the creation of a number of new documents as required by motions at Autumn Conference 2011.

Policy Development Co-ordinator's Report

Stuart Jeffrey

It has been a busy year in Policy Development land. We took two voting papers to the Spring Conference in Liverpool, Marine and Coastal and Food and Agriculture, which completed their journey through the review process. We are currently reviewing the Climate Change, Energy and Industrial chapters with working groups and will bring draft voting papers on one or more of these to the Spring Conference.

As we need to have a voting paper at each conference and the current reviews have still quite a distance to go, we have presented the Disability chapter for fast track review. This is a relative short, but important, chapter and one that needed looking at. The Equality and Diversity Group rose to the challenge of providing a large number of amendments.

A review of our economic chapter concluded that it was in reasonable shape and did not need a full review so we have been working to improve our unique economic message.

We are working on a database of subject experts to help answer some of the many policy questions that we get. We will be putting a call out for volunteers in the Autumn.

Publications Co-ordinator's Report

Edward Milford

The last 12 months have been relatively quiet on the publications front after a busier elections year in the previous year. The national party has been very constrained in the amount of printed material it has been able to produce centrally, and local parties are increasingly preparing their own leaflets using templates or words drawn from the web site.

The Green Shop has been problematic; Gayle O'Donovan had taken it under her wing and moved it from Swindon to Norwich, but following her untimely death other arrangements needed to be

made. Camden Green Party were able to run it for a few months during the election campaign as a temporary measure, but it is now in storage, and a priority is to find a longer-term, sustainable solution for it, preferably one that allows easy access to materials from the web site.

I have also attended Green World editorial board meetings where possible. As with all party activities, the Green World budget has been stretched and the priority to be given to the magazine among competing calls on Green Party funds continues to be a matter for debate.

A04. GPRC Co-chairs Report

No report received

A05. Policy Committee Report

Policy Committee have had a busy year. Two success voting papers at the last conference have been followed by a fast track review of our disability policy for this conference.

We continue to work on the reviews of our climate change, energy and industrial policies, reviews which have all started over the past 6 months. Working groups have been formed for each and should members want to be involved then please email policy@greenparty.org.uk. The work on developing our economic ideas continues and despite the rapidly changing economic environment, we hope to bring ideas back to the next conference.

We are hoping to develop a database of subject experts to help the policy process and have presented a conference motion on this topic.

A06. Campaigns Committee Report Ken Burgess

Matty Mitford was co-opted onto GPEX, and Anne Gray, Pete Murry, Howard Thorp were elected onto the campaigns committee at the Spring Conference. We have held one meeting since then. We had stalls at the Coalition of Resistance Conference at SOAS on the 19th of June 2012, the Rio +20 conference on the 16th June 2012 and at the anti corporate Olympic games on the 28th of July.

A07. Disputes Resolution Committee Report

Rosemary Bland

DRC has not been inundated with cases this year and we hope this means you are mostly getting along ok! Thank you to those members who have shown willing to listen to each other and

face up to the ongoing problems that disputes cause. Unfortunately some cases have resulted in frustrating situations where one side of a dispute refuses to engage in any kind of resolution process or even speak to us. We sometimes have to go to great lengths to try to get in contact with people who are being complained about – we feel we owe it to both sides to make the effort to talk to everyone involved, if only to ensure that they all understand what we can and cannot do to help. This year we found we were unable to do even this in some cases.

We can only guess at why this may be but I would like to make clear that seeking help and listening to each other is a sign of strength. Please do talk to us!

We do not take sides and are in no way judicial – we seek to bring people together to find a solution that is palatable to all concerned. I would like to encourage any member to contact us if they find themselves having a problem with a GP colleague or group – certainly the sooner the better – sometimes people are able to sort it out themselves with a bit of advice and perspective.

DRC has compiled some basic tools for dealing with difficult situations and preventative measures to keep things running smoothly, these resources can be found on our section of the members' website or by contacting us. I would like to reiterate that agreement is not always the aim, rather to disagree gently and constructively.

As outgoing convenor I would like to thank the committee for their work over the past year, as well as previous convenor Jenny Rust for her guidance. If you have regular email access, common sense and the ability to maintain strict confidentiality then do consider standing for this committee, which does its best to safeguard the hard work of activists by trying to diffuse tense situations.

Contact details:

drc@lists.greenparty.org.uk

A08. Green World Editorial Board Natalie Bennett and Andy Spring

Green World produced its standard four issues over the past 12 months, with a great deal of hard work from the editor Phil Sainty and designer Steve Chadburn, as well as many voluntary contributors from inside and outside the party. On the advertising side, Shasha Khan did a great job in a difficult environment.

This year we were pleased to start the year with a full quota of five elected board members for the first time in some years. Most board members have made regular

contributions in terms of commentary on the submitted articles and suggestions for articles, two important parts of their role.

One member stood down in April and Andy Spring (a former Green World convenor) was co-opted on to the board in July, when Natalie Bennett, convenor since autumn conference 2010, stood down from the board due to the potential conflict of interest from her standing to be party leader. Andy agreed to act as convenor.

Throughout the year, bulk copies for local parties continued to be organised under the conscientious eye of Susan Murray, with Owen Clarke continuing to process the orders himself, allowing local parties to use the magazine for their own purposes at very low cost.

There was a major logistical issue with the June edition, due to the distributors (who are also the printers) garbling the data file sent to them by the office so that the last two lines of each household's address did not match the first two. This created a large problem, as some of the magazines did get through to members, when the Post Office was able to identify a distinctive address, but most were returned to the national headquarters. Thanks to the staff for their patience with this.

The distributor admitted fault (there had been no mistake or error on the Party's part) and it was decided (in part on environmental grounds) to wait until the bulk of the copies had been returned to party office. These were then returned to the distributor and the magazines (and inserts) redistributed with new cover sheets. As between the two dispatches the membership database had been refreshed, and the number of members had thus dropped, there were sufficient copies for this. Some members will have received two copies, as there was no way of identifying which had got through. Apologies, and also for the late arrival. The second despatch occurred on July 18 and continues to be monitored.

Green World is the only regular form of contact that most members have with the party – it is an important tool for membership retention, and also to ensure that members are aware of what is happening in the party and the broader green movement. The board this year made a conscious decision to try to include more stories about local

and regional party work – but we can only do this if the editor is supplied with copy and photos!

GW74, with a focus on religion, proved, as had been expected, a controversial one (but the board had agreed that with this being an area of life of significant interest to some Green Party members, it was a legitimate focus of interest). We received complaints saying that we shouldn't cover religion, and plaudits for doing so, in about equal number. The main area of controversy was the lack of an article from the Jewish perspective. The board acknowledged and apologised for its omission and encouraged the submission of balancing letters in GW75, which were then published.

The total cost per member of each issue is around 50 pence, of which about half is postage.

We conducted a survey of readers (publicised in the magazine and through the digital emailed Green Activist), but unfortunately were only able to obtain just over 100 respondents (almost exactly the same figure as in 2008, when the last survey was conducted).

Sixty four percent said they "always" read GW (71% in 2008), 10% often and 24% sometimes. 38% said they read 80% plus, 16% above 60% and and 15% above 20%. (Higher levels than in 2008.)

Fifty eight per cent said they thought the contents were good, 25% excellent. 68% thought good value for money. (Not asked in 2008.)

Favourite contents were, in order of popularity:

1. The Green Party's position on political issues
2. In-depth features on social/political/environmental issues
3. The achievements of the national party

Forty per cent would definitely not use a digital-only edition, 30% definitely would.

A09. Conference Committee Report *No report received*

A10. Report on the relationship between GPEW and the Scottish and Irish Greens **John Street**

The relevant part of the motion in question, D07, as passed at the 2011 Autumn Conference says – GPRC be instructed in conjunction with the

International Committee to set up a working group to prepare a report for conference on relationships between the three Green Parties within these Isles and how best effective liaison and support between them can be managed.

Constitution of the working group

At its October 2011 meeting GPRC decided that this matter was really the province of international committee. All members of international committee at the time volunteered to be part of the working group.

This report has been drawn to the attention of the GPRC co-chairs and members of international committee for comments, but none had been received at the time of writing.

What happens at the moment ??

Currently, there is no formal liaison mechanism. There appear to be some informal contacts, but these are mainly at a personal level. However, from time to time members of the GPEW and the Scottish and Irish Green Parties do attend one another's Party conferences.

GPEX 21.8

GPEX 21.8 on June 16th agreed that the Deputy Leader should be the GPEX member who would represent us in any "formal" discussions with the Irish and Scottish Greens. As a certain amount of secretarial support is already provided to the Deputy Leader, this should make it easier when arranging meetings etc. At the GPEX meeting, the leader of Wales Green Party asked that Wales GP, in the form of the Wales GP Deputy Leader, should be included in these discussions and this request was agreed by GPEX.

It should be noted that no funds have been allocated specifically to this inter-party liaison.

Previous discussions

Discussions about how best to address issues raised by this request have taken place at the GPEW 2012 Spring Conference in Liverpool and also at the EGP 2012 Spring Council meeting in Copenhagen, as well as by email.

The way forward

The conclusion of these discussions was that the best way forward would be to set up a series of telephone, possibly skype, discussions between board-level representatives of these three parties on a from time to time basis, probably every two to three months. Once these liaison calls have started the frequency can be adjusted to suit everyone's requirements.

Responsibility for progressing these discussions for the GPEW should be with the Party's Deputy Leader and the Deputy Leader support person, following the agreement by GPEX 21.8 of the Deputy Leader's involvement.

Section B (Voting Papers)

B01. Fast Track Review of the Disability Chapter

Proposed by Policy Committee

*Proposed by: Stuart Jeffery(**), Caroline Allen, Alan Francis, Sandra Walmsly + 3 others.*

Synopsis:

Policy Committee are submitting the Disability Chapter for fast track review as there are no voting papers or draft voting papers coming to this conference.

Motion:

Delete the Chapter "Disability" from the PSS and replace with:

DISABILITY

Terms used

DY100 For the purposes of this policy base, the term 'disability' refers not to the situation of having a physical, mental or other impairment. Instead it refers to the widespread phenomenon of people being unable to do things in society specifically because society has failed to reconstruct itself (physically and culturally) in all the possible ways that would ensure that an individual's impairments are not a barrier to their full participation.

Background

Amendment 1: Delete existing DY100 and replace with:

DY100 This policy relates to all disability, sickness and mental health issues.

This includes hearing and vision and brain differences of all kinds. We recognise that many impairments such as those relating to sight, hearing and intellect are not visible or apparent. This policy is intended to provide some general policy principles relating to disability.

Disability is a social phenomenon and an evolving concept. Disability results from the interaction between people with impairments and attitudes and barriers that hinder their full and effective

participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romyne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

DY200 There are currently two basic approaches to the subject of disability:

a)The medical model of disability focuses on an individual's impairment as the root of the problem. The impairment (e.g. no use of the legs) causes the disability (e.g. inability to walk) and the result of this is handicap (reduced ability to participate fully in society).

This approach has been rejected by many disabled people; it has been almost totally defined by non-disabled people - often by administrators who define disablement in the way most suited to bureaucratic convenience, or by charities not controlled by disabled people themselves, who frequently promote an image of disabled people's powerlessness that reinforces existing prejudice against disabled people.

This medical model of disability (or 'charity' model or 'administrative' model) has led to a general acceptance that disabled people cannot fully participate in society; and therefore that where society makes 'special' efforts to meet the needs of disabled people, this is a kindness on the part of non-disabled society for which disabled people must be grateful. Disabled people are seen as incomplete people to be regarded as tragic objects of charity whose aim in life is 'to overcome their handicap' and be as much like a non-disabled person as possible.

b)The social model of disability focuses on society's response to impairments as the root of the problem. A person has an impairment, and society, by failing to take into account the needs of such a person, disables that person. If this person cannot, for example, enter a certain building or get on a bus, it is not fundamentally their own impairment that is the problem, but rather the way in which the building and the bus have been designed - unreasonably excluding some people.

Similarly, people with intellectual impairments are disabled by segregation from the rest of society, which restricts their opportunities to learn a whole range of skills, including social skills, that are normally developed through

interaction with others.

This model of disability widens the definition to include people living with long-term mental health problems, who are also socially disabled and marginalised. It also includes people with temporary impairments, such as a broken leg, who encounter many of the same obstacles as people with permanent impairments.

According to the social model of disability, notwithstanding the fact that individuals' personal experience of their impairments may be negative and in some cases painful or hindering, society as a whole has created disability because it has failed to take into account the needs of people with impairments. It is non-disabled society that has created the barriers to full social equality for people with impairments, and it is non-disabled economists and politicians who tell us that 'we' cannot afford the cost of removing those barriers. Disability is a human rights issue; and human rights are not to be denied some people by the oppressive fiscal calculations of others.

The social model approach demands an integrated society. This does not just mean integrating disabled people into a non-disabled world; it means re-defining society according to the perspectives of all people, not just the non-disabled.

This understanding of disability has been growing stronger in recent years, and is the only approach acceptable to the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People.

Amendment 2: Delete existing DY200 and replace with:

DY200: Traditional legal and policy views of 'disability' have been based on the "medical" or "individual" model. "Fixing" impairments by aids, assistive technology and rehabilitation have been emphasised where the individual model dominates. We do need effective provision in this area to enable people to live independently.

The social model of disability is based on the view that it is society which disables. This approach focuses on the need to adapt society to enable (rather than disable) people with impairments. The barriers to equality mainly arise from the environment such as inaccessible buildings and services, attitudes such as stereotyping, discrimination and prejudice, and also organisations policies

and practices.

Disability is something imposed on people's impairments by the way they are unnecessarily isolated and excluded from full participation in society. Disabled people are therefore an oppressed group in society.

The bio-psychosocial model which was based on the recognition of the mind-body continuum has gained credence and has been interpreted in some policy areas in ways that are unhelpful to disabled people and which prevent them from enjoying their full rights as citizens.

The rights based approach to disability is based on the conviction that disabled and non-disabled people should be equally valued. Disabled people cannot be squeezed into narrow concepts of normality.

New laws from December 2006 placed a duty on public bodies to promote disability and these were incorporated in the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 aims to protect disabled people and prevent disability discrimination. It provides legal rights for disabled people in the areas of employment, education, access to goods and services, buying and renting land and property and provision by public bodies.

The Green Party supports the EU in viewing disability as a social construct and recognises that the link between poverty and disability is well established. The FEDT (Framework Equal Treatment Directive First) however, applies only in the context of employment and occupation. This contrasts with the other Article 13 directive, the Race Directive, which applies to social protection, education, housing and goods and services as well as employment which limits the application of the FEDT for disability.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romyne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

Principles and Policies

DY300 The Green Party rejects the medical model of disability and accepts the social model:

a)that disability is a social phenomenon;

b)that while many individuals have physical or sensory impairments or learning difficulties or are living with mental health problems, it is the way

society responds to these which creates disability;

c)that disability is a form of oppression.

DY301 The medical model will not be invoked with reference to 'disability' but will be utilised only in the assessment of impairments as part of the process of meeting an individual's desired (or, in restricted cases, perceived) need to receive support etc. and for the purposes of defining the 'disabling' factors in society that are to be reconstructed.

DY302 The Green Party aims to help deconstruct disablement as a form of oppression; to assist the enablement of people whom society has previously disabled. This will be achieved through various policies which may be categorised as educational, environmental, social and political.

Amendment 3: Delete DY300-302 and replace with

DY300 The Green Party demands an integrated society. This does not just mean integrating disabled people into a not yet-disabled world but means re-defining society according to the perspectives of all people, not just the not yet-disabled.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

An enabling education system

DY400 Research has shown that prejudice against disabled people can be greatly worsened by segregated schooling. To segregate children with impairments or difficulties for any reason, when provision is potentially available in an all ability setting, is a breach of human rights. Moreover it helps inculcate prejudice in non-disabled children. The Green Party will therefore introduce the following policies for an all-ability education system:

a) Impairment will not be an acceptable reason for excluding a child from a school to which they would otherwise be entitled to admission. This means that, whilst there will be no compulsory integration of individuals (or abolition of 'special schools'), all schools will be deemed to be all-ability schools. Schools will have a statutory duty to provide for the needs of any child, wherever this can be achieved without

disadvantaging other children; the presumption will be that a child's needs can be met in that school. And government will have a duty to provide fully adequate funding for the purpose. Children will be entitled to take legal action against any school which seeks to deny this right. Children and schools will have the right to take legal action against the Government for failing to provide the necessary funding.

Where children with emotional and behavioural difficulties are concerned, a balance must be struck between their educational needs and their present emotional needs; and also between their own needs and the needs of the people around them. However, research and practise has shown that children with emotional and behavioural difficulties do not need to be permanently segregated from others.

b) Similar principles will apply to all other educational establishments, so that practical difficulties and institutionalised prejudice will not be allowed to deny a person their right to an education using impairment as an excuse.

Amendment 4: Delete BY400 and its heading, insert new heading BY400-BY407 and renumber accordingly

Social and Political Enablement

DY400. The Green Party supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons.

DY401. The Green Party affirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to everyone and cannot be divided. Disabled people should be guaranteed the full enjoyment of rights and freedoms without discrimination.

DY402. The Green Party is committed to the maxim adopted by the Disability movement "nothing about us without us".

DY403. The Green Party would extend present UK legislation to ensure that disabled people are treated as full citizens with protection against any discrimination.

DY404. The Green Party supports the extension of the FETD (Framework Equal Treatment Directive First) to include the same rights as those relating to any other form of oppression not just employment rights.

DY405. Government policy should not be based on the advice of private sector companies which will profit from the

advice they give.

DY406. Disabled people have a right to services and supports that enable them to participate as full members of our democratic society, particularly elected office.

DY407. The Green Party is committed to ensuring that all new policies should be considered from the perspective of whether they promote equality."

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

DY401 Public awareness of the level of oppression of disabled people must be raised through a public awareness campaign to be devised jointly with disabled peoples' groups.

An enabling environment

DY500 Currently, our built environment is one of the principal means by which society disables people. On taking office, the Green Party will require all central and local government bodies to instigate immediately the necessary structural and other modifications to all their buildings, so that these buildings do not reasonably exclude people with impairments.

DY501 Building regulations will be radically overhauled with accessibility in mind, including visitors' access, access to public buildings, access to work premises, entertainment and sports, etc. Associated social measures will also be taken to open up previously inaccessible locations and activities to people with impairments.

DY502 A comprehensive plan for fully accessible transport will be implemented, so that public transport will be usable by all members of the public. In addition, the necessary arrangements will be made to meet any extra reasonable transportation needs of disabled people beyond that which can be provided through general services.

Amendment 5: Delete existing heading and DY500-DY502 and replace with

Economic empowerment

DY500. The Green Party recognises that the majority of disabled people live in poverty and will work towards ensuring that this is addressed through its income policies and by ensuring effective equality of opportunity in education, training and employment.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

Amendment 6: Insert new DY501

DY501. The Green Party believes services for disabled people are not appropriate areas for profit.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

Social and political enablement

DY600 Comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation of the highest standard will be introduced, along with the necessary means of implementing it.

DY601 An end to the oppression of disabled people can only be achieved under the guidance of disabled people themselves. Therefore an Enablement Commission will be established as an independent body for monitoring progress made in this area. It will be established as an independent body for monitoring progress made in this area. It will be made up of disabled people and will be accorded rights and powers such that it can allow disabled people themselves to define their own reasonable needs and ensure that these needs are met. It will receive complaints against breaches of anti-discrimination legislation, and against this legislation itself, should the latter be found wanting. It will be fully involved in the preparation of new legislation. It will have a wide-ranging, often proactive role in the deconstruction of the social phenomena of disability.

Amendment 7: Delete existing DY600-DY601 and heading and replace with

Enabling Education and Training

DY600. There will be no compulsory integration of individuals (or abolition of 'special schools').

DY601. All schools will be deemed to be all-ability schools. We support the statutory duty of all school to provide for the needs of any child, wherever this can be achieved without disadvantaging other children.

DY603. Adult education will operate on the same basis as that for children and young people.

DY604. Training and support services will recognise that individuals with

different abilities may need different facilities and approaches.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

Amendment 8: Insert new heading and DY700-701

Support Services

DY700. Services for disabled people should always have the maximum involvement of the users themselves in their design, development and operation.

DY701. The Green Party will work with other like minded organisations to develop user led services.

Proposed by: Sandra Walmsley, Stuart Jeffery, Romayne Phoenix, Caroline Allen + 3 others.

Section C (Policy)

C20. (C03) Reduced Working Hours

*Proposed by: Sean Thompson (**), Chris Hyland, Sally Thompson, Pete Murry + 2 others.*

Synopsis

At a time when unemployment is predicted to continue to rise for the next five years, the Green Party's policy of reducing average working hours has never been more relevant. This motion updates that policy.

Motion

In PSS paragraph WR342; delete '28 days (or 196 hours)' and replace with '30 days (or 210 hours)', so that the amended paragraph will read:

WR342 There should be a legal right to at least 30 days (or 210 hours) paid holiday in a calendar year, in addition to public holidays, for full time workers. This should apply pro-rata for those employed less fewer hours per week or for shorter periods; it would not apply to people working fixed term contracts of less than 60 days. Delete existing paragraph WR344 and replace with:

WR344 A Green government will legislate immediately to reduce working hours, without any loss of pay, to an average of 35 hours per week, and then to progressively reduce the average working week to 24 hours over a 15 year period.

Insert new paragraph WR345 and renumber following paragraphs accordingly:

WR345 The Green Party recognises that the patterns of work of some occupations, such as the medical professions, the emergency services and the armed forces, may require variations to the standard working week which may not be possible to contain within a working year averaging 35 hours a week. Such variations may be permitted subject to the mutual agreement of the elected representatives of the workers involved, relevant employers' organisations and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, but will be subject to regular review.

C21. (C05) Economic Democracy

*Proposed by: Howard Thorp (**), Chris Hyland, Lynton North, Stuart Neyton + 3 others.*

Synopsis

Greater economic democracy should encourage greater transparency and accountability, helping to prevent a repeat of the financial crisis. We need economic democracy to bring fundamental change to our economy, making it more co-operative, community-based and resilient in a time of climate change.

Motion

Insert into RoPS:

To help prevent a repeat of the economic crisis, we need greater economic democracy, through participation in decision-making, transparency, decentralisation of economic power and greater accountability from corporations. There are four ways we could achieve this:

Require medium and large-sized companies to be accountable to their employees and to the general public by including on their management boards employee-elected directors and independent directors to represent the interests of consumers. Employee and consumer directors could act as watchdogs and whistleblowers against corporate irresponsibility. Not being driven by the profit-motive, they could also push for company policies that are more socially inclusive and environmentally protective.

Give employees a meaningful stake in the management and control of their company pension funds, to decentralise and democratise investment decision-making and to give it a social and ethical dimension. The £900 billion invested in pension funds is a sizeable counterweight to the economic clout of big business. It could be invested in ways that help make the economy more fair and people-centred.

Grant employees the legal right to buy out their companies and turn them into workers co-operatives, and provide funding to do this from a Green National Investment Bank. The funding would be contingent on the co-operatives following green and ethical

policies. These co-ops would weaken the power of big corporations, localise economic decision-making, and give employees incentives for greater productivity.

Insert into PSS:

WR452 Employees should have a majority stake in the management of their companies' pension funds, to decentralise and democratise investment decision-making and to give it a social and ethical dimension.

WR617 We will require medium and large-sized companies to be accountable to their employees and to the general public by including on their management boards employee-elected directors and independent directors to represent the interests of consumers.

WR611 We will grant employees the legal right to buy out their companies and turn them into workers co-operatives. Buy outs would be funded by a Green National Investment Bank and contingent on the co-ops following green and ethical policies. These co-operatives would localise economic decision-making and give employees incentives for greater productivity.

EC680 A Green government will create a Green National Investment Bank out of one or more of the currently 'nationalised' banks. This bank would focus on funding the move to a green economy by investment in green technologies, renewables, energy efficiency programmes, and providing funds for worker-led buyouts of medium and large-sized companies.

C22. (C06) Making Corporations Responsible

*Proposed by: Howard Thorp (**), Tom Harris, Stuart Neyton, Peter Allen.*

Synopsis

Corporations have behaved irresponsibly by awarding excessive pay rises to directors and senior managers whilst employees have seen little benefit from the success of these companies. We need to ensure that companies behave responsibly by changes the rules under which they operate to ensure fair pay, social responsibility and sustainable practices.

Motion

Insert into RoPS:

To make corporations behave responsibly we must require them to have regard to fair remuneration for all employees and behave in a socially responsible way. We can do this by:

Requiring medium and large-sized companies to pay a living wage, and curbing excessive pay for senior managers by ensuring that the same percentage pay rises are implemented across the board for all employees.

Changing company rules so that large and medium sized companies and corporations must take account of the environmental and social impact of their activities. These companies will be required to undertake an annual audit and provide a public report giving details of water and energy use, waste management, resource efficiency measures undertaken and the social and environmental impact of their activities. The report would include information on any warnings or prosecutions for equality and environmental offences.

Insert into PSS and renumber accordingly:

EC653 We will make changes to company rules to ensure fair remuneration for all company employees, and to curb excessive pay rises by executives and senior managers. Large and medium-sized companies will be required to pay a living wage.

EC654 We will require large and medium-sized companies to carry out an annual audit of their social and environmental impact. Companies will make the outcomes of the audit available in an annual public report. The format and content of the report will be specified in legislation, but as a minimum it will include: water and energy use; waste management and resource efficiency, social impact; and details of any health and safety breaches and environmental offences.

C23. (C09) International Law of Ecocide

*Proposed by: Jamie Robertson (**), Ben Samuel, Nicky Gibbard, Roger Creagh-Osborne + 5 others*

Synopsis

This law is a practical expression of PSS clause IP271: "The GP believes that the international legal framework should include so-called "third generation" rights. These are not individual rights but they concern matters which affect us all. They include the right to a healthy environment." More information at <http://www.thisisecocide.com/>

Motion

Insert into RoPS: The Green Party of England and Wales gives its wholehearted support for an international law of Ecocide - a crime against nature, humanity and future generations – to be established and recognised as an International Crime Against Peace.

C24. (C04) End of life palliative care

*Proposed by: Coral Simpson (**), Jane Carruthers, James McMurray, Brian Heatley + 3 others.*

Synopsis

Distribution, quantity and quality of end of life care is unequal across the UK. Palliative care policy aims to end the diagnostic and geographical lottery and to strive towards a situation where every patient, no matter what their diagnosis or place of death, has access to high quality palliative care.

Motion

Insert into the PSS and renumber accordingly:

H341 Existing UK expertise about palliative care should be a bedrock and springboard for further development and expansion of palliative care. All services - hospital, community, clinic and care homes - should promote the knowledge and understanding of the patient process of dying. Universal palliative care training is required for all clinical, care and ancillary staff, appropriate to each staff member's role.

H342 Palliative care is holistic; high quality palliative care aims to support the physical, psychological, social and any spiritual dimensions of the patient's process of dying. Palliative care promotes dignity and respect. Palliative care should be based on the best clinical and ethical practice including conventional and complementary therapies. To ensure important aspects of palliative care do not get lost for any

reason, this policy stresses that high quality palliative care aims to support any spiritual, religious or philosophical dimensions of the patient process of dying.

H343 To ensure high quality palliative care, there needs to be awareness of bias and disadvantage such as might arise associated with ethnic origin, disability, gender, religious or non religious belief, age, body size, mental health diagnoses and other factors.

Amendment 1: Delete H343 and replace with:

H343 To ensure high quality palliative care, there needs to be awareness of bias and disadvantage that might arise associated with ethnic origin, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious or non religious belief, age, body size, mental health diagnoses and other factors. Services should be planned and delivered in ways that avoid discrimination.

Proposed by: Lesley Hedges, Adrien Cruden, Martin Hemmingway, Clare O'Regan + 1 other.

H344 It is essential to promote rational, evidence based and ethical palliative care practice. Where a medically led multidisciplinary palliative care team is required, a team should be accessible whether by consultation in person or by communication media such as telephone or internet. All services should strive to ensure appropriate speed and coordination of palliative care services.

H345 It is important to review, and re-evaluate, the availability of hospice and other palliative care to those with all diagnoses and conditions. Palliative care policy promotes provision of palliative care to all those with end of life conditions and diseases such as stroke, dementia, Alzheimer's, cancer, end stage heart disease, end stage lung conditions, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and other terminal conditions and diseases. Palliative care should be available for deaths wherever they occur - in own home, care homes, hospital, hospices and wherever death occurs in the UK.

Amendment 2: Insert new H346: H346 Sufficient emotional support should be available to those who surround people who are dying. This would include staff working in palliative care, friends, relatives and

formal and informal carers.

Proposed by: Lesley Hedges, Adrien Cruden, Martin Hemmingway, Clare O'Regan + 1 other.

C25. (C12) Animal Racing

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen (**), Louise Ryan, Ronald Lee, Tim Turner + 5 others*

Synopsis

Each year, thousands of animals are injured and killed either directly, or indirectly as unwanted cast offs, in the animal racing industries. This motion will strengthen our policy and express support for the many campaigns in this field.

Motion

Replace AR418 with:
AR418: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

C26. (C08) Aarhus Convention

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen (**), Tim Turner, John Knight, Kevin O'Brien + 2 others.*

Synopsis

The Aarhus Convention was mentioned in the countryside policy but was inadvertently left out in the recent fast

track review. This motion replaces the reference to what is an important convention and places it in a more appropriate place.

Motion

Insert new EU385

EU385 We support the full implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in both the UK and the EU. The Convention links environmental rights and human rights and seeks to encourage and enable participation by all stakeholders in environmental decision making.

C27. (C10) Enabling Motion on Natural Resources Policy

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen (**), Michael Coffey, Elisabeth Whitebread, Sandra Walmsley+ 3 others*

Synopsis

This is an enabling motion to commit the party to review the Natural Resources Policy. The working group will be convened by Policy Committee.

Motion

This conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for a redrafted PSS section on Natural Resources to a future Conference.

The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of outside professional and campaigning bodies.

C28. (C01) Nuclear Waste

Proposed by Policy Committee

*Proposed by: Alan Francis(**), Elisabeth Whitebread, Tim Turner, Kevin O'Brien + 1 other.*

Synopsis:

An emergency motion at a previous conference instructed Policy Cttee to propose this motion.

Motion:

Insert new EN604 into PSS and renumber accordingly:

EN604 The long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste should be in surface or near-surface facilities.

Facilities should be located as near to the site where the waste is produced as possible. Developers will need to demonstrate how the facilities will be monitored and how waste packages, or waste, could be retrieved. All long-term waste management options will be subject to robust regulatory requirements.

C29. (C11) Make ACTA History

*Proposed by: Jon Nott (**), Jason Kitkat, Keith Taylor, Tom Chance + 5 others.*

Synopsis

This motion notes and welcomes the European Green Party and Global Greens opposition to attempts to reform copyright law in favour of corporate profit and adds our support to these campaigns.

Motion

Insert into RoPS:

The Green Party notes the statement, below, adopted by the Council of the European Green Party in May 2012 and the near identical statement adopted at the Global Greens Congress in March 2012.

TEXT OF EGP RESOLUTION

Make ACTA history

ACTA is not transparent, non-democratic and exclusive

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was negotiated by the EU, the USA and a small group of other states supported by industry lobby groups behind closed doors without the participation of parliaments and civil society. As the attempt to push for stricter enforcement rules of intellectual property rights failed in multilateral fora like the WTO and the WIPO, the states pushing for ACTA, decided to negotiate in an exclusive group without developing countries. We as European Greens strongly oppose this move away from international fora and to start a policy of closed shops and not-transparent processes.

ACTA threatens the freedom of information in the Internet

Although ACTA does not (anymore) oblige the treaty parties to control and inflict ISP infringement, it still lists these provisions as goals to be reached. The signatories shall, for example, work towards a stronger cooperation between

Internet Service Providers and ISP right holders. This would lead to more stringent rights' enforcement by the ISPs for fear of responsibility for alleged Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringement by their customers and give matter to the notion of privatised rights' enforcement outside of regular formal legal procedures.

ACTA endangers the access to medicine

Patients all over the globe, but especially in developing countries depend to a large extent on the affordable generics – often produced in other developing countries like India but shipped through the EU. As ACTA also covers trademarks, customs' officers will become entitled to seize generics in transit if they as much as resemble patented medicine by their packaging. ACTA will facilitate the destruction of confiscated medicine – now only possible in very limited circumstances. Forced information disclosure in the production chain will be made easier for right holders and thus cause a chilling effect for producers of generic medicine- that means out of fear for punishment decrease or stop production. All these measures go beyond TRIPS, curb the developing countries' TRIPS flexibilities and threaten the trade with legitimate generic medicine.

ACTA paves a wrong way of how to deal with copyright

A more and more rigid way of copyright and IPR infringement became more dominant in the last years. We saw TRIPS that made life difficult for developing countries. Companies can patent new forms of broccoli or Amazonas plants. Pharmaceutical companies patent every tiny change of a medicine. We Greens want a reform of the IPR system so that it is based on a fair balance of right holders and users. We Greens are discussing therefor the best ways to modernize and reform copyright and IPR legislation to reach these goals. ACTA however would cement the old, rigid approach for the years to come.

ACTA does not even hold what it promises

The Commission and other ACTA proponents claim that ACTA wants to fight counterfeit products. In reality, ACTA is useless in preventing the production of faked Gucci sun glasses

since the biggest producer country of counterfeit products, China, is not even part of ACTA. ACTA cannot prevent the trade with faked, dangerous medicine.

The people do not want ACTA

The big protest movement all over the world, especially Europe showed that European citizens do not want ACTA. The pressure from the streets showed already its impact. The European Commission itself is starting to doubt and decided to refer ACTA to the European Court of Justice. Other political groups in the European Parliament woke up and started critical debates – also after having received thousands of e-mails from concerned citizens. There is a political momentum for making ACTA history.

Therefore, we, as European Greens::

1. Strictly oppose ACTA;
2. Support the protest movement all over the world;
3. Urge the European Parliament and ACTA signatories' national parliaments to refuse consent on ACTA;
4. Conduct ex-ante and ex-post human rights impact assessments with every trade agreement.
5. We are aware of the fact, that ACTA is not an isolated attempt to reduce the freedom of Internet or access to medicines. The European Greens call upon the European Parliament and the EU Commission that they should consistently support and fight for net neutrality and an open and free Internet, and access to medicines and against reducing Internet freedom as in IPRED or other upcoming international negotiations.

TEXT OF EGP RESOLUTION ENDS

The Green Party welcomes and supports this statement and congratulates the Greens in the European Parliament for leading the campaign against ACTA.

The Green Party further notes that ACTA is part of a series of attempts to change national and international regulation around intellectual property and copyright in favour of corporate profit and to the detriment of human rights and consumer

protection.

C30. (C02) Libel Law Reform

Proposed by West and South Dorset Green Party

*Proposed by: David Smith (**), Richard Edwards, Brian Heatley, Peter Barton + 1 other*

Synopsis

It is essential that there be a clear statutory definition of responsible journalism, which those seeking to expose exploitative and unsustainable behaviour by powerful vested interests, can rely on. Neither current government plans for reform, nor ST270 provides this.

Motion

In the PSS chapter on Rights and responsibilities, after paragraph RR100, insert a new paragraph or paragraphs:

“Freedom to criticise and question, in strong terms and without malice, is the cornerstone of argument and debate, whether in scholarly journals, on websites, in newspapers or elsewhere. Our current libel laws inhibit debate and stifle free expression. They discourage writers from tackling important subjects and thereby deny us the right to read about them. Even fair summaries of scientific evidence are now being regarded as libellous.

The law is so biased towards claimants and so hostile to writers that London has become known as the libel capital of the world. The rich and powerful bring cases to London on the flimsiest grounds (libel tourism), because they know that 90% of cases are won by claimants. Libel laws intended to protect individual reputation are being exploited to suppress fair comment and criticism. Even local authorities are now using libel law to protect themselves from justified criticism.”

After paragraph RR 401 insert a new paragraph or paragraphs:

“The Green Party would introduce a new Defamation Act, which would:

- end libel tourism
- allow authors to safely but responsibly repeat allegations made by others
- introduce a new effective statutory public interest defence, in

place of the complex, unwieldy and expensive defence, called "Reynolds Privilege".

- restrict the ability of "non-natural persons" to sue for libel or threaten to do so, in order to suppress any criticism and unreasonably protect their brand.
- Provide for easier "strike out" of trivial or vexatious claims at an early stage.

C31. (C07) Enabling Motion on Crime Prevention and Justice

*Proposed by: John Coyne (**), Ken Pease, Raphael Levy, Walter Houston + 2 others.*

Synopsis

This is an enabling motion to commit the party to review the policy on Crime Prevention and Justice.

Motion

Conference recognises that the PSS chapter on Crime Prevention and Justice rightly asserts the virtues of restorative justice and the need to transform society such that criminal behaviour reduces over time.

Conference considers, however, the chapter is in need of clear assurances that Greens in government, at all levels within current society, intend to and will act effectively to address crime and people's fear of crime.

Conference considers that a revised chapter should address the treatment of crimes where there is no readily identifiable person as victim and where restorative justice is not a complete answer.

Conference considers that toleration of, and failure to deter, environmental crimes including vehicle crime disproportionately affects the health, welfare and safety of the poor.

Conference considers that a rewritten chapter should clarify that Greens support effective measures to detect and prosecute offences and that proportionate sanctions should provide a deterrent.

Conference notes that elections for police commissioners in November 2012 will invite public scrutiny of our policies on crime and justice.

Conference also notes that elected councillors have a role working alongside their local police to provide reassurance to residents and to be responsive in steering policing priorities.

Conference considers that a political chapter on crime and justice should offer guidance on today's difficult political choices as well as describing a vision for a future Green society.

Conference requests Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for a redrafted PSS section on Crime Prevention and Justice to a future Conference.

C32. (C13) Economic Policy Motion

*Proposed by: Georgina Bavetta (**), Matt Townsend, Adam Ramsay, Ash Haynes + 5 others*

Synopsis

This motion aims to update policy to reflect the economic policies we are advocating in the public eye as authorised through the Record of Policy Statements. It removes contradictory references to fiscal austerity and recognises the need for stimulus. The motion also seeks to place more emphasis on employment.

Motion

Insert new EC205 under Objectives:

Employment and livelihoods

To guarantee the provision of decent and meaningful employment for all members of society of a working age, where necessary actively engaging in job creation to fulfil this need. In doing so, the Green Party seeks to create an economy that is labour-intensive rather than resource or energy-intensive, in order to simultaneously protect the planet and the well-being of those who inhabit it. Everyone should have access to socially useful work.

In EC310 delete "and unemployment", and replace the comma with "and" after "inflation".

EC310 will now read:

Conventional economic policy uses economic growth, inflation and balance of payments as 'economic indicators', the normal criteria against which progress is measured. Although it is the most usually quoted indicator, gross national product (GNP) is a poor

indicator of true progress and does not adequately measure people's sense of well-being. It measures only the activity in the formal sector, regardless of what that activity is. In consequence, current economic theory fails adequately to reflect the real effects of human activity within a finite ecosystem, and is used to 'validate' economic activities which are ecologically unsustainable and/or socially unjust.

In EC401 after "People will be able to choose their own working

lifestyles", add "leading to a fairer distribution of labour, empowering

people currently excluded from employment."

EC401 will now read:

People will be able to choose their own working lifestyles leading to a fairer distribution of labour, empowering people currently excluded from employment.

In EC510 insert "material" after "Policies to promote reduced".

EC510 will now read:

Policies to promote reduced material consumption and assist in appropriate consumer choices include ensuring openness in the workings of all public and private institutions; establishing a Green product labelling scheme; commissioning a register of ethical and Green companies.

In EC611 delete: "not through long term commitment of large-scale public finance."

EC611 will now read:

Restructuring of the supply-side will be achieved through precise targeting of pump-priming and development funding. Comprehensive environmental accounting procedures will play a significant role in this development (see EC513). Particular emphasis will be laid on local community involvement in the decision-making process.

Delete EC676.

Amendment: Delete the line "Delete EC676"

Proposed by: Stuart Jeffery, Molly Scott Cato, Robin Kinrade, Steve Dawe + 3 others

In EC682 after "either through taxation or, where necessary, public borrowing", insert "and credit creation".

EC682 will now read:

We therefore oppose such private financing schemes, and call for public funds (either through taxation or, where necessary, public borrowing and credit creation) to be used to build all new hospitals, schools and other public service infrastructure. If the renegotiation of existing privatised contracts is impossible, the government should at least aim to bring all affected facilities back into public ownership as soon as possible.

Section D (Organisational and other)

D21. (D03) Financial Support for Leadership

Proposed by the Green Party Executive (GPEX)

*Proposed by: Jo Steranka (**), Mark Cridge, Michael Coffey and Matt Townsend*

Synopsis

This motion proposes that GPEX offers financial support in the form of an allowance to the Party Leader to enable him/her them to carry out their duties if the next Leader is not already a full-time paid elected member such as an MP or MEP.

Motion

In view of the unique time-commitments and pressures which fall upon the position of Leader of the Party, Conference resolves that the person undertaking this role should be offered financial support in the form of an allowance in order to allow them to perform their duties fully as required by the Constitution. Where the Leader is also a paid full-time politician, this allowance will not be paid. Conference requests that GPEX put in place the necessary arrangements and set the allowance at a level that is both practical and affordable.

D22. (D07) Membership Strategy

*Proposed by: Will Duckworth (**), Romayne Phoenix, Michael Hoy, Stephen Jordan + 4 others.*

Synopsis

The GPEW needs a larger membership and activist base, so a clearer, more proactive membership strategy must be developed. The incoming Leader and Deputy Leader must work with GPEX to formulate and implement that strategy.

Motion

Conference instructs GPEX, the incoming Leader and Deputy Leader and Local Party Support Coordinator to form a Membership Strategy Working Group in order to develop a membership strategy.

The strategy will be published in the Autumn Conference 2013 agenda and then discussed and voted on at that Conference.

The first part will be a report on the current strategy and breakdown of the membership and including the following:

- What are the demographics of our party?
- Which parties are growing and why?
- What activities are taking place to build the party?
- Why do people leave the party?

The second part will focus on developing a membership strategy for the future. It will be a mixture of successful current practice and new ideas. It will focus on three main themes:

- Building membership
- Developing the membership
- Retaining membership

The strategy will promote moving people from being supporters to members, and from members to activists. The development of activists may entail training and education.

The strategy will be wide ranging and contain clear and practical explanations of how we will embed membership development into everything we do.

D23. (D02) Clarifying GPEX as the Green Party Employer

Proposed by the Green Party Executive (GPEX)

*Proposed by: Jo Steranka (**), John Street, Michael Coffey and Matt Townsend.*

Synopsis

As part of the national Party's Annual Pay and Conditions Review, Green Party staff requested that the Constitution be changed to improve clarity on which part of the Green Party is responsible for employment.

Motion

Add new (c) to clause 7xv) of the Constitution and change the letters in the clause accordingly:

"(c) to act as the Green Party's employer of Green Party staff."

The new clause would read:

xv) The responsibilities of the Party Executive shall include the following at the national level: (a) to implement the decisions of the Annual Conference; (b) to ensure the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of the funds of the Party; (c) to act as the Green Party's

employer of Green Party staff; (d) to keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Regional Council and make available to the membership of the Party; (e) to present a full written report on its activities and on the financial state of the Party to the Annual Conference

D24. (D09) Spokespeople

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen(**), Caroline Russell, Elisabeth Whitebread, Tim Turner + 2 others.*

Synopsis

The role of spokesperson is an important one and it is important that the role is properly defined and there is transparency and accountability.

Motion

Section 7 of the Constitution: Green Party Executive.
Amend section xi) (c) to read:
a Panel of Speakers, who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy. The names of these speakers should be available to members, on the members' website, a brief role description should be provided and the positions should be reviewed at least every two years. In addition the Party Executive may create such posts as it considers necessary.

D25. (D06) Improving the gender balance of party candidates for PR and general elections

*Proposed by: Natalie Bennet (**), Romayne Phoenix, Jay Ginn, Sharhar Ali + 5 others.*

Synopsis

We have generally done better than other parties in attracting female candidates as a percentage of the total, but we're still falling well short of gender balance, and have no mechanism for coordination across local and regional parties. This motion assigns responsibility for action.

Motion

Insert after section 5 xvii) of the constitution and renumber according

The elections and equality and diversity coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local and regional parties to see that the proportion of female candidates

reaches at least 50% in candidate lists in PR elections such as European elections, and try to achieve the same figure in general election candidates. They will work with local/regional parties to try to ensure the selection of candidates for winnable seats will deliver at least 50% elected female representatives. A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the Gpex report to conference after each relevant election.

Amendment: After the words "local and regional parties" delete up to "elected female representatives" and insert: to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to work towards the proportion of female candidates reaching at least 50% in candidate lists in PR elections such as European elections and at least 50% of General election candidates. Taking into account the need to put forward effective candidates, they will work with local/regional parties to try to ensure that female candidates will comprise at least 50% of those selected to stand for winnable seats.

Proposed by: Natalie Bennett, Caroline Allen, Maya de Souza, Jim Jepps, + 3 others

D26. (D08) Policy Expertise

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen (**), Natalie Bennett, Caroline Russell, Elisabeth Whitebread, + 2 others.*

Synopsis

Policy Committee are keen to ensure that the best use is made of all policy expertise within the party, both in writing policy but also in providing advice.

Motion

Section 13 of the Constitution: Policy Committee. Add new section ix:

The Policy Coordinator will be responsible for building up and maintaining a database of party members who have expertise in particular policy areas and are willing to assist in policy making and related matters.

D27. (D01) Amending GPRC Standing Orders – Fast Tracked

Proposed by the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC)

*Proposed by Richard Bearman (**), Phil Simpson, Martin Collins, Jill Mills + 1 other.*

Synopsis

GPRC's Standing Orders can only be amended by conference. These procedural amendments are favoured by GPRC. The first brings the Standing Orders in line with the new status of GIN (leaving no formal role for GPRC); and clarifies the status of GPRC decisions taken urgently between meetings.

Motion

Delete 2.9:

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

Propose to delete 3:10 and replace with:

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

D28. (D04) Constitutional Tidy Up – Fast Tracked

Proposed by the Standing Orders Committee (SOC)

*Proposed by: Rustam Majainah (**), Doug Rouxel, Edward Mason, and Francis Williams.*

Synopsis

Motion D14 of Spring conference 2012 amended the constitution, but some of the details of the changes were inconsistent with the actual text of the constitution as it stood at the time. This motion exists to tidy that up.

Motion

In 7 ii) delete everything after "and" and

replace with "additional members to the following functional positions, elected to serve for two years:"

Re-number the list Section 7 ii) a - n so that they are sequential.

D29. (D05) Proposed Changes to the International Committee Section of the Constitution – Fast Tracked

Proposed by the International Committee

*Proposed by: John Street (**), Ricky Knight, Constantine Buhayer, Jo Steranka, + 1 other.*

Synopsis

Emphasise that the international committee have responsibility for the selection of delegates to Green party meetings in other parts of the world. Also enable international committee to prepare a set of standing orders for the conduct of its business.

Motion

Within the constitution:
Add at end of section 15 para iv): "this includes, inter alia, having responsibility, along with the international co-ordinator, for the selection of delegates and / or representatives to meetings of fellow Green parties and groupings of Green parties worldwide."

Add a new para v): "The role and organisation of the International Committee shall be set out in the International Committee Standing Orders, which shall be prepared by the Committee and subject to the approval of the Executive."

So that the International Committee section of the constitution reads:

15. INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
- i) There shall be a Green Party International Committee (hereafter called the International Committee) which shall be convened by the International Co-ordinator.
 - ii) The International Committee shall include 5 members elected by Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
 - iii) The International Committee shall be elected by and at conference, be answerable to the executive and shall be a committee of the executive.

iv) The role of the International Committee shall be to support the work of the co-ordinator and together with the co-ordinator organise the International work of the party: this includes, inter alia, having responsibility, along with the international co-ordinator, for the selection of delegates and / or representatives to meetings of fellow Green parties and groupings of Green parties worldwide

v) The role and organisation of the International Committee shall be set out in the International Committee Standing Orders, which shall be prepared by the Committee and subject to the approval of the Executive

D30. (D10) Campaign for a shorter working week

*Proposed by: Sean Thompson(**), Chris Hyland, Sally Thompson, Peter Murry + 2 others.*

Synopsis

The Party has a policy of reducing the length of average working hours in order to both reduce unemployment and improve the quality of life for most working people. The motion calls for the Party to make it a campaigning issue as part of a wider anti-austerity campaign.

Motion

Conference resolves that, given the levels of unemployment and the excessive hours forced on many working people, the Party shall launch a campaign on the issue for a shorter working week, as part of a wider public campaign against the government's cuts

to public services and for the creation of a million green jobs. We instruct GPEX and the Campaigns Co-ordinator to organise such a campaign during the coming year.

Section E (Draft Voting Papers)

There were no Draft Voting Papers Submitted for this Conference

Out of Order motions

The following motion was ruled out of order by the Standing Orders Committee

O01. Amend EC661 to allow the creation of debt-free money by the state

Synopsis

97% of all money in the UK is created by banks. Our government prints bank notes and coins, but private banks create electronic deposit accounts. This state of affairs drives unsustainable growth and is the root of our debt crisis. This is damaging and unnecessary, and should be changed.

Motion

In PSS, delete EC661 and replace with:

The Green Party will remove the ability of banks to create money and lodge the power and responsibility of creating new money solely with the state. New money will be created when necessary by the Bank of England, as determined by the politically-independent Monetary Policy Committee, and credited to the Government for use as Parliament sees fit (see EC676). Banks will not be able to

lend money in customer's current accounts, effectively moving to a full reserve banking system. Customers current account money will be 100% safe, as opposed to the current fractional reserve banking system where we have to bail out banks. Banks will be permitted to lend money in savings accounts that they hold on deposit for a fixed term, but only for the duration of that fixed term or notice period. The emphasis in monetary policy will be to control and redirect the creation of money towards socially and environmentally sound areas of the economy, and away from unsustainable and consumption-driven areas.

This motions was ruled out of order under conference standing orders section D part 8(i) as it was debated at Cardiff conference, less than 1 year and nine months previous.

Extract from SOCCs:

Section D:

8. Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being one or more of:

...

i) 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.

Contact details for proposers of motions

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Green Party Conference Proxy Vote Form Autumn 2012

This form has been created and approved by the Standing Orders Committee for use by members who will not be attending Conference but who wish to authorise a member who will be attending Conference to vote in any **card votes** on their behalf.

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. 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, amendments or substantive) under the following sections or motions (tick or complete one of either 1 or 2 or 3): (tick this box to validate your proxy).

1. All conference business Yes/No

2 All conference business under the following sections only:

Reports (including SOC) Yes/No

Section A motions Yes/No

Section B motions Yes/No

Section C motions Yes/No

Section D motions Yes/No

Emergency motions Yes/No

Other Yes/No

3. Specific motions only (list final agenda numbers):

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PROXY HOLDER

Name of proxy holder (Capitals)

Address

PhoneEmail

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

Proxy holder's signature Date

Bring this form to the SOC table at conference. One person can hold a maximum of FIVE proxies.

This proxy form gives the proxy holder an extra card to be exercised at the forthcoming Bristol Green Party Conference Friday 7th September – Monday 10th September 2012.

Vote holders and givers need to be national Green Party members.