

## **Creating a Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders of the Green Party**

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

- (i) After the May election
- (ii) After a period of full party-wide debate between May 2007 and October 2007.
- (iii) To facilitate such a genuine party-wide debate, Local Parties are encouraged to hold meetings to discuss the issue at which, in order to ensure members have access to informed opinion on both sides of the debates, members from outside the Local Party should be invited to address the meeting. Regional Parties should assist the process by drawing up lists of members from either side of the debate who are willing to travel (at their own expense) to other Local Parties within the region to put their case.
- (iv) Space in the timetable for Autumn Conference should be made available for debating the proposal, either in a panel debate or fringe meeting(s), at the discretion of the Conference organisers. No motion to halt or amend the referendum procedure will be permitted at that Conference.
- (v) In order to create a party-wide debate, articles will be written by the proposers and opposers of the constitutional amendment in Green World, Green Activist, and on the members' website. An opportunity for a video presentation of these minutes will be made for both proposers and opposers on the members' website. An online forum will be established for open debate.
- (vi) Local and Regional Parties will be encouraged to hold meetings to debate the amendment. GPEx, Regional and Local Parties will make every effort to compile and make speaker lists available and advertise meeting times to members.
- (vii) The referendum should ensure that the final vote can be counted and made public by the end of November 2007.

### **1 Philosophical basis**

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

We seek a society in which people are empowered and involved in making the decisions which affect them. We reject the hierarchical structure of leaders and followers. We advocate participatory and democratic politics. Leadership should always be accountable, consensus-driven, and moral.

### **2 Constitution**

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

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

- (i) There shall be a Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders of the Green Party. They shall be voting members of the Executive.
- (ii) The Leader and Deputy or Co-Leaders will be the primary public faces of the party, responsible for presenting Green Party policy and promoting its electoral activity and campaigns to the public on a daily basis.
- (iii) Candidates for Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leader shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.
- (iv) Two members of opposite sexes may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share. The post of Deputy Leader may not be held as a job share. In the event of the election of two people job sharing the Leader post, they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders', no election for Deputy Leader shall take place, and the duties, responsibilities and votes of both posts will be held by the Co-Leaders. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may

not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader.

- (v) The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders shall be elected every two years. The election shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the Party, voting to close on the Friday evening of the nearest Autumn Conference. The deadline for receipt of ballot papers returned by post may be set up to a week prior to Conference, at the discretion of the ERO. Members will be able to cast their postal ballots at Conference if they wish. A hustings will take place on the Friday of Conference. The vote may be counted and the result announced at Conference at the discretion of the ERO.
- (vi) The vote for Leader shall be counted first. Candidates for Deputy Leader of the same sex as the newly elected Leader will then be disqualified. In the event of the Leader election being won by two people standing as a job share, they shall be known as 'Co-Leaders' and no count for Deputy Leader shall take place.
- (vii) Elections for the Leader and Deputy Leader will include the opportunity for each candidate to address members through specific mailings, a party membership newsletter and web based communications. Regional parties will be encouraged to hold hustings.
- (viii) The Leader and Deputy Leader will be accountable to party committees in the same way as other members of the Executive and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Executive and GPRC.
- (ix) The Leader and Deputy Leader in exercising their duties will at all times abide by Party policy, the MfSS and Philosophical Basis.
- (x) In the event of ten per cent of the membership petitioning the Regional Council to recall the Leader or either or both of two Co-Leaders, a new election for both posts of Leader and Deputy Leader shall be held in which the current postholders shall be eligible to stand. In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader, a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members of the same sex as the current postholder shall be eligible to stand, subject to clause 8 (iii) above. The current postholders will retain their post until the result of that election.
- (xi) The Leader and Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders will present an Annual Report to Conference alongside other Executive members.
- (xii) Should the Leader or one of the two Co-Leaders resign there will be a byelection for both Leader and Deputy Leader or both Co-Leaders. Should the Deputy Leader resign, there will be a byelection for Deputy Leader. They shall serve a term lasting as if it were starting at the previous Autumn Conference, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting at the following Autumn Conference.
- (xiii) In the event of the suspension or resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of one of two Co-Leaders, the other Co-Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of both the Leader and Deputy Leader, or of both of two Co-Leaders, the Chair of GPEx shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place.

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

Clause x

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

Insert new clause xi and renumber the remaining clauses in Section 6.

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

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

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

“The Party Executive shall consist of Leader plus Deputy Leader or Co-Leaders and an additional eleven annually elected members with the following functional responsibilities:”

And replace the final paragraph

“each of whom shall be elected annually ... Further nominations will be accepted up to a new close of nominations determined by the ERO.” with:

“To distinguish between the arrangements for the Leader and Deputy Leader and Co-Leaders, and these annually elected members of the executive, they shall be referred to as the 'Annually Elected GPEX' posts or members. Elections to the Annually Elected GPEX posts shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party, voting to close within one week of the end of the annual conference, except for posts for which there are fewer than two candidates nominated by the close of nominations. Where there are fewer than two candidates, the election shall be conducted at conference, according to the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Any nominations will remain valid, but candidate’s statements may be changed by the candidate, and shall not appear with the postal ballot. Further nominations will be accepted up to a new close of nominations determined by the ERO.”

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

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

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

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

xii) In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Regional Council to recall an Annually Elected GPEX member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.

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

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

Replace 1 with:

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

(This motion has been reproduced in good faith)