



**Green Party**  
for the common good

# Final Agenda

Spring Conference 2018

Bournemouth

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## Section A – Required

### A01 Standing Orders Committee Report

**Standing Orders Committee**      soc@greenparty.org.uk  
*Andrew Hunter-Rossall, Jen Law, Martin Hemingway, Lucas North*

#### Introduction

The four members of Standing Orders Committee (SOC) that were in place at Autumn Conference have been joined by Lucas North who has been a welcome addition to the team. This team continued until January when Jill Mills resigned. SOC would like to thank her for her contribution during her time on the committee. Claire Nash has been co-opted to fill the vacancy from February until Conference.

At Autumn Conference 2017, motions D08-D14, and D16-D17 were remitted to SOC. SOC have taken the following actions in response to these motions:

- D08 – Conference Accessibility. The proposals in this motion have been passed on to Conferences Committee and SOC, who may choose to implement some or all of them at their discretion.
- D09 – Interim Policy Positions. The proposals have been passed on to the Holistic Review Commission for consideration.
- D10 – Campaigning Priorities. The proposals have been passed on to GPRC and Campaigns Committee, who may choose to implement some or all of these campaign proposals at their discretion.
- D11 Set Up a Constitutional Reform Working Group. No action taken. SOC recommend that the proposers of this motion bring it back to a future conference.
- D12 Introduce a Procedural Card to Conference Plenaries. The proposals in this motion will be considered by Conferences Committee and SOC who may choose to implement some or all of the proposals for Spring Conference 2018, at their discretion.
- D13 Parliamentary Candidates May Remain in Place Up To 18 Months After General Elections. No action taken. SOC recommend that the proposers of this motion bring it back to a future conference.
- D14 Election of Leadership Team Using STV for Ordered List. No action taken. SOC recommend that the proposers of this motion bring it back to a future conference.
- D16 Allow One-Year Members to Stand for GPEx. No action taken. SOC recommend that the proposers of this motion bring it back to a future conference.

- D17 Reform of Conference Voting Working Group Extension. No action taken. SOC recommend that the proposers of this motion bring it back to a future conference.

In response to a number of requests for the text of motions from previous conferences, SOC have worked to improve **the archive on the members website. Past conference agendas and outcomes of motions can be found under “Archive of Conference Agendas” and “Archive of Conference Outcomes”, both of which are found under Resources/ Other Party Documentation.**

In response to requests from members to open the pre-agenda forums for conferences sooner, SOC have worked with digital services to ensure that the pre-agenda forums for Autumn Conference were open well in advance of Spring Conference. We have now written in our guidance that the pre-agenda forums should be opened before the start of the previous conference.

In order to ensure a greater consistency in how SOC operates as its membership changes, **SOC have produced an “SOC Handbook” with guidance on all aspects of our work.**

**SOC have brought 3 motions to conference. Two of these aim to bring the party’s documentation in line with its practice and ensure consistency.** The third proposes a change to bring the standard for amendments from the floor in line with the standards for amendments put in advance of conference.

**It was brought to SOC’s attention in November that there were two conflicting versions of the Constitution on the members’ website** – the HTML version and the word document. SOC have compared the two versions and found 7 conflicts. The conflicts date back to various conferences from 2015 to 2017, with one version having been updated but not the other. In each case the conference outcomes have been checked, and the corrections have been made. Details of these conflicts and corrections are available on request.

### Content of the Final Agenda

There are four motions to accept reports (Section A) provided to Spring Conference. There are also two A section motions required by previous conferences. Motion A03, Disciplinary Committee Report, is accompanied by an appendix which is printed after Section F of the Agenda. This appendix contains 27 amendments. Three of these amendments have been split into parts as they amend distant parts of the document. One of the split amendments will be debated and voted upon as a single amendment.

There is one Voting Paper (Section B) at this conference, and one Draft Voting Paper (Section F).

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

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

There are 6 E motions with a total of ten amendments. The seven amendments to E04 were submitted as a single amendment but have been split as they refer to different parts of the motion and are sufficiently unrelated to be taken separately.

There are 11 organisational and other (Section D) motions, which propose changes to the way the party operates. There are seven amendments across these motions.

Where an amendment proposal related to different parts of a motion, the amendment has been split and the relevant parts linked to the relevant parts of the original motion. Where an amendment included the original text of the motion and has been placed immediately next to this original text, the duplicated text within the amendment has been removed.

13 motions proposed failed to gain the support of 12 co-proposers as required by the policy process. Two further motions were not considered as they failed to include the full and final text of the motion on the forums, as required by the policy process. These 15 motions are listed after section F of the Agenda (Appendix 2).

SOC ruled parts of five motions, one whole amendment and parts of three amendments out of order, and these are printed after section F of the Agenda (Appendix 1).

The prioritisation ballot fell into two parts: Section D 111 valid ballots, and Section E 107 valid ballots. The ballot conducted **using webforms on the members' site that only allowed one submission per user and was restricted to Green Party members only**. The ballot result was created by running successive STV elections with the same data but each time decreasing the size of the group elected by 1 thus ejecting 1 option – that is the last one on the list. This is done in ever decreasing numbers until 1 option is elected – and that is the top one on the list. The ballot data is available on the SOC section of the website: <https://my.greenparty.org.uk/node/220/resources>

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

## SECTION A

There is no prioritisation ballot for Section A as all motions and reports in this section should be heard. The reports have been ordered arbitrarily, with the exception of the SOC report which must go first, followed by the two motions, again in an arbitrary order.

## SECTION D

Motion D2 'Election of Leadership Team Using STV for Ordered List' **has been moved up from D7** as it is urgent that it is debated at this conference, in time for the next Leadership Election in Summer. If it is not debated at this conference, it would be over two years until it could have an effect.

SOC propose the Fast tracking of motions D3, D5, D10 and D11.

## SECTION E

SOC have used the order advised by the prioritisation ballot.

## SECTION F

There is one Draft Voting Papers that has derived from an Enabling Motion agreed at a previous conference. This will not be discussed in Plenary, but will have workshop time for discussion.

SOC would like to remind groups that have brought an enabling motion (EM) to Conference of the requirements that follow from this under section 4(e) of the Policy Process (Appendix 1 to SOCC). A Draft Voting Paper must be submitted to Conference within 2 years and 3 months of the passing of the EM, and a Voting Paper passed within 4 years and 3 months, or the EM will be considered to have lapsed.

### Basketing

The Appendix (Appendix 3) to Motion A03, Disciplinary Committee Report, includes 27 amendments. Some of these amendments are on related topics, and are proposed by the same members. To avoid the necessity of repeating debates, some of these amendments have been basketed. A basket of amendments will be proposed together, and debate or comments can be made about the basket as a whole or individual amendments within the basket. Each amendment is voted on separately. The baskets are as follows:

Basket 1: Includes amendments 1 (Part A and Part B), 5, 19, and 24.

Basket 2: Includes amendments 2, 4, 13, 14, and 15.

Basket 3: Includes amendments 3 (Part A), 9, and 11

Basket 4: Includes amendments 10 and 16.

Basket 5: Includes amendments 12, 17, and 18.

Basket 6: Includes amendments 20, 21, 22, and 23

Basket 7: Includes amendments 25 and 26.

The remaining amendments are not basketed.

## Late Motions

The new policy process agreed at Autumn Conference 2016 introduced a category of Late Motions for issues arising after the First Agenda deadline, up to a new Late Motions deadline. The Late Motions deadline is after the deadline for publishing the Final Agenda, so Late Motions will not be published in the Agenda. They will be advertised at conference in a similar way to Emergency Motions.

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

## Improvement of the Agenda

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

## Summaries and synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words (300 for policy papers). It is the practice of SOC to cut synopses at the appropriate length and note that this has happened.

## Original text of documents proposed for amendment

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

## Contacts for motions in this agenda

The names of those signing motions are included in each motion. The principal contact for each motion is given first, along with their contact details.

## Proxy votes

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

A member may hold a maximum of five proxy votes

## Committee Elections

Elections will take place at Conference to fill vacancies in the following committees.

3 places on Equality & Diversity Committee

2 places on Conferences Committee

1 place on Standing Orders Committee

2 places on Green World Editorial Board

1 places on Dispute Resolution Committee

1 place on Disciplinary Committee

1 place on International Committee

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

Disputes Resolution Committee have co-opted Marisa Johnson to fill a vacancy. This decision needs to be ratified by conference via this report.

Policy Development Committee would like to coopt additional members to improve the diversity of the committee, and would particularly welcome people putting themselves forward who are from an ethnic minority and/or are non-male, trans gendered and/or non-straight. They **also have gaps in their knowledge in relation to the party's policy, so would** also welcome people putting themselves forward with a good knowledge of the policy process.

### Submission of Emergency Motions – deadlines at conference

There will be Emergency Motion slots available in the timetable on Saturday and Sunday, and these will be clearly identified. There is no guarantee that any emergency motions will be heard in these slots. The deadline for handing signed emergency motions to SOC for discussion on Saturday will be 6pm on Friday, and for Sunday will be 6pm on Saturday. Emergency motions may be submitted before the start of Conference.

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

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

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

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

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

b) Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided

i) the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for Late Motions; an explicit commentary must be provided by the lead proposer which explains why the issue is an emergency including evidence that the issue has arisen or has substantially changed since the deadline.

ii) the motion is consistent with PSS (Policies for a Sustainable Society) and neither changes nor adds to the text of the PSS

iii) the motion has been proposed by a minimum of 50 individual members

iv) the motion is no longer than 250 words

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

d) An emergency motion shall not:

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

### SOC stall at conference

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

### Guidance, rulings, advice

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

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

### Rulings

#### No Platform for Population Matters

On the 29th September 2017 Peter Barnett asked for a ruling as to whether The Green Party Executive (GPEx) had the power to 'no platform' Population Matters by banning them from having a stall at Green Party of England & Wales (GPEW) Autumn Conference.

Conference is the ultimate decision making body of the party and any successful motions related to Population Matters would have authority in this matter. SOC are aware of only one relevant motion, an Emergency Motion from Spring Conference 2014, that noted:

'the presence of Population Matters at fringes and workshops creates a toxic environment, which can only make BME members feel racially targeted & not accepted

We call on conference to state that it strongly believes that the UK has an obligation to accept Syrian refugees, and that Population Matters campaign is condemned by the Green Party'

This motion was defeated at Spring Conference 2014. This, if passed, would have given grounds for the decision taken.

One of the points raised in discussion of the EM was that this was not a matter for an EM, but for a full motion to Conference.

Although the proposer of the EM brought a motion to Autumn Conference 2014 on one of the issues included in the EM, any action in relation to PM was not included.

In the absence of an explicit mandate from conference on this issue, SOC have looked at the remit of GPEX and Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) as expressed in the Constitution.

(i) The remit of GPEX is set out in the GPEW Constitution Section 7(i): it 'shall be responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party'.

(ii) the remit of GPRC is set in the GPEW Constitution Section 6(i) which lists its responsibilities inter alia as 'keeping under review the general well-being of the Party and for supporting and advising .(GPEX). particularly on matters of political strategy'

at 6(ii) it 'shall have overall responsibility for interim policy statements between Conferences'

at 6(iii) it 'shall have overall responsibility for agreed democratic procedures within the Party'

SOC are of the view that the decision to ban an organisation from presence at Conference is not related to the overall or day-to day direction of the Party.

Concerns surrounding Population Matters appear to relate to the 'well being' of the Party in terms of its political associations. The decision to 'no platform' any organisation is a policy issue and falls within the remit of Conference, and between Conferences falls to GPRC under either 6(i) or 6(ii).

SOC are of the view that any such decision should have been made by GPRC and not by GPEX, and that the decision is unconstitutional. If GPEX wish to pursue the issue then this must be by reference to GPRC for a decision.

## GPRC on GPEX Committees

On the 5th October Clare Phipps asked if the GPRC co-chairs' non-voting status set a precedent for the voting status of GPRC representatives on GPEX committees.

SOC find that the current practice, where GPRC representatives are granted voting rights, is correct. 7.x. in the Constitution (below) stipulates that such committees must include at least one member of the Regional Council making no distinction between them and other members of the committee. It is GPEX Standing Orders (paragraph 1.6) which states that the GPRC co-chairs are non-voting members of GPEX. Standing orders do not set precedent over constitutional matters.

x. The Party Executive may from time to time create such Committees as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, retaining responsibility for the conduct of such Committees and accounting for the conduct of those Committees to the Annual Conference. Any such Committee shall include at least one member of the Regional Council.

## Appointment of Regional Officers

On 19th October, Freda Davis wrote to SOC to request a ruling on GPRC's role in relation to dispute's over the appointment of regional party officers, in particular to a role that requires access to the party's membership database.

The Green Party's Constitution, sections 5(iv)-(vi) read (SOC emphasis):

iv. All Local and Regional Parties must register the following officers with Party Office:

a. One or more Nominating Officers, with the task of accepting authorisations from the National Agent to nominate candidates in the local/regional party area for elections to any level of government. This person is commonly, but need **not be, the Election Agent for some or all elections in the local/regional party's area.**

b. A Treasurer who has the legal obligation under the PPERA to maintain proper accounts for the local/regional party. They must record all donations received and submit to The Green Party Treasurer quarterly reports of donations, copies of annual accounts and any other information required to comply with government legislation.

c. A coordinator or contact person to receive general information from the national party.

d. An enquiry recipient whose telephone number can be given to members of the public.

These people must all be members of The Green Party but need not be members of the local/regional party of which they are officials. For example adjacent local parties may share some officers, or regional party officers may do some of the jobs for a local party.

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

vi. When an officer leaves their post for any reason Party Office should be informed and a replacement appointed within twenty-eight days, to enable compliance with the PPERA

Section 5(xi) of the same document reads:

xi. In the case of a dispute of any issue relating to sections (v) and (vi) above within its region the regional party should in the first instance attempt to resolve it, involving GPRC and/or DRC as appropriate.

These sections of the the Constitution make reference only to 4 specific roles, and there are no further references to roles within regional parties elsewhere in the constitution. However SOC are of the opinion that the principles in section 5(xi) apply to any other appropriate roles not listed in section 5(iv). In particular the principles of 5(xi) extend to allow GPRC and/ or DRC to be involved, as appropriate, in resolving disputes over any regional officer roles.

SOC were also asked to clarify what "powers" GPRC had in relation to such disputes.

SOC note there are formal and strict laws on data protection, and it is the responsibility of the party's Data Controller, not GPRC, to ensure compliance with Data Protection legislation.

GPRC have a formal role in disputes resolution (as governed by the Standing Orders of the Disputes Resolution Committee), and in party discipline (as governed by the Standing Orders for Party Discipline). They also have broad responsibility for "general well-being of the party" (Constitution, Section 6(i), below), and for "agreed democratic procedures within the party" (Constitution, Section 6(iii), below).

i. There shall be a Green Party Regional Council which shall provide a forum for dialogue between Regions, responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party and for supporting and advising the Green Party Executive, particularly on matters of political strategy.

iii. The Regional Council shall have overall responsibility for agreed democratic procedures within the Party.

There are no specific additional powers granted by section 5(xi) of the Constitution.

### **Suspension by Local Party**

On 4th October 2017, Alan Borgars emailed SOC to ask for a ruling regarding his suspension from Nottingham Green Party. Alan asked whether it was unconstitutional for the Nottingham Green Party to suspend him without having received a complaint, without having performed an investigation and without providing Alan with the details of the

complaint against him. Furthermore he asked whether it was constitutional for them to uphold their suspension against **the advice of GPRC and Disciplinary Committee. Finally, Alan asked if Nottingham Green Party's "vague complaints and suspension section" of its constitution was legitimate.**

SOC do not have a role in party discipline, suspension or appeal and will not be investigating any specific complaints or outcomes. As such the ruling below is limited in scope to answering the following questions:

- 1) Can a local party suspend members, under what circumstances and following what procedures?
- 2) Where there is conflict between the decisions of local parties and national bodies over the suspension of a member, can the local party uphold their decision unilaterally?
- 3) Is the complaints and suspension section of the Nottingham Green Party Constitution in conflict with the Green Party of England and Wales Constitution.

With regards to question 1, the Green Party of England and Wales constitutional documents contain no references to **local parties' power to suspend or expel members. However, membership of the local party and national party are** strongly linked. Section 4(ii) of the GPEW constitution reads:

**"ii. Membership shall be of the smallest appropriate Party. Such membership shall automatically impart membership of The Green Party, and, in each of the Regions defined in Clause 5(ii) below, membership of the appropriate Regional Party, once the national proportion of the membership has been paid."**

Suspension or expulsion of membership of a local party, therefore, would have an equivalent effect on membership of **the national party. The GPEW's governing documents only allow for two bodies to suspend or expel members;**

GPRC in the Constitution section 4(viii):

viii, The Green Party Regional Council (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Council) shall have the power to expel or suspend any person from membership and/or refuse membership to any person for a specified period if in its opinion it is in the Party's interest to do so. Where necessary to avoid or reduce the likelihood of further harm to the Party, a member under investigation may be suspended temporarily by decision of the Regional Council or those members of it empowered to act on its behalf while that takes place, but no member may be expelled without proper consideration. The Local Party shall not offer Associate Membership to any person who has been expelled from or refused membership of the Green Party.

Disciplinary Committee through the Standing Orders for Party Discipline, section 6.8:

6.8 If the Committee finds the ground of the complaint to be established it shall, taking reasonable account of all the circumstances, impose one of the three disciplinary measures of: (a) censure, (b) suspension for a fixed period, or (c)

expulsion. In circumstances where the Committee does not consider it would be fair to impose any disciplinary measure it may discharge the complaint.

SOC therefore believe that no other body can suspend or expel membership.

Local party autonomy would allow measures short of suspension and expulsion, for example banning from particular local party events, as long as these measures are not in conflict with the constitutional documents of the GPEW (including, amongst others, the Constitution, Code of Conduct and Standing Orders for Party Discipline); and as long as **these measures follow a fair process which is clearly laid out in the local party's Constitution.**

With regards to question 2, SOC note that the **Disciplinary Committee's raison d'être is to (Constitution 4(x)) "handle all complaints of a disciplinary nature which have not been resolved at Regional or Local Party level."** SOC believe that the implication here is that Disiplinary Committee must have the power to make decisions that affect local parties, and that these decisions must be upheld.

**Similarly, GPRC decisions to suspend or expel members (Constitution Section 4(viii), above) and GPRC Appeal's Subcommittee decisions (Standing Orders for Party Discipline, Section 7.1, below), must be upheld by local parties.**

7.1 The GPRC shall have a subcommittee acting as the appeals body, entitled the GPRC Appeals Subcommittee.

SOC believe that the local party decisions must not be in conflict with the national constitutional documents, and that to undermine GPRC or Disciplinary Committee decisions would be in conflict with the powers granted to GPRC and Disciplinary Committee by the Constitution and Standing Orders for Party Discipline.

With regards to question 3, **SOC note that paragraph 3.4 of the Nottingham Green Party constitution reads (SOC's emphasis):**

3.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 3.3 the party has the right and responsibility to take disciplinary action (including expulsion from the party) against any local member who the committee judges has acted against the aims and agreed policies of the party or brought it into disrepute. **Such decisions can only be made at a properly constituted, in quorum monthly meeting where advance notice of the matter has been given by the committee.**

The committee of the party may also temporarily suspend any member for the duration of any investigation being conducted into their actions, either by the party or by an external agency; or in circumstances where the committee intends to bring disciplinary charges against the member to the next possible monthly meeting of the party. Such a suspension may be made by the committee without reference to a monthly meeting of the party, however the committee must provide notification of the suspension at the next monthly meeting of the party, albeit explanation of the reasons for the suspension is not required and is at the discretion of the committee. Any member whose membership of the national party is suspended will also be suspended from the party. The national disciplinary procedures shall be used for national members.

SOC find that the emboldened sentence above is in conflict with section 4.8 of the Code of Conduct of the Green Party of England and Wales, which reads (SOC's emphasis):

"4.8 Ensure that all members are encouraged to contribute to discussion and decision-making at meetings and that everyone is listened to properly, without being interrupted unnecessarily. Decisions should be made by consensus wherever possible. **Complaints should be dealt with through a proper complaint procedure and not discussed as part of an ordinary meeting agenda.**"

It is also possibly in conflict with section 4.13 of the same document (SOC's emphasis):

"4.13 **Refrain from criticising other Party members publicly, including any situations where nonmembers may be present.** If criticism is felt to be necessary, it should be done sensitively and constructively by those given that responsibility. Criticism should be of actions and behaviour or statements etc., not of the person. Avoid labels, name calling and stigmatising a person."

Additionally, SOC note that Nottingham Green Party (NGP) does not have a local (associate) membership scheme. Members of NGP are those members of the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) residing in the geographical limits laid out in NGP's Constitution, section 3.1, which reads.

**"3.1 The membership of the party consists of all national party members resident within the geographical area of the party and those who have arranged with the national party to transfer their local membership to the party."**

SOC note that there are some confusing references in NGP's Constitution to "local members" and "national members", as well as references to "members. These are likely to have come from GPEW's model Local Party Constitution, which contains optional clauses for having separate local membership schemes, sometimes referred to as "associate membership" schemes.

**"3.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 3.3 the party has the right** and responsibility to take disciplinary action (including expulsion from the party) against any **local member** who the committee judges has acted against the aims and agreed policies of the party or brought it into disrepute. Such decisions can only be made at a properly constituted, in quorum monthly meeting where advance notice of the matter has been given by the committee. The committee of the party may also temporarily suspend any **member** for the duration of any investigation being conducted into their actions, either by the party or by an external agency; or in circumstances where the committee intends to bring disciplinary charges against the **member** to the next possible monthly meeting of the party. Such a suspension may be made by the committee without reference to a monthly meeting of the party, however the committee must provide notification of the suspension at the next monthly meeting of the party, albeit explanation of the reasons for the suspension is not required and is at the discretion of the committee. Any **member** whose membership of the national party is suspended will also be suspended from the party. The national disciplinary procedures shall be used for **national members.**"

SOC recommends that Nottingham Green Party tidy up their constitution in recognition of the fact that there is only one type of member.

SOC intend to revise the model local party constitution following this ruling.

### Retracting a Call for an EGM

On the 1st November 2017 Ann Quinn of Brighton & Hove Green Party asked whether once notice of an EGM had been given, requested by the appropriate number of members of the Party on the appropriate time scale, the meeting would have to be cancelled because one of those requesting the EGM withdrew their support for the proposal.

The constitution of Brighton & Hove GP provides that

Clause A4.3.2 (**the second clause with this number**) states that "An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by ten or more Members. Where circumstances permit (eg an EGM called specifically to amend the Party and/or Green Group Constitution). Members must advise the Secretary as least 56 days in advance of the proposed date for the EGM."

SOC assume that sentence two of the clause identifies the conditions for an EGM.

The purpose of the proposed EGM is to consider constitutional amendments which conforms with section A4.3.2 (second clause with this number) of the Brighton & Hove constitution.

Clause A.4.3.2 (**the first clause with this number**) states that "An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any time by ten or more members who must advise the Secretary. The Secretary shall arrange the EGM".

This clause indicates that once the appropriate request has been received by the Secretary they 'shall' arrange the EGM. This does not allow for anyone to withdraw their support for the proposal at a later stage.

SOC are of the view that once received by the Secretary, with the appropriate number of signatories, the meeting must go ahead.

As noted above, there are two clauses with identical numbers in the Brighton & Hove GP Constitution, and the party should consider renumbering their constitution to correct this.

### Complaints Against Bodies

On 9 th November 2017 Kat Boettge requested a ruling by email on the following question:

Which body of the party (Disciplinary Committee or GPRC) is responsible for complaints against GPEW bodies, including local parties and committees?

The response from SOC is below, highlighting and bold is by SOC for clarity.

Here are the constitutional references for this request:-

Powers of Green Party Regional Council (GPRC)

4.vii The Green Party Regional Council (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Council) shall have the power to expel or suspend any person from membership and/or refuse membership to any person for a specified period if in its opinion it is in the Party's interest to do so. Where necessary to avoid or reduce the likelihood of further harm to the Party, a member under investigation may be suspended temporarily by decision of the Regional Council or those members of it empowered to act on its behalf while that takes place, but no member may be expelled without proper consideration.

**4.xii Members have the right to appeal to the Green Party's Regional Council's Appeals Subcommittee against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee [...]**

Powers of Disciplinary Committee (DC)

4.ix There shall be a Disciplinary Committee, elected to handle **all complaints of a disciplinary nature** which have not been resolved at Regional or Local Party level.

4xiii The Disciplinary Committee and all appeals against it considered by the GPRC Appeals Subcommittee shall be governed by Standing Orders for Party Discipline, which can only be amended by a simple majority at conference.

Standing Orders of the Disciplinary Committee

3.1 The Committee shall consider complaints presented to it by the senior manager whose job description specifies the processing of complaints\* (hereinafter referred to as the Complaints Manager).

3.2 On receipt of a complaint made in writing, the member concerned (hereinafter referred to as the Defendant) must be forwarded the complaint made against him/her and a copy of these Standing Orders which contain the complaints procedure will be sent to him/her by the Complaints Manager. If the complaint is made verbally, the Complaints Manager will request that the complainant puts his/her complaint in writing.

3.4 The Complaints Manager, in consultation with and in agreement with the Chairs of GPEx and the Committee, shall be entitled to dismiss complaints with insufficient grounds as detailed in 3.3. Where complaints are dismissed, the Complaints Manager shall write **to the parties involved** detailing why the complaint fails to be valid in terms of the requirements of 3.3.

3.7 Where the complaint is submitted by a **GPEW region, branch or another officially recognised GPEW constituent body**, it will be expected that it will be accompanied by a case file. The case file should include as a minimum:

1. a summary of the case against the **Defendant(s)**
2. the date(s) of alleged breaches
3. the name(s) and local party(s) of the **Defendant(s)**
4. names and contact details of Witnesses

SOC Ruling

Constitutional evidence

The Regional Council (GPRC) has no prescribed power to handle complaints or conduct disciplinary investigations. It may only investigate appeals which occur after a disciplinary process conducted by DC has taken place. Suspensions made by GPRC are not subject to the Complaints Handling Process.

The Disciplinary Committee (DC) will handle all complaints of a disciplinary nature. There is no exception for complaints from bodies of the Party.

Standing Orders Evidence

DC Standing Orders allow for complaints brought by individuals and bodies of the party as a single complainant and they allow for complaints to be brought against individuals and groups of defendants.

Summary and Ruling

It is reasonable to interpret the Constitution and relevant Standing Orders as follows:

DC is responsible for all complaints and disciplinary matters and they cannot be devolved to GPRC. There is no distinction between individuals and bodies of the party in the disciplinary procedure.

**Loomio**

On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 Adrian Spurrell asked if GPRC votes could be taken on Loomio.

Section 6 vi. of the Constitution (below) requires GPRC to meet at least four times per year. Section 12 (below) outlines **the Party's commitment to open and accountable decision making, requiring all decision-making meetings be minuted,**

reported and open to members as observers . GPRC's standing orders 3.4 (below) requires the Regional Council to inform Party members and Local Parties of the dates of these meetings to ensure members have the opportunity to observe .

**Constitution Section 6 vi:** "The Regional Council shall meet at least four times a year."

Constitution Section 12 includes:

"ii. **The Green Party is committed to open and accountable decision-making.** The party also recognises that confidentiality is required in certain, limited circumstances.

iii. All decision-making meetings of elected and appointed Green Party bodies at national level shall be minuted, and reported to the appropriate body. It is the responsibility of each body to inform Party members of their decisions which affect them, and to answer queries about decisions promptly and without obstruction.

[...]

v: All meetings of Green Party bodies covered by (iii) shall be open to members as observers."

**GPRC Standing Orders 3.4:** "If possible, the dates of all meetings of the Regional Council shall be published at least two weeks in advance to Local Parties and they should also be published in the Party newsletter and in activists mailings."

Loomio could not substitute for decisions made at a regular GPRC meeting.

Where decisions are required between meetings, GPRC standing orders state:

**2.4 "At each of its meetings, the Regional Council shall elect from within its number three On-Call Councillors until the next Regional Council meeting. The On-Call Councillors together with the Co-Chairs will normally be empowered to take responsibility on behalf of the Regional Council for all matters not the proper business of other elected and appointed Councillors."**

And:

**3.10 "The need to address emergency issues that arise between full GPRC 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 CoChairs, if not addressed before the next full GPRC 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 GPRC Officers: two Co-Chairs and three On-call Councillors. The CoChairs 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 GPRC meeting for discussion, irrespective of agenda deadlines.**"

**In such circumstances, Loomio could reasonably considered "electronic mail" and therefore an acceptable** platform for such decisions. While not required, the Co-chairs and on-call Councillors may choose to open the decision to the other Councillors; doing so strengthens the accountability of decisions and broader consensus. SOC welcomes the use of tools, like Loomio, that allow for this without compromising efficiency. Councillors should however, be notified of the required decision and given a clear, reasonable timeframe in which to cast their vote, in accordance with the Code of Conduct (Sections 4.3 and 4.12, below).

All decisions made on Loomio must be reported to the next full GPRC meeting as required by 3.10 in the GPRC standing Orders and 12. iv. In the Constitution (below).

Members Code of Conduct:

**4.3 "Communicate with others with due consideration to time, place and manner. Acknowledge communications from others swiftly and give an expected time-scale for a full reply."**

**4.12 "Be aware when contacting other members that they may have jobs, family or other constraints on their time and be patient in expecting a response."**

**Constitution Section 12 iv: "Decisions made by procedures used between meetings of a body covered by (iii) shall be fully reported to its next meeting, which shall be deemed a meeting covered by (iii)."**

## Local Party Choice

On Friday 8th December 2017, Rich Daley emailed to request a ruling on whether it was possible –ie. constitutional- for a member to change their local party from the one assigned by the National Membership team to one of the individual member's choice.

The Constitution states that Local Party boundaries should be "defined unambiguously and in a fashion determinable from a postal address" (5 ix, below). SOC consider that the intention of this phrase "determinable by a postal address" is that a member's Local Party should be determinable only by their postal address and not by any other factors, such as personal preference.

Section 5 ix) "Each Local Party shall define its boundaries unambiguously and in a fashion that is determinable from a postal address, either by parliamentary constituency or by local authority boundary, and inform Party Office thereof. Local parties so defined may cover more than one constituency or local authority area but shall not overlap, nor shall a ward be split between two local parties."

Whilst the Constitution does not allow choice over which Local Party a member may join, it does not prevent members from being actively involved as a volunteer and supporter of another Local Party. The Constitution explicitly allows members to become officers of Local Parties of which they are not members.

Section 5 iv) includes: " These [officers] must all be members of The Green Party but need not be members of the local/regional party of which they are officials. For example adjacent local parties may share some officers, or regional party officers may do some of the jobs for a local party."

Involvement in another Local Party cannot extend to rights which are exclusive to members, such as voting rights.

## A02 Policy Development Committee report

**Policy Development Committee** Simeon Jackson [simeon@simeonjackson.co.uk](mailto:simeon@simeonjackson.co.uk)  
*Simeon Jackson, Peter Cleasby, Tamara Galloway, Mick Gregg, Robert Magowan*

### The Committee

The current Policy Development Committee took office at the Autumn 2017 Conference: Simeon Jackson (acting convenor), Peter Cleasby, Tamara Galloway, Mick Gregg and Robert Magowan. We are the first members of PDC to be directly elected by party ballot, following amendments to the party constitution. The constitution provides for up to 5 additional members to be co-opted in a non-voting capacity to improve the spread of skills and experience and the diversity of the elected committee. Although we did identify gaps within our diversity, we have not made any such co-options, since, despite our best efforts, no particular individuals have been identified who could fill those gaps. Two of us do have current or past experience of principal local authority membership.

The Policy Development Coordinator has the responsibility of convening the Committee and managing our relations with other Party committees. That post has been vacant since the Autumn Conference, a vacancy which has inevitably constrained the amount of activity we have been able to undertake. The Committee has benefited greatly from advice **from Liz Carlton, our GPRC "buddy", and from Sam Riches, the previous** Policy Development Coordinator.

We have met at roughly monthly intervals, usually by Skype conference call, though a face-to-face meeting was held in London in January.

### PolicyFest

One consequence of the Policy Development Coordinator vacancy is that no progress has been made in arranging a 2018 PolicyFest.

### Policy Working Groups

We carried out a short survey of the 30 PWGs (including emerging groups) for which we had contact details. 10 responded that they were active (Animal Protection; Population; Housing; Rural Affairs; Energy; Tax and Fiscal Policy; Climate Change; Food and Agriculture; Disability, Drugs and Asylum/Migration) and one that it was in abeyance

(Democracy and Public Administration). We are unsure whether the lack of response from other group contacts means that group is not functioning, or **just that our email has been missed by the convenor. If we don't get confirmation soon, we will be forced to cease recognising those Policy Working Groups.**

The Committee has offered support to emerging PWGs on: Asylum and Migration; Culture Media and Sport; Older People; Small Business.

PDC aims for each PWG to be allocated a liaison member of the Committee, and this process is well under way.

### Accreditation and comments on conference

No motions were accredited for this conference. We strongly encourage proposers of policy motions to seek accreditation as part of their policy development process. Accreditation provides assurance to Conference that a motion has been properly thought through, is based on good evidence and has been subject to consultation within and outwith the Party.

**The Committee's aim is to improve the quality of motions being put to Conference, as befits a serious national political party which aims to develop policies which are attractive to voters and can be put into practice in the real world.** Although there is no requirement to consult the Committee on E motions, there can be benefits in doing so, even if proposers do not wish to pursue the full accreditation. We have made it clear in our comments that no such consultation has taken place on the E motions for this Conference, and we believe that the quality of some of the motions could have been improved had such consultation taken place.

### Updating the Policy Website

We updated the policy website with the changes agreed at Autumn conference 2017. There was one inconsistency - Motion E06 Amendment 1 added some text, but then had different text included when summarised. We asked the proposer of the amendment what their intention was, which PDC then agreed to follow when updating PSS. Therefore, **the last sentence of RR506 was updated to read "The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non-romantic/sexual relationships, including carer relationships, being recognised in law with the benefits legal recognition brings."** rather than the text that did not include reference to carer relationships: "The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non-romantic/sexual relationships being recognised in law, including with regards to the legal benefits legal recognition brings."

Our attention was also alerted to PFSS being inaccurately updated from Autumn Conference 2016 with respect to motion C8 House of Lords Reform. PSS PA chapter had been partially revised, but further amendments to PSS and an entry into RoPS within the motion had not been implemented. We checked that there were no motions to Spring or Autumn 2017 conferences which would have changed this text, and, finding nothing, have made the amendments to the PSS and RoPS to reflect this motion in full.

## Policy Development Committee Superpowers

Policy Development Committee is empowered by the constitution to make minor changes to Policies for a Sustainable Society between conferences, such as updating out-of-date terminology (for instance, mention of organisations which no longer exist) and ensuring that Acts of Parliament referred to are current. Herewith are the changes that PDC has made using these powers since last conference. Conference may use this report as an opportunity to challenge each change and, if it so decides, reverse it.

We thank GPEW policy staffer Anna Smith for suggesting many of the minor amendments listed below. She also suggested some other changes that we considered to be beyond the remit of PDC to amend through the powers afforded to us by the constitution. These have been referred to the most relevant policy working group for consideration as to whether they wish to propose them as motions to future conferences.

### Old text

AR403 In the UK, close to a billion farm animals are slaughtered for food every year.

### Amended to

AR403 In the UK, over a billion farm animals are slaughtered for food every year.

### Reason

Since this motion was passed the figure has increased. Over a billion is also a non-specific figure so will not expire in a short amount of time. (Viva!, 2017) <https://www.viva.org.uk/what-we-do/slaughter/slaughter-farmed-animals-uk>

### Old text

CY509 The Ramsar Convention is a global network of wetlands for sustaining people and the environment; the UK has 168 designated sites.

### Amended to

CY509 The Ramsar Convention is a global network of wetlands for sustaining people and the environment; the UK has 174 designated sites.

### Reason

This figure was out of date. (Ramsar, 2017) <http://www.ramsar.org/wetland/united-kingdom>

### Old text

DU401 The Green Party would also introduce a complete ban on the promotion of tobacco and alcohol products, including sponsorship, advertising (direct or indirect) and product placement on remuneration or reward. This ban would also apply to any currently illegal drugs when a policy of decriminalisation or legalisation comes into effect.

#### **Amended to**

DU401 The Green Party would also introduce a complete ban on the promotion of tobacco and alcohol products, following the ban on tobacco product advertising, including and extending to sponsorship, advertising (direct or indirect) and product placement on remuneration or reward. This ban would also apply to any currently illegal drugs when a policy of decriminalisation or legalisation comes into effect.

#### **Reason**

Legislation has been created banning advertising on tobacco, but not for alcohol.

(Legislation.gov.uk, 2002) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/36/contents>

#### **Old text**

EC850 Many of the national level policies outlined here would be difficult if not impossible to pursue while the European Union pursues unsustainable and corporatist economic policies. In particular the Single Market is in direct conflict with the encouragement of self-reliant and diverse local economies; the movement towards a single currency is in conflict with the need to retain, and devolve to lower levels, independence in monetary policy; the EU requirement for common external tariffs conflicts with the proposed imposition of equivalent resource taxation for imported goods.

#### **Amended to**

EC850 Many of the national level policies outlined here would be difficult if not impossible to pursue while the European Union pursues unsustainable and corporatist economic policies, and the UK still remains a part of the European Union. In particular the Single Market is in direct conflict with the encouragement of self-reliant and diverse local economies; the movement towards a single currency is in conflict with the need to retain, and devolve to lower levels, independence in monetary policy; the EU requirement for common external tariffs conflicts with the proposed imposition of equivalent resource taxation for imported goods.

#### **Reason**

Additional clause needed to account for the possibility of Brexit.

#### **Old text**

IP201 Globalisation has led to the marginalisation of poor countries and of poorer people in the industrialised countries as the material gains from globalisation are mainly secured by the rich, especially in the northern countries, while the poorest people in the global south are getting still poorer. There is now a huge gulf between the majority of the world's people and an extremely rich and pampered global elite.

#### Amended to

IP201 Globalisation has led to the marginalisation of the least developed countries and of poorer people in developed countries as the material gains from globalisation are mainly secured by the rich, especially in developed countries, while the poorest people are getting poorer still. There is now huge inequality between the majority of the world's people and an extremely rich and pampered global elite.

#### Reason

The terminology used to categorise countries here is outdated. These have been amended to be in line with UN guidelines. (UN, 2014)

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp\\_current/2014wesp\\_country\\_classification.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf)

#### Old text

LP408 The Green Party believes that the call-in powers of the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London, and the appeals system operated by the National Planning Inspectorate, undermine local democracy and confidence in the planning system. We would therefore:

- Bind the call-in powers of the Secretary of State so that he or she cannot override decisions in compliance with an up to date and approved local plan, except where the decision relates to national strategic infrastructure projects.

#### Amended to

LP408 The Green Party believes that the call-in powers of the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London, and the appeals system operated by the National Planning Inspectorate, undermine local democracy and confidence in the planning system. We would therefore:

- Bind the call-in powers of the Secretary of State so that they cannot override decisions in compliance with an up to date and approved local plan, except where the decision relates to national strategic infrastructure projects.

#### Reason

The use of gendered language goes **against the Green Party's ethos**.

### **Old text**

NY501 We will promote and support, within the European Community, the principle of equal rights for residents (including migrant workers) and nationals, excluding the right to indefinite residence.

### **Amended to**

NY501 We will promote and support, within the European Union, the principle of equal rights for residents (including migrant workers) and nationals, excluding the right to indefinite residence.

### **Reason**

**The term "The European Community" is outdated**

### **Old text**

PP113 As the birth rate falls, and the so-called "baby boom" generation approaches retirement, the population will be one with a higher proportion of the elderly and very elderly.

### **Amended to**

PP113 The UK demography is characterised by a high proportion of the elderly and very elderly

### **Reason**

The information here is out of date and the original text refers to things that have already happened. To avoid the possibility of replacing an out of date statistic with one that we did not have solid evidence for, or introducing a concept which was not mentioned in the original motion, we have taken the approach of providing the bare minimum factual information that is necessary to contextualise the subsequent paragraphs.

### **Old text**

RA100 There are millions of recognised refugees in the world today, the overwhelming majority in Third World countries.

### **Amended to**

RA100 There are millions of recognised refugees in the world today, the overwhelming majority in the least developed and developing countries.

### **Reason**

**The use of 'third world' to describe countries is severely outdated. The suggested changes are based on the categorisations used by the UN. (UN, 2014)**

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp\\_current/2014wesp\\_country\\_classification.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_current/2014wesp_country_classification.pdf)

#### **Old text**

ST370 Technological aid to the third world should be appropriate and should avoid exploitation and the generation of dependency. The validity of local knowledge and techniques should be acknowledged, and self-reliance encouraged (see IP222). We will enable benign technologies to be freely transferred to third world countries.

#### **Amended to**

ST370 Technological aid to developing countries should be appropriate and should avoid exploitation and dependency. The validity of local knowledge and techniques should be acknowledged, and self-reliance encouraged (see IP222). We will enable benign technologies to be freely transferred to developing countries.

#### **Reason**

As above.

#### **Old text**

RA406 ... Green Party further recognises that gender issues may be a rightful cause for an asylum claim, as where, for example, a woman or girl may be subject to female genital mutilation or forced marriage were she to be denied asylum. We will adopt...

#### **Amended to**

**RA406 ... Green Party further recognises that gender issues may be a rightful cause for an asylum claim**, as where, for example, a person may be subject to female genital mutilation or forced marriage were they to be denied asylum. We will adopt...

#### **Reason**

**The use of gendered language goes against the Green Party's ethos.**

## A03 Disciplinary Committee Report

**Disciplinary Committee** Ann Forsaith

[annforsaith@gmail.com](mailto:annforsaith@gmail.com)

*Leo Littman, Richard L Peacocke, John Coyne, Florence Pollock, Jim Norris, Melina Lafirenze*

Disciplinary Committee met three times since the writing of the report for Autumn Conference 2017.

DC has given three fixed-term suspensions, one note of censure, referred one complaint back to the region, and dismissed five complaints.

An important but **lengthy part of our work has been the revision of our Standing Orders. Barrister's advice received in 2016** indicated that our processes are essentially sound. However, several recommendations were made. Other recommendations of relevance to DC came from a GPRC investigation last year. These improvements in practice have now been incorporated into our Standing Orders, together with other minor changes. The only major alteration is in the provision of a new Complaints Referral Group. Clause 3.4 in the original Standing Orders did not work as well as was envisaged, and led to delays in the process. The revised Standing Orders provides for much more robust procedures, ensuring that complaints are managed swiftly and fairly. These Standing Orders are included in the appendices [SOC Note: Appendix 3]. We ask that they be adopted by Conference.

Currently only seven of the eleven DC positions are filled; giving an unsustainable workload to current members. We urge Conference, and those Regions which do not currently have a DC member, to do everything in their power to encourage members with the necessary interest and skills to stand for Disciplinary Committee.

## A04 Disputes Resolution Committee Report

**Disputes Resolution Committee** Bernard Ekbery

[Bernard.ekbery@gmail.com](mailto:Bernard.ekbery@gmail.com)

*Chit Chong, Ed Carey, Marisa Johnson*

This report has been drafted by the convenor and agreed nem con by the committee. If you want to know more about DRC's work, please contact the convenor.

DRC does conflict resolution and is *\*not\** a disciplinary tribunal. We work confidentially and impartially with all sides in a dispute in a consensus based voluntary process to find a mutually acceptable resolution of the conflict. We are entirely separate from Disciplinary Committee. Sometimes they refer a complaint to us for dispute resolution if those involved consent. It is an entirely free service but it is provided by a small committee of 5 volunteer Green Party members elected by Conference.

Casework

Since our report to Autumn Conference (written over 5 months ago) we have:

- remained fully available to those needing our assistance;
- continued to work on 2 existing dispute resolution processes;
- had & responded to 4 new contacts requesting advice or assistance;

This makes 6 disputes on which we either did work to resolve or provided advice in the last 5 months.

Since 25/08/17:

- from the 4 new contacts, we opened 3 new cases;
- we were able to start dispute resolution processes in 2 of those;
- 2 dispute resolution processes have been closed, unresolved;

State of play: as of 2nd of February we have 2 open, active dispute resolution processes.

#### Committee

Only 3 people were elected at Autumn Conference. (2 vacancies will be up for election this Conference.) We are pleased that experienced mediator Marisa Johnson, who had already volunteered to be on a mediators register, agreed to be co-opted and has become a full working member of the committee until Conference. Our new GPRC 'Friend' is Liz Carlton. We continue to meet by Skype occasionally and use Loomio and email and so incurred very few expenses in 2017.

#### Other work

- We provided training in mediation over 2 sessions at Autumn Conference, attended by around 20 people, which was well received; thanks go to Ed Carey for leading on that;
- We will be looking at holding a one off training day in between Conferences on dispute resolution, for regional and local party dispute resolution post holders;
- Work on developing model disciplinary and dispute resolution procedures for regional parties will continue, led by Disciplinary Committee, with input from Standing Orders Committee;
- There is interest in developing local party model procedures too, which DRC would be able to assist with; a D motion, if passed, would require that this happens;
- Disciplinary Committee's review of its standing orders includes a proposal for DRC to become part of a Referrals Group that would determine what route each disciplinary complaint will follow, eg to be investigated by Disciplinary

Committee or dealt with elsewhere. We were not consulted beforehand and would be concerned if this led to members starting to lose trust in DRC as a neutral and impartial place to go to for help with a dispute;

- DRC took a vote on the Referrals Group proposal...none were opposed. We decided it is workable, but it should be made clear that DRC works impartially, and we will let Conference decide this issue. We would also say that we ought to welcome any encouragement to disputants to consider alternative dispute resolution routes, but that it should be made clear at all times the voluntary and impartial nature of the process, and that it also requires a commitment on the part of disputants to take ownership of the issues and work towards realistic resolutions.

- the Comprehensive Review of the Code of Conduct has been developed into a comprehensive A motion to this Conference now called Framework for Ethics & Conduct; the project is taking the form of a consensus building process, currently being coordinated by the convenor of DRC; all affected groups are planned to be consulted and involved and an amendment related to this is expected.

## A05 Solutions towards a radical reform of the way the Green Party of England and Wales makes its decisions

**Reform of Conference Working Group** Nicole Haycock [nicolehaydock@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolehaydock@yahoo.com)

*Adrian Spurrell, Brian Candeland, David Wild, Glyn Heath, Jenny Rust, Karen Wood, Mary Sarus, Mike Shipley, Oliver Dowding, Paul Weaver, Peter Barnett, Peter Murry, Rob Grant, RoseMary Warrington, Will Patterson*

### Synopsis

Having carried out part of its mandate as set by the Autumn 2016 Conference, the Reform Conference Voting Working Group now seeks Conference's approval to move onto the next phase of the implementation of its remit, and an extension of time in which to complete its work.

### Motion

1. Conference instructs the Reform Conference Voting Working Group and the Internal Communications and Digital teams to organise and carry out a non-binding vote of the whole of the membership within two months from the end of this conference. The aim of this non-binding vote is to establish a consensus around a particular proposed basic model or a combination of two or more.

The proposed basic models as outlined on the members' site and as presented at the last two conferences are as follows:

- Delegates/representatives conferences
- Online/postal voting when conference opinion is divided
- Regional conferences followed by one Annual Congress with indicative online voting
- Online voting plus conference

- The "status quo" will also be an option on the non-binding ballot.

Further explanations and detailed feasibility studies for each of the four models are provided in the Appendices section of the Final Agenda. *(SOC Note: Appendix 4)*

2. In view of the recent emergence of the welcome Holistic Review Commission, Conference agrees to extend the mandate of the Reform Conference Voting Working Group by 6 months, so that it will expire at the end of Autumn Conference 2019.

## A06 Framework for Ethics and Conduct

Bernard Ekbery [bernard.ekbery@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.ekbery@gmail.com)

*Adrian Spurrell, Angela Faulds, Ann Forsaith, Bill Walton, Chloe Summers, Dorothy Wilson, Emma Randall, Ewan Jones, Freda Davis, Gerhard Lohmann-Bond, Ian Tysh, Jenny Rust, John Coyne, Kathryn Driscoll, Liz Carlton, Liz Reason, Louis Williams, Martin Blake, Oliver Dowding, Paul Jeater, Peaceful Warrior, Rachel Featherstone, Rob Grant.*

### Synopsis

Conference instructed GPRC and others to conduct a comprehensive Review of the Members Code of Conduct and bring forward proposals by this Conference.

This motion sets out proposals for steps to be taken to complete development of the new Code, as well as its likely contents, shape and modus operandi.

### Motion

#### 1. Blueprint & Road Map

Conference approves and authorises the completion of the Comprehensive Review of the Members Code of Conduct (MCOC). Conference directs that the Review be guided by the Aims, Principles, Format, Contents & Steps set out in the attached Appendix *[SOC note – Appendix 5]*, which is to develop an overall Framework for Ethics & Conduct within the Green Party of England & Wales. These markers are to be considered as a blueprint or road map for the body responsible for completing the Review to follow.

#### 2. Framework Development Group

Conference authorises and directs that a Framework Development Group be given the sole responsibility for carrying forward the Comprehensive Review of the Members Code of Conduct, which was a responsibility previously assigned to GPRC.

2.1 The group that was formed by GPRC to Review the MCOC is currently called the 'Core Group'. That will be renamed the Framework Development Group.

2.2 The Framework Development Group will follow the Aims, Principles, Format, Contents & Steps as set out in the attached Appendix.

2.3 The Framework Development Group's remit will continue to be to involve input from local and regional parties, individual members, groups within the party, Disputes Resolution Committee, Disciplinary Committee and relevant staff. In addition there should also be input from relevant members of GPEx and from GPRC.

2.4 As part of this Review will involve references to disciplinary actions or other ramifications for code violations, input from members with a special interest in the impact of such measures will be sought.

2.5 On this motion being passed by Conference, the Framework Development Group will discuss and agree with GPEx appropriate allocations of resources to support its work and the Review process.

2.6 The Framework Development Group will aim to bring to Spring Conference 2019 a completed, Reviewed Draft (Step 3 in the Appendix) ready for approval by Conference, after which Step 4 Formally Adopting the Framework could take place.

## Section B – Voting Papers

### B01 Energy Policy Voting Paper

**Energy Policy working Group** Ceri Jones [cerirhysjones@gmail.com](mailto:cerirhysjones@gmail.com)

*Clive Semmens, David Flint, Ewan Jones, Gavin Andrews, Linda Lennard, Liz Reason, Tony Firkins*

#### Synopsis

The following replaces the existing Energy Policy Chapter in the PSS and amends coverage of energy policy in other chapters of the PSS.

#### Motion

Delete existing Energy Policy chapter (<https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ey.html>) of the PSS and replace with:

EN001 The aim is a decarbonised energy system based on efficient use of electricity and heat from renewable sources within the UK providing security of supply and replacing fossil fuels.

EN002 Producing and using energy is a major source of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore the energy system must address the temperature targets of the 2015 Paris agreement on Climate Change and targets in the Climate Change chapter, taking into account fairness within and between nations.

EN003 The principal objective is to decrease overall energy use to the minimum possible through improved efficiencies, changes in materials and reductions in overall consumption.

EN004 Democratic control of the energy system will be enhanced, together with fair, affordable and equal access to energy and the goods and services it provides.

EN005 Transformation of the energy system will bring with it significant health benefits, improved social well-being and environmental safeguards. The positive economic effects on employment and across all sectors of the economy will be maximised.

EN006 Changes to the energy system will take into account population growth and demographic change, changing behaviour patterns, changes in transport and assist adaptation to changing weather and climate.

EN007 Central and local government will collaborate in developing energy plans in consultation with local communities and businesses, setting energy and emission targets for buildings, industry and transport to encourage very low carbon energy use.

#### Power

EN010 In line with the move from fossil fuels, clean electricity generation will be substantially increased, based primarily on renewable, very low carbon sources with offshore wind as a major source, supported by onshore wind, marine, solar photo-voltaic, biofuels (with combined heat) (CHP) and hydro power.

**EN011 Continuity of supply will be ensured by using the UK's renewable energy sources and a variety of storage technologies, links to other countries' grids and minimal use of natural gas to balance demand and supply, and consistent with meeting demand in real-time.** Surplus electricity will be transformed into heat and gas and stored (power to gas), or exported.

EN012 Carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure, including a network, will be established to ensure decarbonisation of power supply by natural gas, assist industrial decarbonisation, and as a basis for future carbon sequestration.

EN013 Change in the organisation of energy transmission and distribution will be accelerated to cater for increases in dispersed energy sources, demand side management and storage.

EN014 Nuclear power, coal and incineration of waste will be phased out.

EN015 Biofuels will be sustainably sourced within the UK (see Forestry policy).

## Buildings

EN020 Large-scale refurbishment programmes will be carried out to greatly increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings.

EN021 Heating of buildings will be transformed by the use of solar thermal, heat pumps, biofuels (with combined power) (CHP), stored heat, hydrogen and electricity; the use of natural gas for heating will be phased out entirely.

EN022 New buildings will be built to energy efficient very low carbon standards.

## Industry

EN030 Industrial processes will be transformed to be more efficient; renewable heat and very low carbon electricity will be prioritized over the use of fossil fuels.

EN031 Change to low carbon energy processes will be encouraged by incentives to avoid long-term lock-in of high-carbon technologies.

EN032 Use of the CCS infrastructure, established for power, will be encouraged where removal of fossil fuel energy is not practical.

### Transport

EN040 Walking, cycling, rail and public transport will be the main substitute for car travel (see Transport chapter).

EN041 Cars and vans, and later HGVs, will become increasingly based on ultra-low emission engines using batteries and fuel cells (utilizing power to gas); electrification will proceed in step with deployment of clean energy sources.

EN042 Electrification of rail, coach and bus services will continue.

EN043 Energy efficiency standards for internal combustion engine vehicles will be set reflecting real life conditions, and progressively tightened.

EN044 Air travel will be radically discouraged.

EN045 Greater efficiency in sea transport will be encouraged to minimise energy use per tonne/km.

### Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D)

EN050 Research will be continued into the best technologies and processes to address the energy system considering cost, timescale, governance and function.

EN051 Substantial RD&D will be made available to promote large-scale cost-effective deployment especially for marine power, energy storage, building energy performance improvements including insulation, techniques and technologies, HGVs, CCS and shipping.

### Skills and Training

EN060 The workforce needed to implement these changes will be developed through extensive national and local programmes covering construction, transport, manufacturing and energy at all skill levels and to the wider public.

### Social Well Being and Health

EN070 Fuel poverty will be addressed by a comprehensive range of policies, including home energy improvements, and related policies on income, health, and housing as well as and energy pricing and regulation.

## Finance

EN080 A carbon tax will be applied at a level high enough to encourage the shift from fossil fuels to renewables at the speed and scale required.

EN081 Transformation of the energy system at the right speed and scale will require funding from general taxation, in combination with private finance; all fossil fuel subsidies will be removed.

EN082 Incentives will address particular challenges in the energy system, including HGVs and industrial plant.

EN083 Partnership between energy users and producers will be encouraged in order to assist energy management at all levels.

EN084 Financial instruments to assist efficiency measures will be developed.

## Legislation and Regulation

EN090 Regulation will play a large part in ensuring each sector of the economy is energy efficient and to ensure the deployment of very low carbon devices and systems.

EN091 Regulations will ensure all new buildings are built to the best energy and carbon performance standards and are monitored in use.

EN092 Wildlife, landscape and heritage will be safeguarded and air quality improved as the energy system changes.

EN093 Existing policy frameworks will be reviewed, and following consultation, will be changed to reflect the increased ambition.

EN094 Fair competition will be ensured to encourage diversity of ownership of the energy system including public, municipal and community schemes.

EN095 Energy regulation will be aimed at helping to achieve environmental and social objectives, and a fair and accountable energy sector.

## International

EN110 Border tariffs and bans will be applied to discourage and avoid imports of products with high embodied energy/emissions.

EN111 Transfer of leading UK energy technologies around the world will be ensured, and international action promoted to ensure higher efficiency standards.

EN112 The UK will take a leading part in capacity-building in developing countries as part of international aid, as well as in international efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

### Related Policies

EN120 Energy policy is also covered in the following chapters of the PSS:

- Climate Change
- Countryside
- Economy
- Education
- Europe
- Food and Agriculture
- Forestry
- Housing - Industry
- International
- Local Planning and the Built Environment
- Marine and Coastal
- Natural Resources and Waste Management
- Pollution
- Population
- Science and Technology
- Tourism
- Transport

In the Food and Agriculture chapter

In FA730 which currently reads:

FA730 There is potential for plants to provide many of the raw materials currently derived from fossil fuels, for instance building materials, textiles and industrial chemicals. On a small and local scale, wood and agricultural wastes can be used efficiently as fuels or for biogas generation.

Delete the second sentence.

In FA731 which currently reads:

FA731 Biofuel and bio-energy crops, however, generally represent an inefficient use of land resources and are usually in direct competition with the use of agricultural land for food, threatening food security. Environmental and social impacts are greatest in poorer countries.

**In the first sentence replace “are usually” with “can be”. After the second sentence add “These concerns need to be balanced with other policy priorities.”**

So that it now reads:

FA731 Biofuel and bio-energy crops, however, generally represent an inefficient use of land resources and can be in direct competition with the use of agricultural land for food, threatening food security. Environmental and social impacts are greatest in poorer countries. These concerns need to be balanced with other policy priorities.

Delete FA741 which currently reads:

FA741 Within Europe and the UK the Green Party calls for a suspension of all biofuel targets, incentives and subsidies until clear environmental and human rights standards for biofuel production accompany such targets. We call for an immediate moratorium on biofuels from large-scale monocultures and genetically modified crops.

Remove EN reference from FA740

**In the Housing chapter**

In HO410 c, which currently reads:

HO410 c) Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions in line with policies in EN122, and design to avoid overheating during summer months without reliance on energy intensive cooling systems, taking account of projections for our changing climate.

Delete "in line with policies in EN122,"

In HO413 which currently reads:

In "HO413 Raising all existing homes to adequate standards of water and energy efficiency is a national priority. So housing strategies should set out how intensive retrofit programmes outlined in EN121 will be delivered, aligned with the local energy plan (see EN112)."

Delete "outlined in EN121".

Remove EN references from

HO405, HO406, HO411, HO413

In the Industry chapter

In IN211 which currently reads:

IN211 Some UK industrial sectors - such as those which are most polluting, resource and energy intensive - must reduce in scale. The practice of 'picking winners' based on UK financial comparative advantage or economy of scale has resulted in our economy being concentrated on specific sectors, leaving us gaps in skills and lower resilience. The UK must take responsibility for the social and environmental impacts of what is produced in the UK and also shipped for consumption in the UK. This is likely to mean reducing imports and relocalising production where this will reduce environmental/social impacts. This will reflect targets in the Climate Change, Energy and Natural Resource Chapters of the PSS (See Links). Some industries are important but must be radically altered, for example, the defence and chemical industries (see PD312-PD313). Other industries can never be sustainable and must be phased out, for example, the nuclear industry (see Energy Policy).

Delete ", Energy" from 5th sentence so that the 5th sentence reads

This will reflect targets in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Chapters of the PSS (See Links).

In IN604 which currently reads:

IN604 Some industries provide for basic human needs and are so crucial to the well-being of society that the community must hold a stake in them. Industries which must be returned to public ownership include the NHS, the water industry (see NR428), the railways (see TR230), and the gas and electricity supply industries (with the exception of small-scale renewable energy initiatives).

Delete all after "TR230), " and replace with:

**"and the electricity and gas transmission and distribution industries."**

### In the Local Planning and Built Environment chapter

Remove EN reference from LP403.

### In the Marine and Coastal chapter

Delete MC370, MC371 and MC372 which read:

MC370 Waters surrounding the UK are prime sites for overseas investment to the offshore renewable energy industry. Offshore wind, wave and tidal stream projects will be encouraged in order to meet carbon emission targets and secure our energy supplies. Marine energy projects require capital if the UK is to retain its global technical and market lead and attract private sector investment, which would allow the industry to generate a significant percentage of our energy needs as well as creating jobs.

MC371 Marine oil and gas exploration and production result in inputs of oil and hazardous chemicals, the mobilisation of natural radionuclides (radiation hazards) and trace metals, (potentially toxic to marine life), and disruption to life on the sea bed and to fisheries and are therefore hugely damaging to the marine environment. In addition, the burning of oil and gas are major contributors to climate change, and therefore their continued exploitation is unsustainable.

MC372 The development of renewable forms of energy provision, such as off-shore wind and marine energy (wave and tidal stream power) will be a priority. This will be achieved through:

The development of capital and revenue support mechanisms (including both direct financial investment as well as the issuance of Renewables Obligation Certificates or Feed-in Tariffs) in close consultation with UK trade associations;

Empowering the UK Marine Energy Programme Board to engage directly at ministerial and official level with departments responsible for energy, climate change, business, and crucially HM Treasury, regarding public investment and economic development from the sector;

Ensuring that the UK Green Investment Bank provides debt finance and performance bonds to offshore wind farms and near-commercial scale marine energy arrays that would otherwise not be able to raise debt finance and/or performance bonds from commercial banks;

Investigating ways in which marine energy infrastructure could be co-located with conservation sites, to ensure both the protection of marine biodiversity and provision of sustainable energy.

In MC378 which currently reads:

MC378 The Green Party is in favour of harnessing the potential of tidal energy at estuaries subject to environmental and sustainability criteria being met. See EN213 for more information.

Delete 2nd sentence from MC378.

In the Natural Resources and Waste Management chapter:

Remove EN reference from NR413

Background:

<https://my.greenparty.org.uk/sites/my.greenparty.org.uk/files/webform/Energy%20Policy%20V0.6%207.12.17%20wo%20bars-1.docx>

## Section D - Organisational

### D01 Act at local and national levels to defend NHS Comprehensive Healthcare For All

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*Andrew Cooper, Ann Forsaith, Annette Pearson, Chrissie Parker, Clive Lord, Craig Nicol, David McKechnie, Freda Davis, Katherine Horner, Martin Blake, Netti Blackwell, Robert Mack, Shirley Ford, Simon Duffy, Steven White*

#### SOC Note

A fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order.

#### Synopsis

In April, several Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships will become Accountable Care Systems - an **NHS and social care organisation based on the USA's Medicare business model** - that would end comprehensive healthcare for all, hasten two tier health and social care, increase privatisation and potentially enable private companies to control the NHS.

#### Motion

Conference recognises that Accountable Care Systems would undermine these core NHS principles and practices by ending comprehensive healthcare for all, hastening two tier health and social care, increasing privatisation and potentially enabling private companies to control the NHS.

Conference further recognises that the Secretary of State intends to evade Parliamentary scrutiny and debate about Accountable Care Systems and Organisations, by using statutory instruments for required regulatory and legislative changes, to be completed by March 2018.

Conference therefore calls on all Green Party members, candidates, councillors, MP and MEPs to take vigorous and concerted action in their public, council and Parliamentary roles to protect comprehensive healthcare for all, stop the formation of Accountable Care Systems and Organisations, and insist to local and central government and NHS organisations that we still live in a democracy and we will not let our government act like a dictatorship.

### D02 Election of Leadership Team Using STV for Ordered List

Shahrar Ali [shahrar.ali@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:shahrar.ali@greenparty.org.uk)  
*Adrian Williams, Aimee Challenor, Clare Phipps, Dee Searle, Les Levidow, Noel Lynch, Peter Murry, Ricky Knight, Ronald Stewart, Sabrina Poole, Sarah Thin, Scott Bartle, Sean Mulcahy, Simon Ashley Cross*

## Synopsis

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

## Motion

In constitution:

Delete 8.iv:

The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined.

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

Replace with new 8.iv:

Candidates standing as individuals for the leadership team may stand simultaneously for leader, co-leader or deputy.

Candidates may stand as a job-share, whereby a role otherwise carried out by one person is split between more than one. Job-shares shall be treated as a single candidate. Each successful candidate will have one vote on GPEx (with those standing as job-shares exercising this right as per the GPEx standing orders).

Whether standing for selection as an individual or as a job-share, all candidates should submit a single nomination, and no more than one.

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

### Amendment 1.

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Aimee Challenor, Kirsty Jones, Catherine Love, Ronald Stewart, Phillip Vabulas, RoseMary Warrington*

In the new section 8iv, delete: "such that at least one of the three must be of a different gender (as self-determined)", so that the full paragraph now reads:

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

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

To existing 8.v:

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

Add the following:

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

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

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

Delete the second sentence of 8(ix):

In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader(s), a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members of the same sex as the current postholder shall be eligible to stand, subject to clause 8 (iii) above.

Replace with:

In the event of a similar petition to recall the Deputy Leader(s), a new election for that post only will be held, in which the current postholder and other members shall be eligible to stand so long as their election would enable the gender balance rule for the top three and any additional rules in place as determined by GPRC to be met, subject to clause 8(iii) above.

Delete the first two sentences of 8.xi:

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

Replace with:

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

Delete current 8xii.

In the event of the suspension or resignation of the Leader, the Deputy Leader(s) shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of one of two Co-Leaders, the other Co-Leader shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place. In the event of the suspension or resignation of both the Leader and Deputy Leader(s), or of both of two Co-Leaders, the Chair of GPEx shall have the position of Acting Leader until a new election has taken place.

## D03 Interim Policy Positions

*[Proposed for fast-tracking]*

Sam Riches [sandwiches@hotmail.com](mailto:sandwiches@hotmail.com)

*Adrian Spurrell, Colin Bertram, David Wild, Emma Randall, Gina Dowding, John Riches, Liz Carlton, RoseMary Warrington, Rosie Morgan, Simeon Jackson, Stephen Dickinson*

### Synopsis

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

## Motion

### Subsection 1.

(a) Delete the word 'interim' from the Constitution at section 6.ii

Current wording:

'The Regional Council shall have overall responsibility for interim policy statements between Conferences.'

New wording:

'The Regional Council shall have overall responsibility for policy statements between Conferences.'

(b) Insert into the Constitution a new clause, at 13. vii.:

'Interim Policy Positions.

Political Committee are enabled to propose Interim Policy Positions on a specific issue provided:

- a) Policy Development Committee agree that there is no relevant policy in Policies for a Sustainable Society on this issue;
- b) **The Regional Council agree that there is urgency to provide clarity on the Green Party's position on this issue.**

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

Proposed text is sent to the Regional Council for interim ratification as urgent business through the provisions of the Rapid Policy Approvals Process. The text of all Interim Policy Positions will be published on the members' website in a dedicated Interim Policy Positions forum. This will have the same effect as raising a topic in the pre-agenda forum as a necessary prelude to proposing a policy motion to the next Conference.

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

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

## Subsection 2.

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

## D04 Change Green Party Messaging

Gerhard Lohmann-Bond [Lohmann-Bond@live.de](mailto:Lohmann-Bond@live.de)

*Alan Borgars, Clive Lord, David Wild, Jonathan Hornett, Katharina Boettge, Martin Blake, Mike Shipley, Paul Woodhead, Peaceful Warrior, Rodrigo Capucho Paulo, Steve Miller, Susan Jones*

*PDC Comment: This motion appears to define "core values" within this motion that are not the official core values of GPEW (<https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/core-values.html>). We recommend clarification to ensure members are aware they are not actually changing our core values through this motion.*

## SOC Note

A fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order.

## Synopsis

Having regard to the collapse of the Green vote in 2017, conference instructs GPex to commission two reports **on a change in messaging, returning to the Party's core ecological issues, and bearing in mind that** constituencies which escaped the trend were in Conservative heartlands.

## Motion

Conference proposes a change in message so that the Green Party sounds like an Ecological Party that emphasises how radical policies will build a more equal and peaceful society that allows all to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

## Amendment 1.

*Sean Mulcahy, William Quick, Sabrina Poole, Benedict Allbrooke, Samantha Bristow*

That the following text be deleted from the motion:

'sounds like an Ecological Party that'

Conference therefore instructs GPex to provide research and resources in the form of talking points and background to the talking points, to Party members generally and especially our representatives. The purpose of this briefing is to help them emphasise and explain ecological themes and bring ecological issues into discussion of topics not normally associated with them.

Ecological themes and issues are those which relate to our core values:

**The Earth's physical resources are finite. We threaten our future if we live beyond these means. We must build a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future.** This research should prioritize the themes of;

1. The possibility that climate change may be abrupt, and therefore an emergency, due to positive feedback.
2. Sustainability as the foundation of a Green economy.

#### Amendment 2.

*Simeon Jackson, Sabrina Poole, Sean Mulcahy, Sam Riches, Doug Rouxel, Aimee Challenor*

Delete the colon after "core values" and replace with a full stop.

Delete "The Earth's physical resources are finite. We threaten our future if we live beyond these means. We must build a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future." from the following paragraph.

**This research will take the form of a 'Talking Points' report which GPex will present to [the next conference].**

Conference also mandates GPex to commission an investigation by a committee of appropriate personnel as to which constituencies we should focus on using this new approach. Special note should be taken of the excellent result in the Isle of Wight, and to a lesser extent in Hertfordshire North East.

**This report, called the 'Target Report' will also be presented to [the next conference], and will run in parallel with the 'Talking Points' report, with co-operation between those working on the two reports**

D05 Updating diversity targets and using gender neutral language

*[Proposed for fast-tracking]*

Sean Mulcahy [sean\\_mulcahy@hotmail.com](mailto:sean_mulcahy@hotmail.com)  
*Aimee Challenor, Denis Walker, Jeuan Hall, Karen Varga, Kathryn Driscoll, Mollie Scharaschkin, Molly Gerlach-Arthurs, Nate Higgins, Richard Firth, Sabrina Poole, Teresa Ravenshaw, Thomas Hill*

## SOC Note

A fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order.

## Synopsis

This motion would:

- ensure gender neutral language throughout the constitution
- ensure gender neutral language in diversity targets whilst maintaining equitable representation of gender
- remove equivocal language from diversity targets and replace with absolute language
- ensure that diversity targets and enforcement mechanisms apply to European elections

## Motion

*(SOC Note: Proposed changes have been emboldened by SOC for clarity)*

Amending the following clauses of the Constitution as follows:

Current 5(xix):

The Elections and Equality and Diversity Coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local and regional parties to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to 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. A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the GPEx report to conference after each relevant election.

Amend to read:

The Elections and Equality and Diversity Coordinators on the Green Party Executive will be tasked with working with local and regional parties to promote the training and conditions within the Green Party to enable it to **achieve an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates in** PR elections such as European elections and at General election. Taking into account the need to put forward effective candidates, they will work with local/regional/national parties to ensure that:

- a) women (**cisgender and transgender**) comprise at least 50% of candidates selected to stand for winnable seats; and

- b) transgender and non-binary people comprise at least 1% of candidates selected to stand across all seats and are supported to stand in winnable seats.

A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the GPEX report to conference after each relevant election.

Current clause 1 of the 'Selection of candidates for the House of Commons' bylaw:

GPEW will set targets for the proportion of candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self-identified gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, age, and sexual orientation based on their respective proportion of the England and Wales population. The Elections Coordinator will report on this to conference. If targets are not met, the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to conference.

Amend to read:

GPEW will set targets for the proportion of candidates and proportion of target candidates in respect to self-identified gender (**including non-binary people**), race, disability, socio-economic status, age, and sexual orientation based on their respective proportion of the England and Wales population. The Elections Coordinator will report on this to conference. If targets are not met, the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to conference.

Current clause (v)(d) of the 'Selection of party lists' bylaw:

The Green Party shall work on a basis of 50%+ of all candidates on regional lists not defining as male, and a proportion of the list being from a black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background. This proportion should be representative of the region's demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for BAME candidates. If after this time no eligible candidate puts themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota.

Amend to read:

The Green Party shall **have an equitable representation of gender amongst candidates on regional lists**, and a proportion of the list being people from a black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background, **people with a disability, people of lower socio-economic status, young people and LGBTIQ+ people**. This proportion should be representative of the region's demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for candidates that meet **the required diversity**. If after this time no eligible candidate puts

themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota **and the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet the quota in future elections as part of their report to conference.**

Current clause 5(iii) of the 'Selection of nomination for the House of Lords bylaw:

The panel shall interview the candidates and write a report for which will be circulated with the ballot papers and the candidates' statements to the members. On receipt of the report, the voters shall vote on the STV system with provision for negative voting (Reopen Nominations). Balloting of the voters may be timed to coincide with a due mailing of the membership and to allow hustings at conferences.

Amend to read:

The panel shall interview the candidates and write a report for which will be circulated with the ballot papers and the candidates' statements to the members. **The report should note the diversity of the candidates, where the candidate consents to make this information public.** On receipt of the report, the voters shall vote on the STV system with provision for negative voting (Reopen Nominations). Balloting of the voters may be timed to coincide with a due mailing of the membership and to allow hustings at conferences.

## D06 Amendments from the Floor to be Approved by SOC

**Standing Orders Committee** Andy Hunter-Rossall [a.hunter.rossall@gmail.com](mailto:a.hunter.rossall@gmail.com)  
*Jen Law, Lucas North, Martin Hemingway*

### Synopsis

This motion amends the SOCC to allow SOC to rule all amendments from the floor in or out of order according to the criteria set out in the SOCC paragraphs D8 and D9 before they are heard by conference.

### Motion

In the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC) paragraph A8, after

"Amendments may be proposed and seconded from the Conference floor",

add

". Such amendments should be submitted to SOC before they are put."

In SOCC, add a new paragraph D14:

**"All amendments from the floor at Conference shall be submitted to SOC before they are put. SOC will apply the criteria set out in SOCC paragraphs D8 and D9 to determine if they are in order and may be put."**

In SOCC, paragraph F5a) which currently reads:

"5. a) No motions or amendments not included in the First or Final Agenda shall be discussed or voted upon except for:

- i) procedural motions.
- ii) minor textual amendments which do not substantially alter the original motion.
- iii) Late motions
- iv) Emergency motions"

add a new point v), reading:

"v) Amendments to motions and reports that did not appear in the First Agenda, including Late Motions and Emergency Motions."

## D07 A Majority Left Government

Peter Murry [yrrumuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yrrumuk@yahoo.co.uk)

*Anne Gray, Anthony Dooley, David Raby, David Taylor, Jay Ginn, John Youatt, Julie Taylor, Lucy Early, Malcolm Bailey, Mark Douglas, Martin Francis, Nicole Haycock, Paul Philo, Philip Fletcher, Roy Sandison, Simon Hales, Sue Tibbles, Tony Matthews*

## SOC Note

A fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order.

## Motion

The Green Party encourages its members to propose motions to their local parties which include the following:

1. The Green Party hopes that a majority left government will be elected in the near future.
2. The Green Party will encourage local parties to enter into electoral alliances in constituencies judged by local parties to be marginal with the aim of defeating the Tories and electing a left government.

### Amendment 1.

*Anne Were, Kathryn Driscoll, Iolo Jones, Keith Watts, Chris Were*

In parts 1 and 2, delete the word "left" and replace with "progressive"

### Amendment 2.

*Anne Were, Kathryn Driscoll, Iolo Jones, Keith Watts, Chris Were*

Delete "defeating the Tories and"

### Amendment 3.

*Peter Murry, Martin Francis, Simon Hales, Nicole Haydock, Paul Philo, David Raby, Roy Sandison, David Taylor, John Youatt*

"Insert as point 3 and renumber accordingly

**"If the support of Green Party MPs to form such a government is needed then that support will be given."**

3. The Green Party will continue to campaign for electoral reform as a central priority.
4. The Green Party will continue to prioritise campaigning on Climate Change and will try to build a joint campaign with the labour and trade union movement and others in line with the TUC Climate Change motion passed on 12 September 2017.

### Amendment 4.

*Anne Were, Kathryn Driscoll, Iolo Jones, Keith Watts, Chris Were*

Add new number 5:

**“The Green Party notes that there is already a majority Labour Government in Wales. Therefore, this policy will not apply to the National Assembly for Wales elections and electoral strategy for those elections will be determined by Wales Green Party Council.”**

## D08 COP23 and the TUC

Peter Murry [yrrumuk@googlemail.com](mailto:yrrumuk@googlemail.com)

*Anne Gray, Anthony Dooley, David Taylor, Jay Ginn, Jennifer Rivett, John Youatt, Julie Taylor, Lucy Early, Malcolm Bailey, Mark Douglas, Martin Childs, Martin Francis, Nicole Haycock, Paul Philo, Philip Fletcher, Roy Sandison, Scott Bartle, Simon Hales, Sue Tibbles, Tony Matthews*

### Motion

The Green Party notes that the CoP23 talks of November 2017 seem unlikely to propose effective action to combat climate change especially in view of the US government's intention to withdraw the US from the Paris Climate accord and the emergence of a reactionary pro-coal axis of countries.

The Green Party is therefore encouraged that the TUC unanimously passed a motion on climate change at its 2017 Congress which pledged to:

- advocate for an end to the UK's rigged energy system to bring it back into public ownership and democratic control
- advocate for a mass programme of retrofit and insulation of Britain's homes and public buildings
- lobby for the establishment of a Just Transition strategy for those workers affected by the industrial changes necessary to develop a more environmentally sustainable future for all, and develop practical steps needed to achieve this as integral to industrial strategy
- promote divestment by pension funds investing in fossil fuels, and alternative reinvestment in the sustainable economy.

The Green Party will continue to prioritise campaigning on Climate Change and will try to build a joint campaign including these aims with the labour and trade union movement and others.

## D09 Unbranching of members from local and regional parties

Molly Gerlach-Arthurs [mollyarthurs@outlook.com](mailto:mollyarthurs@outlook.com)

*A C Baker, Adam McGregor, Benedict Allbrooke, Denis Walker, Kathryn Driscoll, Kirsty Jones, Liam McClelland, Louis Williams, Mollie Scharaschkin, Sabrina Poole, Thomas Hill, Zeb (Wendy) Brigham*

## Synopsis

There is currently mention of unbranching in many local party constitutions, however it is not explicitly mentioned in the constitution and there has been confusion over whether it is allowed. This motion would explicitly allow for unbranching and ensure a fair process is used for it.

## Motion

In section 4: Membership, insert the following after ii.

4.ii.a: This shall mean local parties are empowered to expel members, at which point that members membership shall transfer to the regional party, in line with a properly defined disciplinary process in that local party's constitution.

4.ii.b: If the process in 4.ii.a is followed, the region shall be empowered to follow a similarly defined process within its constitution to remove regional membership. If this occurs then membership shall transfer to the national party only.

4.ii.c: local and regional parties shall not receive capitations for those members they have removed from local or regional membership.

Additionally, disciplinary committee, working with Equality and Diversity committee, will produce a model disciplinary process for local parties, which shall include a suggested process to be followed in unbranching members. This model document will be included in disciplinary committee's report to Autumn Conference 2018, and will be published no later than the reports deadline for Autumn Conference 2018. Local parties will not be forced to use this model, but will be able to adopt it.

## D10 Codifying Procedural Motions

*[Proposed for fast-tracking]*

**Standing Orders Committee** Andy Hunter-Rossall [a.hunter.rossall@gmail.com](mailto:a.hunter.rossall@gmail.com)  
Jen Law, Lucas North, Martin Hemingway

## Synopsis

This motion attempts to codify the procedural motions which are used at conference so that everyone can be sure they are used consistently by different chairs and at different conferences.

## Motion

Delete Section F paragraph 5b) of the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC) which currently reads:

"b) Procedural motions arising in the course of Conference shall require a proposer and seconder in the normal manner. Any procedural motion that curtails debate on a **motion or an amendment, for example "to move to a vote", "to move next business" and "that the motion be not put" shall not be accepted by the chairperson**

if there have been less than 2 speeches in favour and there are still members wishing to speak for the motion or amendment, or

if there have been less than 2 speeches against and there are still members wishing to speak against the motion or amendment."

Add a new F5 to the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, as below, before the existing F5, and renumber accordingly.

#### "5. Procedural Motions

- a) Procedural motions may be proposed and seconded from the floor. Except in exceptional circumstances, or where it would be in conflict with these standing orders to do so, procedural motions should be heard before continuing with other debate.
- b) Unless otherwise stated, the normal rules of debate apply to procedural motions. In particular, they require a proposer and a seconder and a simple majority to pass. Procedural motions include:
  - i) **That a motion be "not put"**. This procedural motion should be made before a motion has been put to conference.
  - ii) **To "extend plenary time"**. A plenary session may be extended by no more than 15 minutes, subject to the availability of the room. Such a procedural motion may not be put more than once per plenary session.
  - iii) **That a motion or amendment be "taken in parts"**. A motion or amendment may be split into two or more parts, which may be voted on separately and pass or fall independently. The proposer of the procedural motion must make it clear where the motion or amendment is being split, and each part must make a coherent, in order motion or amendment by itself.
  - iv) That Section A of these Standing Orders be suspended (see Section H).
  - v) **That a motion be "remitted"**. Where there is unlikely to be sufficient time to debate a motion and the motion might be fulfilled without a vote at conference, conference may "remit" the business to a relevant officer or committee.
  - vi) **To "challenge the chair's ruling"**.
  - vii) **"That conference has no confidence in the chair"**.
  - viii) **"That conference move to next business"**. This procedural motion should only be used if a motion has already been put.
  - ix) **"To move to a vote"**. A procedural motion to move to a vote does not require any speeches for or against, though speeches may be taken at the **chair's discretion**.

- x) **That a motion be “referred back”.** The proposer of the procedural motion should make it clear to whom the motion is being referred back.
- c) Those procedural motions mentioned in b) viii)-x), above, shall not be accepted by the chair
  - i) if there have been less than 2 speeches in favour and there are still members wishing to speak for the motion or amendment, or
  - ii) if there have been less than 2 speeches against and there are still members wishing to speak against the motion or amendment."

## D11 Training at Autumn Conference

*[Proposed for fast-tracking]*

**Standing Orders Committee** Jen Law [jen.law@posteo.net](mailto:jen.law@posteo.net)  
*Andy Hunter-Rossall, Lucas North, Martin Hemingway*

### Synopsis

The Constitution states that most training should be provided at Spring Conference. In practice, most training is provided at Autumn Conference. This motion brings our documents in line with our practice.

### Motion

In the Constitution section 10 (ii), replace current point (d), which reads:

"d) a total amount of time equivalent to one full day of the conference, and always offering a choice of other activities, will be devoted to training workshops on local party organisation, campaigns, media, policy, electoral activism and other spheres of Green Party activity. GPEX members will be responsible for co-ordinating events in their respective areas of responsibility as appropriate."

with:

"d) it is not required to offer training workshops."

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, Section F - Conference Procedures, insert new item:

#### "5. Training Workshops

A total amount of time equivalent to one full day of the conference, and always offering a choice of other activities, will be devoted to training workshops on local party organisation, campaigns, media, policy, electoral activism and other spheres of Green Party activity. GPEX members will be responsible for co-ordinating events in their respective areas of responsibility as appropriate."

and renumber accordingly.

## Section E - Policy

### E01 Acknowledging children's right to access to nature

Natalie Bennett [natalieben@gmail.com](mailto:natalieben@gmail.com)

*Andrew Cooper, Caroline Allen, Caroline Russell, Cathryn Symons, Dave Plummer, David Flint, Douglas Johnson, Gina Dowding, Jenny Jones, Paul Woodhead, Rachel Hardy.*

*PDC Comment: Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

#### Synopsis

Access to and participation in activities in natural environments is good for children's health and wellbeing, and builds understanding of the natural world. This motion seeks to promote that as a right, which could be promoted at the local, national and international levels, which is particularly important in disadvantaged communities.

#### Motion

In the Rights and Responsibilities chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society, add the following at the end of the current text:

Children's Right to Nature

RR1007 The Green Party supports children's rights to experience a variety of natural environments and spaces and participate in activities in those environments. There is strong evidence that children who learn and play in nature are healthier, happier and perform better in school. There is also evidence that children are now experiencing "Nature Deficit Disorder", with alienation from nature, inadequate activity levels and increased physical and mental illnesses. Children from poorer backgrounds are more likely to suffer, due to lack of local facilities and spaces, and access to programmes, but children from all backgrounds are suffering.

RR1008 The Green Party supports local, national and international efforts to accept children's right to access nature as a human right (as called for by the World Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature). It backs efforts to create a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights such as that adopted by Austin Texas.

### E02 Acknowledging Animal Sentience

**Animal Rights PWG** Emma Randall [emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk](mailto:emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk)

*Catherine Edminson, David Finney, David Rey, Diana Newson, Edward Thompson, Helena Nicholson, John Hamilton, Karen Varga, Liz Carlton, Paul Jeater, Paul Weaver, Ruby Sandhu, Steve Betteridge, Thomas Kuehnell, Thomas Kuehnell*

*PDC Comment: Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

## Synopsis

To update the provisions of existing AR424, formally acknowledge the sentience of animals and make explicit the implicit rights endowed by the Animal Welfare Act (2006).

## Motion

Delete AR424

AR424 To extend the 1911 Protection of Animals Act to protect both captive and non-captive animals from unnecessary suffering. This will be used to prohibit hunting with hounds, shooting, snaring, coursing and various other abuses of our animal population. The Green Party is fundamentally opposed to all blood-sports. We oppose the killing of, or infliction of pain or suffering upon, animals in the name of sport or leisure, and will work to end all such practices.

New AR400, renumber the following policies

AR400 The Green Party acknowledge the sentience of vertebrate species and cephalopod invertebrates and will pay due regard to this throughout policy development and implementation. The precautionary principle will apply where there is doubt concerning the sentience of other invertebrate species.

The Green Party will enforce the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (2006) as five rights that protect the wellbeing of all animals under human control (including all wild animals directly or indirectly affected by human activities):

- a) the right to a suitable environment,
- b) the right to a suitable diet,
- c) the right to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- d) the right to be housed with, or apart from, other animals according to need.
- e) the right to be protected from pain, suffering (including psychological suffering), injury and disease (where possible).

This principle will apply as a trade restriction to all imported goods where animals are involved in production.

Under this regulation, unnecessary killing of or infliction of pain or suffering on animals in the name of sport or leisure will be prohibited.

## E03 Free sanitary products for young people

Richard Firth [richard@firthy.com](mailto:richard@firthy.com)

*Aimee Challenor, Bill Walton, Hannah Graham, Ian Sadler, Joe Levy, Mollie Scharaschkin, Molly Gerlach-Arthurs, Rachel Hartshorne, RoseMary Warrington, Thomas Hill*

*PDC Comment: Motion has implications for government finances. Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

### Synopsis

Affordability of sanitary products is a barrier to education for many young people of school age globally, particularly those from a low income background. Giving free sanitary products to young people would allow them to stay in school, and save them from embarrassment and shame.

### Motion

To replace policy HE1413:

HE1413 Sanitary Products will no longer be **classed as a 'luxury' product, and VAT will no longer be added to their retail price**. In addition, homeless people and other people in extreme financial need will be provided with Sanitary Products at no charge.

with:

HE1413 Sanitary products will no longer **be classed as a 'luxury' product, and VAT will no longer be added to their retail price**. In addition, people under the age of 18, homeless people, and other people in extreme financial need will be provided with sanitary products at no charge.

#### Amendment 1.

*Anne Were, Keith Watts, Chris Were, Iolo Jones*

Insert "environmentally friendly" in front of "sanitary products" so that the last phrase reads "and other people in extreme financial need will be provided with environmentally friendly sanitary products at no charge."

## E04 Improve Future Trade Deals

Craig Nicol [craig.personal1@gmail.com](mailto:craig.personal1@gmail.com)

*Alex Barraball, Benjamin Maydon, Bill Linton, Catherine Gregory, Charles Barraball, David Austen, Dee Thomas, Frankie Drummond, Jim Duffy, John Boyd, Linda Lennard, Maeve TomInson, Martin Francis, Noel Lynch, Philip Fletcher, Phillipa Maslin, Raymundo Obedencio, Roger Distill, Simon Grover, Tom Killick*

*PDC Comment: If passed, this motion will be added to RoPS. Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

## Synopsis

This conference calls for all future trade deals to be democratic, socially just, and to safeguard the environment, regardless of whether Brexit happens or not.

## Motion

This conference calls for all future trade deals to be democratic, socially just, and to safeguard the environment, regardless of whether Brexit happens or not.

### Amendment 1.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

In preamble, delete ", regardless of whether Brexit happens or not"

By this, we mean that:

- 1) Parliamentary democracy must be respected– that parliament should be adequately informed about negotiations, be consulted, and be allowed to discuss and vote on whatever deal is proposed.
- 2) Groups representing all sections of civil society should be consulted, in proportion to consultation with industry. In particular, trade negotiations should follow the principles of the Trade Justice Movement.
- 3) All trade deals should be in line with the stance of European Greens, where a statement has been made on the deal in question.
- 4) Future trade deals should support/facilitate a fair distribution of wealth and support local economies. For example by guaranteeing Protected Geographical Indicators
- 5) The rights of all levels of government to regulate in the public interest and in the interest of the environment must be guaranteed.
- 6). All public services should be excluded from such trade deals, even if they are not services exclusively in service of government authority.
- 7) The global financial crisis of 2008 was precipitated by financial deregulation. Therefore financial deregulation must be excluded from such trade deals.

### Amendment 2.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

Amend paragraph 7 to read:

"7) Financial deregulation must be excluded from such trade deals."

8) Labour rights, human rights, digital rights and the environment are to be protected. Mechanisms should be established, to uphold these rights and enforce sustainability.

9) The primacy of the precautionary principle must be maintained over the scientific principle in assessing acceptability of industrial processes.

#### Amendment 3.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

Amend paragraph 9 to read:

"9) The primacy of the precautionary principle must be maintained in assessing acceptability of industrial processes."

#### Amendment 4.

*Alex Price, Benedict Allbrooke, Hannah Clare, Martin Osborne*

Delete "9) The primacy of the precautionary principle must be maintained over the scientific principle in assessing acceptability of industrial processes" and renumber accordingly.

10) Any lowering of standards regarding food, manufactured chemicals and animal rights (as sentient beings) should not be allowed.

11) The legal primacy of climate change commitments must be maintained /must prevail over energy liberalisation commitments and investors' rights. This is absolutely paramount.

#### Amendment 5.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

Amend paragraph 11 to read:

"11) The legal primacy of climate change commitments must be asserted and state parties must always be permitted to take measures necessary to ensure a level playing field between domestic and imported commodities, products and services affected by environmental regulation and fiscal policies."

12) Parallel judicial systems which favour transnational investors over domestic investors, such as Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), Investor Court System (ICS) or Multilateral Investment Court, should not be included in future trade deals.

#### Amendment 6.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

Amend paragraph 12 to read:

"12) Parallel judicial systems must never confer a right to challenge the primary legislation of any state party. The scope for challenge to secondary legislation should be limited, and subject to appeal in the highest court of the respondent state."

CETA, TTIP and any other trade deals which fail to comply with the above should be rejected.

Supporting Paper: <https://my.greenparty.org.uk/system/files/Improve%20Future%20Trade%20Deals.docx>

Amendment 7.

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

After paragraph 12, delete "CETA, TTIP and any other trade deals which fail to comply with the above should be rejected."

## E05 Updating sexual orientation policy

Sean Mulcahy [sean\\_mulcahy@hotmail.com](mailto:sean_mulcahy@hotmail.com)

*Aimee Challenor, Benjamin Gill, Denis Walker, Hannah Graham, Ieuan Hall, Katrina Swales, Madeline Breed, Richard Firth, Sahra Taylor, Teresa Ravenshaw, Toby Horkan*

*PDC Comment: Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

### Synopsis

This motion would:

- recognise that the policy covers both sexual orientation and relationships
- restate our support for banning conversion therapy and strengthening anti-discrimination employment laws
- recognise co-parenting relationships under law
- commit the party to the inclusion of people of all sexualities
- include romantic attraction

### Motion

**That the policy entitled 'Sexual orientation' be amended to state: 'Sexual orientation and relationships'**

That the relevant policies be amended as follows:

Current RR500: Attempts to enforce heterosexuality are as much a violation of human rights as racism and sexism, and must be challenged with equal determination.

Amend to read:

RR500 Attempts to enforce heterosexuality are as much a violation of human rights as racism and sexism, and must be challenged with equal determination. **The Green Party would institute a ban on conversion or reparative therapy (see HE1003).**

Current RR506: The Green Party believe that everyone has a right to have their partnerships legally recognised. We also believe that different-gender couples should be able to have a civil partnership, as an alternative to marriage. Both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination, including as to relationship status. The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non-romantic/sexual relationships, including carer relationships, being recognised in law with the benefits legal recognition brings.

Amend to read:

RR506 The Green Party believe that everyone has a right to have their **relationships** legally recognised. We also believe that different-gender couples should be able to have a civil partnership, as an alternative to marriage. Both civil marriage and civil partnerships should be open to all, regardless of sexual orientation and without discrimination, including as to relationship status. The Green Party also supports committed, supportive, non-romantic/sexual relationships, including carer relationships, being recognised in law with the benefits legal recognition brings.

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

Amend to read:

RR509: **The Green Party will ensure** all legislation on equality and diversity will include LGBTIQ+ people so that, for instance, they are given explicit protection against harassment and discrimination. Opt-outs from equality and discrimination laws by religious organisations must not be allowed.

Current RR510: The Green Party recognises that there are many sexual orientations that are within, and outside of, the traditional sexual binary of heterosexual and homosexual. The Green Party recognises that bisexual people are real and are valid. We recognise that stigmatisation and erasure can be offensive, hurtful and detrimental to **bisexual people's wellbeing.**

Amend to read:

RR510 The Green Party recognises that there are many sexual orientations that are within, and outside of, the traditional sexual binary of heterosexual and homosexual, **and that people may experience sexual attraction towards people of any gender**. We recognise that stigmatisation and erasure can be offensive, hurtful and detrimental to bisexual people's wellbeing. We commit to the inclusion within society of people of all sexualities, and to upholding the rights of those communities we serve.

Current RR511: The Green Party reject any stigmatising of asexual and aromantic people and recognise that asexuality and aromanticism are part of the diverse range of human experience. The Green Party would expand the Equality Act to be inclusive of asexuality.

Amend to read:

RR511 The Green Party reject any stigmatising of asexual and aromantic people and recognise that asexuality and aromanticism are part of the diverse range of human experience. The Green Party would expand the Equality Act to be inclusive of asexuality **and romantic attraction**.

#### Amendment 1.

*Sean Mulcahy, Loyd Emmerson, Richard Firth, Lee-Anne Lawrance*

That the following text be inserted at the end of the motion:

'Current RR503 Sexual orientation or relationship status shall not affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person's work, their sexual orientation or relationship status is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required.

Amend to read:

RR503 Sexual orientation or relationship status shall not affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person's work, their sexual orientation or relationship status is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required. The Green Party would remove exemptions in anti-discrimination laws that allow employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (see WR321).

Current RR505 Sexual orientation or relationship status of a parent, parents or any individual, shall in no way determine or reflect upon their ability and worth in caring for children.

Amend to read:

RR505 Sexual orientation or relationship status of a parent, parents or any individual, shall in no way determine or reflect upon their ability and worth in caring for children. The Green Party would ensure that co-parenting relationships are recognised under law.'

## E06 Reparations for slavery and colonialism

Samir Jeraj [sa.jeraj@gmail.com](mailto:sa.jeraj@gmail.com)

*Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Alexander Armitage, Arran Rangj, Benali Hamdache, Chidi Obihara, Cleo Lake, Hannah Graham, Kathryn Driscoll, Molly Gerlach-Arthurs, Natalie Bennett, Rachel Collinson, Ronald Stewart, Sabrina Poole*

*PDC Comment: There is a high likelihood that this proposal would have implications for government finances. Policy Development Committee has not been provided with evidence that this motion has been discussed and consulted upon effectively.*

### Synopsis

Reparations as a process of repairing, healing and restoring a people injured because of their group identity and in violation of their fundamental human rights by governments or corporations. This motion commits the Green Party to supporting a reparations process for those peoples enslaved, conquered and colonised by Western powers such as the United Kingdom, as well as the ecological damage to their environment.

### Motion

Insert new “e) **Reparations**” into International

### Background

IP262 - The UK abolished the slave trade in 1807 and slavery itself in 1830. Former slave-owners were financially compensated, but former slaves were not. Globally, slavery was declared contrary to human rights by the UN Charter in 1948. Reparations is the process of repairing, healing and restoring a people injured because of their group identity and in violation of their fundamental human rights by governments or corporations. The Atlantic slave trade saw an estimated 12 million Africans transported and an unknown number killed.

IP263 - The Caribbean states established a Reparations Commission (CARICOM) in 2013, which has developed a ten-point plan. This includes a formal apology, development support, debt relief, and a right of return for the descendants of slaves.

IP264 - Other former colonies and indigenous communities within former colonies have talked about a reparations process to repair, heal, and restore the damage done to those communities and peoples.

### Objectives

IP265 - To redress global inequalities and harms caused by the process and legacy of slavery and colonialism. These include but are not limited to social, economic, and ecological harms.

## Policies

IP266 - The Green Party is committed to restorative justice, including reparations between nations and within them.

IP267 - We will push for an international agreement and process for reparations relating to the legacy of slavery and colonialism.

IP268 - We recognise and endorse the CARICOM ten-point plan for reparations. We will support development of similar regional processes.

## Section F – Draft Voting Papers

### F01 Tax and Fiscal Policy Draft Voting Paper

**Tax and Fiscal Policy Working Group** Brian Heatley  
*Clive Stevens, Nick Barnett, Peter Sims*

[brianheatley@me.com](mailto:brianheatley@me.com)

#### Synopsis

This Draft Voting Paper (DVP) is a development of the DVP discussed at the Autumn 2017 Conference. It contains proposals to replace the main text on taxation at EC700 to EC793 inclusive in the Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS), together with proposals (usually consequential) to amend other references to taxation throughout the PSS.

The proposals on the principles of taxation, fiscal policy, a new approach to personal income taxation incorporating capital gains and inheritance, Land Value Tax, and on Corporate taxation are similar to those in the earlier DVP submitted to last Autumn Conference. We have added new material on Value Added Tax and environmental taxation, local taxation and on enforcement.

Details on reasons for the changes and rates of taxation and methods of calculation will be in a Background Note which will be made available at Conference.

#### Motion

- i) **Delete EC700 to EC793 inclusive and replace with the text in section called 'Replacement for EC700 to EC793' below and re-number if necessary.**
- ii) **Make the amendments to the rest of the PSS specified in the section called 'Amendments to the rest of the PSS' below.**

Replacement for EC700 to EC793

## Tax Principles

DVP700 There are four main reasons for taxation:

- a) to provide the money to fund public expenditure;
- b) to redistribute income and wealth;
- c) to influence behaviour, including behaviour that affects ecological sustainability; and
- d) as part of the broader management of the economy.

DVP701 There are also a number of principles that we believe are desirable in a taxation system:

- a) the system should be as simple as possible;
- b) the system should be fair, that is, treat people in the same position in the same way;
- c) taxes should so far as possible command wide public acceptance and be difficult to avoid and to evade;
- d) taken as a whole the system should be progressive, that is, those on higher incomes or with higher wealth should pay proportionately more than those with lower incomes or with lower wealth; and
- e) subject to the imperatives of ecological sustainability and social justice, taxes should be neutral economically, that is, have a minimal distorting effect on economic decisions.

DVP702 Simplicity, fairness and reducing avoidance and evasion are all served by ensuring that exemptions and allowances should only be made if they are warranted by clear environmental or social aims.

Considerations of general fairness may also apply, such as avoiding double taxation, or maintaining equitable treatment of different forms of employment status.

DVP703 The proceeds of particular taxes should not normally be specifically allocated to particular areas of spending, and nor should the spending on a particular area be restricted to the proceeds of a particular tax. In cases where such hypothecation is a precondition of public acceptance or where transparency and accountability make it desirable, there must be a duty on government to provide reliable and verifiable information on the extent to which the policy of earmarking is being respected in practice.

DVP704 We recognise that some of these policies may, from time to time, be inconsistent with the UK's international obligations. Where and when international constraints prevent us from carrying out our policy, we would nevertheless press for our policy to be adopted internationally.

DVP705 Many of the changes proposed here are radical and far reaching. We recognise they need to be introduced gradually and in stages and in many cases with appropriate transitional measures.

### Fiscal Policy

DVP710 We accept that we need to devote a significant part of our national resources to the common good, and reject moves to a smaller state for its own sake. We would expect government expenditure to pay for our policies set out elsewhere in the PSS to lie somewhere in the range of 40% to 55% of GDP.

**DVP711 The cumulative national debt must be constrained to preserve the Government's ability to borrow, and to prevent too much taxation going to pay interest.** Some national debt is, however, desirable as a safe reliable savings vehicle for individuals and pensions.

DVP712 We would seek, in each year that per capita tax receipts are higher than the previous year, to pay off part of the amount by which the national debt exceeds the desirable level.

DVP713 We would aim to balance spending and taxation over the economic cycle, with government tax and spending plans following the precautionary principle that there will be a recession some time in the next ten years. Policy would aim to at least fund the natural deficit that appears due to higher social security payments and lower tax receipts in a recession, and may go further to apply some counter-cyclical stimulus to the economy.

#### AMENDMENT 1 (ALLOWS BORROWING FOR INVESTMENT – SOME IN THE WORKING GROUP THINK DVP713 IS TOO RESTRICTIVE)

Insert 'current' before 'spending' in the first sentence.

#### AMENDMENT ENDS

DVP714 The levels of government expenditure, taxation and borrowing will be adjusted periodically to correct any anticipated whole-cycle deficit or surplus (net of national debt repayment) and to account for money paid (or forecast to be paid) to the Government to be spent into circulation under any implementation plan for monetary reform (EC664d).

### Personal Income Taxes, including National Insurance and Citizen's Income

DVP720 Under the present system individuals receive money in many and various ways, for example, wages and salaries, pensions and other benefits, and the tax they pay and benefits they receive depend both on the **type of money concerned, and upon their or others' personal circumstances.**

DVP721 Our aim in individual taxation would be to replace this with a far simpler and fairer system of individual income taxation and social security support, but with the aim of overall redistribution. This would have two principal elements:

- a) Every citizen **would receive an unconditional Citizen's Income to secure their basic social security** (see DVP730–733 below); and
- b) All money of any kind received by an individual would be treated in the same way in a new consolidated income tax.

DVP722 Consolidated income will include all money received in a given year by an individual, and also benefits in kind and transfers of wealth. It will exclude assets and rents covered by Land Value Tax (DVP791–793), but will include:

- a) earned income, such as wages and salaries;
- b) income from self-employment after the deduction of reasonable expenses;
- c) unearned income, such as pensions, interest and dividends;
- d) capital transfers, such as gifts and inheritance;
- e) realised capital gains; and
- f) gaming, lottery and similar income.

though this list is not exclusive.

DVP723 Personal allowances will be adjusted and perhaps eventually removed to take account of the **introduction of Citizen's Income. Income Tax will be levied on all consolidated income above any personal allowance.**

DVP724 Tax rates will be banded and will increase progressively so that those on higher consolidated incomes are paying higher marginal rates of tax.

DVP725 As a consequence of the consolidated Income Tax, separate dividend taxes, Capital Gains Tax, capital transfer taxes and Inheritance Tax will be abolished.

DVP726 Employee National Insurance will be abolished as a separate tax. Because it is levied only upon earned income, in practice the combined current Income Tax and NI rate is lower for pensioners than for people of working age. Under consolidated Income Tax, pensioners will be compensated for the fact that they will no longer be contributing to pay for state pensions, by reduced consolidated Income Tax rates and/or higher personal allowances than for those of working age.

DVP730 A Citizen's Income sufficient to cover an individual's basic needs will be introduced, which will replace most social security benefits. A Citizen's Income is an unconditional, non-withdrawable income payable to each individual as a right of citizenship. It will not be subject to means testing and there will be no requirement to be either working or actively seeking work.

DVP731 The Citizen's Income will eliminate the unemployment and poverty traps, as well as acting as a safety net to enable people to choose their own types and patterns of work (EC400). Citizen's Income will thus enable the welfare state to develop towards a welfare community, engaging people in personally satisfying and socially useful work.

DVP732 When the Citizen's Income is introduced it is intended that nobody will be in a position that they will receive less through the scheme than they were entitled to under the previous benefits system. Children will be entitled to a reduced amount which will be payable to a parent or legal guardian. Single parents and people with disabilities or special needs will receive a supplement.

DVP733 Initially, the housing benefit system will remain in place alongside the Citizen's Income and will be extended to cover contributions towards mortgage repayments (HO602). This will subsequently be reviewed to establish how housing benefit could be incorporated into the Citizen's Income, taking into account the differences in housing costs between different parts of the country and different types of housing. (DVP796).

- **AMENDMENT 2. (WEALTH TAX – THE WORKING GROUP OPPOSES THIS AMENDMENT, BUT IT IS INCLUDED TO SIGNAL THAT WE WANT TO REMOVE THE COMMITMENT TO A WEALTH TAX)**

Insert after DVP734:

DVP743 We support the principle of a wealth tax, either as an occasional tax at a time of specific need or as a continuous periodic levy. Where wealth is land, the wealth tax paid will be reduced by any payments made on the same land in Land Value Tax.

AMENDMENT ENDS.

- **AMENDMENT 3. (FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS TAX – THE WORKING GROUP OPPOSES THIS AMENDMENT, BUT IT IS INCLUDED TO SIGNAL THAT WE WANT TO REMOVE THE COMMITMENT TO A FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS TAX)**

Insert after DVP734:

DVP744 Short-term speculative trading in stocks, shares and currencies has a destabilising effect on the economy as a whole. In order to discourage such trading, a small tax will be levied on the value of all commodity, share, stocks, gilts, bond, and currency transactions.

AMENDMENT ENDS.

## Business taxes

DVP760 Corporation Tax will be abolished and, instead, all distributed profits will be taxed at the point of payment by the consolidated Income Tax. This will include increases in cash holding, share buybacks, distributions to parent or subsidiary bodies (onshore or offshore), dividend payments and all other forms of distributed income payments.

DVP761 Employers' National Insurance contributions will be phased out, initially, to favour smaller enterprises, by raising the Employment Allowance.

DVP762 We would extend Stamp Duty on shares to all shares. This will include all publicly traded shares, as well as shares in private companies with a turnover in excess of £100m.

DVP763 We would increase the Bank Asset Tax (Bank Levy) to the amount required to capture the value of public assets, subsidies and protections currently extended to the banking sector.

### - **AMENDMENT 4. (CORPORATE LICENSING – SUPPORTED BY A MINORITY OF THE WORKING GROUP)**

**Insert after DVP763**

**DVP767 We will introduce an annual licensing fee for corporations with limited liability status trading in the UK.**

**AMENDMENT ENDS.**

## Taxation of Goods and Services and eco-taxes

DVP770 The main UK tax on goods and services is Value Added Tax (VAT), supplemented by duties for example on fuel, alcohol and tobacco. We will:

- a) retain this broad structure of both VAT and duties;
- b) vary VAT rates and levy duties at higher levels for luxury goods and lower levels, including exemption, for essentials;
- c) have higher rates of VAT and impose duties to discourage behaviour we wish to reduce, including in particular environmentally damaging and ecologically unsustainable behaviours and consumption, and lower rates for ecologically sustainable behaviours;
- d) use duties in preference to VAT where it is primarily the physical quantity we want to control and the supply chain provides a convenient point for doing so; and
- e) recognise that indirect taxes can be regressive, and will set other taxes to compensate for this.

DVP771 We will seek to reduce VAT on non-polluting and pollution-reducing goods and services by up to the amount raised by any eco-taxes introduced or increased (DVP780).

DVP772 We will explore applying VAT or an equivalent to certain sectors currently exempt, most notably aviation and financial services.

- **AMENDMENT 5. (MASS EXTRACTED TAX – INTERESTING IDEA THAT THE WORKING GROUP FEEL NEEDS FURTHER DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION)**

Insert new DVP774:

DVP774 We would introduce a Mass Extracted Tax (MET) on non-biodegradable resources extracted in or imported to the UK. This would be introduced at a low level and increased over time with the aim of replacing VAT with MET. There would be a rebate for mass returned to nature in equivalent form (e.g. purified water returned to rivers).

**AMENDMENT ENDS.**

DVP775 Taxes designed to encourage changes in behaviour do not, if they are successful, provide large amounts of government revenue in the longer term. Their effectiveness should be judged in conjunction with other non-fiscal measures that aim to reduce the prevalence or impacts of the behaviour that is being tackled.

DVP776 Taxes on the consumption of alcohol and tobacco will be extended to other recreational drugs that remain or become legal, to the extent that their use imposes costs on the health system. Taxes on alcoholic drinks will be proportional to their alcoholic content.

DVP777 Money will be spent at a cost-effective level to ensure that the aims of this kind of taxation are not undermined by smuggling from countries where a lighter regime prevails or where enforcement is weak.

DVP780 The current range of environmental tax measures ("eco-taxes") will be expanded to promote sustainability and combat pollution more effectively. These taxes too will be combined with remedial measures such as regulation, as set out for example in the Energy chapter. They will take a variety of forms, but the common aim will be to ensure that the environmental costs of emitting and polluting activity are borne by those responsible, and hence to promote more environmentally benign processes. In cases of local pollution, taxes may be imposed and collected locally (DVP796).

DVP783 A carbon tax and dividend (CC121) will be introduced whereby a steadily rising price will be placed on sources of all greenhouse gas emissions, including agricultural emissions and those embedded in imports (DVP786). The proceeds of this tax will be distributed monthly to all UK residents, differentiated by age. The net effect of this tax will be progressive, as richer people are responsible for more emissions than poorer ones.

DVP784 Road fuel duties currently address different detrimental effects of road traffic – congestion, local pollution and noise, accidents and greenhouse gas emissions. Only the last of these is appropriately tackled by a uniform nationwide tax that takes account only of engine efficiency and miles travelled. The others will gradually become a local responsibility, underpinned by increased local authority powers to tax, charge and regulate vehicle movements (DVP796).

DVP786 Import duties will be levied on both raw materials and finished products which will reflect the ecological impact of the production, extraction and transportation of such goods where sufficient eco-taxes are not considered to have been levied in their country of origin.

### Land Value Tax (LVT)

DVP791 A system of Land Value Taxation will be introduced. The LVT rate will be set at national level, and the tax will be calculated by applying the rate to the capital value of the land itself, not including any buildings etc. built upon it. Local authorities may levy an additional local Land Value Tax, and keep the proceeds locally. All LVT will be collected by local authorities. LVT will eventually replace other land and real-estate related taxes, such as Stamp Duty Land Tax and Annual Tax on Enveloped Dwellings.

DVP792 There will be no exemptions for different land uses from this policy. LVT will be introduced gradually over a number of years. Where land was subject to a mortgage on the day the tax was introduced, the tax would apply only to the value of the land net of the mortgage.

DVP793 Proceeds from national LVT will be distributed to local authorities with the amount based upon the procedure set out in DVP797.

### Local Government Finance

DVP795 For reasons of democratic accountability, taxes should in general be levied at the level of government at which they are to be spent. Currently, however, calls on local government finance are overwhelmingly to meet obligations imposed by central government. This burden will be reduced over time by decentralising measures, but will never be eliminated. There needs to be transparency about what proportion of local spending reflects the local authority acting as an agent of central government and how much is due to local political initiative. The sources of funding should reflect this distinction.

DVP796 Central government has two fiscal obligations to local authorities: to distribute adequate funds from central taxation to fund centrally imposed obligations, and to allow local authorities the latitude to raise taxes to fund their own initiatives. We would establish a menu of possible taxes that local authorities would be allowed to use, including but not limited to Council Tax, Business Rates, local Land Value Tax (DVP791) and

**local pollution and congestion taxes (DVP780 and 784). Any nationally imposed limits on local authorities' power to raise taxes or borrow must be applied in a consistent and non-partisan way, at arm's length from the Treasury.**

DVP797 Allocation of central funds should include a redistributive element in favour of less well-off areas. A distribution formula that takes into account the capacity of a local authority to raise its own funds should operate, again in a consistent and non-partisan way, at arm's length from the Treasury. It should embrace incentives to achieve measurable improvements in pollution and emissions levels within the local authority area, to the extent these are achievable using existing and further decentralised powers (DVP784).

### Collecting Taxes

**DVP798 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will be converted into an independent agency answerable directly to Parliament and free of ministerial control. It will be adequately resourced, and in particular will include a network of local tax offices.**

DVP799 Other approaches and measures to promote tax compliance will include:

- a) a general anti-avoidance principle;
- b) obliging banks to provide information about companies automatically to HMRC;
- c) replacing the rule that allows non-domiciled residents not to pay tax on foreign income;
- d) making the industry of designing, promoting and selling tax avoidance schemes illegal; and
- e) pursuing efforts through the G20 and other bodies to secure an international agreement to eliminate or restrict the pernicious effects of tax havens and, domestically, excluding those who profit from them from competing for publicly funded contracts.

*Note. This section less amendments is currently 2578 words, the limit in the Enabling Motion is 2650 words, so it is almost 3% under.*

Amendments to the rest of the PSS

CY530 The Green Party will introduce Land Value Taxation (see LD400), which will be calculated to take into consideration the economic effects of having to conserve wildlife habitats, archaeological sites and other landscape features. This would help to reduce inequality in the ownership of land and buildings and would help new entrants into farming and poorer local people to afford housing. Delete

CMS442 We will explore the feasibility of a tax on superstar performances which is hypothecated to local cultural enterprises. Add after hypothecated: (in line with the principles at DVP703)

CMS641 The primary public service broadcaster will remain the BBC (and S4C in Wales) funded wholly by public money from a tax which may be ring-fenced (hypothecated) for public service broadcast use. The operation of this tax should not be regressive. The existing licence fee will be abolished and in the first instance replaced by a guaranteed inflation linked payment from general taxation. Delete all.

DU402 The effect on consumption of taxation on the sale of tobacco and alcohol would be subject to continued review and, where appropriate, these legal drugs would be taxed at a higher rate than at present. In addition, both the net profits of tobacco companies and companies producing alcohol for consumption, and the dividends paid to shareholders of these companies would attract a significantly higher rate of taxation than at present. The tax levied on alcohol products would be in proportion to the amount of alcohol in the finished **product. Delete second and third sentences and add 'See further at {DVP775-76}'.**

EC920 Both taxation and public expenditure are currently necessary at the global level. Taxation levied by global institutions, derived from present agencies, may be revenue-raising, redistributive or regulatory in purpose. Tax revenue is required by the international community both to fund transfer payments to poorer countries, to replace 'Aid', and to finance the necessary international resources and pollution inspectorates. Delete all.

EC921 Possible taxes include taxes on the exploitation of the global environment (e.g. sea-bed mining, unsustainable management of all forests, including tropical rain forests); taxes on activities which pollute the global environment, including transboundary pollution, international transport and release of gases that cause global warming; international trade tariffs; a uniform tax on currency exchanges. The last two could provide national economies with a degree of protection against domination by external economic forces and against economic perturbations caused by decisions made elsewhere. Delete all.

EC953 To introduce an international tax on currency speculation, both to raise revenue for development, and to deter a form of financial activity which is deeply, destabilising for all countries. Delete.

EC1012 a. in the long term we would promote international funding (perhaps from a Tobin Tax (see EU445)) to buy out the owners of certain patents, based entirely on global social and environmental usefulness, with the **patent becoming available to all once the payment had been made; Delete '(perhaps from a Tobin Tax (see EU445))'.**

EC1052 The Green Party promotes the idea of self-reliant economies. This means that, whenever possible, profits made are re-invested within the country of origin. Where this is not entirely practical, taxation should be used to both raise public finance in the country of origin and discourage the transfer of business outside it. To

this end, all international funds transfers should be taxed, with the tax revenue being retained in the country of origin of the funds. (see EC743) Delete final sentence.

ED127 Schools which remain in the private sector would be classed as a business and have all charitable **status removed; they would pay all relevant taxes such as VAT and Corporation Tax. Delete 'and Corporation Tax'.**

**HE1300 ... Therefore companies, including pharmaceutical companies, employing or using NHS-trained** healthcare professionals outside the NHS will have to pay an additional training tax. This will take the form of a levy for each person-hour during which they employ or use NHS-trained staff outside the NHS. The proceeds from this levy will go directly into the NHS Tax which the Green Party is going to create. Alter first two sentences to read: **Therefore companies, including pharmaceutical companies, employing or using NHS-trained healthcare professionals outside the NHS will have to pay an additional training levy for each person-hour during which they employ or use NHS-trained staff outside the NHS. Delete final sentence.**

HE1303 An NHS Tax, earmarked to increase direct funding of the NHS, shall be introduced as part of general income and other taxation. We believe this will have wide support. Delete all.

HE1306 (Repeats wording of HE1300 (!?)) Delete.

H0603 As an immediate response to concerns about the fairness of Council Tax, and to the growing housing crisis (particularly in London and the South East), Greens support the following modifications to Council Tax/National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) as a transitional move towards the introduction of Land Value **Taxation: Delete 'as a transitional move towards the introduction of Land Value Taxation'**

HE1412 Prescription, and other charges, are wrong in principle, unfair in practice, and generate little income for the Health Service. They will be abolished as soon as possible. The taxation system will require adjustment to compensate the Health Service for the revenue lost. In second sentence, alter possible to practicable. Change last sentence to read The lost revenue will be recouped from general taxation.

**HE1413 Sanitary Products will no longer be classed as a 'luxury' product, and VAT will no longer be added to their retail price. ..."** Add reference to DVP770.

**IN404 ... This will include tax incentives that promote clustering of zero carbon, zero waste enterprises in new social enterprise zones – to encourage sustainable enterprises to replicate and co-locate. Replace 'tax incentives that' by 'incentives to'.**

IN406 New green taxes would be balanced by incentives for zero carbon and zero waste production (see below) and reductions in other taxes. In particular, the introduction and expansion of eco-taxes would be accompanied by a phased abolition of VAT (see EC770-771). ... **Delete all after '(see below)'. Add cross-reference to DVP870.**

IN411 ... **and subsidies or tax breaks for investment in some areas outside the South East.... Delete 'or tax breaks'.**

IN627 ... **Corporation tax and Government procurement** contracts should be measured against triple bottom line reporting ... **Delete 'Corporation tax and'.**

IP421 The British Government should assist developing countries in buying off TNC subsidiaries and in producing the inputs needed for them. Funds for this should be provided from the turnover tax. Delete second sentence.

MC327 The Green Party would press at EU level for an end to all subsidies that can result in increased fishing pressure, including concessionary tax rates for fuel, vessel modification and improving port and fish processing facilities. Delete.

PL401 The import of products derived from hazardous industries and processes will be resisted by selective **taxes and prohibitions. Delete 'taxes and'**

PL430 Differential corporation tax will favour those enterprises causing minimal environmental damage. Taxes on the quantity and quality of industrial waste will be levied on producers. Delete all.

WR348 There will be tax incentives for employers who provide support facilities at the workplace such as childcare, job-sharing, **flexible working, counselling and family planning. Delete 'tax'.**

WR352 There will be tax incentives to encourage employers to provide facilities at the workplace for people pursuing further education, or a service which is of benefit to **the community. Delete 'tax'.**

**WR414 ... The cost of union membership subscriptions should not be allowed to be a deterrent; we shall develop a mechanism to ensure that the poorest paid workers can afford to join the union of their choice, and shall also provide tax allowances for their cost, as is done for subscriptions to professional bodies. ... Delete ', and shall also provide tax allowances for their cost, as is done for subscriptions to professional bodies'.**

WR453 We encourage trade unions to develop schemes of mutual aid, such as the NALGO (now UNISON) **welfare fund. We shall provide tax incentives for this. Delete 'tax'.**



## Out of Order Motions

### Fragment of D01

#### Grounds

Excessive background, **SOCC D.1.** “Policy motions should be succinct and not contain excessive background commentary. A separate briefing paper should be submitted which should contain relevant background **material**”

#### OoO Text

Conference recognises that the NHS is a vital public service and is determined to protect its core principle of providing comprehensive healthcare to all who have a clinical need for it, free at the point of need. This is a vital expression of social solidarity and a means to hold society together. Conference also recognises that it is vital to restore the NHS to full public ownership, management, funding and provision, since the incursion of private companies fragments the health and social care service, threatens staff and patient safety and comfort by putting the profit motive ahead of patient care, and is a source of great waste due to both the extraction of profits and the huge transaction costs of running a marketised system.

**SOC also removed “these” from the second paragraph to maintain grammatical consistency.**

### Fragments of D05

#### Grounds

Fragment 1: SOCC D8. h) seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than one year and nine months previously.

An error in quoting the current policy would cause this motion to inadvertently remove sections added at Autumn 2017 Conference.

Fragment 2: SOCC D.8.f) requiring no consequential action

A motion to remove all gendered language from the constitution passed at Autumn 2016 Conference. These changes were missed in some formats of the Constitution. SOC are correcting this and thank the proposers for drawing this to our attention.

## OoO Text Fragment 1

Current RR503: Sexual orientation shall not affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person's work, their sexual orientation is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required.

Amend to read:

RR503 Sexual orientation must never affect the decision whether or not to employ, promote or discharge any individual. When assessing a person's work, their sexual orientation is of no consequence in their ability to undertake the work required. **The Green Party would remove exemptions in anti-discrimination laws that allow employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (see WR321).**

Current RR505: Sexual orientation of a parent, parents or any individual, shall in no way determine or reflect upon their ability and worth in caring for children.

Amend to read:

RR505 Sexual orientation of a parent, parents or any individual in no way determines or reflects upon their ability and worth in caring for children. **The Green Party would ensure that co-parenting relationships are recognised under law.**

## OoO Text Fragment 2

In section 5(iv)(b) which reads *"A Treasurer who has the legal obligation under the PPERA to maintain proper accounts for the local/regional party. (S)he must record all donations received and submit to The Green Party Treasurer quarterly reports of donations, copies of annual accounts and any other information required to comply with government legislation."*

Replace "(S)he" with "They"

In section 5(vi) which reads *"When an officer leaves his/her post for any reason Party Office should be informed and a replacement appointed within twenty-eight days, to enable compliance with the PPERA."*

Replace "his/her" with "their"

In section 7(xii) which reads *"The Executive shall elect from among its elected members a deputy chair, to assist the chair in his/her duties, and to act in the role of the chair at any time when the chair is unable to do so. Such elections are to take place at least annually."*

Replace "his/her" with "their"

#### Fragment of D07

##### Grounds

SOCC D.8.c) ambiguous (caused by grammar error).

##### OoO Text

2. If the support of Green Party MPs to form such a government then that support will be given.

#### Fragment of D08

##### Grounds

Excessive background, **SOCC D.1.** "Policy motions should be succinct and not contain excessive background commentary. A separate briefing paper should be submitted which should contain relevant background **material**"

##### OoO Text

According to Pete Kellner in the 'New Statesman' on 29th September 2017, 650,000 2015 Green voters switched to Labour in 2017. Conference also notes that the Green Party's core themes of environmental degradation and climate change were ignored by the main parties in that election campaign.

SOC also removed "**In view of the foregoing**" from the second paragraph to maintain grammatical consistency.

#### Amendment to E04

##### Grounds

Inconsequential. SOCC Section D7 includes, "Policy motions which do not specify that the PSS is to be amended will be assumed to be proposing an addition to the RoPS."

### OoO Text

*Richard Firth, Sean Mulcahy, David Wild, Merlin Casper Drake*

Insert at beginning of preamble, "Insert in the Record of Policy Statements:"

### Fragment of Appendix 3

#### Grounds

Contrary to the Constitution. The Constitution states (4 xiv) that the Standing Orders for Party **Discipline** "can only be amended by a simple majority conference."

### OoO Text

after which they will come into effect

### Fragments of Appendix 3 Amendment 9

#### Grounds

**Ambiguous.** The action of the motion ("Insert...") does not match the outcome of the motion ("so that it reads...")

### OoO Text

and the nation of Wales

### Fragments of Appendix 3 Amendment 17

#### Grounds

**Ambiguous.** The following sentences are unclear about whether obtaining consent is mandatory, whether seeking to obtain consent is mandatory, and on what should happen if consent is denied.

### OoO Text

The Committee shall pass any relevant documentation they hold to appropriate outside bodies (for example, the police) and inform the Complainant (and Respondent if appropriate) that this action has been taken. If

information cannot be passed onto outside bodies without revealing the identity of the complainant, it is good practice to obtain their consent for this information to be shared, unless there is evidence of immediate risk of harm to others.

## Fragments of Appendix 3 Amendment 27

### Grounds

Vague. It is unclear who should conduct the annual audit. The text below also implies that changes will be **“made” to the Standing Orders** for Party Discipline between conferences, rather than proposed to conferences, which is Contrary to the Constitution, 4 xiv.

### OoO Text

These shall be collated as part of an annual audit of the complaints process, and reported back to Conference by GPRC along with any changes to these Standing Orders made as a result of feedback. Any information which has the potential to identify the survey respondents shall not be included in this report.

## Motions Not Properly Proposed

### Clarification of Amendments Process

Sam Riches [sandwiches@hotmail.com](mailto:sandwiches@hotmail.com)

Colin Bertram, Gina Dowding, John Riches, Rosie Morgan, Simeon Jackson, Stephen Dickinson

- not met required number of proposers

### Introduce a procedural card to Conference plenaries

Rich Daley [rich@richd.me](mailto:rich@richd.me)

Adam Dent, Bill Walton, Rachel Hartshorne, Louis Williams Benjamin Gill Paul Jenkins

- not met required number of proposers

### Land value tax is redistributable. Income tax is not.

Rodrigo Capucho Paulo [roddycapa@gmail.com](mailto:roddycapa@gmail.com)

- not met required number of proposers

### Open pre-agenda forums immediately

Rich Daley [rich@richd.me](mailto:rich@richd.me)

Adam Dent, Bill Walton, Clive Lord, Louis Williams Benjamin Gill, Rachel Hartshorne

- not met required number of proposers
- SOC have noted the request

### (Continue to) permit general research in the Antarctic

Benjamin Gill [greenparty@bgill.eu](mailto:greenparty@bgill.eu)

Alan Hale, Alexander Price, Andrew Tinson, Paul Jenkins, Peter Skelton

- not met required number of proposers

### 5p charge for non-reusable Hot drink cups

Alex Nettle [alexander.nettle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alexander.nettle@yahoo.co.uk)

Charis Bartley, Dominic Tristram, Emma Garnett, Louis Williams, Louise Gavin

- not met required number of proposers

### Boost UK Research & Development spending to the OECD average

Alexander Price [alexprice33@gmail.com](mailto:alexprice33@gmail.com)

Alan Francis, Alan Hale, Benedict Allbrooke, Benjamin Gill, Carole Price, Catherine Rose, Martin Osborne, Paul Jenkins, Peter Skelton

- not met required number of proposers

### Delete incorrect cross reference re. Freedom of Information policy.

Brig Oubridge [brig@phonecoop.coop](mailto:brig@phonecoop.coop)

Alex Raws, Britta Goodman, Emma Dawnay, Ken Taylor, Linda Oubridge, Richard Bolton, Rob Steel, Steve Muggeridge, Teresa Fallon

- not met required number of proposers

- has been referred to PDC

### Enabling Motion for a Major Revision of the Science & Technology Chapter

Alexander Price [alexprice33@gmail.com](mailto:alexprice33@gmail.com)

Alan Francis, Alan Hale, Andrew Tinson, Benedict Allbrooke, Benjamin Gill, Carole Price, Catherine Rose, Martin Osborne, Paul Jenkins, Peter Skelton

- not met required number of proposers

### Introduce mandatory minimum of green space and trees for our cities

Alan Borgars [goldenwhitelotus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:goldenwhitelotus@hotmail.co.uk)

Gerhard Lohmann-Bond, Simon Ashley Cross, Susan Jones

- not met required number of proposers

### Party Discipline, Complaints and Disputes

Ann Forsaith [annforsaith@gmail.com](mailto:annforsaith@gmail.com)

Adrian Cruden, Bernard Ekbery, Brian Candeland, Dorothy Wilson, Ewan Jones, Freda Davis, Gerhard Lohmann-Bond, Janet Russell, Jenny Rust, Jenny Shepherd, John Coyne, Mike Shone, Paul Jeater, Rachel Featherstone, Richard Peacocke, Shirley Ford, Simon Duffy

- no final text (nor draft) posted to forum

### Police and Crime Commissioners

Brig Oubridge [brig@phonecoop.coop](mailto:brig@phonecoop.coop)

Alan Francis, Alex Raws, Britta Goodman, Emma Dawnay, Ken Taylor, Linda Oubridge, Marie Hillcoat, Richard Bolton, Rob Steel, Steve Muggeridge, Teresa Fallon

- no final text (nor draft) posted to forum

### Restore the previous Green Party Philosophical Basis

Alan Borgars [goldenwhitelotus@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:goldenwhitelotus@hotmail.co.uk)

Clive Lord, Simon Ashley Cross

- not met required number of proposers

### Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals within society and government

Natalie Bennett [natalieben@gmail.com](mailto:natalieben@gmail.com)

Andrew Tinson, Caroline Allen, Cathryn Symons, Dee Searle, Eamonn Ward, Emily Auckland, Paul Woodhead, Samir Jeraj, Scott Bartle

- not met required number of proposers

### The Importance of Space Research to the Green Movement

Alexander Price [alexprice33@gmail.com](mailto:alexprice33@gmail.com)

Alan Francis, Alan Hale, Andrew Tinson, Carole Price, Catherine Rose, Paul Jenkins, Peter Skelton, Scott Bartle, Thomas Hill

- not met required number of proposers

## Appendix 3 proposed new Standing Orders for Party Discipline

### SOC Note

A fragment of this motion has been ruled out of order.

### Standing Orders for Party Discipline for the Green Party of England and Wales

#### 1. National bodies and personnel responsible for Party Discipline

##### 1.1 The GPEW shall have a Disciplinary Committee known hereinafter as the “Committee”.

1.2 The Committee will handle all complaints of a disciplinary nature which have not been resolved at Regional, Local Party or other party group level and which have been brought on one of the following grounds:

- i) that there has been a contravention of the Constitution of the Party as interpreted by the Standing Orders Committee (SOC);
- ii) that there has been a breach of one or more of the number of Standards in the Party's Code of Conduct;
- iii) that the Party has been brought into disrepute.

#### Amendment 1. Part a (Basket 1)

*Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells, Clare Lorraine Phipps*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 1 has been split in to two parts so that the text appears at the correct place in the agenda. The amendments will be debated and voted on as one. Part B can be found after clause 3.9]*

After section 1.2, add the clause:

**“It is recognised that Disciplinary Committee may receive complaints of breaches of other organisational policies, including, but not limited to; Child Protection Policy, Safe Spaces Policy and Anti-Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy. In such cases, the Committee should note in examining breaches of 1.2(ii) that the Code of Conduct specifies that these policies sit alongside and complement the Code. The Committee should also consider whether breaches of these policies may have brought the party into disrepute (as per 1.2(iii)).”**

And re-number accordingly.

1.3 There shall be a Complaints Manager who will receive all complaints sent to the national party and who is **responsible for managing them according to the Complaint's Process** <sup>1</sup> **published on the member's website** and these Standing Orders. The Complaints Manager shall be the senior manager whose job description specifies the processing of complaints <sup>2</sup>.

1.4 The Complaints Manager may delegate administration of the management of complaints to the staff member whose job description specifies that role <sup>3</sup>. The Complaints Manager is responsible for managing the confidentiality surrounding a complaint with respect to who may need to be informed to minimise potential reputational risks.

**Amendment 2.** (Basket 2)

*Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter*

In section 1.4, insert the text “or other recognised” between “reputational” and “risks”, so that the second sentence reads:

**“The Complaints Manager is responsible for managing the confidentiality surrounding a complaint with respect to who may need to be informed to minimize potential reputational or other recognized risks.”**

1.5 There shall be a Complaints Referral Group hereinafter known as the ‘the Referral Group’. The Referral Group shall be made up of the Chair of the Committee (or their Deputy), a Co-Chair of GPRC and the Convenor of Disputes Resolution Committee (or their Deputy).

**Amendment 3.** Part a (Basket 3}

*Sean Mulcahy, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Emma Carter, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Alan Hale, Clare Lorraine Phipps*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 3 has been split into two parts that will be debated separately. Part B can be found after clause 3.3]*

That the proposed clause 1.5 be amended to read:

**“1.5 There shall be a Complaints Referral Group hereinafter known as the ‘the Referral Group’. The Referral Group shall be made up of the Chair of the Committee, the Chair of GPEX and the Complaints Manager.”**

1.6 The Referral Group will consider whether a complaint has been brought on one of the grounds specified in 1.2 and decide whether it should be referred to the Committee, to another appropriate body or be dismissed.

1.7 GPRC shall have a subcommittee acting as the appeals body, entitled the GPRC Appeals Subcommittee **hereinafter known as the 'Appeals Committee'**.

1.8 It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the Minuting Secretary, members of the Referral Group, the Committee and the Appeals Committee observe confidentiality in relation to the consideration of and communications concerning all complaints.

**Amendment 4. (Basket 2)**

*Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells*

**In section 1.8, add the text “with respect to who may need to be informed to minimise potential reputational or other recognised risks.”, so that it reads:**

**“1.8 It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the Minuting Secretary, members of the Referral Group, the Committee and the Appeals Committee observe confidentiality in relation to the consideration of and communications concerning all complaints with respect to who may need to be informed to minimise potential reputational or other recognised risks.”**

1.9 It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the members of the Referral Group, the Committee and the Appeals Committee shall receive training in discrimination law, bias and unconscious bias, and Safe Spaces.

**Amendment 5. (Basket 1)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Clare Lorraine Phipps, Sabrina Poole, Philip Vabulas, A C Baker, Kirsty Jones*

Amend proposed section 1.9 so that it reads:

**“1.9 It is a requirement that the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant, the members of the Referral Group, the Committee, the Appeals Committee and GPRC members involved in party discipline shall receive training in safeguarding, child protection, harassment, bullying and discrimination law, bias and unconscious bias, and Safe Spaces.”**

1.10 If the Complaints Manager, the Governance Assistant or any member of the Referral Group, the Committee or the Appeals Committee has prior knowledge of a particular complaint, complainant or

respondent then they must consider whether this represents an interest and if so whether they should recuse themselves from any further consideration of or decision concerning the complaint. If any person does recuse themselves, then where necessary they should nominate an appropriate substitute.

#### Amendment 6.

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter*

The following text be appended to the end of proposed clause 1.10:

**“Not all prior knowledge will result in a conflict, but regardless any prior knowledge of the complaint or relationship with those involved should be minuted by the Complaints Manager. If the member does not consider their prior knowledge to amount to a conflict, they must still recuse themselves should this be the unanimous opinion of the remainder of the Referral Group.”**

#### Amendment 7.

*Claire Lorraine Phipps, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Kirsty Jones*

Insert new clause 1.11:

**“Officers and staff of the Party should be aware of their duty of care should they become aware of breaches of the Code of Conduct and associated policies. In this case, they should in the first instance signpost affected members to the complaints policy. Members who require support due to protected characteristics in making a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so. Officers and staff will be able to make a complaint even if they have not been personally disadvantaged, though it is good practice to obtain consent from the parties before doing so. Exceptions to this include situations where there is an immediate risk of harm to personal safety or safeguarding policy infringements (see the Safeguarding Policy and below).”**

#### Amendment 8.

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Kirsty Jones*

At the end of section 1, insert the following (with numbered subsection as appropriate):

There may be instances where members wish to make a complaint about staff acting in their staff capacity, or where staff wish to make a complaint about the behaviour of members.

- i) For complaints regarding members of staff, members who are not employed by the Party/who are complaining outside their staff capacity should contact the Governance Assistant, who will direct the complainant to the appropriate line manager. The Governance Assistant will provide complainants with a copy of the Employee Handbook, in accordance with which the complaint will be dealt.
- ii) For complaints made by employees of the Party regarding members who are not employed by the Party/relating to behaviour carried out outside their staff capacity, the procedure outlined in this document shall be followed, with the exception that the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee should make every effort to adhere to the timescales laid out in the Employee Handbook. If the complaint is regarding bullying and harassment, it will be dealt with in accordance with the **Party's policy for "Third Party Harassment" as documented in its Employee Handbook.**
- iii) Complaints made by and concerning staff members when both/all were acting outside their staff capacity as GPEW members will be dealt with as per these Standing Orders. When a complaint is upheld against a staff member when acting in their member capacity, the Governance Assistant shall **make this known to the Respondent's Line Manager in confidence as appropriate.**

## 2. Composition and Meetings of the Committee

2.1. The Committee shall consist of eleven members of the Party who are not members of the Green Party Executive (GPEX), the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) or Standing Orders Committee (SOC).

2.2 The members of the Committee are elected to serve for a two year period.

- i) Each GPEW region should elect one member to the Committee.
- ii) Annual Conference should elect one member to the Committee.
- iii) If fewer than eleven members are elected by the Regions and the Annual Conference then GPEX shall appoint the remaining members.

Amendment 9. (Basket 3)

*Kirsty Jones, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Sean Mulcahy*

In section i) of section 2.2, add the text “Each region and the nation of Wales should open nominations simultaneously and during the opening of GPRC nominations. The opening of nominations should be clearly published where all members of the region or nation can access it. Care should be made to encourage diverse candidates to nominate themselves, with time allowed for the reopening of nominations should the candidates be insufficiently diverse, for example, if there are no self-identified women candidates. The election should be carried out using Single Transferable Vote.”, so that it reads:

“i) Each GPEW region should elect one member to the Committee. Each region and the nation of Wales should open nominations simultaneously and during the opening of GPRC nominations. The opening of nominations should be clearly published where all members of the region or nation can access it. Care should be made to encourage diverse candidates to nominate themselves, with time allowed for the reopening of nominations should the candidates be insufficiently diverse, for example, if there are no self-identified women candidates. The election should be carried out using Single Transferable Vote.”

Amendment 10. (Basket 4)

*Sean Mulcahy, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Kirsty Jones, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Kathryn Driscoll, Peter Gaskell, Iolo Jones, Peter Varley, Keith Watts, Ann Were, Chris Were, Alan Borgars*

In section i) of section 2.2, insert the text “and the nation of Wales” between “region” and “should elect”, so that it reads:

“i) Each GPEW region and the nation of Wales should elect one member to the Committee.”

In section iii) of section 2.2, insert the text “, the nation of Wales” between “regions” and “and the Annual Conference”, so that it reads:

“iii) If fewer than eleven members are elected by the regions, the nation of Wales and the Annual Conference then GPEX shall appoint the remaining members.”

Amendment 11. (Basket 3)

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Kirsty Jones, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel*

At the end of clause 2.2(iii) add the text:

**“The region/nations with vacancies will be asked by the Complaints Manager to furnish GPEX with the details of one or more individuals who have confirmed their willingness to serve on the Committee, so that appointments can be made.”**

2.3 The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee shall be elected annually by the members of the Committee **from amongst their number. The Deputy Chair will act in place of the Chair in the Chair’s absence or in the event of the Chair recusing themselves.**

2.4 The Committee Chair shall ensure that all complaints presented to the Committee under Standing Order 3.8 are reviewed at the first Committee meeting following receipt of the complaint within a practicable timeframe.

2.5 The Committee shall meet six times in a calendar year to review new complaints and allocate investigators as soon as possible after a complaint has been received by the Complaints Manager, and to hear complaints that have been investigated.

2.6 The Committee Chair shall ensure that action minutes are taken at each meeting by a Minuting Secretary who is not a member of the Committee, and that the minutes are available five working days after the Committee Meeting.

### 3. Complaints Procedure

3.1 On receipt of a complaint, submitted on the official complaint form <sup>4</sup> by a member of GPEW (hereinafter referred to as the Complainant) the Complaints Manager shall

- i) acknowledge receipt of the complaint
- ii) forward the complaint to the members of the Referral Group within two working days.
- iii) log the complaint in the confidential section of the Governance folder.

3.2 If a complaint is received from a member of GPEW with a request for immediate suspension, the Complaints Manager will pass the complaint to the referral group within one working day who will consider whether there is evidence of an immediate risk to the party or to bodies or individuals unless suspension is activated. The Referral Group will refer such a request to the Co-chairs of GPRC within two days unless they

consider there is no evidence of such risk. Consideration of this by GPRC will be in accordance with the GPRC Standing Orders.

**Amendment 12. (Basket 5)**

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Kirsty Jones, Sean Mulcahy, Darren Wells*

Delete proposed 3.2 and replace with:

**“If a complaint is received from a member of GPEW with a request for immediate suspension, the Complaints Manager will pass the complaint to both the Referral Group, and within one working day of receipt to GPRC. As soon as practically possible, GPRC should consider whether there is evidence of an immediate risk to the party or to bodies or individuals unless suspension is activated, in accordance with the GPRC Standing Orders, and communicate this to the necessary parties as a matter of urgency. A request for suspension should ideally take no more than 24 hours from receipt to notification of suspension.”**

3.3 Members of the Referral Group shall each consider whether the complaint should be dismissed, be referred to the Committee or to another appropriate party body. Members of the Referral Group shall inform the Complaints Manager of their considered decision within three working days. The agreement of at least two members of the Referral Group is required for the referral route to be decided. If there is not agreement between at least two members, then the members shall enter into a discussion, consulting with their respective deputies if appropriate. If a complaint is made against more than one member, the referral group must confer and agree how the complaint shall be managed. A final decision must be made within one week of the complaint being sent to the Referral Group.

**Amendment 3. Part b**

*Sean Mulcahy, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Emma Carter, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Alan Hale, Clare Lorraine Phipps*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 3 has been split into two parts that will be debated separately. Part A can be found after clause 1.5]*

That the proposed clause 3.3 which currently reads:

**“3.3 Members of the Referral Group shall each consider whether the complaint should be dismissed, be referred to the Committee or to another appropriate party body. Members of the Referral Group**

shall inform the Complaints Manager of their considered decision within three working days. The agreement of at least two members of the Referral Group is required for the referral route to be decided. If there is not agreement between at least two members, then the members shall enter into a discussion, consulting with their respective deputies if appropriate. If a complaint is made against more than one member, the referral group must confer and agree how the complaint shall be managed. A final decision must be made within one week of the complaint being sent to the Referral Group.”

be amended to read:

**“3.3 Members of the Referral Group** shall each consider whether the complaint should be dismissed, be referred to the Committee or to another appropriate party body within or outside the party. If a complaint is made against more than one member, the referral group must confer and agree how the complaint shall be managed. The Referral Group will reach its decisions by consensus. If there is not immediate consensus, then the members shall enter into a discussion, consulting with their respective deputies if appropriate. A final decision must be made within one week of the complaint being sent to the Referral Group. Members of the Referral Group shall inform the Complaints Manager **of their considered decision within three working days.**”

3.4 If a complaint is dismissed, the members of the Referral Group shall be required to notify the Complaints Manager of the reason for their decision. The member against whom the complaint has been made (hereinafter referred to as the Respondent) will be informed by the Complaints Manager that a complaint has been made against them, that it has been dismissed and the reasons for that decision. They shall be provided with an outline detail of the complaint which includes the substance of the complaint but not the names of the Complainant or witnesses.

Amendment 13. (Basket 2)

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Emma Carter, Adam McGregor, Sean Mulcahy, Doug Rouxel, Darren Wells*

Append to the end of the proposed 3.4:

**“Consideration shall however be given to the possibility that the complaint itself is part** of a pattern of harassment of the Respondent, and avoid routinely passing on complaints to Respondents in such instances until proper consideration has been given as to whether this will be contributing to such **harassment.**”

3.5 If the complaint is being referred to another party body, the Respondent will be informed by the Complaints Manager that a complaint has been made against them and the body to which it is being referred. They shall be provided with an outline detail of the complaint which includes the substance of the complaint but not the names of the Complainant or witnesses. The Complaints Manager will then pass the complaint form on to the relevant body within five working days with a request to be kept informed of how the complaint is progressed.

3.6 If the complaint is being referred to the Committee, the Respondent will be informed by the Complaints Manager that a complaint has been made against them and that it is being referred to the Committee. They will be forwarded the appropriately redacted <sup>5</sup> complaint form, a copy of these Standing Orders and given the probable date of the next Committee meeting when the complaint will be considered. If information is available that indicates that consideration should be taken of any possible impact on the Respondent of receiving the complaint, then the Complaints Manager shall liaise with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee in this consideration.

**Amendment 14.** (Basket 2)

*Kirsty Jones, Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Alan Borgars,*

**At the end of each section 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6, add the text “The Complaints Manager will also notify the Complainant of this information.”**

**Amendment 15.** Part a (Basket 2)

*Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sean Mulcahy*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 15 has been split into two parts that will be debated separately. Part B can be found after clause 5.5]*

At the end of clause 3.6, add the text:

**“The Complainant’s personal details should not be shared with the Respondent without the Complainant’s explicit consent.”**

3.7 In the case of 3.5 and 3.6 the Complainant and the Respondent shall be asked whether they consider that they need any adjustments to be made to the complaints process for reasons of disability and if so what these adjustments should be. The Complaints Manager will liaise with the Chair of the Committee to make any

adjustments that are considered reasonable<sup>7</sup>. The Investigators shall be informed of any adjustments that will need to be made during the investigation.

**Amendment 16. (Basket 4)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells*

**In section 3.7, replace the text “of disability” to “related to any protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010”, so that the first sentence reads:**

**“In the case of 3.5 and 3.6 the Complainant and the Respondent shall be asked whether they need any adjustments to be made to the complaints process for reasons related to any protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010 and if so what these adjustments should be.”**

3.8 The Committee shall consider complaints presented to it from the Complaints Manager which must contain a proposal that the Committee should consider disciplinary measures against the Respondent on one or more of the following grounds:

- i) that the Respondent has contravened the Constitution of the Party as interpreted by the Standing Orders Committee (SOC);
- ii) that the Respondent has committed a breach of one or more of the number of Standards in the Party's Code of Conduct;
- iii) that the Respondent has brought the Party into disrepute.

3.9 Complaints submitted by the Complaints Manager must be presented in a written format to the Committee and must at a minimum specify:

- i) The ground on which they propose that the Committee should consider taking disciplinary measures
- ii) and
  - a) In the case of ground 3.8 i), the clause of the Constitution that the member is alleged to have breached or contravened and the manner and circumstances in which they are alleged to have done so;
  - b) In the case of ground 3.8 ii), the clause(s) of the Code of Conduct that the member is alleged to have breached and the manner and circumstances in which they are alleged to have done so;
  - c) In the case of ground 3.8 iii), the manner and circumstances in which they are alleged to have done so.

Amendment 1. Part b

*Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells, Clare Lorraine Phipps*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 1 has been split in to two parts so that the text appears at the correct place in the agenda. The amendments will be debated and voted on as one. Part A can be found after clause 1.2]*

In section 3.9(ii)(c), insert the text “and any relevant organisational policies that are alleged to have been breached” at the end, so that the section reads:

“In the case of ground 3.8 iii), the manner and circumstances in which they are alleged to have done so, any relevant organisational policies that are alleged to have been breached.”

Amendment 17. (Basket 5)

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor*

After the proposed clause 3.9, insert the following clauses:

“The GPRC handbook shall provide examples of what constitutes “bringing the party into disrepute”, in order to provide guidance to those involved in the complaints process. The handbook shall also provide examples of what constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct to be investigated by the Disciplinary Committee as opposed to a minor infringement which may be dealt with via other channels, in order to provide guidance to those involved in the complaints process. This information shall also be made accessible to members on the relevant complaints section of the members site ”

And re-number this section accordingly.

3.10 The Committee shall not consider a complaint that lacks the minimum specifications detailed in 3.8.

3.11 Where the complaint is submitted by a GPEW region, local party or special interest group, it will be expected that it will be accompanied by a case file. The case file should include as a minimum:

- i) a summary of the case against the Respondent(s)
- ii) the date(s) of alleged breaches
- iii) the name(s) and local party(s) of the Respondent(s)
- iv) names and contact details of Witnesses

#### 4. Investigation of a Complaint

4.1 When a complaint is presented by the Complaints Manager to the Committee, the Committee shall consider whether or not there is a need to appoint investigators.

4.2 If the complaint concerns a member who has been convicted of a criminal offence of a nature which could pose a threat to the well-being of the party or its members, Disciplinary Committee may make the decision to expel the member forthwith.

##### Amendment 18. (Basket 5)

*Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells, Clare Lorraine Phipps, Aimee Challenor, Kirsty Jones*

*[A fragment of this amendment has been ruled out of order.]*

Delete proposed clause 4.2 and add a new clause following 3.4:

**“If the complaint concerns a criminal offence of the nature which cause pose a threat to the well-being of the party or its members, the Complaints Manager should signpost external bodies or sources of information, to the Complainant. The Committee will also refer the complaint to the Co-Chairs of GPRC to consider immediate suspension of the Respondent, for the duration of any investigation (as per 3.2). The Committee should seek legal advice if necessary.”**

And re-number the respective sections accordingly.

4.3 The Committee may decide that it has been provided with sufficient evidence in the complaint to make a decision without the need for an investigation. The Committee shall decide to hold a formal hearing of the case at the next scheduled Committee meeting. The Complaints Manager will inform both the Complainant and the Respondent of the decision and of the date, time and venue of the Committee meeting when the case will be heard. The Respondent will be sent the complaint form and any necessary evidence appropriately redacted. <sup>5</sup>

4.4 If the Committee decides that an investigation is necessary it shall appoint investigators from its membership (hereinafter referred to as the Investigators) to carry out the investigation <sup>6</sup> and compile a report containing the evidence and circumstances behind the complaint for hearing at the next Committee meeting.

4.5 The Complaints Manager will notify the Complainant and the Respondent in writing of the decision to investigate, the names of the investigators and the probable date for the hearing. They will be informed that **they will be given at least three weeks' notice of the date, time and place for the Committee to convene to hear and rule on the complaint.**

4.6 The Investigators shall be informed by the Complaints Manager, and take account of any reasonable adjustments that need to be made during the investigation as notified under 3.7.

4.7 The Investigators must make themselves known to the Complainant and Respondent directly and make arrangements, if necessary, to meet them or talk to them at a mutually convenient time and place. To contact the Respondent the investigators may use the email, phone and postal address of the Respondent held by the Green Party membership database. If there is no reply the investigators are to report back to the Committee that no reply has been received. Investigators are not expected to track down Respondents who have moved or changed contact details without notifying GPEW.

4.8 The Investigators should also make themselves known to any witnesses that they may wish to take evidence from, indicating the form in which they intend that the evidence will be taken. The Investigators should give an opportunity for the witnesses to direct this process if appropriate and be shown the written record of their evidence to confirm its accuracy and tone prior to **inclusion in the investigator's report.**

4.9 In considering a complaint about conduct stemming from holding a political belief that is not in accord with that of the GPEW, it shall be made explicitly clear that it is the conduct that may result in a sanction and not the holding of such a belief per se.

**Amendment 19. (Basket 1)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Clare Lorraine Phipps, Aimee Challenor*

That the proposed clauses 4.3, 4.5 and 4.9 be deleted and the section re-numbered accordingly.

4.10 As far as is practicable, the investigation report should be completed within one month of the **Committee's decision to investigate. The report and copies of any evidence and documents gathered in the course of the investigation will be sent to the Complaints Manager.**

4.11 At least two weeks prior to the Committee meeting, the Complaints Manager will simultaneously send a **copy of the Investigator's report to members of the Committee and to the Respondent and Complainant**, together with copies of the written complaint, the original case file and of all the other evidence gathered in the course of the investigation, except where the need for anonymity is considered to be an overriding concern. Redaction of some details should also be considered.

4.12 **The investigation report shall then be presented by the Investigators at the Committee's hearing of the complaint.**

4.13 **Any response received from the Respondent shall be presented at the Committee's hearing of the complaint.**

4.14 If the investigation has not been progressed or completed in time for it to be heard at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee, then the Investigators will write and present an interim report detailing progress on the investigation.

## 5. Arrangements for Hearing of the Complaint by the Committee

5.1 The Complaints Manager must liaise with the Committee Chair to arrange the date, time and place for the Committee to convene to consider the complaint. The venue for the Committee meeting must meet the accessibility and any other additional needs of Committee members, Complainants, Respondents and any supporting members.

5.2 The date should be no later than three calendar months from the receipt of the complaint by the Complaints Manager. The Complaints Manager will send at **least three weeks' prior notification of the date**, time and place of the meeting to the Complainant and the Respondent

5.3 The Respondent will be invited to submit a written response to the report to the Complaints Manager by 5pm three working days before the date on which the Committee meets to consider the complaint. This written response can be in email form.

5.4 Whether or not the Respondent submits a written response, they may attend in person on the date and at the place where the Committee meets to hear the complaint made against them.

5.5 Both the Respondent and the Complainant may be accompanied by another Party member to assist them in explaining their position to the Committee.

#### Amendment 15. Part b (Basket 2)

*Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Sean Mulcahy*

*[SOC Note – Amendment 15 has been split into two parts that will be debated separately. Part A can be found after clause 3.6]*

At the end of clause 5.5, add the text:

**“A Complainant has the right to request to be able to arrive** at the venue of the hearing at a different pre-arranged time to the Respondent. The Complainant also has the right to be present at a different room at the venue of the hearing, interacting with the hearing via video, audio or text based technology as **appropriate.**”

5.6 The Complaints Manager must provide a copy of the notification to the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee.

### 6. Process for Hearing of a complaint by the Committee

6.1 The quorum for Committee meetings is four excluding the Investigators. The Investigators will not be allowed to take part in the deliberation.

6.2 The Committee must take account of any response submitted by the Respondent by the deadline specified in 5.3.

6.3 If the Respondent attends the Committee, the Committee will hear them in person and any evidence they may bring as part of the consideration of the complaint. If the Respondent has brought another member of the Party, to assist them in presenting their case to the Committee that other member will be permitted to assist the Respondent under the same principles that pertain with a McKenzie friend. The Respondent may be asked questions by any member of the Committee taking part in the hearing.

6.4 If the Complainant attends the Committee, the Committee will hear them in person as part of the consideration of the complaint. If the Complainant has brought another member of the Party to assist them that other member will be permitted to assist them under the same principles that pertain with a McKenzie friend. The Complainant may be asked questions by any member of the committee taking part in the hearing.

6.5 Either the Complainant or Respondent may be requested to give evidence at the hearing. If the Complainant is requested to attend the Respondent should also be requested to attend.

6.6 Witnesses may also be asked to attend and will be informed in advance of the format of the hearing.

6.7 The Complainant shall not be entitled to ask questions of the Respondent, who will not themselves be entitled to ask questions of the Complainant.

6.8 If the Committee so wishes, the Complaints Manager may be asked to be present in an advisory capacity. However they will not take part in the deliberations at the hearing of the complaint.

6.9 Where the complaint brought by the Complaints Manager has originated in information being brought to their attention by another member (the Complainant), the Chair of the Committee may invite the Complainant to also attend the meeting at which the complaint is considered and give evidence to that meeting.

6.10 The Committee will normally reach its decisions by consensus through debating the evidence. However, in the event of failure to arrive at consensus majority voting shall apply. The Chair has a casting vote.

6.11 If the Committee finds the ground of the complaint to not be established it shall dismiss the complaint.

6.12 If the Committee finds the ground of the complaint to be established it shall use the principle of proportionality<sup>8</sup> when determining whether and which sanction should be imposed. Consideration should be given if disciplinary action is being taken over behaviour where disability may be a relevant factor. Taking reasonable account of all the circumstances, the Committee shall impose one of the three disciplinary measures from (a) censure, (b) suspension for a fixed period, or (c) expulsion. In circumstances where the Committee does not consider it would be fair to impose any disciplinary measure it may discharge the upheld complaint with no sanction.

**Amendment 20.** (Basket 6)

*Sean Mulcahy, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Kirsty Jones, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Alan Hale, Darren Wells*

**In section 6.12, delete the text “Consideration should be given if disciplinary action is being taken over behaviour where disability may be a relevant factor.”**

**Amendment 21.** (Basket 6)

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Aimee Challenor, Ronald Stewart, Philip Vabulas, RoseMary Warrington, Paul Weaver*

In section 6.12, delete the text “Consideration should be given if disciplinary action is being taken over behaviour where **disability may be a relevant factor.**”

And replace with:

**“The Committee must consider whether behaviour could be reasonably known to be the consequence of a disability, and ensure that action from the Committee in such cases must only be taken if it is a proportional means of achieving a legitimate aim. Legal advice should be sought in instances of **uncertainty.**”**

6.13 If appropriate the Committee will offer additional advice and/or guidance as to future behaviour.

Amendment 22. (Basket 6)

*Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Alan Hale, Doug Rouxel, Emma Carter, Darren Wells*

At the end of section 6.13, add the text “This must only be done in collaboration with all the party groups that the Respondent is a member of.”

Amendment 23. (Basket 6)

*Kirsty Jones, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Darren Wells*

Delete section 6.13 and renumber appropriately.

6.14 How the decision is taken by the Committee shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting as well as the decision.

Amendment 24. (Basket 1)

*Kirsty Jones, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel, Alan Hale, Darren Wells, Sean Mulcahy*

At the end of section 2.6, add the text “Redacted minutes should be published on the Members’ Website, ensuring confidential information and identifying details of members **are removed.**”

At the end of section 6.14, add the text “Redacted minutes should be published on the Members’ Website, ensuring confidential information and identifying details of members are removed.”

6.15 The Committee’s decision as regards any disciplinary measure shall have immediate effect (subject to any deferral direction in the case of suspension) and be final and binding subject only to the Respondent’s right of appeal to GPRC.

6.16 The Committee Chair shall report the decision to the Complaints Manager who shall notify both the Complainant and the Respondent of the Committee’s decision within five working days of the hearing. In a case where the decision is one of censure, fixed term suspension or expulsion the Respondent shall be advised that they have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee and that they may exercise that right by informing the Complaints Manager of their intention to do so within three weeks of the date of notification.

6.17 Any decision of suspension or expulsion of the member shall have the effect of suspending their membership of, or expelling them from, any Party group of which they are a member. It is the Complaints Manager’s responsibility to inform the membership secretary and the Co-ordinator and/or Secretary of all relevant groups of the decision to exclude or expel the Respondent and its effect.

6.18 The Complaints Manager shall report all decisions of censure, suspension and expulsion to the next meeting of GPRC and to the next National Conference.

## 7. Appeals

7.1 The Appeals Committee shall be elected at the GPRC AGM each year and shall consist of five GPRC councillors, none of whom can be a GPRC Co-Chair. The Chair of the Appeals Committee will be elected at the GPRC AGM by the GPRC membership.

7.2 The quorum for the GPRC Appeals Subcommittee shall be three.

7.3 The Respondent shall have a right of appeal against a decision of the Committee. A Complainant has no right of appeal.

7.4 A member who has been censured, suspended or expelled by the Committee has the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee and may exercise that right by placing that intention in writing to the Complaints Manager within three weeks of their notification of the results of the Committee hearing.

7.5 Appeals may only be pursued on one or more of the following grounds:

- i) That from the information presented before the Committee it was unreasonable for the Committee to find the ground of the complaint to be established.
- ii) That there is relevant, reliable, and significant information that was not been presented before the Committee and which would have been likely to cause the Committee to find that the ground of the complaint was not established. The Appeals Committee will ask the Respondent to explain why the new information could not have been presented to the Committee.
- iii) **That the Committee's consideration of the complaint was procedurally unfair to the Respondent.**

7.6 The Complaints Manager must acknowledge a Respondent's intention to appeal and advise them of the three grounds on which an appeal may be sought and invite the Respondent to give written notification (the appeal statement) to the Complaints Manager within three weeks of the one or more grounds on which they wish to appeal and, in the cases of 7.5 ii) and iii) respectively, of the information referred to and/or the respects in which the member considers the Committee's consideration to have been procedurally unfair.

7.7 On receipt of the appeal statement the Complaints Manager shall refer it to the Appeals Committee for determination as regards to whether the appeal statement constitutes a valid appeal. All of the case file will be forwarded together with the relevant section of the Committee minutes when the decision was made.

7.8 The Complaints Manager will notify the Chair of the Committee that an appeal has been lodged. The Committee may ask one of its members to attend the Appeal hearing to be available to explain how the decision was made by the Committee and to answer any questions from the Appeals Committee or the Respondent.

7.9 Thereafter, the Chair of the Appeals Committee shall communicate with the Respondent through the Complaints Manager as regards the arrangements for the Appeals Committee meeting at which the appeal will be heard and for the prior exchanging of documents and lists of witnesses intended to be brought to the meeting. The Respondent shall be entitled to bring another member of the Party to the meeting to assist them in the appeal and shall be advised of that right in the communications regarding the arrangements for the meeting.

7.10 The Chair of the Appeals Committee will convene a meeting of the Appeals Committee to consider the appeal. This is subject to both the **Respondent and the Complaints Manager receiving at least two weeks' notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and of the Respondent's right to attend and bring relevant documents and witnesses.**

7.11 If no ground of appeal is upheld by the Appeals Committee, it shall be dismissed.

**7.12 If the appeal is upheld by the Appeals Committee, then the Committee's decision to impose a disciplinary measure will either be over-ruled and the original complaint dismissed or a lesser disciplinary measure imposed. This shall follow the same process in considering proportionality as in 6.12.**

7.13 The Appeals Committee appeal decision shall be final and binding and not subject to further appeal. The Appeals Committee should give reasons for its decision.

**Amendment 25. (Basket 7)**

*Kirsty Jones, Emma Carter, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel*

**At the end of section 7.13, add the text "They shall remind the Respondent and Complainant of their rights of Whistleblowing under the GPEW Policy on Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination."**

7.14 The Appeals Committee Chair shall arrange for the decision and the reasons for the decision, to be reported to the Complaints Manager, the Respondent, the Complainant and the Committee.

7.15 Any Party group of which the Respondent is a member, shall be informed by the Complaints Manager of the decision of the Appeals Committee to uphold the appeal.

7.16 An Appeals Committee decision that itself imposes suspension on a member shall have the effect of suspending their membership from any Party group of which they are a member and it is the Complaints **Manager's responsibility to inform the Co-ordinator** and Secretary of the relevant groups of a decision to suspend and its effect.

**Amendment 26. (Basket 7)**

*Sean Mulcahy, Emma Carter, Aimee Challenor, Hannah Clare, Kirsty Jones, Clare Lorraine Phipps, Adam McGregor, Doug Rouxel*

That the proposed clause 6.16 which currently reads:

**"6.16 The Committee Chair shall report the decision to the Complaints Manager who shall notify both the Complainant and the Respondent of the Committee's decision within five working days of the hearing. In a case where the decision is one of censure, fixed term suspension or expulsion the Respondent shall be advised that they have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee and that they may exercise that right by informing the Complaints Manager of their intention to do so within three weeks of the date of notification."**

be amended to read:

**“6.16 The Committee Chair shall report the decision to the Complaints Manager who shall notify both the Complainant and the Respondent of the Committee’s decision within five working days of the hearing. The Complainant and the Respondent shall be advised that they have the right of appeal to the Appeals Committee, the three grounds on which an appeal may be sought (see 7.5), and that they may exercise the right to appeal by giving written notification to the Complaints Manager of their intention to do so in the form of an appeal statement within three weeks. An appeal statement should set out any relevant information on the respects in which the member considers the Committee’s decision to have breached the grounds set out in clause 7.5.”**

That proposed clauses 7.3 and 7.4 be deleted.

That the proposed clause 7.5 which currently reads:

**“7.5 Appeals may only** be pursued on one or more of the following grounds:

i) That from the information presented before the Committee it was unreasonable for the Committee to find the ground of the complaint to be established.

ii) That there is relevant, reliable, and significant information that was not been presented before the Committee and which would have been likely to cause the Committee to find that the ground of the complaint was not established. The Appeals Committee will ask the Respondent to explain why the new information could not have been presented to the Committee.

**iii) That the Committee’s consideration of the complaint was procedurally unfair to the Respondent.”**

be amended to read:

**“7.5 Appeals may only be pursued on one or more of the following grounds:**

i) That from the information presented before the Committee it was unreasonable for the Committee to find the ground of the complaint to be established or dismissed.

ii) That there is relevant, reliable, and significant information that was not been presented before the Committee and which would have been likely to cause the Committee to find that the ground of the complaint was or was not established.

**iii) That the Committee’s consideration of the complaint was procedurally unfair to the member.”**

That proposed clause 7.6 be deleted.

**That the text “and Complainant” be inserted after every instance of “Respondent” in proposed clauses 7.8, 7.9 and 7.10.**

That the proposed clause 7.12, which currently reads:

**“7.12 If the appeal is upheld by the Appeals Committee, then the Committee’s decision to impose a disciplinary measure will either be over-ruled and the original complaint dismissed or a lesser disciplinary measure imposed. This shall follow the same process in considering proportionality as in 6.12.”**

be amended to read:

**“7.12 If the appeal is upheld by the Appeals Committee, then the Committee’s decision will be overruled and either the original complaint dismissed or an appropriate disciplinary measure imposed. This shall follow the same process in considering proportionality as in 6.12.”**

**That the grammatically appropriate version of “or expel” be inserted after each version of “suspend” in the proposed clause 7.16, so that it reads:**

**“7.16 An Appeals Committee decision that itself imposes suspension or expulsion on a member shall have the effect of suspending or expelling their membership from any Party group of which they are a member and it is the Complaints Manager’s responsibility to inform the Coordinator and Secretary of the relevant groups of a decision to suspend or expel and its effect.”**

And that the section (and above clauses) be re-numbered accordingly.

7.17 It shall be the responsibility of the Complaints Manager to formally report all appeal decisions to the next National Conference.

## **8. Review and Revision of Standing Orders**

**These Standing Orders and the Complaints Process on the member’s website shall be reviewed annually by the Committee Standing Orders Subcommittee. Any proposed revisions shall be considered and agreed by a majority vote of the full Committee. They will then be presented to the GPEW Annual Conference by the Chair of the Committee for approval.**

### Amendment 27.

*Clare Lorraine Phipps, Kirsty Jones, Hannah Clare, Adam McGregor, Sean Mulcahy*

*[SOC Note – A fragment of this amendment has been ruled Out of Order]*

**Number the text currently comprising section 8 “8.1”.**

Add the following clause after:

**“8.2 At the end of their dealing with the complaints process, Complainants and Respondents shall be provided with an anonymous feedback survey by the Governance Assistant, who will collect responses (these may alternatively be returned to the Co-Chairs of GPRC or the Chair of GPEX if preferred by the survey respondent). The survey should include questions on protected characteristics of the survey respondents (with the option not to declare).”**

### Foot notes

1 Link to <https://my.greenparty.org.uk/content/complaints-process>

2 Currently the Party CEO

3 Currently the Governance Assistant

4 Link to complaint form

5 Redaction. If the complaint contains a derogatory, abusive or discriminatory description of the Respondent this shall be redacted before being forwarded to the Respondent, with an indication that it has been redacted and why. The personal contact details of the Complainant and the names and personal details of any other parties to the complaint shall also be redacted prior to the complaint form being sent to the Respondent.

6 Investigators shall follow the recommended procedure for carrying out the investigation

7 Reasonable adjustments for accessibility may include: wheelchair access, hearing loop, policies and other documents available in large print and Braille, adjustments for travel arrangements

8 Proportionality requires not going further than is necessary to achieve the stated aim of any given decision. Therefore the Committee and Appeals Committee should ask themselves the following questions in determining whether or not to impose, or uphold, a sanction:-

- a) Is the sanction a legitimate exercise of the Committee's powers?
- b) Is it a suitable means of achieving the aim of upholding the reputation of the GPEW and ensuring good conduct by members?
- c) Is it the least restrictive means of attaining that aim?
- d) Is it proportionate in the strict sense, striking a proper balance between the requirements of the GPEW and the rights of the member?

When the Committee decides on a sanction it should start with the least punitive sanction and if they decide it is not sufficient to achieve the aim of the decision being made, to record why and then to move on to the next most serious sanction, i.e. to approach the sanctions in ascending order of seriousness.

(<https://my.greenparty.org.uk/sites/my.greenparty.org.uk/files/webform/Standing%20Orders%20for%20Party%20Discipline%20for%20the%20Green%20Party%20of%20England%20and%20Wales%20revised%20Dec%202017.docx>)

## Appendix 4 Feasibility Studies for Reform of Conference Voting

### A. The Status Quo

#### 1. Equality Audit

As per our Constitution, all paid-up members of the Green Party can take part in the two Conferences which last 3 to 4 days. Time, cost and transport are the three main constraints to attend. Participation varies between 1% and 2% of the membership.

#### 2. Cost assessment

According to the Green Party Accounts published in Appendix 5 of the Final Agenda of the Autumn Conference 2017 and for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016, Conference Income was £67,346 against Conferences Expenditure of £91,990. The full accounts can be found on the electoral commission website \*.

#### 3. Widening democracy from the grass roots

No change

#### 4. Effort assessment from members and staff

No change

#### 5. Ease of alignment with the existing Constitution

No change

\*<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/Apl/Accounts/Documents/19380>

### B. Delegates/representatives conference

#### 1. Equality audit

This solution would potentially allow a gender quota to be incorporated into the rules, at some cost to local party autonomy. The small numbers of delegates or representatives per local party would make it unfeasible to ensure anything approaching proportionate representation of minority groups except perhaps in the case of the very largest parties

Cost of attending would be similar to the status quo, though there may be an impetus to encourage local or regional parties to contribute to delegates or representatives' expenses, or the national party might conceivably offer assistance towards travelling costs from regions most distant from the conference venue.

## 2. Cost assessment

Unless the latter suggestion in the previous paragraph were adopted, the costs implications at national level would be no different from the current position. The increased local engagement implied by holding additional local party meetings to adequately prepare and elect delegates or representatives may come at some extra cost.

## 3. Widening democracy from the grass roots

There is no way to guarantee that local parties would take seriously the process of electing a representative or mandating a delegate - if that was their decision to do so - but we should assume that many would. With much advance notice of emerging motions communicated to all local parties, the extent to which the process would in practice widen grassroots democracy would become apparent after the system had been tried for a while, and then perhaps only after a survey of local party and members' experiences.

It is assumed that regional parties would act as notional local parties for members who do not belong to any local party and wished to be considered as delegates or representatives.

## 4. Effort assessment from members and staff

Particularly in the early stages, preparing for such a solution could put additional demands on paid Local Party Support Officers and Regional Committee members to encourage local parties to take a greater interest in submitting draft motions, decision making and the policy making process generally.

## 5. Ease of alignment with the existing Constitution

Any change to conference voting will require careful scrutiny of the Constitution for compatibility and to identify necessary changes, but with this solution, there is a template in the form of the old rules on delegate conferences which were abolished a few years ago. They were latterly not fully consistent with the rest of the Constitution, however.

## C. Online/Postal voting when conference opinion is divided

### 1. Equality audit

The solution will improve equal opportunities by allowing members unable to attend conference to participate in decision making when conference has not achieved a consensus.

### 2. Cost assessment

The cost implications are minimal.

### 3. Widening democracy from the grass roots

Grassroots democracy will be improved by allowing all members to participate in decision making when conference has not achieved a consensus

### 4. Effort assessment from members and staff

There is some additional work for SOC, who will have to introduce a procedure for recording the names of the members who vote at conference on a motion which is to be the subject of an online/ postal ballot. SOC will also have to identify the member or members responsible for producing the summaries of the arguments in favour of and against the motions concerned

### 5. Ease of alignment with existing constitution

There will need to be a simple addition to the constitution.

## D. Regional Conferences & one Annual Conference with indicative online voting

### 1. Equality audit

This solution would enable a greater number of members on low income who cannot afford to attend our existing two or even just one conference to take part in their nearest Regional Spring Conference devoted strictly to decision making in general and policy decision making in particular.

The proximity of such regional events would facilitate greater participation of member with mobility difficulties.

Being a one-day event only, members with caring responsibilities would find it easier and less costly to take part in decision making, including policy making.

Crèches are already provided in some of our regional events. It would be incumbent on all regions to provide such facilities as a matter of course so as to make it possible for parents with young children to attend.

Some regions already provide financial assistance for sign language interpreters when requested. This service should be offered to all members and paid for out of regional funds.

## 2. Cost assessment

It has been estimated that with one Annual Conference only for 3 days, the savings for the GPEW would be in the region of £7K to 10K. Such savings would help 120 Local Parties to find the money for their £500 General Election deposits or it would go a long way towards the £5000 deposits for our 4 Mayoral Elections.

Most regions hold two separate days events, one in spring and the other in the autumn and bear the cost of running these events. To create a Spring Regional Conference would therefore not incur any additional cost to the GPEW. Slightly higher costs may however be incurred by Regions to meet the cost of larger venues and crèche provision.

The cost of purchasing electronic meeting tools such as those used by the European Green Party Congresses to synthesise an agreed position from multiple competing positions to be explored further.

## 3. Widening democracy from the grass roots

An average of 30 to 40 active members participate in the motion building process leading to the Final Agenda **for our two Conferences. A fraction of our members (1% to 2%) take part in the Party's actual decision-making bodies which are the two Conferences.**

Holding 10 regional conferences as part of the decision making process of the GPEW would empower local parties to take a more active role in discussing and drafting motions well ahead of Conference and take a more active role in decision making generally through their regions.

Holding 10 decision-making regional spring conferences would address a perceived imbalance between our London based Party operations in terms of resources and the exercise of power and the Regions.

## 4. Effort assessment from members and staff

A combination of Regional conferences and one Annual Conference would create greater focus on the part of Local Parties officers to work more closely with their regional committee.

This solution could put additional demands on paid Local Party Support Officers and Regional Committee members to encourage local parties to take a greater interest in decision making and the policy making process.

It would however be far less demanding on staff at central office who would only have to organise one conference instead of two per year.

Technical assistance from the Digital team would be required to organise the indicative voting facility though the members' site.

### 5. Ease of alignment with the existing Constitution

This solution will require substantial changes in the way the GPEW makes decisions and will require guidance from SOC.

The Annual Conference would remain the Supreme Body of the Party. However, motions would originate primarily from Regions with a percentage to be determined reserved to individual members and their 12 supporters as per the existing system.

Between the Spring Regional Conferences to be held in February /March, draft motions would be posted on a **dedicated "Motion in Progress" Forum (like prolonged Pre-Agenda)**. All Regions would then be invited to register their support and/or seek to amend them up to the deadline for the Final Agenda.

In cases of similar motions from Regional Conferences, and with agreement from the proposers, SOC would then be tasked to composite those prior to being posted of the Final Agenda.

### E. Online Voting and Conference

Discussion is confined to the Online Voting component of this proposal, except insofar as changes to Conference procedure are entailed or made more likely by the introduction of Online Voting.

"From a digital point of view there is nothing in the "two chambers" suggestion to stop you proposing it. It is fully achievable but I would need to work through a project plan to get an indicative budget ".

Lee Davies, Digital Manager, 13/11/2017.

## 1. Equality audit

In terms of time available and mobility of participants, an online component would undoubtedly increase **opportunities for participation in the Party's decision-making processes**. According to the [Office of National Statistics](#), in the first quarter of 2017 89% of adults had recently used the internet, up from 88% in 2016. We can assume that the profile of party membership will mean that the level of online access among members will not be lower than this and will in all probability be higher, as it is for the younger and more educated generally. For members who experience difficulty attending conference, whether due to childcare responsibilities, disability or health issues, being able to participate from home will increase their potential input into policy and organisational decisions.

## 2. Cost assessment

It is assumed that a voting system would initially use the current facilities. Only cosmetic changes would be **desirable, though maybe not strictly necessary, such as changing the 'up' and 'down' wording to 'for' and 'against' on the relevant forums**

It is undoubtedly the case that embellishments to the up- and down-voting system already installed on the **members' website could involve further** expense.

User-friendly refinements such as dedicated voting 'Apps' could also be considered in the light of experience.

Given the likely frequency of online voting, any fallback postal substitute introduced to replicate the online voting process for those without access to the internet would involve costs, as it does with postal voting for internal elections. Working out the details of such a scheme, or alternatives to it, would require further consultation with local parties.

## 3. Widening democracy from the grass roots

It is hard to see how this proposal could fail to widen opportunities for grassroots democracy. The extent to which members would avail themselves of the opportunities is unpredictable. It would also provide some degree of stimulus to local parties to facilitate debate on the issues raised on forums dedicated to online motions.

If this proposal was to be implemented it would be a good idea to begin monitoring levels of involvement from an early stage.

#### 4. Effort assessment from members and staff

If adoption of this proposal led to more motions being placed before the membership, then this would inevitably make more work for SOC in having to rule motions in or out of order. It might prove practical to put an arrangement in place whereby SOC considered the issue in batches of motions, not as and when they were posted online.

There would also need to be a redesign of the pre-agenda forums, in addition to that mentioned in 2 above.

**There would have to be a cut off period between the 'floating an idea' stage and the discussion and redrafting** process for a draft motion, with two separate threads. Scheduling space will be provided for this if Conference passes the motion to ["open pre-agenda forums immediately at the close of the previous Conference"](#).

Any extra work involved in a reformed pre-agenda process would be at least partly offset in the longer run because a two-stage process would make it easier to resolve the information deficit problem facing those who wish to co-propose (a current limit of four) motions, as well as issues surrounding the current prioritisation process for Conference motions, which could be replaced by a simple ordering based on net upvote. These and related points are discussed in slightly more detail at:

<https://my.greenparty.org.uk/comment/76404#comment-76404> and

<https://my.greenparty.org.uk/comment/77758#comment-77758>

#### 5. Ease of alignment with the existing Constitution

Policy motions awaiting confirmation by Conference could be given the status of interim policy. This would possibly save GPRC some work re-inventing wheels, or at least take some time pressure off them if the motion in question were on an especially topical point. Indeed, some motions might be conceived with a rapid response to topical issues in mind.

There would need to be an expansion of the section covering the pre-agenda forums, but no particular difficulties of alignment are anticipated. There would need to be adequate cross-referencing.

#### 6. Details and alternative forms of this proposal

There are questions on the detail of this proposal that are not discussed here, because they are doubly hypothetical and because they do not appear to greatly affect the feasibility criteria. One question concerns the outcome of Conference narrowly voting against a motion approved online. Another is the possibility of allowing the online-Conference order to operate in reverse, depending on when in the Conference cycle the motion is first mooted.

**Should 'Online Voting and Conference' be the proposal for which members express a clear preference at the non-binding vote, we would seek advice and guidance from SOC to find an acceptable formulation of such detail as part of the pilot test to be carried out prior to full implementation of such proposal at the 2019 Spring ( or Autumn ) Conference.**

**Expanded citations for paper version:**

**'Office of National Statistics'**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/itandinternetindustry/bulletins/internetusers/2017>

**'open pre-agenda forums immediately at the close of the previous Conference'**

<https://my.greenparty.org.uk/forum/policy-forums/2018-spring-conference-pre-agenda-motions/section-d-organisational/17668>

## Appendix 5 Blueprint & Road Map for developing a Framework of Ethics & Conduct

### *Mandate*

*Autumn Conference 2015 instructed "[...] Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) to initiate a comprehensive review of the Code of Conduct which should involve input from local and regional parties, individual members, groups within the party, Dispute Resolution Committee, Disciplinary Committee and relevant staff. The results of this review should be brought in the form of a set of amendments to the Code of Conduct to Spring Conference 2018 at the latest."*

*Conference attendees at that time were informed of a broad concept of developing a Code that includes the philosophy of our organisation as well as ethics and conduct. In line with the mandate from Conference, discussion papers have unpacked and refined that broad concept into the following firm proposals, which seek to amend the current Code of Conduct via a process that will see it subsumed into an overall Framework for Ethics & Conduct and amended via that process. GPRC members as well as reps from Disputes Resolution Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Wales & the regions and members of GPEx have been working together prior to submitting this motion. Responsibility for completing the work further can be allocated to this group which was set up exclusively for that purpose.*

### *Aims*

*1.1 The proposed aim of the Review, is to develop a Framework of Ethics & Conduct for the Green Party of England & Wales that:*

- *is part of the culture of The Party*
- *expresses our ethical philosophy and relates codes of practice to it*
- *is a one stop shop for all such internal policies*
- *covers legal, regulatory, or statutory compliance requirements*
- *covers good & ethical practice*
- *is part of the joining package for new members*
- *is part of certified training for staff.*

### *Principles*

*1.2. The proposed principles on which the new Framework is to be based are:*

- *it should emulate the kind of code of ethics & conduct that would be adopted by an enlightened organisation nowadays*
- *it should be useable on a daily basis by members and staff*
- *it should be capable of being bought into by the whole party*
- *it should be written in positive language not legalese*
- *it should have an inspiring title*
- *it should not override or rewrite existing policies (with the exception of the MCOC itself)*
- *all existing policies should continue to be overseen by the same bodies as now*
- *any gaps discovered where new or updated policies seem to be needed should be referred to the relevant party bodies*
- *the Review's work should not be in conflict with the Urgent Holistic Review*
- *the completed Framework is to be signed off by all relevant key party groups or bodies*
- *the Framework should include a mechanism for keeping it up to date.*

### *Format*

*1.3 The currently proposed format for the new Framework is:*

- a) Engaging title*
- b) Introductory letter from the leader detailing the purpose of the Framework and its importance in the creation of an ethical culture that benefits members and staff*
- c) Table of contents*
- d) Prologue/preamble - to expand upon the purposes and benefits outlined in the introductory letter*
- e) A summary or statement of the Green Party's relevant key values, principles or philosophy, which it has adopted, and / or its Mission Statement, should it adopt one*
- f) **Definition of the Framework's scope** – to whom it applies, when it applies and how it applies*
- g) Listing of code provisions - these are the substantive issues that impact our organisation*
- h) Examples of appropriate behaviour as it relates to each code provision*
- i) A framework providing members, staff and volunteers with guidance for making decisions and taking appropriate actions when faced with an ethical dilemma (including a decision tree)*
- j) Listing of resources for seeking assistance with grievances such as an ethics and compliance officer, anonymous reporting hotline and ethics and compliance website*
- k) References to disciplinary actions or other ramifications for code violations.*

### *Contents*

1.4 Individual sections may be grouped either according to themes or their priority in how they affect day to day activities. Theme headings could be for example, Campaigns, Elections, Funding & Money, Conflicts of Interest, etc etc (this is neither a complete or finalised list). All policies relating to conduct will be included, eg from safeguarding to finance handling and funding, from conflicts of interest to anti-bullying, harassment & discrimination policy and so on.

The format for each individual section is currently proposed to include:

- a) Identification of the provision or topic, such as conflicts of interest, use of company property, discrimination, etc.
- b) Definition of the core principle
- c) Intent of the provision
- d) Guidelines members and staff should follow for making a decision when faced with a dilemma
- e) Example of a typical scenario and how to resolve the matter in accordance with that code within the overall Framework

## Steps

1.5 The proposed sequence of steps to be followed in developing the Framework is:

- Step 1: Gathering Information
- Step 2: Creating the Draft
- Step 3: Reviewing the Draft
- Step 4: Formally Adopting the Framework
- Step 5: Introducing the Framework
- Step 6: Enforcing the Framework

## Step 1

The process is in mid-Step 1. The code development committee having compiled ideas as to what the Framework should include, the next proposed action, if Conference approves these proposals, is to solicit input from members and staff to get a true sense of ethical dilemmas they face on a daily basis. This can be done through an anonymous survey.

Flexibility - As the process of working through these steps is likely to involve much thinking and reviewing of progress, it is proposed that the body responsible for carrying this work forward be afforded some flexibility as to how strictly it adheres to the above blueprint and road map, if it emerges that the process will benefit from being tweaked.

