

**GREEN PARTY
AUTUMN CONFERENCE
30 SEP – 2 OCT 2022**



FINAL AGENDA

CONTENTS

SECTION A

6

REPORTS AND MOTIONS REQUIRED BY CONFERENCE

6

A01 – Standing Orders Committee (SOC) report	7
A02 – Policy Development Committee report	30
A03 – Deputy Leader Report	32
A04 – Co-Leaders’ report	35
A05 – Conferences Committee report	37
A06 – Publications Co-Ordinator report	39
A07 – Local Party Support Co-Ordinator report	40
A08 – Campaigns Committee report	41
A09 – Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee report	41
A10 – Trade Union Liaison Officer report	42
A11 – Equality and Diversity Co-Ordinators report	43
A12 – Green Party Executive Committee Chair report	44
A13 – Green Party Regional Council report	45
A14 – External Communications Co-ordinator report	49
A15 – Complaints Manager report	49
A16 – Management Co-ordinator report	51
A17 – Bullying and Harassment Sub-Committee report	51

SECTION B

53

VOTING PAPERS ON CHAPTERS OF POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

53

B01 – Land Use voting paper	53
-----------------------------	----

SECTION C

69

ACCREDITED POLICY MOTIONS

69

C01 – Climate Targets	69
C02 – Emergency Energy Reduction for the UK	75
C03 – Closer Alignment to the European Union	76
C04 – Improving National Accountability for Climate Damage	77
C05 – Philosophical Basis Climate and Economy Updates	77

SECTION D

85

ORGANISATIONAL MOTIONS	85
D01 – Reforming the party’s Annual General Meeting	85
D02 - Change to the Constitution for Disciplinary Committee	91
D03 - Wales Green Party Spokesperson Remuneration	92
D04 - A toolkit for healing divisions in the Green Party	92
D05 - Stonewall and Disaffiliation from Diversity Champions scheme	93
D06 - Changes to SOC	94
D07 - Extending the term of elected policy development committee membership	97
D08 - Ending new HIV Transmissions by 2030 part 1	98
D09 - Enhancing the complaints process	99
D10 - General Election Candidate Selection - Update to Rules	102
D11 - Changing eligibility to vote in GPEW internal elections	103
D12 - Add Constitution Section on Spokespeople	103
D13 - Adopt Proactive Stance for Standing in Elections	105
D14 - Green Party committee reform and expansion	105
D15 - Reopen Nominations to Avoid All Men and all White Internal Elections	106
D16 - Changes to GPEx	107
D17 - Abolish no-fault suspensions	111
D18 - Pathfinder motion	112
D19 - SOC Motion - Constitutional amendment re leadership election	116
D20 - SOC Motion – SOCC amendment for conference reform	117
D21 - SOC Motion - Constitutional amendment re role of RON	121
D22 - SOC Motion - SOCC amendment for separated motion submission deadlines	122

SECTION E

123

POLICY MOTIONS	123
E01 - Updates to the philosophical basis	124
E02 - £15 Minimum Wage	125
E03 - Restitution and Repatriation of Cultural Objects	125
E04 - Stating opposition to anti-union and anti-strike laws	126
E05 - Amending crime and justice policies	127
E06 - Enabling Motion for the Disability Policy Chapter	128
E07 - Moonshot to Retrofit Homes	128
E08 - Enabling Motion for Marine and Coastal Policy Chapter	129

E09 - Ensuring sex and gender are not conflated	130
E10 - Enabling Motion for the Tourism and Heritage Policy	131
E11 - Supporting workers taking strike action	131
E12 - Enabling Motion for the Natural Resources and Waste Management Policy Chapter	132
E13 - GPEW is an Eco-socialist Party	132
E14 - Ending new HIV Transmissions by 2030 part 2	134
E15 - Enabling Motion to Rewrite the Education Policy Chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society	136
E16 - Access to Fertility Treatment	136
E17 - Enabling Motion for Culture and Media Policies	137
E18 - EU100-111 Interim amendments to the Vision for Europe	137
E19 - Fully Fund HS2	139
E20 - Dolphins and pilot whales in the faroe islands	140

SECTION F

140

DRAFT VOTING PAPERS	141
F01 - Migration Policy draft Voting Paper	142
F02 - Peace security and defence draft Voting Paper	144
APPENDICES	149
APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND PAPERS	150
Background paper for motion D03	150
Background paper for motion D20	150
APPENDIX 2: MOTIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT PROPOSERS	151
APPENDIX 3: MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER	152
Amending "RR530 Trans Rights"	152
Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (Killer Robots)	153
Meat and Dairy Reduction	153
Personal Carbon Allowances	155
Calling for an increase in care workers' pay and allowance	156
Short term aims for reducing sewage in water	156
Support for a Clean Air as a Human Right Bill	156
Amendment to C01	157
Amendment to E02	157
APPENDIX 4: RECORD OF ORGANISATIONAL STATEMENTS FOR STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE	158
APPENDIX 5: STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS	159
APPENDIX 6: CONTACT DETAILS OF PROPOSERS OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS	163



SECTION A

REPORTS AND MOTIONS REQUIRED BY CONFERENCE

A01

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (SOC) REPORT

Rachel Collinson, Tim Kiely**

SOC note: Record of Organisational Statements for SOC is in Appendix 4

Motion text: To accept the following report (as amended, if amendments are agreed) and fast-tracking recommendations (as amended, if amendments are agreed).

Under Standing Orders, the SOC Report is to include: "(1) The Final Agenda and Ordering of Motions for Conference; (2) a notification of how many motions and amendments have been ruled out of order and where these are published; (3) a report on SOC's participation in the Agenda process including any motions or amendments that SOC is submitting to conference; (4) timetabling, chairing and other procedural matters affecting conference including elections to be held at conference, with the recommendations of SOC; (5) the report of the RO; (6) a report by SOC of any changes that they have adopted to their Standing Orders; (7) progress on Organisational Statements; (8) any other matters or recommendations that do not affect the running of conference; (9) rulings requested and made since the previous conference."

1. The Final Agenda and Ordering of Motions for Conference

Please report any errors found in the Final Agenda to soc@greenparty.org.uk.

The Green Party develop most of our policy by way of Voting Papers for chapters of policy in Policies for a Sustainable Society, as prepared by a Working Group following an Enabling Motion. These come to Conference either as B motions (for voting) or F motions (drafts for discussion) for part or whole chapters of policy.

Small changes to chapters can be made by C motions, which are accredited by Policy Development Committee (PDC) as having met extended

requirements for consultation. E motions are unaccredited motions and Enabling Motions.

SOC held our First Agenda meeting on Zoom on 31st July 2022. The order of policy motions in section C was suggested by Policy Development Committee (PDC) in email correspondence received following this meeting on 3rd August 2022 and confirmed during subsequent meetings on 14th and 28th August 2022 (with some changes, see below). The order of these motions is given below.

The motions proposed in the Final Agenda for this Annual General Meeting and Conference are:

Section A Reports. The Constitution sets out variously that Autumn Conference requires A Reports from: Standing Orders Committee (SOC); Policy Development Committee (PDC); the Equality and Diversity (E&D) Coordinator; the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC); the Green Party Executive (GPEx); Conferences Committee; Campaigns Committee; and the Elections Coordinator. By the time of the First Agenda Meeting SOC had received reports from all relevant groups and committees save for the Leaders and Deputy Leader, PDC (which by practice submits closer to the Final Agenda deadline), and Campaigns Committee. These reports were subsequently received by: 1st; 2nd; 6th ; and 26th August respectively.

Amendments to section A: Amendments to motions A01 and A02 can be made from the floor of Conference. Three other A Motions had amendments proposed to them via the Amendment Forum: A11; A13; and A15. We recommend that all other A motions be fast-tracked.

The order was determined on past practice and is as in the First Agenda. The Prioritisation Ballot for motions does not apply to Section A. Under Standing Orders, "c) The ballot shall not be used to prioritise items within Section A of the Agenda since these should all be considered."

Section B Voting Papers on Chapters of Policies for a Sustainable Society: A Voting Paper on Land Use, previously presented at Spring Conference 2022 in Draft Form, was presented to this Conference as motion B01, which was received in advance of the First Agenda deadline. Three amendments were proposed to this Voting Paper, of which one had insufficient proposers to be considered. The remainder were in order.

Section C Accredited Policy Motions. These policy motions were accredited after the First Agenda stage and had been listed as E motions in the Prioritisation Ballot. Accreditation by Policy Development Committee (PDC) does not mean that the Committee agrees with the policy content. It means that PDC has checked that the motion was adequately researched and consulted on, both internally and externally. It also confirms that the motion is not in conflict with other policies passed in the last two years.

The motions concern: emergency energy reduction for the UK; climate targets; accountability for climate damage; closer alignment with the EU; and updates to the Philosophical Basis concerning climate and the economy.

Amendments to section C. Of those motions that became part of section C, 3 had amendments proposed to them via the amendment forum. Of this total of 14 proposed amendments, 2 had insufficient co-proposers to be considered, and 1 was found to be out of order in its entirety. The remainder were in order, though some had parts that were out of order.

The order of Section C as proposed by PDC was largely reflected in the Final Agenda. However, SOC members decided that they would be guided by the Prioritisation Ballot results to the extent that Motion C01 moved from second to first place.

First Agenda	Final Agenda
E05 Climate Targets	C01
E02 Emergency Energy Reduction for the UK	C02
E06 Closer Alignment to the European Union	C03
E18 Improving National Accountability for Climate Damage	C04
E20 Philosophical Basis Climate and Economy Updates	C05

Section D.

Amendments to section D.

Of those motions that became part of section D, 9 had amendments proposed to them via the amendment forum. Of this total of 26 proposed amendments, 12 had insufficient co-proposers to be considered, and of those remaining none were found to be out of order.

The ranking is as members voted in the Prioritisation Ballot using the Modified Borda Count system. Once this count had been run, we applied multipliers to motions which came to previous conferences but had not been heard. This resulted in two motions which had been brought to previous Conferences in Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022 (D14 and D21 in the First Agenda) moving from 3rd to 1st place and from 22nd to 4th place, respectively.

We have exercised our discretion under SOCC under SOCC F2.6(c) to move D16, Remuneration for Wales leader, to third place in the agenda, given that it concerns the continued functioning of the Green Party of Wales.

First Agenda	Ballot	Final Agenda
D14 Reforming the party's Annual General Meeting	1	D01
D04 Change to the Constitution for Disciplinary Committee	2	D02
D22 Wales Green Party Spokesperson Remuneration	16	D03
D07 A toolkit for healing divisions in the Green Party	3	D04
D21 Stonewall and Disaffiliation from Diversity Champions Scheme	4	D05
D06 Changes to SOC	5	D06
D10 Extending the term of elected policy development committee membership	6	D07
D08 Ending new HIV Transmissions by 2030 part 1	7	D08
D09 Enhancing the complaints process	8	D09
D11 General Election Candidate Selection - Update to Rules	9	D10
D15 Changing eligibility to vote in GPEW internal elections	10	D11
D02 Add Constitution Section on Spokespeople	11	D12
D03 Adopt Proactive Stance for Standing in Elections	12	D13
D12 Green Party committee reform and expansion	13	D14
D16 Reopen Nominations to Avoid All Men and all White Internal Elections	14	D15
D05 Changes to GPEX	15	D16
D01 Abolish no-fault suspensions	17	D17
D13 Pathfinder Motion	18	D18

D17 SOC Motion - Constitutional amendment re leadership election	19	D19
D19 SOC Motion - SOCC amendment for conference reform	20	D20
D18 SOC Motion - Constitutional amendment re role of RON	21	D21
D20 SOC Motion - SOCC amendment for separated motion submission deadlines	22	D22

Section E Unaccredited policy motions.

Amendments to section E.

Of those motions that became part of section E, 4 had amendments proposed to them via the amendment forum. Of this total of 7 proposed amendments, 1 had insufficient co-proposers to be considered, and of those remaining none were found to be out of order (except in part).

Order of motions: We used the same method to rank these motions as we did for D motions. This resulted in five motions which had been brought to a previous Conference in Spring 2022 (E12, E14, E17, E21 and E25 in the First Agenda) moving from: 25th to 13th place; 21st to 12th place; 24th to 17th; 16th to 4th place; and 13th to 2nd place, respectively.

Motions E02, E05, E06, E18 and E20 were included in the Prioritisation Ballot but, as noted above, went on to be C motions.

First Agenda	Ballot Rank	Final Agenda
E25 Updates to the philosophical basis	2	E01
E01 £15 Minimum Wage	3	E02
E21 Restitution and Repatriation of Cultural Objects	4	E03
E22 Stating opposition to anti-union and anti-strike laws	5	E04
E04 Amending crime and justice policies	8	E05
E10 Enabling Motion for the Disability Policy Chapter	9	E06
E19 Moonshot to Retrofit Homes	10	E07
E08 Enabling Motion for Marine and Coastal Policy Chapter	11	E08
E14 Ensuring sex and gender are not conflated	12	E09

E12 Enabling Motion for the Tourism and Heritage Policy	13	E10
E23 Supporting workers taking strike action	14	E11
E11 Enabling Motion for the Natural Resources and Waste Management Policy Chapter	16	E12
E17 GPEW is an Eco-socialist Party	17	E13
E13 Ending new HIV transmissions by 2030 part 2	18	E14
E09 Enabling Motion to Rewrite the Education Policy Chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society	19	E15
E03 Access to Fertility Treatment	20	E16
E07 Enabling Motion for Culture and Media Policies	21	E17
E15 EU100-111 Interim amendment to for Vision for Europe	22	E18
E16 Fully Fund HS2	24	E19
E24 Dolphins and pilot whales in the Faroe Islands	25	E20

Section F Draft Voting Papers for revising substantial parts of PSS.

There are two Draft Voting Papers in section F to be given workshops at Conference ready for progression to the B motion stage. These concern revisions to two Chapters of Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS): 'Peace & Defence'; and 'Migration'. 3 Amendments were submitted to 1 of these papers via the amendment forums, but none of them received sufficient co-proposers to be considered further.

Compositing

No motions were composited. It was decided that one motion, originally submitted as 'Ending new HIV transmissions by 2030', should be split into two motions, since it proposed courses of action which were both organisational and policy-oriented. These became motions D08/E13 in the First Agenda and D07/E14 in the Final Agenda (see above).

Late Motions

The Late Motions Forum was open from the 27th August to 9th September 2022 at <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/spring-2022-late-motion-forum/> for items that could not have been submitted by the First Agenda Deadline because they related to events taking place since then. A number of Late Motions were submitted but found to be Out of

Order in their original form. Following advice from Standing Orders Committee, amended motions were re-submitted to bring them back in order. Considering the number of Late Motions needing last minute adjudication and Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference not requiring late motions to be part of the Final Agenda, Late Motions for this Conference will follow the Final Agenda in a Supplementary Agenda.

Emergency Motions (EMs)

We opened the Emergency Motions Forum on 10th September 2022, but EMs are not part of the Final Agenda.

Summaries and synopses

Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference states that all motions must have a synopsis of not more than 50 words, or 300 for a policy paper. In practice we do not reject motions without a synopsis although we reserve the right to do so. We cut overlong synopses at 50 words and note that this has happened.

Background Information

Where provided, we link to background information below the motion. SOCC requires background information to be in notes, not in the motion itself. Where background information is given in the submitted motion, SOC may remove it to a note.

2. A notification of how many motions and amendments have been ruled out of order and where these are published

Following the First Agenda meeting, 7 motions were found to be Out of Order, with reasons given.

The process of putting motions together for this Conference especially has highlighted the judgement that SOC members must exercise when determining whether or not a motion 'substantially changes' or 'has complex implications for' existing policy and has passed through the 'agreed process of consultation' (and what that means in each case), when determining whether or not it is Out of Order under SOCC E2(g)-(h). SOC members note that this would be an area that would benefit from some concerted attention going forward, possibly in consultation with members of Policy Development Committee, Conferences Committee and others.

Concerning those motions found to be Out of Order, all proposers were contacted following the First Agenda meeting with suggestions as to how, if at all, their motions could be amended back into order. There was initial engagement from a number of proposers who began the process of making such amendments to their motions as might persuade SOC to recommend to Conference that those motions be restored to order. Some of these subsequently diminished in their engagement.

Ultimately, SOC was able to consider amendments proposed to motions OoO1 and OoO4 from the First Agenda. We were not persuaded that these amendments were sufficient to remedy what we had originally identified as making them Out of Order.

Following the Final Agenda meeting, those amendments found to be Out of Order were noted, with reasons given, in the published minutes.

3. A report on SOC's participation in the Agenda process including any motions or amendments that SOC is submitting to conference

SOC and staff opened the Agenda Forum in June 2022 at Greenspaces (<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/autumn-conference-2022-agenda-forum/space/space/home>) and a calendar of deadlines was posted there. An email was sent to all Party members to say that it had opened.

Attempting to build on the lessons learned from Spring Conference 2022 and continue what committee members regarded as good practice, SOC continued to try and hold meetings every two weeks wherever possible to manage the throughflow of work, and have continued to take advantage of a number of newly-introduced features to the 'Trello' platform to make deliberating and voting on rulings and advice easier.

SOC also continued its endeavours to make the process of submitting motions to Conference easier. After much positive feedback about the agenda website we created for Spring conference, we continued using it. This includes mentions from Conferences Committee as part of their report to this Conference, whose assistance we acknowledge gratefully. This allowed members to propose motions other than by emailing SOC, and we are pleased to note its continued, and apparently increased, use by members.

Certainly, there are still some issues; in particular, numbers of co-proposers were not updated live but required manual work by volunteers. Given the sheer volume of participants involved this represented a considerable investment of time. We nevertheless hope that the continued adoption of this website model has made the overall work of engaging with Conference easier for all involved. We would not be surprised if this was at least somewhat reflected in the considerable volume of submissions, both in the way of motions and co-proposals, to this Conference Agenda. We welcome signs that engagement of the Party's members with its democratic process is increasing.

As always, we urge members to place items on the Agenda Forum at an early stage so that you can consult, revise wording, attract co-proposers or support from a local party or working group. We also advise anybody interested in developing policy to contact Policy Development Committee early on in. This will help you to navigate what can be a confusing process.

This year, SOC also voted to separate out the deadlines for submitting the final wording of a motion and submitting valid co-proposals by one week. This created additional breathing-space for both members deciding which motions to co-propose and members of SOC collating those motions. We have submitted a motion to Conference which aims to solidify this change (see below). SOC will be mindful of this in considering how we might revise the Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference (SOCC) in future to allow for a more efficient use of time.

SOC placed several items on the Pre-Agenda forum which became motions in the Final Agenda. These are entitled:

- Constitutional Amendment re Leadership Election;
- Clarifying the role of 're-open nominations' (RON);
- SOCC amendment for separated motion deadlines (see above);
- An amendment to SOCC for wider Conference Reform.

The Prioritisation Ballot

Please note that we published the First Agenda with the D and E motions not strictly in the order required

of them by the Constitution. We apologise for this. In any event, it does not appear to have had much effect on the ability of members to participate in the business of Conference.

Due to the confusion created by the removal of accredited motions from the E ballot for Spring Conference 2022, SOC decided on this occasion to place all policy motions in the Prioritisation Ballot. Even though this is not a strict requirement under SOCC, we felt that this would cause the least disruption and allow us to be guided, if necessary, by the results of the ballot.

For the same reasons, and owing to the sheer number of motions to be considered, we also made the decision not to add some motions to the Prioritisation Ballot. We did this if such motions were in the process of being amended to recommend that they be restored to order.

The Prioritisation ballot ended on 26th August and we ran the results using a software programme developed for us by Phil Vabulas. We are grateful for his generous assistance which helped to alleviate what would otherwise have been hours of work by the relevant SOC volunteer.

This was the second Prioritisation Ballot run by SOC since the passage of a motion at Autumn Conference 2021 entitled 'Prioritisation ballot for conference motions', which required the use of a multiplier based on how many times the same motion had been proposed to preceding Conferences but not debated due to lack of time.

This meant that we had to make two determinations:

- i) How similar does a motion need to be from one Conference to the next in order for it to qualify? And
- ii) Which motions proposed to Spring Conference 2022 were therefore eligible?

Having deliberated, SOC decided that, as with amendments, textual changes to motions which do not substantially change the scope or meaning of the motion would be eligible. We therefore had to decide this case-by-case. We also decided that motions which were debated and referred back were not eligible for the modifier. The motion that created the modifier explicitly stated that it applies for motions that are not debated due to time constraints.

The application of the modifiers to the D and E motions is outlined in the paragraphs above.

4. Timetabling, chairing and other procedural matters affecting conference including elections to be held at conference, with the recommendations of SOC

In order to facilitate faster progress on the Agenda, at each conference SOC recommends motions for fast-tracking if we think they are uncontroversial and if they have no amendments.

Any motions to be fast-tracked are taken to have been proposed and are voted on one by one immediately after the SOC Report has been passed and without any debate. If you have questions about motions proposed for fast-tracking, make sure to ask them in a workshop.

If any ten members object to fast-tracking then the motion is not fast-tracked. The ten objecting members must be in plenary. This does not include members who are voting remotely . If agreed for fast-tracking then after Conference passes the SOC Report, the vote on the fast-tracked motion will include members who are voting remotely.

Policy Development Committee have recommended the following motions from the Final Agenda to SOC for fast-tracking by Conference:

E05;
E17;
E08;
E15;
E06;
E12;
E10;
E04; and
E11

We also recommend the following motions for fast-tracking:

A03
A04

A05
A06
A07
A08
A09
A10
A13
A14
A16

We held regular meetings with conference staff, conference committee and policy development committee throughout the year and more often in the run-up to conference. This enabled us to co-ordinate around the aims of maximum participation and smooth running of conference, by:

- Looking at how to protect the party from voting fraud and identity fraud especially concerning proxy votes
- Ensuring fairness in conference participation and voting
- Checking that conference is as accessible as possible
- Selecting and providing training for conference chairs and workshop facilitators
- Working out how to help get as much policy heard and voted on as we can, given the constraints of time, resources and rules in Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference.

The revised Standing Orders Section G5 allows all members to register for remote voting online. This does not grant any rights of participation other than watching the proceedings and voting remotely online. However, as of Spring Conference 2022 a motion proposed by SOC was passed to include remote attendance in quoracy at Conference. It is currently open to chairs to allow registered members to participate. Due to Covid-19 and other issues such participation may be requested by members who have been unable to attend Conference in person.

Following the 'hybrid' model of Conference, involving both online and face-to-face participation, used at Autumn Conference 2021, SOC became aware of a great deal of positive feedback from Conference

attendees. This appeared to indicate that, where it is viable to do so, the Green Party ought to use this model going forward as a means to facilitate greater participation in Conference business.

We will accept speaker slips in advance from those who hope to participate from a remote location at the chair's discretion. We will take procedural motions in advance from remote locations for Reference Back and Taking in Parts and Minor Textual Amendments. We can only accept other procedural motions and speeches on them from the Conference floor at physical conference but remote attendees can vote on them.

The timetable has been set to allow for all A motions, B motions and C motions to be taken. In addition we expect to take at least one D motion and one E motion, but this will be dependent on factors such as:

- (i) fast-tracking of A, D and E motions
- (ii) the additional time required by online voting processes
- (iii) any additional time required by online participation processes.

We will hold hustings and elections for the following voluntary posts at Autumn Conference:

Standing Orders Committee (5 members);

Conferences Committee (5 members);

Campaigns Committee (5 members);

International Committee (5 members);

Green World Editorial Board (5 members);

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (5 members); and

Equality and Diversity Committee (5 members)

We notified Party members of these vacancies in advance. We will open online voting from the end of hustings until 1pm on Sunday 2nd of October and in-person voting from 10am to 1pm in the Conference venue. We hope to announce the results at the end of the Sunday plenary. For more information on voting please contact ero@greenparty.org.uk.

The positions of Elections Returning Officer and Deputy Elections Returning Officer (ERO and DERO)

are vital for the national party and became vacant again following Autumn Conference 2021. Knowing this, we advertised the vacancy in November without a closing date, to allow for the greatest possible number of applicants. We had five expressions of interest which resulted in the appointment of Martin Hemingway as ERO and Alex Booth and Hamza Egal as DEROs on the 23rd December 2021. As of 6th February 2022 Alex Booth stepped back from this role leaving Hamza Egal as sole DERO.

It will be seen from the rulings below that, on 14th August 2022, SOC members held a Vote of No Confidence in the ERO, which resulted in his removal from that post and the appointment of Hamza Egal as Acting ERO. We are grateful for the work and assistance of Jon Eccles, who put himself forward to assist as, and was subsequently appointed, Acting DERO on 28th August 2022.

5. The report of the Electoral Returning Officer (Hamza Egal) & Deputy Electoral Returning Officer (Jon Eccles)

This report is based on our time as EROs, appointed on the 30th of August 2022.

Electronic & postal ballot:

One major concern was the number of members having difficulties with the electronic system. The majority of ERO email traffic has been on access, these were dealt with by Sara Dryden. Postal votes were fewer than 50, again Sara was able to receive them and process them as agreed. Unfortunately, one of the candidates for chair was left off the postal vote, but the EROs agreed that the number of votes would not have affected the outcome, so it was agreed to accept the result as it stood.

Zoom Hustings:

This was conducted by the previous ERO. Hamza listened into a few during the exercise, and they were relatively orderly. Using zoom has enabled more people to engage with the candidates, however, several complaints have been made about the use of derogative and defamatory language. Part of the problem is identifying the individual/s when it is across a large group of participants. Moving forward if we are to continue using such mediums, it might be best to develop principles for meetings and look at stronger internal procedures specific to online hustings.

Election irregularities raised by members:

I received a few emails by members of the party, who were quite dissatisfied with the election process. I asked members to submit their concerns and coinciding evidence via email of which they did. Due to the robust nature of politics, it is clear emotions are running high and my aim was to understand the issues and consult previous ERO's in confidence.

The previous ERO Martin left towards the end of the elections, and it was clear that he had concerns regarding the code of conduct of some candidates. Candidates were warned via emails; however, it is unclear whether the issues continued after the warning. Breaches of the code of conduct is always a concern for any free and fair elections. Looking into the allegations, the information submitted by the members did not meet the threshold of invalidating the results. However, as ERO I see the need for a review simply because of the importance of transparency and accountability in especially national election procedures. There is a significant enough time gap between the ERO's dismissal and appointment to warrant a further look at the concerns raised by the members by the relevant party authorities.

(6) a report by SOC of any changes that they have adopted to their Standing Orders;

Following a procedural motion to take the SOC Report in parts during Spring Conference 2022, the section of the report containing any changes to our Standing Orders was not passed, and so we do not report any changes to our Standing Orders prior to that Conference.

Following Spring Conference 2022, SOC has twice amended its Standing Orders: once at a meeting of 3rd April 2022; and thereafter at a meeting of 31st July 2022. On both occasions the amended Standing Orders were subsequently published online. The latest version of SOC's Standing Orders are included as Appendix 5 to this Agenda, and will need to be added to the SOCC.

(7) progress on Organisational Statements;

Our progress on our Organisational Statements in RoOS at <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/roos/> and in Appendix 3 falls into three categories:

Category 1 (Completed)

- To update the Constitution in accordance with D01 Autumn Conference 2021 as passed with amendments 1, 2 and 3 and publish to members.
- To update SOCC in accordance with D04 Autumn Conference 2021 and D04 Spring Conference 2022 and publish to members
- To update and maintain the Record of Organisational Statements (RoOS)
- To update SOPD in accordance with A10 Autumn Conference 2021 as amended by amendments 4 to 9, 11 and ensure it is published to members.
- To improve the webform for submission of motions, whether using an outside provider or designed in-house (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020) with the support of GPEx.
- To reconsider the proxy system for online conferences and the 5-vote limit per members and to bring forward proposals to Conference to change this (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).

Category 2 (Not carried out or not completed)

- To update SOC Standing Orders and/or Handbook to reflect various motions passed at Conferences viz: To ensure that the annual ballots for the Green Party Executive (GPEx) and the Policy Development Committee (PDC) are well publicised and fully engaged with by the membership, To ensure that its appointee to the role of ERO takes their role in overseeing the conduct of the elections seriously and takes an active role in responding to complaints and concerns raised about conduct during elections.
- To carry out a full review of regulations for national elections [ERO Report, part of SOC Report Autumn 2020].
- To number motions in the Pre-Agenda process if all of the possible motions continue to be listed in one stream on the member website (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).

Category 3 (Not applicable due to the circumstances not arising)

To ensure with PDC that the Policy Process presentation at

<https://members.greenparty.org.uk/node/59> is updated if the member website changes (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).

- To insert three clauses passed in D01 Autumn 2018 'Facilitating Incorporation of the GPEW' into the constitution "when the transfer happens".

(8) Any other matters or recommendations that do not affect the running of conference.

Following Spring Conference 2022, it was noted that while Conference business was still able to press ahead, members of SOC were among those who experienced an unacceptable degree of barracking and abusive behaviour from a number of those participating in Conference. The need to address this is, we may assume, reflected at least partially in some of the rulings we have embarked on since then. In particular we highlight the discretion enjoyed by – and respect that should rightly be shown to – Conference Chairs. We urge members to show respect to anyone else whose participation helps to keep the business of Conference running.

We are grateful for the expressions of solidarity and support which have come to us from ordinary members of the Party. We are heartened by both their faith in us and their determination to make the business of this Party effective.

As always, a huge thank-you to the staff who have assisted and supported us during the year especially Louisa Greenbaum and Cameron Bairstow of Conferences Committee and to Vix Lowthion and her colleagues on Policy Development Committee who have provided us with extremely useful input and advice.

(9) Rulings requested and made since the previous conference.

SOC continues to receive weekly requests for rulings and advice between conferences. The workload has increased in recent years due to complaints processes. We hope that the use of regular, fortnightly meetings and the work-sharing website Trello has sped up some parts of this process, but progress remains variable. It can take just a day but sometimes months to research, draft, agree a ruling, despatch it and post it to the SOC space. It is not always clear at the start of the process whether a ruling or interpretation of words in a Party document is the right response. We

may have problems in finding relevant documents or Party documents may be silent on an issue.

The rulings or replies to requests for rulings as listed below are:

Ruling on Green Party Women Constitution

On 23.02.2022 Ani Stafford-Townsend wrote:

'1. If a member of the committee is suspended, specifically a co-chair, is it constitutional to co-opt another person into their position?

.....

2. Are co-chairs ultimately responsible for the activities of the group? I am looking specifically, although not exclusively at section 10 of the code of conduct which says:

"10.11 Members organising or chairing events and activities have a responsibility to be aware of the needs of those involved and a duty of care to act sensitively, civilly and inclusively. They also have a duty of care towards those participating in such events or activities that they not be put in harm's way through negligence or failure to assess risk."

Does this compel a co-chair to not support activities that would contravene 10.11 of the code of conduct, even if a committee was split on support of such an activity if it was likely to break the code of conduct.'

SOC rule that:

Providing a 'best reading' of this Affiliated Group Constitution for the purposes of giving advice, it is noted that the Green Party Women Constitution section 8 sets out the following on the composition of the Committee:

'The Committee shall normally be elected at the AGM and shall comprise of Co-Chairs (voted in separately), Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer and up to three other members who shall take on such roles as judged necessary; the portfolio roles of the Committee should be elected first.... Other Committee posts may be created by the Committee as necessary, subject to ratification by a General Meeting of Green Party Women. All or any of these roles can be a job-share. The Committee may co-opt further Committee members, after resignations for example. Co-opted members do not have a voting right.'

1. It therefore appears that there is an explicit power to Co-Opt members of the Committee, including Co-Chairs, on the understanding that such members will not have voting rights.

The committee can co-opt a new chair, though this cannot be done temporarily. A co-opted co-chair remains in post until either they resign (creating a vacant post) or the next scheduled election takes place. There is no provision for a role to be temporarily filled.

A no-fault suspension is different to a disciplinary suspension. A no-fault suspension means a person's membership is still in existence, but they are not permitted to undertake any party activities. This would include meetings, discussions and activities of Green party affiliated groups. A disciplinary suspension means that a person's membership is no longer in good standing. If such a disciplinary suspension ran over the end of the relevant position's term of office, this would, to all intents and purposes, constitute a resignation.

Therefore, unless there is a resignation or disciplinary suspension / expulsion of the co-chair in question, it is not constitutional to co-opt another person into their position.

2. The section outlined by the questioner specifically references 'members organising or chairing events and activities', which need not necessarily be limited to Co-Chairs.

However, it is noted that section 16 of the GPW Constitution goes on to say

"The Chair or co-chairs are responsible for promoting decision-making by consensus in meetings, and to allow all members to voice their views in disagreements. The right of the Chair to resolve a disagreement by making a ruling must be respected by all members. If a personal disagreement between members arises in a meeting or on a discussion forum of Green Party Women and cannot be resolved there, all members are encouraged to use Dispute Resolution Committee in the first instant to try to resolve the matter. All members agree to abide by the Party Code of Conduct and the party disciplinary system."

This suggests that the Chair or co-chairs have responsibilities which may include making a ruling to resolve disagreements in meetings which cannot be

resolved by consensus, provided that DRC (which in this case must mean ADRC) has been approached in the first instance. It is explicit that this ruling would need to be respected by all members.

Whether this compels a Chair or co-chair to support activities which would, in their view, contravene section 10.11 is a matter for their particular discretion, and is beyond the scope of SOC to answer on the basis of this document.

Advice re Disputes Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures for London GP

On 18.01.2022 Shahrar Ali wrote:

'Just to give some background. London Green Party approved a set of regional DCD rules at a General Meeting on 17 Jan 2022. I am concerned that a section of that text is contrary to the GPEW constitution and London GP's own constitution. I attach the DCD regulations in full and the London GP standing orders, which contains Annex A referred to in the DCD regs.

The focus of this request is paragraph 7 on page 3 of the DCD, which states:

On the establishment of the panel for the first time, members will be elected using the casual vacancy procedures given in Annex A of the Standing Orders, and if following this election there are less than 9 members, then additional members (up to a total of 9 members) may be appointed by the regional coordinator, and shall serve until the next regional AGM, at which time they may seek election as panel members.

The text up to the second comma sounds correct, were it to end there. However the text following the second comma would allow the regional coordinator to appoint members over and above any of those elected by a casual vacancy election up to a maximum of 9. This provision for a regional coordinator to appoint panel members would contravene the following clauses in the DCD rules themselves:

a) "Members of the panel shall be elected in a process managed by the regional ERO.." (paragraph 2, page 3) [Does not allow for appointments]

b) "Members of the panel may not hold any other elected or appointed office in the party at the regional or national level and may not be employees of the party at any level, and may not be associated persons

(such as spouse or partner) of any regional or national elected or appointed office holder or employee of the party." (paragraph 3) [However, by allowing a regional officer to appoint a panel member, that member would thereby be associated with a regional officer and create a clear conflict of interest.]

c) Vacancies on the panel may be filled by co-option by remaining panel members. (Paragraph 6) [Appointment by a regional officer would contradict this provision for newly elected officers to co-opt panel members.]

d) Finally, this provision for a regional officer to appoint panel members could result in the perverse situation of a candidate who had stood in the casual vacancy election and not been elected being appointed soon afterwards. Surely that would rightly be seen as subversive to the point of having an election and negate the will of the electorate.

I would appreciate your ruling in this case as it strikes me that this kind of direct appointment of officers at any level of the party, where an election would otherwise be required, flies in the face of our democratic principles, and for good reason.'

SOC rules that

Section 5(ii) of the Constitution states that:

'... for the purpose of representation on Regional Council, The Green Party shall comprise national and regional Green Parties, hereinafter referred to as Regional Parties. The areas covered by these Regional Parties shall be as specified in Appendix A of this constitution. Each Regional Party shall determine its own constitution in accordance with bye-laws to be approved from time to time by the Annual Conference.'

The bye-law relating to this section states that:

'All Regional Party constitutions shall include a statement that the Regional Party is a constituent party of The Green Party and shall lay down a democratic procedure for the election of representatives to the Regional Council.'

The Constitution is silent on how Regional Parties ought to frame their internal disciplinary procedures.

The member has not provided any information to suggest that the procedures described were not adopted in accordance with the Standing Orders of

the London Green Party, which would in any event not be a matter for the determination of SOC.

That the member is dissatisfied with the procedures adopted by the General Meeting, or is of the view that some parts of them may be internally inconsistent (notwithstanding the apparently time-limited nature of the rules establishing the composition of the panel 'for the first time'), is noted. However, SOC are of the view that this does not of itself create a situation in which the document is 'contrary to the GPEW Constitution'.

Whether it is contrary to the London Green Party Constitution is not a matter for the determination of SOC.

ADDENDUM 07.05.2022 – SOC has recognised that its previous advice on this matter risked creating an inconsistency in its approach to Regional, Local and Affiliated Group Constitutions, and so has undertaken a best-reading of the London Green Party Constitution as it would have been constituted in January 2022 in order to assist with answering the member's questions. SOC would like to apologise for this oversight and hopes this will be a satisfactory corrective.

The member has not provided any information to suggest that the procedures described were not adopted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the London Green Party.

Section 6(i) of the London Green Party Constitution as of January 2022 says that

'There shall be a Disputes, Complaints and Disciplinary (DCD) panel for the London regional party in accordance with Paragraph 1.1 of the GPEW's Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD). The regional DCD panel shall be appointed and shall act in accordance with published policies, procedures, and standing orders that have been approved by the London Federation at a General Meeting.'

It therefore appears that there is nothing in the London Green Party Constitution to suggest that the adoption of these procedures for appointing a DCD panel was contrary to its own provisions.

That the member is dissatisfied with the procedures adopted by the General Meeting, or is of the view that some parts of them may be internally inconsistent (notwithstanding the apparently time-limited nature of the rules establishing the composition of the panel

‘for the first time’), is noted. However, SOC are of the view that this does not of itself create a situation in which the document is ‘contrary to the GPEW Constitution and London GP’s own constitution’.

Ruling re Quoracy and Proxy Votes

On 22.02.2022 Louisa Greenbaum wrote:

‘The rules for quoracy in the SOCC are as follows:

c) The quorum for conference shall be calculated as one third of voting cards issued to attendees for that day at conference (excluding those registered to vote remotely), or for an online and telephone Extraordinary Conference as three hundred available to vote. A definition of the floor of conference shall be agreed in advance between SOC and Conferences Committee for any online and telephone Extraordinary Conference. For any decision on a motion or amendment but not for discussion on a motion or amendment the floor is required to be quorate.’ (emphases added)

SOC was asked for clarification on what ‘available to vote’ should be taken to mean in this context, and whether or not validly issued proxy votes would count towards quoracy.

SOC rules that

Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference H10 states

‘a) A member may appoint a proxy to vote at conference on their behalf in any ballot card votes. SOC shall issue the attending member a ballot card for each proxy for which they produce acceptable authority (e.g. a letter, email, proxy form provided by SOC or other electronic authorisation).

b) A member who is attending conference may represent up to five other members in this way.

c) Proxy votes can only be used in a ballot card vote. The holder of proxy ballot cards may cast the votes in different ways, if so mandated.

d) A vote using ballot cards shall be referred to as a ballot card vote or card vote. A ballot card vote is taken by collecting ballot cards of attending members and of those who have given proxies.

e) Such a vote shall be taken if requested by ten Green Party members holding up their daily voting cards. Additionally, a ballot card vote may be taken at the discretion of the Chairperson.

f) If ConfComm and SOC agree that there is suitable secure technology, ballot cards may be taken to mean or include ballot cards issued electronically.

g) If votes are taken in order, then votes of attendees shall be counted first, then votes of those registered to vote remotely, then votes by proxy.’

The questioner has already quoted SOCC section H9.1(c) above concerning quoracy rules for Conference.

While quoracy for an in-person Conference is explicitly defined as a third of voting cards issued, excluding those registered to vote remotely, there is an explicit distinction for a Conference in which all those involved are participating and voting remotely, as in an online Conference.

With that in mind, ‘available to vote’ in this case is taken to mean that the votes are available for use as part of a vote taken from the ‘floor’ of Conference. For the purposes of an online Conference, the ‘floor’ in this case is taken to mean the Zoom or other ‘room’ where members sign in to participate in Conference as it happens.

Proxy votes are only ‘available’ in this sense if and when ten Green Party members request one, or if and when the Chair of plenary exercises their discretion under SOCC H10(e) to call a card vote, in which case proxy votes can be utilised. This does not require the floor to be quorate already, since it is not a ‘decision on a motion or amendment’ per SOCC H9.1(c).

Therefore, any requirement for the floor to be quorate would require the presence of three hundred available votes, which would only include proxy votes if and when ten Green Party members called for one, or if and when the Chair of plenary exercised their discretion under the section given above.

Advice on Affiliated Group Constitutions

On 12.01.2022 Teresa Ravenshaw wrote:

‘I’d like to request clarification as to whether liberation groups need to be constituted in some particular or specific fashion, and furthermore, whether liberation groups must enshrine in their constitutions, the admission of any and all party members?’

On 13.01.2022 Dylan Lewis-Creser wrote:

'I am emailing both in my capacity as Secretary of the LGBTIQ+ Greens as well as an elected member of the GPEW Equality & Diversity Committee. We mentioned at a recent meeting that guidelines as to an ideal Liberation group constitution in the party would be helpful for us and future committees in ensuring that we stay within the bounds of the rules and there is not another situation like recently when the constitutionality of certain groups was called into question.

To help with this, would it be possible for us to have guidelines (such as membership requirements, etc.) as to how a Liberation Group within the party can be run according to the current rules; it would be extremely appreciated for all of your hard work.'

SOC advises that

Section 5(xii) of the Constitution states:

'Members with interests in common may form a group subject to bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference. Members temporarily resident at an educational institution may also form a group. Such groups may be accorded some or all of the rights of a Local Party by mutual agreement with the Regional Council, subject to reference to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee in the event of any unresolved dispute.'

The bye-laws pertaining to this section in particular state:

'1. Members may form groups concerned with specific issues in order to develop policy and pursue campaigns within the structure and strategy of the Green Party.

2. Members may also opt to be members of the Young Greens. The age and eligibility of Young Greens shall be as outlined in the Young Greens' constitution.

3. Conditional upon the membership of the group being open to all Green Party members only, and on the officers of the group being annually elected, the group may be recognised by the Policy Development Committee, Campaigns Committee or the Equalities and Diversity Committee as a Members Working Group.'

In addition, a bye-law pertaining to section 5(i), relating to local parties, states:

'All Local Party constitutions shall include a statement that the Local Party is a constituent part of The Green Party and shall lay down a democratic procedure for the selection of candidates to all levels of government.'

For present purposes, the term 'Affiliated Group' (which is generally used in administrative discussions as an umbrella term encompassing local and regional parties, working groups and what are referred to by those requesting advice as 'liberation groups') is used here to mean 'liberation groups' in particular. However, SOC recognises that this use of blanket wording can occasionally cause confusion for members navigating our Constitutional documents, and that future Conferences may wish to consider a rationalisation of this wording to specify that those groups of members whose common political interests tend to coalesce around their marginalised social, cultural or other identities are referred to as 'Liberation Groups'.

In order for an Affiliated Group to be recognised as a Members Working Group, and therefore participate in the work of Equalities and Diversity Committee in particular, there are two clear requirements under the bye-laws: that membership of the group is open to all members of the Green Party; and that officers in such a group are elected annually.

Subject to any changes made from time to time by Conference, SOC would therefore recommend that, as part of any constitution made for use by such an Affiliated Group, clauses like the following should be included in order to meet these requirements:

'Membership of this group is open to all members of the Green Party';

and

'Elections for the officers' positions described in [section x] shall take place annually.'

These are only illustrative examples.

Provided that these two requirements are met, SOC is not aware of any other obstacle to such an Affiliated Group being recognised as a Members Working Group by Policy Development Committee, Campaigns Committee and E&D Committee.

It is noted briefly that, in the event of a mutual agreement with GPRC to accord such an Affiliated Group some or all of the rights of a Local Party,

further negotiations may need to take place as to whether or not it is thought appropriate to include the clause mentioned in the bye-law relating to section 5(i), since those groups and GPRC are likely to be best equipped to decide whether or not this is appropriate in each case.

Ruling on South West Green Party Elections

On 11.03.2022 Vinnie Wainwright wrote:

'I would be grateful if SOC could look into the possibility that this [recent GPRC election] may have been unconstitutional due to the length of notice given for this election, notice for hustings, time allowed for members to vote and details of how the results would be announced to candidates and to the membership. I would like to feedback to the regional party that the very short time frame given for this internal election made it very difficult to participate fully in the process as a candidate and that this might constitute an accessibility issue which needs addressing in future and I feel that it's important to ensure through SOC first of all that the election was in fact fully constitutional.'

SOC advises that

Providing a 'best reading' of this Affiliated Group Constitution for the purposes of giving advice, it is noted that the South West Green Party ('SWGP') Constitution section 6.10 sets out the following in relation to elections to the Green Party Regional Council ('GPRC') and any 'Successor Body':

'a) Two representatives from SWGP to GPRC or any successor body must be selected by ballot of all members of SWGP, in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Standing Orders of GPRC or any successor body.

d) As each vacancy arises, a call for nominations will be sent to each member of the SWGP.

e) Candidates for GPRC must not be members of the SWGP Committee.

f) One member of the SWGP Committee will be nominated as ERO.

g) The ERO will check the validity of nominations and distribute ballot papers for one Single Transferable Vote ballot, whether one representative or two is being elected.'

It is noted that this does not appear to contain any provision relating to the length of notice for the election, hustings, time allowed for members to vote or how the results would be announced, only that the ERO must at that time be a member of the SWGP Committee and will check the validity of nominations. If the ERO was a member of the SWGP Committee at the relevant time, then their appointment will be constitutional; if not, it will not be constitutional.

However, the Green Party of England and Wales ('GPEW') Constitution does also contain the following provisions relating to the election of regional representatives at section 6(iv):

'The Regional Council shall consist of two members elected by postal ballot (as specified in Appendix C) by and from each constituted Region:

Appendix C then goes on to say:

'The term Postal Ballot wherever used within this Constitution or any Standing Orders of any GPEW body shall mean either:

(a) all the ballot papers are sent out and all the votes are cast by post; or

(b) all the ballot papers are sent out by post and the votes are cast, at the discretion of the voting member, either by post or by such electronic means that has been approved by the ERO supervising that particular election; or

(c) Subject to the agreement of the ERO, ballot information can be sent electronically to members who have provided an e-mail address, and by post to those who have no e-mail address or have expressed a preference for postal ballot information. Votes may be cast, at the discretion of the voting member, either by post or by such electronic means that has been approved by the ERO supervising that particular election.'

SOC has sought advice from the Electoral Returning Officers of the National party as to whether the 'ERO' referred to in Option c) is the Local or National ERO, and also (depending on the answer) as to whether or not this sets out certain expectations or requirements for the conduct of such an election, since this seems pertinent to the questions being asked.

The Electoral Returning Officer of the National party advises that:

“the ERO supervising that particular election” which occurs in section (b) which precedes section (c) and could be considered to provide the meaning for section (c). The same sense occurs in (c) in the phrase “the ERO supervising that particular election”.

We are all familiar with having specific ERO's operating at different levels in the past. I have acted as such in my local party and for the regional party, and for sub-regional selections such as mayoral. I would expect the regional ERO to make decisions in relation to regional elections, but the national ERO can advise if requested (and I have done so for regions and for party groups in the past)

The national ERO has a remit specifically limited by the constitution (s17(iii)) "The RO shall conduct elections for office in the Party at national level..", so could not set regulations for a regional election - although as I have indicated we would do so if asked for support.”

It is relevant here to make reference to a previous SOC Ruling on a similar area in response to questions raised on 7 and 11 January 2022 about Local and Affiliated Group Returning Officers where it was noted that disputes over the interpretation and enforcement of election rules can, as a matter of general practice, be taken up with Green Party Regional Council (as part of their responsibility for ‘keeping under review the general well-being of the party’ per section 6(i) of the Constitution, and subject to reference to ADRC) and SOC, but only where the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the level of a local party or affiliated group.

Should this become necessary, GPRC and SOC would be assisted by the minutes of any meeting in which the returning officer was appointed and/or the rules for the election in question were approved in accordance with the SWGP Constitution.

Advice on Discretion of Conference Chairs

On 16.03.2022 Scott Robinson wrote:

‘As it does not appear to be clear from Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, please may I request a ruling on the following question/s:

What powers do chairs of plenary sessions have over the running of plenaries, specifically relating to managing conduct of members attending, either physically or virtually? For example, could a chair eject a member from a plenary session, if they received

unacceptable abuse from a member (via chat or otherwise)? If chairs do not have these powers, are there any mechanisms that can be employed by chairs instead?

This question comes from chairs receiving abuse via the chat function at Spring Conference.’

SOC advises that

Section H4.1 of the Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference (SOCC) states that:

‘The customary procedures of debate shall be followed except where these Standing Orders expressly state otherwise. The Chairperson of any session shall be responsible for interpreting the procedures and orders, subject to the right of any member to appeal against a Chairperson's ruling to SOC.’

‘Customary procedures’ in this case is taken to mean anything that is not explicitly stated by the SOCC but which are nevertheless generally observed.

Part 9.2 of the GPEW Code of Conduct for Members states that:

‘The Green Party should also be a space that is as safe or safer than society as a whole. Therefore discriminatory, oppressive or abusive behaviour should be prevented and stopped when it occurs. The aim is to provide an environment free of this. Any form of such behaviour is a breach of this Code, as is failure by a person in a role with responsibility, such as a Chair, Moderator or similar to take appropriate action to prevent or stop it. Members should also be aware of risks and act to mitigate them.’

In the light of the Code of Conduct especially, SOC finds that the ‘customary procedures’ of debate would normally include, among other things, the ability of the Chair to manage the conduct of members attending, physically or virtually, to stop any behaviour which they find to be discriminatory, oppressive or abusive from occurring, or to stop it when it occurs.

The example given, of ejecting a member from a plenary session if they were being abusive, would fall within the discretion identified above.

Advice re Greens for Animal Protection

On 09.02.2022 John Davis wrote:

'As you may be aware [Greens for Animal Protection] was accepted by the Equalities and Diversity Committee, some time ago as a Liberation Group. It has come to my attention that the Party has a list of Liberation groups (in the constitution?) but it has not been updated to include GAP.

I would be grateful if you can please advise if we need to propose a (Late) motion to Spring Conference to become properly listed as a Liberation Group, or can this be achieved without a conference motion?'

SOC rules that

There does not appear to be a 'list' of Liberation groups anywhere in the Constitution, but it does state at section 19(iii) that:

'The Equalities & Diversity Committee shall also include a representative of each group that is recognised as a Members Working Group by the Equalities & Diversity Committee.'

SOC has previously provided advice on how recognition by the E&D Committee is generally established, and for the sake of completeness reiterates that advice here.

Section 5(xii) of the Constitution states:

'Members with interests in common may form a group subject to bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference. Members temporarily resident at an educational institution may also form a group. Such groups may be accorded some or all of the rights of a Local Party by mutual agreement with the Regional Council, subject to reference to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee in the event of any unresolved dispute.'

The bye-laws pertaining to this section in particular state:

1. Members may form groups concerned with specific issues in order to develop policy and pursue campaigns within the structure and strategy of the Green Party.

2. Members may also opt to be members of the Young Greens. The age and eligibility of Young Greens shall be as outlined in the Young Greens' constitution.

3. Conditional upon the membership of the group being open to all Green Party members only, and on the officers of the group being annually elected, the group may be recognised by the Policy Development

Committee, Campaigns Committee or the Equalities and Diversity Committee as a Members Working Group.'

Assuming that the above criteria are met by GAP (information to which SOC does not have access), and it has been recognised by the E&D Committee, then GAP should be permitted to attend E&D Committee Meetings on that basis.

Ruling re Nominations for Non-Green Candidates

On 28.03.2022 Ben Samuel wrote:

'I was just wondering if I would get in trouble, if I knock on doors to collect nominations for an independent candidate....

It is a 2 member ward with 1 Green Party candidate.'

SOC rules that

Section 3(vii) of the Constitution states that

'No member of the Party may be a candidate for any other party in an election for any level of government and no member of another party may be a candidate for The Green Party in any such election except in cases of joint candidacies. No member of the Party may stand as an independent candidate against properly selected Green Party candidate(s). No member may campaign for any candidate standing against a properly selected Green Party candidate.'

The question to be determined, therefore, is whether or not collecting nomination signatures constitutes 'campaigning' for a candidate.

SOC is of the view that this question is properly to be answered by Disciplinary Committee, and it would not be for SOC to try and second-guess them or limit their discretion in this regard.

SOC is therefore not in a position to provide a more detailed answer to this question.

Ruling on GPEx Membership and Suspensions

On 07.01.2022 Ash Routh wrote:

'Where EROs are running local party / affiliated party group elections, they normally set out the rules for the election, and resolve disputes related to the candidates.

Do EROs also have the power to create rules for voters to follow?

For example, if an ERO instructs candidates that they cannot run on slates, and that where they list candidates for the election, they must do so in a specific order - can the ERO also extend these rules to voting members? For example, if a party member listed in public who their preferred candidates were in a committee election, could the ERO take any action against them?’

On 11.01.2022 Melanie Horrocks wrote:

‘It is, in my view, totally unacceptable for an internal ERO to attempt to limit the article 10 [European Convention on Human Rights] rights of members... no advice was taken by their own admission, and setting their own election rules cannot include limiting members’ own decisions on how to express support for their candidates, in the way they chose... I would like a ruling that the internal elections rules set at the discretion of an ERO... cannot overrule the ECHR/HRA...’

Given the similarity and proximity of these two requests SOC has decided to address them both with a single ruling.

SOC rules that

It must be said immediately that, while the GPEW and its internal structures are ultimately subject to the law, SOC is not equipped to adjudicate whether or not the behaviour of Returning Officers amounts to a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights or the Human Rights Act.

Sections 17(iii)-(iv) of the Constitution state that:

‘The SOC shall appoint a Returning Officer (RO) and Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) each year. The RO shall conduct elections for office in the Party at national level which take place by postal or Conference ballot. The DRO shall assist the RO and deputise for the RO at the RO's request.

iv) The RO shall prepare election regulations for the conduct of such elections. Such regulations shall be subject to the approval of SOC, and shall be published to candidates. SOC shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the regulations, and within that interpretation the decision of the RO shall be final.

The Constitution therefore limits the power of the RO/DRO appointed by SOC specifically to national level elections.

Section 5(xii) of the Constitution states that:

‘Members with interests in common may form a group subject to bye-laws approved from time to time by Conference.... Such groups may be accorded some or all of the rights of a Local Party by mutual agreement with the Regional Council, subject to reference to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee in the event of any unresolved dispute.’

In line with the existing provision in section 5(i) of the Constitution which states that the ‘general practice’ of the Party will be to ‘encourage the greatest possible autonomy’ of each local party, and treating affiliated groups accorded ‘some or all of the rights of a Local Party’ as analogous, it would appear that the arrangements made by the local party or affiliated group in their own constitution/internal processes take priority in deciding how such elections are run, and it would be for the local party’s/affiliated group’s Returning Officer to interpret those rules.

Disputes over election rules can, as a matter of general practice, be taken up with Green Party Regional Council (as part of their responsibility for ‘keeping under review the general well-being of the party’ per section 6(i) of the Constitution, and subject to reference to ADRC) and SOC, but only where the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the level of a local party or affiliated group.

Should this become necessary, GPRC and SOC would be assisted by the minutes of any meeting in which the rules for the election in question were approved in accordance with the constitution of the local or regional party or the affiliated group.

Ruling on GPRC Roles and Regional Committees

On 07.03.2022 Nick Cox wrote,

‘It has been indicated to me by more than one person that GPRC is charged with (amongst other things) supporting and guiding the regional party, are de facto (committee) members of the regional party and can step in and take over the administration of a regional party if they see fit.

This indication seems to have been justified by 6 i) of the national constitution which states -

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. (My highlights)

The highlight is because it is this point on which those that so indicate seem to rely ie that responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party substantiates GPRC members' rights to be de facto (committee) members of the regional party and to take over administration of the regional party if they see fit eg the co-ordinator resigns (and the second officer does not wish to take over the role till someone else can be elected).

I was told that this was the usual interpretation of the highlighted part and that I needed to speak to SOC if I wish to challenge this.

I wish to challenge this usual interpretation.'

SOC rules that

The section of the Constitution quoted above is noted, as is section 6(ii) which states:

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

The example quoted by the questioner, of a regional party Co-Ordinator resigning and the second officer not wishing to take over the role until someone else can be elected, would be a matter that required SOC to look at the particular constitution and its provisions in more detail, and also to know whether or not GPRC was, in fact, considering this course of action with minutes from meetings etc.

As it stands, this appears to be a hypothetical question, which SOC will in general avoid answering so as not to produce bad rulings.

That said, SOC are not of the view that this process necessarily requires members of GPRC to be 'de facto' members, or committee members, of the regional party, but is rather something that forms a part of the discretion of GPRC under the sections of the Constitution already quoted.

Ruling re International Committee Standing Orders

On 20.04.2022 Claudine Letsae wrote:

'I urge the SOC to provide the ruling that allowed this change in how the coordinator is temporarily replaced by a creation of co-coverner roles...'

For context, this request for a ruling was made in the context of a wider discussion, in which SOC was

copied, where the 'change' referred to was a change to the Standing Orders of the International Committee (IC) made at a meeting of 25.10.2021. SOC has not previously made any such ruling on this subject.

SOC rules that

Section 15(i) and (v) of the Constitution states:

'There shall be a Green Party International Committee (hereafter called the International Committee) which shall be convened by the International Co-ordinator...'

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

The Standing Orders of International Committee (IC) prior to 25.10.2021 say at section 3 that

'The quorum shall be the International Co-ordinator, or one of the joint co-ordinators, plus two members of the elected committee.'

Any meeting which took place without, at minimum, the Co-ordinator and two members of the elected committee was therefore inquorate, and thus not empowered to make changes to the IC Standing Orders.

The same Standing Orders go on to say at section 10 that,

'As the international committee is constitutionally defined as a committee of the Executive, these standing orders and any changes to them need to be agreed by the Executive.'

Therefore, while any changes made by IC must subsequently be approved by GPEx, it is also clear from the Constitution and Standing Orders of IC that GPEx has no power to amend the Standing Orders of its own motion.

SOC has had sight of the minutes of the meeting at which the Standing Orders were purported to be changed on 25.10.2021, and can confirm that only a single member of the elected committee was in attendance, meaning that it was not quorate.

Any such purported change is therefore invalid, whether or not approved by GPEx.

SOC recognises that these Standing Orders were likely not drafted in anticipation of the prolonged absence

or suspension of a Co-ordinator, which would then lead to a situation in which quorate meetings could not take place. It is recommended that, as and when it is possible, a quorate meeting of IC takes place to address this issue.

This ruling is made notwithstanding any informal advice that GPEx may have received from previous members of SOC.

Ruling on Green Spaces and Moderation

On 22.03.2022 Vivien Lichtenstein wrote:

'DC would like a ruling on the circumstances in which someone is responsible for moderation of Green Spaces posts and the definition of words used to describe those who undertake responsibility.

We understand that overall responsibility for moderation lies with Internal Communications under GPEx, however the question we need to answer is as follows and is required in order to define the different terms used - such as owner, creator, instigator, administrator and moderator.

If the creator of a page posts that they are the owner of the page, and/or will monitor and remove any posts which do not conform to the Code of Conduct, and/or requests that posts which do not are flagged, have they have undertaken the role and responsibilities of moderator and, where this is the case, have the words above become synonymous?

Obviously it is for DC to make decisions in individual cases but it would be of great help to us to have these words defined by SOC, where it would appear that a responsibility has been undertaken, so that there can be no argument over the role involved.

Finally, who has the authority to delete a Space?'

SOC rules that

Section 7 of the Constitution says that

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

....

(ii) The Party Executive shall consist of Leader plus Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders, Wales Green Party Leader and additional members to the following functional positions, elected to serve for two years....

... (k) Internal Communications Co-ordinator....'

It is noted that the Internal Communications Co-ordinator ('Internal Comms') is acknowledged to retain overall responsibility for moderation of Spaces.

There is considerable difficulty involved for SOC in answering this question, since a number of the terms used by the questioner simply do not appear in the Constitution or Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC), including 'moderation/moderator', 'owner', 'creator', 'instigator' or 'administrator'.

SOC notes that this presents a sizeable gap in the current procedure.

SOC does not seek to set out exhaustive definitions of these terms for the purposes of this ruling, since that would risk taking SOC beyond its remit of interpreting the Party's Constitutional documents.

It is suggested that the creation of a working set of definitions, possibly by Internal Comms as part of their role on GPEx, would be an effective long-term remedy for this situation.

That said, it is noted that in practice it effectively has become an ad-hoc rule that the creator/administrator of a page thereby assumes responsibility for monitoring it and checking conformity with the Code of Conduct, which might otherwise be regarded as the functions of a 'moderator'. Certainly, SOC has taken this view in the monitoring of content on its own page and on, for example, the Conference Agenda Forums.

It is also noted that members generally have a responsibility to abide by the Code of Conduct, particularly those organising or chairing events (which may be in-person or online), including when posting on a page or curating the contents of a page.

The Internal Communications Coordinator also has the authority to delete a Space, as would the administrator of a space.

Provisional Ruling re Scope of European Working Group Policies

On 19.03.2022 Vix Lowthion wrote:

'Dear SOC

Please could we have a ruling about the scope of policy of GPEW especially in terms of devolution? This question has come about from the Europe PWG who

are developing our new, post-Brexit Europe policies. They have queries about the status of our policy when it come to Wales and suggested the possible 5 scenarios. Which does SOC agree applies? Can and do Wales set policies which are in direct conflict with GPEW policies? And can GPEW set policies which apply to the UK as a whole - eg membership of the EU and its associates.

Many thanks,

Vix

1. GPEW policy actually only applies to England because the Wales Green Party sets its own policy on everything.
2. GPEW policy applies to both England and Wales, except in certain explicitly enumerated policy areas where the Wales Green Party sets its own policy.
3. GPEW policy applies to both England and Wales, except in cases where the Wales Green Party sets a policy which takes a different view from GPEW in the same policy area (which it is free to do in as many or as few areas as it sees fit).
4. GPEW policy applies to both England and Wales with no exceptions. The Wales Green Party is free only to set additional policies which don't contradict GPEW policy.
5. GPEW policy applies to both England and Wales with no exceptions. Wales Green Party does not set policy.'

SOC rules that

Section 2 of the Constitution states that:

'The geographical remit of the party shall be England and Wales.'

Section 5(ii)-(iii) of the Constitution goes on to say that

'(ii) The Green Party shall comprise national and regional Green Parties, hereinafter referred to as Regional Parties. The areas covered by these Regional Parties shall be as specified in Appendix A of this constitution. Each Regional Party shall determine its own constitution in accordance with bye-laws to be approved from time to time by the Annual Conference.

iii)

a) Wales Green Party shall have such rights and responsibilities and be governed by such rules as are laid down in Appendix B of this Constitution.

b) The assumption of Autonomous Region status by Wales Green Party shall not affect the rights of members within that Region as provided in this Constitution and in Standing Orders, nor shall it affect the rights of any Local Party within that Region.

It is also noted that Appendix A of the Constitution sets out that Wales is to be covered by the references to Regional Parties set out in section 5(ii).

Individual members of SOC are able to recall that Constitutional clauses regarding Autonomous Area status were originally designed for administrative purposes (e.g. membership administration) and the allocation of central funds to an Area taking on additional functions. This is apparent from the provisions of Appendix B, which relate primarily to the apportioning of membership dues and representation at Conference. However there is currently no further expanded definition within the Constitution or its supporting documents as to what 'Autonomous Area' status involves for these purposes, or how it differs from the particulars of Regional Party status.

SOC would expect this to be further clarified by having sight of the Wales Green Party Constitution, but so far SOC has been unable to view it. SOC is therefore conscious of the fact that it is missing quite a crucial piece of information in attempting to reach this ruling.

As to how this affects the policies of GPEW as they apply to Wales, SOC is of the provisional view (subject to any clarification offered by the Wales Green Party Constitution) of the 5 options presented by the questioner option 3 is most reflective of the current constitutional position, in light of the provisions set out above. By analogy, as with a Regional Party which can formulate its own Constitution (subject to the bye-laws) and policies relating to issues which affect its local area, the Wales Green Party is able to set policy on areas which apply uniquely to Wales (such as, for example, the status of the Welsh language) and matters which are the devolved responsibility of the Welsh Government and Senedd.

Ruling re Election Regulations and Barring of Candidacy

On 01.07.2022 Claudine Letsae asked:

'I would... like to know under which grounds this decision [to disbar candidacy in a GPEx election] was made...

I am cc's the SOC for a urgent ruling on these question [sic].'

SOC has interpreted this request for a ruling as relating to whether or not the questioner's disbaring as a candidate was made on Constitutionally correct grounds and according to valid procedures.

SOC rules that

Section 9(ii) of the Constitution says:

"All elections held as part of the Annual Ballot shall be subject to a set of Standing Orders drawn up by the ERO and agreed by SOC. [emphases added]."

The Constitution is unambiguous in setting out that electoral regulations must be agreed by SOC – if they have not been, then they are not valid.

On 9, 10 and 30 May 2022 the ERO contacted SOC with a series of proposed election regulations, in order for SOC to agree the regulations and any amendments before they were due for publication on 1 June 2022.

On 31 May 2022 SOC communicated to the ERO via email that certain parts of the suggested amendments to the electoral regulations had been agreed. Other sections were noted as requiring further work, and that while there was presently 'no settled view' among SOC members about what they should be, the ERO would be kept updated on SOC's proposals. No further suggestions were sent by SOC before 1 June 2022.

While that email did not explicitly state that those other parts of the regulations were not agreed and therefore should not be published, the fact is that they were not, and should not have been.

Nevertheless the ERO made the decision to publish their suggested regulations in full without seeking to clarify with SOC what their status was. It appears that the ERO consulted on their interpretation of SOC's email with the Co-Chairs of the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) who had not written the email.

As a result, various members of GPRC came to apply regulations which had not been agreed in considering the candidacy of those running for several positions in the Green Party Executive (GPEx).

SOC are of the view that, because of the actions of the ERO, GPRC have been misinformed about the election regulations which they were applying, and have therefore attempted to exercise powers which they did not, in fact, have.

SOC recommends that the elections for those posts where candidates' were considered for barring by GPRC (ie, International Co-ordinator & Elections Co-ordinator) be voided, and then re-run with valid regulations.

Ruling and Guidance on Ballot Re-Run

ADDENDUM added 26/07/2022 Following consultation with the ERO

SOC does not intend this ruling or any of its parts as an attack against the character of the ERO, and wishes to make it explicitly clear that it understands all parties involved in this process have acted in good faith and in demanding circumstances.

SOC also wishes to make it explicitly clear that consultation between the ERO and GPRC as to the meaning of emails from SOC took place after a decision had been made as to whether certain candidates should be permitted to stand, not before.

Additionally, while SOC's initial recommendation and the reasoning behind it is maintained, SOC does recognise that, in practical terms, the election for the Elections Co-ordinator was not materially impacted by the invalid regulations (since no decision was embarked upon in that case), and so that election need not necessarily be re-run.

On 28.07.2022 Martin Hemingway wrote:

'I have had the election for International Co-ordinator removed from the text of the postal ballot being sent out to postal voters - this had to go to printing yesterday. It will also not appear on the on-line ballot.

I have written to the other job-share candidate for the post informing them of this, and have written to the Secretary of GPEx indicating that they will need to co-opt to the post pending completion of any other process.

Beyond that I am not competent to proceed in relation to the election since my annual appointment comes to an end at Conference, and there may be a new SOC in place from then. In the past SOC has interpreted section 7(xv) of the constitution covering

co-option until the next ballot as referring to the next annual ballot which has a strict timetable set by the constitution. There is no constitutional provision or structure for an election outside the annual ballot cycle, and it would be most convenient if the co-option were for a year, but this is a matter for SOC to consider.'

SOC rules that

Sections 7(iii) and (xv) of the Constitution say that,

'Elections for the GPEX Chair and Co-ordinator posts shall be by a postal ballot of all members of the party with voting included within the Annual Ballot. Half of these posts shall be elected in one year and half in the next, so that their two year terms are staggered.'

.....

'In the event of casual vacancy for a GPEX Chair or a Co-ordinator post a replacement shall be appointed in an acting and non-voting capacity by the Party Executive until the next ballot is held.'

Sections 9(i) and (iii) go on to say that,

'The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner.'

...

'The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner.'

Extrapolating from section 9(iii) above, SOC can determine that there is a period of five weeks allotted in the Constitution for nominations, and that voting is to close eight weeks after nominations close.

The Constitution is silent on when voting starts, but noting that the ERO notified SOC of the sending out of the postal ballot for this election four weeks and three days before the last week-day of August, the voting period would therefore be at least four weeks long.

While the months for holding the Annual Ballot are specified in the Constitution, this is also predicated on the assumption that the Ballot runs unproblematically, and there is no need to (for example) run the election for one or other of the posts again in order to correct an error with the running of the previous Ballot.

SOC finds that these circumstances apply in this case, where following receipt of nominations there was an error made in the handling of one nominee's candidacy by GPRC for reasons set out in a previous ruling.

SOC finds that there is no intrinsic impediment to running all or part of the Annual Ballot again, in the intervening year before the next Ballot, should the need arise.

SOC finds that, with this in mind, the 'next ballot' referred to in section 7(xv) need not necessarily refer to the next Annual Ballot taking place the following year, and may be interpreted to refer to the next iteration of a ballot which, for one reason or another, it was not possible to run properly in the first instance (though it is worth noting that, at present, there is no casual vacancy, and there need not be one if the relevant part of the Annual Ballot was re-run in advance of Autumn Conference).

With this in mind, and knowing that the next Autumn Conference will be taking place over 30 September and 2 October 2022, SOC recommends to the ERO that:

Either the current ERO prepares to run the relevant portion of the Annual Ballot again, with voting opening not later than 26th August 2022 and closing by receipt of last post on 23rd September 2022;

Or if this is not practically feasible then the ERO who is appointed following the election of a new SOC at Autumn Conference 2022 run the relevant portion of the Annual Ballot again, with voting opening not later than 14th October 2022 and closing by receipt of last post on 11th November 2022.

SOC also recommends to GPEX that, in the event that this part of the Ballot cannot be re-run in advance of Autumn Conference, a co-option be made to the relevant position until the conclusion of the re-run ballot.

Ruling on Closing of Complaints and Appeals

On 20.06.2022 Andrew Bradbury wrote:

‘Does the decision available to the Disciplinary Committee in SOPD 3.9 to close a complaint because of a remedy, without hearing it, have an associated right to appeal that decision to the Appeals subcommittee as understood by Section 7 of SOPD? If there is not a right to appeal an SOPD 3.9 decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the Appeals subcommittee where should a member of the Party take a grievance with the decision if they have one? If there is a right to take a potential appeal against an SOPD 3.9 decision to the Appeals subcommittee, under what criteria should the Appeals subcommittee consider whether it is a valid appeal under SOPD 7.4 when the prescribed grounds of appeal in SOPD 7.3 i) -iv) appear to refer to complaints which have been heard in accordance with SOPD Section 6 rather than to complaints which have been closed with a remedy acceptable to the Disciplinary Committee? Please also be cognisant that a hearing by the Appeals subcommittee, if so decided, with potential to reopen a complaint closed by application of SOPD 3.9 has the potential for recusal of individual members of the Appeals subcommittee in accordance with SOPD 1.10 should a complaint reopened by the Appeals subcommittee later lead to appeals against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee on the substantive case previously closed.’

SOC rules that:

SOC rules a default position that a complaint which has been ‘closed’ by action under section 3.9 cannot be appealed under one of the grounds given in section 7.3.

However, SOC is mindful that there could be contextual reasons for concluding differently in specific cases. If the rationale given below does not fit the context the questioner has in mind then please provide all relevant context and SOC will re-visit the ruling.

The rationale being:

Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD) 3.9 says that:

‘In the case of 3.7 and 3.8 the Respondent shall be asked to review the alleged breaches and be offered the opportunity to correct their action(s) and/or recognise that their behaviour was inappropriate, and then apologise to the Complainant and any other

relevant parties to the complaint. DC will consider if this is sufficient to remedy the complaint and, if so, will close the complaint.’

SOPD 7.3 goes on to list a number of situations in which the outcome of a Complaint may be appealed, and on what basis:

‘Appeals may only be pursued on one or more of the following grounds [emphases added]:

- 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.
- iv) That from the information presented before the Committee it was unreasonable for the Committee to award the sanction or sanctions it has imposed, or that the sanction(s) was (were) disproportionate.’

It is apparent from the wording of section 7.3 (the use of the word ‘only’) that a restrictive reading of this section is implied. Unless a complaint has been either ‘established’ or ‘dismissed’ in the manner envisioned by section 7.3, there are no grounds for appeal.

It is therefore necessary to decide whether or not a complaint being closed or resolved by an apology under SOPD 3.9 constitutes the complaint being either ‘established’ or ‘dismissed’. A majority of SOC members decided it would not.

Precis of Vote of No Confidence in the Returning Officer, 14.08.2022

At its 14th August 2022 meeting, SOC held a vote of no confidence in the Electoral Returning Officer. The vote carried by 3 votes to 1, with one member recused from voting on account of being a candidate in the Annual Ballot.

On Friday 5th August 2022, the ERO wrote to SOC as follows:

"My apologies for the delay in responding to your e-mail. I have had to carefully consider the relevant

sections of the constitution. I have also taken advice from former convenors of SOC on whether the view I am taking is unreasonable or not.

I cannot persuade myself that re-running the election for International Co-ordinator falls within the constitution as it applies to the timetable for election of members of GPEx. The two I have consulted agree with me.

I would feel compromised if I accepted the suggestion that the election be run before conference when this ruling will form part of your report.

You suggest that as an alternative the election be re-run after Conference when there may be a new SOC and ERO and that may be the best compromise under the circumstances.

I accept of course that SOC can replace me and ask another ERO to proceed using the alternative dates, but it is important that the candidates are informed as soon as possible, so would be grateful if we could go with the compromise suggested above."

This was in response to SOC's ruling and guidance on re-running the International Co-Ordinator election (available here: <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/content/perma?id=104565>).

SOC is of the opinion that it can not accept the ERO undermining SOC's standing as the final authority on the interpretation of the constitution in this way. SOC's legitimacy stems from the election of its members at and by Conference, whereas the ERO is an appointment made by SOC. SOC's authority is derived from the constitution itself, which states in 10.iii:

"Standing Orders Committee. Conference shall elect a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders, and be responsible for the order in which resolutions are taken during the conference, subject to the approval of Conference."

There is no clause stating that SOC rulings may be invalidated by consultation with previous Co-Convenors of SOC. The final say on SOC rulings is made at and by Conference. SOC's rulings on the constitution are subject to approval by Conference via the SOC Report, and any attendee may submit an amendment asking Conference to over-rule a particular SOC decision.

Consequently, SOC's view is that it can not retain confidence in an ERO who declares its interpretation of the constitution invalid on the basis of consultation with previous SOC Co-Convenors.

SOC would like to emphasise that the current ERO has contributed a great deal to the Party, and SOC respects the work he has done during his own terms on SOC. It is with regret that this vote was called and carried, but SOC can not retain confidence in an ERO who declares its interpretations to be unconstitutional.

A02

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

*Vix Lowthion**

Committee membership

Policy Development Committee (PDC) currently has annual elections for the 5 positions, and (at the time of writing this report) there should now be 5 newly elected committee members. Welcome! According to the constitution, PDC will now begin the process of co-opting up to 5 additional members (to improve the skills, experience and diversity of the committee) and anyone who is interested is welcome to contact us at policy@greenparty.org.uk for a link to an application form.

A huge thank you to the outgoing members of the committee, including Emily Bond (co-opted) and Nick Cox (elected) who have been an asset for Policy Working Groups and Policy Fest whose terms of office have come to an end. Policy Development for our party relies on volunteers giving their time, so we are indebted to you for your hard work.

The committee meets on Zoom, usually on the second Thursday every month (minutes and notification of the meetings are posted on Green Spaces). Any members are welcome to come and observe.

Priorities and strategy

Update on the focus which PDC set itself at the start of 2022:

i. Councillors – we aim to work with elected Greens who are putting policies into practice to support the development of pragmatic policies in areas where our elected Greens can have influence. We are always looking for members with principal authority experience to join PDC and build these links, in particular as the next manifesto is being developed.

ii. Communication – to prioritise clarity and support for Policy Working Groups and develop the support from the Digital Team to improve the policy sections of the website (members and public facing). This is ongoing!

iii. Strategy – to work with the Political Committee and the leadership team to identify the key areas where policy development would be most advantageous for the party. PDC met with the leadership team in July to identify and address these areas, and we plan to meet again in the Autumn. So far we have identified some policy areas for development/ clarification including but not limited to those policy areas which have enabling motions in this conference agenda.

Accreditation

Accredited motions can be found in the C Section of this agenda. Seven applications were received and 5 were successful in meeting the criteria that full consultation, both within and outwith the party has taken place, that high quality supporting evidence has been provided, the motion is endorsed by a Policy Working Group or other recognised body within the party, and the motion is consistent with the Party's strategic political objectives as advised by relevant bodies within the party.

Application forms for accreditation and the relevant deadline for next conference can be found on the members' website. The successful motions all had excellent background papers with evidence of research and consultation, and we thank applicants for such a high standard of evidence.

Fast tracking

PDC has recommended fast-tracking of a number of enabling motions for policy chapters to ensure that our Policies for a Sustainable Society are robust and up to date. Fast tracking ensures that in a packed conference agenda, particularly with all the A Reports at Autumn Conference, important policy motions can

be agreed. A reminder that fast tracking is only appropriate for "motions which are not contentious, do not require expenditure in excess of £100, are consistent with already existing party policy and will potentially not get heard due to their position in the agenda." Ten or more members can vote against the fast tracking of a motion during the A reports. If passed we will be looking for members to join these Policy Working Groups to bring new policies back to conference by 2024.

Website updates

The policy.greenparty.org.uk website was updated by PDC and the Digital Team after Spring Conference 2022 and all the Policy Chapters should now be up to date. The Record of Policy Statements (RoPS) have also been reviewed by the current PDC and recommendations for deleting and archiving were made to GPRC, who referred to the PDC report from 2018 with similar recommendations (which had not been evidence on the website) which included having a clearly identified archive area. PDC are to action this legacy report, and then address the RoPS section on the website to ensure that it is up to date.

Minor amendments

We have received a variety of correspondence at the policy@greenparty.org.uk email account which have flagged up some areas of policy where PDC would like to recommend minor amendments:

- a. Replacing all reference to Welsh Parliament in policy with *Senedd Cymru*
- b. Removing some problematic language from CJ500 so that it reads:
CJ500 Licensing
A single rigorous licensing process will be put in place based on considerations of public safety rather than the convenience of shooters. Subject to relevant criteria, licenses will be issued for permitted shotguns and rifles, all lethal airguns and permitted deactivated guns.
Users of firearms for sporting or agricultural purposes will be required to demonstrate their competence in handling firearms and satisfy the authorities via appropriate background checks.
- c. Beginning the process to ensure that published policy is inclusive with gender neutral language where appropriate. PDC will

be contacting the Policy Working Groups to look at this, with a view to reporting back at Spring Conference 2023.

Summer Policy Fest

Huge THANK YOU to committee members, Policy Working Groups, elected Greens and the conference team for ensuring that Summer Policy Fest 12th-14th June could go ahead online. Discussions included: global security, minimum wage, preparing the manifesto, land use voting paper and much more. Policy Working Groups also met during the event, and it is planned that a Winter Policy Fest will also be held online at the start of 2023.

Actions from Spring Conference

PDC has met regularly to ensure that tasks agreed at Conference have been actioned. With a view to this, the passing of D02 'Consultation and Right of Reply for Liberation Groups' motion from Spring Conference 2022 has resulted in a workshop at Autumn Conference 2022 where members are welcome to discuss developing a voting paper for next conference.

Rapid and Interim Policy and Processes

Between conferences, Policy Statements may be required - often for a public statement or press release - that expand, extend or extrapolate existing policy. PDC supports GPRC in clarifying existing policy and whether this is suitable for a policy statement and after GPRC has approved them, they are placed in the Record of Policy Statements, which is reviewed every 2 years by PDC

If there is no relevant policy and GPRC consider the situation urgent, interim policy can be agreed by GPRC. Because such policy will not have gone through conference, SOC have now set up a dedicated Interim Policy Forum which works in the same way as the pre-agenda forum and enables members to make comments and suggest amendments to the interim policy. PDC will then ensure that motions are brought to conference for ratifying (or amending or negating) by members. There have been a number of such policy statements drafted and agreed in the last year or so, but they have not all gone through this formal process and the forum had not been created. PDC is working with GPRC to ensure that these processes are followed, and that conference approves any interim or rapid policy statements. Until conference makes

that decision, these statements have the status of party policy.

Manifesto work

Preparations for the next General Election are underway, and the task of writing the next party manifesto is ongoing. PDC is working with GPRC, elected Greens and Policy Working Groups to identify key priorities with regards to policy, to inform those involved in the process and try and get ahead of any last minute rush.

A03

DEPUTY LEADER REPORT

*Amelia Womack**

Amelia notes that it's been an honour and a privilege to serve as your deputy leader for the last eight years, and she is proud at having worked alongside so many of you to build the party to the election winning machine it's become today.

It's with sadness that the last year of her time in office has seen her receive less support or recognition for her experience than in previous years. This has ranged from unelected spokespeople being given more prominence in our communications as well as additional support from the team, to knowledge of previous elections and campaigns being dismissed and devalued. This experience began prior to deciding not to re-stand.

Having committed so much of herself to the post, she is leaving in disappointment at her experiences of the last year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Amelia has been working with the communication and press team as part of the leadership's team rolling media rota. She contributed weekly to the leadership and communications meetings to update and refine messaging and spot press opportunities. She also appeared frequently in national, regional, and local media to represent the Green Party and convey its messages. For example- she was interviewed by Radio 4, LBC and Times Radio during COP26; by Channel 4 on the proposed Aberpergwm coal mine and to call on the PM to convene a climate crisis emergency response

group for extreme weather events and net zero; and on LBC for Cross Questions and to discuss Jubilee celebrations. She published several articles and op-eds throughout her mandate, such as her op-ed on the environmental and social justice issues of fast fashion for London Fashion Week; her op-ed in Left Foot Forward for International Women's Day, and her articles on the Green New Deal, Biodiversity loss, Gypsy Roma Travellers rights and the Jubilee celebrations.

FIELD WORK

Amelia made her support to the field team and the party's electoral goals across England and Wales a top priority in her deputy leader mandate. She criss-crossed the country to campaign for local parties- she visited Norwich in the Eastern region; Manchester and Burnley in the North-West; North Shropshire in the West Midlands; Greenwich in London; Oxford, Reading, Milton Keynes and Broadwater in the South-East; Barnsley in Yorkshire; and Newport in Wales. Her visits supported long campaigns for local elections, by-elections and policy events, but also events to build local parties from the ground up and meetings to strengthen already existing ones.

GOVERNANCE & INTERNAL PARTY WORK

With the co-leaders, Amelia has been meeting with liberation groups and their co-chairs to keep up to date with issues and provide support where possible- to date, they have met with the Jewish Greens, LGBTQIA+ Greens, Greens of Colour and the Green Party Disability Group. They will be meeting this summer with the Green Left, Green Seniors, Greens for Animal Protection and will be scheduling remaining groups where possible.

Amelia has been working regularly and closely with the wider leadership team, which includes parliamentarians, the CEO, the chair of GPEx, the co-leaders and the leader of Wales. They updated each other weekly on respective activities and held quarterly meetings in Lewes to work on the leadership's broad political strategy to support party goals.

Amelia has also collaborated where possible with policy working groups and spokespeople to design party messaging, refine policy and consult civil society on relevant issues. With the co-leaders, she has been working with wider party governance and external

experts Diverse Matters to take forward a range of work to promote good practice in equality, equity, diversity and inclusion across the party.

COLLABORATIONS & EVENTS

Amelia used much of her time as deputy leader to build Green Party ties with civil society, like-minded organisations and campaigns supportive of Green Party policy and goals. She was a delegate for the Global Greens at COP 26, where she exchanged with Canadian Greens, Green Alliance, WWF, and Make My Money Matter. At COP 26, she marched for the Green Party in the Climate Justice march, the Youth Strike for Climate march and the walkout of the venue after the people's summit. She attended several meetings with external organisations such as the People's Assembly Committee and the European Greens; was a keynote speaker at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy's three-day conference in Albania; spoke at rallies such as the SOS NHS rally; and campaigned for pressure groups such as Make Votes Matter. Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion were central to her issue-based advocacy work, particularly around feminism: she advocated for a Women's Bill of Rights; spoke at the event Thriving as a woman: yesterday, today, tomorrow as part of the European Green Party's Green Screen Project; campaigned with Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales to petition the government for better endometriosis healthcare; and worked with feminist groups such as Canadian Green Women and Women of the World.

GIVING THANKS

At Green Party Spring Conference, Amelia announced in her Deputy Leader's Speech that she would not be seeking re-election in the summer. She looks forward to passing the baton to someone who equally has a passion in their heart, and a fire in their belly to fight for a better future, and to continue to build the party from strength to strength. She thanks all the previous leaders she has had the privilege to work with, the staff team past and present, all our volunteers and local campaigners and everyone who has committed their time to make the party a force to be reckoned with the last eight years.

She'd like to add special thanks to Bethan, Russell and Matt who have provided insights, expertise and support over the years. Hannah, Emma, Doug, Kat and Rosie for your incredible support. Finally to Tamsin,

it's a rare opportunity to find a matching passion and strategic mind with someone - I am proud to have dreamed big with you.

A04

CO-LEADERS' REPORT

Carla Denyer, Adrian Ramsay**

COMMUNICATIONS

The Co-leaders are in a unique position to build the party's visibility in the media and they have made it a top priority during their first year in post. They have been working closely with the communications and press team, with whom they have daily contact. The leadership team has been on a rolling media rota which means one of them is always available for media requests, and they all contribute to a weekly leadership and communications call to update and refine lines and spot opportunities.

Since last conference, Carla and Adrian have consistently featured on a wide range of national, regional and local media. Through print, radio and TV, they have commented on the climate emergency, the war in Ukraine, the energy and cost of living crisis, Partygate, the Rwanda deportation plan, sexual harassment in the workplace, the Conservative leadership contest and more, showcasing that the Green Party's political voice is increasingly taken seriously by media across issues. Amongst other outlets, they have repeatedly appeared on Channel 4, BBC, Times Radio, LBC, Sky News and The Independent, and have established national profiles trusted by journalists, with whom they have begun to build personal relationships.

FIELD WORK AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

Carla and Adrian have worked with the field team to support Green Party election campaigns through leadership tours and online events. They have visited local parties across England in all nine regions, and both visited Wales. Most visits were focused on supporting local parties' long and short campaigns for local elections. They also supported by-elections in Lewes, Wealden and Wakefield, fundraising events in Lewes and Sussex, and provided a boost to various local parties' volunteer or candidate recruitment drives.

Adrian and Carla kicked off the local election short campaign at a launch in Lambeth, London. Their speeches focused on the cost of living crisis and green solutions, with a spotlight on Green-led council schemes to retrofit council homes with insulation. The launch, headlined by the slogan 'fairer, greener communities', achieved widespread media coverage and helped set the tone for a common and unified message across Green campaigns.

During the short campaign, the co-leaders had a particularly busy month balancing national media with field work to support target local campaigns. Leadership appearances in national media in the short campaign included Carla on Channel 4's local election debate, and Adrian on BBC Radio 4's Any Questions - both of which attracted notable spontaneous applause from the live audiences.

On polling day, they supported polling day operations in some target wards and then travelled to the party's election hub in London, where they worked several days with the communication team on a rolling media rota to comment on results and Green gains. They focused their messaging on Green gains happening everywhere, rural and urban from Conservative and Labour, to demonstrate the party's capacity to succeed in first-past-the-post across England and Wales.

COLLABORATIONS AND EVENTS

Throughout their leadership so far, Carla and Adrian have frequently collaborated with civil society and external organisations who share party goals and values. For example: they spoke at events such as Limmud and Tolpuddle festivals, at demonstrations against Conversion Therapy and for Ukraine solidarity, and at rallies organised by NHS workers' unions and the University and College Union; they campaigned with pressure groups and coalitions such as Make Votes Matter, the APPG on Frozen British Pensions and Reform Political Advertising; and they consulted organisations and unions such as the Royal College of Nursing. They also met and worked with the wider network of Greens, including but not limited to Green German minister Anna Lührmann and the European Green Party, and have regular Green Isles meetings with Scottish and Northern Irish co-leaders.

GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL PARTY WORK

Though less visible to the public, the leadership also has a busy and important role supporting good governance and internal party work. The nature of this role has been varied, and usually in collaboration with other internal entities, such as GPEX, GPRC, liberation groups, committees, the field team, the communication team and elected Greens.

The leaders have been working closely with the wider leadership team, including the Chairs of GPEX and GPRC and the party's CEO and senior staff team, to ensure the party is focused on delivering the Political Strategy. The strategy recognises that the 2020s are the key decade for action on the climate and ecological emergency and creating a fairer society, and that we need to maximise Green political influence during this crucial period in human history. The leaders also work closely with our Parliamentarians and London Assembly members to coordinate work and maximise opportunities.

The Co-leaders have been taking turns monthly to chair Political Committee (PolCom), where communication lines are discussed with a wide range of representatives of the party. Agenda items have covered our response to COP 26, Covid, the Health & Care Bill, HS2, Brexit, cost of living & energy crisis, Nationality & Borders Bill, Ukraine & NATO, the Queen's Speech, fossil fuel campaigning, Partygate, Ella's law (on clean air) and the Conservative leadership race - to name a few.

With Amelia, Adrian and Carla have been meeting with liberation/members' groups and their co-chairs to keep up to date with issues and provide support where they can. To date, they have met with the Jewish Greens, LGBTIQ+ Greens, Greens of Colour and the Green Party Disability Group. Meetings with the remaining liberation groups will be scheduled over the coming months.

The Co-leaders both contributed to the Spring conference and have played an active role in preparing for the Autumn one, including collaborating with policy working groups and committees to co-propose motions.

Alongside colleagues on the Green Party Executive (GPEX), they have been working with external experts Diverse Matters to take forward a range of work to promote good practice in equality, equity, diversity and inclusion across the party. They have also been working closely with the membership and

development team and the GPEX Chair to help develop the party's fundraising strategy in preparation for the next General Election. This has included building a network of people who are helping to expand our base of donors, working within our agreed ethical principles for donations.

PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Our Political Strategy - agreed by conference last year - sets out goals to win 5 MPs and 900 councillors by 2025 and to break through into the Senedd in Wales. The goals are rightly ambitious and build on the substantial success we've had in growing our councillor numbers over the last three sets of local elections, plus growing numbers of by-elections wins.

The party is increasingly focused on building for the General Election, including being ready for a potential early election. The Co-leaders have been supporting work being led by staff teams and office holders across the party including on communications and policy planning, budgeting, encouraging diverse candidate selection right across the country and building the focus on the priority constituencies.

The priority constituencies scheme is gaining momentum with growing activity on the ground and an increased level of support from members around the country. The action weekend in Bristol West at the end of June saw members from around the country knock on over 3000 doors in the constituency. A Big Action Weekend is taking place on 10th and 11th September when members will be asked to go to help in one of five priority seats which are all running action days on the same weekend.

The Co-leaders are both target candidates, with Carla standing in Bristol West and Adrian in North Suffolk. Both areas have strong Green councillor representation and show the diversity of areas where Greens are doing well (one being urban where we're challenging Labour, the other very rural where we are challenging the Conservatives). In both these seats we are building momentum in terms of volunteer capacity and candidate profile related to key local campaigns.

The Co-leaders have also had productive discussions with the leadership team in Wales Green Party about the next Senedd elections in 2026 and have recommended that GPEW seeks to build a similar

level of focus on the priority seats for the next Senedd elections as we are for the priority Westminster seats.

GIVING THANKS

The Co-leaders are eternally grateful for the support of many brilliant and hard-working people in the party. They would like to give a special thanks to CEO Mary Clegg and every member of Green Party staff for their amazing work. We've worked particularly closely with Chris Williams, Paul Steedman, Andi Mohr and all the field organisers, Gemma Walker, James Rush and the communications team and of course our Leaders' Office Manager Marie Balaguy. A big thank you also to members of GPEx and GPRC and everyone else who, in paid or voluntary roles, quietly works to help the party achieve our goals. We'd like to thank everyone who is stepping down from their roles at this conference, including Liz Reason who is standing down as Chair after six years on GPEx, a period in which we've seen significant improvements in our organisational effectiveness. Finally, a huge thank you to Amelia Womack, whose contribution as deputy leader has been immeasurable, and whose valuable insight and experience will be missed.

A05

CONFERENCES COMMITTEE REPORT

Cameron Bairstow (Convener), David Newman, Paul Weaver, TJ Milburn, Ruby Tucker*

INTRODUCTION

Conferences Committee is not a political committee like most others within the party - our role is much more of a practical one: planning and running all aspects of our events alongside volunteers and our hard-working and dedicated national staff.

The committee has continued with existing members Cameron Bairstow (Scarborough & Whitby GP), David Newman (Oxfordshire GP) and Paul Weaver (South East Dorset GP). TJ Milburn (Exeter GP) was re-elected to the committee having been co-opted last year

following a term as Convener. Ruby Tucker (Hackney GP) also joined as an elected committee member, having previously been the Conference Officer as a member of staff. The committee voted unanimously to thank Ruby for her staff work over the years.

AUTUMN 2021 - HYBRID (BIRMINGHAM & ONLINE)

The last time Conference had been in a venue was Autumn Conference 2019 in Newport. Back then, online participation was an experimental idea being led by a small team of volunteers including David Newman, who was not a member of the Committee at that time. Over the lockdown between then and now, the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC) have been updated to account for online inclusion, and Conference has been held fully online several times. The Reform Conference Voting Working Group's ballot of the membership in January 2021 returned a result with a preference for hybrid conferences as the way forward.

As Covid was still with us then (as it is now), we had the added challenge of keeping the venue Covid-safe as well as making the online experience as inclusive as possible.

I) KEEPING THE VENUE SAFE

The Eastside Rooms in Birmingham was a new building that was completed during lockdown. This came with the advantage that the venue itself had a state-of-the-art ventilation system built in. The venue staff were extremely cooperative with our requests that they continue to wear face coverings and use hand sanitiser throughout the conference.

Guidance was issued to all members advising that they also test themselves and attend the venue wearing face coverings. We invested in high-grade FFP2 masks which we were able to offer to members. We also invested in infrared thermometers and had spare lateral flow tests at the front desk.

After the event, there was no outbreak of Covid, so the Conferences Committee would like to thank all the members who attended the venue for sticking to the guidance and keeping us all safe.

II) THE ONLINE EXPERIENCE

We ran the breakout sessions ourselves with a small team of technicians from the Conferences Committee and staff. The set-up was that the online participants would join a Zoom meeting. The technician would get to the room 15 minutes early with a laptop, a webcam on a tripod and a snowball microphone. The technician would then start the Zoom meeting so the whole room in the venue joined as one participant. The rooms had large screens to display the Zoom meeting. This allowed the members in the room to see either the gallery view on Zoom, or the speaker if someone online made a contribution to the session. The feedback following Conference had some minor suggestions for improving this set-up, but for a first attempt this was very well received.

The plenaries were a different set-up because of the number of attendees and the added feature of online voting. The voting was conducted the same way it always has been when in a venue - the members hold a voting card up in the air for or against the proposal and the Chair uses their judgement if the outcome is obvious and there are no calls from the floor for further counting. We used paid technicians to facilitate the online aspect of plenaries. The online attendees voted using the same system we used previously, called Election Buddy. The Chair checked the online votes for and against and then saw if that followed the same outcome in the room. There were only a couple of instances where the votes in the room were counted by clickers to confirm the final numbers. The Zoom set-up was a webinar to allow for a greater audience, and members attending online were promoted to the webinar's panel to be able to speak, then moved back into the webinar's audience to watch the rest of the proceedings.

We ran the workshops online in the weeknights running up to Conference Weekend, which is a procedure we adopted when Conference moved online. This seems to be the preferred way of doing workshops moving forward and allows more time in the timetable for the weekend.

Finally, it was really great to be back in a venue. The committee has missed carrying out the physical tasks of stuffing folders, being on the front desk, and collecting back lanyards and we look forward to doing so again in Autumn 2022.

SPRING 2022 - ONLINE (WHOVA)

Due to the Omicron variant of Covid, the governance bodies decided to hold Spring Conference fully online. Global Greens had used a platform provider called Whova and had received good feedback from their attendees. The advantage of Whova was that once a member logged onto their website, the whole conference platform was available in that space. This meant that rather than send members to different Zoom meetings and different websites for the agenda and so on, everything was embedded on the one website. Whova also has a mobile app version of the same content so members could choose whichever option they found easier.

We ran multiple "check your tech" sessions to double check how things worked in practice. What we discovered was that having everything in one place doesn't suit everyone. For example, a number of members have their devices set up to be very suspicious of things such as embedded video streams. Most of these members were able to fix the problem at the "check your tech" sessions by following live instructions. Nevertheless, other members found that the embedding generated too much bandwidth use for them. This meant that rather than try to get everyone to adjust their devices, the path of least resistance was to offer the option of opening a separate Zoom window for those who prefer to do it that way.

Whova offered other features, such as: discussion boards, one-on-one private messaging and networking. They allowed members to add tags to their profiles based on common interests, and frames on their profile pictures to identify themselves as first timers, elected councillors and more. Initially, it came with a gamification feature that neither the committee or staff had access to turn off. We had to contact Whova tech support and ask them to disable it for us. The needs of GPEW appear to be more about streamlining the online experience while keeping it accessible and inclusive, rather than widening it out to a multi-featured mass experience.

We used Election Buddy again for the voting. Whova did have its own polling feature but it was very limited. Our polling needs as per the SOCCs mean that the polling system we use has to meet multiple requirements simultaneously.

Once again, workshops were conducted in the evenings leading up to the Conference Weekend. These were run through Whova's timetable feature,

whereas last time we ran them ourselves and moved onto the platform just for the weekend.

ACCESSIBILITY AT CONFERENCE

Accessibility at Conference is under constant review, taking into account the feedback from the previous conference and requests we receive for the upcoming one. We want our conferences to be accessible and inclusive for all.

A specific problem we had this year was in Birmingham. We booked with an agency to provide a British Sign Language interpreter. The specific person fell ill on the weekend and the agency was unable to provide another, even after attempting to contact other agencies in the area to help. This meant we unfortunately had no choice but to continue the conference without this facility.

There were a couple of anecdotes of individual experiences raised with us regarding the lifts at Birmingham, although the feedback about the venue was overall more favourable than some other venues we have held conferences in previously.

An improvement which has been well received involves the Agenda. This is really to the credit of Ash Routh (SOC, Sheffield GP) but should be noted in this report. Ash has built an agenda website and an archive of her work from Spring Conference can be found at <https://greencoordinate.co.uk/agenda/spring2022/>.

As regards accessibility and inclusion more generally, the lockdown restrictions have meant that there have been moving goalposts over the year. With hybrid conferencing, there are different adjustments needed when someone is attending online compared to the kind of things needed in the venue, although there is overlap as well, for example with providing a transcript. Our approach to venue accessibility involves visiting the venue in advance. This year, Dzaier Neil (Lambeth GP, Chair of the Disability Group) came to visit Eastside Rooms in advance of the event for preliminary thoughts and feedback. Online accessibility also includes a layer of tech support, which is often difficult to troubleshoot if the problem cannot be replicated at our end.

Finally, making it to the plenary floor is a journey for us all. The starting pool of who is able to attend Conference dissipates for all sorts of reasons each

step of the way. Where this is for an accessibility reason, and the member contacts us about it, we can work around it. We have the Access Fund to help members with financial support. Persuading and motivating members to become active members, and then to become active members who attend Conference, is a task for us all to play a part.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

We are heading towards a hybrid conference using CrowdComms, who are designing a platform for us which will have a bespoke voting system for us built in. If that works well, then hopefully we can reuse it in future, taking minor tweaks and adjustments into account along the way. Whether we have an online-only conference again or not is unknown, but hopefully it would be through choice rather than through lockdown.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who keep our conferences running. Particular thanks to Anne Gayfer (GPRC, South Lincolnshire GP) who has remained our GPRC Friend throughout the 'pandemic years'. Final thanks to the Conference Manager, Louisa Greenbaum for the incredible work she does all year round.

A06

PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

*Julia Lagoutte**

This report is split into two sections: my work on the editorial board of Green World, our membership magazine, and my work on GPEx, setting the budget, and scrutinising and guiding the implementation of the party's goals.

GREEN WORLD

As a party consistently ignored in both mainstream media and more alternative media, Green World is one of the few places to showcase Green policies,

ideas, people, and successes and debate policies and strategy.

I sit on its editorial board (GWEB), working with other board members to ensure it is supporting the party's aims by relaying our policies to a wider audience, providing a platform for members to inform and inspire each other, and showcasing the work of elected Greens at all levels. This year Green World has:

- Continued to grow its newsletter and social media platforms
- Showcased the work of elected Greens from peers to councillors, old and new and across the country
- Covered international news and affairs, such as the recent elections in France and Australia
- Been a vehicle for spreading our policies and increasing members' engagement in forming them
- Been a bridge between the party structures and members, hosting columns from the chairs of GPEX and the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC)

Many thanks to board members Fran, Bea, Paul, Emma, Eve, and John, and to Charles and Emma at Resource Media.

GPEX: I've tried to be a critical and constructive member of GPEX, working hard to make sure that we're taking the best decisions for the party and its members.

LEGAL CASES

I remain concerned about the impact of avoidable legal cases on our finances and party morale. We cannot treat certain members discriminatorily because of their beliefs and we must be careful about opening ourselves up to yet more costly legal cases by failing to take into account the fact that gender critical beliefs are now protected by law.

THE COMPLAINTS SYSTEM

I have continued to express my concerns that politicisation and inadequacies of the complaints system is driving membership dissatisfaction and a rise in legal cases and that proper funding is urgently needed to make sure it is efficient, non-partisan, and effective.

DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

I've continued to call for practical steps to increase transparency, accountability and democracy. I successfully pushed for a more in depth, deliberative budgeting process in 2021 which allowed more time for discussion and better informed decision-making. I will continue to push for other measures such as making the membership of all GPEX subcommittees - and the means to join them - available to all members. This is key because these subcommittees take crucial decisions and therefore necessitate greater scrutiny and accountability.

DIVERSITY MATTERS REPORT

This report must catalyse much-needed change. The lack of representation of people of colour in key positions such as target candidates and the structural racism raised by many Greens of Colour requires consideration and action.

Every person interviewed for the report mentioned the sex/gender divisions. The damaging head-in-the-sand approach of 'there is no debate' has to make way for party structures that foster an atmosphere where members are respectful of each other's opinions and differences, and where bullying and silencing tactics are not tolerated.

A07

LOCAL PARTY SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

*Rosie Rawle**

GENERAL GPEX RESPONSIBILITIES

This year, I have been an active member of GPEX, engaging heavily in discussions and decisions relating to the everyday running of the party, and played a role in helping meetings run more efficiently.

- In a job-share with Jon Nott as Deputy Chair, we have met regularly with the Chair of GPEX to help plan and prepare for each meeting. This has involved advising on how to manage

timings, using facilitation techniques to help ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak, and ideas for how to make sure agenda items result in clear actions where necessary.

- I have played an active role as a member of the Elections Steering Committee and the monitoring group of the Political Strategy, and as an observer on some GPEX subcommittees including Development Committee, and AfCom and Safeguarding.
- I have also been active in seeking amendments and improvements to some of the party's processes and policies including: the annual budget, the screening process of Green Party Spokespeople, clarity over decision-making on our external communications, and very recently, our ethical donations screening policy.
- Lastly, I have made suggestions for how we can move forward following the results of the Diverse Matters report, emphasising that we use the report as a starting point and not as an instruction manual for how we build on our diversity and inclusion in the party. Prior to this and on an ongoing basis, I have pushed for clarity on the progress of a Complaints Process Review, commissioned by GPEX, acknowledging that having a robust complaints system will be core to improving our work on diversity and inclusion.

LOCAL PARTY SUPPORT COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Generally, I have responded to enquiries from local and regional party officers, attempting to help with their questions on issues such as setting up new bank accounts
- Outside of the busy election period, I have engaged regularly with the staff Field Team, including specifically the Head of Elections and Activism Manager on our support to local parties. This has chiefly involved:
 - Attending several fortnightly field team meetings to keep on top of the team's priorities and an

understanding of the common issues that arise, or good practice that is being developed on the ground in local parties;

- Discussing a process for reviewing online training resources;
- Planning a rewrite of the "Party in a Box" resource;
- Discussions on carrying out a survey or ring rounds to regional and local parties in order to develop a mapping of needs and capacity;
- Discussions on how we can improve our support to elected councillors as well as candidates, and learn from the work already being carried out via our Climate Action Officer.

A08

CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE REPORT

No report was submitted as the committee is not currently quorate.

A09

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Marisa Johnson, Vita Falbo-Ellis, Steve Hancox, Jan King, Ron Meldrum*

Since Spring Conference 2022 the workload of ADRC has increased considerably.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The following people were elected to the Committee at Autumn Conference 2021:

- Vita Falbo-Ellis (first one-year term)
- Steve Hancox (second one-year term)
- Marisa Johnson (fifth one-year term)
- Jan King (second one-year term)
- Ron Meldrum (third one-year term)

Autumn Conference 2021 agreed changes to the constitution which increase the number of committee members to a maximum of seven and extend the term of service from one year to two, with a maximum of three years of consecutive service. Standing Orders Committee (SOC) agreed that two more members could be co-opted on the committee. Two co-options have been made: Paul Beswick and Clare Bonetree. Paul brings experience of inclusion issues, having served on Greens of Colour, and Clare has experience of mediation in group settings.

ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS

We continue to share among members of the committee the tasks of coordination. Communications are routed through coordinator@drc.greenparty.org.uk

REFERRALS

Since Spring Conference we have dealt with 14 new cases, 4 referrals from Disputes & Complaints Referral Group (DCRG), and 10 self-referrals. This may have resulted from increased awareness of the existence and work of the committee.

COMPLAINTS SUMMARY:

Numbers received in period:	14
Brought forward from previous period:	2
Mediations:	3
Open cases at the time of report:	6

A new feature of the work has been engaging with whole committees and groups of people on councils. There were some approaches from local parties/councillors reporting difficulties in relationships in spite of the very good results in Local Council Elections in May. Issues relating to transphobia remain high in the cases that reach us.

REGIONAL NETWORK & TRAINING

We continue to hold a list of volunteers prepared to act as mediators, and have run a new series of training sessions, which included Safeguarding, Data Protection, Awareness of Neurodiversity and simulation of mediation situations.

OTHER WORK

ADRC contributes to the work of the Code of Conduct working group, and the group looking at improving the culture of the Green Party and the overhaul of the complaints' system. There are good working relationships with GPRC, DCRG, the Complaints' Manager's office and Disciplinary Committee (DC).

The committee is currently addressing issues of confidentiality and conflict of interest that have arisen in relation to a particular case.

A10

TRADE UNION LIAISON OFFICER REPORT

*Kefentse Dennis**

Reflecting upon my 2 years as Trade Union Liaison Officer, I have categorised the time into 4 parts:

- Internal improvements
- Communications
- Outreach
- Future Projects

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

Since the last report our internal works have gone from strength to strength, with a new committee formed in December 2021 came with a new role which was the Policy and Education Officer. The continuation of using Slack as a working internal discussion has become normalised.

These improvements have continued with a new website layout which informs our membership, about meetings, campaigns, events, and social media posts. Our Twitter followers has risen from 2214 to 2629 as of writing this, with presence on Facebook has increased as well with events being made and other GPEW groups being informed of any news from GPTU.

There has also been financial discussion of improving GPTU via purchases of materials for physical conferences or our own physical meetings in the future.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with GPTU and senior membership as well as other Liberation Groups have vastly improved with members of each joining various committees and membership meetings like SIGs for example. There have been many times with the GPTU has supported governance groups motions and campaigns and vice versa.

OUTREACH

Due to the covid pandemic, plans to contact trade unions for collaboration and engagement were subdued for a lengthy period of time. This also included co-operatives and potential affiliation groups. However, the GPTU and I still have some contacts with the Unions of Workers Union (UWU). The wider committee has made contact with the BFAWU ("Bakers' Union"), whose campaign we supported with the motion to conference in Autumn 2021 and who spoke to Conference in Spring 2021 and Policy Fest 2022. NEU (National Education Union) has spoken at successive Conferences. PCS (Public and Commercial Services) officers have spoken at conferences. RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers) have expressed support for the £15 minimum wage motions. Unite's General Secretary candidates have taken part in written hustings for Green Party members.

My plans for my '10 Reasons Why Trade Unionists Should Vote for the Green Party' campaign was a partial success, again covid had delayed a lot of the logistics.

FUTURE PLANS

SHORT-TERM

Due to the cost-of-living crisis and the continuous direction that the Labour party is going through with its union affiliations, there have been strikes happening for the next several months. The GPTU is preparing for this with marches, pledges, coordinated responses for months for months to come.

For five major motions to pass at Autumn Conference:

- "Amending Crime and Justice Policies to reflect a greater desire to move resources away from carceral policies, and towards investment in social goods"
- "£15 Minimum wage"

- "A policy statement stating the Green Party's opposition to anti-union and anti-strike laws"
- "A policy statement calling for an increase in care workers' pay and allowances for care workers"
- "A policy statement in support of workers taking strike action to demand higher pay and better conditions in response to the cost-of-living crisis"

If any of the motions were to pass it would be a major success not just for the GPTU but the green trade union movement as a whole.

LONG TERM

- To make sure that trade union work and labour movement is being included and consulted in the political strategy.
- To increase the outreach to other unions and to maintain ones, especially in light of what's happening with the Labour Party.
- To increase membership and engagement among trade unionists both inside and outside of the party.
- To ensure that when new members join the Green Party of England Wales that there is an option to select the Trade Union Group.

A11

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

Dzaier Neil, Rashid Nix**

We would both like to thank the Equalities & Diversity Committee members and the representatives of the various liberation groups who have regularly contributed to our monthly meetings. Without their input we could not function as a democratic and inclusive body.

Some of our work undertaken this year has included creating a template draft constitution for use by different groups within the GPEW to standardize their procedures. As well as writing a volunteer ED&I officers job description to be used throughout the GPEW.

Previously, E&D has been a neglected political backwater for the Green Party. However, with a marked increase in societal awareness of the plights of marginalized groups, as well as a determination by key individuals within the party, the role of E&D has steadily increased.

This being the case, GPEW undertook a diversity audit earlier this year. In June, the report was completed and included 64 key Recommendations for the party to adopt in our attempts to move forward in our efforts to diversify. The findings of the Diverse Matters report will be presented formally in the near future.

In 2022 unresolved E&D issues are a very real threat to the party and wider society. How can a workable alternative to the current political mess be offered to voters if so-called progressives are fighting amongst themselves? Key is how does the party take on board the fears of Trans members and simultaneously address the concerns of some feminist members? Members of both groups are feeling side-lined. Moreover, we openly display ageism and BAME members are still woefully under-served.

Most worryingly, according to Gov UK website, almost 20% of the population are disabled, impaired or suffer long term health conditions. To the party's shame, we are currently the party that is least accommodating to disabled people and we ignore this very sizeable group at our political peril. Disregarding the plight of disabled members is also possibly a breach of our legal requirements.

In conclusion, going forward, the GPEW needs to show a real commitment to ED&I, if the party intends to grow. There have been concerted attempts by predecessors in E&D to have these issues taken on board. It is to them and those current serving individuals -who pushed the audit forward- that credit ultimately belongs to.

AMENDMENT 1

Dylan Lewis-Creser, Richard Firth, Kathryn Bristow, Peter Price*

Delete:

"Key is how does the party take on board the fears of Trans members and simultaneously address the concerns of some feminist members? Members of both groups are feeling side-lined. Moreover, we

openly display ageism and BAME members are still woefully under-served."

Replace with:

Key is how does the party tackle the discrimination and marginalisation experienced by members? Such as transphobia, homophobia, ageism, racism, antisemitism, misogyny, ableism & classism, which is openly displayed in the party.

A12

GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

*Liz Reason**

The Green Party Executive is responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party. Such responsibilities include ensuring the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of funds; acting as the Green Party's employer of staff; implementing the decisions of the Annual Conference; and being liable for the governance and smooth functioning of the organisation.

GPEX fulfils many of its responsibilities through the Chief Executive Officer and the staff team. GPEX members are expected to be ready and able – and are encouraged to – challenge and test proposals and plans put forward by the CEO, and to provide independent insight and scrutiny of the party's operations.

GPEX also has a number of sub-committees – Administration and Finance (AFCom), External Communications, Campaigns and Communications, and Development – which allow for more detailed oversight of key issues between meetings, and reporting back to GPEX at every meeting. Other committees – Political Committee, Policy Development, Elections Steering Group and International Committee – are all required to report back regularly to GPEX.

During the course of the year, GPEX has agreed to:

- The annual budget for the year – an ongoing challenge as we call on our 60+ staff to

continue to spread our limited resources over delivering the powerful results that they do. We repeatedly thank them and do so again here.

- Recognising the urgency of the need to grow our income, we have agreed a powerful development strategy that looks to grow income from all sources including members, membership and supporter growth, donations, legacies and major giving. We can expect success during the course of the coming year.
- Building on the party's 50th anniversary, we will celebrate our successes and drive income-generation to build a substantial fund for the next General Election.
- The revised political strategy has shaped the overall programme of activity, which has led to the hugely successful council election results driven by the combined forces of staff and local and regional parties.
- The roll-out of the new digital tools including new payment tools, Action Network and a new membership database which, after the usual teething troubles, are finally paying dividends. And, finally, we are working towards the building of a new Green Party website.

The most significant action we have taken this year is to engage the services of Diverse Matters to undertake an audit of the Party's equality, diversity and inclusion policies and practices. Having engaged members in focus groups and one-to-one interviews, Diverse Matters prepared a report which did not pull its punches. It identified some good practices, but the nearly 70 recommendations it made provide a sound basis for an EDI (equality, diversity and inclusion) action plan which has been reviewed by Equality & Diversity Committee and should be approved by GPEx before Autumn conference.

The report may not have told us much that we didn't already know, but it is galvanising thinking and action. Major priorities include a programme of culture change to make sure that our behaviours align with our values, that our disciplinary processes are fit-for-purpose and, of course, that we make real efforts to improve the diversity of our members and candidates for election.

Progress is happening. But there is a long way to go. We are influencing and implementing policy change to tackle the ecological and social crises, and we are preparing now for the next General Election to grow our representation in parliament. The message to other parties is that we're coming, our time is now.

CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR

The Campaigns Coordinator is in post as a result of co-option.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

This post has been vacant since the newly-elected Internal Communications Coordinator resigned.

A13

GREEN PARTY REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

Martha James, Adrian Spurrell**

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to thank all members of the party who stood in Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) for the past year, and for all their hard work.

Adrian Spurrell and Martha James were re-elected co-chairs.

Andrew Bradbury was re-elected secretary and elected Chair of Appeals.

GPRC priorities for the last year have been:

- Political strategy
- Improvements to the complaints process
- Culture working group
- Constitution (Party Structure working group)

POLITICAL STRATEGY

GPRC are in the process of setting up a political strategy working group, to act as a critical friend supporting the implementation of the Political Strategy agreed by conference. The need for some

group has been highlighted to agree a process for what we will do when:

- Specific targets have not been met (for example, failure to achieve the Senedd seat); or
- When plans appear to not be structured to achieve set targets (e.g. 900 councillors).

The targets of getting 5 MPs and 900 councillors elected by 2025 are ambitious, but the staff, Green Party Executive (GPEx) and GPRC are focused on us all working together with the regions to achieve them. It's important that the various parts of the party are aligned on this, as there appear to be one or two areas where we could be more effective.

We are conscious of the many hours of work put in by Party volunteers and activists across the country that have helped us deliver such amazing results to date. We know we can do better and will continue to work to ensure that the Party is a safe and inclusive space that welcomes all our members and helps them focus their energies in pursuit of our political strategy.

DISPUTES COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY WORKING GROUP (DCD)

GPRC have now closed the Disciplinary Complaints and Disputes working group, (DCD) as the Complaints review has taken over this work. We thank all of the GPRC representatives – including appeals – who have been involved in the complaints review. The complaints review will take on board the comments within the Diverse Matters report as well as an external review, to make improvements to the complaints process.

An early first step has been the Disciplinary Committee's (DC) motion to increase the number of people on the committee. This is crucial. Without enough active volunteers we get bottlenecks and cases aren't heard quickly enough which is not a healthy situation for the Party. Sadly the motion fell a few votes short at Spring conference. Please support it this conference.

DCD have written a set of model procedures for local parties and the regions/Wales to help them set up complaints systems. These are available from your regional representatives on GPRC. To find out who they are:

<https://members.greenparty.org.uk/gprc>

CULTURE WORKING GROUP

The culture working group has not met since Spring conference, but conversations with member groups about the culture in the party has continued. GPRC would like to thank all members who were involved in these culture groups, they have really helped us better understand members' experiences.

There has been an on-going discussion about whether the culture working group has been superseded by the Diverse Matters report, and whether this group should amalgamate with the work of GPEx's Equality Diversity and Inclusivity Diverse Matters working group, and the bullying and harassment working group. GPRC will consider this in its next meeting in September.

EQUALITIES, INCLUSIVITY AND ETHICS - VALUES AND PROCESS WORKING GROUP

This Working Group has been running for over two years under a slightly different title (we have recently added 'Ethics') and it has primarily focused on helping to get work underway to revise the Rights and Responsibilities Policy chapter through supporting the Rights and Responsibilities Policy Working Group [R&RPWG]. The R&RPWG has recently recruited some new members to its Core Team, including two new co-convenors, and they are bringing a motion to this conference to update the Philosophical Basis in order to allow the party's political policy to have more nuance and to express a better understanding of the concepts of equity and equality.

The Working Group has recently taken on responsibility for the Framework for Ethics & Conduct, so we have changed its title and updated its terms of Reference. The Working Group has created a process for accessioning documents to the framework and is currently taking the first proposal through this process.

CONSTITUTION

GPRC have set up a working group called Party Structure Working Group, to work on a revised constitution. We have been supported in this working group, with the subject matter experts (SMEs), who are members of the party with specialist skills, or an

active interest in the constitutional working of the Party. GPRC would like to thank the subject matter experts in helping us with this project. We have held a series of party wide consultations since the Spring conference, and this has helped frame the motions that we have submitted for this conference.

A majority of members who replied to our surveys have said:

1. They want the party to incorporate the central office, the regions and Wales and they want the members owning the shares via a nominee structure. They want the model of incorporation to be based on co-operative principles.
2. That the Council doesn't need to be regionally based. That it could be a body of 36 members, elected in thirds using proportional representation. This should create a more diverse representation on the Council. The Leaders would become voting members of the Council.
3. That Green Party Executive (GPEx) should be reduced in size, to a Chair, treasurer and 7 directly elected members.
4. These two bodies would be held accountable by requiring them to report to Conference and also by having a recall process for Council members/Board directors. Members also thought that the board and council should report to conference to submit their plans for the year ahead.
5. Groups of common interest, often called liberation groups, would be able to be formally recognised by the Council with rights and responsibilities linked to their size and level of governance processes.
6. That SOC should double in size, with five members elected to work on conference matters, and 5 to interpret the constitution. The constitutional part of SOC would be elected via the annual ballot.

More details of the results of the surveys and minutes of our meetings, can be found here:

<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/party-structure-working-group-gprc-group/>

As well as focusing on our key priorities we have also put in hand the following:

INTERNAL ELECTIONS WORKING GROUP

GPRC have set up an internal elections working group. The aim of this working group is to audit and review how Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) wide, and internal groups within GPEW, run their internal elections, and to make recommendations for improvements. We are especially keen to see participation in the Annual ballot increase.

GREEN WORLD

GPRC co-chair Martha James has written a bi-monthly spotlight article for Green World, to help improve transparency of the working of GPRC.

WORKING WITH GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE (GPEx)

We continue to work closely with GPEx. GPRC are involved in a number of GPEx sub-committees, as well as GPRC members fulfilling their constitutional role in standing GPEx sub-committees. GPRC also have provided a "friend" role to offer support to individual GPEx members, as part of our role in caring and well-being of the party.

As well as working closely with our colleagues in GPEx, we also meet regularly as a group with our peers, CEO and Caroline Lucas' office to maximise cross party alignment. We would like to thank our GPEx colleagues, peers and staff, Caroline and her office, and our CEO and all staff for their hard work and commitment.

NO FAULT SUSPENSIONS

GPRC every month are asked to make no-fault suspensions, as part of the complaint system. GPRC consider risk when making these decisions, risk to the party, body or individual. GPRC do not investigate the complaint itself, as that is the role of disciplinary committee. A no-fault suspension is not a disciplinary sanction. GPRC review all no-fault suspensions quarterly, and if the risk has passed, we remove the no fault suspension.

Between 1st August 2021 and 30th June 2022 GPRC has considered 50 requests for no-fault suspensions. 9 members' requests have been granted a no-fault suspension.

GPRC take all requests for no-fault suspensions seriously, and find it a challenging thing to do. We recognise there are times when the actions of individuals put the party at risk and we have to take action. The backlog in the Disciplinary Committee means that some members have been on no-fault suspensions too long, we are working with the Disciplinary Committee address this.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Appeals is a permanent subcommittee of five members of GPRC which nominates its Chair for approval by GPRC. We were sorry to see Jackie Tait stand down from the Committee at our AGM. Andrew Bradbury has been the Chair this year during which the Committee has dealt with several complex cases to high standards and all within the targeted time limits.

MEMBERS STANDING OR CAMPAIGNING AGAINST PROPERLY SELECTED GREEN PARTY CANDIDATES

When members stand or campaign against properly selected Green party candidates during general, local or by-elections, they automatically cancel their membership; this is contained within 4. vii of the GPEW constitution. When a member campaigns or stands against a properly selected candidate, GPRC can decide whether they can re-join - this is contained with 4. viii of the GPEW constitution.

During the last year GPRC has sadly blocked 4 people's membership due to this.

GPRC fully support the aims in the political strategy, and members standing as independents, or as members of another political party, significantly affect our chances of meeting our aims of getting MPs and 900 Councillors elected. Where a Green candidate is standing it is vital that all members support their campaign and do not 'help' other candidates as this undermines efforts across the party.

WHISTLEBLOWING

As part of party transparency, the prescribed people for our whistleblowing policy have summarised below the whistleblowing report for the party. The

prescribed people are: the CEO, the chair of GPEX and the co-chairs of GPRC.

Since 1st August 2021 to 30th June 2022, the party has received 3 whistleblowing allegations. The prescribed persons identified one party matter as a whistleblowing allegation, which is currently being investigated externally.

Two whistleblowing allegations are currently under investigation.

One is closed.

One apology was sent to a member.

AMENDMENT 1

Vivien Lichtenstein, Maciej Pawlik, Alan Butterworth, Chris Green, John Coyne, Pippy Shepherd, Peter Price, Mick Gregg, Scott Robinson*

After

“the Complaints review has taken over this work”, insert:

“We acknowledge the Disciplinary Committee for detailing their concerns with the complaints system in a statement sent at the beginning of June 2021, and for persisting with their request for an independent external review.”

So that it reads:

“GPRC have now closed the Disciplinary Complaints and Disputes working group, (DCD) as the Complaints review has taken over this work. We acknowledge the Disciplinary Committee for detailing their concerns with the complaints system in a statement sent at the beginning of June 2021, and for persisting with their request for an independent external review. We thank all of the GPRC representatives – including appeals – who have been involved in the complaints review. The complaints review will take on board the comments within the Diverse Matters report as well as an external review, to make improvements to the complaints process.”

A14

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT

*Molly Scott Cato**

It has been an important year for the Green Party, as we have established our presence in every corner of the country. We have tried to reflect this in our communications, as well as seeking to establish authority across a wider range of issues.

The party has begun a process of using polling and focus groups to ascertain who and where are likely voters are. What has become clear from this process is that having something to say about all the key issues of government is crucial to our electoral success. The role of the External Communications Coordinator is crucial to sharing our radical and inspiring ideas with the wider public. When it works well this brings us votes but also helps to shift the political climate.

The focus of our communications has shifted over the past year and is now fully focused towards the next general election and aligning with the objectives of our agreed political strategy. I believe the work I have done together with the comms staff has meant that we have been able to put in place some key foundations for this over the past couple of years.

I have set up a process for selecting spokespeople and we now have 15 spokespeople who are developing expertise and contacts across a range of policy areas. We know from polling that not being perceived as a party with policies for government is holding us back electorally. So the success of this team is vital to further our electoral ambitions.

My deepest regret during my time in office is that I was not able to prevent a spokesperson from taking legal action against the party. I have supported the party in our defence of this case and I believe that, working with SSMG, I did everything I could to prevent the case being taken. None the less, I regret it deeply.

We have made some steps towards increasing the diversity of those who speak on behalf of the party but we have much further to go. This is a key priority

for me over the next two years, building on the progress we have made over the past two years.

I have developed good working relationships with the media staff and set up systems so that we can successfully agree our media lines with the leadership, our parliamentarians, our councillors and our spokespeople. Political communications is always high risk, but we have found ways to minimise crises and embarrassment. It is vital that we continue to run a tight ship in the time between now and the next general election if we are to achieve our strategic targets.

Although the political framing we use cannot possibly please everybody all of the time, we have done our best to be responsive to our membership while also keeping an eye on potential voters. The revitalisation of the Political Committee I have effected together with the leadership team is important to keep this balance right.

I have also established and co-convene the Campaigns and Communications Committee (XCom) to ensure liaison between the comms function and our campaigning activity and the Spokespeople Support and Monitoring Group to coordinate training and support for spokespeople while also ensuring that they still to party lines and the code of conduct.

The comms team are performing miracles daily and I believe we are in the strongest position we could be – given limited resources – as we approach our next electoral test.

A15

COMPLAINTS MANAGER REPORT

*Mary Clegg**

MOTION TEXT

To accept the following report from the Complaint Manager:

The Standing Orders for Party Discipline require the Complaints Manager to report all decisions of censure, suspension and expulsion, taken by the Disciplinary Committee, to Conference.

The Disciplinary Committee met 9 times since August 2021:

- 25 Sept 2021
- 30 Oct 2021
- 27 Nov 2021
- 29 Jan 2022
- 26 Feb 2022
- 23 March 2022
- 30 April 2022
- 28 May 2022
- 25 June 2022

Of the 22 cases heard by the Disciplinary Committee and reported back to the Complaints Manager between 01 August 2021 – 30 June 2022:

- 6 complaints were dismissed
- 2 complaints were dropped on request of both parties
- 1 complaint ceased as the member resigned
- 3 complaints resulted in no sanction
- 2 complaints resulted in a censure
- 2 complaints received sanctions
- 5 complaints resulted in disciplinary suspensions of membership
- 1 complaint resulted in an expulsion

The Complaints Manager is also required to report all Appeal decisions to Conference.

The Green Party Regional Council Appeals Sub Committee has considered 4 appeals between 01 August 2021 – 30 August 2022:

12 April 2022 appeal upheld and sanctions revised

12 May 2022 Appeal upheld and sanctions revised

12 May 2022 appeal upheld and complaint dismissed

26 May 2022 appeal upheld and case referred back to Disciplinary Committee

In the autumn of 2021, an external review of the disputes and disciplinary process was commissioned by a group made up of all those bodies in the party involved in the process. In January 2022, that group met to consider the findings of the report and to begin the processes of implementing them. This work is on-going.

Conference is whole heartedly requested to support the motion to expand Disciplinary Committee. Given the expansion in complaint numbers over the last years, more capacity is needed to progress complaints

in a timely and effective manner. The current delays cause real distress for all involved and do not serve the party's interests.

I wish to record my thanks to all involved in the disciplinary and disputes process, including those working at a regional level and in appeals, and to the on-going work of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. I particularly wish to recognise the incredible hard work of current and former members of Disciplinary Committee.

AMENDMENT 1

Vivien Lichtenstein, Maciej Pawlik, Alan Butterworth, Andreas Christodoulou, Chris Green, Scott Robinson*

Delete from

"The Disciplinary Committee met 9 times since August 2021:"

to

"1 complaint resulted in an expulsion"

Replace with:

"The Disciplinary Committee met 23 times between 01 August 2021 and 30 June 2022, including nine business meetings, six of which were followed by nine hearings, others having been held on weekday evenings. Of the 25 cases heard by the Disciplinary Committee 01 August 2021 to 30 June 2022:

- 9 complaints were dismissed
- 2 complaints were dropped during the hearing at the request of both parties
- 3 complaints were upheld with no sanctions
- 3 complaints resulted in a censure
- 1 complaint resulted in a censure and ban from activities for a fixed period
- 1 complaint resulted in a suspension
- 1 complaint resulted in a suspension and actions to be taken before readmittance
- 4 complaints resulted in a suspension and disqualification from some activities for a fixed period after readmittance
- 1 complaint resulted in an expulsion

Three complaints ceased as the members resigned, and one complaint was closed by the Disciplinary

Committee under SOPD (Standing Orders for Party Discipline) 3.9”

A16

MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Florence Pollock, Matt Browne**

As Management Coordinator job-share we have been pleased to support another year of progress and improvement across HR and safeguarding.

HR

New policies and processes, put in place in 2020 to improve inclusivity and effectiveness across staff operations, have continued to successfully bed in. The new ‘applied’ system for recruitment, which does not use traditional CVs, is helping to boost the diversity of staff applicants and the party’s excellent home working policies are allowing people from all over England and Wales to serve in the full range of staff roles. We are particularly pleased that the Diverse Matters review of equality and diversity in the Party (June 2022) found that our HR policies were ‘comprehensive and clear’. The bulk of the credit for this excellent work and sustained progress must go to HR Manager Sam Davies, ably assisted by Angela Hillier.

Improving and celebrating diversity across the staff team is an ongoing process and we provided an in-depth paper to inform GPEX deliberations on the matter in November. We were pleased that GPEX voted to implement our recommendations for GPEW to remain members of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme, as a programme of demonstrable value to LGBTQIA+ staff members & applicants, and to invest an additional sum in improving staff diversity across the board. We proposed that the Equality & Diversity Committee be in control of this additional diversity fund and look forward to seeing their next steps with it.

SAFEGUARDING

A process of continual review and improvement also applies to safeguarding, to ensure we stay at the forefront of best practice. We presented an annual assessment of GPEW safeguarding to GPEX earlier this year, which concluded that our safeguarding reporting mechanisms are robust but that more work could be done to make our policies easier to understand. We have secured funding for external experts to review GPEW safeguarding policy with a view to simplification and more effective communication. This work is underway at the time of writing (July) with recommendations due to go to GPEX in the autumn. We would like to put on record our thanks to the GPEW’s chief safeguarding officer, CEO Mary Clegg, who does a superb job in leading on safeguarding work amongst her many other responsibilities.

OTHER WORKSTREAMS

We have been pleased to support a range of other GPEX workstreams over the year, including service on Administration and Finance Committee (AFCOM) and work to set up a new GPEX sub-committee working with GPRC, DC and ADRC to reduce incidences of bullying and harassment in the Party. We were also pleased to help develop and agree a financially sound and elections-focused 2022 budget, and to contribute improvements to spokesperson selection, support and monitoring processes.

This September marks the end of our GPEX term, and we wish to close by wishing all the best to our successor, to GPEX colleagues and to GPEW staff. The staff team are one of the greatest assets our Party has and their dedication and service has been inspiring over the past two years. Green heroes one and all!

A17

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

*Matt Browne**

During the last plenary of Spring Conference 2022 an Emergency Motion on bullying and harassment in the Green Party had been proposed and was formally introduced. It was not formally debated or voted on in

a plenary because conference voted not to suspend standing orders to take the motion.

GPEX felt that the systemic issues raised by the motion required further consideration. A sub-committee of GPEX was formed, named the Bullying & Harassment sub-committee. Terms of reference for the sub-committee was agreed in July, tasking members with considering how Green Party processes had historically dealt with allegations of bullying and harassment and with creating a single action plan to reduce incidences of these behaviours.

The sub-committee brings together members of GPEX, GPRC, Disciplinary Committee and the Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee. It reports to GPEX, and respects that oversight of the disciplinary process and party wellbeing lies with GPRC.

Members met for the first time in July to review previous recommendations from Party reviews touching upon bullying and harassment, several of which have occurred since 2016. The sub-committee discussed a working definition of bullying and harassment and agreed a combined list of recommendations from previous reviews, to which recommendations arising from more recent cases will be added.

It is clear that implementation is key. There is much overlap between recommendations over the years. In many areas it is clear what needs to be done to make the Party a happier, safer place – what is needed is the resourcing and sustained commitment to see those changes come to pass. The need for clear boundaries as to how Party members can work with and sometimes disagree with each other, with clearly enforced consequences for those who step outside those boundaries, is particularly apparent.

The sub-committee will work on creating a combined list of recommendations to reduce incidences of bullying and harassment, for Governance colleagues to consider. This list will be underpinned by an intersectional understanding that bullying and harassment can relate to people's protected characteristics, sometimes as a means of defending positions of privilege within an institution.

This work may be folded within the Equality and Diversity work programme to implement the Diverse Matters report, this process decision is for the new GPEX to make. What is crucial that the work itself continues and that a single plan to reduce bullying and harassment is drawn up and - most importantly of all - implemented.



SECTION B

VOTING PAPERS ON CHAPTERS OF POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

B01

LAND USE VOTING PAPER

Anne Gayfer, Tony Firkins, Andrew Melville, Lindy Brett, Cath Sutherland, Pamela Harling, Matthew Holborrow, Peter Sims, Wendy Blackman, Martin Blake, Tony Nicholson, Rodrigo Capucho Paulo, Lorna Kirman, Luc Delas, Christopher Clark, James Firkins, Megan Davies, Katherine Greenaway, Louise Dunk*

Land Use Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

Current Green Party policies require more land than exists in the UK. In spring 2021, conference instructed the Land Use Policy Working Group to develop policy that resolved this tension, and to seek the opinions and involvement of Party members, policy working groups, external organisations and the Green Parties of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This policy replaces the current Land policy. It defines key principles and outcomes (based on and consistent with the Policy for a Sustainable Society) and outlines the policies to achieve land use change.

The ownership of land has its roots in history. What is certain is that where no other ownership can be established, ownership currently falls to the Crown or Duchies of Cornwall or Lancaster. We propose that land should by default be owned by the people through one or more Trusts (this could be one for each of the devolved administrations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

We introduce the concept of owners of land also having responsibilities for that land, to link land management with healthy biodiversity and the climate crisis.

We have created a model of how land might be used in future. We propose that changes in land use start now and happen within 10 years.

We recommend a Land Commission to provide advice and policy to government for England and Wales, as already happens in Scotland.

In order to make these radical changes, we will be undertaking public information campaigns and training up and funding young people to manage our land differently.

MOTION

Delete the current Land chapter (LD100 to LD403) and replace with the text below up until 'END OF LAND CHAPTER'.

CONTEXT

LD001 We live on land. We play, work, farm and build on land. However, we share the land with plants, animals, fungi and other species. Our policy for land-use must balance humanity's wish to control the earth for human benefit, with the need to share and not destroy what we rely on. Humanity cannot completely control the earth, and neither should it try to, as we are reliant on its full complexity. Our society should strive for a stable environment, in part by taking a stewardship approach to land management. This requires accepting responsibilities, such as to future generations and to other life, when taking land management decisions. (see PB101-105, PB201-206, PB305, MG201, RR200,201,203, 205 RR406, RR1000-1006 and WH001-WH101).

LD002 Land is finite, the primary source of all real wealth, and a common heritage. The way land is managed needs to deliver good soil health, good human health, and a resilient society, as well as maintain a stable climate and diverse ecosystems. This currently is not happening because our economy has a dysfunctional relationship with the land. A small number of people control most of the land, mostly for historical reasons, but also due to wealth inequality. This is unjust. In UK law today the Crown and Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster are the default owners of land if no one else holds the land title.

LD100 Land principles:

- The overrunning of the planet's natural limits and the unsustainable use of its resources should be considered as one challenge (see the Philosophical Basis)
- Human activity must be managed within Earth's natural limits
- Land is held in trust and managed by human society for its own needs and the needs of

- other species and future generations; its use should enhance the richness of life
- Land management is crucial in securing the protection, regeneration, and restoration of nature
- Land management should maximise multiple benefits of land
- The rights and responsibilities of those who hold land will be transparent and accountable
- People may have rights over the use of land but this should not give unconditional ownership or control of it
- Land should be managed for the “common good” of communities and therefore relevant communities should have a role in determining its use
- Land use change should be largely implemented at the landscape scale, at which natural systems tend to work best
- Benefits that come from holding land title should be distributed according to need (mainly via taxation)
- Treating land as a capital investment should be discouraged, as will be trading it for speculative profit

LD200 Outcomes

Our policies aim to deliver the following which together define the “common good” within this context:

- improved transparency of information about the ownership of land
- increasing equality of access to land for recreation, health, education, to grow food and reduce wealth inequality
- a transition in land-use that will take place over a period of 10 years
- increased biodiversity across all land
- balancing of the natural cycles, including carbon and nitrogen, to deliver a stable biosphere
- reducing emissions from land
- increasing carbon sinks and carbon uptake
- ‘Wildlife and Habitats’ policy outcomes (WH003) and ‘Food and Agriculture’ policy aims (FA101)
- healthy food and other resources for local need
- resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods

POLICIES

LD300 Land Ownership and Stewardship

LD301 There will be compulsory registration of all land within a specified time limit (see LP517). Land remaining unregistered would by default fall to a Commons Trusts, rather than the Crown or Duchies (See LD002, LD301). The registry will be open for public inspection free of charge, as provided for in LP517. For transparency, any ultimate beneficial owners of land must be recorded in the Land Registry.

LD302 The Land Registry will define and provide the record of who holds the land title (and therefore who stewards it), which in law would be permanent tenure. All land in the UK may only be held by UK Citizens (individually or collectively), or by organisations registered at Companies House, or by components of the UK government. UK Residents, who are not UK Citizens, may only hold the title of land for their own domestic dwelling and to derive a livelihood (excluding rental), or both.

LD303 The holder of the land title will be able to use the land to derive profits and benefits, but will also have responsibilities for managing the land in accordance with the “common good” (PB451, MG201). They will be referred to as “stewards”. Stewards of land will be able to transfer stewardship, in the same way that land is bought and sold now through the property market.

LD304 Responsibilities for managing land will be reasonable and clear. Advice and financial help will be available, but ultimately the responsibilities will be compulsory, with legal remedy. They will primarily affect large pieces of land rather than private gardens.

LD305 By default land will be jointly held by all citizens as “commons” through Commons Trusts, which will be independent of government. The Commons Trusts will ensure that land is managed for the “common good”. They will be funded by revenues, such as Land Value Taxation. The Commons Trusts’ policies, and major decisions will be made in accordance with the principles of democratic participation (see PA102 and PA103).

LD306 The Commons Trusts will be will be empowered to:

- provide advice and guidance on the implementation of stewardship facilitate mediation within communities
- facilitate voluntary reparations
- issue warnings
- as a last resort, enforce stewardship requirements by preparing a prosecution case for referral into the legal system

The maximum penalty for breach of stewardship would be removal of the land, by compulsory purchase by the Commons Trust (as the first charge prior to all other liabilities, including the banks and other lenders), with the deduction of reparations and costs. Where land is owned by limited companies, directors may be held personally responsible.

In all cases sentencing would be governed by Crime and Justice chapter which makes it clear that restorative justice is preferred and minimal intervention required to deliver justice should be used (see RR1002-1003, CJ200-206 & 362).

LD400 Land Use Transition

LD401 Changing land use is fundamental to delivering a sustainable society. Management of land should deliver multiple benefits. Policy levers (LD502) will deliver the benefits at national scale, so that the following priority order is taken into account within the broad context:

- reversing biodiversity loss
- reducing carbon emissions from land (e.g. peatland restoration),
- being self-sufficient in food production and biological sequestration (e.g. growing forests),
- managing land for timber and fibre
- growing biomass (wood and crops) for energy production

Change must start now. It should be completed within 10 years. It will be achieved by encouraging and supporting people to be good stewards of the land.

AMENDMENT 1

SOC Note: this amendment is provided by the motion proposers to give Conference options as per Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference Appendix A Section 6.c

Replace:

“Change must start now. It should be completed within 10 years. It will be achieved by encouraging and supporting people to be good stewards of the land.”

With:

“Change must start now and be nearing completion in 10 years time. This will be achieved by encouraging and supporting people to be good stewards of the land.

LD402 Peatlands must be restored as quickly as possible to a near natural condition. Rewetting of lowland farmland on peat must take precedence over upland peat – and begin immediately. Tree planting on peatland is unviable and must stop (and all existing forestry removed). This will be achieved primarily through land management investment and support. (See also CC014, FA206, FA301, WH101&102).

LD403 The land for the production of raw materials, such as wood, hemp and flax, will be significantly increased, to displace non-renewable (such as concrete, steel and plastic) and imported natural resources (that are produced unsustainably). This will be achieved mainly through fiscal measures (see LD502), but may need to be backed up by additional policy to encourage behavioural change through public education, price signals, taxation and regulation, and technological development .

LD404 Scotland has a Land Commission and we will introduce Land Commission(s) in the rest of the UK that will provide policy and best practice advice on the rights and responsibility of stewardship. This will apply at all scales of use – from gardens to estates; from neighbourhood to catchment or bioregion.

LD405 The Land Commission(s) will review the implications of the current distribution of land holdings, and bring forward policies towards a more equitable distribution of stewardship.

LD406 Government will have a power to designate land for nationally significant infrastructure.

LD407 Government will also have the power to designate land critical for certain purposes, for example National Parks; and also may make new land use designations such as peatland, wetland, saltmarsh and ancient woodland.

LD500 Delivering land use change

LD501 Land use strategies and plans will enable the land use transition. These strategies and plans will guide the use of the policy levers (LD502), to ensure delivery of the key outcomes (LD200).

Major changes will be needed to the current planning system, which will include a mechanism for delivering the key outcomes of this policy, bottom-up and top-down. Power will be held and decisions made, democratically and at the most appropriate local level (PB302). IN402 contains a duty to cooperate at national level and this will apply.

LD502 Policy levers to deliver the proposed changes include:

- Capacity building and delivering a just transition
- The planning system
- Land management investment and support
- Fiscal measures (taxes, tax breaks and grants)
- Direct government ownership and
- Enforcement of stewardship responsibilities by the Commons Trust

LD503 To build capacity and deliver a just transition we will need to facilitate a mindset change to a new way of using land. We will need education, training, and support services. It is also critical that there is support for people whose livelihoods will need to change (IN205, MC363). Measures will include:

- Public information campaigns
- Funding for land use research (see FR1400, FA301)
- Funding and expansion of agricultural colleges and land based apprenticeships (see FA204)
- Start-up funding for young entrepreneurs in agriculture/horticulture (see FA203) * Farm and land business advisory services (see FA202, FA204, FA301, FA304).
- Support for retraining and relocating.

LD504 The planning system will provide accountability and local democratic control over land use through compliance with local and regional plans. It will provide a mechanism for levying carbon tax (EC777) against land use change emissions associated with construction. In particular there will need to be land use designations for permanent pasture, forestry, peatland and land under agricultural rotation. See also FA301, LP412, LP505, LP514 and LP517.

LD505 Land management investment and support will be delivered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Forestry Commission. See also the Economics (EC781), Food and Agriculture Chapter (FA304, FA203, FA202-204), Wildlife and Habitats Chapter (WH100-106), and Forestry Chapter (FR603).

LD506 Fiscal measures - These measures include:

- Land Value Tax - see EC780, EC781, EC782, EC792
- Carbon tax - see EC777, FA301 and CC121
- Tax breaks and "eco-taxes" - see EC776
- Grants (including for land use change)

LD507 Direct government ownership (local, regional and UK) includes public forestry estate (FR200), and social housing (HO500-505).

LD508 Enforcement of stewardship responsibilities - As a mechanism of last resort Commons Trust will have enforcement powers (see LD306).

END OF LAND CHAPTER

Changes that need to be made to align with the proposed Land chapter.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

CC121 currently reads:

"CC121 To drive change throughout society the UK should combine a carbon tax and dividend with publicity campaigns and possible carbon rationing. For instance, it should require all adverts for high carbon products, including food, to carry an 'environmental health warning'. The carbon tax would reflect all emissions of greenhouse gases, not just CO₂. It should have a progressive element to deter high individual emitters."

Change the penultimate sentence and add a sentence to CC121, so that it reads:

"CC121 To drive change throughout society the UK should combine a carbon tax and dividend with publicity campaigns and possible carbon rationing. For instance, it should require all adverts for high carbon products, including food, to carry an 'environmental health warning'. The carbon tax would reflect most emissions of all greenhouse gases (not just CO₂). See EC777 for exceptions to the carbon tax. It should have

a progressive element to deter high individual emitters.”.

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

Add to CC300 the word “Land”, so that it reads: “CC300 The Climate Emergency is also covered in the following chapters of the PSS:

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

CRIME AND JUSTICE

Insert reference to the Land Chapter into CJ361, so it reads:

“CJ361 While the protection of the environment would be promoted in accordance with the principles set out herein, a strong legal base will make it both easier and more desirable to establish community-based and regional forums for the settlement of environmental disputes and for preventing environmental harm by means of voluntary agreement. Third party mediation of multi-group disputes, where there are genuine conflicts of interest in the community, are now well-developed techniques and should be adopted in preference to authoritarian planning decision making structures (See LD306). Coercion should be a last resort.”.

COUNTRYSIDE

Insert references to the Land Chapter into CY400 so that it reads, “CY400 The Green Party will seek to integrate environmental, social and economic

objectives in all areas of countryside and rural policy, with the overall aims to:

- a) Revitalise the economy and life of rural communities;
- b) Legislate to reform land tenure and access to land. (see LD300);
- c) Legislate to stop further destruction of wildlife habitats, the soil, the landscape, ancient monuments and our countryside heritage;
- d) Enact policies that will make the whole countryside more hospitable to wildlife, entailing increased protection for wildlife and habitats and delivery of meaningful landscape-scale conservation and restoration;
- e) Increase the area and quality of woods, orchards, agroforestry, hedges and other tree cover (see Food and Agriculture and Land Use Chapters);
- f) Ensure food security, integrating human health and wellbeing, environmental protection, animal welfare and decent livelihoods for farmers, farm workers and growers;
- g) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop appropriate renewable energy especially at local and community level.”.

Delete paragraphs CY520-527 (Agriculture) “CY520 Agriculture forms an important part of the rural economy, producing food and other products, generating income and providing employment. Agricultural land makes up a large part of the countryside and rural landscape and supports diverse wildlife habitats. Green Party policies on Food and Agriculture aim to improve farming livelihoods, provide safe and nutritious food, improve long-term food security and increase regional and local self-reliance in food.

CY521 The Green Party will support shorter supply chains and direct links between producers and consumers to maximise income generation in rural areas and to supply healthier, fresher food. We will discourage large-scale agribusiness, processors and retailers which take large profit margins, concentrate jobs in urban centres and cause the closure of small, local retailers.

CY522 The Green Party will discourage the amalgamation of farms, support family farms, improve access to land for new entrants to farming and horticulture and favour the setting up of

sustainable, small-scale and labour-intensive enterprises and their associated dwellings. We support sustainable diversification and multiple use of agricultural land and buildings, for instance for appropriate renewable energy, tourism, recreational pursuits and low-impact enterprises.

CY523 The Green Party will support small-scale, environmentally benign farming systems that protect the soil, biodiversity and water resources, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and pollution, support 'joined-up' wildlife habitats and provide secure jobs in rural communities. We support farming and land management which conserve and, where appropriate, increase woods, orchards, agroforestry, hedges and other trees. We will phase out 'factory farming' and discourage farming systems highly dependent on fossil fuels and imported feed that have large-scale environmental impacts and tend to reduce rural income and employment.

CY524 Soil is the biggest pool of carbon stored in the land, and is an important wildlife habitat in its own right. Soil is also an essential resource without which human civilisation cannot survive, yet farming is too often responsible for depletion and degradation of the soil. Through legislation and support for agri-environment schemes, the Green Party will ensure that all farming and land uses protect and enhance the soil. CY525 Agriculture accounts for a large proportion of the pollution of watercourses with nitrates, phosphates and sediments from fertilisers, inappropriate application and disposal of manure and from soil erosion. Release and deposition of nitrogen compounds pose threats to biodiversity. Pesticide spraying can threaten watercourses and the health of farm workers, rural communities and consumers. The Green Party will support a strategy to reduce release of nitrogen compounds and other pollutants, will increase monitoring of watercourses and enforce penalties for pollution of watercourses and unsafe or inappropriate use of pesticides.

CY526 The Green Party will work towards replacing the Common Agricultural Policy, and while it still exists, support a radical reorientation of the CAP to support sustainable farming systems that protect and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity, ensure fair and secure farm incomes, support sustainable and thriving rural communities and promote regional and local self-reliance in food.

CY527 The Green Party welcomes the concept of agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and initiatives such as catchment-sensitive farming, where agricultural support may be used for environmentally sympathetic ends. We support extension of the concept to the whole of the countryside. We encourage further investment as having a positive role to play in securing the future of the countryside.”.

ECONOMY

EC777 currently reads: “EC777 A carbon tax will be introduced whereby a steadily rising price will be placed on sources of all greengas emissions, including agricultural emissions and those embedded in imports. Part of the tax revenue will be paid out as dividends to UK residents, while the rest will be used to promote sustainable behaviours, investment in zero carbon solutions, and meeting international climate obligations.”

Change the first sentence and insert a second sentence so that it reads:

“EC777 A carbon tax will be introduced whereby a steadily rising price will be placed on sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK, and those embedded in imports. The exception to this will be all (non-built environment) emissions from land and livestock management, which will be discouraged via land management investment support (see FA301, FA602, LD505), or restricted via the planning system (see LD502, LD504). Part of the tax revenue will be paid out as dividends to UK residents, while the rest will be used to promote sustainable behaviours, investment in zero carbon solutions, and meeting international climate obligations.”

In EC781, insert the word “stewardship”, replace ‘farming subsidies’ with ‘land management investment and support’ and replace the word “landowners” with “land holders”, so that it reads:

“EC781 There will be no exemptions for different land uses from this policy. Where stewardship obligations are placed on land holders to conserve wildlife habitats, archaeological sites or other landscape features, the capital value of the land may be assessed as zero or negative, and LVT would then become a subsidy. The effect of LVT on UK Agriculture will be managed through changes to investment and support, in line with objectives laid out in the LVT which will be introduced

gradually over a number of years. As a transitional measure, where land necessarily attached to a domestic dwelling 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. Owner occupiers aged over 65 years will not be exempt, but they will be able to 'roll over' payments until the home is sold."

ENERGY

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

And replace with: "EN015 Biofuels will be sustainably sourced within the UK, and therefore the quantity available will be limited. (See FR700)."

Add new policy "EN017 Solar Photovoltaic will largely be deployed on roofs. Solar farms will only be deployed on land where there is no better use of that land (see LD401)."

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

FA203 currently reads:

"FA203 Financial Support for Food and Farming – access to nutritious food is a right which should be upheld and so we will use public funds to support the production of wholesome food in environmentally and socially sustainable ways.

We will change the basis of agriculture support toward supporting a combination of sustained, fairly rewarded employment, producing nutritious food, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, high standards of animal welfare, enhancing wildlife habitats, providing ecosystem services and promoting a transition to non-chemical methods of farming.

We will develop a mechanism to intervene, when necessary to ensure that prices and incomes are fair and sustainable throughout the food system.

As a condition of public support farmers and growers should declare the production methods and inputs that they use and this information will be made publicly available.

We will encourage new entrants to agriculture and horticulture and enable access to land and the provision of the necessary finance and training."

In the first bullet point under FA203, delete the following:

"We will change the basis of agriculture support toward supporting a combination of sustained, fairly rewarded employment, producing nutritious food, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, high standards of animal welfare, enhancing wildlife habitats, providing ecosystem services and promoting a transition to non-chemical methods of farming."

And replace with:

"Agriculture support will be provided by the Land Management Investment and Support scheme (see LD505). This will encourage a combination of sustained and fairly rewarded employment, producing nutritious food, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, high standards of animal welfare, enhancing wildlife habitats, the providing of ecosystem services and the promoting a transition to non-chemical methods of farming."

FA204 (first bullet) currently reads,

"Intermediary Bodies – in order to achieve the required transformation of the Food and Agriculture Systems we will need to establish an organisational infrastructure to support and sustain the changes. We will:

Establish a Food and Agriculture Commission to develop and implement the structural and financial changes including changes to agriculture support, regulation and taxation that we propose to introduce."

To reflect the changes introduced in the new Land Chapter, replace with

"Intermediary Bodies – in order to achieve the required transformation of the Food and Agriculture Systems we will need to establish an organisational infrastructure to support and sustain the changes. We will:

Establish a Food and Agriculture Commission to develop and implement structural and financial changes, including changes to land management investment and support, regulation and taxation. Changes will be delivered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Forestry Commission (see LD505)"

FA301 currently reads:

“FA301 Food, Agriculture and Climate Change – climate change is the most profound challenge facing the planet. Agriculture and food production account for some 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Soil is the most important carbon store in the UK.

All farmers will be supported through advice and guidance to manage their farms to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2030. Carbon sequestration will be one of the outcomes to attract payment under the revised farming support scheme.

We will set rigorous targets for GHG reductions, to reduce emissions to zero by 2030 across the Food and Agriculture System to cover farms and the whole supply, manufacturing and distribution system including imports.

We will promote a move to a diet with significantly less meat consumption that will require fewer farm animals, reducing emissions from ruminant digestion and releasing areas of grassland for crops, forestry or wildlife.

We will introduce a carbon tax and this will apply both to agricultural inputs and to agricultural products based on the net greenhouse gases released during their production.

We support the development of appropriate renewable energy systems on farms; we will monitor the growing of crops specifically for fuel.

Lowland peat soils are vulnerable to erosion and carbon loss; we will support applied research to ensure that they are managed in a manner that reduces GHG emissions and returns them to being net sequestrers of carbon.”

In the first bullet point under FA301, delete the second sentence:

“Carbon sequestration will be one of the outcomes to attract payment under the revised farming support scheme.”

And replace with:

“Land management investment and support will encourage food production, carbon sequestration and discourage greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities.”

In the third bullet point under FA301, delete:

“We will promote a move to a diet with significantly less meat consumption that will require fewer farm animals, thus reducing emissions from ruminant digestion and releasing areas of grassland for crops, forestry or wildlife.”

And replace with:

“We will promote a move to a diet with significantly less meat consumption that will require fewer farm animals. This will reduce emissions from ruminant digestion and release land for crops, forestry and wildlife.”

In the fourth bullet point under FA301, delete:

“We will introduce a carbon tax and this will apply both to agricultural inputs and to agricultural products based on the net greenhouse gases released during their production.”

And replace with:

“The carbon tax will be applied to agricultural inputs (such as diesel and fertilisers) (see EC777). Significant land use emissions will be in part limited through the planning systems and land designations. (See LD504).”

In the sixth and final bullet point under FA301, delete:

“Lowland peat soils are vulnerable to erosion and carbon loss; we will support applied research to ensure that they are managed in a manner that reduces GHG emissions and returns them to being net sequestrers of carbon.”

And replace with:

“Lowland peat soils are vulnerable to erosion and carbon loss; we will restore them to being net sequestrers of carbon (see LD402).”

FA602 first bullet currently reads:

“FA602 Healthy and Sustainable Food Standards

We will support a progressive transition from a diet dominated by meat and animal products to one with a higher proportion of plant-based foods by public education and the operation of the carbon tax.”

Change the first bullet so that it reads:

“FA602 Healthy and Sustainable Food Standards

We will support a progressive transition from a diet dominated by meat and animal products to one with a higher proportion of plant-based foods led via public

education, public procurement and the impact of carbon tax (EC777) and changes to public investment and support for intensive meat and dairy production (LD505).”

FORESTRY

Delete:

“FR200

Sustained cooperative relationship between public and private estates.

Increase the area of cover in the UK to average cover across Europe.

UK self-sufficiency in forest products.

Optimise the quantity and quality of all forest products.

Increase the involvement, employment and enjoyment of local communities.

Maintain and protect ancient woodland and priority habitats.

Protect and increase the Public Forest Estate (PFE).”.

And replace with

“FR200

Increase the area of cover in the UK to be between 30% and 40% in 10 years, meeting these forestry objectives within the context of the land use key outcomes (See LD200):

Sustained cooperative relationship between public and private estates

UK net self-sufficiency in forestry products to displace some fossil fuel based products (eg plastics).

Optimise the quantity and quality of all forest products.

Increase the involvement, employment and enjoyment of local communities.

Maintain and protect ancient woodland and priority habitats as well as increasing biodiversity, abundance and soil health.

Protect and increase the Public Forest Estate (PFE).

Increase the area of fruit and nut trees

Increase the biomass of living trees for carbon sequestration and remove pinewood from peatland to eliminate emissions

Allow for the use of forest residue and waste wood as well as limited plantation for energy.”.

FR401 Add references to the Land chapter, so that the paragraph reads,

“FR401 The expansion of the UK estate/tree cover shall be driven through three component parts (in addition to other policy levers described in LD502).

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

Delete:

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

And replace with:

“FR600 An increase in overall tree cover shall be facilitated so that it achieves the objective in FR200, consisting of unmanaged forest and woodland; harvested forest and woodland; unharvested (but managed) forest and woodland; woodland; open canopy woodland; and agroforestry.”.

Delete:

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

And replace with:

“FR700 Planting of short rotation forestry and coppice for energy production shall be facilitated, where land use priorities allow. (See LD401)”.

Insert new:

“FR701 Forest and sawmill residues can be used for energy production, but only if they are not better applied to preserving forest soil health and sequestering carbon, increasing biodiversity or producing other wood products.”.

FR800 currently reads:

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

Insert into current FR800, the words:

“a Green Government will work to reduce”, before “UK imports”, “and wood products” after “timbers” and “net”, before “zero”, so that it reads:

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

In FR1400, replace “energy creation”, with “energy production” and a reference at the Land chapter, so that it reads:

“FR1400 Funding shall be provided for innovative and targeted research, including different timber species' strengths and utility; CO2 sequestration potential, future planting needs and species suitability under climatic changes; mapping research on land areas most suited to energy production, food growing, urban growth and conservation; planting opportunities mapping; research into organic pest control; climate emergency adaptation and resilience opportunities, particularly flood mitigation (See LD503).”.

HOUSING

In HO401(a), replace the reference to LD400 (LVT), with a reference to EC780, where the substantive policy sits, so that it reads:

“a) gradually introduce a Land Value Tax (see EC780) to reduce profits from speculation on existing homes and development sites, aert term increase the

amount of land held by Community Land Trusts (see HO513-514);”.

INDUSTRY

IN401 to IN404 currently read:

“IN401 The National Spatial Strategy will ensure individual planning and investment decisions add up to a national plan that is socially and environmentally sustainable.

IN402 The national spatial strategy will replace the current failed market mechanisms with a planning system that it is locally and democratically accountable, not to banks or speculative financial institutions. This will prioritise retention of agriculture, commonly owned land and wildspace in the UK. We support extension of these land designations (rather than reclassification to reduce them, such as being proposed for the Green Belt in many locations) in the UK. This strategy will focus on urban regeneration, reversing the current trend to convert rural sites to industrial and urban areas.

IN403 This will fill the void created by the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategies, so that the 'Duty to Cooperate' principle extends to a national level, ensuring that the overall nature of development is both socially and environmentally sustainable.

IN404 This will include incentives to financially prioritise the refurbishment of existing buildings and suitable brownfield sites, and support the transition of rural communities from commuter towns to sustainable communities. New green jobs will be actively created by prioritising development of sustainable rural livelihoods and locally sustainable enterprises across the UK rather than speculative development focused in existing job-rich areas. This will include incentives to promote clustering of zero carbon, zero waste enterprises in new social enterprise zones – to encourage sustainable enterprises to replicate and co-locate.”

Insert into IN401-IN403, the word “Economic” before “Spatial Strategy”; re-word IN402-404 so that it reflects the proposed Land Use policy and tidies up the wording, merges IN403 and 404 and re-numbers accordingly, so that the paragraphs now read:

“IN401 The National Economic Spatial Strategy will ensure individual planning and investment decisions

add up to a national plan that is socially and environmentally sustainable.

IN402 The National Economic Spatial Strategy will replace the current failed market mechanisms with a planning system that is accountable, not to banks or speculative financial institutions, but democratically to communities. This economic spatial strategy will, along with land use strategies (LD501), steer the planning system to deliver the key outcomes laid out in LD200. These new strategies will fill the void created by the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategies, so that the 'Duty to Cooperate' principle extends to a national level.

IN403 The National Economic Spatial Strategy will:

- Create new green jobs by prioritising development of sustainable rural livelihoods (See CY400) and locally sustainable enterprises across the UK rather than speculative development focused in existing job-rich areas.
- Delivering industrial activities required for rapid transition to zero carbon.
- Support the transition of rural communities from commuter towns or retirement towns, to more self-reliant, diverse sustainable communities.
- promote the clustering of zero carbon, zero waste enterprises in new social enterprise zones.
- Design national and regional resilience into our economy.
- Prioritise the refurbishment of existing buildings and suitable brownfield sites to deliver new houses and business spaces.”.

In IN408, delete the words “(see LD203-6”) and insert references to the new Land chapter, so that it reads:

“IN408 Current land rights encourage unsustainable industrial activity. A Land Value Tax would redress this problem. (See EC780-782, LD305 and LD506).”.

IN615 currently reads:

“Numerous treaties designed for eco-crisis management have failed to bring far reaching improvements. The problem is not one of understanding but of enforcement. This role needs to be carried out at the national level (see PL410) and aided by a new European Environmental Agency (EEA). As well as enforcement, the EEA should aim to

provide well researched information and to establish standards. It must be well resourced to ensure that standards can be enforced. Funds should be diverted from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

(TNCs - see also IP400 to IP431)”.

Redraft the last four sentences of IN615, to reflect that we are no longer part of the EU, so that it reads:

“IN615 Numerous treaties designed for eco-crisis management have failed to bring far reaching improvements. The problem is not one of understanding but of enforcement. The Environment Agency must have sufficient resources to provide well researched information and enforce established standards. The Common’s Trusts (see LD300) will also have an enforcement role to ensure land is appropriately stewarded.”.

LOCAL PLANNING & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Delete LP407:

“LP407 The Green Party strongly supports the provision of green belts to contain urban sprawl, to maintain the separation of settlements, to protect prime agricultural land around settlements, to encourage urban regeneration and compact towns and cities, and to complement the ecological and cultural value of other designations listed in LP405. The Green Party would put a greater emphasis on the green belt’s use for wider sustainable built environment considerations such as flooding, biodiversity, agriculture, energy production and sustainable transport. The local authority role in reviewing and protecting their green belt is set out in LP510.”

Insert a new LP407, to reflect the Green Party’s land use prioritisation:

“LP407 Land designated as Green Belt should be used to contain urban sprawl, to maintain the separation of settlements, to protect prime agricultural land around settlements, to encourage urban regeneration and compact towns and cities, and to complement the ecological and cultural value of other designations. Green Belt should be used to make the sustainable built environment more resilient to flooding, make space for biodiversity, agriculture, energy production and sustainable transport in line with land use prioritisation set out in LD401. The local authority role

in reviewing and protecting their green belt is set out in LP510.”.

Amend the second sentence of LP412 to reference LD504, so that LP412 reads:

“LP412 Planning use classes should be used to ensure that the built environment meets the needs of the community. The index of classes will be set at national level and may include new use classes such as a use class for holiday homes (see HO401) and for categories of non built-environment land (see LD504). Bioregional/regional strategies will include quotas for each use class to be determined via citizens assemblies and reviewed every two years.”

LP413 currently reads:

“All planning applications will be required to submit whole life carbon and energy calculations. These are to include embodied carbon and energy in both the up-front construction and anticipated maintenance, as well as the operational carbon and energy of the building in use. Embodied and operational carbon to be reported separately in kgCO₂e/m² and kgCO₂e/m²/yr respectively. All planning permissions will be granted subject to a pre-commencement condition requiring updated whole life carbon and energy calculations based on construction information.”.

Amend the first sentence of LP413 to include land use change emissions, the relevant references (LD501, 502, 504 and 505, EC777), so that LP412 reads:

“LP413 All planning applications will be required to submit whole life carbon (including land use change emissions, where relevant, see LD501, 502, 504 and 505) and energy calculations (see EC777). These are to include embodied carbon and energy in both the up-front construction and anticipated maintenance, as well as the operational carbon and energy of the building in use. Embodied and operational carbon to be reported separately in kgCO₂e/m² and kgCO₂e/m²/yr respectively. All planning permissions will be granted subject to a pre-commencement condition requiring updated whole life carbon and energy calculations based on construction information.”.

Insert into current LP505, “and land use strategies”, and “and local levels”, so that it reads:

“LP505 Local planning authorities have a duty to implement their Local Plans within the constraints of

the existing built environment and land they oversee, and within carbon budgets and land use strategies set at national, regional and local levels. This provision should meet the need identified in housing strategies (see HO401-409).”.

Delete from current LP506:

“, for example by integrating natural habitats into solar farms or on rooftops”,

so that it reads:

“LP506 As far as possible, the demand for new urban land should be minimised through a combination of demand-reduction policies (see for example HO401) and through optimising densities. Land value taxation would create incentives to bring forward empty brownfield sites for development, and local authorities would be given stronger powers to tackle remaining land hoarding (see LP516) . Any development of present settlements should be confined within the existing boundaries where possible, and where a loss of countryside is deemed necessary it should go on the least sensitive land that is most accessible by public transport, cycling and walking to existing economic and social facilities. The maximum environmental value should also be obtained on land used for development.”.

LP514 currently reads:

“The Green Party would empower local authorities to use streamlined compulsory purchase powers to assemble areas with fragmented ownership, and to buy the land at existing use value. We would also support the allocation of more land for self-build. The Green Party would explore how the Land Bank and Community Land Trust models developed in the USA could be used to maximise the benefits from land and property acquisition.”.

Insert a sentence into LP514, to make it clear that the allocation of land for self-build is part of the overall area of land allocated for new build and not in addition, so that it reads:

“LP514 The Green Party would empower local authorities to use streamlined compulsory purchase powers to assemble areas with fragmented ownership, and to buy the land at existing use value. A greater proportion of land allocated to new homes should be made available for self-build. The Green Party would explore how the Land Bank and Community Land Trust models developed in the USA

could be used to maximise the benefits from land and property acquisition.”.

LP516 currently reads:

“LP516 Where owners of land designated for development in the local plan fail to bring it forward for development in a timely manner, local authorities should exercise compulsory purchase orders in the public interest, to prevent land hoarding.”

Replace with the following, so that it reads:

“LP516 To minimise land hoarding, local authorities should exercise compulsory purchase orders in the public interest. See also LD508.”

Amend first sentence of LP517 to account for master land registry policy being in LD301 and add cross references, so that LP517 reads:

“LP517 For transparency the Land Registry will be publicly owned, complete and open to inspection (see LD301). Local authorities would also be required to publish open data on planning permissions with some details of the plans. All other public authorities that collect data on transactions and options agreements would also be required to publish this in an open format. All public authorities considering disposal of land assets would be required to do so transparently, publishing its intention to do so, publishing key financial information after the land has been sold, and exploring options for other public or community bodies to purchase the land (see also HO514).”

MARINE AND COASTAL

Delete:

“MC204 All values, rules, and management systems that are employed to best sustain our land area can and should be similarly deployed in the marine environment.

So, for instance, conservation designations, environmental impact assessments, planning regulations, etc, should have an equivalent within the ocean.”.

Insert new:

“MC204 The planning system should cover all land in the UK, and this should include UK territorial water and UK exclusive economic Zone. This means that conservation designations, environmental impact assessments, planning regulations, etc, would equally

apply to UK land as UK waters. (See also LD501 and LD504).”.

Delete:

“MC307 The Green Party would seek large-scale reform of the Crown Estate (which currently has a monopoly on the sea bed around the UK, and is required to administer this on a purely commercial basis), devolving its powers to more locally based levels of accountability within government and changing its remit to emphasise long-term environmental sustainability of our marine environment.”.

Insert new:

“MC307 As set out in LD300, the Crown Estate (which currently manages the sea bed around the UK), would be replaced by Commons Trusts. The Trusts would manage the land and sea for their long term sustainability.”.

Delete:

“MC311, The Green Party would ensure that conservation of the marine environment in the Overseas Territories is funded to a level equal to its global significance.”

Insert new:

“MC311 The Green Party would ensure that conservation of the marine environment in the Overseas Territories is funded to a level equal to its global significance. This will in part happen by the creation of Commons Trusts (see LD300) for each overseas territory along similar lines to Commons Trusts created for the UK.”

NB Policies MC370-372 inclusive do not currently exist

Insert a new paragraph MC371, “The issuing of licences for Wind and Marine Energy will become the responsibility of the Commons Trusts (see LD300) which will have to balance competing outcomes laid out in LD200 when making such decisions and specifying conditions.”.

From MC376, delete the phrase, “We currently know relatively little about the sea bed, except that its biology is extremely diverse and its physics can be stormy. Therefore,” and capitalise the next word, so that it reads:

“MC376 Installations should not be dumped or abandoned at sea. As a matter of principle, operators should expect when constructing an installation, that they will be later responsible for completely removing it.”.

Renumber current MC373-378, MC373-377, respectively.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

In NR421, replace “the State” with “the Commons Trusts”, so that it reads:

“NR421 All mineral rights will be held in trust by the Commons Trusts (see LD300) on behalf of the communities which occupy the land or, in the case of offshore rights, which border it. Planning consent to exploit minerals will be subject to both local and national agreement. It will be a requirement of such consent that the environmental impact of any work is minimised and for extraction activities to maximise the resources obtained. The affected land should be returned to a similar or improved ecological status.”.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT

Make minor textual changes to PA108 and add reference to the Land chapter, so that it reads:

“PA108 Citizenship should be viewed as a set of rights and responsibilities based on residence in and commitment to a community or geographical area. Those rights include the right to basic material security and shelter, and participation in the democratic process (See also LD100). The age of majority (at which full criminal responsibility and the power to make contracts is acquired) should be reduced to 16, to clarify the age at which children become adults in the eyes of the law, with accompanying full citizenship rights and responsibilities.”

TOURISM

Amend and update the reference in TM043 from “EC793” to “EC781”, so that it reads:

“Some areas have many second homes/holiday flats, which are only occupied for a few weeks a year. This produces very limited benefit to the local economy. It is detrimental to the local communities, pushing house prices higher and pricing local people out of the market. The policy of applying a Land Value Tax shall

have no reduction or exemption for properties which are left vacant. It will deter the ownership second 'holiday' homes and encourage greater use of underused buildings (See 781).”.

TRANSPORT

Delete:

“TRO22 These strategies would influence demand both at point of use and indirectly through promotion, information, taxation and research. In the longer term this would also include the use of land use controls. They would also act on all aspects of transport and institutional infrastructure, e.g. regulations and subsidies.”

Insert new:

“TRO22 These strategies would influence demand both at point of use and indirectly through promotion, information, taxation and research. Local and regional land plans must take this into account. (See LD500). These strategies would also act on all aspects of transport and institutional infrastructure, e.g. regulations and subsidies.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In RR406, insert a reference to the Land chapter, so that it reads:

“RR406 The Green Party supports communities to put in place their own local constitutions, or Community Bills of Rights. The Green Party recognises:

- the right to local self-government
- the rights of nature to exist and to flourish, and
- the community’s right to place legal limitations on corporate legal privileges, including the right to declare a company’s actions unlawful and prohibited, where that company proposes to carry out an activity in the community which would violate that community’s rights (See LD306).”.

WORKERS RIGHTS

In WR203 insert a reference to the Land chapter, so that it reads,

“Workplace democracy will help us to attain these long-term aims. However, it must go hand in hand with other reforms that deal with discrimination, the

power of the state, the ownership of land (See LD200) and the control of information. All these influence our ability to control our working lives, which in turn affects an individual's ability to care for the planet.”.

No changes are proposed in this Voting Paper to the Records on Policy Statements or the 2019 General Election Manifesto.

AMENDMENT 2

Joanna Collins, Matthew Buckler, Mike Shipley, Libby Hudson, Celia Coram, Linda Macallum Stewart, Bill Rigby*

LD200 Outcomes, Add the words “and abundance” to the 4th bullet point so the whole paragraph reads: Our policies aim to deliver the following which together define the “common good” within this context:

- improved transparency of information about the ownership of land
- increasing equality of access to land for recreation, health, education, to grow food and reduce wealth inequality
- a transition in land-use that will take place over a period of 10 years
- increased biodiversity and abundance across all land
- balancing of the natural cycles, including carbon and nitrogen, to deliver a stable biosphere
- reducing emissions from land
- increasing carbon sinks and carbon uptake
- ‘Wildlife and Habitats’ policy outcomes (WH003) and ‘Food and Agriculture’ policy aims (FA101)
- healthy food and other resources for local need
- resilient communities and sustainable livelihoods

Amend the 1st bullet point of LD401 to read: “reversing the loss of biodiversity and abundance” so the whole paragraph reads: LD401 Changing land use is fundamental to delivering a sustainable society. Management of land should deliver multiple benefits. Policy levers (LD502) will deliver the benefits at national scale, so that the following priority order is taken into account within the broad context:

- reversing the loss of biodiversity and abundance
- reducing carbon emissions from land (e.g. peatland restoration),
- being self-sufficient in food production and biological sequestration (e.g. growing forests),
- managing land for timber and fibre
- growing biomass (wood and crops) for energy production

Change must start now. It should be completed within 10 years. It will be achieved by encouraging and supporting people to be good stewards of the land

AMENDMENT 3

Anne Gayfer, Andrew Melville, Pamela Harling, Cath Sutherland*

At the end of the proposed new chapter, under the heading “Changes that need to be made to align with the proposed Land chapter.”, replace the wording

Insert a new LP407, to reflect the Green Party’s land use prioritisation:

“LP407 Land designated as Green Belt should be used to contain urban sprawl, to maintain the separation of settlements, to protect prime agricultural land around settlements, to encourage urban regeneration and compact towns and cities, and to complement the ecological and cultural value of other designations. Green Belt should be used to make the sustainable built environment more resilient to flooding, make space for biodiversity, agriculture, energy production and sustainable transport in line with land use prioritisation set out in LD401. The local authority role in reviewing and protecting their green belt is set out in LP510.”.

with

Insert a new LP407, to reflect the Green Party’s land use prioritisation:

“Green Belt should be used to increase the built environment's resilience to flooding; and to sustain abundant and diverse wildlife, produce food, capture renewable energy and deliver sustainable transport in line with land use prioritisation set out in LD401.”



SECTION C

**ACCREDITED
POLICY MOTIONS**

CO1

CLIMATE TARGETS

Smith Mordak, Conan Cook, David Flint, David Giaretta, David Wild, Greg Dring, Jeremy Drew, Lorna Kirman, Louise Dunk, Pamela Harling, Reiner Tegtmeier, Rozina Turner, Phil Horton, Rich McCarthy, Tony Firkins, Zoe Garbett*

Climate Emergency Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

Due to lack of effective action by governments since our zero carbon by 2030 target was set, this motion proposes to remove timebound climate targets from the Policies for a Sustainable Society and simultaneously enter into the Record of Policy Statements the emissions reductions possible with our current policies.

MOTION

Changes to The Climate Emergency and Food and Agriculture chapters of Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS) and Statement to be entered into the Record of Policy Statements (RoPS)

CC013 currently reads:

“CC013 The Climate Emergency is a global problem and can only be tackled by global action. Such action must be based on the work of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and especially on the Paris Agreement of 2015 (which the UK has ratified). We support the aims of the Agreement to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”. In aggregate, the national emissions plans (NDCs Nationally Determined Contributions) will not meet the aims of the Agreement.”

After “especially on the Paris Agreement of 2015 (which the UK has ratified)” insert “and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)”, and

After “We support the aims of the” insert “Paris”, and

Delete “In aggregate, the national emissions plans (NDCs Nationally Determined Contributions) will not meet the aims of the Agreement.” so that it reads:

“CC013 The Climate Emergency is a global problem and can only be tackled by global action. Such action must be based on the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and especially on the Paris Agreement of 2015 (which the UK has ratified) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). We support the aims of the Paris Agreement to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels”.

CC014 currently reads:

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

Act as an advocate for the Paris Agreement.

Increase its Paris Agreement commitments on emissions reductions, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer.

Make the case for compensation for climate-related loss and damage and begin to pay such compensation.

Advocate an emergency international agreement to conserve and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs including forests, peatfields and coastal and estuarine areas.

Reduce, by international collaboration, the emissions associated with its imports.

Support the Sustainable Development Goals.”

In the first sentence, after “As” insert “a rich country that was” and delete “country”, and

In the second point, after “commitment” add “through increasingly ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)”, and

In the sixth point, after “Sustainable Development Goals” insert “with the exception of Goal 8 that we do not support in its entirety due to its emphasis on economic growth (see PB106)”

so that it reads:

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

1. Act as an advocate for the Paris Agreement.
2. Increase its Paris Agreement commitments through increasingly ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on emissions reductions, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer.
3. Make the case for compensation for climate-related loss and damage and begin to pay such compensation.
4. Advocate an emergency international agreement to conserve and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs including forests, peatfields and coastal and estuarine areas.
5. Reduce, by international collaboration, the emissions associated with its imports.
6. Support the Sustainable Development Goals with the exception of Goal 8 that we do not support in its entirety due to its emphasis on economic growth (see PB106).”

CC015 currently reads:

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

In the first sentence, replace “and” with “with”, and

In the second sentence, after “reducing its own emissions” insert “, both territorial and consumption,” and delete “by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero”,

so that it reads:

“CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C. These principles entail the UK reducing its own emissions, both territorial and consumption, to net zero as soon as possible. The urgency of these objectives requires

the UK to make overcoming the technological, political and social obstacles a national priority.”

Insert:

“CC016 The Green Party of England and Wales will continue to develop a policy package that will reduce the UK’s emissions to net zero as quickly as possible. Updates on targets and forecasts will be recorded in Record of Policy Statements, Green Party manifestos and reports to conference.”

Renumber CC016 and CC017 to CC017 and CC018 accordingly.

FA101 currently reads:

“FA101 Aims of the Green Party Food and Agriculture Policy - to enable the development of a Food and Agriculture system that is effective and sustainable in all senses. We will work with farmers and other stakeholders to transform the system and create an industry that:

Produces healthy, nutritious food and other useful outputs to meet the needs of the population at fair prices for producers, consumers and all workers in the food sector;

Overall, in order to address the climate crisis this will mean producing less meat and dairy and more fruit and vegetables;

Ensures food sovereignty and a secure supply of food; ensuring that there is sufficient food for everyone.

Adheres to high standards of animal welfare and husbandry;

Ensures sustainable practices across the whole food production system including farming in an agro-ecological way.

Conserves and improves the health of the soil;

Enhances the wider environment, including water quality, within and beyond the purely agricultural context;

Will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to meet the Green Party target of zero emissions by 2030 for the whole economy;

Promotes and maintains a wide diversity of wildlife;

Offers sustainable employment, decent livelihoods, career opportunities, good working conditions and ongoing training throughout the workforce;

Acknowledges that agriculture has a responsibility to manage land for a range of purposes beyond food production – flood prevention and alleviation, carbon capture, public access, maintenance of wildlife habitats, promoting biodiversity;

Supports smaller, local, and fair-trade enterprises and limits the concentration of power and wealth within the agriculture, food processing and trading industries.

Educates the population about food and health and builds links between farms, schools and the wider community.”

In the eighth bullet point, replace “target of zero emissions by 2030 for the whole economy” with “commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions urgently as set out in CC015”, so that it reads:

“Will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to meet the Green Party commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions urgently as set out in CC015;”

FA301 currently reads:

“FA301 Food, Agriculture and Climate Change – climate change is the most profound challenge facing the planet. Agriculture and food production account for some 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Soil is the most important carbon store in the UK.

All farmers will be supported through advice and guidance to manage their farms to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2030. Carbon sequestration will be one of the outcomes to attract payment under the revised farming support scheme.

We will set rigorous targets for GHG reductions, to reduce emissions to zero by 2030 across the Food and Agriculture System to cover farms and the whole supply, manufacturing and distribution system including imports.

We will promote a move to a diet with significantly less meat consumption that will require fewer farm animals reducing emissions from ruminant digestion and releasing areas of grassland for crops, forestry or wildlife.

We will introduce a carbon tax and this will apply both to agricultural inputs and to agricultural products

based on the net greenhouse gases released during their production.

We support the development of appropriate renewable energy systems on farms; we will monitor the growing of crops specifically for fuel.

Lowland peat soils are vulnerable to erosion and carbon loss; we will support applied research to ensure that they are managed in a manner that reduces GHG emissions and returns them to being net sequesters of carbon.”

In the first bullet point, replace “by 2030” with “as set out in CC015” so that it reads:

“All farmers will be supported through advice and guidance to manage their farms to reduce GHG emissions to net zero as set out in CC015. Carbon sequestration will be one of the outcomes to attract payment under the revised farming support scheme.”

In the second bullet point, replace “to zero by 2030” with “to net zero as set out in CC015” so that it reads:

“We will set rigorous targets for GHG reductions, to reduce emissions to net zero as set out in CC015 across the Food and Agriculture System to cover farms and the whole supply, manufacturing and distribution system including imports.”

Enter into the Record of Policy Statements:

“As of 2022, with current Green Party policies the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the UK would reduce by 50% over six years.

As of 2022, with current Green Party proposed policies, UK greenhouse gas production emissions can be reduced to about 140 MtCO₂e (megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) in 2030.

With current Green Party policies the UK would make reductions such that our emissions will be as follows:

- 140 MtCO₂e production net emissions in 2030 made up of 180 MtCO₂e emissions and 40 MtCO₂ sequestration
- 230 MtCO₂e consumption emissions in 2030
- 1 Mt (megatonne) methane production emissions in 2030
- 2,000 MtCO₂ cumulative UK production carbon dioxide emissions in 8 years from 2023 to 2030

The UK production emissions in 2030, as above, can be reduced for each sector to:

- 5 MtCO₂e for power
- 20 MtCO₂e for buildings
- 40 MtCO₂e for transport
- 20 MtCO₂e for industry
- 60 MtCO₂e for land use and agriculture
- 15 MtCO₂e for waste and Fluorinated (F) gases
- -20 MtCO₂e for negative emissions technologies

The emissions reductions are built on the following main assumptions:

- Ambitious interpretations of Green Party Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS)
- Policies in the Green Party 2019 General Election manifesto
- 70% reduction in UK aviation relative to 2019
- 50% reduction in UK car use relative to 2019
- There will be early behavioural changes to reduce emissions

AMENDMENT 1

Peter Sims, Jonathan Essex, Vicky Elcoate, Jonathan Fuller, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey*

SOC Note: part of this motion is Out of Order for being vague

OoO Starts: Delete:

'In the first sentence, replace "and" with "with", and in the second sentence, after "reducing its own emissions" insert ", both territorial and consumption," and delete "by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero",

so that it reads:'

Delete the above text and replace with: OoO Ends

Then in paragraph starting with:

"CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C."

Delete:

"These principles entail the UK reducing its own emissions, both territorial and consumption, to net zero as soon as possible."

And replace with:

"Minimising climate harm therefore requires the UK limiting its total cumulative emissions, both territorial and consumption, as far as possible."

AMENDMENT 2

Jonathan Essex, Vicky Elcoate, Jonathan Fuller, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey, Bill Linton*

SOC Note: part of this motion is Out of Order for being vague

OoO Starts: *If the following text is existing in the motion, Delete:*

"In the first sentence, replace "and" with "with", and In the second sentence, after "reducing its own emissions" insert ", both territorial and consumption," and delete "by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero",

so that it reads:"

And Replace with:

"Delete the above text and replace with:" OoO Ends.

Then in paragraph starting with:

"CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C."

Insert before "The urgency of these" the following text:

"It is acknowledged that this would require eliminating all carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, which is unlikely to be possible. Not achieving this, and similar failure by other countries, is locking the world into dangerous global warming above 1.5 C. All further emissions increase the likelihood and severity of climate harm."

And then Delete

"The urgency of these objectives requires"

and replace with:

"This urgency requires"

AMENDMENT 3

Peter Sims, Jonathan Essex, Vicky Elcoate, Sam Alston, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey*

Immediately after 'CC016' insert:

The UK should target eliminating all carbon dioxide emissions within 10 years.

And then in sentence after that delete

"emissions to net zero"

and replace with:

production and consumption green house gas emissions

AMENDMENT 4

Jonathan Essex, Vicky Elcoate, Tom Scott, Sam Alston*

CC015 currently reads:

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

In the first sentence, replace "and" with "with", and in the second sentence, after "reducing its own emissions" insert ", both territorial and consumption," and delete "by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero",

so that it reads:

"CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C. These principles entail the UK reducing its own emissions, both territorial and consumption, to net zero as soon as possible. The urgency of these objectives requires

the UK to make overcoming the technological, political and social obstacles a national priority."

Insert:

"CC016 The Green Party of England and Wales will continue to develop a policy package that will reduce the UK's emissions to net zero as quickly as possible. Updates on targets and forecasts will be recorded in Record of Policy Statements, Green Party manifestos and reports to conference."

Renumber CC016 and CC017 to CC017 and CC018 accordingly.

AMENDMENT 5

Greg Dring, Tom Scott, Georgia Taylor, Bill Linton, David Flint, Jeremy Drew, Nadine Storey*

"In the second sentence, after "reducing its own emissions" insert

", both territorial and consumption,"

and delete

"by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero",

so that it reads:

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS Replace this text with Substitute:

"CC015 The Green Party accepts the scientific consensus that great, and perhaps irreversible, harm will be done if the global temperature rises to more than 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial level. It also accepts that it is now highly likely that this level will be exceeded. Because all emissions increase the likely harm the Green Party urges the UK to reduce its net emissions, both territorial and consumption, to zero as soon as possible. The urgency of these objectives

requires the UK to make overcoming the political, social and technological obstacles a national priority.”

CO2

EMERGENCY ENERGY REDUCTION FOR THE UK

David Flint*, Gabriella Pettitt, Alan Borgars, Anna Foster, Anne Gayfer, Anne Kangley, Ben Strettle, David Giaretta, David McIntosh, David Wild, Georgia Taylor, Jeremy Drew, Jonathan Essex, Marc France, Marion Dunmore, Nadine Storey, Pamela Harling, Rozina Turner, Smith Mordak, Tony Firkins, Tracey Mallon, William Relton

SYNOPSIS

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is funded by sales of coal, oil and gas, making buying these fuels both morally abhorrent and self-defeating. This motion demands an emergency programme to reduce our use of oil and gas and to help the rest of Europe do the same.

MOTION

SOC notes: This will be inserted into the Record of Policy Statements

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has created a perfect storm in the energy market and exacerbated the cost of living crisis in the UK. The Green Party demands an emergency programme for energy-saving to end UK funding of Putin’s war and to assist the rest of Western Europe in making the same change.

We can, and should, reduce the UK’s use of oil and gas by more than our imports from Russia within one year. The Green Party calls upon the government to invest an extra £11 billion in the next 12 months:

- an extra £5 billion in retrofitting buildings with wall and loft insulation and £2 billion on heat pumps.
- £4 billion in renewable energy projects.

In addition we demand that the government makes the case, as acts of solidarity with Ukraine, for people to reduce their personal energy use. We should target delivery of a 20% reduction by:

- Driving less,
- Flying less (or not at all)
- Heating buildings less.

The government should also reduce road speed limits, as was done during the 1973 oil crisis (and to match many other countries’ actions).

AMENDMENT 1

Peter Sims*, Jonathan Essex, Sam Alston, Alan Booth

In sentence:

In addition we demand that the government makes the case, as acts of solidarity with Ukraine, for people to reduce their personal energy use.

Replace

“people”

with

“business and people”.

Insert a new first bullet point in second list before “Driving less” which reads:

“Reduce unnecessary trade, construction and plastic manufacturing”

Delete

“”

at the end of

“Driving less,”

AMENDMENT 2

Peter Sims*, Jonathan Essex, Sam Alston, Alan Booth

Delete

“Heating buildings less.”

and replace with

“Heating buildings less (except the coldest homes)”

AMENDMENT 3

Greg Dring, Georgia Taylor, Jonathan Essex, Carla Denyer, David Flint, Nadine Storey, Pamela Harling, Phil Horton*

The motion now reads

“we demand that the government makes the case, as acts of solidarity with Ukraine, for people to reduce their personal energy use.

- Heating buildings less.

Delete “Heating buildings less.

Substitute:

“Reducing excessive heating. Since those on lower incomes already drive, fly and heat their homes less than the UK average, this initiative would be targeted at those on higher incomes.”

CO3

CLOSER ALIGNMENT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Catherine Rowett, Ali Bailey, Angela Georgievski, Clare Fenwick-Hyde, Daneille Pollastri, David McIntosh, David Wild, Deolinda Maria, Erwin Schaefer, Frank Sheridan, Geoff Davis, Gordon Bushell, Jean Lambert, John Street, Katherine Greenaway, Krupa Vukmirovic, Leanne Crichton, Malcolm Brown, Michal Chantkowski, Molly Scott Cato, Paul Jeater, Peter Foster, Richard Wilson, Scott Ainslie*

European Union Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

For the record of policy statements we propose updating the party’s position concerning the UK’s current and future relations with the European Union. The proposed position includes (a) rejoining the EU

(subject to the right conditions), and (b) closer alignment in the meantime, to minimise the problems of Brexit.

MOTION

The Green Party regrets that the UK is no longer a member of the European Union. We continue to believe that the UK would be in a better position socially, environmentally and economically if we had maintained our EU membership. The pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine has shown that a united response to global issues is even more needed in the contemporary world.

The Green Party maintains that full membership of the EU remains the best option for the UK, and we are in favour of pursuing a policy to re-join as soon as the political situation is favourable and the right terms are available.

We deplore the government’s decision to undermine the international treaties it has signed, and its failure to prepare properly for the massive changes to our economic and social structures caused by the UK’s withdrawal from the EU, putting businesses and citizens at risk. We also regret the decision not to undertake any official monitoring of the economic impacts of our decision to leave the EU.

We believe that many of the worst problems resulting from Brexit would be eased by re-joining the customs union and signing up to a comprehensive agreement with the EU covering the protection of human, animal and plant life. We would also support a speedy return to free movement of people between the UK and the European Union, and an urgent restoration of our inclusion in the Horizon Europe Research programme.

While we continue to support the principle of subsidiarity, local supply chains, and strengthened local economies, we are clear that the best way to maintain high standards on workers’ rights, health and safety and environmental protection is to mirror the legislative rules governing the EU single market.

In particular, we deeply regret the loss of rights and opportunities afforded to our young people and will campaign to ensure that all young, people regardless of background and socio-economic status, continue to enjoy the opportunity to explore the continent they share with those from the 27 EU member states,

particularly through continued participation in the Erasmus+ scheme.

We deplore the use of the UK Internal Market Act to limit the rights of the devolved nations to retain their alignment with the EU, and to go further and faster with environmental protection measures. We are deeply concerned that peace in Northern Ireland is threatened as a result of the UK government's attempts to undo the Northern Ireland protocol.

We commit to maintaining close and friendly relationships with our European neighbours through groups such as pro-European organisations, professional associations and twinning schemes.

C04

IMPROVING NATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CLIMATE DAMAGE

Georgia Taylor, Alice Macintosh, Carne Ross, Claudine Letsae, Danielle Pollastri, David Flint, David Giaretta, Emily Bond, , Greg Dring, Jonathan Essex, Jonathan Neal Fuller, Reiner Tegtmeier, Danielle Pollastri, Jeremy Drew, Pamela Harling, Rich McCarthy, Smith Mordak, Tony Firkins*

Climate Emergency Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise even though almost every nation says they should fall. Yet the failures of states and leaders escape effective criticisms at the COPs. This motion seeks to improve accountability at the COPs.

BACKGROUND

To view the background paper for this motion, go here:

<http://greencoordinate.co.uk/agenda/files/cop.pdf>

MOTION

INSERT INTO ROPS:

Conference calls on the UK government, as the outgoing president of the COP, to ensure through the preparations for COP27 that:

The negotiations take place in a transparent, inclusive and accountable way, with parties and observers granted equal access to the negotiations.

Real-time access with simultaneous translation is provided for those unable to attend in person.

The design of the Global Stocktake includes robust science-based reviews of every country's progress towards delivering their NDCs and analysis of the barriers to the delivery of those NDCs and the Paris targets. The representatives of groups affected by climate change, as well as those providing conditional support, will be invited to participate in this process.

The COP makes progress on agreeing a process whereby parties can be held accountable for:

their shortfalls in delivering their NDCs and in providing agreed climate finance

the losses and damages caused by their emissions.

COP considers a debt for climate agreement with low- and middle-income countries.

PSS

Insert into PSS (and re-number current CJ362 as CJ363):

CJ362 To establish a legal process to prosecute the people most responsible for the UK having failed to protect people and habitats from climate breakdown. This will include examination of Article 30 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the UK's International Criminal Court Act 2001.

C05

PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS CLIMATE AND ECONOMY UPDATES

Smith Mordak, Clare Andrews, David Giaretta, Georgia Taylor , Greg Dring, Nadine Storey, Pamela Harling, Reiner Tegtmeier, Sian Berry, Tony Firkins*

SYNOPSIS

Updates to the Core Values and Philosophical Basis to reflect changes to the scientific literature and recent updates to the Policies for a Sustainable Society (PSS) that recognise that the effects of climate and biodiversity crises are now more evident and warrant more urgent and ambitious action.

BACKGROUND

To view the background paper for this motion, go here:

<http://greencoordinate.co.uk/agenda/files/philonomy.pdf>

MOTION

SOC notes: This requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

CHANGES TO CORE VALUES AND THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

Core principle 9 currently reads:

“The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness and human fulfilment.”

Insert at the end “Indicators of societal and ecosystem health should be mindful of the fact that human influence has already caused rapid climate change and significantly damaged biodiversity and ecosystem health.” so that it reads:

“The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness and human fulfilment. Indicators of societal and ecosystem health should be mindful of the fact that human influence has already caused rapid climate change and significantly damaged biodiversity and ecosystem health.”

Bring this core value forward to number 2 and renumber accordingly.

Core principle 4 currently reads:

“Every person, in this and future generations, should be entitled to basic material security as of right.”

Replace “should be” with “is” and delete “as of right”, so that it reads:

“Every person, in this and future generations, is entitled to basic material security.”

Core principle 10 currently reads:

“Electoral politics is not the only way to achieve change in society, and we will use a variety of methods, including lifestyle changes, to help effect progress, providing those methods do not conflict with our other core principles.”

After “including lifestyle changes,” insert “and non-violent direct action,” so that it reads: “Electoral politics is not the only way to achieve change in society, and we will use a variety of methods, including lifestyle changes, and non-violent direct action, to help effect progress, providing those methods do not conflict with our other core principles.”

PB102 currently reads:

“PB102 Like all creatures, humankind depends upon a healthy natural environment for its survival. Yet it is human activity, more than anything else, which is threatening the environment and, ultimately, threatening the future of life on Earth as we currently know it.”

Replace “creatures” with “life on earth”, and

Replace “which is threatening the environment” with “that is causing widespread and rapid changes to the climate and damaging ecosystems” so that it reads:

“PB102 Like all life on earth, humankind depends upon a healthy natural environment for its survival. Yet it is human activity, more than anything else, that is causing widespread and rapid changes to the climate and damaging ecosystems and, ultimately, threatening the future of life on Earth as we currently know it.”

PB104 currently reads:

“PB104 Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, society has expected continual increases in material affluence for the people of the world, and has therefore relentlessly pursued the goal of economic growth. Some nations, such as our own,

have indeed become very rich and yet within them there is still abject poverty. Meanwhile, the poor nations of the world are becoming poorer as wealth continues to be transferred to the rich nations from the poor ones.”

After “abject poverty.” insert “Inequality in society has a negative impact on everyone’s well-being and even individual affluence does not guarantee wellbeing or life satisfaction.” so that it reads: “PB104 Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, society has expected continual increases in material affluence for the people of the world, and has therefore relentlessly pursued the goal of economic growth. Some nations, such as our own, have indeed become very rich and yet within them there is still abject poverty. Inequality in society has a negative impact on everyone’s wellbeing and even individual affluence does not guarantee wellbeing or life satisfaction. Meanwhile, the poor nations of the world are becoming poorer as wealth continues to be transferred to the rich nations from the poor ones.”

PB106 currently reads:

“PB106 The pursuit of economic growth as a force driving over-exploitation of the Earth must cease to be an automatic aim of human societies. We should instead aim to develop sustainable economies, which improve well-being focused on human values rather than consumerism. Traditional measures of economic activity, such as GDP, should be replaced by new indicators that measure progress towards this aim.”

In the first sentence, after “economic growth” insert “must cease to be an automatic aim of human societies”, replace “a force” with “it is”, and delete “must cease to be an automatic aim of human societies”, and

In the second sentence, replace “sustainable economies, which improve” with “ambitious and equitable plans to bring about a transition to an economy that protects natural systems and improves”, so that it reads:

“PB106 The pursuit of economic growth must cease to be an automatic aim of human societies as it is driving over-exploitation of the Earth. We should instead aim to develop ambitious and equitable plans to bring about a transition to an economy that protects natural systems and improves well-being focused on human values rather than consumerism. Traditional measures of economic activity, such as GDP, should

be replaced by new indicators that measure progress towards this aim.”

PB107 currently reads:

“PB107 Traditional politics divides humans from nature and the individual from society. The rejection of this way of seeing the world is fundamental to Green philosophy. Rather than set them against each other, the Green Party seeks healthy interdependence of individual, nature and society.”

In the first sentence replace “Traditional” with “Conventional” so that it reads: “PB107 Conventional politics divides humans from nature and the individual from society. The rejection of this way of seeing the world is fundamental to Green philosophy. Rather than set them against each other, the Green Party seeks healthy interdependence of individual, nature and society.”

PB201 currently reads:

“PB201 The human species is a latecomer to the biosphere. Our survival depends upon the continued survival of all the ecosystems which evolved before us. The Green Party therefore sees humanity as necessarily a dependent part of the natural environment. When human activity threatens the environment around us, that activity threatens our future survival. Political objectives should accept our dependence, not seek to transgress it. We do not believe that any other species is expendable.”

Delete “The human species is a latecomer to the biosphere.”, and Replace “When human activity threatens the environment around us, that activity threatens” with “Human activity has caused widespread and rapid damage to the environment and this is now threatening”, so that it reads:

“PB201 Our survival depends upon the continued survival of all the ecosystems which evolved before us. The Green Party therefore sees humanity as necessarily a dependent part of the natural environment. Human activity has caused widespread and rapid damage to the environment and this is now threatening our future survival. Political objectives should accept our dependence, not seek to transgress it. We do not believe that any other species is expendable.”

PB301 currently reads:

“PB301 Implementing the policies which will create an ecological society will necessarily take many years. It will require a great deal of social change if we are to accommodate the massive environmental changes facing us. We can, nevertheless, identify a number of principles upon which a truly sustainable society will be based.”

Replace “which will create an ecological society will necessarily take many years” with “that will bring about a transition to an equitable and sustainable society is both urgent and essential”

so that it reads:

“PB301 Implementing the policies that will bring about a transition to an equitable and sustainable society is both urgent and essential. It will require a great deal of social change if we are to accommodate the massive environmental changes facing us. We can, nevertheless, identify a number of principles upon which a truly sustainable society will be based.” PB302 currently reads:

“PB302 Democracy A healthy society is based on voluntary co-operation between equal individuals in a democratic society. Those decisions that establish a secure basis for such co-operation need to be taken by society as a whole through the democratic processes, but other issues should be left to individuals and communities to decide for themselves. An ecological society will be made up of self-governing communities of a variety of sizes which will regulate their own social and economic activities. Nothing should be decided at a higher level if it can be decided at a lower one. But the Green Party accepts that regional and national governments will continue to have an important role.” Insert at the end “The Green Party recognises that deep and widespread change is necessary to avert climate and biodiversity disaster however we believe that while these changes must be brought about through democratic means, they must be developed and implemented quickly.”

so that it reads:

“PB302 Democracy

A healthy society is based on voluntary co-operation between equal individuals in a democratic society. Those decisions that establish a secure basis for such co-operation need to be taken by society as a whole through the democratic processes, but other issues should be left to individuals and communities to

decide for themselves. An ecological society will be made up of self-governing communities of a variety of sizes which will regulate their own social and economic activities. Nothing should be decided at a higher level if it can be decided at a lower one. But the Green Party accepts that regional and national governments will continue to have an important role. The Green Party recognises that deep and widespread change is necessary to avert climate and biodiversity disaster however we believe that while these changes must be brought about through democratic means, they must be developed and implemented quickly.”

PB305 currently reads:

“PB305 Rights of Future Generations

The suffering of future generations as a result of global warming caused by current generations makes it crucial that their rights are recognised and championed by organisations within society today.”

Replace “global warming” with “human-induced climate and biodiversity breakdown” so that it reads:

“PB305 Rights of Future Generations

The suffering of future generations as a result of human-induced climate and biodiversity breakdown caused by current generations makes it crucial that their rights are recognised and championed by organisations within society today.”

PB411 currently reads:

“PB411 We reject the view that wealth can be measured solely in monetary units, a view which allows its adherents to think it consists primarily of the results of human labour. This error has caused successive governments to pursue objectives which appear to increase the nation’s wealth while in fact they reduce it. Symbols of wealth, like money, reinforce the error and dominate political decision making. Economic growth is a poor guide to human welfare.”

Replace “, like money,” with “ – like money, power, and influence - ” and after “human welfare” insert “that has caused and is causing enormous social and environmental harm”, and At the end insert “, and extreme harm to other species, particularly animals under human control and influence” so that it reads:

“PB411 We reject the view that wealth can be measured solely in monetary units, a view which

allows its adherents to think it consists primarily of the results of human labour. This error has caused successive governments to pursue objectives which appear to increase the nation's wealth while in fact they reduce it. Symbols of wealth - like money, power, and influence - reinforce the error and dominate political decision making. Economic growth is a poor guide to human welfare that has caused and is causing enormous social and environmental harm, and extreme harm to other species, particularly animals under human control and influence."

PB412 currently reads:

"PB412 New economic ideas, institutions and organisations are needed to reduce our dependence on such symbols. Economic policy should be directed not to maximising the forms of wealth that can be measured in monetary terms, but to ensuring that the needs of all are met." At the end, insert "The transition to an equitable and sustainable economy must be facilitated at the speed and scale needed." so that it reads:

"PB412 New economic ideas, institutions and organisations are needed to reduce our dependence on such symbols. Economic policy should be directed not to maximising the forms of wealth that can be measured in monetary terms, but to ensuring that the needs of all are met. The transition to an equitable and sustainable economy must be facilitated at the speed and scale needed." PB413 currently reads:

"PB413 A sustainable society can be prosperous, but it cannot have continually rising affluence. We accept that there is a limit to the wealth each person can receive, and this is true no matter how much or how little work needs to be done to produce that wealth. Some redistribution of income will be required. What wealth there is must be shared in such a way that everyone has a guarantee of economic security, otherwise people will not heed ecological restraints in their daily lives." In the third sentence, replace "income" with "wealth", and

Replace "economic security, otherwise people will not heed ecological restraints in their daily lives" with "secure access to the means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem" so that it reads:

"PB413 A sustainable society can be prosperous, but it cannot have continually rising affluence. We accept that there is a limit to the wealth each person can receive, and this is true no matter how much or how

little work needs to be done to produce that wealth. Some redistribution of wealth will be required. What wealth there is must be shared in such a way that everyone has a guarantee of secure access to the means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem."

PB420 currently reads:

"PB420 Under the present system, economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, in a finite world there is not an infinite supply of natural resources. The Green Party recognises limits to growth. Limits to growth are likely to be imposed primarily by resource depletion and the ever-increasing costs of pollution. Furthermore, land also is in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity and changes in land quality and availability due to the climate emergency, mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity"

In the third sentence, replace "costs of" with "harm caused by", and after "pollution" insert ", including greenhouse gas emissions", and

At the end of PB420, replace the inverted comma with a full stop, so that it reads:

"PB420 Under the present system, economic growth is supported by unlimited consumption of both renewable and non-renewable resources. However, in a finite world there is not an infinite supply of natural resources. The Green Party recognises limits to growth. Limits to growth are likely to be imposed primarily by resource depletion and the ever-increasing harm caused by pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, land also is in limited supply. An expanding world population demands expanding food supplies. Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity and changes in land quality and availability due to the climate emergency, mean that land must be managed in such a way as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity."

PB421 currently reads:

"PB421 Conservation of land and natural resources will be very important in order to protect the natural environment from pollution and degradation. The

Green Party believes that technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products should be given priority over the production of goods from newly generated resources. We believe our towns and cities should be structured in such a way as to maximise resource conservation.”

In the first sentence replace “will be” with “is”, and

In the second sentence, after “goods from newly” insert “extracted or”, and In the last sentence, replace “towns and cities” with “urban and rural communities”, and Before “structured” insert “re”, and replace “in such a way” with “through fair means facilitated by common physical and digital infrastructure so”, so that it reads:

“PB421 Conservation of land and natural resources is very important in order to protect the natural environment from pollution and degradation. The Green Party believes that technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products should be given priority over the production of goods from newly extracted or generated resources. We believe urban and rural communities should be restructured through fair means facilitated by common physical and digital infrastructure so as to maximise resource conservation.”

PB450 currently reads:

“PB450 The Green Party believes that, since human well-being depends on the use of land and its physical resources, property laws should be designed to ensure that all have access to the things they need. All those who have a stake in property should have a real say in how it is managed. Common goods need to be accountably managed by the community that depends on them.” Replace “have a stake in property” with “are impacted by how a property is managed” so that it reads:

“PB450 The Green Party believes that, since human well-being depends on the use of land and its physical resources, property laws should be designed to ensure that all have access to the things they need. All those who are impacted by how a property is managed should have a real say in how it is managed. Common goods need to be accountably managed by the community that depends on them.”

PB460 currently reads:

“PB460 The Green Party recognises that work plays a central part in a healthy and balanced life. People

have a natural desire to make a contribution to the common good.”

In the first sentence replace “work” with “making a contribution to the common good”, and Replace the second sentence “People have a natural desire to make a contribution to the common good.” with “We recognise that work is not the only way in which it is possible to contribute to the common good.” so that it reads:

“PB460 The Green Party recognises that making a contribution to the common good plays a central part in a healthy and balanced life. We recognise that work is not the only way in which it is possible to contribute to the common good.”

PB461 currently reads:

“PB461 We therefore oppose the view of work which treats it as an unfortunate necessity to be performed by machines whenever possible and we oppose the reduction of people’s working lives to a series of simple, repetitive activities. Labour-saving devices may be valuable in some circumstances, but not all. We believe that access to creative, rewarding work is a fundamental human right. We also oppose the view that hard work is to be praised for its own sake. A healthy life is a balanced one, including time for both work and leisure.”

In the first sentence remove “therefore”, and replace “which” with “that”,

Replace “creative, rewarding work” with “the social and material means necessary to live a flourishing life”, and

After “fundamental human right.” insert “We oppose the view that access to social and material means is necessarily accessed through wage labour.”, and

Replace “A healthy life is a balanced one, including time for both work and leisure.” with “A flourishing life is one that includes time for self-development, respect, fulfilment and the opportunity to contribute to the common good as well as time for relaxation, replenishment and enjoyment.”,

so that it reads:

“PB461 We oppose the view of work that treats it as an unfortunate necessity to be performed by machines whenever possible and we oppose the reduction of people’s working lives to a series of

simple, repetitive activities. Labour-saving devices may be valuable in some circumstances, but not all. We believe that access to the social and material means necessary to live a flourishing life is a fundamental human right. We oppose the view that access to social and material means is necessarily accessed through wage labour. We also oppose the view that hard work is to be praised for its own sake. A flourishing life is one that includes time for self-development, respect, fulfilment and the opportunity to contribute to the common good as well as time for relaxation, replenishment and enjoyment.”

AMENDMENT 1

Peter Sims, Hamish Riddoch, Jonathan Essex, Stephen Leach, Sam Alston*

In the Motion insert at the beginning:

Insert at the end of core principle 5, “or assuming that interventions by us are always helpful”

So that it reads:

“Our actions should take account of the well-being of other nations, other species, and future generations. We should not pursue our well-being to the detriment of theirs or assume that interventions by us are always the helpful.”

Delete from motion (in relation to current core principle 9):

“Insert at the end “Indicators of societal and ecosystem health should be mindful of the fact that human influence has already caused rapid climate change and significantly damaged biodiversity and ecosystem health.”

so that it reads:

“The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness and human fulfilment. Indicators of societal and ecosystem health should be mindful of the fact that human influence has already caused rapid climate change and significantly damaged biodiversity and ecosystem health.”

And replace with:

“Replace “and human fulfilment” with “human fulfilment along with biodiversity and ecosystem health and stability”

So that it reads:

“The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness, human fulfilment along with biodiversity and ecosystem health and stability.”

AMENDMENT 2

Peter Sims, Hamish Riddoch, Jonathan Essex, Stephen Leach, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey*

Delete the following from motion:

At the end, insert

“The transition to an equitable and sustainable economy must be facilitated at the speed and scale needed.”

so that it reads:

“PB412 New economic ideas, institutions and organisations are needed to reduce our dependence on such symbols. Economic policy should be directed not to maximising the forms of wealth that can be measured in monetary terms, but to ensuring that the needs of all are met. The transition to an equitable and sustainable economy must be facilitated at the speed and scale needed.”

And Replace with:

At the end, insert “Our economy must be changed to become equitable and sustainable. This requires rapid, wide ranging and disruptive interventions.”

so that it reads:

“PB412 New economic ideas, institutions and organisations are needed to reduce our dependence on such symbols. Economic policy should be directed not to maximising the forms of wealth that can be measured in monetary terms, but to ensuring that the needs of all are met. Our economy must be changed to become equitable and sustainable. This requires rapid, wide ranging and disruptive interventions.”

AMENDMENT 3

Peter Sims, Hamish Riddoch, Jonathan Essex, Stephen Leach, Sam Alston*

Delete the following from motion:

Replace “economic security, otherwise people will not heed ecological restraints in their daily lives” with “secure access to the means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem”

so that it reads:

“PB413 A sustainable society can be prosperous, but it cannot have continually rising affluence. We accept that there is a limit to the wealth each person can receive, and this is true no matter how much or how little work needs to be done to produce that wealth. Some redistribution of wealth will be required. What wealth there is must be shared in such a way that everyone has a guarantee of secure access to the

means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem.”

And Replace with:

Replace last sentence with

“What wealth there is must be shared so that everyone has secure access to the means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem.”

So that it reads:

“PB413 A sustainable society can be prosperous, but it cannot have continually rising affluence. We accept that there is a limit to the wealth each person can receive, and this is true no matter how much or how little work needs to be done to produce that wealth. Some redistribution of wealth will be required. What wealth there is must be shared so that everyone has secure access to the means to live a flourishing life as part of a healthy wider ecosystem.”



SECTION D

ORGANISATIONAL MOTIONS

D01

REFORMING THE PARTY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sam Riches, Adrian Spurrell, Andrew Bradbury, Ann Forsaith, Astrid Johnson, Carla Denyer, Douglas Rouxel, Eve Allsop, Ewan Jones, John Street, Marcus Cain, Martha James, Richard Bradley, Vivien Lichtenstein, Vix Lowthion*

Green Party Regional Council

SYNOPSIS:

Our current process for the Annual General Meeting is confusing and ill-defined, leading to a situation where the required business frequently dominates Autumn Conference to the exclusion of other important motions. This organisational motion seeks to clearly separate AGM business from other Conference business and clarify the processes involved.

MOTION:

In the Constitution, *delete* paragraphs i and ii of clause 10, which read:

10. CONFERENCES

i) The Party shall hold an Annual Conference each Autumn which shall be the supreme forum of the Party. Its procedure shall be governed by Standing Orders. All paid up members of the Green Party shall be eligible to attend and vote at Conference.

ii) The Party shall hold a Spring Conference each year, finishing at least 5 weeks before the local government elections unless the Annual Conference the preceding Autumn decides otherwise. The Spring Conference shall be governed by the same Standing Orders and have the same powers as the Annual Conference, except that:

a. it shall be required to receive reports only from the Standing Orders Committee, Policy Development Committee, and the Dispute Resolution Committee;

b. it shall hold elections only for vacant posts, not those still filled by members elected by the Annual Conference;

c. its powers may be limited and its priorities may be specified by a resolution of the Annual Conference the preceding Autumn.

e. 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 replace with the re-written paragraphs i and ii below, then insert a new clause 11 "Annual General Meeting" as set out below, renumbering subsequent sections.

So that it reads:

10. CONFERENCES

i) The Party shall hold an Annual Conference each Autumn and will usually hold an additional Conference each spring; Conference shall be the supreme forum of the Party. The procedure of the Conference shall be governed by Standing Orders. All paid up members of the Green Party shall be eligible to attend and vote at Conference.

ii) Where the Party holds a Spring Conference it must finish at least 5 weeks before the local government elections unless the preceding Autumn Conference decides otherwise. The Spring Conference shall be governed by the same Standing Orders and have the same powers as the Autumn Conference, except that:

a) it shall be required to receive reports only from the leadership team (as per clause 8 (vii) of the constitution, the Leader or Co-leaders and the Deputy Leader (s) will report alongside the Wales Leader); Standing Orders Committee, Green Party Regional Council, Policy Development Committee, Disciplinary Committee and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; these will be interim reports covering the period since the last Conference, and a dedicated online forum

may be established to augment the Conference discussion;

b) it shall hold elections only for vacant posts, not those still filled by members elected by the preceding Autumn Conference;

c) its powers may be limited and its priorities may be specified by a resolution of the preceding Autumn Conference;

e) 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.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

i) The Party shall hold an Annual General Meeting, ordinarily this will be held in conjunction with Autumn Conference but no more than 18 months after the previous Annual General Meeting.

ii) The procedure for the Annual General Meeting shall be governed by Standing Orders. All paid up members of the Green Party shall be eligible to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting.

iii) In the interests of openness and accountability, the Annual General Meeting shall be open to all members of the Party and - in principle - be free to attend though it is acknowledged that financial constraints may not always permit this.

iv) The Annual General Meeting shall receive reports from:

a. The leadership team

As per clause 8 (vii) of the constitution, The Leader or Co-leaders and The Deputy Leader (s) will report alongside the Wales Leader.

b. All elected committees in the Party

This will include:

Green Party Executive and its subcommittees

Green Party Regional Council and its working groups

Standing Orders Committee

Policy Development Committee

Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

International Committee

Green World Editorial Board

Equalities and Diversity Committee

Campaigns Committee

Conferences Committee

Disciplinary Committee (report to include statistics from the entire

disciplinary process, based on an overview from the Complaints Manager)

c. All recognised internal groups

Groups of members in common as set out in clause 5 (xii) of the constitution and recognised via the process defined in bye-law 3 referred to in clause 5 (xii) of the constitution will report.

These reports shall be made available to all members of the Party.

v) The order of business for the Annual General Meeting shall be decided by Standing Orders Committee in consultation with Conferences Committee, taking account of legal requirements and any other relevant factors.

vi) The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be compiled and published by Standing Orders Committee but it shall not form part of their report to the Annual General Meeting which will appear as a separate report in the agenda.

a) The Standing Orders Committee report to the Annual General Meeting shall include matters of record and recommendation that do not directly pertain to arrangements for Conference (such as the Final Agenda and ordering of motions) and shall note all rulings requested and made since the previous

Annual General Meeting. It is expected that rulings will be published to members as they occur, and that the Standing Orders Committee report to the Annual General Meeting will draw together the formal record of these rulings.

vii) Where the Annual General Meeting is held in conjunction with the Annual Conference, business of the Annual General Meeting will be timetabled separately from other conference business.

viii) No speeches are expected either for or against the AGM reports, other than to formally move the motion to accept the report and any amendments which have been properly submitted by the published deadline.

ix) Questions may be taken on each report at the discretion of the Chair, and a dedicated online forum may be established where the author of the report is unable to attend the AGM and/or where volume of questions exceeds the time available for full discussion: the relevant party officer will be expected to answer questions posed in that forum.

In the Constitution, *delete the italicised wording in each of the following sub-clauses and insert text in square brackets:*

4 vi) GPEW will carry out equalities monitoring of members, candidates, officers and office holders. The aggregated anonymised data will be presented to *conference* [the AGM] as part of the Equality and Diversity coordinator's report. This section of the report will include national, regional and local actions to address issues of underrepresentation.

5 xviii) A report on the gender balance of candidates and elected members will be included in the [Election Co-ordinator's element of the] Gpex report to [the AGM and may also be reported to the Spring] conference [if it falls after a relevant election].

6 xiv) The Regional Council shall keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Green Party Executive and make available to the membership of the Party, and shall present a written report to the [AGM and Spring] *Annual Conference*.

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

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

8 x) The Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders will present an Annual Report to [the AGM and Spring] Conference *alongside other Executive members*.

10 xv) The Conferences Committee shall provide a report to each *Annual* [AGM and Spring] / Conference [and also any Extraordinary Conference].

13 i) There shall be a Green Party Policy Development Committee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be convened by the Policy Development Coordinator and which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy options consistent with the Philosophical Basis. The Policy Development Committee shall include five members elected by ballot of the entire membership, usually at the same time as the ballot for the membership of the Executive is held. Up to an additional five non-voting members may be co-opted by the elected Committee. This co-option shall take place after an annual skills audit carried out immediately following the election of the elected members, and will take account of:

- the views of Equality and Diversity Committee
- the views of relevant special interest groups within the party
- views of the Association of Green Councillors,
- and should ensure that at least two members of the Committee have direct experience of serving as a principal authority councillor.

This Committee shall be responsible for enabling, co-ordinating and promoting policy formulation for the Green party. The PDC shall submit a written report to each [AGM, Autumn and Spring] Conference.

13 iv) Policy Development Committee is empowered to make minor changes to Policies for a Sustainable Society between [AGMs and] conferences, such as updating out-of-date terminology (for instance, mention of organisations which no longer exist) and ensuring that Acts of Parliament referred to are current. All such changes will be reported to [the

Autumn and Spring] Conference through the Policy Development Committee report, so that an opportunity is provided to challenge each change and, if Conference so decides, reverse it.

13 ix) Policies included in RoPS may be amended or deleted by the approval of a motion to Conference. In addition, all policies in RoPS should be reviewed by Policy Development Committee two years after their adoption and at regular intervals thereafter. If the Committee considers that all or part of any of the policies therein are now outdated they can propose their amendment, archiving to a dedicated area of the members' website or deletion by a subsequent meeting of Regional Council. Archived RoPS entries will remain in force as policy statements, but will not be actively promoted through the public policy website. All decisions to alter, archive and/or delete RoPS entries will be reported to [the AGM or Spring] Conference through the Policy Development Committee report.

14 iii) The Campaigns Committee shall submit a written report to each *Annual Conference* [AGM].

15 v) The role and organisation of the International Committee shall be set out in the International Committee Standing Orders, which shall be prepared by the Committee and subject to the approval of the Executive. [The International Committee shall be required to report to each AGM.]

16 v) The role of the editorial board shall be to ensure that Green World fulfils its aim, in accordance with the Standing Orders for the editorial board. [The editorial board shall be required to report to each AGM.]

18 iii) The role and organisation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee shall be set out in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Standing Orders agreed from time to time by Conference. [The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee shall be required to report to each AGM and Spring Conference.]

19 iv) The Equalities & Diversity Committee shall provide a report to each *Annual Conference* [AGM].

20 v) Where errors arise within the numbering, lettering and references within The Constitution, Standing Orders Committee are permitted to correct and republish them without recourse to conference for prior approval. All corrections made by Standing

Orders Committee outside of conference will be reported to the next [AGM or Spring] conference as part of the Standing Orders Committee report.

In the bye laws for Clause 5 xvii) **Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons**

1. 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 [the AGM and may also be report to the Spring] conference [if it falls after a relevant election]. If targets are not met, the Elections Coordinator will present actions to meet them as part of their report to [the AGM or] Spring conference [as appropriate according to the timing of the election].

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, in section F6 SOC Report, delete the wording 'any other matters or recommendations that do not affect the running of conference; rulings requested and made since the previous conference' that occurs at F6.1.

This currently reads:

F6.1 SOC shall submit a Report with the Final Agenda. This Report shall be divided into sections covering:

The Final Agenda and Ordering of Motions for Conference; a notification of how many motions and amendments have been ruled out of order and where these are published; a report on SOC's participation in the Agenda process including any motions or amendments that SOC is submitting to conference; timetabling, chairing and other procedural matters affecting conference including elections to be held at conference, with the recommendations of SOC; the report of the RO; a report by SOC of any changes that they have adopted to their Standing Orders; progress on Organisational Statements; *any other matters or recommendations that do not affect the running of conference; rulings requested and made since the previous conference.*

So that it reads:

F6.1 SOC shall submit a Report with the Final Agenda. This Report shall be divided into sections covering:

The Final Agenda and Ordering of Motions for Conference; a notification of how many motions and amendments have been ruled out of order and where

these are published; a report on SOC's participation in the Agenda process including any motions or amendments that SOC is submitting to conference; timetabling, chairing and other procedural matters affecting conference including elections to be held at conference, with the recommendations of SOC; the report of the RO; a report by SOC of any changes that they have adopted to their Standing Orders; progress on Organisational Statements.

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, in section I Elections at Conference, delete the wording 'AGM' that occurs at I g) and replace it with the word 'Conference'.

This currently reads:

g) Members of SOC and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee shall take office at the end of the AGM at which they were elected.

So that it reads:

g) Members of SOC and Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee shall take office at the end of the Conference at which they were elected.

AMENDMENT 1

Sam Riches, Richard Bradley, Anne Gayfer, Adrian Spurrell, Richard Firth, Ewan Jones*

at 10.ii.a) add the words ' . This listing will be updated as and when constitutional changes lead to a change in the governance of the party so that reporting requirements will be carried over to any replacement or additional bodies that fulfil similar functions;'

So that it reads:

a) it shall be required to receive reports only from the leadership team (as per clause 8 (vii) of the constitution, the Leader or Co-leaders and the Deputy Leader (s) will report alongside the Wales Leader); Standing Orders Committee, Green Party Regional Council, Policy Development Committee, Disciplinary Committee and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. This listing will be updated as and when constitutional changes lead to a change in the governance of the party so that reporting requirements will be carried over to any replacement or additional bodies that fulfil similar functions; these will be interim reports covering the period since the

last Conference, and a dedicated online forum may be established to augment the Conference discussion;

AMENDMENT 2

Sam Riches, Richard Bradley, Anne Gayfer, Adrian Spurrell, Richard Firth, Ewan Jones*

at 11.iv.b) add the words 'This listing will be updated as and when constitutional changes lead to a change in the governance of the party so that reporting requirements will be carried over to any replacement or additional bodies that fulfil similar functions.'

So that it reads:

- iv) The Annual General Meeting shall receive reports from:
 - a. The leadership team. As per clause 8 (vii) of the constitution, The Leader or Co-leaders and The Deputy Leader (s) will report alongside the Wales Leader.
 - b. All elected committees in the Party. This will include:
 - Green Party Executive and subcommittees
 - Green Party Regional Council
 - Standing Orders Committee
 - Policy Development Committee
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee
 - International Committee
 - Green World Editorial Board
 - Equalities and Diversity Committee
 - Campaigns Committee
 - Conferences Committee
 - Disciplinary Committee (report to include statistics from the entire disciplinary process, based on an overview from the Complaints Manager)

This listing will be updated as and when constitutional changes lead to a change in the governance of the party so that reporting requirements will be carried over to any replacement or additional bodies that fulfil similar functions.

- c. All recognised internal groups.
Groups of members in common as set out in clause 5 (xii) of the constitution and recognised via the process defined in bye-law 3 referred to in clause 5 (xii) of the constitution will report.

These reports shall be made available to all members of the Party.

[Additionally, SOC are requested to follow the formatting used in the substantive motion. In particular we request that attention is paid to the levels of ordinal markers in the new clause 11, and to the use of italics in the substantive motion to indicate text to be deleted.]

D02

CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

*Andreas Christodoulou**; Ann Forsaith, Carla Denyer, Chris Green, Darren Yates, Dinah Morgan, Jan Clark, John Matthews, Josh Morris-Blake, Katherine Greenaway, Linda Oubridge, Liz Reason, Maciej Pawlik, Vivien Lichtenstein, Scott Robinson, Sam Riches

SYNOPSIS

To expand the Disciplinary Committee from 11 to 22 members.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

4.x currently reads:

“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. The committee will comprise eleven members, one member from each region, one from the Wales Green Party and a member elected biennially at the autumn conference. The term of office will be two years.”

Replace it with:

“There shall be a Disciplinary Committee, responsible for handling all complaints of a disciplinary nature that have not been or cannot be resolved at Local, Regional or Wales Green Party level, or by another Party body formally recognised by the Green Party Regional Council, and where mediation has been declined or been unsuccessful. The committee will comprise 22 members, two members from each region, two members from the Wales Green Party elected in accordance with their respective Constitutions and two members elected biennially at the Autumn or Spring Conferences. The term of office will be two years.”

REVISIONS TO STANDING ORDERS FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE

Revise SOPD (Standing Orders for Party Discipline) as follows:

2.1. currently reads:

“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), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) or Standing Orders Committee (SOC).”

Replace it with:

“The Committee shall consist of 22 members of the Party who are not members of the Green Party Executive (GPEX), the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) or Standing Orders Committee (SOC).”

2.2 currently reads:

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

i) Each GPEW region and the nation of Wales should elect one member to the Committee. In the event of a member leaving the Committee, the relevant Regional Committee or Wales Green Party Committee should hold an election as soon as possible for a full two-year term.

ii) Annual Conference should elect one member to the Committee.”

Replace it with:

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

i) Each GPEW region and the nation of Wales should elect two members to the Committee. In the event of a casual vacancy, the relevant Regional Committee or Wales Green Party Committee should hold an election as soon as possible for a full two-year term.

ii) Spring and/or Autumn Conference should elect two members to the Committee. An election should be held for a position if one is open at the time of conference.”

D03

WALES GREEN PARTY SPOKESPERSON REMUNERATION

Jenneth Parker, Adam Turner, Alice Macintosh, Amy Greenfield, Anne Price, Anthony Slaughter, David Griffin, Gabrielle Bailey, Jack Blomfield, John Matthews, Ken Barker, Megan Davies, Michelle Gough, Miranda Heath, Paul Beswick, Paul Gough, Philip Davies, Rebecca Kate Prosser, Richard Taylor, Tessa Marshall*

SYNOPSIS

Greens in government in Wales and in England are a win-win situation, helping our credibility and legitimacy. Gaining Green Members in the Senedd is more possible due to voting system change. The funding of the Spokesperson/Leader of the Wales Green Party needs to be adequate to achieve this strategic goal.

SOC notes: see Appendix 1 for background paper to this motion

MOTION

The Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) recognises that Wales and England are two separate countries. At present Wales has a form of devolved government and a Parliament – the Senedd. Gaining Green Senedd Members in Wales is a key goal in the GPEW political strategy. Currently, the Spokesperson/Leadership role of Wales Green Party (WGP) is voluntary. With a separate political

landscape and improved opportunities to get Senedd Members elected, the responsibilities, scale of work, and expectations of this role require commensurate funding. WGP Council are calling on conference to instruct GPEW to put remuneration in place for WGP Spokesperson/Leader on a par with the rest of the leadership team. The costs of this remuneration are to be met by GPEW in line with our strategic goals.

D04

A TOOLKIT FOR HEALING DIVISIONS IN THE GREEN PARTY

Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend, Adam Lawson, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Andrea Brookes, Barry Parsons, Brian Candeland, Carla Denyer, Chesca Walton, Chloë Goldsmith, Christine Townsend, Clare Bonetree, Cllr Mohamed Makawi, Alexander Sallons, Marc Geoffrey, Adam Lawson, Phil Di Palma, Sebastian Cousins, Kathryn Bristow, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Melanie Earp, Lorna Kirman, Naomi Bennett, Jenny Vernon, Melanie Mitchell, Clare Bonetree, Seraphin Stafford-Townsend, Cllr David Wilcox, Cllr Paula O'Rourke, Cllr Heather Mack, Cllr Lily Fitzgibbon, Owain Sutton, Ruth Brandt, Cllr Tom Hathway, Robin Brabham, Natalia Kubica, Ross Warren, Rosalind Alexander*

Bristol Green Party

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party has many points of conflict and has been ill-equipped to resolve them. The resulting distress to many members actively prevents us from tackling the climate and social justice emergency. This motion calls for a toolkit for healing these divisions that would make us stronger as a Party.

MOTION

INSERT INTO RECORD OF ORGANISATIONAL STATEMENTS:

Conference instructs GPRC to facilitate the creation of a toolkit for healing divisions within the Party, and to make this toolkit available to be made to local & regional Parties, councillors, activists, and staff.

AIMS AND SCOPE OF THE TOOLKIT:

This toolkit should provide learning and development in order to give local & regional parties, councillor groups, activists and staff with tools they need to:

- More fully understand the points of conflict creating ruptures in the Party;
- Have the skills required to resolve conflicts when they arise;
- Renew our trust in each other as fellow activists.
- Bring Party members together as a team
- Get members to know each other better
- Enable members to be better able to work, grow and learn together
- Collectively develop members' skills in conflict resolution, decision-making, facilitation, and leadership

Features of the toolkit should include:

- group training in conflict resolution, advanced communication, decision-making and non-violent communication (NVC)
- training in facilitation, chairing and mediation
- equalities training including but not limited to unconscious bias, racial equity, the global & historic impact of racism, misogyny & patriarchy, LGBTIQ+, disability & antisemitism
- facilitated dialogue within the group or local party, to safely discuss areas of conflict and embed productive communication skills
- informal 'getting to know each other' chats to provide opportunities to reconnect with the humanity of each other following the isolating pandemic.

Conference further instructs GPRC to:

- bring updates on progress with creating, launching, and rolling out the toolkit to subsequent Conferences
- bring a costing for carrying out the actions above to Spring Conference 2023 for approval, and updated costings where necessary to subsequent conferences for further approval.

D05

STONEWALL AND DISAFFILIATION FROM DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS SCHEME

Shahrar Ali, Abigail Rowe, Alex Geddis, Ali Gascoyne, Alison McClean, Alison Whalley, Ann Kolodziejcki, Ann Williams, Anne Johnson, Anne Kangley, Chris Osborn, Christine Johnson, Christopher Winsdale, Clare Fenwick-Hyde, Diane Brewster, Dinah Morgan, Dr. Miroslav Imbrisevic, Elizabeth Mansfield, Gabriella Pettitt, Gail Sirmais, Hazel Simpson, Jill Raymond, Joanna Davidson, Joanne Rigby, John Coyne, Julie Clarke, Kath Leyland, Kia Makepeace, Laurel Wilson, Mandy Vere, Marie Smith, Mark Dawes, Mark Hollinrake, Melanie Mitchell, Michelle Brannigan, Pallavi Devulapalli, Paul Milnes, Rachel Congdon, Rachel Meade, Siobhan Scanlan, Sue Corner, Vera Burgess, Zoe Hatch, Zoe Richards*

SYNOPSIS

No synopsis was submitted for this motion.

MOTION

Conference recognises the extraordinary LGBTIQ+ campaigns spearheaded by Stonewall since its inception in 1989. However, public organisations and bodies, including the EHRC, BBC and UCL, have found sound reason to disaffiliate from their Diversity Champions Scheme. Justified criticism has been made of Stonewall's interpretation of the Equality Act - in promoting the Act as how they would like it to be not how it is.

The Green Party needs to be able to ensure sound interpretation and application of the Equality Act in its internal governance and campaigning work. Conference is not satisfied that our rolling annual £2,500 subscription to the Scheme has represented value for money. Nor is our continued subscription consistent with good reputational risk management and sound interpretation of the Equality Act. As a matter of principle, these monies should be rotated around other governance or campaign priorities for

the Party, including climate change campaigns, and not automatically renewed.

Stonewall has every right to undertake political campaigns as a charity, but our affiliation also jeopardises our independence as a political party, or perception thereof, to interrogate statistics and value assumptions in developing policies of our own - without bias.

Conference instructs GPEX to disaffiliate from the Diversity Champions Scheme from the next financial year.

D06

CHANGES TO SOC

Adrian Spurrell, Andrew Bradbury, Anne Gayfer, Douglas Rouxel, Ewan Jones, John Matthews, Judy Maciejowska, Martha James, Richard Bradley, Sam Riches, Steve Leyland*

Green Party Regional Council

SYNOPSIS

This motion responds to support in the recent consultations by the Party Structure Working Group to increase the number of people in SOC and to split out its work into two different committees, one dealing with the constitution and one dealing with conference.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

CONSTITUTION

Insert a new Clause 10, reflect this in the page contents of the constitution and re-number the sections of the constitution accordingly:

“New Clause 10: Standing Orders Committee

1. Standing Orders Committee. There will be a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders for all parts of the Party.

2. The SOC shall consist of not more than five members elected every two years in the Annual Ballot using a single transferable vote ballot (not more than two of whom shall be members of the Regional Council).
3. Where there is a dispute about Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference this shall be resolved by SOC.”

Amend [existing] Clause 10 ii) a) so it reads:

“a) it shall be required to receive reports only from the Standing Orders Committee, Conference Business Committee, Policy Development Committee, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee;”

Amend [existing] Clause 10 iii) so it reads:

“iii) Conference Business Committee (CBC). Conference shall elect a Conference Business Committee. (CBC) which will be responsible for the order in which resolutions are taken during the Conference, subject to the approval of Conference.”

Amend [existing] Clause 10 iv) so it reads:

“iv) The Conference Business Committee shall consist of not more than five members elected by Annual Conference (not more than two of whom shall be members of the Regional Council).”

Amend [existing] Clause 10 v) so it reads:

“v) Conference Business Committee will be responsible for compiling and maintaining a Record of Organisational Statements to include instructions made by Conference to bodies within the party.

vi) The Conference Business Committee shall also carry out such duties as are provided for in Standing Orders for the Conduct for Conference”

Amend [existing] Clause 17 ii) to add a reference to the CBC, so it reads:

“ii) In all elections for SOC, CBC, Policy Development Committee, Campaigns Committee, International Committee, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Equalities & Diversity Committee, the Regional Council, and the Party Executive there will be an election, even when there are no more candidates than positions to be filled. In such an event provision will be made for negative voting, in a form to be decided by SOC from time to time, such that if any candidate receives more negative than positive votes such candidate shall not be elected.”

AMEND STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT FOR CONFERENCE

Throughout SOCC change Standing Orders Committee / SOC for Conference Business Committee / CBC except as provided below.

Amend F5 so it reads:

“F5 SOC or CBC proposal of motions

F5.1 Neither SOC nor CBC shall propose or second policy motions.

F5.2 SOC may propose a motion or motions to amend the Constitution, and any other Standing Orders which are specified in the constitution as requiring approval and amendment by Conference and, if such a proposal is moved by SOC, individual members of SOC shall acquire the right to propose or second amendments to that proposal. However, individual members of SOC shall not acquire such right in respect of motions to amend the Constitution or other Standing Orders which are proposed by anyone other than SOC.

F5.3 CBC may propose a motion or motions to amend these Standing Orders and, if such a proposal is moved by CBC, individual members of CBC shall acquire the right to propose or second amendments to that proposal. However, individual members of CBC shall not acquire such right in respect of motions to amend these Standing Orders which are proposed by anyone other than CBC.

F5.4 Individual members of SOC and CBC may neither propose nor second motions or amendments to motions in the First or Final Agendas except as provided in F5.2 above or in F7 below. However, members of SOC and CBC may speak to such motions.”

Amend F6.1 so it reads:

“F6 SOC Report

F6.1 CBC shall submit a Report with the Final Agenda. This Report shall be divided into sections covering:

- The Final Agenda and Ordering of Motions for Conference;
- A notification of how many motions and amendments have been ruled out of order and where these are published;

- A report on CBC’s participation in the Agenda process including any motions or amendments that CBC is submitting to Conference;
- Timetabling, chairing and other procedural matters affecting Conference including elections to be held at Conference, with the recommendations of CBC; and
- A report by CBC of any changes that they have adopted to their Standing Orders.

Amend F7.2 so it reads:

“F7.2 CBC shall be responsible for ensuring that the Agenda of every Annual General Meeting shall include motions to accept the reports of the Party Treasurer, Executive, Co-chairs of Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), SOC, Policy development Committee (PDC), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) and other governance bodies as required by the Constitution. If any such motions to accept reports have not been received by the due date from the appropriate Party Officers, the motion to accept the report shall be proposed formally by CBC from the floor of Conference.”

The following clauses should not be amended so they remain:

“H9.2 It shall be assumed for any count that a simple majority is needed, unless SOC advise that a two-thirds majority is needed.

K1.7 SOC and the ERO appointed by SOC shall be responsible for carrying out any member ballots required by Conference as in Section L.

L3 c) SOC will facilitate a democratic process to obtain a statement from members opposed to the motion. If more than one statement is proposed, then the statement that has the support of greatest number of valid members’ signatures will be accepted by SOC and the ERO as the statement against.

L4. Vote The vote will be conducted by the ERO, who will agree a timetable and procedure with SOC. Voting papers sent by post should be distributed with other Green Party materials. If the ERO is a signatory of the motion to initiate a membership ballot, SOC will be required to select an acting ERO.

M.3 Following any changes to governance bodies as agreed by Conference, SOC shall delete references to these and other bodies in these Standing Orders to

reflect those changes, shall insert the names of the new bodies that have taken over their powers or duties, without recourse to Conference for prior approval.

M.4 All corrections made by Standing Orders Committee outside of Conference will be published to members as soon as possible and will be reported to the next Conference as part of the Standing Orders Committee report.

M5. SOC shall ensure that an example Local Party Constitution is drawn up and published and may draw up and publish additional notes to guide Local and Regional Parties on constitutional matters.”

Delete Appendix B Clause 4.1(b) and renumber accordingly.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

INTRODUCTION

These Standing Orders are intended to set out basic principles that should shape the way in which SOC makes decisions. It is in addition to the rules and procedures established in the Constitution. Should there be a conflict of interpretation between these standing orders and the Constitution then the Constitution takes precedence. These standing orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time via the SOC report.

SOC CONVENOR

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a convenor. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week. The SOC convenor is appointed, or removed by a vote of no confidence, by a minimum of three members of SOC, or a simple majority if there are less than five members of SOC. Within a week of their appointment following each Conference, the convenor must notify all members of SOC, the Conferences Committee Convenor, Policy Development Committee Convenor, the Green Party regional Committee (GPRC) Co-chairs and the Green Party Executive (GPEx) chair, of the time & place for meetings to discuss the first and final agenda for the forthcoming Conference. The Convenor will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

PRINCIPLES OF DECISION-MAKING

SOC will operate to the highest standards of accountability and transparency as regards decision-

making. The key principles (in addition to those set out in the Constitution are):

a) Decisions will always be in writing and make reference to the relevant sections of the party’s Constitutional documents or other relevant principles;

b) Where possible decisions will be taken by consensus of all members of SOC; where this is not possible (except where stated otherwise) all decisions will require that both a majority of members voted and that a majority voted for the proposal;

c) co-optees to the Committee will be allowed to vote but their votes will not count towards determining if either of the required majorities have been reached;

d) All decisions shall be taken with the knowledge of each member of SOC or one its sub-committees where possible;

e) Some decisions must be taken at one of the two meetings in (2) above. However it is recognised that there are times when it is desirable to take decisions in other ways.

DECISIONS THAT MUST BE TAKEN AT A FORMAL MEETING OF SOC

4.1 a) The content of the SOC report

b) Changes to these Standing Orders

4.2 All other decisions can be taken at either a formal meeting, by a discussion and vote on the e-list or by remote conference. The procedures for these are below.

4.3 Decision by E-list. The SOC Convenor will maintain an E-mail list (‘E-list’) to which all SOC members and the Returning Officer can post items and any Green Party member can join on a ‘read-only’ basis. SOC members must therefore ensure that the SOC Convenor has a current email address, contact number, or other means of contacting you. The SOC Convenor will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision by E-list with the exception of a vote of no confidence in the SOC Convenor. Before doing so the Convenor should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion via the E-list. Generally, it is anticipated that prior to a request for a

formal decision by email, a discussion about the issue will have taken place on the E-list and this will assist the Convenor in reaching his/her decision. Once the Convenor has decided to use the 'E- List Green Party Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference Revised Autumn 2021 list' they should post a simple email covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'. In the text of the email the Convenor should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution and confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 48 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by the fastest means possible taking into account the accessibility requirements of the particular members of SOC at the time. Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

4.4 Decision by Remote Conference Notice of a remote conference should be published on the SOC E-list along with a note of the business to be discussed during the conference at least 24 hours in advance of the remote conference. SOC may invite relevant people to participate in the conference. Requests from members to 'listen in' will normally be accepted. However, such members have no automatic right to actively participate in the discussion. Minutes covering decisions taken, the reasons for them, and votes cast will be circulated by the Convenor (or a person nominated by the Convenor) on the E-list within 24 hours of the end of the remote conference. So that a contemporaneous record is kept of these conferences, when the Convenor posts the minutes onto the E-list he/she will do so by invoking the 'E-list' on a proposal to accept the accuracy of the minutes.

SOC RULINGS

SOC will receive requests for rulings from time to time. SOC should refrain from issuing rulings based on vague and hypothetical situations since this could lead to the application of rulings out of context.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Suspension of Standing Orders

If all members of SOC agree, these standing orders can be suspended for the purposes of a particular decision. However specifically business covered by 4.1 above cannot be discussed whilst these standing orders are suspended.

Changes to these Standing Orders

7.1 These Standing Orders can only be amended at a formal meeting of the Committee.

7.2 These Standing Orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time, but no longer than annually, via the SOC report.

THE SOC REPORT

The SOC Report should contain the following:

- (a) Rulings made and the reasons for them
- (b) A list of the decisions made by E-list and Remote Conference

D07

EXTENDING THE TERM OF ELECTED POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Vix Lowthion, Andrew Wainwright, Charlotte Bain, Claire Critchison, Eleanor Crane, Emily Bond, Emma Garnett, Francesca Crick Collins, Georgina Wright, John Regan, Josh Barnes, Julian Dean*

SYNOPSIS

Policy Development Committee membership, according to the constitution, has to change annually as all 5 roles are up for election. This motion seeks to alter the constitution to extend membership for elected members to 2 years, to provide for stability and experience which are important to provide policy development support.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

POLICY MAKING currently reads:

"i) There shall be a Green Party Policy Development Committee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be convened by the Policy Development Co-ordinator and which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy

options consistent with the Philosophical Basis. The Policy Development Committee shall include five members elected by ballot of the entire membership, usually at the same time as the ballot for the membership of the Executive is held.”

Amend so that it reads:

“POLICY MAKING

i) There shall be a Green Party Policy Development Committee (hereinafter referred to as the PDC) which shall be convened by the Policy Development Co-ordinator and which shall be responsible for providing for consideration by the Party the best available policy options consistent with the Philosophical Basis. The Policy Development Committee shall include five members elected for a term of 2 years by ballot of the entire membership, usually at the same time as the ballot for the membership of the Executive is held.”

D08

ENDING NEW HIV TRANSMISSIONS BY 2030 PART 1

Daniel Laycock, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Andrea Brookes, Barry Parsons, Benali Hamdache, Chloë Goldsmith, Christopher Waller, Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend, Darren Yates, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Eloise Speight, Emily Fedorowycz, Kathryn Bristow, Laura Eccott, Matt Rogan, Naomi Bennett, Nick Weeks, Peter Price, Philippa Fleming, Ria Patel, Richard Firth, Scott Robinson, Sebastian Cousins, Tessa Marshall, Thomas Atkin, Vinnie Wainwright, Robin Brabham, Natalia Kubica, Rosalind Alexander*

SYNOPSIS

HIV affects every person regardless of age, gender, and ethnicity, and disproportionately impacts gay and bisexual men, trans people, migrants, and people of colour. The Green Party must adopt the targets recommended by the HIV Commission, campaign to ensure every part of the NHS and its partners do everything possible to end HIV transmissions by the end of the decade.

MOTION

SOC notes: We have split this motion into two parts; the other part is in section E.

Conference recognises that health is a fundamental human right. The vast majority of people diagnosed with HIV are promptly prescribed antiretroviral therapies and live long and healthy lives. Those on effective treatment cannot pass on the virus (Undetectable = Untransmissible). Since Terry Higgins was one of the first deaths from an AIDS related disease 40 years ago, the Terrence Higgins Trust has fought for better healthcare, HIV prevention, services and for the rights of people living with HIV.

Conference notes and supports the recommendations made by the HIV Commission, founded by the Terrence Higgins Trust, the National AIDS Trust, and the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which provide recommendations on how to end new cases of HIV by 2030.

As Green Councillors in Brighton Council and Caroline Lucas MP are leading in this fight to end HIV transmissions by 2030, this is the first city in the country to do so. Following Brighton Council’s lead, other NHS settings across England have adopted the opt-out HIV testing.

In October 2021, the Chancellor announced the Government’s future spending commitments – the campaign of HIV organisations and allies demanded vital funds. Investment is needed to win the fight against HIV and fully support everyone living with HIV.

Without new resources, we risk missing this once-in-a-generation opportunity to end the UK’s HIV epidemic. We now have the tools to end new cases of HIV and support everyone living with HIV, and yet each week 60 people are still diagnosed with HIV and many people living with HIV continue to experience poor mental health, stigma, and discrimination.

Conference instructs the Party to commit to and support the following actions:

Conference instructs the Green Party Executive to publicly and fully campaign for an end to new HIV transmissions by 2030.

Conference instructs the Green Party Executive to set up a working group and work in conjunction with the General Election steering group on how a Green

Government would finance an end to HIV transmission with a Green Government.

Conference also instructs the Green Party Campaigns Coordinator and Campaigns Committee and the Association of Green Councillors to work with the LGBTIQ+ Greens on a fully pledged campaign, working with Councillors to bring motions forward at local authorities.

AMENDMENT 1

Hannah Clare, Ben Samuel, Alexander Sallons, Benedict Allbrooke, Kathryn Bristow, Marianna Ebel, Richard Firth, Peter Price*

In paragraph which reads:

“As Green Councillors in Brighton Council and Caroline Lucas MP are leading in this fight to end HIV transmissions by 2030, this is the first city in the country to do so. Following Brighton Council’s lead, other NHS settings across England have adopted the opt-out HIV testing.” Add

“& Hove City”

in between Brighton and Council

Add “& Hove City”

in between Brighton and Council’s

So that it reads “As Green Councillors in Brighton & Hove City Council and Caroline Lucas MP are leading in this fight to end HIV transmissions by 2030, this is the first city in the country to do so. Following Brighton & Hove City Council’s lead, other NHS settings across England have adopted the opt-out HIV testing.”

D09

ENHANCING THE COMPLAINTS PROCESS

Peter Barnett, Anna Heyman, Clare Long-Summers, Claudine Letsae, Diane Green, Elizabeth Mansfield, Hazel Pegg, Jan Clark, Jessica*

Goldfinch, Kerri Edmondson, Mandy Vere, Niamh Mac Mahon, Rachel Hardy, Sara Mai, Rodrigo Capucho Paulo

SYNOPSIS

Our complaints procedure is failing, causing undue stress to all parties and a loss of confidence in the process. The following amendments to Standing Orders for Party Discipline (SOPD) are proposed with the aim of helping to restore trust in the complaints system.

MOTION

A key finding in the recent EDI Audit Report of the Party by Diverse Matters detailed serious and widespread dissatisfaction with the Party’s complaints system. The report stated: “This has led to a mistrust in the complaints system with questions about its objectivity and effectiveness”. This motion proposes various changes to the SOPD to make it a fairer system for members.

AMENDMENTS TO SOPD

Insert after Paragraph 1.4:

“The Respondent of a complaint should receive a copy of all the information that is being shared with any other member or body involved in the complaint, including GPRC members ruling on the implementation or continuation of No-Fault Suspensions.”

So it reads:

“1.4 The Complaints Manager may delegate administration of the management of complaints to the staff member³ whose job description specifies that role. 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 or other recognised risks. The Respondent of a complaint should receive a copy of all the information that is being shared with any other member or body involved in the complaint, including GPRC members ruling on the implementation or continuation of a No-Fault Suspension.”

Insert after Paragraph 1.9:

“This training must give cover all of the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act in equal measure. The Committee must maintain a neutral position during investigation and adjudication.”

So it reads:

“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. This training must give cover all the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equality Act in equal measure. The Committee must maintain a neutral position during investigation and adjudication.”

Insert after Paragraph 2.6 and renumber accordingly:

“The complaints manager will produce a tracking record of every formal complaint submitted and publish the statistical data on Green Spaces on a quarterly basis. The data will include the timeline for every formal complaint submitted from the date of receipt to the date of completion or closure. “

So it reads:

“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 within a reasonable timeframe. Redacted minutes should be published on the Members’ Website, ensuring confidential information and identifying details of members are removed.

2.7 The complaints manager will produce a tracking record of every formal complaint submitted and publish the statistical data on Green Spaces on a quarterly basis. The data will include the timeline for every formal complaint submitted from the date of receipt to the date of completion or closure.”

Insert after Paragraph 3.3 and renumber accordingly:

“In the event of a No-Fault Suspension being imposed a Respondent must be informed of the specific reasons for the No-Fault Suspension at the time it is imposed. The Respondent will be invited to submit a response to their GPRC reps. This response must be circulated to all GPRC members involved in making decisions about a No-Fault Suspension prior to the next meeting of GPRC when the continuation of the No-Fault Suspension is considered. If a No-Fault

Suspension is rolled over by GPRC the Respondent must be informed and given the reasons why it was considered that they pose an ongoing threat to the Party.

DC must give the highest priority to complaints where the Respondent is on a No-Fault Suspension. The Complaints Manager must closely monitor the situation and keep the Respondent and GPRC updated on a weekly basis with any reasons for delays. A No-Fault suspension complaint should be completed within 2 months, but sooner the better. If a No-Fault Suspension complaint results in a suspension being imposed on the Respondent, it will be taken from the date that the No-Fault Suspension was imposed.”

So it reads:

“3.3 If a complaint is received with a request for an immediate No-Fault Suspension, the Complaints Manager will pass the complaint to both the Referral Group, and within two working days 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, whereupon a No-Fault Suspension is activated, in accordance with the GPRC Standing Orders, and is communicated to the necessary parties as a matter of urgency. A request for a No-Fault Suspension should ideally take no more than three working days from receipt to notification of that suspension.

3.4 In the event of a No-Fault Suspension being imposed a Respondent must be informed of the specific reasons for the No-Fault Suspension at the time it is imposed. The Respondent will be invited to submit a response to their GPRC reps. This response must be circulated to all GPRC members involved in making decisions about a No-Fault Suspension prior to the next meeting of GPRC when the continuation of the No-Fault Suspension is considered. If a No-Fault Suspension is rolled over by GPRC the Respondent must be informed and given the reasons why it was considered that they pose an ongoing threat to the Party.

3.5 DC must give the highest priority to complaints where the Respondent is on a No-Fault Suspension. The Complaints Manager must closely monitor the situation and keep the Respondent and GPRC updated on a weekly basis with any reasons for delays. A No-Fault suspension complaint should be completed within 2 months, but the sooner the better. If a No-

Fault Suspension complaint results in a suspension being imposed on the Respondent, it will be taken from the date that the No-Fault Suspension was imposed.”

Delete the following text from Paragraph 3.5:

“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.”

So it reads:

“3.6 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. The Complaints Manager will also notify the Complainant of this information.”

Insert after Paragraph 3.9 and renumber accordingly:

“Decisions made under 3.9 should be ratified at the next formal DC meeting and the consideration and outcome should be included in DC minutes. The Complainant may challenge the decision made by the Disciplinary Committee under 3.9, with an appeal, in accordance with the procedures set out in Paragraph 7.3”

So it reads:

“3.9 In the case of 3.7 and 3.8 the Respondent shall be asked to review the alleged breaches and be offered the opportunity to correct their action(s) and/or recognise that their behaviour was inappropriate, and then apologise to the Complainant and any other relevant parties to the complaint. DC will consider if this is sufficient to remedy the complaint and, if so, will close the complaint.

3.10 Decisions made under 3.9 should be ratified at the next formal DC meeting and the consideration and outcome should be included in DC minutes. The

Complainant may challenge the decision made by the Disciplinary Committee under 3.9, with an appeal, in accordance with the procedures set out in Paragraph 7.3”

Insert after Paragraph 3.10 and renumber accordingly:

“If multiple complaints are submitted against a member which reference the same evidence and corresponding breaches of the Constitution, Code of Conduct or Policy on Harassment & Bullying, the Respondent may request that DC considers the duplicated evidence for only one complaint and strikes it from any others. If DC refuses this request, the Respondent must be provided with the reasons for the refusal.”

So it reads:

“3.10 In the case of 3.7 and 3.8 the Complainant and the Respondent shall be asked whether they consider that they need any adjustments to be made to the disputes and 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. The Investigators shall be informed of any adjustments that will need to be made during the investigation. The Respondent shall be offered the option to submit a provisional response to the complaint and the Complaints Manager will seek to ensure that this response is available to Disciplinary Committee (or any other body receiving the complaint) at the same time as the complaint form.

3.11 If multiple complaints are submitted against a member which reference the same evidence and corresponding breaches of the Constitution, Code of Conduct or Policy on Harassment & Bullying, the Respondent may request that DC considers the duplicated evidence for only one complaint and strikes it from any others. If DC refuses this request, the Respondent must be provided with the reasons for the refusal.”

Delete the following text from Paragraph 4.1 (issue previously covered)

“In cases where GPRC have imposed a No-Fault Suspension, the case will be prioritised.”

So it reads:

“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.”

Insert after 4.2

“The reasons for the decision on whether to pursue the complaint via 4.2 must be included in the DC minutes.”

So, it reads:

“4.2 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 reasonably practicable date. 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. The reasons for the decision on whether to pursue the complaint via 4.2 must be included in the DC minutes.”

Insert into paragraph 4.9

“If the investigators are unable to meet this timescale, they should keep the Complainant and Respondent informed about the progress of the report with monthly updates and an estimated timescale of the completion of the report”

So, it reads:

“A4.9 As far as is practicable; the investigation report should be completed within two months of the Committee’s decision to investigate. If the investigators are unable to meet this timescale, they should keep the Complainant and Respondent informed about the progress of the report with monthly updates and an estimated timescale of the completion of the report. The report and copies of any evidence and documents gathered during the investigation will be sent to the Complaints Manager. Any new evidence after the finalisation of the report will not be admissible at the disciplinary hearing.”

D10

GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE SELECTION - UPDATE TO RULES

Douglas Rouxel, Anthony Slaughter, Carla Denyer, Laura Eccott, Sian Berry, Andi Mohr, Brian Candeland, Ellie Chowns, John Street, Judy Maciejowska, Kai Taylor, Martin Skelton*

SYNOPSIS

Local parties are selecting General Election candidates ahead of the next election. A recent update of the General Election candidate selection guidance has clarified the process for local parties but this motion aims to make three changes to the bye-laws on General Election candidate selection to improve the process further.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

In Clause 5(xvii) of the constitutional bylaws (Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons)

Replace (9):

“Each nominee must have been a member of the GPEW for at least one year by the last possible date for the election and must hold continuous membership up to the date of the election. However, an exemption from this requirement may be granted by GPRC if at least ten nominating signatures are obtained from fully paid up members resident in the area which the Local Party has agreed as the area from which selection will take place. This could be the constituency or the territory covered by the Local Party (see 3a).”

With a new (9)

“Each nominee must have been a member of the GPEW for at least one year by the internal nomination deadline set by the ERO, to seek nomination as a constituency candidate, and must hold continuous membership up to the date of the election. However, an exemption from this requirement may be granted by GPRC if at least two nominating signatures are

obtained from fully paid up members resident in the area which the Local Party has agreed as the area from which selection will take place. This could be the constituency or the territory covered by the Local Party (see 3a).”

Replace (12, 1):

“A ballot on whether to de-select a Parliamentary candidate will be held if a petition demanding one is supported by at least 20% of the Party members in the territory originally balloted.”

With a new (12, 1):

“A ballot on whether to de-select a Parliamentary candidate will be held if a petition demanding one is supported by a resolution of any local party committee from within the area covered by the constituency, requesting authority from the GPRC on-call members.”

Delete from (12, 4):

‘informing the National Election Agent and’

D11

CHANGING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE IN GPEW INTERNAL ELECTIONS

Jake Welsh, Adam Turner, Adele Ward, Adrian Brian Thompson, Alan Borgars, Astrid Johnson, Barry Parsons, Ben Foley, Billie Nagle, Brian Candeland, Chris Perriam, Darren Yates, Laura Bannister, Lyn Morton, Matt Browne, Neil O'Doherty, Owain Sutton, Patrick McAllister, Pete Johnson, Peter Price, Stephen Caudwell, Thomas Atkin*

SYNOPSIS

This motion will ban members from voting in national internal elections in the first 3 months of their membership. This will ensure that the results of our national internal elections are what our membership want and not influenced by candidates recruiting new members to join just to vote for them.

MOTION

Note from SOC: this motion will require a two-thirds majority in order to pass

In the Constitution add to 17. Elections:

“(v) All Green Party members will be eligible to vote in national elections after they have been a member for a minimum of three months at the close of nominations.”

D12

ADD CONSTITUTION SECTION ON SPOKESPEOPLE

Peter Price; Alexander Catt, Chesca Walton, Clare Andrews, Dan Kittmer, Eleanor Crane, Emma Garnett, Hannah Charlotte Copley, Jacqueline Whitmore, Josh Morris-Blake, Mary Bray-Parry, Martin Osborne, Naomi Bennett*

SYNOPSIS

This motion would add a section on Spokespeople to the constitution. This motion would outline that spokespeople are selected by the party (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s), following their elections. This motion will also outline Spokespeople’s expectations, accountability, etc.

BACKGROUND

This motion would add a section on Spokespeople to the constitution. This motion would outline that spokespeople are selected by the party (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s), following their elections. This motion will also outline Spokespeople’s expectations, accountability, etc.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

Add a new section to the constitution titled Spokespeople.

The content of this section will state:

As a minimum, there shall be a Spokesperson for each post listed below, with the potential for conference to change or add new Spokesperson roles when necessary.

Currently Spokesperson posts are:

- Animal Rights Spokesperson
- Business, Economy and Finance Spokesperson
- Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Spokesperson
- Education Spokesperson
- Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Spokesperson
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Spokesperson
- Energy Spokesperson
- Foreign Affairs and International Development Spokesperson
- Green New Deal Spokesperson
- Health and Social Care Spokesperson
- Housing, Communities and Local Government Spokesperson
- Justice Spokesperson
- Migration and Refugee Support Spokesperson
- Transport Spokesperson
- Wales Spokesperson
- Work and Pensions Spokesperson
- Youth and Student Spokespeople

Spokespeople will be the public faces of the Party, responsible for presenting Green Party policy and promoting its campaigns, relevant to their role, to the public on a daily basis.

The Youth & Student Spokespeople shall be the elected Co-Chairs of the Young Greens of England and Wales, as per the constitution and standing orders of the Young Greens of England and Wales, which takes precedence over the points listed below.

The Wales Spokesperson shall be the elected Wales Green Party Leader, as per the constitution and standing orders of the Wales Green Party, which takes precedence over the points listed below.

Applicants for Spokespeople shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the date of close of applications, shall not be a member of the Green Party Executive, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Applications of candidates must be supported by the

signatures of a minimum of twenty members of the Party.

Spokespeople shall be selected every two years, following Leader and Deputy Leader elections. The selection shall be by the (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) of the Party. Application forms must be submitted within one month of the Leader and Deputy Leader election results announcements. Spokespeople must be selected and announced within one month of the application closing date.

Spokespeople will be accountable to the Party (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s).

Spokespeople, in exercising their duties, will at all times abide by Party policy, the Policies for a Sustainable Society, Philosophical Basis and the Spokesperson Code of Conduct.

Spokespeople will submit an Annual Report which will be made available on the members' website, with a deadline of a week before Autumn Conference.

In the event of ten per cent of the membership or twenty percent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Regional Council, a two-thirds majority of Spokespeople, or a unanimous decision by (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) to recall a Spokesperson, a new selection process for that post only shall be held in which the current post-holder shall not be eligible to apply. The current post-holder will retain their post until the result of that selection.

In the event of the resignation or suspension of a Spokesperson, there will be a new selection by the (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) for that post only. They shall serve a term lasting as if they were starting following the selection of the previous post-holder.

AMENDMENT 1

Tom Franklin, Martin Hemingway, Dee Searle, Will Dyson, Janet Cummings*

To add to the list of spokespeople (in appropriate alphabetic order):

- Climate Emergency
- Peace and defence

AMENDMENT 2

Vivien Lichtenstein, David Zell, Dzaier Neil, Alan Borgars, John Davis, Jessica Goldfinch, Margaret Lewis, Jane Burton*

Add “Disability Spokesperson” to the list “Currently Spokesperson posts are”

D13

ADOPT PROACTIVE STANCE FOR STANDING IN ELECTIONS

Emma Carter; Anna Jackson, Benedict Allbrooke, Danette O’Hara, David Morgan, Douglas Rouxel, Emma Carter, Evie Rouxel, Helen Hitchcock, Jenny Vernon, Kai Taylor, Mae Rouxel, Mary Bray-Parry, Phil Di Palma*

SYNOPSIS

Change constitution to always run in elections.

MOTION

Note from SOC: this motion will require a 2/3 majority in order to pass

In section 3 part b of the constitution:

“b) to that end to win seats at all levels of government;”

Add: Between “to” and “win” insert “run in all possible elections and”

So it reads:

“b) to that end to run in all possible elections and win seats at all levels of government wherever financially and organisationally feasible.”

D14

GREEN PARTY COMMITTEE REFORM AND EXPANSION

Alan Borgars, Ann Williams, Anne Johnson, Clive Lord, Freda Davis, Jenny Ross, Karen Kruzycka, Kate Souper, Morven magari, Rachel Western, Sarah Blenkinsop, Sarra Earl*

SYNOPSIS

Given the wide-ranging remit of conference committees, in particular the Standing Orders Committee, all members should be able to vote for these committee, not just those who have the time and money to register for and attend Autumn Conference. Furthermore, committee membership should increase to accommodate the fact that GPEW

Note from SOC: Synopsis word limit reached.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This requires a two-thirds majority in order to pass.

Add a new article 9 subsection e) of the GPEW constitution, which reads:

“All members of Standing Orders Committee, Campaigns Committee, Conferences Committee, Disputes Resolution Committee, Equality & Diversity Committee, Green World Editorial Board, and International Committee.”

Within article 10 iii) (of the GPEW constitution) replace the words “Conference shall elect” with “There shall be”.

Delete the current article 10 iv) and replace with a new article 10 iv) that reads:

“The SOC shall consist of not more than seven members elected by the Annual Ballot. Members of SOC cannot be members of the Green Party Executive, Green Party Regional Council, or Disciplinary Committee.”

Within article 10 xii) a) delete the first paragraph and replace with:

“seven members at the Annual Ballot, to serve until the next Annual Ballot, with vacancies to be filled by co-option.”

Delete the current article 14 ii) and replace with a new article 14 ii) which reads:

“The Campaigns Committee shall comprise seven members elected by the Annual Ballot, with vacancies to be filled by co-option.”

Delete the current article 15 ii) and replace with a new article 15 ii) which reads:

“The International Committee shall comprise seven members elected by the Annual Ballot, with vacancies to be filled by co-option.”

Delete the first paragraph of article 16 iv) and replace with:

“The Green World Editorial Board shall comprise seven members elected by the Annual Ballot.”

Delete the first paragraph of article 18 ii) and replace with a new article 18 ii) which reads:

“The Disputes Resolution Committee shall comprise seven members elected by the Annual Ballot, with vacancies to be filled by co-option.”

Delete article 19 ii) and replace with a new article 19 ii) which reads:

“The Equality & Diversity Committee shall comprise seven members elected by the Annual Ballot, with vacancies to be filled by co-option.”

D15

REOPEN NOMINATIONS TO AVOID ALL MEN AND ALL WHITE INTERNAL ELECTIONS

Nate Higgins, Alexander Catt, Alina Baczynska, Catherine Goodman, Chloë Goldsmith, Chris Brooks, Danette O'Hara, Dr John D Howard, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Eloise Speight, Gavin Andrews,*

Hannah Charlotte Copley, Joe Levy, John D Howard, Jon Dalladay, Jordan Stokes Kefentse Dennis, Lauren James, Louise Griffiths, Luke Chapman, Matt Rogan, Melanie Earpy, Michael Lynskey, Nancy Schumann, Nathan Woolfrey, Olli Watkins, Philippa Fleming, Rachel Wilson, Richard Winch, Rob Callender, Robert Irving, Robert Skedgell, Roderik Gonggrijp, Terrence Stamp, Ross Warren

SYNOPSIS

The separate election for Deputy Leader in 2022 identified a gap in our gender balancing rules leading to no women being on the ballot. This motion corrects that for all roles elected in the Annual Ballot.

MOTION

SOC notes: this motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

In Section 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot), amend Clause 9(iii) which currently reads:

“The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner.”

So that it reads:

“The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall open at 10.00 on the first week-day in June and close at noon on the last week-day in June. Where there are posts where there is not at least one valid nomination from candidates who are women or gender diverse, noting that gender is self-determined, or there is not at least one valid nomination from candidates who are people of colour, nominations will reopen for these posts. In this scenario, nominations must reopen within 3 working days of nominations closing, and must remain open for at least one full week. In this extended nomination period, nominations will only be accepted from candidates who fit the criteria leading to the reopening of nominations. Voting shall close on receipt of the last post on the last week-day of August or five week-days before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever

is the sooner.”

D16

CHANGES TO GPEX

Adrian Spurrell, Adrian Ramsay, Andrew Bradbury, Anne Gayfer, Douglas Rouxel, Ewan Jones, John Matthews, Jordan Stokes, Judy Maciejowska, Martha James, Richard Bradley, Sam Riches, Steve Leyland*

Green Party Regional Council

SYNOPSIS

This motion reflects suggestions made by members in consultation with Party Structure Working Group to make GPEX smaller and simplify it.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass. If passed, changes will come into effect from the Annual Ballots of 2023 & 2024 as relevant.

Amend Clause 7 in the constitution as follows to:

- Clarify the separation of duties as they affect other constituted bodies (7i);
- Reduce the number of members of GPEX to 7, removing the coordinator and Trades Unions representatives (7ii), whose committees will be accountable to an assigned member of GPEX;
- To require a forward plan to be presented to conference (7xvii);

Other parts of clause 7 are substantially unamended, except where they are affected by the above.

GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE

- i) There shall be a Green Party Executive (hereinafter referred to as the Party Executive or GPEX) which shall be responsible for the overall and day-to-day direction of the Party. Certain duties and responsibilities are reserved to other

Party bodies specified in this Constitution, in particular Conference, Standing Orders Committee, Green Party Regional Council, Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. The authority of the Executive does not extend over those reserved duties and responsibilities.

- ii) The Party Executive shall consist of Leader plus Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders, Wales Green Party Leader, the co-chairs of the Young Greens as a job share and additional members to the following functional positions, elected to serve for two years:
 - (1) Chair;
 - (2) Treasurer;
 - (3) Seven ordinary members.
- iii) Elections for the GPEX Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary member posts shall be by a ballot of all members of the party with voting included within the Annual Ballot. The Chair and Treasurer shall be elected in one year in individual ballots by instant run off, at the same time as the Leader(s) plus Deputy Leader(s), and the ordinary members in the next year by a seven-seat single transferable vote, so that the two year terms of the two groups are staggered.
- iv) Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out in 7 i), 7 xvi) and elsewhere in section 7, within one month of the election of the Ordinary Members, GPEX will set out what their areas of responsibility are such that between the Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary Members, GPEX takes accountability for all sub-committees of GPEX and their individual accountabilities are aligned to the staff structures responsibilities using an appropriate methodology, to ensure an appropriate workload and that the skills within the Party Executive are matched to these responsibilities.
- v) Procedures for the election of Leader and Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders of the Green Party and their duties and responsibilities are outlined in Section 8 of this Constitution.

- vi) Candidates for the GPEX Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary Members shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPRC members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.
- vii) Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one GPEX post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader(s).
- viii) The Party Executive shall meet as necessary and at least once every six weeks.
- ix) A quorum of the Party Executive shall comprise a majority of its membership eligible to vote.
- x) The Party Executive may from time to time create such sub-committees as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition at least annually, retaining responsibility for the conduct of such sub-committees and accounting for the conduct of those sub-committees to the Annual Conference. Any such sub-committee shall include at least one member of the Regional Council.
- xi) The Party Executive shall appoint the following posts:
 - (1) a National Election Agent;
 - (2) a Panel of Speakers, who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy
- (3) In addition the Party Executive may create such posts as it considers necessary.
- xii) The Executive shall elect from among its elected members a deputy chair, to assist the chair in their 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 and by the end of November each year.
- xiii) By a two-thirds majority of its membership eligible to vote the Party Executive may suspend from office any member of the Party Executive, if there is evidence of sustained conduct which in the opinion of the Party Executive is against the interests of the Party, subject to any decision of the Regional Council under Clause 6(xii) and subject to the right of such a member to appeal.
- xiv) In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Regional Council to recall the GPEX Chair, Treasurer or Ordinary Member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.
- xv) In the event of casual vacancy (i.e. one not arising in the normal electoral cycle) for a GPEX Chair, Treasurer or Ordinary Member a replacement shall be appointed in an acting and non-voting capacity by the Party Executive until the next ballot is held.
- xvi) The responsibilities of the Party Executive shall include the following at the national level:
 - (1) to implement the decisions of the Annual Conference;
 - (2) to ensure the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of the funds of the Party;
 - (3) to act as the Green Party's employer of Green Party staff;
 - (4) to keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Regional Council and make available to the membership of the Party;

- (5) to present a full written report on its activities and on the financial state of the Party to the Annual Conference;
- (6) to present to the Annual Conference a plan for intended activities for the next 12 months xvii) The Chair, and other Executive members that the Regional Council may from time to time invite shall attend every meeting of the Regional Council to report on the work of the Party Executive, without prejudice to Clause 6(xiii).

Amend Clause 14: Campaigning, to make consistent the relationship with GPEx in light of the changes made to GPEx above, so it reads:

“CAMPAIGNING

- 1. There shall be a Green Party Campaigns sub-committee (hereafter called the Campaigns Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of GPEx as set out in 7 iv, and shall be responsible for organising campaigning, consistent with the Objects and Aims set out in part 3.
- 2. The Campaigns Committee shall include 5 members elected at the Annual Conference, with vacancies to be filled by election, or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- 3. The role of the Campaigns Committee link with the Comms team and refer to the Political Strategy and Pol Comm in order to review, evaluate, prioritise, plan and develop materials for campaigns
- 4. The Campaigns Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference.
- 5. The Campaigns Committee is a sub-committee of GPEx.”

Amend Clause 15 International Committee, to make consistent the relationship with GPEx in light of the changes made to GPEx above, and to remove repetition in the current constitution and to require a report to be made annually at conference so it reads:

“INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be a Green Party International sub-committee (hereafter called the International Committee) which shall be

- convened by a specified member of GPEx as set out in 7 iv.
- 2. The International Committee shall include 5 members elected at Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- 3. The role of the International Committee shall be to support the work of GPEx and organise the International work of the party . This includes, among other things, having responsibility, along with the international co-ordinator, for the selection of delegates and / or representatives to meetings of fellow Green parties and groupings of Green parties worldwide.
- 4. The International Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference.
- 5. The International Committee is a sub-committee of GPEx.”

Amend Clause 19 Equalities and Diversity Committee, to make consistent the relationship with GPEx, in light of the changes made to GPEx above, so it reads:

“EQUALITIES EQUITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EEDI) COMMITTEE

- 1. There shall be a Green Party Equalities Equity Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee (hereafter called the EEDI Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of GPEx as set out in 7 iv.
- 2. The EEDI Committee shall include 5 members elected by Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co- option to be ratified at an intervening conference.
- 3. The EEDI Committee shall also include a representative of each group that is recognised as a Members Working Group by the EEDI Committee.
- 4. The EEDI Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference.
- 5. The role of the EEDI Committee shall be to support the work of GPEx to improve Equalities Equity Diversity and Inclusion within the Green Party.”

AMENDMENT 1

Adrian Spurrell, John Street, Kieran Turner, Richard Bradley, Steve Leyland, Martha James, Jon Nott*

In Clause 7 iv insert

the party's relations with the Trade Unions,
after 'accountability for all sub-committees of GPEx',
So it reads:

7 iv) Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out in 7 i), 7 xvi) and elsewhere in section 7, within one month of the election of the Ordinary Members, GPEx will set out what their areas of responsibility are such that between the Chair, Treasurer and Ordinary Members, GPEx takes accountability for all sub-committees of GPEx, the party's relations with the Trade Unions, and their individual accountabilities are aligned to the staff structures and responsibilities using an appropriate methodology, to ensure an appropriate workload and that the skills within the Party Executive are matched to these responsibilities. In Clause 7 xvi insert a new clause g) that reads: g) to lead the party's relations with the Trade Unions.

AMENDMENT 2

Adrian Spurrell, John Street, Peter Sims, Richard Bradley, Steve Leyland, Martha James, Jon Nott*

In Clause 14 iii replace

The role of the Campaigns Committee link with the Comms team and refer to the Political Strategy and Pol Comm in order to review, evaluate, prioritise, plan and develop materials for campaigns

With:

The role of the Campaigns Committee shall be to support and enhance agreed messaging and lobbying related to parliamentary and local council campaigns designed to change the law and policies in pursuit of the Political Strategy; and to give local Green Parties and individual members opportunities and resources to take part in non-electoral campaigns on issues of local and national importance.

AMENDMENT 3

Evelyn Leslie, Michal Chantowski, Elise Benjamin, Frank Sheridan, Mirka Virtanen*

Additional point after point 3:

International Committee members will elect one committee member (or two as a job share) to be the first point of contact for international work within the party and internationally. They will be known as the International Convenor(s). The International Convenor(s) will have responsibility and delegated authority to liaise with international Green Parties and organisations to further develop relationships with them, in particular with the European Green Party, the Global Greens Network and our sister parties in the UK. The international convenor will report to the specified member of GPEx as set out in 7.1v.

AMENDMENT 4

Matthew Hull, Peter Price, Sam Alston, Natalia Kubica, Rosie Rawle, Seb Cousins, Jake Welsh, Robert Magowan, David Zell*

Amend 7. ii) so that it reads: "ii) *The Party Executive shall consist of Leader plus Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders, Wales Green Party Leader, the co-chairs of the Young Greens as a job share and additional members to the following functional positions, elected to serve for two years:*

a) Chair; b) Treasurer; c) Seven ordinary members; d) Trade Union Liaison Officer."

Amend 7. iii) so that it reads: "iii) *Elections for the GPEx Chair, Treasurer*, Trade Union Liaison Officer** and Ordinary member posts shall be by a ballot of all members of the party with voting included within the Annual Ballot. The Chair**, Trade Union Liaison Officer** and Treasurer shall be elected in one year in individual ballots by instant run off, at the same time as the Leader(s) plus Deputy Leader(s), and the ordinary members in the next year by a seven-seat single transferable vote, so that the two year terms of the two groups are staggered.*"*

Amend 7. iv) so that it reads: "iv) *Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out in 7 i), 7 xvi) and elsewhere in section 7, within one month of the election of the Ordinary Members, GPEx will set out what their areas of responsibility are such that between the Chair, Treasurer*, Trade Union Liaison Officer** and Ordinary Members, GPEx takes accountability for all sub-committees of GPEx and*

their individual accountabilities are aligned to the staff structures responsibilities using an appropriate methodology, to ensure an appropriate workload and that the skills within the Party Executive are matched to these responsibilities.*”

Amend 7. vi) so that it reads: “vi) Candidates for the GPEX Chair, Treasurer*, Trade Union Liaison Officer** and Ordinary Members shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the Green Party of England and Wales. Or, if they have been a member for a minimum of one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations, their nomination must be supported by a majority of GPRC members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.*”

Amend 7. xiv) so that it reads: “xiv) In the event of twenty per cent of constituted Local Parties petitioning the Regional Council to recall the GPEX Chair, Treasurer*, Trade Union Liaison Officer** or Ordinary Member, such a member shall be under suspension until a new ballot has been held for that post at a date to be determined by the Regional Council.*”

Amend 7. xv) so that it reads: “xv) In the event of casual vacancy (i.e. one not arising in the normal electoral cycle) for a GPEX Chair, Treasurer*, Trade Union Liaison Officer** or Ordinary Member a replacement shall be appointed in an acting and non-voting capacity by the Party Executive until the next ballot is held.*”

Amend 7. xvi) so that it reads: “xvi) The responsibilities of the Party Executive shall include the following at the national level:

a) to implement the decisions of the Annual Conference; b) to ensure the proper expenditure, administration, and raising of the funds of the Party; c) to act as the Green Party’s employer of Green Party staff; d) to keep records of its business, which it shall provide to the Regional Council and make available to the membership of the Party; e) to present a full written report on its activities and on the financial state of the Party to the Annual Conference; f) to present to the Annual Conference a plan for intended activities for the next 12 months; g) **guided by the Trade Union Liaison Officer, to supervise the Party’s**

relationship with trade unions and the labour movement”

AMENDMENT 5

Matthew Hull, Peter Price, Jon Nott, Sam Alston, Natalia Kubica, Seb Cousins, Jake Welsh, Robert Magowan, David Zell*

In D05 Changes to GPEX, add the following at the bottom of the motion:

“Add new Clause 16, renumbering other clauses in the constitution as needed, to create a Trade Union Liaison Committee to coordinate the Party’s relationship with the trades union movement and other workers’ organisations:

1. TRADE UNION LIAISON COMMITTEE

i. There shall be a Green Party Trade Union Liaison sub-committee (hereafter called the Trade Union Liaison Committee) which shall be convened by the Trade Union Liaison Officer should one exist, and failing that by a specified member of GPEX as set out in 7 iv.

ii. The Trade Union Liaison Committee shall include 5 members elected at Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference.

iii. The role of the Trade Union Liaison Committee shall be to support the work of GPEX and coordinate and strengthen the Party’s work with the trade union movement and other workers’ organisations.

iv. The Trade Union Liaison Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference.

v. The Trade Union Liaison Committee is a sub-committee of GPEX.”

D17

ABOLISH NO-FAULT SUSPENSIONS

Peter Barnett; Ann Williams, Claudine Letsae, Clive Lord, Eric Walker, Heather Jargus-Brown,*

*John Somerville, Karen Oliver, Kerri Edmondsdon,
Mandy Vere, Rachel Hardy, Rachel Western*

SYNOPSIS

No-Fault Suspensions have damaged the reputation of the Party's complaints system and traumatised its members. Under a No-Fault Suspension a member is banned from all Party activity including local, regional, national events, Conference, campaigning, electioneering - before an hearing has occurred to determine whether allegations of misconduct have substance.

MOTION

Conference recognises the harm caused by No Fault Suspensions and calls on the Party to completely abandon their use in the complaints process. There follows some instructions on the removal of references to No-Fault Suspensions from GPEW documents. This is unlikely to be comprehensive.

AMENDMENTS TO SOPD

Delete Paragraph 3.3.

In paragraph 3.6 delete the words No-Fault and (as per 3.3) in the penultimate sentence.

In paragraph 4.1 delete the following sentence:

"In cases where GPRC have imposed a No-Fault Suspension, the case will be prioritised."

In the footnotes of the SOPD remove item #6 and renumber.

On the DC Complaint Form – remove reference to No-Fault Suspension option

Within the document: Complaints Process Step by Step - Remove section titled: "Where a complaint requests immediate suspension of the respondent, the following occurs".

D18

PATHFINDER MOTION

Adrian Spurrell, Anne Gayfer, Clare Bonetree,
Douglas Rouxel, Ewan Jones, Judy Maciejowska,*

*Martha James, Richard Bradley, Sam Riches,
Vivien Lichtenstein*

Green Party Regional Council

SYNOPSIS

This motion is proposed as a result of the work undertaken by the Party Structure Working Group and seeks to coalesce consensus from conference around a desired end state that will inform a series of motion to be brought to the next two conferences. The proposals seek to balance a bottom up led movement with political agility.

MOTION

Conference instructs that the Green Party Executive (GPEX) and the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) work together to bring a series of motions to the next two conferences that will change the party's constitution and structure to deliver the following changes:

LEGAL FORM:

The central office, the regions and Wales will become one company limited by shares. The shareholders will be the party members with the shares held on their behalf by nominees. The nominees will be the Green Party Regional Council members. The Green Party of England and Wales will then be the existing association of local parties combined with the new incorporated company.

MEMBERSHIP.

Individuals would join their local party and through that also become a shareholder in the limited company, where their membership rights can be exercised either directly or through the Council – their nominees.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES.

The company will not register as a cooperative, but cooperative principles will be woven into the Memorandum and Association of Incorporation of the company.

LOCAL PARTIES.

Local parties will remain unaffected by the changes, though the Regional Council working with the regional/Wales offices will work to ensure there is a consistent and robust constitution for all local parties.

There will be a short list of requirements for local parties in order to be recognised as such, thereafter local parties will have freedom to act as they wish. The rights and responsibilities of local parties would be codified more clearly as part of a Party-wide drive for improved clarity and conformity, though local parties would ultimately remain responsible for their own constitutions.

Regions / Wales will be formally constituted as geographic hubs of activity, specifically focussed on delivering the political strategy. Their relationship to the central governance structures of the party would be to provide essential feedback on the achievability and resource and support needed to deliver on the political strategy, and they will in turn receive support, guidance and strategic direction from the central governance of the party to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to delivering the party strategy. Regions would continue to be run by a committee made up of a members voted by the regional / Welsh membership. Regions will have a local support fund that they are allowed to use to support local parties at the discretion of the local committee. They will also provide training and share best practice among the local parties within their area; and will run for a to encourage political debate. Wales will retain its autonomy to create local policy.

BOARD.

The new company will be managed by a Board elected by the party members. The board will consist of 9 people – the Chair, Party Treasurer and 7 others plus the CEO and one other senior staff member as voting members. The Leadership team, the Leader of Wales, the Co-chairs of Council and the Co-chairs of the Young Greens will all be non-voting members of the Board. The Board will be responsible for the operational running of the party turning the political strategy into action through the staff team and out to the regional/Wales parties, and will be the employer of all staff. The Chair and Treasurer will each be elected separately by instant run off; the seven ordinary members in one single election using single transferable vote. The elections for the leadership team (the (co) leader (s) and deputy leader (s)); the Chair and Treasurer; and the ordinary members will take place in different years. The term of Board members will be three years. Any member of the party, except for employed staff, will be eligible to stand but the Council will also provide a list of members who they have assessed as being competent to be a Board member for the company. Change in

Standing Orders (Articles) needs to be signed off by Council

COUNCIL.

Council will be increased to 36 people. Each council member's term will be for 3 years and 12 people will be elected every year, using single transferable vote. Any member will be eligible to stand. The leadership team, the leader of Wales, and the co-chairs of the Young Greens will all be voting members of the Council. The Chair and Treasurer of the Board, plus the CEO will be non-voting members of the Council. The Council will be responsible for the political direction of the party and will have oversight of the Board. The co-chairs of the Council will be elected annual by the Council. Change in Standing Orders needs to be signed off by Conference

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The council and the board will both separately report to the AGM/Conference on their activities in the past year, specifically identifying:

- Their achievements against the current political strategy
- The actions they took to deliver the previous year's plan approved by conference and against the motions which tasked them with taking actions from either conference
- Any petitions which have been made to them in the interim. The council and the board will propose plans of work which they will oversee and provide an overview of the plans for the next year's work at every Autumn Conference. There will be a petition mechanism to require the board or council to either provide an explanation, to change direction or start taking a specific action on an issue. This will have a number of built in trigger points to be considered based on the number of people engaging with the petition. The meetings of the council will be open to all party members, there will be regular online dialogues with party members by representatives of both the council and the board. There will be clear lines of communication in order to lobby members of the council with issues of concern. All members of the council and board will be able to be recalled and replaced via a petition with a reasonable and achievable level of support as well as the technical platform in order to do so.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

The two major constituent roles of SOC are split into two. There will be a Standing Orders Committee tasked with interpreting the constitution and relevant standing orders created under it. This will report to the council on its decisions as they are made for their dissemination, send all rulings to the CEO, and be accountable to conference for them in a specific report. This will be made up of at least 5 people elected in a single block for a 2 year term through single transferable vote in addition to a non-voting member of the council. There will be a Conference Resolution Board which takes on the stewarding of the agenda process for each conference. The committee is made up of at least 5 people who have attended at least 2 conferences in the last 3 years, elected in a single block for a 1 year term using Single Transferable Vote.

POLICY.

There are no proposals to change the policy process as part of this motion.

However, Policy Development Committee (PDC) will become a joint committee of the board and council – with the board managing the maintenance of our policy library and the policy process, with Council indicating policy priorities. As at present the Council will be able to make interim policy statement, subject to agreement from the relevant policy working group, for subsequent ratification at conference, e.g. statements on specific issues arising in contemporary politics or the publication of the manifesto. Political Committee will become a sub-committee of the Council. Policy Development Committee would still authorise and monitor policy working groups, though as with other groups of common interest, the rights and responsibilities of Policy Working Groups (PWG) would vary by size and governance of the relevant PWG.

STANDING COMMITTEES

There will be a number of standing committees with membership directly elected, as at present, however, they will be subcommittees of the following governing bodies:

- Equalities Equity Diversity and Inclusion – Joint Board and Council
- International – Council
- Policy Development Committee – Joint Board and Council
- Finance and HR Committee – Board

- Campaigns Committee – Joint Board and Council
- Disciplinary Committee and Alternative Disciplinary Committee will remain independent bodies reporting directly to conference.

GROUPS OF COMMON INTEREST.

The recognition of such groups will be dealt with via a specific subcommittee of the Council, and as the groups grow in the representation and organisational capacity they will be afforded increased rights and responsibilities according to a defined system. As an example – all recognised groups, no matter how small, would be able to request space to meet at conference, but only groups with a certain level of engagement from members would be afforded the ability to propose motions as a group. This would provide an opportunity to build capacity in these groups as well as supporting them to target their efforts towards the strategic goals of the party at that time. The Young Greens would be recognised as the official youth wing of the Party.

POLITICAL DEALS.

We would remain a principles led party, and any political deals will be agreed at the most appropriate level, with all Westminster agreements being overseen by the Council in dialogue with the relevant stakeholders in the local and regional / national parties.

The wording of the documentation should be designed to make it accessible to all members and encourage good governance. There will also be a requirement for the company to look at Directors and Officers Insurance and to progress this if financially viable. Where the intent of the motion cannot be met due to current legislation practical amends that deliver the same intent will be acceptable.

AMENDMENT 1

Adrian Spurrell, John Street, Peter Sims, Richard Bradley, Steve Leyland, Martha James, Jon Nott*

In Clause 6 insert

plus two non-voting members of staff after elected by the party members

In Clause 6 change 9 to 11

In Clause 6 insert

as voting members after 7 others

In Clause 6 insert 'non-' before voting in 'plus the CEO and one other senior staff member as voting members'

So the first paragraph reads:

6) The new company will be managed by a Board elected by the party members plus two non-voting members of staff. The board will consist of 11 people – the Chair, Party Treasurer and 7 others as voting members, plus the CEO and one other senior staff member as non-voting members.

AMENDMENT 2

Adrian Spurrell, John Street, Richard Bradley, Martha James, Jon Nott*

In Clause 7 change:

36 to 30

Delete:

and 12 people will be elected every year, using single transferable vote

and add in:

three from each region and Wales. One member for each region and Wales will be elected every year in a regional instant run off election as part of the annual ballot. Only members for each region or Wales will be eligible to vote for their respective council member.

Delete:

and 12 people will be elected every year, using single transferable vote

Add after: Any member will be eligible to stand

unless that will mean all the councillors from the region / Wales are the same gender identity, in which case only members whose gender identity differs from the sitting councillors can stand.

So the first paragraph reads:

7) Council will be increased to 30 people, three from each region and Wales. One member for each region and Wales will be elected every year in a regional instant run off election as part of the annual ballot. Only members for each region or Wales will be eligible

to vote for their respective council member. Each council member's term will be for 3 years. Any member will be eligible to stand unless that will mean all the councillors from the region / Wales are the same gender identity, in which case only members whose gender identity differs from the sitting councillors can stand.

AMENDMENT 3

Adrian Spurrell, John Street, Richard Bradley, Andrew Bradbury, Martha James, Jon Nott*

In Clause 7 change:

36 to 30

Delete:

and 12 people will be elected every year, using single transferable vote

and add in:

two from each region and Wales plus 10 designated seats for liberation groups. One member for each region and Wales will be elected in sequential years in a regional / Welsh instant run off election as part of the annual ballot and there will be no regional / Welsh election in the third year. Only members for each region or Wales will be eligible to vote for their respective council member.

Delete:

and 12 people will be elected every year, using single transferable vote

Add after: Any member will be eligible to stand unless that will mean all the councillors for a region / Wales are the same gender identity, in which case only members whose gender identity differs from the sitting councillors can stand. In the third year there will be elections for 10 representatives from the liberation groups subject to a formula to be decided.

So the first paragraph reads:

7) Council will be increased to 30 people, two from each region and Wales plus 10 designated seats for liberation groups. One member for each region and Wales will be elected in sequential years in a regional / Welsh instant run off election as part of the annual ballot and there will be no regional / Welsh election in

the third year. Only members for each region or Wales will be eligible to vote for their respective council member. Each council member's term will be for 3 years. Any member will be eligible to stand unless that will mean all the councillors from the region/Wales are the same gender identity, in which case only members whose gender identity differs from the sitting councillors can stand. In the third year there will be elections for 10 representatives from the liberation groups subject to a formula to be decided.

AMENDMENT 4

Matthew Hull, Peter Price, Jon Nott, Alexander Sallons, Sam Alston, Natalia Kubica, Rosie Rawle, Seb Cousins, Jake Welsh, Robert Magowan, David Zell*

after "Political Deals. We would remain a principles led party, and any political deals will be agreed at the most appropriate level, with all Westminster agreements being overseen by the Council in dialogue with the relevant stakeholders in the local and regional / national parties."

Insert: "Conference further instructs that the Green Party Executive (GPEx) and the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) launch a review of the representation of trade unions and the trade union movement within the structures of the Green Party of England & Wales. The review will be coordinated by the Trade Union Liaison Officer, and shall be conducted in close communication with and with direct input from the Green Party Trade Union Group. The review shall involve consultation both of Party members, and of trade union members, officials and leaderships from across the trade union movement. Notwithstanding other provisions of this motion, the proceeds of this review shall be incorporated faithfully into the aforementioned series of motions brought to the next two conferences that will change the party's constitution and structure."

D19

SOC MOTION - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RE LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Rachel Collinson, Tim Kiely*, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Ash Routh*

Standing Orders Committee

SYNOPSIS

The resignation of one of the Party's Co-Leaders in 2021 exposed faults in the current provision for leadership by-elections. This amendment clarifies when a by-election should be held and details when the new term of office shall run to.

MOTION

SOC notes: This will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

Clause 8(xi) of the Constitution currently states:

"If there are Co-leaders and one of the Co-Leaders resigns, there will be a by-election for both Co-Leaders. If there are two deputy leaders, should one of the deputy leaders resign, there will be a by-election for both deputy leaders. They shall serve a term lasting as if they were starting following the result of the previous Annual Ballot, or if held after May, lasting as if it were starting following the result of the next Annual Ballot."

Delete final sentence and substitute:

"If the by-election process is started (i.e. the call for nominations goes out) such that it can be completed (i.e. the result declared) on or before the 1st of May in the second year of the current two-year term, the person or persons elected shall serve until the scheduled end of that term: if the process cannot be completed on or before that date, no by-election shall take place and clause 8(xii) shall apply until the result of the next scheduled Annual Ballot. Any by-election for the position of Leader or Co-Leaders will not impact the term of the current Deputy Leader(s), except that nobody may be both Leader/Co-Leader and Deputy Leader simultaneously. In the event of a by-election under this clause, there may temporarily be only one Deputy Leader alongside a single Leader where a single Leader succeeds Co-Leaders, or two Deputy Leaders alongside Co-Leaders where Co-Leaders succeed a single Leader. This will only occur until the next regularly scheduled election."

D20

SOC MOTION – SOCC AMENDMENT FOR CONFERENCE REFORM

Rachel Collinson, Tim Kiely*, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Ash Routh, Josh Morris-Blake, Seraphin Stafford-Townsend*

Standing Orders Committee

SYNOPSIS

Autumn 2020 Conference tasked SOC with reforming the proxy voting system. Proxy voting effectively gives some members more votes than others, but removing proxy voting raises issues about the accessibility of Conference. SOC believes post-plenary voting on motions would allow both removal of proxy voting and enable greater accessibility.

MOTION

SOC notes: see Appendix for background paper to this motion

SECTION 1 - REMOVAL OF VOTING FROM PLENARY EXCEPT FOR PROCEDURAL MOTIONS & REMOVAL OF PROXY VOTING

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference:

Delete G5.5

("G5.5 Members registered to vote remotely will be able to act as proxy holders for the days for which they are registered.")

and renumber subsequent clauses appropriately.

Delete G5.6 ("G5.6 Members registered to vote remotely will not be able to grant proxies for the days for which they are registered.") & renumber subsequent clauses appropriately.

In H5.2, delete "“that the motion be not put” to the vote or" so that the new H5.2 reads:

"H5.2 Any procedural motion that curtails debate on a motion or an amendment, for example “to move to a vote”, “to move next business” and “the motion be

put” to the vote shall not be accepted by the chairperson if a) there have been less than 2 speeches in favour and there are still members wishing to speak for the motion or amendment, or b) there have been less than 2 speeches against and there are still members wishing to speak against the motion or amendment."

In H5.3, after the final sentence add "Procedural motions can not prevent a motion from being put into the Conference Ballot, excepting a procedural motion from its proposer to withdraw the motion" so that the new H5.3 reads:

"H5.3 Procedural motions that curtail debate require a two-thirds majority. Other procedural motions require a simple majority. Procedural motions can not prevent a motion from being put into the Conference Ballot, excepting a procedural motion from a the motion's proposer to withdraw their motion."

In H8 Fast Tracking, delete "c) Fast tracking will not take place if ten or more members present vote against the proposal. If ten or more members object to the fast tracking the motion will be ordered into its original position on the agenda." and renumber clauses accordingly.

In H8 Fast Tracking, replace "d) Fast tracked motions will be voted on directly after the SOC report" with "c) Fast tracked motions will be voted on as part of that plenary's Conference Ballot"

Insert the following new section H9 & renumber subsequent sections accordingly:

"H9 Conference Ballots

H9.1 At the end of each plenary session, a Conference Ballot will open to allow voting on the motions moved during that plenary. A one week period will be allowed for voting on amendments to motions. Following this, the Ballot will re-open with motions as amended for a further one week period. Motions for which there are no amendments will be voted on in the first week.

H9.2 For each motion in the Ballot, an STV election will be held with the options:

- a) accept
- b) reject
- c) refer back

Option c) will not be available for Reports.

H9.3 For each amendment to a motion in the Ballot, an election will be held with the options accept or reject.

H9.4 Registered attendees to Conference will automatically be registered for Conference Ballots. Any other member of the Party may register for the Conference Ballots provided they have been members for 3 months preceding the start of Conference.

H9.5 The Conference Ballots will be run by the ERO appointed by SOC.

H9.6 Motions to amend the Constitution at and by Conference, to amend the Philosophical Basis of the Party at and by Conference, Enabling Motions, and to grant exceptional powers to GPRC, and all votes while Section A of Standing Orders has been suspended, require a two-thirds majority to pass. All other motions at Conference require only a simple majority, including amendments to motions and motions delegating the power to amend the constitution or Philosophical Basis of the Party to the membership through a ballot.

H9.7 In determining majorities, the majority required must be obtained as a majority of votes for over votes against."

In the current H9, insert new clause a) & renumber subsequent clauses accordingly:

"a) Attendees and registered voters at Conference will be able to vote on such procedural motions as arise in the course of debate. Voting on amendments and motions themselves will take place in the Conference Ballots, with the exception of the SOC Report which is considered ahead of Conference as per F7.1."

In the current H9, delete:

H9.1.d) ("d) Motions to amend the Constitution at and by Conference, to amend the Philosophical Basis of the Party at and by Conference, Enabling Motions, and to grant exceptional powers to GPRC, and all votes while Section A of Standing Orders has been suspended, require a two-thirds majority of attendees. All other motions at conference require only a simple majority, including amendments to motions and motions delegating the power to amend the constitution or Philosophical Basis of the Party to the membership through a ballot.")

H9.3 ("H9.3 In determining majorities, the majority required must be obtained as a majority of votes for over votes against.")

H9.4 ("H9.4 Conference may appoint scrutineers to assist SOC in the counting of plenary votes.")

Delete H10 Ballot card votes and voting by proxy

Replace H11.1 ("H11.1 Plenary sessions shall be recorded and livestreamed where possible. Workshops may be livestreamed.") with new H11.1:

"H11.1 Plenary session must be recorded, and shall be livestreamed where possible. Workshops may be livestreamed."

In H11.4, delete "Those who have given a proxy as in H10 may advise their proxy how to vote, in real time, if a ballot card vote is called for."

so that the new H11.4 reads:

"H11.4 Members who are not attending the Conference venue may participate in plenaries at the discretion of the plenary chair, if this facility has been made available. Participating members may be required to book and pay a fee."

Replace H13.1:

("H13.1 All voting during the suspension of these Standing Orders requires a two-thirds majority and only Section D: Agenda deadlines can be suspended. All voting during the suspension shall be as laid down in H9 and H10.")

with new H13.1:

"H13.1 All votes on procedural motions heard during the suspension of these Standing Orders require a two-thirds majority and only Section D: Agenda deadlines can be suspended."

In H13.7, delete "by vote or otherwise", so that the new H13.7 reads:

"H13.7 Immediately the business is disposed of Section D of Standing Orders is deemed to be in force without further vote."

In Appendix A: The Policy Process, Section 6 Voting Papers, clause j, replace "A vote will then be taken on the motion to accept the VP and insert it in PSS." with "The motion will then go into the Conference Ballot

for that plenary, and inserted into the PSS if approved." so that the new clause j reads:

"j) At the Conference, the Committee will ensure the VP is debated in one or more workshops. The workshop(s) will consider the VP as a whole, and those amendments in order. The VP will at the same Conference be debated in plenary session. This session will receive a report from the workshop, including a report on the debate on each amendment considered. The plenary session will debate the VP and the amendments of it according to the usual procedure. The motion will then go into the Conference Ballot for that plenary, and inserted into the PSS if approved."

SECTION 2 - ADJUSTMENTS TO PUBLICATION, CONSIDERATION, AND PASSING OF THE SOC REPORT

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference:

In E5.2, replace "conference during" with "amendment to" so that the new E5.2 reads:

"E5.2 If the decision to split a motion is overturned by amendment to the SOC report, the original single motion will be heard as a whole and reordered into the agenda in place of the highest prioritised part motion."

Replace E6.3 ("E6.3 At the appropriate place in the agenda, SOC will put the composite motion to Conference for acceptance or rejection and it shall be accepted or rejected on a simple majority. In the event of a rejection of the composite, the individual motions shall be voted upon in an order to be determined by SOC subject to approval by Conference.") with:

"E6.3 The composite motion will be placed in the agenda immediately before the highest ranking of the single motions included in the composite. If the composite motion is overturned by amendment to the SOC Report, then it shall be removed from the agenda."

in E7.3, replace "a vote on" with "an amendment to" so that the new E7.3 reads:

"E7.3 If a motion is recommended by SOC as Out of Order in the First Agenda, the reasons shall be stated. An amendment can be submitted to SOC during the Final Agenda stage by four of the co-proposers to

correct the fault/s. If SOC considers that the coproposers' amendment would put the motion in order, then SOC may recommend in its Report that the motion as amended be restored to the Final Agenda. Such a recommendation would be at the discretion of SOC. Any motion not restored to order in this way cannot be restored to order by an amendment to the SOC Report."

Replace F4 ("F4. Errors in Final Agenda Errors in the Final Agenda shall be notified in writing to the Convenor of SOC who shall include any such reported error in the SOC Report at the commencement of Conference.

Errors shall not invalidate the published Agenda, but Conference may accept a correction to the Final Agenda if accepted by a two-thirds majority.") with:

"F4 Errors in Final Agenda. Errors in the Final Agenda shall be notified in writing to the Convenor of SOC who shall advise Conference of reported errors at the commencement of Conference. Errors shall not invalidate the published Agenda. The Convenor of SOC may propose a procedural motion to correct the Final Agenda, which will need a two-thirds majority to pass."

Replace F7 ("F7. Motions to accept Reports. F7.1 SOC shall propose a motion to accept the report of the SOC and this motion shall normally be the first business of any Conference. Any members of SOC may propose or second an amendment or amendments to this motion.") with:

"F7. Motions to accept Reports.

F7.1 SOC shall propose a motion to accept the report of the SOC. This motion shall be considered at a special meeting of SOC to take place online one week before the commencement of Conference. The meeting will be independently chaired and otherwise run like a plenary. At the end of this meeting, voting will open on the SOC Report and any amendments, and close at 23:59 of the day before the first plenary of Conference. SOC and the ERO will agree a suitable division of the voting period between amendments to SOC Report and the final form of the SOC Report. Any members of SOC may propose or second an amendment or amendments to this motion."

In F7.2, replace "proposed formally by SOC from the floor of Conference" with "included in the SOC Report", so that the new F7.2 reads:

"F7.2 SOC shall be responsible for ensuring that the Agenda of every Annual General Meeting shall include motions to accept the reports of the Party Treasurer, Executive, Co-chairs of GPRC, PDC, Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and other governance bodies as required by the Constitution. If any such motions to accept reports have not been received by the due date from the appropriate Party Officers, the motion to accept the report shall be included in the SOC Report."

Replace H2.2 ("H2.2 The first business of Conference shall be the SOC Report. This will include the wording of any composited motions and will detail the order in which items are to be debated. It will include details of motions where the proposers have supplied and accepted amendments that bring motions back into order, with a recommendation that these motions be restored to the Agenda.") with:

"H2.2 In order to enable Conference to proceed, the SOC Report shall be considered ahead of Conference at a special meeting of SOC as detailed in F7.2."

Delete H2.3 ("H2.3 The SOC Report can be referred back to SOC who will meet immediately to agree changes.") & renumber subsequent clauses appropriately.

In H2.5, replace "reported at the start of Conference. Any objection(s) shall be made in the debate on the Standing Orders Committee report and a vote shall then be taken to decide whether the Executive's decision shall be accepted or reversed" with "submitted as an amendment to the SOC Report", so that the new H2.5 reads:

"H2.5 One motion at any conference may be taken at any time without regard to the prioritisation ballot. This may be done only by a decision of the Party Executive which is taken before Conference and submitted as an amendment to the SOC Report."

In H4.3, replace "This may be given during the taking of the SOC Report" with "This may be given by the motion proposer submitting a procedural motion to withdraw their motion when called to put it to Conference", so that the new H4.3 reads:

"H4.3 Motions and amendments cannot be withdrawn by the proposers after publication of the Final Agenda without the consent of Conference. This may be given by the motion proposer submitting a procedural

motion to withdraw their motion when called to put it to Conference."

In K1.1, replace the final use of "Conference" with "the Conference Ballots" so that the new K1.1 reads:

"K1.1 SOC shall publish Outcomes of Conference within a week of the close of the Conference Ballots."

SECTION 3 - REPLACE AMENDMENTS FROM THE FLOOR WITH A SPECIAL AMENDMENTS FORUM

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference:

In C1.6 replace "proposed and seconded from the floor of Conference which may amend the Report. Such amendments shall be submitted to SOC before they are proposed" with "as detailed in D6.4", so that the new C1.6 reads:

"C.16 Motions to accept Reports which have not been published in the First Agenda shall be open to amendments as detailed in D6.4."

Insert a new D6.4 (renumber following clauses appropriately):

"D6.4 Special Amendments Forum

Following publication of the Final Agenda, a minimum of one week will be allowed for the proposal of amendments to any Reports that were not received by the First Agenda deadline. SOC will provide an amendments forum for this purpose, specifying which Reports may be amended. Amendments shall each require four co-proposers. SOC will apply the criteria set out in E2 and E3.1 to determine if they are in order."

In the current D6.4 "Three weeks" (p5), add after the final sentence, "A supplementary agenda detailing proposed amendments to reports as accepted via the Special Amendments Forum will also be provided".

Delete E3.3 ("All amendments from the floor at Conference shall be submitted to SOC before they are proposed. SOC will apply the criteria set out in E2 and E3.1 to determine if they are in order and may be proposed.")

In F7.3, replace "proposed and seconded from the floor of Conference. Members of SOC may not propose or second such amendments except for amendments to the report of SOC" with "as per D6.4.

Members of SOC may not propose or co-propose such amendments except for amendments to the SOC Report", so that the new F7.3 reads:

"F7.3 Motions to accept Reports where the substance of such Reports is not available until the publication of the Final Agenda shall be open to amendments as per D6.4. Members of SOC may not propose or co-propose such amendments except for amendments to the SOC Report."

In H3 Items not on the Agenda, delete "e) amendments to motions and reports that did not appear in the First agenda, including composited motions, Late Motions and Emergency Motions"

Delete H11.3 ("H11.3 Where remote participants in a workshop have voted at that workshop, these figures shall be reported to the plenary in the workshop report, separately from the figures of voting by attendees, at the discretion of the chair of the plenary.") and renumber accordingly

SECTION 4 - REMOVAL OF STRAW POLLS FROM WORKSHOPS AND PLENARY

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, edit current H2.4:

"H2.4 SOC will seek to ensure that a workshop is timetabled for each motion it has placed on the published Final Agenda, prior to the motion being debated by Conference. The workshop chair shall call for a non-binding straw poll, and the Chair of the plenary session may call for a report on the workshop and the poll to be reported to Conference."

By removing "The workshop chair shall call for a non-binding straw poll, and" & "and the poll", so that the amended clause reads:

"H2.4 SOC will seek to ensure that a workshop is timetabled for each motion it has placed on the published Final Agenda, prior to the motion being debated by Conference. The Chair of the plenary session may call for a report on the workshop to be reported to Conference."

SECTION 5 - REMOVAL OF LATE MOTIONS

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference:

In "Contents" (p1), remove "Late Motions" from "Section C".

In the sub-heading "Section C" (p4), remove "Late Motions".

In C1.5 (p4), remove "except for amendments to Emergency Motions and Late Motions".

Delete clause C2 Late Motion submissions (p4).

Delete clause D7 Late Motions deadline (p5).

In H3 "Items not in the agenda" (p12), remove "C) late motions".

In H3.e (p13), remove "Late Motions".

In H13.8 "Emergency Motions shall only be accepted provided:", item i) (p16), replace "since the deadline for Late Motions" with "since the pre-agenda deadline".

SECTION 6 - CONFIRMATION CLAUSE FOR THESE AMENDMENTS

Add to Record of Organisational Statements:

"Conference instructs SOC to bring a motion to Spring Conference 2024 that asks Conference to confirm the changes to SOCC made in the Autumn 2022 motion "SOCC amendments for Conference reform". If this motion is defeated, then SOCC should revert to the version as amended by Spring Conference 2022."

D21

SOC MOTION - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RE ROLE OF RON

Rachel Collinson, Tim Kiely*, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Ash Routh, Brig Oubridge*

Standing Orders Committee

SYNOPSIS

The constitution makes provision for negative voting in the form of RON (Re-open nominations). This amendment makes the provision of a RON option a requirement at every stage of election under STV (Single transferable vote). The current problem is that

voting software doesn't make this possible so a bespoke option

MOTION

SOC notes: This will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

In 17(ii), delete "such an event", substitute "all elections and candidate selections at national, local and regional levels within the Party"; delete "in a form to be decided by SOC from time to time", substitute "by the inclusion in the ballot of the option of Re-open Nominations (RON)". Add at end "RON shall remain a live option throughout the count, and shall not be eliminated at any stage."

17(ii) as amended would read:

"17(ii) In all elections for SOC, Policy Development Committee, Campaigns Committee, International Committee, the Dispute Resolution Committee, Equalities & Diversity Committee, the Regional Council, and the Party Executive there will be an election, even when there are no more candidates than positions to be filled. In all elections and candidate selections at national, local and regional levels within the Party provision will be made for negative voting, by the inclusion in the ballot of the option of Re-open Nominations (RON), such that if any candidate receives more negative than positive votes such candidate shall not be elected. RON shall remain a live option throughout the count, and shall not be eliminated at any stage."

D22

SOC MOTION - SOCC AMENDMENT FOR SEPARATED MOTION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Rachel Collinson, Tim Kiely*, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Ash Routh*

Standing Orders Committee

SYNOPSIS

Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference (SOCC) doesn't specify a deadline for co-proposals. Consequently, the First Agenda deadline tends to be used. This creates a bottleneck for both Standing Orders Committee and motion proposers. This amendment sets the co-proposal deadline at one week after the First Agenda deadline.

MOTION

In Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference:

Insert new D3.2:

"D3.2 Nine weeks. The deadline for co-proposals to motions shall be not later than nine weeks before the first date of the upcoming Conference. Co-proposals to motions may not be submitted until after the First Agenda deadline."

Renumber subsequent clauses accordingly.

BACKGROUND

SOCC = Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference, see: <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/socc/>



SECTION E

POLICY MOTIONS

E01

UPDATES TO THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

Scott Robinson, Alina Baczyńska, Alison Teal, Bernard Ekbery, Clare Bonetree, Elinor Ni Chathain, Faye Holder, Jenny Rust, Paul Beswick, Richard Firth, RoseMary Warrington, Sam Riches, Violet Revelle*

Rights and Responsibilities Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

Autumn Conference 2021 instructed the Rights and Responsibilities Policy Working Group (R&RPWG) to review and update the Rights and Responsibilities Chapter and relevant elements of the Philosophical Basis of Policies for a Sustainable Society. The R&RPWG is proposing the following changes which it considers to be essential to its work.

MOTION

SOC notes: This will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

In the 'Humans in Society' element of the Philosophical Basis, delete:

"PB301 Implementing the policies which will create an ecological society will necessarily take many years. It will require a great deal of social change if we are to accommodate the massive environmental changes facing us. We can, nevertheless, identify a number of principles upon which a truly sustainable society will be based."

And replace it with:

"PB301 Climate and Ecological Emergency

Implementing the policies which will create an ecological and egalitarian society has never been more important. It will require a great deal of social change if we are to address the existential environmental threats and challenges now facing us. We therefore propose a number of principles upon which a truly sustainable society will be based."

Also in the 'Humans in Society' element of the Philosophical Basis, delete:

"PB303 Equality

The legitimate interests of all people are of equal value. The Green Party rejects all forms of discrimination whether based on disability, race, colour, sex, religion, national origin, social origin or any other prejudice. We accept the need for social institutions to protect the interests of the powerless against the powerful."

And replace it with:

"PB303 Equality

The Green Party believes that all people are of equal value, and recognises that as individuals and groups characteristics including, but not limited to, disability, age, race, colour, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, class, faith or belief can lead to our being subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and oppression. The Green Party rejects all forms of unjustified discrimination, and recognises that entrenched beliefs and systemic practices impact on people in very different ways. We believe that discriminatory behaviour by individuals and social institutions should be actively challenged. We accept the need for laws and social institutions to protect the interests of disadvantaged individuals and groups."

E02

£15 MINIMUM WAGE

Alexander Sallons, Adrian Thompson, Adrian Thorne, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Alexander Catt, Andrew Bradbury, Anna Foster, Anna Jackson, Barry Parsons, Ben Simmonds, Binnie-Lubbock, Cameron Fay, Chris Ogden, Christopher Waller, Claire Debenham, Claire Sheppard, Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend, Conan Cook, Dan Taylor, Dan Thomas, Danielle Polastri, Danny McNamara, Darren Baldwin, Darren Yates, Declan Walsh, Devon Osborne, Diane Brewster, Eloise Speight, Esther Redpath, Finn White, Gabrielle Bailey, Gary Dunion, Gary Maylin, Gus Garside, Hamish Mills, Hannah Sharland, Irene Heskett, Jack Blomfield, Jack Lenox, Jacqui Curtis, James Allen, Jane Bastion, Jarelle Francis, Jessica Austin-Burdett, John Humphries, Joshua Coffey, Kathryn Bristow, Kelsey Trevett, Kenneth Gallagher, Larry Sanders, Laurel Wilson, Lee Huntbach, Liam Bailey-Morgan, Lorna Jane Russell, Lucy Pegg, Marc Geoffrey, Mark Hollinrake, Mark James, Matt Edwards, Matthew Brewin, Matthew Hanley, Melanie Earp, Melinda Balatoni, Michael Rayment, Miranda Heath, Nadine Storey, Nannette Youssef, Nicholas Clayton, Oliver Watkins, Peter Murry, Peter Whittle, Philip Davies, Philip Wood, Rebecca Mulvaney, Richard Taylor, Richard Winch, Richard Wyatt, Robert Magowan, Roland Tomlinson, Rosemary Warrington, Rosie Rawle, Russell Warfield, Sam Alston, Sam Murray, Sean Shore, Simon Hales, Simon Hawthorn, Steve Miller, Steven Smith, Suzie Hunt, Symon Hill, Tim Cheshire, Toby Mallinson, Tyrone Scott, William Stephens, Zack Polanski, Zoe John, Robin Brabham, Natalia Kubica*

SYNOPSIS

A motion to support the introduction of a £15 an hour minimum wage for all workers and to support all trade union campaigns for a £15 an hour minimum wage.

MOTION

Insert into Record of Policy Statements:

The Green Party is disgusted that decades of Tory, Labour and Coalition governments have created a poverty economy. 14.5 million people in the UK are in poverty. 10% of full-time working-age adults are in poverty, rising to a third of working-age adults in families where there is only part-time work. These are the highest rates since records began. 90,000 people a year die in poverty in the UK.

The Green Party believes that in addition to innovative policy proposals like the Universal Basic Income, higher minimum wages and empowered trade unions are essential to securing a high standard of living for all.

The Green Party supports the introduction of a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour, for all workers no matter their age, to help tackle the cost of living crisis.

The Green Party supports all trade union campaigns for £15 an hour, and will stand in solidarity with them in fighting for higher wages and working conditions.

The Green Party will seek to introduce a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour after the next general election.

AMENDMENT 1

David Flint, Molly Scott Cato, Hamish Riddoch, Georgia Taylor, Nadine Storey, Lynn Haanen, Chloe Turner*

SOC Note: the bulk of this amendment was ruled Out of Order and can be found in the Appendix "Motions and Amendments Ruled Out of Order" as OoO 09

Add at end:

'The Green Party would develop a framework to compensate small businesses for this higher minimum wage by reducing their National Insurance payments.'

E03

RESTITUTION AND REPATRIATION OF CULTURAL OBJECTS

Martin Hemingway, Ann Forsaith; Ben O'Donovan-Iland, Bill Walton; Cherry Waters, Claire Evans, Clare Nash; Dee Searle, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, James Dickins, Jessica Goldfinch; Julie Daniels, Kate Dodd, Kefentse Dennis, Lorna Kirman, Mark Rollinson, Natalie Bennett; Nicole Haydock; Rosemary Nadin-Pummell; Sam Riches; Tina Rothery; Tom Franklin*

SYNOPSIS

This motion proposes an addition to party policy (PfSS) on the restitution and repatriation of cultural objects accumulated during colonialism.

MOTION

CHANGES TO PFSS

Retitle the 'Tourism' section of PfSS as 'Heritage & Tourism'

Policy Development Committee to change the initialisation of policies in this section from TM to HT

Insert a new sub-section headed 'Heritage', and below this a further subheading 'Restitution and Repatriation of Cultural Objects'

Insert below this subheading with temporary numbering HT110-HT115:

"HT110: The Green Party recognises that during the period of imperial expansion and colonialism, and in other conflicts and periods, objects, whether artefacts or human remains of cultural significance were appropriated and added to the collections of museums, and to private collections in the UK. Restitution involves the return of these objects to their original owners or communities or their successors. Repatriation involves the return of cultural objects to a nation or state that is a successor to the original owners at the request of the government. The Green Party recognises that not only are there issues about the legal ownership of these cultural objects, but also moral arguments in favour of restitution and repatriation.

HT111: The Green Party recognises that the Museum association Code of Ethics and Conduct touches on the issue and that some institutions (eg the Universities of Oxford and Aberdeen) have established

procedures for considering the return of cultural objects

HT112: We will establish a panel of experts, the 'Restitution of Cultural Objects Panel', modelled on the Spoliation Advisory Panel established to consider claims relating to cultural objects appropriated by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945, but with the requirement that beside the consideration of legal grounds for restitution, moral grounds are also taken into consideration as a determining factor in their decisions. We recognise that each case will have to be considered on its merits and that this will involve discussion with the holding institution or collection. The panel will make recommendations to the relevant government minister with whom the final decision will rest.

HT113: We will amend The British Museum Act 1963 to require the trustees to de-accession cultural objects and restore them to original owners or their successors when so determined by the Restitution of Cultural Objects Panel and agreed by the minister recognising that the moral grounds for the return have been taken into consideration by the panel, and do not require further consideration by the Trustees.

HT114: We will require other institutions that derive all or part of their funding from public sources to respect and honour the decisions of the Panel and minister.

HT115: We will encourage private collections and collectors to respect and honour the decisions of the Panel and the minister."

E04

STATING OPPOSITION TO ANTI-UNION AND ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

Matthew Hull, Alexandra Burton, Alison Turner, Benjamin Gladwin, Catherine Rowett, Christopher wortley*, Darren Yates, David McIntosh, Declan Walsh, Douglas Rouxel, Duncan Robinson, Gary Maylin, Greg Collins, Hannah Copley, Jo Bird, John Evans, John Hogg, Joshua Coffey, Julie Clarke, Kai Turner, Kathryn Cook, Mark Hollinrake, Martin Blake, Martin Childs, Mick Wall, Oliver Jaeger,*

Patrick McAllister, Paul Philo, Peter Murry, Philippa Fleming, Rebecca Mulvaney, Richard Walker, Richard Winch, Richard Wyatt, Robert Beggs, Robert Magowan, Simon Hales, Stephen Rockliffe, Susan Tibbles, Suzie Hunt, tarsam singh, Tim Cheshire, Tom Fitton, Tyrone Scott

SYNOPSIS

A motion stating the Green Party's opposition to anti-union and anti-strike laws, noting the Conservative government's policies; calling for the establishment of a positive charter of workers' and trade union rights.

MOTION

This Conference notes the Conservative government's recent changes to law, enabling firms to use agency workers to replace striking workers and break strike action. Conference further notes the recent increase in fines available to be levied by the Certification Officer on trade unions found to have breached regulations, up to £1 million.

Conference notes the Conservative Party's 2019 manifesto pledged to introduce a so-called 'minimum service law' in strategic sectors like transport, which would require trade unions to facilitate their members crossing picket lines or face fines and sequestration of funds. Further changes to law floated by the Business Secretary include restricting the representative function of independent trade unions in public sector workplaces like schools and colleges.

Conference notes that these laws are the latest in a long line of regulations designed to restrict trade unions and worker organisation, stretching back for 50 years. Workers in the UK do not currently enjoy any formal legal right to strike.

This Conference believes that trade unions and other forms of workers' organisation are essential to upholding and expanding the rights of all people, both within the workplace and without. The freedom to organise in trade unions, and to withdraw one's labour, is a fundamental human right and inalienable.

Conference believes the right to organise in trade unions has historically underpinned social progress of all forms, enabling people to win advances in prosperity and social equality for all. Attacks on the right to organise set the stage for social progress to be rolled back.

Conference believes the right to organise in trade unions and strike effectively is essential to winning a rapid and just transition to a zero-carbon economy. Workers should be encouraged to take industrial action to demand ecological justice, against the intransigence of the political elite and an economic system whose crisis tendencies are leading us towards ecological collapse.

Conference believes the law should facilitate workplace democracy and trade union activity, not restrain and outlaw it.

This Conference resolves to oppose any new anti-union or anti-strike regulations that restrain unions and their members. Conference calls for the repeal of existing anti-union and anti-strike laws introduced since 1979, including bans on secondary picketing, bans on industrial action for political objectives including climate and ecological justice.

Conference calls for the replacement of these laws with a positive charter of workers' and trade union rights, enshrining the fundamental right to organise and strike, drawn up in consultation with trade unions. We urge Green council administrations to refrain from using agency workers to break strikes, defying the Conservatives' recent changes to law in solidarity with workers.

Conference calls on the relevant Green Party bodies to include the commitments made in this motion in the next Green Party general election manifesto.

E05

AMENDING CRIME AND JUSTICE POLICIES

Matthew Hull, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Alexandra Burton, Alison Campbell, Alison Turner, Binnie-Lubbock, Christopher Wortley, Conan Cook, Darren Yates, Eloise Speight, Finn White, Greg Collins, Joanna Davidson, John Evans, John Hogg, Joshua Coffey, Kai Turner, Katherine Greenaway, Kathryn Cook, Kefentse Dennis, Ken Barker, Mark Hollinrake, Mick Wall, Paul Philo, Ria Patel, Richard Winch, Simon Hales, Stephen Rockliffe, Steven Smith, Susan Tibbles, Suzie Hunt,*

Tarsam Singh, Tom Fitton, Zoe Garbett, Rosalind Alexander

SYNOPSIS

The Crime and Justice chapter has not undergone a major review since 1990. It needs updating to reflect and build on recent developments in progressive perspectives onto criminal justice and related policies. The motion proposes a new working group and a revision of the chapter.

MOTION

Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update the Crime and Justice chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society. The Policy Development Committee will convene a Crime and Justice Policy Working Group to undertake this.

This Working Group will refer to the core values and philosophical basis of the Green Party and seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in this area and other related fields. The Working Group will consider recent developments in progressive perspectives onto criminal justice and related policies, especially but not exclusively in the wake of the Movement for Black Lives and the renewed interest in critical perspectives onto criminal justice that has arisen from it.

Liaison and reference will be made to other policy working groups where appropriate. Views of other relevant organisations and professionals will also be sought and referenced in the background paper.

E06

ENABLING MOTION FOR THE DISABILITY POLICY CHAPTER

Richard Firth, Ben Foley, Ben Samuel, Clare Bonetree, David McIntosh, Eve Allsop, Helen Hitchcock, Jane Mills, Jenny Rust, Jessica Austin-Burdett, Karen Lewing, Kefentse Dennis, Liz Reason, Sean Mulcahy, Seraphin Stafford-Townsend, Ross Warren, Rosalind Alexander*

SYNOPSIS

The Disability Policy Chapter received its last major update back in 1990. A rewrite is needed so that the chapter reflects the needs and desires of the disabled community.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

The Disability chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society had its last full rewrite in 1990. Conference believes it is time to refresh this chapter so that we have a clear policy on inclusion in society for the disabled community in England and Wales.

This Conference therefore instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update this policy chapter. The process will be undertaken by the Disability Policy Working Group, which should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in these fields, as well as the views of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant organisations and professionals.

E07

MOONSHOT TO RETROFIT HOMES

Dr Sue Roberts, Adam Harper, Alison Campbell, Angela Thomson, Christopher Waller, Faye Holder, Hazel Simpson, Julia Slipko, Ken Huggins, Luc Delas, Marc France, Mark Bray-Parry, Christopher Waller, Jane Mills, Rachel Congdon, Stephen McKenna, Zoe Richards*

SYNOPSIS

A third of us face fuel-poverty. Our homes overheat in summer and get cold in winter; and they puff out 1/5th of our carbon emissions. Government should take a Moonshot approach to building a new economy, working on the complex, costly task of retrofitting homes with insulation, ventilation and renewables.

BACKGROUND

To view the background paper for this motion, go here:

<http://greencoordinate.co.uk/agenda/files/moonshot.pdf>

MOTION

SOC notes: This will be added into the Record of Policy Statements

That the Green Party advocate a moonshot at retrofit to provide fuel security, make home-heating affordable, protect our people from ill-health and death, and tackle climate change.

Government and councils should take a systems-approach to mass-retrofit; creating a national structure with delivery through local councils; with grants and zero-interest loans to householders.

We need mass-mobilisation of surveyors, energy-advisors and retrofit co-ordinators. Skilled tradespeople and construction workers should be retrained for this specialised work. The resources of volume house-builders should be re-directed to retrofit. Educational establishments should be reskilling personnel and training up a new generation of retrofitters.

Insulation, heat-pumps, solar panels and other materials should be prioritised for this strategic push. Limited resources mean focus should switch from building new homes to making our existing homes fit for the future.

We call on Government for moonshot pump-priming of this new industry and constant, reliable, long-term funding. Government is to provide £30bn towards fuel bills this year. That annual quantum could create the structural mechanism and enable the deep retrofit ultimately of at least a million homes a year.

The time for retrofit is now. An economic boom would come from targetted investment in our homes, with a market of millions of householders. A moonshot approach would see the UK leading from the front with a world-class, exportable, innovatory strategy for mass-retrofit.

Smith Mordak, Nadine Storey, Tony Firkins, David Flint, Pamela Harling*

Delete

"An economic boom would come from targeted investment in our homes, with a market of millions of householders. A moonshot approach would see the UK leading from the front with a world-class, exportable, innovatory strategy for mass-retrofit."

E08

ENABLING MOTION FOR MARINE AND COASTAL POLICY CHAPTER

Georgina Wright, Andrew Melville, Celia Coram, Chris Nash, David Davies, David Howdle-Smith, David McInosh, Deborah Rowan Wright, Jeremy Percy, Joanna Collins, Jonathan Elmer, Karen Lewing, Anne Gayfer, Claire Nash, Jane Carruthers, Libby Hudson, Linda MacCallum Stewart, Liz Reason, Louise Dunk, Lucy Watson, Martin Blake, Thomas Wood*

SYNOPSIS

The current Marine & Coastal chapter in Policies for a Sustainable Society dates back to 2007 and urgently needs updating, not least to reflect developments since the UK left the EU. A new Marine & Coastal policy working group has been convened to take this work forward.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

This Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update the Marine and Coastal chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society. The process will be undertaken by the Marine and Coastal Policy Working Group who will refer to the core values and philosophical basis of GPEW and seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in this area and other related fields. Liaison and reference will be made to other

AMENDMENT 1

GPEW policy working groups where appropriate. Views of other relevant organisations and professionals will also be sought and referenced in the background paper.

E09

ENSURING SEX AND GENDER ARE NOT CONFLATED

Claudine Letsae, Alexandra Geddis, Ali Gascoyne, Alison McClean, Alison Whalley, Ann Kolodziejski, Anna Foster, Anna Heyman, Caroline Sandes, Chris Osborn, Christine Johnson, Clare Fenwick-Hyde, Clare Long-Summers, Diane Brewster, Diane Green, Dinah Morgan, Eileen Gilpin, Elizabeth Mansfield, Gabriella Pettit, Gail Sirmais, Hazel Pegg, Hazel Simpson, Jan Clark, Jay Ginn, Jessica Austin-Burdett, Jessica Goldfinch, Jill Raymond, Joanne Rigby, Julia Slipko, Julie Clarke, Kat Horrex, Kath Leyland, Kerri Edmondson, Kia Makepeace, Laura Haig, Laurel Wilson, Mandy Vere, Melanie Mitchell, Miroslav Imbrisevic, Niamh Mac Mahon, Paul Milnes, Rachel Hardy, Rachel Meade, Sara Mai, Siobhan Scanlan, Sue Corner, Surinder Marshall, Tracey Mallon, Vera Burgess, Zoe Hatch, Zoe Richards*

SYNOPSIS

Sex refers to biology which is immutable, gender is a social construction

Discrimination against women may be based on their perceived sex, however there are aspects of discrimination females face based on sex not gender.

To address discrimination it is imperative that accurate sex- segregated data is collected.

MOTION

Insert RR540:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Green Party calls for a review of the language used in law, in government bodies and NGOs to ensure that sex and gender are not conflated.

Gender is a term that cannot easily be defined in law, whereas sex has a clear meaning, and as the basis of female oppression is essential to be recorded in many circumstances.

Therefore when data is being collected and analysed to form policy in relation to women, attention should be paid to whether the data is segregated by sex or by gender, and sex segregated data must be collected in order to monitor the effects of biological sex with regard to women's position in society.

AMENDMENT 1

Kathryn Bristow, Seb Cousins, Richard Firth, Carla Denyer, Adi Daly-Goudialsing, Jenny Vernon, AC Baker, Hannah Charlotte Copley, Eloise Speight, Jamie Coombes, Peter Price, Dylan Lewis-Creser*

Change numbering to PA860

Delete:

"used in law, in government bodies and NGOs to ensure that sex and gender are not conflated."

Replace with:

"by government bodies and NGOs when collecting data to ensure different understandings of sex and gender are not conflated."

Delete:

"Gender is a term that cannot easily be defined in law, whereas sex has a clear meaning, and as the basis of female oppression is essential"

Replace with:

"The terms gender and sex are used interchangeably in law, and it is essential for consistent and accurate data"

Delete:

"women, attention should be paid to whether the data is segregated by sex or by gender, and sex segregated data must be collected in order to monitor the effects of biological sex with regard to women's position in society."

Replace with:

"sex and gender, attention should be paid to exactly what data is being collected, and clear guidance to respondents as to what data is being requested, with clear definitions and distinctions explained."

Insert:

PA862 Where practical and proportional, data such as sex assigned at birth, sex as recorded on legal documents (such as passport, birth certificate or gender recognition certificate) and/or gender identity may be collected, in order to ensure that conflation between different understandings of sex and gender in key statistical data does not take place. Any monitoring of special category data must be done within a lawful bases provided by data protection legislation.

E10

ENABLING MOTION FOR THE TOURISM AND HERITAGE POLICY

Martin Hemingway, Anna Jackson, Cherry Waters, Claire Evans, David McIntosh, Dee Searle, James Dickens, Julie Daniels, Kate Dodd, Lorna Kirman, Mark Rollinson, Penny Stables*

SYNOPSIS

PDC to establish a working group to review the Green Party Tourism policies, last reviewed in 2009 with a particular remit to develop and incorporate Heritage policies to incorporate in this section of the PfSS.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

The Green Party Tourism Policy in Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS) was last reviewed in 2009, and has had no amendments since 2014. The policies need to be reviewed to take account of changes in the world since then. The Green Party does not have a Heritage Policy, and an enabling motion to agree one expired.

Conference instructs Policy Development Committee (PDC) to initiate a policy development process to:

- a) Review the section of PfSS relating to Tourism, currently entitled 'Tourism'
- b) Establish a Green Party Heritage Policy as a component of that section of PfSS

The process will be undertaken by a policy working group (PWG), which should seek the involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in these fields, as well as Green Parties in Scotland, Ireland and elsewhere in the world, including the global south. The PWG will also consult relevant NGOs and professionals.

E11

SUPPORTING WORKERS TAKING STRIKE ACTION

Matthew Hull, Phil Di Palma, Alexandra Burton, Alison Turner, Benjamin Gladwin, Billie nagle, Catherine Rowett, Christopher Wortley, David McIntosh, Duncan Robinson, Greg Collins, Hannah Copley, Jacqui Curtiss, Jo Bird, Joshua Coffey, Kai Turner, Kathryn Cook, Mark Hollinrake, Martin Childs, Megan Davies, Mick Wall, Neil Doolin, Paul Philo, Peter Murry, Raphael Hill, Richard Winch, Richard Wyatt, Robert Magowan, Stephen Rockcliffe, Steven Smith, Susan Tibbles, Suzie Hunt, Tarsam Singh, Tim Cheshire, Tom Fitton*

SYNOPSIS

A motion stating general support for workers organising industrial action to demand pay to match or exceed the rate of price inflation.

MOTION

This Conference notes that rates of price inflation have risen sharply in 2022, with the CPIH measure reaching 8.2% and the RPI measure reaching 13.7% in the 12 months to June 2022. These official measures do not capture the full impact of price rises on the poorest, who generally spend a greater proportion of their incomes on energy, food, rent and other essentials.

Conference notes that price inflation is not being caused by increased wage claims and rejects diagnoses of a so-called 'wage-price spiral' phenomenon. Conference notes that wages have stagnated in recent months and are in most cases failing to keep up with the rate of inflation.

Conference believes that the current inflation is being caused by a combination of exogenous factors, including global supply shocks and ecological phenomena, and concentrated corporate power that allows firms to extract ever greater profits. Workers should not be made to pay the price for the crises we are experiencing, and deserve pay increases that match or exceed the real rate of price inflation.

Conference applauds workers taking strike action and other industrial action to demand the government and employers meet these demands for pay and address the cost of living emergency. Conference applauds trade unions that recognise and use their leverage in a capitalist economy to advance the interests of both their members and working people as a whole, and urge unions to coordinate their efforts along industrial lines. We support building strike readiness across the general working population, and the building of a general strike for a political solution to the cost-of-living crisis.

SOC has ruled the final sentence below out of order as it strays too far from the subject of the motion and has complex implications for multiple other areas of policy.

Conference calls for non-wage labour income, such as welfare benefits, to be increased to match or exceed the real rate of inflation. **[Out of order starts:]**

Conference further calls for a system of price controls to be introduced on key goods and services such as energy, to immediately mitigate the pressure on household incomes. [Out of order ends]

E12

ENABLING MOTION FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY CHAPTER

*Richard Firth *, Rachel Hope, Andrew Cross , Ben Foley, Bethany Payne , Danette O'Hara, David Davies, David McIntosh, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Eve Allsop, Helen Hitchcock, Joanna Collins, Joanna Davidson, Marion Dunmore, Martin Hemingway*

SYNOPSIS

The Natural Resources and Waste Management Policy Chapter received its last major update back in 2006. A rewrite is needed so that the chapter can be expanded in scope to include more policy positions on issues such as radioactive waste and other hazardous materials management.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

The Natural Resources and Waste Management chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society had its last full rewrite in 2006. Conference believes it is time to refresh and expand the scope of this chapter so that we have clear positions on such topics as radioactive waste.

This Conference therefore instructs Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update this policy chapter. The process will be undertaken by a working group, which should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in these fields, as well as the views of NGOs and other relevant organisations and professionals.

E13

GPEW IS AN ECO-SOCIALIST PARTY

Dylan Lewis-Creser, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Danny McNamara, Erwin Schaefer, Finn White, Jay Ginn, John Philip Regan, Ken Barker, Mark Hollinrake, Peter Price, Rachel Congdon, Roy Sandison, Alexander Sallons, Oliver Watkins, Paul Philo, Simon Hales, Toby Starbuck*

SYNOPSIS

Capitalism is incompatible with a just society and a sustainable future. The exploitation of people and the planet, necessitated by capitalism, is fundamentally contradictory with Green principles; there can be no sustainable society under a system which is defined by constant growth.

MOTION

SOC notes: a two-thirds majority is needed for this to pass.

To PB107 add the following text after “Rather than set them against each other, the Green Party seeks healthy interdependence of individual, nature and society.”

“The Green Party of England and Wales will be an Eco-Socialist party. The purpose of the Green Party of England and Wales will be to work toward a non-violent, democratic, just, and sustainable society free from the predations and inequities of capitalism. To this end, the Green Party of England and Wales will contest elections open to the English and Welsh electorates. We do not believe that electoral politics is the only way to change society, or that we have all the answers. We, therefore, seek to facilitate and cooperate with movements and initiatives which share our values, principles and objectives to achieve change through a variety of non-violent means, tactics and strategies.”

AMENDMENT 1

Roy Sandison, Nicole Haydock, Les Levidow, Paul Chynoweth, Jay Ginn, Mark Hollinrake*

To PB107 add the following text after “Rather than set them against each other, the Green Party seeks healthy interdependence of individual, nature and society”

Insert after society

‘The fate of our planet and all who live (including nature) on it are in real threat of extinction and with a resultant collapse in society.’

AMENDMENT 2

Roy Sandison, Nicole Haydock, Les Levidow, Paul Chynoweth, Jay Ginn, Mark Hollinrake*

“Renumber to PB108

‘The Green Party of England and Wales will be an Eco-Socialist party,

Insert after party ‘committed to speaking Truth to Power.’

The aims of the Green Party of England and Wales will be to work toward a non-violent, democratic, just, and sustainable society free from the predations and inequities of capitalism.

AMENDMENT 3

Roy Sandison, Nicole Haydock, Les Levidow, Paul Chynoweth, Jay Ginn, Mark Hollinrake*

‘Renumber to PB109’

To this end, the Green Party of England and Wales will contest elections open to the English and Welsh electorates. We do not believe that electoral politics is the only way to change society, or that we have all the answers. We, therefore, seek to facilitate and cooperate with movements and initiatives which share our values, principles and objectives to achieve change through a variety of non-violent means, tactics and strategies.”

Insert after strategies

‘Our Ecosocialist values means as a party we stand for system change not climate change and the ongoing destruction of nature for private profit.’

E14

ENDING NEW HIV TRANSMISSIONS BY 2030 PART 2

Daniel Laycock, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Andrea Brookes, Barry Parsons, Benali Hamdache, Chloë Goldsmith, Christopher Waller, Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend, Darren Yates, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Eloise Speight, Emily Fedorowycz, Kathryn Bristow, Laura Eccott, Matt Rogan, Naomi Bennett, Nick Weeks, Peter Price, Philippa Fleming, Ria Patel, Richard Firth, Scott Robinson, Sebastian Cousins, Tessa Marshall, Thomas Atkin, Vinnie Wainwright, Robin Brabham, Natalia Kubica, Rosalind Alexander*

SYNOPSIS

HIV affects every person regardless of age, gender, and ethnicity, and disproportionately impacts gay and bisexual men, trans people, migrants, and people of colour. The Green Party must adopt the targets recommended by the HIV Commission, campaign to ensure every part of the NHS and its partners do everything possible to end HIV transmissions by the end of the decade.

MOTION

SOC has split this motion into two motions; this one in section E and the other is in section D.

In:

“HE1200 Sexual Health is a core provision of the NHS. The Green Party would provide more funding for sexual health awareness campaigns, provide greater access to free condoms and sexual health clinics.”,

Delete:

“The Green Party would provide more funding for sexual health awareness campaigns, provide greater access to free condoms and sexual health clinics.”

And insert:

“A Green Government would invest further funding for a proper sexual health service, better healthcare for people living with HIV, and educational programs

in the education system and healthcare settings, and would fight to see an end to stigma around HIV/AIDs and sexually transmitted illnesses.”

So the amended text now reads:

“HE1200: Sexual Health is a core provision of the NHS. A Green Government would invest further funding for a proper sexual health service, better healthcare for people living with HIV, and educational programs in the education system and healthcare settings, and would fight to see an end to stigma around HIV/AIDs and sexually transmitted illnesses.”

In:

“HE1201 A Green Party would reprioritise the fight against HIV. More funding is required for public health campaigns, HIV prevention, and support for those living with HIV. The Green Party would introduce Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) on prescription on the NHS.”,

Delete:

“A Green Party would reprioritise the fight against HIV. More funding is required for public health campaigns, HIV prevention, and support for those living with HIV. The Green Party would introduce Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) on prescription on the NHS.”,

And insert:

“The Green Party would adopt the 2030 target recommended by the HIV Commission, and the new interim milestone recommended by the HIV Commission to see an 80% reduction in HIV transmission by 2025 The Green Party will seek to build on positive progress made to date and ensure that the Government commits to England being the first country to achieve this goal.

The Green Party will work with local NHS bodies to ensure pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is available in GPs, pharmacies, and community-based groups, not just in sexual health clinics.”,

So the amended text now reads:

“The Green Party will adopt the 2030 target recommended by the HIV Commission, and adopt the new interim milestone recommended by the HIV Commission to see an 80% reduction in HIV transmission by 2025. This would ensure the Government and reduction on cases remain on track.

The Green Party will seek to build on positive progress made to date and ensure that the Government commits to England being the first country to achieve this goal.

The Green Party will work with local NHS bodies to ensure pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is available in GPs, pharmacies, and community-based groups, not just in sexual health clinics.”

In:

“HE1202 Early diagnosis of HIV is a vital part of curbing new cases of HIV and protecting the health of those diagnosed with HIV. The Green Party would invest money in enabling all sexually active adults to regularly undertake sexual health screenings. This can include new modes of testing like home screenings.”

Delete:

“Early diagnosis of HIV is a vital part of curbing new cases of HIV and protecting the health of those diagnosed with HIV. The Green Party would invest money in enabling all sexually active adults to regularly undertake sexual health screenings. This can include new modes of testing like home screenings.”

And insert:

“The Green Party supports the opt-out HIV testing across all NHS settings. HIV testing should be routinely offered to patients in relevant settings, such as GP surgeries, A&E departments, and in all sexual health clinics.

The Green Party will ensure home testing kits for HIV are made available in all local authorities and to explore the option of providing free HIV self-testing kits to those at highest risk of HIV.

So the amended text now reads:

“HE1202

The Green Party supports the opt-out HIV testing across all NHS settings. HIV testing should be routinely offered to patients in relevant settings, such as GP surgeries, A&E departments, and in all sexual health clinics.

The Green Party will ensure HIV testing at home being made available in all local authorities and the exploration of the option of providing free HIV self-testing kits to those at highest risk of HIV.

HE1203 Fighting HIV stigma is vital to curbing new cases of HIV as well as improving the wellbeing of those living with HIV. Raising awareness and fighting stigma should be a part of compulsory sexual education in schools as well as public awareness campaigns.”

Delete HE1203 and replace with:

“With increased funding for sexual health services that will feed into improved pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) access and eliminate financial/time barriers and regional inequalities, the Green Party will work with local NHS bodies to ensure pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) available in GPs, pharmacies and community based groups, not just sexual health clinics, and ensure bespoke mental health support is made available to all living with HIV.

Public bodies, such as TfL, to use their advertising space to encourage HIV testing and fight stigma. Public bodies and private companies will provide free advertising and commercial advertising space to encourage HIV testing and up to date information about HIV.

A Green Government will undertake a widespread evidence based communications campaign to promote HIV testing.

A Green Government will reverse the £1pm cut to the sexual health proposition of the Public Health Grant as a first step to funding a modern, accessible and proactive sexual health service that isn't just about people being disease free and increase media representations of people living with HIV, e.g. a public health campaign about U=U

The Green Party will work with other organisations such as the Terrence Higgins Trust, the National AIDs Trusts, and the HIV Commission to work cross-party and intergovernmental to fight for an end to HIV transmissions.”

HE1203 will now read as follows:

“The Green Party will work with local NHS bodies to ensure pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is available in GPs, pharmacies and community based groups, not just sexual health clinics and ensure bespoke mental health support being made available to all living with HIV.

Public bodies, such as TfL, to use their advertising space to encourage HIV testing and fight stigma.

Public bodies and private companies will provide free advertising and commercial advertising space to encourage HIV testing and up to date information about HIV.

A Green Government will undertake a widespread evidence based communications campaign to promote HIV testing.

A Green Government will reverse the £1pm cut to the sexual health proposition of the Public Health Grant as a first step to funding a modern, accessible and proactive sexual health service that isn't just about people being disease free and increase media representations of people living with HIV, e.g. a public health campaign about U=U"

After HE1203 add HE1204:

"The Green Party will publicly campaign for an end new HIV transmissions by 2030. The Green Party will work with other organisations such as the Terrence Higgins Trust, the National AIDS Trusts, and the HIV Commission to work cross-party and intergovernmental to fight for an end to HIV transmissions.

A Green Government will create an AIDs Memorial in every region across England and Wales, to remember those who have died from AIDs related diseases."

E15

ENABLING MOTION TO REWRITE THE EDUCATION POLICY CHAPTER OF POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Luc Delas, Duncan Robinson, Kerri Edmondson, Libby Hudson, Sean Mulcahy, Vix Lowthion*

Education Policy Working Group

SYNOPSIS

The Education chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society hasn't undergone a full review in over a decade. Many policies are now in need of updating, adding to, rewriting or re-discussing, including those

relating to academies, assessment, and the climate emergency.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

This Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update the whole Education chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society. The process will involve seeking the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in relevant fields, as well as the views of other relevant organisations, academics and professionals.

E16

ACCESS TO FERTILITY TREATMENT

Richard Firth, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Alina Baczynska, Andrea Brookes, Barry Parsons, Chloë Goldsmith, Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Eloïse Speight, Jess Worth, Kathryn Bristow, Natalia Kubica, Owain Sutton, Peter Brommer, Raphael Hill, Ria Patel, Sebastian Cousins, Robin Brabham*

SYNOPSIS

The Women's Health Strategy for England (July 2022) introduces plans that rids additional barriers for same-sex couples to receive fertility treatment through the NHS. Additional barriers for single people, older people and people who are sex-averse/repulsed remain. This motion seeks to address these issues and ensure consistency for cryopreservation funding.

MOTION

Insert new HE800 to HE803 and renumber PSS accordingly:

"Heading: Fertility

HE800 The Green Party acknowledges that all types of families can wish to have biological children and that fertility treatment should not be subject to financial burden for those wishing to access it.

HE801 The Green Party believes people have an individual right to make choices for their own fertility and when traditional methods have failed or are not desired, access to treatment is an essential part of healthcare.

HE802 Treatments such as IVF, should be funded and accessible through the NHS to all, without barriers or restriction apart from those which are medically necessary, in conjunction with the NICE guidelines. This is regardless of other factors such as if a surrogate will be carrying the child or if donated sperm, oocyte or embryos are used.

HE803 When loss of fertility is likely to occur whether through age, gender-affirming treatment or any other reason, cryopreservation of sperm, oocyte and embryos should be offered free of charge through the NHS. These should be held for as long as the patient wishes, until normal fertility resumes, up to six months after their death or until the collected material is no longer deemed viable.”

E17

ENABLING MOTION FOR CULTURE AND MEDIA POLICIES

Jack Lenox, Anna Jackson, David Francis, Eve Allsop, Jenny Vernon, Karen Lewing, Katherine McAlpine, Leanne Crichton, Marcus Cain, Martin Osborne, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Megan Davies, Pete Moser, Rachel Congdon, Sam Murray*

SYNOPSIS

The Culture, Media and Sport Policy Chapter received its last major update in 2007, and its last update in 2014. A rewrite is required to reflect changes to the media environment since then.

MOTION

Note from SOC: This motion will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

The Culture, Media and Sport Policy Chapter received its last major update in 2014. Conference believes that a rewrite is required to account for a)

institutional developments, such as the foundation of the independent press regulator IMPRESS and changes in Ofcom’s remit b) the growing threats to public service broadcasting (PSB), including the planned privatisation of Channel 4, revision of the definition of PSB, and further incursions on the BBC’s independence c) technological changes and the need for more in-depth policies on digital innovation, data and regulation of tech giants.

This Conference therefore instructs Policy Development Committee to initiate a policy development process to rewrite and update this policy chapter. The process will be undertaken by a working group, which should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with interest or expertise in these fields, as well as the views of NGOs and other relevant organisations and professionals.

E18

EU100-111 INTERIM AMENDMENTS TO THE VISION FOR EUROPE

Catherine Rowett, Angela Georgievski, Astrid Johnson, Caroline Allen, Cathryn Symons, David Wild, Deolinda Maria Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Ernestas Jegorovas, Erwin Schaefer, Evelyn Leslie, Frank Sheridan, Geoff Davis, Gordon Bushell, Jean Lambert, Jess Northey, John Street, Kruna Vukmirovic, Malcolm Brown, Martin Schmierer, Michael Smith, Pallavi Devulapalli, Paul Jeater, Peter Foster, Peter Packham, Richard Wilson, Scott Ainslie, Shaun Lowry*

SYNOPSIS

Europe PWG offers an interim revision of the opening of the Europe Chapter, to align with GPEW’s current vision on Europe. While the new chapter under construction will ultimately replace these sections, we propose pro tem to clean up some problematic statements, and thereby test our intuitions for the remainder.

BACKGROUND

The background paper for this motion is available here:

<http://greencoordinate.co.uk/agenda/files/interim.pdf>

MOTION

To make the following revisions to EU 100-111 in the Policies for a Sustainable Society and to delete EU 112 and EU 113.

A. Under existing heading:

Part 1: The Green Vision for Europe

Replace existing text EU100 with wholly new text as follows:

Existing text:

EU100 In our Green vision for Europe we seek to replace the unsustainable economics of free trade and unrestricted growth with the ecological alternative of local self reliance and resource conservation, within a context of wider diversity. We want to foster co-operation on issues of common interest, not establish international institutions for their own sake. We want social justice and economic democracy to bring fairer and more resilient societies to Europe.

Proposed new text:

EU100 The Green Party is part of an international family of global Greens, and a longstanding member of the European Green Party. Along with our sister parties in Europe, we favour international collaboration, especially with our neighbours on our own continent. We honour and respect the founding principles of the post-war European institutions that have ensured long-lasting peace, dialogue and unity of purpose across the nations of Europe, and we believe that participation in those institutions is one essential means of furthering the Green agenda at home and abroad.

Replace existing text EU101 with wholly new text as follows:

Existing:

EU101 We recognise the value of the original goal of the founders of the European Communities, who sought to remove the threat of another war between European states. This has been distorted by vested

political and economic interests into a union dominated by economic interests, which lacks democratic control, and promotes the goals of multinational corporations which are interested in profit not people, and which runs counter to the professed core values of the Union. We believe that the ecological challenges and stark inequalities the world faces present a potential new role for the EU as part of wider global co-operation.

Proposed new text:

EU 101 We believe that issues of social justice, peace, human rights, equality, environmental justice and responsibility do not stop at the UK border. Consequently, protection for our shared planet, land, sea and air, requires legislation at global and regional levels, for which collaborative democratic institutions such as the EU are crucial. We subscribe to ideals of human rights, workers' rights, democracy, freedom of movement across borders, redistribution of wealth and privilege between nations both within Europe and globally—the ideals that are the motivating goals of the European Union, the Council of Europe and other European institutions dedicated to overseeing particular areas of collaboration and regulation. We are committed to retaining or recovering UK membership and positions of influence for our own democratically elected representatives in these bodies. We aim to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of these institutions in delivering our Green goals, and in ensuring peace and justice across Europe and the rest of the world.

B. Under existing heading Structures

Replace existing text EU110 with wholly new text as follows:

Existing:

EU110 To achieve the Green vision, Europe will need very different structures from those currently in existence. Europe should be made up of overlapping, co-operative, democratic, decentralised groupings of nations and regions.

Proposed new text:

EU110 Membership of the European Union gave the Green Party of England and Wales access to elected roles in democratic institutions at a high level of international influence, and a direct role in formulating legislation and regulations that contributed to progressing Green goals and ambitions

E19

FULLY FUND HS2

Jake Welsh, Adam Turner, Alan Francis, Alexander Sallons, Ben Samuel, Darren Yates, Emma Garnett, Esther Redpath, Katherine McAlpine, Marc Bray-Parry; Martin Osborne, Melanie Earp, Neil O'Doherty; Owain Sutton; Pamela Harling; Pete Johnson; Peter Brommer; Richard Wilson; Robert Crowston; Stephen Caudwell, Ross Warren*

SYNOPSIS

This motion calls for HS2 to be funded and completed in full, including the entire Eastern leg and an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly. This motion also calls for the full potential of HS2 to be by building in full Northern Powerhouse Rail which will use HS2 infrastructure.

MOTION

In Record of Policy Statements (RoPS) delete the sections "High Speed Rail" and "Stop HS2"

Then add into RoPS:

"The Green Party recognises that the first phase of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under construction. Construction has not yet started on Phase 2a and Parliament has not yet approved the funding for Phase 2b of HS2. If HS2 is not built in full to Manchester and Leeds it will not achieve the maximum capacity release on the rail network, it will limit environmental gains and could potentially widen regional inequality.. The Green Party calls for the government to fully fund and build HS2 in full including the entire Eastern leg to Leeds, an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly, the Golborne Link (or a better replacement) which enables HS2 services to be easily used on parts of the existing West Coast Main Line to Lancashire, Cumbria and Scotland as well as the originally planned bicycle routes alongside parts of the HS2 route.

The Green Party calls for the impact of HS2 to be improved further by fully funding and building Northern Powerhouse Rail which includes a high

across many areas of life in the UK and in neighbouring countries. While the institutions of the EU are not perfect, we recognise that in many respects the European Parliament has a more democratic structure than the Westminster Parliament, and has a positive commitment to seeking consensus. We would favour further progress towards strengthening the democratic accountability of the main EU bodies, and towards ending individual countries' power of veto in the Council of the European Union. We favour the introduction of transnational lists, and the right of legislative initiative for the European Parliament.

Replace existing text EU111 with wholly new text as follows:

Existing: EU111 European institutions must be designed with care and with mechanisms for correction, to prevent the drift towards centralism that has repeatedly been seen in history.

Proposed new text: EU 111 We believe that issues should, as far as possible, be decided at the local level, where they are local, and at national or international level where appropriate. This principle of subsidiarity is a founding principle of EU policy-making. In an increasingly global and over-exploited world, many issues of social justice, employment, migration, and environmental degradation must be settled at a European level or global level. Issues of defence and peace-keeping also require Europe-wide decision-making. It is vital that we contribute to ensuring that there are effective, democratic, representative, and powerful bodies that can legislate in these areas.

Delete the remaining items in this section altogether as follows:

Existing (to be deleted altogether):

EU112 Part of the way to do this is to have a multiplicity of independent bodies with clearly defined areas of responsibility, and with the possibility of membership by different groups of nations and regions. An example is the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe for conflict resolution. (See Part 5) EU113 Europe must not become a super-state or global power bloc.

speed rail line from Liverpool to Manchester and onwards to Bradford and Leeds. This will use HS2 infrastructure in Manchester including potentially sharing the underground HS2 station at Manchester Piccadilly. The Green Party calls for HS2 services to be extended to Liverpool using Northern Powerhouse Rail infrastructure around Liverpool.

The Green Party recognises the need to shift transport mode share away from cars and flights in order to tackle emissions from transportation and that electric high speed rail lines such as HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail can play an important role in achieving this. High speed rail lines free up capacity on other rail lines that serve regional and local rail services allowing for more frequent trains to run on these lines. High speed rail lines themselves reduce domestic flights and car journeys for long distance travel because they can better compete for shorter journey times.

E20

DOLPHINS AND PILOT WHALES IN THE FAROE ISLANDS

Ben Samuel, Cathryn Westwood, Christopher Garghan, Deanna Nicholson, Debbie Charman, Diana Newson, Emma Randall, Eve Allsop,*

Georgina Wright, Gilda Davis, Jane McKears, John Davis, Julie Clarke, Lindsay Southcombe, Louise Dunk, Marc France, Martin Guest, Megan Davies, Mike Harrison, Patricia Fairey, Peter Tutt, Phillip Oliver, Rachel Congdon, Robert Beggs, Rozina Turner, Ruth Hawe, Seraphin Stafford-Townsend, Susan Tibbles, Tom Fitton, Vicky Caulfield

SYNOPSIS

Suspend trade agreement with Faroe Islands until all whale & dolphin hunts end.

MOTION

Insert into Record of policy statements:

In 2019 UK Government finalised a free trade agreement (FTA) with Faroe Islands which allows for £100 million of exports of wild caught and farmed fish to Britain per annum (20% of the Faroe Islands global trade). This FTA should be suspended until all whale & dolphin hunts on Faroe Islands end

The Free Trade Agreement with the Faroe Islands gives the UK Government significant leverage when it comes to ending the mass slaughter of pilot whales and dolphins on the Faroe Islands which causes huge anger and revulsion around the world. If the UK is to be considered a world leader in the protection of marine mammals it must use this leverage now.



SECTION F

**DRAFT VOTING
PAPERS**

F01

MIGRATION POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Graham Woodruff, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Ben Samuel, Benali Hamdache, Bernie Howley, Chesca Walton, Conan Cook, David McIntosh, James Manning, Jean Lambert, John Woodhouse, Karen Lewing, Laura Haig; Laura Lundahl; Libby Hudson, Neil Jameson; Sean Mulcahy, Tom Franklin, Walter Houston, Zoe Garbett*

SYNOPSIS

To delete from the Migration chapter in PSS everything from MG 100 to MG 454, and substitute the motion text below.

BACKGROUND

NEED FOR THE POLICY

The chapter in PSS entitled Migration (MG) sets out the humane immigration rules a Green Party in government will implement. However, this dates largely from 1990, with a very few light revisions, and needs updating.

Conference passed an enabling motion in Spring 2019 enabling this Policy Working Group to rewrite this chapter and that on Refugees & Asylum (RA). The rewrite of the RA chapter was approved by the Autumn 2022 conference and is now published here: <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/ra.html>. We are now asking members for comments on this rewritten Migration (MG) chapter.

MOTION

PRINCIPLES

MG100 The Green Party wants to see a world without borders, until this happens the Green Party will implement a fair and humane system of managed immigration where people can move if they wish to do so.

MG101 The Green Party believes that migration is not a criminal offence under any circumstances.

MG102 The Green Party will treat all migrants fairly and humanely and without discrimination.

MG103 The Green Party is opposed to forced migration and forced repatriation.

MG104 The Green Party desires to ensure the history of empire and colonialism is taught properly in all schools, and in particular how immigration policies have been used to increase the wealth and well-being of the UK at the expense of less wealthy countries.

OBJECTIVES

MG200 The Green Party seeks to establish a system that recognises that all migrants are citizens in waiting and therefore supports and encourages them to put down roots in their new home.

MG201 The Green Party accepts we all have a collective responsibility for the climate emergency and that the UK has a duty to support people forced to move due to the changes in their home environment, whether internally or from abroad.

ADMINISTRATIVE

MG300 The functions of the Home Office will be divided between a Department of the Interior and a Department of Migration, which, among other duties, will handle all visa applications.

APPLICATIONS

MG301 All visas can be applied for in country

MG302 All fees charged for visas will be at cost and not for profit.

MG303 The visa application process will be simplified to remove the need for legal advice in the majority of circumstances.

MG304 Physical visas will be offered in addition to digital documents.

MG305 Minimum income requirements will be removed from visa applications as well as any benefits from having a higher income.

MG306 Language requirements will be removed from visa resident applications. Language requirements will be present for Settled Status applications with exceptions on medical and age grounds. Free language classes will be made available.

MG307 A Green Party led Government would ensure that sufficient staff and resources are available to effect these policies.

MG308 The Department of Migration will be responsible for giving free advice and support when a person's visa is due to expire to help them make the next steps.

MG309 Unless standard exclusions apply, no person will be held in detention because of their immigration status.

STANDARD EXCLUSIONS

MG310 Visa applications from specific individuals may be rejected on grounds of public safety. These grounds are restricted to serious crime and threats to national security.

VISITORS

MG400 All arrivals to the UK without a visa will be granted a visitor visa for a period of three months regardless of where they have come from unless standard exclusions apply. They will then have this period of time to apply for a different visa if they so wish.

MG401 Visitors will not have access to welfare benefits or Universal Basic Income.

MG402 Visitors will have access to the NHS for urgent and medically necessary procedures only.

VISA RESIDENTS

MG500 For the purposes of this policy, visa residents are defined as migrants who are not yet British Citizens and who hold student, work or family visas.

MG501 All visa residents will have the right to vote in elections and referenda

MG502 Access to the NHS will be free and comprehensive for all visa residents.

MG503 Any No Recourse to Public Funds conditions will be abolished and visa residents will have access to welfare benefits or Universal Basic Income.

MG504 All Visa Residents will be able to apply for settled status after five years.

STUDENTS

MG505 Students with an offer of a place from a recognised education institution will automatically receive a visa to study unless standard exclusions apply

MG506 Residents on student visas will be permitted to stay for three years after their studies are completed to look for work.

WORKERS

MG507 Workers with a confirmed contract of employment satisfying UK employment laws will automatically receive a visa to work unless standard exclusions apply.

MG508 Residents on work visas can apply for different jobs, or if made redundant have six months to look for work automatically as part of their visa conditions.

FAMILY

MG509 Visa residents will have the right to bring members of their family to the UK who would normally live with them in their country of origin, or would do so if it were permitted by law or custom.

RESIDENTS WITH SETTLED STATUS

MG600 Residents with settled status are no longer subject to immigration rules.

MG601 Residents with settled status have the same access to benefits, student finance, and the NHS as British Citizens.

MG602 Children of residents with settled status will have access to student finance for their higher education and will not be liable for international fees.

MG603 Any resident with settled status can apply for citizenship if they wish to do so.

CITIZENSHIP

MG701 All children born in the UK are automatically British Citizens.

MG702 A Green Party led Government will commit to tackling statelessness and will ensure that once citizenship is granted it cannot be removed.

MG703 Dual citizenship is permitted.

UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

MG700 Undocumented migrants will be given free advice and support to help them to regularise their status without penalty for being undocumented.

MG701 Undocumented migrants who have been in the UK for over five years will be invited to apply for settled status unless the standard exclusions apply,

OTHER

MG800 We will encourage periods of temporary residence in the UK and abroad, particularly by young people, to promote intercultural awareness..

MG801 The Green Party will recognise the contribution of migrants and their descendants to the UK by making the 1st Monday on or after 22nd June, Windrush Day, a public holiday.

F02

PEACE SECURITY AND DEFENCE DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Mike Shipley, Sean Mulcahy, Adam Turner, Alexander Nettle, Carl Benfield, Debra Cooper, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Emily Bond, Geoff Davis, Hannah Clare, Jane Reynolds, Linda Walker, Patrick McAllister*

SYNOPSIS

This revised and updated chapter titled Peace Security & Defence is to replace the existing chapter Peace and Defence in the Policies for a Sustainable Society, [PfSS] It updates policy in the light of recent global events including the UK's withdrawal from the EU. It proposes policies to promote peace in addition to security and defence policy.

MOTION

Delete the current chapter Peace and Defence in the PfSS and replace it with the following new chapter titled Peace Security & Defence:

1 INTRODUCTION

PSD 100 Human conflict leads to environmental damage alongside the human suffering resulting from it. War damage includes pollution of air, water and soil, the destruction of society's valuable infrastructure, creation of millions of tons of rubble and widespread damage to food production and wildlife habitats and ecosystems. There are also many toxic remnants of war that cause long term damage to human health and to our natural life support system. Military training, development and production of military equipment is responsible for significant impact on the environment through its emissions and consumption of resources.

PSD101 The Green Party believes that all policy areas, including security and defence must take action to mitigate the threats posed by climate change and ecological collapse. Our security policy looks for non-violent solutions to conflict situations that will take into account the interests of all human beings, including powerless minorities and future generations, in order to achieve lasting settlements and peace. Overall, we believe that Military spending should be gradually reduced and re-channelled into meeting social and environmental challenges that represent current and potential flashpoints for conflict.

2 AIMS

PSD 200 Aims of Policy

1. To be congruent with the values of the Green Party
2. To mitigate the risks posed by human conflict and actively promote peace.
3. To develop security measures in cooperation with other countries to build trust, to prevent destructive conflict, and to help build a just local and global society based on a more equitable distribution of resources'.
4. To be consistent with international law, the Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations.
5. To ensure that any military response and expenditure is in line with the scale of the threat to national or international security and is explicitly approved by Parliament.

3 PEACE-BUILDING

PSD301 Policies will be prioritised that will actively promote peaceful relations between the diverse societies of the world. Where it is possible, potential adversaries will be drawn into common security frameworks that enhance all parties' security. Where this is not possible, our aim will be to deliver a proportional response to hostile acts.

PSD302 UK embassy staff will be given greater resources and training to enhance diplomacy and the building of positive relations with their host countries based on trust, mutual respect and understanding.

PSD303 We will advocate for the UN to provide significant support for building effective law and order systems that support democratic structures and counter corruption. To these ends the Green Party advocates the UN having power to enable resolutions to be implemented and for the UK to use its diplomatic service to collect evidence for violations or breaches of UN resolutions to submit to the UN

PSD304 The Green Party is wholly committed to the Geneva Conventions and the Geneva Protocol, and to the principle of rules-based conflict. In particular, we abhor the use of torture, infanticide, extraordinary rendition, chemical and biological weapons, and sexual violence as a weapon of war. The Green Party will never sanction any of these, and will work for international cooperation on ending these practices.

PSD 304 The Green Party supports full implementation of UN Security resolution 1325, calling for greater involvement for women in conflict resolution and post-conflict peace building.

The Green Party will press for the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889 which recognise the use of rape as a weapon of war as a war crime and a crime against humanity and call for the special training for peacekeepers in protecting women and girls in conflict situations.

PSD 305 The Green Party opposes any domestic legislation designed to limit the prosecution of UK military personnel, government ministers or officials for breaches of international humanitarian law.

Alliances and Treaties

PSD310 The Green Party recognises that Treaties and Alliances freely entered into form an important element in international relations. Where these

arrangements are designed to build trust and promote peace, they will be supported. Where we see that they undermine peaceful coexistence, we will initiate a process of review with treaty and alliance partners.

European Union

PSD311 The Green Party regrets that the UK no longer has a place at discussions of defence and security policy in the EU. We maintain our vision of the EU as playing an important role in facilitating understanding and dialogue, thus fostering the maintenance of peace within Europe, and acknowledge its diplomatic peace-keeping functions across the world.

OSCE

PSD312 The Green Party recognises the need to develop and enhance the status of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] to render it more effective in achieving the implementation of the 1975 Helsinki Accords. We welcome the OSCE's broader view of the concept of common security, the aim of which is to prevent and solve conflicts by addressing the underlying causes

PSD313 The Green Party supports the OSCE's emphasis on arms control and disarmament and the provision of mutual rights of inspection into other countries' security affairs, demonstrating the value of openness and transparency in building mutual trust and confidence.

United Nations

PSD314 The Green Party supports the founding principles of the United Nations and uses these principles of international cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution to guide its policies.

PSD315 We note the UN's founding principle of the sovereign equality of all its members, so we therefore do not support the current structure of the Security Council with its permanent members having the power of veto. All permanent seats on the UN Security Council should be abolished, allowing all nations to take a seat in turn. All decisions should be made by a 2/3 majority in the Council. Until such a reform can be achieved, we support a veto in the Security Council being overridden by a 2/3 majority of the General Assembly

PSD316 The Green Party supports the UK's use of extensive contacts with Commonwealth countries and

previous experience in UN peacekeeping operations to assist in international peacekeeping training programmes on behalf of the UN, as well as to supply necessary personnel and equipment.

NATO

PSD317 The Green Party recognises that NATO is the underlying guarantor of freedom from invasion for its member states. The Green Party supports the principle of international solidarity, whereby militarily stronger nations such as the UK help support weaker ones from aggression through mutual defence alliances.

PSD318 The Green Party supports the development of the diplomatic activities of NATO with non-member countries to ensure that dialogue, diplomacy and practical cooperation always take precedence over military action.

PSD319 The Green Party would seek the following reforms to NATO. Other alliances may be entered into should such reforms become unattainable:

- i. A commitment to coordinated action to achieve global nuclear disarmament, and fostering the same policy in non-NATO countries.
- ii. To have a greater focus on political activity to support global peace-building, solidarity and connections, and to promoting democratic and inclusive values
- iii. Enshrining the commitment to upholding human rights as NATO's utmost priority.
- iv. An end to fixed mandatory minimum levels of defence spending.

Other Treaties

Antarctica

PSD330 The Green Party supports the continuation and extension of the Antarctic Treaty, and the continued prohibition on any form of military activities on the continent.

Space

PSD 331 The Green Party recognises the importance of regulating outer space. We would work to save and strengthen the Outer Space Treaty and reinstate the concept of space as a peaceful and neutral province for all humankind.

PSD 332 We will work with other countries to clean up orbital debris and will support international treaties prohibiting the intentional destruction of satellites, except by deorbiting them into unpopulated areas as is current standard best practice.

Conversion of Military Industry and facilities

PSD340 The Green Party is committed to the early conversion of economic, scientific and technological resources presently used to support the development of offensive weapons to socially useful and productive ends. This policy of military conversion will aim to protect employment and local economies and provide needed expertise in underfunded areas such as responses to climate change.

4 SECURITY

Terrorism

PSD 400 The Green Party defines terrorism as the use or threat of violence, both in and outside of the UK, designed to influence and intimidate any government and the citizens of that country, for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause.

PSD401 The Green Party accepts the need for the UK to defend its people against those who seek to use terror and violence against us. Measures to protect society should not undermine the fundamental values that shape a green society: inclusion, justice and equality.

PD402 Police and intelligence investigations of terrorist activity need to be well resourced, and given sufficient freedom to ensure their efficacy. But Such Investigations must always be carried out in an accountable way, and remain within the law.

PD403 Those accused or found guilty of atrocities, or planning to commit, aid or abet in their execution, should be dealt with under the same principles as those accused of more conventional criminal activities. In particular, those accused of supporting terrorist acts should have normal rights against arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. It should not be a crime simply to have sympathy with the aims of an organisation, though it should be a crime to aid and abet criminal acts or to deliberately fund such acts

PSD404 The Green Party supports the inclusion of crimes of terrorism in the mandate of the International Criminal Court, and in the meantime,

supports the use of ad hoc courts under UN auspices on neutral territory.

PSD405 The Green Party accepts the need for de-radicalisation programmes to counter the appeal of terrorist groups. Such programmes must be developed in close cooperation with affected community groups, aiming to build, not erode, trust within civil society.

PSD406 The Green Party abhors the prospect of cyber-terrorism and will invest in state-of-the-art cyber-defences for all state institutions and infrastructure.

Shared Intelligence

PSD407 The Green Party accepts that Military intelligence plays a crucial role in building rational and informed decisions over the acquisition and use of military resources. No domestic surveillance of ordinary citizens may be justified as military surveillance. All domestic intelligence must be duly constrained by law and by the customary democratic rights of our country and should not disrupt legitimate peaceful protest.

Cyber-warfare:

PSD408 The Green Party will ensure that the British military and intelligence services are equipped to properly defend the country against cyber-attacks. The Green Party acknowledges that using cyber-warfare offensively may sometimes be necessary, but will never carry out attacks on critical infrastructure, the failure of which would endanger civilian life. This includes power generation, environmental stability, healthcare facilities, civil and utility infrastructures.

Climate & Ecological Emergency impact on Security

PSD 409 Military expenditure will be reprioritised to give the military the ability to assist people affected by impacts arising from climate-related disasters and conflicts both in the UK and abroad.

5 DEFENCE

PSD500 The Green Party supports the reprioritisation of defence and security budgets to better combat the real and present threats we face as a result of the Climate and Ecological emergency.

PSD501 To bring defence and security policy in line with the Green Party's overriding policy objective of developing an ecologically sustainable society, policies

of reduction of the impact of military activity, including its carbon emissions, will be adopted. Research and development into reducing the military carbon footprint will continue in conjunction with our allies, based on a percentage of our defence budget. There will be particular emphasis on reduction of fossil fuel consumption to reduce both carbon emissions and the logistic support requirement of operational forces.

PSD502 The size of the permanent military force should be appropriate to the threats faced by the UK. Functions for military personnel would include but not be limited to supporting roles in a time of natural crisis, policing fishing quotas, piracy and oceanic environmental regulations. Expertise of the UK military in disaster support will be properly resourced and be offered for UN operations and used in the training of civilian volunteers. The capability of the armed forces to discharge its functions and protect itself will be maintained through research and development within budgetary and threat constraints recognised in policy.

PSD503 The minimum age of recruitment to the Armed Forces should be 18 years or older.

PSD504 We would reform the reserves to become a body of both civilian and military volunteers, willing to contribute their services in times of domestic or international crisis.

PD505 Reducing the size of the military estate and in particular working for a reduction in the number of highly sensitive sites will reduce the current significant cost incurred by the military for protecting these sites.

PSD506 Greens believe in the importance of respecting and looking after former service personnel, giving them decent living standards and medical and legal support, to be extended to their dependents in the event of their being maimed or killed. We would provide greater support from the total military budget for people who have served in overseas wars prior to these reforms, to help them manage the trauma of their experiences.

Military Interventions

PSD 510 The Green Party does not accept that Military intervention for peacekeeping or conflict prevention can be justified unilaterally. Intervention would only be justified with 2/3 approval of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

PD511 Any military intervention must be under the auspices of the United Nations. Intervention operations must have a clearly articulated end-state, mutually agreed by both Parliament and the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Nuclear Weapons

PSD520 The Green Party is committed to the United Nations Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty that came into force in 1970. It is Green Party policy to abide by international law and work to ensure that other countries do the same.

PSD521 The Green Party believes that the use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to International humanitarian law. We therefore reject a deterrence strategy that is based on the threat of indiscriminate destruction of civilian population and infrastructure in other countries as contrary to the laws governing armed conflict.

PSD522 The Green Party notes the risks of miscalculation, misappropriation or malfunction inherent in producing and maintaining nuclear weapons. The Green Party will work with all willing partners globally to progressively limit production capabilities for such weapons, and to collectively decommission existing stockpiles.

PSD523 The Green Party believes that the UK should join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which came into force in January 2021. In doing so the UK would join the majority of countries in committing to work to remove the threat of nuclear war. Following this action the UK will immediately begin the process of dismantling our nuclear weapons, cancel the Trident programme and remove any foreign nuclear weapons from the UK, ban the export of nuclear weapons related material, ban nuclear armed ships from UK territorial waters, and open the country to the appropriate international inspection agencies.

PSD524 The Green Party supports the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Cities Appeal for a Nuclear Ban, and Green Councillors will advocate for their city or borough to support the

Appeal, and to divest council funds from nuclear weapons.

Environmental Warfare

PSD 525 The Green Party totally rejects any form of weather modification or environmental modification as a weapon, which is banned under the Environmental Modification Convention of 1978

Arms Trade

PSD530 The production of military material by the UK should be limited to its own defensive needs and its treaty obligations. Where this makes our arms industry not economically viable on its own, the industry will be taken under public control.

PSD531 Sales and transfer of military equipment to other countries will be controlled by a robust licensing system involving the Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development, and Revenue and Customs. Equipment exported will be of a defensive nature only, or strictly and verifiably for use in international campaigns sanctioned by the UN. Such a licensing system will take proper account of social sustainability criteria, human rights and regional stability issues. There will be a presumption against supply unless an export fulfils all criteria.

PSD532 In line with policy PSD530, the Green Party supports the end of all subsidies to arms exports, closing the Government's arms export agency: Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) within the Department for International Trade (DIT) and UK Export Finance (UKEF)

PSD53 We will promote the control and reduction of arms transfers internationally. We will press for the extension of the UN Register of Arms Transfers to include production and stocks, and to significantly extend the number of categories in the interests of greater transparency. We will advocate the setting up of an inspectorate associated with the Register that is independent of the major powers.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND PAPERS

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR MOTION D03

The Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) is so called in recognition that Wales and England are two separate countries. At present Wales has a form of devolved government and a Parliament – the Senedd. It is one of the strategic aims of GPEW that WGP should gain seats in the Senedd. After gaining 9 Councillors in the recent local elections, and taking into account the voting figures, WGP can realistically hope to gain Senedd seats in the Cardiff area. Greens in government in Wales and in England are a win-win situation, mutually helping our credibility and legitimacy.

The level of work that has to be undertaken by the Wales Green Party Spokesperson/Leader is high. Wales has its own forms of legislation, some of which is ahead of England and the UK (eg the Future Generations Act). As a country with its own Senedd/Parliament the level of work is akin to that of the leadership of any national party. With its own national political landscape, the S/L has to engage with all the various organisations of Wales. Within GPEW in recent years there has been a welcome integration of the Wales S/L into the leadership team, and this brings with it increased duties and demands. There is a kind of doubling up and liaison role that is necessary for the relationship to work.

This is obviously an increasingly workload for what is currently a volunteer position which means that many people from diverse backgrounds would be excluded from taking this role. This is causing difficulties for the current leader and puts off potential new candidates. This is an equality issue.

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR MOTION D20

Summary of Changes

Context

The main aim of this motion is to fulfil the following entry in Record of Organisational Statements:

- To reconsider the proxy system for online conferences and the 5-vote limit per members and to bring forward proposals to Conference to change this (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).

Further to this, serious issues arose following Spring 2022 Conference concerning fraudulent use of proxy votes (this issue is detailed in the SOC Report).

Consequently, SOC considered how best to remove proxy votes altogether.

Proxy voting provides a rough fix for the problem of representation at Conference. Only a small number of members are able to take part in Conference, leading to the problem of Conference not being representative of the Party at large. Proxy votes allow members who want to take part in the Party's democracy but are unable to attend Conference to have another member vote on their behalf.

Removing proxy voting therefore leaves this accessibility issue. SOC is of the opinion that this can be solved by moving the voting on motions to a Conference Ballot that is open to all members. This requires some re-engineering of SOCC as detailed below.

As this entails a big change to how Conference works, SOC have included a requirement for these changes to be confirmed at Spring 2024 Conference (Section 6).

Section 1 - removal of voting from plenary except for procedural motions & removal of proxy voting

This Section:

- Creates Conference Ballots.
 - Motions and amendments to motions will still be debated at Conference
 - Instead of moving to a vote after debate, business will move on to the next Agenda item
 - Conference Ballots will open at the end of the plenary session for the motions and amendments debated in that plenary
 - Ballots will stay open for one week for amendments, then re-open for

another week for motions in their final form

- Motions without amendments will be voted on in the first week
- Conference attendees are automatically registered for Conference Ballots; any other member of the Party can register for the Conference Ballots provided they have been members for three months
- Removes most references to voting on motions and amendments except for procedural motions
- Procedural motions are slightly limited; it will no longer be possible to prevent a motion from being put unless the motion proposer moves a procedural motion to withdraw their motion
- Removes proxy voting

Section 2 - adjustments to publication, consideration, and passing of the SOC report

This Section:

- Moves consideration of the SOC Report to a special meeting of SOC one week before the first plenary of Conference
- Voting on the SOC Report moves to a one week voting period following the special meeting. SOC & the ERO will work out a suitable division of that week into two voting periods; one for amendments, one for the final SOC Report
- Amends the various tweaks to the Agenda that take place via the SOC Report to account for the new timing of the SOC Report: composite motions, the GPEx power to promote one motion to the top of the agenda, errors in the Final Agenda, reports required but not received

Section 3 - replace amendments from the floor with a Special Amendments Forum

This Section:

- Removes amendments to the floor (a provision that allows Conference to amend Reports that have been received after the First Agenda deadline and so were not originally available for the amendments forum)

- Creates a Special Amendments Forum. This will open for one week following the Final Agenda
- Amendments to the SOC Report will then be considered and voted on as per Section 2 above; amendments to other Reports will be considered in the relevant Conference Ballot as per Section 1 above

Section 4 - removal of straw polls from workshops & plenary

This Section:

- Removes straw polls from workshops and their reporting to plenary

Section 5 - removal of Late Motions

This Section:

- Removes the provision for Late Motions (these allow for motions on issues that have arisen or changed since the pre-agenda deadline)
- Pulls back the Emergency Motion deadline (these also allow for motions on issues that have arisen or changed since the pre-agenda deadline, but have more restrictive content rules)

APPENDIX 2: MOTIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT PROPOSERS

IP1 Adopting EU Regulations on Levels of Carcinogenic PAHs

IP2 Gender Neutral Language in Policy

IP3 Housing for 18-30 Year Old

IP4 Making the Complaints Process Work for All

IP5 Policy Statement Endorsing the 'Manifesto for a People's Media'

- IP6 Poverty and Council Tax
- IP7 Provision of Template Constitution and Standing Orders for Regional and Local Parties
- IP8 Regulating ‘Big Tech’ Companies
- IP9 Revising RR530 Trans Rights
- IP10 Stand Down for Other Parties
- IP11 Support for Parliamentary Candidates to Succeed
- IP12 There Should Be a Law Against Pollution
- IP13 Timing of GPEX Meetings
- IP14 Ukraine – a New View of Russia and a New Strategy for Europe

APPENDIX 3: MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER

000 01

AMENDING “RR530 TRANS RIGHTS”

Alexandra Geddis, Ali Gascoyne, Alison McClean, Ann Kolodziejcki, Anna Foster, Chris Osborn, Christine Johnson, Clare Fenwick-Hyde, Dee Searle, Diane Brewster, Diane Green, Nicole Haydock

SYNOPSIS

Much has happened outside, and within the Green Party, since this policy was approved at the 2016 Autumn Conference with C4 motion “Recognising Trans identities” proposed by Aimee Challenor. The

time has come for an update and for the party to resolve what has been a deeply divisive policy.

MOTION

SOC note: This motion has been ruled out of order as it creates a substantial change to policy outside the consultation process currently ongoing with the Rights and Responsibilities Policy Working Group.

Proposed amendments in bold:

“The Green Party recognises that there are many gender identities that are within, and outside of, the traditional gender binary of man and woman. **The Green Party acknowledges the belief** that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary people’s identities exist and are valid.”

Insert new paragraph:

“It also acknowledges that the gender critical belief that biological sex is real, important, immutable and not to be conflated with gender identity is protected under the Equality Act 2010 and is equally valid.”

Insert new paragraph:

“The Green Party accepts that it is unlawful to discriminate against or harass members for holding or expressing gender critical beliefs which are Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (‘EqA10’) and Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (‘ECHR’).

We shall respect transgender and non-binary people’s identities as real. The Green Party shall include and push for further acceptance of transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society”

and add

“and will continue to support the human rights of natal women and men and the human rights of transgender and non-binary people.”

So that RR530 reads

“The Green Party recognises that there are many gender identities that are within, and outside of, the traditional gender binary of man and woman. The Green Party acknowledges the belief that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary people’s identities exist and are valid.

It also acknowledges that the gender critical view that biological sex is real, important, immutable and not to be conflated with gender identity is protected under the Equality Act 2010 is equally valid.

The Green Party accepts that it is unlawful to discriminate against or harass members for holding or expressing gender critical beliefs which are Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 ('EqA10') and Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights ('ECHR').

We shall respect transgender and non-binary people's identities as real. The Green Party shall include and push for further acceptance of transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society and will continue to support the human rights of natal women and men and the human rights of transgender and non-binary people."

000 02

LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS (KILLER ROBOTS)

Astrid Johnson, Caroline Allen, Cathryn Symons, Chloe Wilson, Declan Walsh, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Eamonn Ward, Edward Milford, Hannah Clare, Ian Wingrove, Leanne Crichton, Natalie Bennett and 10 others

SYNOPSIS

Proposed motion on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems ("killer robots"), Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and United Nations Mercenary Convention.

BACKGROUND

I've been alerted to the LAWS issue particularly through the work of the very useful APPG:

<http://appgdronesmodernconflict.org.uk/>

See this useful summary:

<https://theconversation.com/un-fails-to-agree-on-killer-robot-ban-as-nations-pour-billions-into-autonomous-weapons-research-173616>

Explosive weapons (obviously highly relevant in the context of Ukraine):

<https://www.icrc.org/en/explosive-weapons-populated-areas>

The Mercenaries Convention:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-against-recruitment-use-financing-and>

MOTION

SOC notes: This motion has been ruled out of order for being vague.

Conference directs GPEX and elected members, where possible, to work to secure UK government support for, and work towards, a ban on the use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and United Nations Mercenary Convention.

000 03

MEAT AND DAIRY REDUCTION

Adrian Ross, ANDREW MELVILLE, Andy Brown, Clare Andrews, Cllr Shane Collins, Danielle Pollastri, David Davies, David Hoare, Diana Newson, Dorothy E. Wilson, Emily O'Brien, Emma Randall and 18 others*

SYNOPSIS

No synopsis submitted.

MOTION

SOC notes: We have ruled this motion out of order as, in its current form, it has no consequential effect.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF POLICY ON MEAT AND DAIRY REDUCTION

Process for development

This statement builds on the existing commitment in policy to reduce meat and dairy, setting out in more detail how and why. The full policy working group agreed this approach at a policyfest session in Jan 2022. A small group worked on a draft statement via email and several meetings, and a draft went to a further meeting of the full PWG at policy fest in June 22. This version of the statement reflects feedback from that meeting and subsequently from the smaller group by email. The wider principles have already had substantial discussion, and it has been challenging to reach the compromise position below.

One aspect does need further input - the proposed fruit & veg subsidy scheme aimed at children (currently framed as a revamp of the existing Healthy Start scheme) and further feedback on this particularly welcome.

DRAFT STATEMENT:

Climate change modelling acknowledges that we need to reduce meat and dairy consumption to prevent catastrophic climate breakdown. A shift in consumer habits is already underway but needs to accelerate. This will be hard. Food is complicated and emotive and changing people's diets is not like changing their boiler. The cost of living crisis means many are experiencing food poverty and we need to ensure people in need aren't penalised.

This statement shows how the Green Party would achieve a substantial reduction in meat and dairy consumption, and the consequent carbon emissions, both through engaging with the public and through ensuring protection and support for farmers and food producers and a strong, sustainable rural economy.

Step 1: Mass public engagement :

A mass marketing & cooking skills campaign with positive messaging including health & economic benefits of alternatives such as pulses. A ban on advertising high-carbon foods. A 'whole school food' education programme which includes school meals and school curriculum. A reform of the Government's failing healthy start scheme which would Provide a universal voucher for all children [aged 5 and under / or 11 and under? - to discuss] to subsidise fruit, veg and milk - including plant milk alternatives. Increase the voucher value to a realistic level [e.g. £10 per child?] Pilot ways this subsidy can support local and

sustainable fruit and veg production, based on localising models such as beetroot bonds (updated following consensus at meeting on 13/6 there should be a subsidy scheme and broad support for focussing on children - but needs further refinement)

Step 2: restore farming subsidies to former EU levels and beyond, & radically reframe them to support the shift to 'less better' meat and dairy and a 'just transition' for farmers including:

Reduce and ultimately end subsidies for high-carbon practices such as beef farming and farming on peatlands. Move that investment to support nature, climate and health-friendly methods including smaller mixed farms, pasture fed, wild meat (e.g. venison), woodland pasture. Also invest in non-animal protein e.g. nut trees, legumes, and horticulture (fruit & veg) - that capture carbon, enhance nature AND produce good food. Mass green skills training programme for people working in farming and the wider food economy (including processing, retail & hospitality) including use of meat/dairy alternatives.

Step 3: Make visible the real cost of meat and dairy:

This means meat will become more 'luxury' (as it was in the pre -cheap-meat era) so MUST be alongside green party policies such as universal basic income and proper welfare benefits, which empower and enable people to make their own food choices.

Ensure labels and advertising for meat and dairy clearly show all carbon emissions, animal welfare levels and production methods Introduce VAT for meat and Dairy (they are currently exempt i.e. zero rated.) Phase in a carbon tax covering farm emissions including enteric fermentation - i.e. methane from livestock burps (mainly cow and sheep) as well as inputs such as fuel and fertiliser. The revenues from this part of the Carbon Tax will be recycled back into farming, and will be spent on measures to help farmers transition to more sustainable farming methods. Imported meat and dairy would be covered by a carbon tax on imports. (updated following consensus at meeting on 13th June 2022) What are the other benefits?

Greater food security and stronger rural economies. Addressing biodiversity loss and soil quality loss - farming produces not just our food but our landscapes and our ecosystems Benefits for water quality

(agricultural pesticide & fertilisers are the biggest contributors to river pollution) Healthier diets, meaning savings to the NHS. Sustain estimates that meat over-consumption costs the NHS directly £1.2 billion, and 45,000 deaths annually. The National Food Strategy states that obesity alone accounts for 8% of annual health spend in the UK, or £18bn.

000 04

PERSONAL CARBON ALLOWANCES

*Alice Macintosh, Ann Williams, Anne Johnson, Christopher Winsdale, Danny McNamara, Dee Searle, Elinor Ni Chathain, Fergal McEntee, Gabriel Mills, Hazel Pegg, Jenny Ross, Shahrar Ali**

SYNOPSIS

This policy replaces a weak reference to “possible carbon rationing” in CC121 with a strong section committing the Green Party to Personal Carbon Allowances as part of a transition towards a system that can realistically help us to overcome the climate emergency.

MOTION

This motion has been ruled out of order by SOC as no consultation has yet been undertaken with relevant policy working groups regarding the complex implications for other areas of policy.

CC121 To drive change throughout society the UK should combine a carbon tax and dividend with publicity campaigns and possible carbon rationing. For instance, it should require all adverts for high carbon products, including food, to carry an ‘environmental health warning’. The carbon tax would reflect all emissions of greenhouse gases, not just CO2. It should have a progressive element to deter high individual emitters.

Delete “possible carbon rationing. For instance, it” in first and second sentence and replace with “transition towards Personal Carbon Allowances for personal activities. Publicity campaigns”.

So new CC121 reads

“CC121 To drive change throughout society the UK should combine a carbon tax and dividend with publicity campaigns and transition towards Personal Carbon Allowances for personal activities. Publicity campaigns should require all adverts for high carbon products, including food, to carry an ‘environmental health warning’. The carbon tax would reflect all emissions of greenhouse gases, not just CO2. It should have a progressive element to deter high individual emitters.”

Then add new section:

Personal Carbon Allowances

CC122 A tax and dividend system cannot readily drive the required social and personal behaviour change necessary to overcome the scale of the climate emergency in the time available. A Green government would design and deliver a carbon currency economy that enabled each citizen to spend against a Personal Carbon Allowance that was set annually.

CC123 The budget would be set to limit choice of per capita carbon-intensive activities (e.g. maximum one flight per year) with the aim of rapid reduction in carbon pollution to within safe limits.

CC124 Budgets could not be traded nor could those with lavish lifestyles be expected to be able to maintain their carbon spend, for the good of current and future generations. Additional resources would be made available to those with additional needs, such as those with disabilities. Tax and dividend would only be maintained by the state alongside the carbon currency where necessary for security or increased resilience.

Proposed amendment

Add to CC123 as second sentence:

“The approach is fundamentally egalitarian, not egotistic, and engenders intergenerational equity for current and future generations, as nobody has more than their fair share and each person counts for one and no more than one.”

000 05

CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN CARE WORKERS' PAY AND ALLOWANCE

Adam Lawson, Ali Bailey, Bethany Payne, Hilary Syddall, Irene Heskett, Jake Welsh, Jane Mills, Jill Raymond, Julie Clarke, Ken Barker, Melanie Mitchell, Tom Piotrowski and 2 others*

SYNOPSIS

[Note from SOC – No synopsis has been provided]

MOTION

[Note from SOC – This motion has been ruled Out of Order due to no consequential effect]

A policy statement calling for increased pay and support for care workers, in response to the cost-of-living crisis, as part of a broader programme to make the provision of social care truly universal and free at the point of use.

000 06

SHORT TERM AIMS FOR REDUCING SEWAGE IN WATER

Adrian Ramsay, Ali Bailey, Alison Campbell, ANDREW MELVILLE, Chloe Wilson, Duncan Robinson, Gary Maylin, Ian Wingrove, Julie Daniels, Natalie Bennett, Raphael Hill, Rebecca Amoroso, Yasmin Gregory and 5 others*

SYNOPSIS

To respond to updates in legislation and water company action plans.

MOTION

SOC notes: This motion has been ruled out of order for being vague.

Ministers to use power of direction to eliminate all sewage spills in sensitive rivers and to improve all rivers known to be used for bathing.

- No dividends to be paid to shareholders until they achieve what the Minister has directed;
- Water companies to be brought back into public ownership as soon as possible.

000 07

SUPPORT FOR A CLEAN AIR AS A HUMAN RIGHT BILL

Adrian Oldman, Adrian Ramsay, Adrian Spurrell, Alan Borgars, Ali Bailey, Alice Macintosh, Andrew Worsnop, Baroness Jenny Jones, Chloe Wilson, Chris Yarrington, David McIntosh, David Stansell and 35 others*

SYNOPSIS

To update policy to include the specifics of a new Clean Air Act.

MOTION

SOC notes: This motion has been ruled out of order for having no consequential effect.

Motion to include:

- Clean air as a human right
- Indoor as well as outdoor air pollution
- A zero emissions approach that deals with air pollution and the climate crisis
- Gives Metro Mayors and local authorities the powers to go with their responsibilities
- Sets standards according to latest advice from World Health Organisation

000 08

AMENDMENT TO CO1

Peter Sims, Jonathan Essex, Vicky Elcoate, Jonathan Fuller, Sam Alston, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey*

SOC Note: this was ruled Out of Order for being both vague and trivial

Delete:

'In the first sentence, replace "and" with "with",

And in the second sentence, after "reducing its own emissions" insert ", both territorial and consumption," and delete "by 2030 and seeking to reduce the emissions embedded in its imports to zero",

so that it reads:'

And Replace with:

Delete the above text and replace with:

Then in paragraph starting with:

"CC015 The UK should base its future emissions budgets on the principles of science and equity with the aim of keeping global warming below 1.5 C."

Replace

"technological, political and social obstacles"

with:

political, social and technological obstacles

000 09

AMENDMENT TO E02

David Flint, Molly Scott Cato, Hamish Riddoch, Georgia Taylor, Nadine Storey, Lynn Haanen, Chloe Turner*

SOC Note: whilst Part 4 of this amendment was in order and appears in the agenda without numbering, the following parts were ruled Out of Order for tending to negate the original (Parts 1 & 3), and being ambiguous (Part 2).

1. The motion reads: 'The Green Party supports the introduction of a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour, for all workers no

matter their age, to help tackle the cost of living crisis.'

Replace with 'The Green Party supports the TUC's plan to move towards a £15 minimum wage, for all workers no matter their age, as part of a shift in our economy to high-wage, high-skilled and secure jobs and away from a reliance on low-paid and insecure work.'

2. The motion reads: "The Green Party supports all trade union campaigns for £15 an hour, and will stand in solidarity with them in fighting for higher wages and working conditions'

Replace with 'The Green Party stands in solidarity with trade unions campaigning for higher wages and supports a return to pre-austerity wages for public-sector workers'.

3. The motion reads: 'The Green Party will seek to introduce a minimum wage of at least £15 an hour after the next general election' Replace with 'The Green Party would increase the minimum wage immediately to £12, support campaigns for the median wage to rise to £20, and ensure an automatic uprating of the minimum wage by setting it at 75% of median wages.'

APPENDIX 4: RECORD OF ORGANISATIONAL STATEMENTS FOR STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Standing Orders Committee to undertake:

- To update SOCC in accordance with D04 Spring Conference 2022 and publish to members
- To update and maintain the Record of Organisational Statements (RoOS)
- To continue to improve the webform for submission of motions, whether using an outside provider or designed in-house (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020) with the support of GPEx.

[Outstanding statements not yet notified to Conference as dealt with or incorporated into Party documents]

- To insert three clauses passed in D01 Autumn 2018 'Facilitating Incorporation of the GPEW' into the constitution "when the transfer happens".
- To update SOC Standing Orders and/or Handbook to reflect various motions passed at Conferences viz: To ensure that the annual ballots for the Green Party Executive (GPEx) and the Policy Development Committee (PDC) are well publicised and fully engaged with by the membership, To ensure that its appointee to the role of ERO takes their role in overseeing the conduct of the elections seriously and takes an active role in responding to complaints and concerns raised about conduct during elections.
- To ensure with PDC that the Policy Process presentation at <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/node/59> is updated if the member website changes

(SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).

- To reconsider the proxy system for online conferences and the 5-vote limit per members and to bring forward proposals to Conference to change this (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020).
- To carry out a full review of regulations for national elections [ERO Report, part of SOC Report Autumn 2020].
- To number motions in the Pre-Agenda process if all of the possible motions continue to be listed in one stream on the member website (SOC Report Recommendation, A1 Autumn 2020)

APPENDIX 5: STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS

1. Introduction

These Standing Orders are intended to set out basic principles that should shape the way in which SOC makes decisions. It is in addition to the rules & procedures established in the Constitution and the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference. Should there be a conflict of interpretation between these standing orders and the Constitution/SOCC then the Constitution/SOCC take precedence. These standing orders will be agreed at Conference from time to time via the SOC report.

2. SOC Convenor

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a Convenor or two Co-Convenors. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week.

Fourteen weeks before each Conference, the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors must notify all members of SOC of the arrangements for SOC to discuss the first and final agenda for the forthcoming Conference. These details shall be advised to members on the member website by the Pre-Agenda deadline.

The Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

3. Membership

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors are appointed, or removed by a vote of no confidence, by a minimum of three members of

SOC or a simple majority if there are fewer than five members of SOC.

Members of SOC may petition the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors to hold a vote to issue a rebuke to individual members, or the Co-Convenors may initiate such a vote of their own motion, with reasons given in advance of a meeting by telephone, online or in-person as described in section 6 below. This must also be by a minimum of three members of SOC or a simple majority if there are fewer than five members of SOC.

Having taken a vote to issue a rebuke, members of SOC may recommend in their report to an intervening Conference that this member be removed from their position on the Committee ahead of the next Annual Ballot.

4. Principles of Decision-Making

SOC will operate to the highest standards of accountability and transparency as regards decision-making. The key principles (in addition to those set out in the Constitution are):

a) Decisions will always be in writing and make reference to the relevant sections of the party's Constitutional documents or other relevant principles;

b) Where possible decisions will be taken by consensus of all members of SOC; where this is not possible (except where stated otherwise) all decisions will require that both a majority of members voted and that a majority voted for the proposal;

c) Members may give advice, when asked, to others in the Party because of the special knowledge of documents they may have. In these circumstances it must be made explicit that this is an individual view and not that of SOC, and that this does not constitute a formal ruling or advice.

d) Co-optees to the Committee will be allowed to vote but their votes will not count towards determining if either of the required majorities have been reached;

e) All decisions shall be taken with the knowledge of each member of SOC or one its sub-committees where possible. When giving advice or rulings, or otherwise communicating on SOC business where it has not yet been possible to come to a consensus view, members should consult with one another, and particularly the Convenor or Co-Convenors, before sending any message of their own which might not command the consensus of SOC as a whole.

f) Members who occupy other positions in responsibility within the party must recognise where they have a potential conflict of interest in any discussions on SOC business, and recuse themselves accordingly if required.

g) Members of SOC may speak to the merits of motions debated at a Party Conference, though only if they have first recused themselves from any discussion of it as part of normal SOC business.

5. Decisions That Must Be Taken at a Formal Meeting of SOC

- a) The agreement of the final agenda
- b) The content of the SOC report
- c) Changes to these Standing Orders
- d) Votes of No Confidence
- e) Votes to issue a rebuke

Formal meetings may be in person or by web, on-line or video conference. All other decisions can be taken at either a formal meeting, by a discussion & vote on the e-list or by web, online, video or telephone conference. The procedures for these are below. SOC members must ensure that they provide the SOC Convenor or Co-Convenors with a current e-mail address and telephone number.

6. Electoral Returning Officer (ERO)

SOC shall appoint an ERO for elections that take place as part of the Annual Ballot, and at Conference.

As per 9.ii of the Constitution, the ERO is responsible for drawing up Electoral Regulations for agreement by SOC. Standard practice in the Party is for Electoral Regulations to rollover from one election to the next, with the ERO proposing amendments to SOC as they see fit.

The ERO should be able to carry out their role during elections with minimal involvement of SOC. To this end, the ERO's decision is considered final. Where candidates wish to complain about an ERO's conduct, they should do so via the Party's complaints system as with any other member.

Where a candidate thinks the ERO has applied the electoral regulations unfairly during an election, or misinterpreted them, they should address this directly with the ERO in the first instance. Should the candidate remain dissatisfied, they may advise SOC of the situation.

Having considered the situation, SOC may advise the ERO where it thinks electoral regulations have been applied unfairly or misinterpreted. It is up to the ERO how and whether they act on this advice; SOC may not instruct an ERO to take a specific action.

Should SOC lose confidence in an ERO's ability to carry out their role, a vote of no confidence in the ERO may be held. Such a vote must be proposed and seconded at a quorate meeting of SOC, in confidential session, and will pass by simple majority vote. A precis of the decision should be drawn up for inclusion in the SOC Report.

In the event of the ERO post becoming vacant during an election, the Deputy ERO shall become Acting ERO until a new ERO can be appointed. In the absence of any Deputy EROs, a member of SOC may stand in as Acting ERO.

7. Decisions Other Than at a Formal Meeting of SOC

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision other than at a formal meeting of SOC (eg. by e-mail or

through an online platform such as Trello) with the exception of a vote of no confidence in the SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors or a vote to issue a rebuke.

Before doing so the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion other than at a formal meeting. Generally, it is anticipated that following a request for a formal decision by e-mail, a discussion about the issue will have taken place (by e-mail, by telephone or by some other means) and this will assist the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors in reaching their decision.

Once the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors has decided to use means other than a formal meeting they should either upload the item to the relevant online platform, such as Trello, or else post a simple e-mail covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'.

In either case the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution & SOCC and where appropriate confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 24 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by telephone.

Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

If the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors has attempted to alert members as given above but by the deadline some have not voted, then for the purposes of 3(b) it is stated that in this situation there is not a requirement for a majority of members to have voted.

8. Online Spaces for Viewing SOC Business

The SOC Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors will maintain either an e-mail list ('E-list') or else an online platform or space (eg. Green Spaces

and the SOC Stream) to which all SOC members and the Returning Officer can post items and any Green Party member can join on a 'read-only' basis.

9. Decision by web, on-line, video or telephone conference

Notice of a web, on-line, video or telephone conference should be published on the SOC E-list or platform described above along with a note of the business to be discussed during the conference at least 24 hours in advance of the conference. SOC may invite relevant people to participate in the conference. Requests from members to 'listen in' will normally be accepted. However such members have no automatic right to actively participate in the discussion.

Minutes covering decisions taken, the reasons for them, and votes cast will be circulated by the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors (or a person nominated by them) on the E-list or platform described above as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of the end of the conference. So that a contemporaneous record is kept of these conferences, when the Convenor or one of the Co-Convenors posts the minutes onto the E-list or platform described above this will be taken as a proposal to accept the accuracy of the minutes, to be repeated as the first item of business at a subsequent web, on-line, video or telephone conference.

10. SOC Rulings

SOC will receive requests for rulings from time to time. SOC should refrain from issuing rulings based on vague & hypothetical situations since this could lead to the application of rulings out of context.

11. Emergency Business - Suspension of Standing Orders

If all members of SOC agree, these standing orders can be suspended for the purposes of a particular decision. However specifically business

covered by (4) above cannot be discussed whilst these standing orders are suspended.

12. Changes to these Standing Orders

These Standing Orders can only be amended at a formal meeting of the Committee.

13. The SOC Report

The SOC Report should contain the following:

- (i) Rulings made and the reasons for them
- (ii) a list of the decisions made by E-list and web, on-line, video or telephone conference
- (iii) full details of any decisions made under Section A, part (9) above.

APPENDIX 6: CONTACT DETAILS OF PROPOSERS OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

A list of motion and amendment lead proposers and their contact details will follow in a Supplementary Agenda – in the meantime, you can contact proposers via Green Spaces at:

<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/autumn-conference-2022-agenda-forum/>.



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Follow the action on **#GPC22**

