

GPEX Motion Background Reading

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NOT PART OF THE MOTION

THIS IS THE TEXT OF THE EXISTING CLAUSE 7

7. GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE

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. 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 and Appeals 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 and additional members to the following functional positions, elected to serve for two years:

(a) Chair;

(b) Campaigns Co-ordinator;

(c) Elections Co-ordinator;

(d) External Communications Co-ordinator;

(e) Finance Co-ordinator;

(f) Management Co-ordinator;

(g) International Co-ordinator;

(h) Local Party Support Co-ordinator;

(i) Policy Development Co-ordinator;

(j) Publications Co-ordinator;

(k) Internal Communications Co-ordinator

(l) Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator

(m) The co-chairs of the Young Greens as a job share

(n) Trade Union Liaison Officer

iii) 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.

The posts below will be elected in one group in the annual ballot, with all other GPEX posts up for election as a group during the alternate years.

Chair;

Campaigns Co-ordinator;

Elections Co-ordinator;

External Communications Co-ordinator;

Management Co-ordinator;

International Co-ordinator;

Trade Union Liaison Officer.

iv) Subject to the collective responsibility of the Executive set out in 7 i), 7 xvi) and elsewhere in section 7, each member of the Party Executive shall ensure that the needs of the Party are being met in their particular area of responsibility. Within that area of responsibility set out in 7ii), the member shall be individually responsible for all decisions except those which have been made collectively by the Party Executive.

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 and Co-ordinator posts shall have been a member of the Party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, and shall be required to complete a standard application form. Nominations of candidates must be supported by the signatures of a minimum of ten members of the 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 Chair and Co-ordinator 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 Committees as it considers necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and shall determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, retaining responsibility for the conduct of such Committees and accounting for the conduct of those Committees to the Annual Conference. Any such Committee shall include at least one member of the Regional Council.

xi) The Party Executive shall appoint the following posts:

(a) a National Election Agent;

(b) a Treasurer, whose appointment shall be subject to ratification by the Regional Council;

(c) a Panel of Speakers, who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy. 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.

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 or a Co-ordinator post holder, 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 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.

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 AGM.

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).

THE TEXT OF THE PATHFINDER MOTION BOUGHT TO AUTUMN 2022 THAT SETS OUT THE WHOLE CHANGE OF WHICH THIS IS ONE PART.

Constitutional Pathfinder Document

Introduction

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 bought 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:

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

6. **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

7. **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

8. **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.

9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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 CouncilDisciplinary Committee and Alternative Disciplinary Committee will remain independent bodies reporting directly to conference.
12. **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.
13. **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.