

**GREEN PARTY OF ENGLAND AND
WALES AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2023
FIRST AGENDA**

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SECTION A

REPORTS AND MOTIONS SUBMITTED TO CONFERENCE

CODE OF CONDUCT OVERSIGHT BODY REPORT

Jon Nott, Martha James, Andreas Christodoulou, Ron Meldrum*

MOTION

Members Jon Nott (Chair of GPEx), Martha James (Co-chair of GPRC), Andreas Christodoulous (Chair of DC), Ron Meldrum (Representative from ADRC)

SOC Note: AC is no longer the Chair of DC, though was at time of writing

The code of conduct, details the remit of this body as:

"3. Oversight This document is to be kept under review by a group consisting of: the Co-Chairs of Green Party Regional Council, the Chair of Disciplinary Committee, the Coordinator of Disputes Resolution Committee, and the Chair of GPEx, or their deputies or substitutes. "

"4.2 Revision – The oversight body may propose revisions to this document on which it has reached consensus after consultation with relevant staff. If there is consensus, a change will take effect immediately. All revisions, as well as proposed revisions for which there is a majority in favour but not consensus, are to be ratified via inclusion in a report from the oversight body to the next Conference. Subject to a majority Conference vote in favour of the report, any revision shall take immediate and permanent effect."

The code of conduct oversight body met sporadically throughout the year to work on a revised code of conduct, that we are hope to bring to the next conference, we have been consulting members, both on-line and at Spring 2023 conference.

On the 7th July 2023 the code of conduct oversight body, there was consensus to attach the updated 2023 anti bullying and harassment policy to the code of conduct. This means this section of the code of conduct:

"i. The Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination (&Whistleblowing) policy Clauses appended: full document Appendance date: 15/04/2015 Appended via: a decision of Conference Oversight body: GPEx Version number of document: version 1, dated 15/04/2015 "

Should be replaced with:

"i. Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy & Procedure

Clauses appended: full document

Appended date: 7th July 2023

Appended via a decision of the code of conduct oversight body

Version number of document: dated April 2023"

Whilst we reached the decision by consensus, so the change took immediate effect, we also wanted to report the decision at conference.

A02

FUNDING OUR BIGGEST GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN EVER

Jon Nott, Matthew Hull, Rosie Rawle, Martin Skelton, Richard Bearman*

SYNOPSIS

The next 18 months will be the most important in our party's history. We have a unique opportunity to elect our second, third and fourth MPs to parliament. But this requires the resources to match our ambition. This motion therefore proposes increasing the standard membership fee to £5 per month.

MOTION

Conference notes:

In the next 18 months, the Green Party has a unique opportunity to elect its second, third, and fourth MPs to parliament, become a permanent fixture in local councils and gear up to break through in the 2026 Senedd elections.

To achieve unprecedented wins in the next two years and support the growth of our local parties and membership at the same time, requires us to maintain and grow our funding base.

The Green Party is not funded by billionaires or giant corporations, but is powered by ordinary people who are ready to build a better world.

Increasing membership fees would generate increased income to regional and local parties through their annual capitations, given a proportion of membership fees are re-distributed to them.

The Constitution of the Green Party of England and Wales states that "Membership subscriptions and capitation rates shall be subject to regular reviews as of Green Party AGM 2001. Such reviews shall be carried out on a 3 yearly basis by GPEX in consultation with GPRC." The last review of membership fee rates was considered by Conference in Spring 2020 and an increase in line with inflation was implemented that year.

That we have a responsibility to our members, to our employees, to our elected Greens and to those who elected them, to ensure the party is in a strong financial state and position of power by the time of the next membership fee review.

The Green Party's standard membership fee is currently £3.33 per month and the concessionary rate is £6 per year.

The importance of maintaining an affordable concessionary rate to ensure Party membership is accessible to all.

Conference resolves:

To mandate the Green Party Executive to initiate an increase to the standard membership rate of £3.33 per month to £5 per month as soon as is feasible, with no changes being made to the concessionary rate of £6 per year, or any other membership rates.

SECTION B

VOTING PAPERS ON CHAPTERS OF POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

To be determined following publication of the First Agenda

SECTION C

ACCREDITED POLICY MOTIONS

To be determined following publication of the First Agenda

SECTION D

ORGANISATIONAL MOTIONS

AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF ADRC

Paul Beswick, Jan King, Marisa Johnson, Edward Green*

SYNOPSIS

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (ADRC) standing orders were last amended as part of the Co-ordinator's Report A11 to Autumn Conference 2021. The ADRC has been working on multiple changes to these standing orders since January 2023. ADRC therefore now proposes Conference approves its current Standing Orders in full.

MOTION

Replace all existing Standing Orders for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee with the following;

Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee (ADRC) Standing Orders

- 1) There shall be an Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee as a stand-alone committee of the Green Party. Its aim is to assist members to resolve any disputes occurring between single members or groups of members within local parties, regional parties, sub-groupings and national committees. It will report on its activities to each Conference.
- 2) The committee will consist of up to 7 members; these members will be elected biannually at alternate Green Party Autumn Conferences, with any vacancies filled by co-option or at other Conferences. To help prevent gender imbalance, no more than four members will identify as being of the same gender. Members of the ADRC can only stand for re-election a maximum of three times.
- 3) The ADRC will select one of its members to be Coordinator every two years. The Coordinator will be the first point of contact with ADRC, and will be responsible for keeping ADRC's records up to date. Any budget to cover the ADRC's expenses will be sent to the Green Party Executive for approval.
- 4) Communication with the ADRC is via the < coordinator@adrc.greenparty.org.uk > email address. This address may be found in Green Spaces and on the Party members' website. The confidential nature of disputes is such that this email address may not be monitored by non-ADRC members. An overview of ADRC work will be provided at each Green Party conference. All ADRC proceedings are confidential and will only be made public in exceptional cases and only with the approval of those involved. Confidentiality will apply to the names, details and local parties of those involved. In exceptional circumstances legal processes may override the normal rules of confidentiality
- 5) The only power that the ADRC has is the power of persuasion. Most dispute resolution will be via online meetings; other methods of dispute resolution may include telephone calls, emails, letters and face to face meetings with mediators and between the aggrieved parties. If at any time either party notifies the ADRC in writing that they wish to end the resolution process then the ADRC will cease to be involved. Normally ADRC involvement ends when the two or more parties reach an agreement.
- 6) ADRC involvement can take one of three routes:
 - a. In line with the party's complaints process, or provisions in the constitution, complaints may be referred to the ADRC by the Disputes and Complaints Referral Group (DCRG) for dispute resolution.

- i) If the disputants do not consent or, after due evaluation, in the opinion of the ADRC there are no realistic prospects of any resolution, or the referrer recalls the complaints case, ADRC will pass the dispute back to the referrer.
 - ii) The complaint will then be referred by the DCRG to the Green Party's Disciplinary Committee
 - b. If a formal complaint has been made, but the respondent has been judged not to have breached the Green Party Code of Conduct or the Green Party Constitution, or to have brought the Party into disrepute, the CRG may refer the complaint to the ADRC, on the understanding that this is the only option available to the complainant.
 - c. ADRC can also offer assistance independently of the complaints process if its members hear about a problem and feel that dispute resolution is possible and would improve Party well-being.
- 7) The committee is able to make recommendations to appropriate Green Party bodies for adjustments to processes which may avoid disagreements and disputes arising in future or aid the settling of disputes when they occur. The committee would expect a response within 28 days.
- 8) The committee will seek to develop the conflict resolution skills of all members of the Party by offering training, for example workshops at Conference. ADRC members will also seek to develop their own skills and will take training in conflict resolution if they have not previously done so.
- 9) ADRC will develop guidelines as to what users of its service can expect, and ensure appropriate pro-forma templates and case recording are used by all ADRC mediators. These will be available as a resource for use in dispute resolution across the party.
- 10) ADRC will create and maintain a list of approved volunteer mediators it authorises to carry out dispute resolution. This list will aim to reflect the diversity in the Green Party, and support will be offered to ensure it includes people from currently underrepresented groups. Every ADRC-approved mediator will be expected to adhere to the principles outlined in the ADRC's Framework for Mediation, which shall be accessible to all Party members via Green Spaces. Failing to comply with the principles outlined in this framework will result in an investigation, potentially resulting in being removed from the list of ADRC mediators and also from the Committee itself, if the mediator in question is also a member of that committee. It may also result in a formal complaint.
- 11) ADRC will also offer support and assistance with the development of dispute resolution capacity in local parties, regional parties, or any national level body. Where dispute resolution can be carried out adequately by others, ADRC will normally consider referring disputants to the appropriate level initially in line with the party's values.
- 12) Where a dispute resolution process elsewhere at a local or regional level has failed and ADRC is then asked for help, ADRC will first evaluate the dispute and make appropriate recommendations.
- 13) As Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) is responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party, ADRC will seek to maintain a close working relationship with GPRC. This relationship should be twofold:
 - i) A member of ADRC will attend GPRC meetings, if required, to provide information about ADRC actions and to explore any regional problems.
 - ii) ADRC will also invite a member of GPRC to become its GPRC Friend. This friend will be kept informed of ADRC work and meetings. Any friend's expenses will be met from the GPRC budget.
- 14) These Standing Orders may be temporarily amended by a two-thirds vote of all current members of the Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee at an ADRC meeting, and the changes will stand from their issue to the Standing Orders Committee following this meeting until the next competent Green Party Conference.
- 15) Because the work of ADRC depends on the active participation of all members and also because of the growing demand for the committee's work, a member of the ADRC who ceases to participate for a substantial amount of time, for whatever reason, may be asked to resign, following a confirmatory decision by a majority of members of the committee, so another member can be co-opted.

- 16) That said, of course it is anticipated that committee members will be in regular communication with each other and normally any difficulties in participation would be discussed and agreed informally without reference to this standing order.
- 17) In the event of that member not taking any steps to resign or explain why they have been unable to participate in the work of ADRC, and if that member is still unable to continue as an active member within 14 days of the request for an explanation, that member shall no longer be a member of ADRC, and ADRC shall be at liberty to co-opt another person to replace them. Exceptions to this can be made following discussion with the ADRC*.
- 18) In addition, an ADRC member who attends committee meetings and responds to communications but does not take on any work of the committee, and/or does not progress the work they have taken responsibility for will also be asked to resign for non-participation by the ADRC.

*Guidance for the ADRC's decision here is that they are confident it will be a temporary period of inactivity and full duties will be resumed in an agreed period if the workload of the committee can accommodate this. Committee members are expected to contact the ADRC about any expected inactive period as soon as possible prior to the inactivity.

D02

CHANGE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF THE PARTY

Martha James, Joseph Hudson-Small, Anne Gayfer, Darren Yates, Kate Dodd, John Macefield*

SYNOPSIS

This motion changes the composition of the Regional Council and the Executive in line with the pathfinder motion submitted to Conference in Autumn 2022 and the motions submitted to Spring 2023. It increases the size of Regional Council and introduces PR; and reduces GPEx and introduces a competence threshold.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass

Part One This motion calls on Conference to amend Clause 6 of the constitution as follows: Delete existing clause i) i) There shall be a Green Party Regional Council which shall provide a forum for dialogue between Regions, responsible for keeping under review the general well-being of the Party and for supporting and advising the Green Party Executive, particularly on matters of political strategy. and replace it with i) There shall be a Green Party Council which shall be responsible for managing the Party's culture, creating the political strategy, and directing the political direction of the Party in between conferences. ii) It will be responsible for supporting and advising the Green Party Executive and hold the Executive to account for the delivery of the political strategy And renumber, deleting Regional Council throughout Clause 6 and elsewhere in the Constitution and replacing it with Council

Delete existing clause iv) iv) The Regional Council shall consist of two members elected by postal ballot (as specified in Appendix C) by and from each constituted Region. Each term of membership of Regional Council shall be for two years commencing from the date of election by the individual Region. Such election shall be notified, in writing, to the Secretary of the Regional Council giving the date of election and confirmed by the Region's Electoral Returning Officer. Such notice is to be given not less than two weeks prior to the next meeting of the Regional Council. and replace it with iv) The Council shall consist of 36 members. Each council member's term will be for three years and 12 people will be elected every year, using a single transferable vote process, as part of the annual ballot. Any member who has been a member for over two years will be eligible to stand. v) No person can be elected to more than two full terms consecutively. Terms will be considered non-consecutive if they are approximately one year apart. Members elected to a shortened term at the first Annual Ballot or elected to a shortened term to fill a vacancy are not considered to be elected to a full term. vi) The Green Party Leader (or Co-Leaders), the Deputy Leader (or Deputy Leaders), the Wales Leader, and the Young Greens Co-Chairs will all be voting members of the Council. Where the position is a job-share, the role will have a single vote. The two Young Greens Co-Chairs will have one vote each. The Chair and Treasurer of the Executive, plus the CEO will be non-voting members of the Council. And renumber subsequent clauses

Delete existing clause v) vii) Any casual vacancy on the Regional Council may be filled by the appropriate Region according to its constitution. and replace it with v) Casual vacancies on the Council shall be filled at the next Annual Ballot. The highest ranked candidate who does not meet the threshold to be ordinarily elected, shall be elected to fill any vacant seats, with their term being the original term of the casual vacancy they are filling. This process will be repeated until all casual vacancies have been filled.

Delete Clause viii) viii) The Regional Council shall elect by secret ballot from within its number two Co-chairpersons who have different gender identities, and shall appoint a secretary. and replace it with viii) Every year at its AGM the Council shall elect by secret ballot from within its number two Co-chairpersons who have different gender identities, and shall appoint a secretary.

Amend Clause xiii) xiii) The Regional Council may request with reasonable notice any member of the Green Party Executive to attend one of its meetings to report on their area of responsibility. So it reads xiii) The Council may request with reasonable notice any member of the Green Party Executive, regional coordinator or the chair(s) of any recognised affiliated group to attend one of its meetings to report on their specific area of responsibility. Those requested to attend may send another officer in their place.

Add Clause xv) xv) The Council will be run according to its Standing Orders. Any change in its Standing Orders needs to be agreed by a two - thirds majority and be ratified by the following Conference.

Insert new clause at the end of section 6: The Appeals committee of the Council will be elected at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council and will consist of 9 Council members, none of whom may be a Co-Chair of the Council. The quorum for the Council Appeals committee will be 5.

And to amend Clause 9 as follows: Add to Existing Clause 9) 1): (f) Members of The Council;

Part Two This motion calls on conference to amend Clause 7 of the constitution by deleting the existing Clause 7 and replacing it with the following:

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 the following voting members: Leader plus Deputy Leader(s) or Co-Leaders, Wales Green Party Leader, the two co-chairs of the Young Greens as a job share and the additional

members elected to the following functional positions, to serve for two years: a) Chair; b) Treasurer; c) Seven ordinary members. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be a non-voting member of the Executive. 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 or other clauses of the constitution, 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 Party's structures and staff responsibilities. This will be done using an appropriate methodology, to ensure an acceptable workload and that each Party Executive's skills are matches to their portfolio. 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 Member positions 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 the Green Party Regional Council's 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 two months. ix) A quorum of the Party Executive shall comprise a majority of the total 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: a) a National Election Agent; b) The Party Executive shall nominate persons to Spokesperson roles, who shall each be responsible for covering a designated area of policy. They shall be appointed subject to ratification by the Green Party Regional Council, who may approve or reject any nomination. The Regional Council may recall any appointed Spokesperson. The Young Greens Co-Chairs shall be the Youth and Students Spokespeople. c) 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 20% 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 a casual vacancy (i.e. one not arising in the normal electoral cycle) for a GPEX Chair, Treasurer or Ordinary Member position a replacement shall be appointed in an acting capacity by the Party Executive until the next scheduled ballot is held. An acting replacement will not have voting rights 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 financial oversight and administration of the Party and fundraising for its operations; 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 General Meeting; f) to present to the Annual General Meeting 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 9) 1) b) to read: (b) GPEX Chair and Ordinary Members;

Amend Clause 15 Campaigning, to make consistent the relationship with GPEX in light of the changes made to GPEX above, so it reads:

CAMPAIGNING i. 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. ii. The Campaigns Committee shall include five members elected at the Annual Conference, with vacancies to be filled by election, or by co-option to be ratified at an intervening conference. iii. 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. iv. The Campaigns Committee shall provide a report to each Annual General Meeting. v. The Campaigns Committee is a sub-committee of GPEX.

Amend Clause 16 International Committee, to make it a working group of the regional Council consistent with the Regional Council leading on political issues, and to remove repetition in the current constitution and to require a report to be made annually at conference so it reads:

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE i. There shall be a Green Party International working group (hereafter called the International Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of the Green Party Regional Council (GPRC). ii. The International Committee shall include five 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 International Committee shall be to support the work of the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) and organise the International work of the party. This includes, among other things, selecting delegates and / or representatives to meetings of fellow Green parties and groupings of Green parties worldwide. iv. The International Committee shall provide a report to each Annual General Meeting. v. The International Committee is a working group of GPRC.

Add new Clause 17, renumbering other clauses in the constitution as needed, to create a Trade Union Liaison Committee to coordinate the Party's relationship with the trade union movement and other workers' organisations:
17 TRADE UNION LIAISON COMMITTEE I. There shall be a Green Party Trade Union Liaison working group (hereafter called the Trade Union Liaison Committee) which shall be convened by a specified member of GPRC, who is to have responsibility for Trades Unions. II. The Trade Union Liaison Committee shall include five 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 GPEW 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 General Meeting. V. The Trade Union Liaison Committee is a working group of GPRC.

Amend Clause 20 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 i. 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. ii. The EEDI Committee shall include five members elected by Annual Conference with vacancies filled by election or by co- option to be ratified at an intervening conference. iii. The EEDI Committee shall also include a representative of each group that is recognised as a Members Working Group by the EEDI Committee. iv. The EEDI Committee shall provide a report to each Annual Conference. v. 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.

Transitions GPRC Following the passing of this motion we will transition to the new format of the Council as follows: At the first Annual Ballot, only 12 Council seats shall be up for election. At all future Annual Ballots, 12 seats shall ordinarily be up for election (the seats of the Councillors whose terms are expiring in that year) and the 12 Councillors elected shall serve for a three year term. Any existing members of GPRC will transition to become full voting members of the Council, with their terms expiring in line with their existing mandate. If any such Regional Councillor is elected to the Council at an Annual Ballot, they shall immediately cease to be a member by way of this transition clause. If any Regional Councillor ceases to be a member of the Council, or is elected to the Council at an Annual Ballot, the region which elected them shall not replace them. This clause shall be removed automatically once all of the following have taken place: ● The first Annual Ballot has concluded, ● The terms of any and all Regional Councillors have expired.

GPEX At the next Annual Ballot following this motion being passed, those members standing down, comprising half of GPEX, will be replaced by the seven ordinary members elected as set out in this motion. The accountabilities set out in Clause 7 iv) shall exclude the responsibilities of those members of GPEX who still have a year left to serve. In the following Annual Ballot, the remaining half of the existing GPEX members shall stand down and elections conducted for the new Chair and Treasurer elected as set out in this motion.

Incorporation Conference instructs GPRC through its Party Structure Working Group to bring back further motions to build on these changes to enable the incorporation of the Party.

D03

PATHFINDER MOTION

Martha James, Joseph Hudson-Small, Adam Turner, Anne Gayfer, Darren Yates, Kate Dodd, John Macefield*

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 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:

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/Wales 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 annually 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 Dispute Resolution 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 their 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.

D04

REMOVE REFERENCE TO CAMPAIGNS DOCUMENT OF 1995

Claire Nash, Tom Scott, Richard McCarthy, Charles Harris*

SYNOPSIS

Removal of reference in the constitution to a Party strategy last revised in 1995. This constitutional reliance on an out of date document causes significant problems for extra-electoral campaigns.

MOTION

In the GPEW constitution Section which reads: iv) The role and organisation of the Campaigns Committee is set out in the Extra Electoral Strategy Paper as agreed at Annual Conference 1995.

Delete 'Paper as', 'Annual' and '1995' so that it reads: iv) The role and organisation of the Campaigns Committee is set out in the Extra Electoral Strategy agreed at Conference.

D05

SPLIT SOC INTO TWO INDEPENDENT PARTS

Martha James, Joseph Hudson-Small, Anne Gayfer, Darren Yates, Kate Dodd, John Macefield, Nick Barnett, Janine Pyke*

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

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass

This motion calls on conference to make the following changes to the constitution to create two new governance bodies to take over the work currently done by Standing Orders Committee (SOC) and to enact this through the transition process outlined. Constitution Changes Insert the following Clause after Clause 9 and renumber New Clause 10: Constitution Interpretation Committee i) Constitution Interpretation Committee. There will be a Constitution Interpretation Committee (CIC) which shall be the final authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and Standing Orders for all parts of the Party. ii) The CIC 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).

Amend the following clauses of the existing Clause 10 to replace references to the current SOC, where it is replaced by the Conference Business Committee (CBC), so it reads: Amend [existing] Clause 10 ii) a) so it reads: a) it shall be required to receive reports only from the Conference Business Committee, Policy Development Committee, Disciplinary Committee, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; and the Constitution Interpretation 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 of business of conference, including the order in which motions are taken, 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.

Amend [existing] Clause 10 vi) so it reads: 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 Constitution Interpretation Committee, Conference Business Committee, 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 CIC from time to time, such that if any candidate receives more negative than positive votes such candidate shall not be elected. Add to Existing Clause 9) 1): (e) Members of Constitution Interpretation Committee;

D06

ADD CONSTITUTION SECTION ON SPOKESPEOPLE

Peter Price, Finn White, Thomas Atkin, Avery Withers, Philip Davies, Patrick McAllister, Josh Morris-Blake, Sam Easterby-Smith, Emma Garnett, David McIntosh, Ellie Crane, Redd Crossland, Martin Osborne, Peter Brommer, Pete Johnson, Phil Di Palma*

SYNOPSIS

This motion would add a section on Spokespeople to the constitution. This motion would outline that spokespeople are selected by the current process of a sub-committee of GPEX. This motion will also outline Spokespeople's expectations, accountability, etc.

BACKGROUND

The selection process of Spokespeople is unclear to those not in GPEX. As our Spokespeople are effectively seen as our Party's 'frontbench', Party (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) are often held responsible for Party Spokespeople by the general public, as is the Party as a whole, there should therefore be a clear selection process and recall process of our Party's Spokespeoples.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Add a new section to the constitution titled Spokespeople.

The content of this section will state:

The Green Party of England and Wales shall have various Spokespeople to represent the Party's policies on traditional and social media. Spokesperson roles must include the Wales Spokesperson and the 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 members of the Party for three complete years, preceding the closing date of applications, 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.

SOC note: The below text has been found to be Out of Order as contrary to the Constitution, since sub-committees of GPEX must include a member of GPRC

~~Spokespeople shall be selected every two years, following Leader and Deputy Leader elections. The selection shall be by a sub-committee of the Green Party Executive which must be approved by a quorate majority of the Green Party Executive and must include a Party (Co-)Leader and a Party Deputy Leader selected by a majority of the Party (Co-)Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s). 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 Green Party Executive and will be expected to outline their future plans and work to the Green Party Executive.

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 four weeks 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 quorate majority of the Green Party Executive 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 Green Party Executive sub-committee for that post only. They shall serve a term lasting as if they were starting following the selection of the previous post-holder.

D07

ALLOWING ALL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS TO PROPOSE MOTIONS

Dylan Lewis-Creser, Marley King, Mina Cousins, Finn White, Joseph Hudson-Small, Zoe Garbett, Alexander Catt, Ruben David Gonzalez, Nathan Woolfrey, Nate Higgins, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cassie Thomas, Tassadduq Cheema, Joseph Paterson, Richard Walton, Rob Gardner, Christian Leggett, Rosie Pearce, Jane Lithgow, Kimmy Milham, Nathalie Bienfait, Danny Keeling, Isabelle Lamb, Chloe Goldsmith, Bo Chapman, Tim Boxall, Gary Pendlebury, Deborah Scott, Stefan Liberadzki, Raphael Hill, Douglas Rouxel, Mary Wright*

SYNOPSIS

Under current rules, groups recognised by Equality & Diversity (E&D) committee are not able to propose motions to Conference formally. This motion would change that.

MOTION

Amend the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference (SOCC), Section B2.2 to read:

B2.2 Motions and Draft Voting Papers may be proposed and co-proposed for the First Agenda by:

- a) any constituted Local or Regional Party (see also B2.5); or
- b) GPRC or Green Party Executive (see also B2.6); or
- c) a constituted national Committee (see also B2.7); or
- d) a Working Group of the Party approved by Conference under an Enabling Motion or recognised under the byelaws by the Policy Development Committee or Campaigns Committee or their successor body or bodies (see also B2.7); or
- e) Any group recognised as a member of the Equality and Diversity Committee or their successor body or bodies (see also B2.7); or
- f) at least twelve co-proposers, one of whom is to be the proposer for the purposes of B1.4 and B1.5. One of the co-proposers must be the member who posted the draft motion to the Pre-Agenda as in A1.3 above.

Amend B2.7 to read:

B2.7 Motions proposed under B2.2(c), B2.2(d) and B2.2(e) by a constituted Committee or Working Group must include co-proposal by the Convenor and three other Party members. Evidence of appropriate discussion and voting must be provided to SOC and PDC in the same way as for proposals from a Local or Regional Party.

ALLOW TWO WOMEN TO BE CO-LEADERS OR DEPUTY LEADERS

Nate Higgins, Joseph Hudson-Small, Callum Claffery, Finn White, Thomas Atkin, Avery Withers, Stuart Atkin, Matthew Kimber, Olli Watkins, Rob Callender, Nicole Freeman, Aki Turan, Rob Freeman, Marley King, Katie Finn, Alexander Catt, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, Rowan McLaughlin, Devon Osborne*

SYNOPSIS

The current gender-balancing rules for party leadership are written in a way that prevents multiple women from serving as Co-Leaders or Co-Deputy Leaders. Gender balancing is intended to counteract misogyny in politics, not to hold women back. This motion fixes that.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Subsection i) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

“There shall be a leader and two deputy leaders of the party. The leader shall be a voting member of the Executive and the deputy leaders be treated as a job-share.”

Subsection iv) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

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

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

In Subsection iv) of Article 8, Green Party of England and Wales Constitution:

Replace:

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

With:

“The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals, at least one of whom must be a woman or a non-binary person (noting that gender is self-determined).”

Replace:

“Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as ‘Co-Leaders’”

With:

“Two members, of whom at least one must be a woman or a non-binary person, may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as ‘Co-Leaders’.

So that Subsection iv reads:

“The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals, at least one of whom must be a woman or a non-binary person (noting that gender is self-determined).

Two members, of whom at least one must be a woman or a non-binary person, may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job share in which case they shall be known as ‘Co-Leaders’’. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader.”

D09

AMEND STANDING ORDERS FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE

Vivien Lichtenstein, David Farbey, Marley King, Nick Barnett, Naranee Ruthra-Rajan, Josh Alston, Sam Alston, Liz Reason, Marisa Johnson, Elizabeth Elwick, Janet Hall, Larry Sanders, David Urban, Rajiv Sinha, Kim Marshall, James Hewitt, Ruth Brandt, John Coyne*

SYNOPSIS

Amend Standing Orders for Party Discipline to enhance understanding of discrimination, to make the system easier to use for both complainants and respondents, and to ensure appeals are more fair to participants. Some of the amendments are as a result of consultation with liberation groups.

NB: The Committee refers to the Disciplinary Committee

MOTION

Amend 1.9 which currently reads:

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.

Add after Safe Spaces

With regard to issues of discrimination, committees should seek expert guidance or refer to the relevant educational document on the party’s Framework for Ethics and Conduct.

So that it reads:

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. With regard to issues of discrimination, committees should seek expert guidance or refer to the relevant educational document on the party’s Framework for Ethics and Conduct.

(and add a footnote with the link to the Framework for Ethics and Conduct – see below)

Amend 1.11 which currently reads:

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

Delete "Members who require support in making a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so."

So that it reads:

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

Create a new paragraph 1.12

Members who require support in making, or responding to, a complaint should be signposted to and approach the Governance Administrator for reasonable support in doing so. This support should include guidance provided by members with knowledge of the party's complaints process, such as former members of the Referral Group, the Committee, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, or the Appeals Committee.

Minor textual amendment:

Pluralise "file" in 7.4 which currently reads:

On receipt of the appeal statement the Complaints Manager shall refer it to the Appeals Committee for determination as regards to whether the appeal statement constitutes a valid appeal. All of the case file will be forwarded together with the relevant section of the Committee minutes when the decision was made.

Amend 7.5 which currently reads

The Complaints Manager will notify the Chair of the Committee that an appeal has been lodged. The Committee may ask one of its members to attend the Appeal hearing to be available to explain how the decision was made by the Committee and to answer any questions from the Appeals Committee or the Respondent and Complainant.

Add:

If no Committee member attends the hearing but the Committee intends to provide answers to questions raised by the Appeals Committee in advance of the hearing or otherwise provide a submission, they should be sent to the Complaints Manager by 5pm five working days before the date of the Appeal hearing. These questions and answers or submission should be sent to the Appeals Committee, Respondent and Complainant by 5pm three working days before the date of the Appeal hearing.

So that it reads

The Complaints Manager will notify the Chair of the Committee that an appeal has been lodged. The Committee may ask one of its members to attend the Appeal hearing to be available to explain how the decision was made by the Committee and to answer any questions from the Appeals Committee or the Respondent and Complainant.

If no Committee member attends the hearing but the Committee intends to provide answers to questions raised by the Appeals Committee in advance of the hearing or otherwise provide a submission, they should be sent to the Complaints Manager by 5pm five working days before the date of the Appeal hearing. These questions and answers or submission should be sent to the Appeals Committee, Respondent and Complainant by 5pm three working days before the date of the Appeal hearing.

Amend footnote 2 which currently reads:

Currently the Party CEO

To

Currently the Head of Governance

[assuming that to be the case]

Add a footnote in paragraph 1.9 with a link to the party's Framework for Ethics and Conduct
<https://members.greenparty.org.uk/taxonomy/term/68>

Amend footnote 8 which currently reads:

Reasonable adjustments for accessibility may include: wheelchair access, hearing loop, policies and other documents available in large print and Braille, adjustments for travel arrangements

Add after "may include": but are not limited to

Add after "travel arrangements": .These adjustments should be made available at any point during the process.

So that it reads:

Reasonable adjustments for accessibility may include but are not limited to: wheelchair access, hearing loop, policies and other documents available in large print and Braille, adjustments for travel arrangements. These adjustments should be made available at any point during the process.

D10

ENSURE DIVERSITY OF CANDIDATES IN INTERNAL ELECTIONS

Nate Higgins, Joseph Hudson-Small, Mina Cousins, Olli Watkins, Ria Patel, Zoe Garbett, Alexander Catt, Charlotte Lafferty, Nathan Woolfrey, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cassie Thomas, Tassadduq Cheema, Joseph Paterson, Richard Walton, Rob Gardner, Aki Turan, Christian Leggett, Rosie Pearce, Jane Lithgow, Nathalie Bienfiat, Chloe Goldsmith, Bo Chapman, Tim Boxall, Deborah Scott, Lily Wilson*

SYNOPSIS

This motion introduces the nomination reopening process used in much of the party (such as General Election selection) to encourage diverse candidates for the Annual Ballot. It aims to avoid situations like the all-male Deputy Leadership election in 2022.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

In Section 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot), Clause 9(iii) currently reads:

iii) “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.”

Insert new clause 9(iv) and renumber:

iv) After nominations in the Annual Ballot close, where there are posts where the valid nominations do not include candidates who, between them, fulfil the following criteria, nominations will reopen. These criteria are women or non-binary people (noting that gender is self-determined), people of colour, and people who self-identify as having a disability. Nominations must reopen within three 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 (at least one of) the criteria unrepresented in the first round of nominations which led to the reopening of nominations.

D11

AVOID ANNUAL BALLOT CLASHES WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS

Nate Higgins, Mina Cousins, Zoe Garbett, Alexander Catt, Anne Marie-Ashton, Charlotte Lafferty, Nathan Woolfrey, Cassie Thomas, Tassadduq Cheema, Joseph Paterson, Richard Walton, Bo Chapman, Rob Gardner, Christian Leggett, Rosie Pearce, Aki Turan, Jane Lithgow, Chloe Goldsmith, Tim Boxall, Gary Pendlebury, Deborah Scott, Stefan Liberadzki, Douglas Rouxel, Natalie Bennett*

SYNOPSIS

This motion delays the annual ballot if it would clash with a General Election, which may happen more often since the Fixed Term Parliaments Act was repealed. General Elections are a political priority, and holding the Annual Ballot (including party leadership) during one is a distraction harmful to our goals.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

In Section 9 of the Constitution (Annual Ballot), Clause 9(iii) currently reads:

iii) 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.

Replace with (amended text in bold):

iii) The nominations for all posts included in an Annual Ballot shall **ordinarily** open at 10.00 on the first **weekday** in June and **ordinarily** close at noon on the last **weekday** in June. Voting shall **ordinarily** close on receipt of the last

post on the last **weekday** of August or five **weekdays** before the start of the Autumn conference, whichever is the sooner.

Insert new clauses 9(iv) and 9(v) and renumber:

iv) If the date of the General Election is unknown at the time of the opening of nominations in the Annual Ballot, but the last possible date for the dissolution of Parliament is within nine months of the opening of nominations, there will be no Annual Ballot that year, provided the opening of nominations in the following Annual Ballot is not within three months of the last possible date for the dissolution of Parliament. If the date of the General Election is known at the time of opening of nominations in the Annual Ballot, and it is less than six months after the opening of nominations in the Annual Ballot, there will be no Annual Ballot that year. Additionally if the date of the General Election is announced during the Annual Ballot process before voting has opened and it falls less than six months after nominations opened there will be no Annual Ballot that year. In any of these cases the terms will be extended by one year in all roles that would have been up for election in that Annual Ballot, and in all roles due to be elected in the following Annual Ballot in order to maintain staggered elections.

v) If a General Election is announced while voting is open in the Annual Ballot and the date of the election falls less than three months after voting is due to close for the Annual Ballot, voting will be paused until at least two weeks after the General Election, and will then reopen for two weeks at a time decided by the Electoral Returning Officer in consultation with the Executive Committee. Voting must have reopened within two months after the General Election. The terms of all relevant postholders will be extended until the declaration of the results.

D12

DIVERSITY CRITERIA FOR LOCAL, REGIONAL AND GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE SELECTIONS

Ria Patel, Mina Cousins, Joshua Alston, Laura Eccott, Alexander Catt, Alina Baczynska, Kefentse Dennis, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Rowan McLaughlin, Chloe Goldsmith, David McIntosh, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Devon Osborne, Carla Denyer, Alex Feis-Bryce, Hannah Copley, Ekoa Bayunu, Peter Price, Tracey Hague*

SYNOPSIS

This motion introduces diversity criteria for local, regional and general election candidate selections.

BACKGROUND

- There is no climate justice without social, racial and economic justice.
- Society is not structured equally, meaning there is not equal access to opportunities.
- This is not to limit our targets for diversity but to aide being representative of the areas we stand in, having diversity amongst our candidates, and to encourage the representation of marginalised groups as set out below.
- Politics is under-representative of global majority individuals, disabled people, LGBTIQ+ people, women and young people under 30.
- Our internal policies must match external policies for social justice.

MOTION

Delete the following from the Record of Organisational Statements under the section titled 'Elections Coordinator to undertake':

Together with the Equality and Diversity Coordinator/ Committee, to 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. Selecting more diverse candidates [Spring2017, D08].

And replace with:

Together with the Equality and Diversity Coordinator/ Committee, support local and regional parties to select diverse candidates. Nominations for local, regional and general elections will be reopened for two weeks if the diversity of the original nominated target and non-target candidates are not reflective of the area's latest Census data. This is in respect to self-identified gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, age and sexual orientation.

Also delete the following from the Record of Organisational Statements under the section titled 'Equalities and Diversity Coordinator to undertake':

Together with the Elections Coordinator, to 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. Selecting more diverse candidates [Spring2017, D08]

And replace with:

Together with the Elections Coordinator, support local and regional parties to select diverse candidates. Nominations for local, regional and general elections will be reopened for two weeks if the diversity of the original nominated target and non-target candidates are not reflective of the area's latest Census data. This is in respect to self-identified gender, race, disability, socio-economic status, age and sexual orientation.

D13

EDI ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Kathryn Bristow, Jane Mitchell, Matt Rogan, Emily Herbert, Esme Hay, Alex Feis-Bryce, Peter Price, George Calascione, Joseph Baker, Bethany Payne, Elliott Lee, Adam Turner, Simon Stafford-Townsend, AC Baker, Barry Parsons, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Robin Brabham*

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party's 2022 EDI Audit Report produced by Diverse Matters highlighted several gaps in the party's commitment to being a fully inclusive employer. This motion seeks to address some of those areas through accreditation and membership of external EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) schemes.

MOTION

Conference believes the Green Party of England and Wales should be a leader in the workplace for all areas of equality.

While the party has made good steps being a part of Stonewall's Diversity Champions and the Disability Confidence Scheme Level 2, though the party can take further steps in all areas of equality.

Additional schemes that the party may consider that were recommended by the EDI Audit Report alongside Stonewall and the Disability Confidence Scheme are:

- National Centre for Diversity (Investors in Diversity and Leaders in Diversity),
- Business Disability Forum (BDF) Disability Standard,
- Excellence in Diversity Top 50 Inclusive Employers,
- Race for Opportunity/Opportunity now,
- Mindful Employer,
- Mind Workplace Wellbeing benchmark,
- ENEI Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion.

Conference believes that the party should seek accreditation or membership to schemes such as these, as this work is vital to our goals of ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion as a workplace.

Conference also believes that this work is also vital for our membership and volunteers.

Therefore conference instructs GPEx to:

Work towards Level 3: Disability Confident Leader in the Disability Confidence Scheme.

SOC note: The below text is out of order as trivial – to the best of SOC's knowledge this is the status quo

~~Continue the Green Party's membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme.~~

Seek further accreditations and memberships to workplace EDI schemes, these may be ones recommended by Diverse Matters or other schemes that the party has investigated. The selection of schemes in addition to the party's existing schemes should prioritise schemes addressing race, age, gender equality, mental health, and disability including neurodiversity.

Address any concerns that Green Party employees have relating to EDI and listen to their input on which schemes the party should seek accreditation or membership to.

Investigate similar EDI schemes that are applicable to volunteers and seek accreditation or membership to such schemes.

D14

ELECTED COUNCILLORS ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Chloe Turner, Reuben David Buendia, Andrew Cooper, Ian Chancer, Tricia Austin, Julia Wakelam, Frank Adlington, Johnny Denis, Ian Tysh, Max McLoughlin, Susan Clinch, David Herbert, Carolin Whitaker, Mary Hunt, Andrea Powerll, Lara Davenport-Ray, Simon Bull*

SYNOPSIS

As the party increases its successes and enters administration on – at the time of writing – 35 different principal authorities in service of aim i) in the Constitution, the impact of our elected councillors should be reported on and widely communicated, allowing the AGM, and the party, to celebrate, question and challenge their work.

MOTION

In the Standing Orders for the Conduct of the AGM, in section B1.2 add in new section:

“o. A report on the impact of elected Greens, compiled by the AGC. This will highlight the key contributions our councillors have made in pursuing the aims of the party, particularly aim i) of the Constitution.”

Insert into the Record of Organisational Statements:

“GPEX will support the AGC in producing and publicising an annual Impact Report which will be communicated to the wider party to ensure that the successes of elected Greens are celebrated and allow the wider party to question and challenge their work.”

D15

ELIMINATE EXTERNAL INFLUENCE IN GPEW INTERNAL ELECTIONS

Jake Welsh, Alexander Sallons, Philip Davies, George Morris, Melissa Poulton, Jamil Keating, Naomi Bennett, Billie Nagle, Andrew Browne, Brian Candeland, Peter Brommer, Alan Francis, Pete Johnson, Phil Di Palma, Mike McTimoney, Ruth Brandt, Hannah Spencer*

SYNOPSIS

This motion will prevent 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

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority 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.”

D16

ENABLING THE DISABILITY GROUP TO FULFIL ITS ROLE IN THE PARTY

Dzaier Neil, Nicole Haydock, Tarsam Singh, Linda Oubridge, David McIntosh, Danny McNamara, Alison McNamara, Karen Lloyd Lewis, Kat Sullivan, Lucy Watson, Mandy Vere, Morven Magari, Alexandra Geddis, Anne Bateman, Sarah Bond, Diana Toynbee, Anne Johnson, Anne Price, AC Baker, Katy Coxall, Amanda Onwuemene, Jude English, Edward Green, Jordan Edmondson, Linda Oubridge, Siobhan Scanlan*

BACKGROUND

The Party Executive has committed funding to provide support for the Disability Group until the end of 2023. This motion seeks to formalise this position and to extend the arrangement until the end of 2025.

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party Executive must allocate resources to ensure that the Party's Disability Group can function adequately. In setting the Party's budget the Executive must provide the necessary funding through to 2025. The required resources will provide administrative and web support.

MOTION

Conference notes:

The Green Party of England and Wales is committed to equality and inclusion.

For its many disabled members, this inclusion requires that reasonable adjustments be made that will facilitate full participation in all aspects of the life of the Party.

Accordingly, Conference instructs the Green Party Executive to manage the Party's budget and the priorities of the Party's staff team in order to provide:

- 1 Staff resource to create a fully accessible members' website for the Disability Group, to be accessible to ordinary users and completed by the end of April 2024.
- 2 Staff resource thereafter to maintain the site, implement updates and improve accessibility over time in line with published best practice (as identified by members of the Disability Group).
- 3 Staff resource to provide administrative support to officers of the Disability Group.

Conference instructs the Green Party Executive to ensure that such resources are equivalent to at least one full person-day per week for an initial period of three months and equivalent to at least one half person-day per week thereafter until at least the end of 2025.

D17

FAIRER MULTIPLIER FOR THE PRIORITISATION BALLOT

Jake Welsh, Adrian Spurrell, George Morris, Melissa Poulton, Jamil Keating, Billie Nagle, Katie Fenn, Brian Candeland, Pete Johnson, Mike McTimoney, Ruth Brandt, Hannah Spencer, Frank Earp, Matthew Kimber, Jay Calderisi*

SYNOPSIS

The multiplier for the prioritisation ballot was set too high. The intention was that all legit motions should get a chance to be heard within 4-6 conferences. But due to modified borda count being the voting system for the ballot, there is a much more even distribution on points than when we used standard borda count and therefore at a previous conference we had the last placed motion pushed to 4th by doubling it's points after 2 conferences due to the multiplier being too generous. This motion will almost guarantee that all motions get debated after a maximum of 5 motions

MOTION

In the Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section F, the Final Agenda F1 f) replace "0.5 for every preceding conference the motion has been proposed to without receiving a debate" with "(x multiplied by y), where x is the number of preceding conferences the motion has been proposed to without receiving a debate and y is a number calculated so that when multiplying motions by 1 plus (x multiplied by y) it would take the bottom ranked motion and reorder it to become the top ranked motion when x is equal to 4. This will almost guarantee that all motions are debated within a maximum of 5 conferences". Delete "For example a motion that has been proposed to the preceding 3 conferences shall have their points multiplied by 1.75" so that it reads:

f) where a motion has been proposed to directly preceding conferences but not debated due to time restraints the points received by said motion will be multiplied by 1 plus (x multiplied by y), where x is the number of preceding conferences the motion has been proposed to without receiving a debate and y is a number calculated so that when multiplying motions by 1 plus (x multiplied by y) it would take the bottom ranked motion and reorder it to become the top ranked motion when x is equal to 4. This will almost guarantee that all motions are debated within a maximum of 5 conferences. The wording of the motion can be slightly changed so long as the aims and intentions of the motion are not changed, and SOC shall have final say on this.

D18

GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE SELECTION

Brian Candeland, Philip Davies, Molly Scott Cato, Johnny Denis, Jane Bastob, Amanda Onwuemene, Tricia Watson, Nickbarnett, Suzanne Airey, Patrick McAllister, Joshua, Morris-Blake, Owain Sutton, Lynn Haaen, Carla Denyer, Diana Moore, Ellie Chowns, Roy Davis, Kai Taylor, Steve Hynd, Douglas Rouxel, Fiona Davies, Chris Jackson Judy Maciejowska, Pete Johnson, Michael Welton, Phil Di Palma, Mike McTimoney, Hannah Spencer, Gina Dowding, Natalie Bennett, Cade Cody, Adrian Ramsay, Chloe Turner*

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

The party's focus needs to be on gaining more power in our national legislature and this general election is the most important ever for the Green Party. Conference has previously passed a political strategy that requires us to win targeted campaigns in General, London Assembly, Senedd and local government elections.

As a party we are always open to nationally agreed deals between parties. However, in the absence of such a deal, we need to reinforce our voters' loyalty to the party and prevent our willingness to cooperate being used against us by other Parties. A national election requires a national strategy, agreed by conference.

For the next general election, conference resolves that this should include:

- Directing our resources to reach our agreed political goals;
- Maximise candidate numbers, aiming to achieve a full slate of 575 candidates in England and Wales;
- Local parties undertaking rapid selection of candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds for those seats that do not already have them;
- If a local party has not selected a candidate earlier than 28 days ahead of the likely date of the dissolution of Parliament, the Green Party's Executive reserves the right to ask its General Election Steering Group to lead the candidate selection process in accordance with GPRC's emergency selection procedure.

To achieve this, conference resolves to add to point 6 of Clause 5(xvii) in the Green Party's constitutional by-laws (Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons):

6. *Exceptionally, in the event of a Parliamentary election being called at short notice and the procedure being declared operative by the Regional Council Co-chairs, where no Prospective Parliamentary Candidate (PPC) is in place, the relevant Local Party/ies may adopt a candidate by vote at a meeting called for that purpose, of which all Green Party members of those local parties have been notified in advance in writing.* In the event of no initiation of a candidate selection process earlier than 28 calendar days ahead of the likely date that Parliament is dissolved, the Green Party Executive (GPEX) or its General Election Steering Group reserves the right to initiate this selection process in the absence of a local party doing so, and subsequently nominate the selected candidate at the General Election.

D19

INDEFINITELY SUSPEND SPRING CONFERENCE UNTIL THE PARTY'S FINANCES HAVE IMPROVED

Patrick McAllister, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Olli Watkins, Ben Samuel, Darren Yates, Emma Garnett, Nathan Woolfrey, Martin Osborne, Edward Burnham, Daniel Ackroyd, Chris Williams, Clare Hartland, George Calascione, Riley Routh*

MOTION

This motion would commit the Green Party to not hold an in-person Spring Conference until doing so would be more affordable. It also opens the possibility of holding a longer Autumn Conference to help compensate for this.

Conference notes that the Green Party currently holds two annual conferences, one in the spring and one in the autumn. These are expensive events to run and generally cost the party more than is received in ticket income.

Conference notes that there is variation among UK political parties on how many times a year they hold conferences.

Conference notes that Spring Conference also clashes with the run-up period to the May local elections, when many of our members are busy campaigning.

Conference acknowledges that given the present economic climate in the UK and the financial pressures experienced by the Party, it does not make financial sense to hold two of these events every year.

Conference instructs GPEX to indefinitely suspend Spring Conference until such a time as the party's financial situation has improved to such a standard that to hold a Spring Conference would not be of significant financial detriment to the party. GPEX should report back on this situation at the Autumn 2025 Conference.

Conference further instructs GPEX to investigate whether a four-day Autumn Conference might, given the above, make financial sense - given the economies of scale of holding one, larger event. Additionally, Conference notes that a single, longer conference may attract more members and therefore more revenue from ticket income.

SOC Note: This part of the motion proposes a Constitutional change, which will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Conference, within Section 10.i of the Green Party's Constitution, deletes the following wording:

"... and will usually hold an additional Conference each spring..."

and replaces it with the following wording:

"...and may also hold an additional Conference each spring, only when it is financially prudent to do..."

Conference resolves that in years without a Spring Conference, Enabling Motions currently set to become due at that Spring Conference will now come due at the following Autumn Conference.

Conference resolves that in years without a Spring Conference, coopted roles that would normally be ratified at that Spring Conference shall now be in place until an Autumn Conference.

D20

SPECIAL INTERESTS NEED SPECIAL MANIFESTOS

Ria Patel, Joshua Harris, Laura Eccott, Alexander Catt, Chesca Walton, Kefentse Dennis, Antoinette Fernandez, Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Rowan McLaughlin, Danny Keeling, Jack Lennox, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Daniel Duffy, Alex Feis-Bryce, Nate Higgins, Hannah Copley, Peter Price, Ekoa Bayunu Tracey Hague, Robi Brabham*

SYNOPSIS

Typically, our party publishes manifestos from our special interest groups at election time. However, the process at the last General Election was vague - with shifting timelines and goalposts. This motion seeks to formalise a process making manifestos for Special Interest Groups mandatory.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Insert a new 13 vii into the Green Party Constitution and renumber

vii. The party shall also publish community and issue specific manifestos at a General Election, developed with our special interest groups and support given to them from the Equality and Diversity Coordinator on the Green Party Executive. These will include:

- A LGBTIQ+ Greens manifesto (produced by LGBTIQ+ Greens)
- A Greens of Colour manifesto (produced by Greens of Colour)
- A Green Women manifesto (produced by Green Party Women)
- A Young Greens manifesto (produced by Young Greens)
- A Jewish Greens manifesto (produced by Jewish Greens)

- A Disability manifesto (produced by the Green Party Disability Group)
- An Animal Protection manifesto (produced by Greens for Animal Protection)

At the start of the election GPRC will be mandated to provide a clear timeline for approval and publication.

D21

MOTION OF TOLERANCE AND CIVILITY ON THE SEX/GENDER ISSUE

Nathan Williams, Jenny Jones, David Flint, John Coyne, Liz Reason, Morven Magari, Paul Milnes, Debra Cooper, Kat Sullivan, Anne Price, Hazel Pegg, Tina Rothery, Chris Millman, Diana Toynbee, Lucy Watson, Sue Williams, Elizabeth Mansfield, Robbie Spence, Sarah Blenkinsop, Erwin Schaefer, Zoe Richards, Anne Johnson, Daniel James, Andrew Bradbury, Alexandra Geddis, Sarah Bond, Anne Bateman, Marcus Grant, Vicky Meadows, Kate Souper, Gordon Sharp, Zoe Hatch, Peternal Garbutt, Linda Oubridge, Marilyn Stone, Trish Marchant, Peter Barnett, Janine Pyke*

SYNOPSIS

This motion calls on Green Party members to treat each other with tolerance and civility - particularly those with a different opinion to theirs on issues relating to sex and gender.

MOTION

The Green Party should be a welcoming and safe place for all, including women, trans and non-binary people. It should also be a safe place for those with a variety of opinions on issues relating to sex and gender. The Green Party Code of Conduct (12.1) states “As the Green Party welcomes people from a wide range of backgrounds, members may encounter people who hold differing political or philosophical worldviews. Freedom of belief and the right to change that belief is a fundamental human right. Members should therefore show tolerance and respect towards people that hold political or philosophical worldviews that differ from their own.”

On the issue of sex and gender, the party includes people with so-called gender-critical views and others who oppose such views. It is now established in law that gender-critical views are covered by the protected characteristic of Religion and Belief under the Equality Act (2010). It is assumed that views opposing gender-critical views would also be protected as a philosophical belief. The Green Party code of conduct states “11.3 Members must not behave in a discriminatory manner towards someone on the basis of any protected characteristic that person may have.”

Therefore both sides on this topic have the right to hold their opinions, express those opinions and to do so without intimidation or harassment as long as they don’t intimidate or harass others. Conference urges all members and staff to treat each other with tolerance and civility, particularly those with a different opinion to theirs on issues relating to sex and gender.

Conference therefore:

(1) Instructs Internal Comms to inform all local parties and the CEO to inform all GPEW staff of this motion

~~(2) Asks GPEX, GPRC and all the party’s national bodies to operate in a way which respects the principles of the motion and in particular to have regard to legal guidance on respecting different protected philosophical beliefs~~

SOC note: The above text is Out of Order as trivial – to the best of SOC’s knowledge following legal guidance in particular is the status quo

(3) Requests that the Code of Conduct Oversight Body amends the Green Party Code of Conduct by adding to clause 11.3 the text “ This includes beliefs that meet the required criteria to be a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act.” So clause 11.3 will now read:

11.3 Members must not behave in a discriminatory manner towards someone on the basis of any protected characteristic that person may have. This includes beliefs that meet the required criteria to be a protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act.

D22

STONEWALL AND DISAFFILIATION FROM THE DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS SCHEME

Shahrar Ali, Jessica Goldfinch, Mike Shone, Lucy Watson, Elizabeth Mansfield, Debra Cooper, Robbie Spence, Hazel Pegg, Kat Sullivan, Jude English, Morven Magari, Zoe Richards, Mandy Vere, Diana Toynbee, Sarah Blenkinsop, Alexandra Geddis, Sarah Bond, Anne Bateman, Anne Johnson, Siobhan Scanlan, Imogen Makepeace, Paul Milnes, Vicky Meadows, Jenny Rust, Kate Souper, Rachel Hardy, Anne Price, Peter Garbutt, Caitlin Collins, Jill Raymond, Peter Barnett*

SYNOPSIS

Conference instructs GPEX to disaffiliate from the Stonewall Diversity Champions Scheme from the next financial year for reasons of justified criticism of its equalities advice, lack of value for money, risk of Green party policy bias and overall consideration of reputational risk.

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.

SECTION E

POLICY MOTIONS

E01

ENABLING MOTION FOR THE EUROPE CHAPTER OF THE POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Richard Wilson, John Street, Geoffrey Davis, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Molly Scott Cato, Elise Benjamin*

SYNOPSIS

For two years the Europe Policy Working Group has been drafting revisions to the Europe Chapter, and addressing urgent problems by bringing motions in 2022 and 2023. Additional time is needed to complete the work and consultation. The group requests a further two years.

MOTION

Conference entrusts the process of revising the Europe Chapter in Policies for a Sustainable Society to the Europe Policy Working Group, to work in consultation with other relevant Policy Working Groups and experts within and beyond the GPEW, for a draft voting paper to be brought to conference no later than Autumn conference 2025, while hoping to complete before the end of 2024.

E02

EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO MEET THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Greg Dring, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Pamela Harling, Nadine Storey, Julian King-Slater, David Flint, David Giarretta, Nicolas Francis, Rupert Read, Pam Rosling, Nadine Storey, Katy Coxall, Hamish Riddoch, Paul Tynan, Manuela Ferrigni, Kate Mammolitti, Matthew Nightingale,*

SYNOPSIS

As the climate catastrophe develops it is clear that government is likely to require extraordinary powers to intervene in the economy and society. This proposal seeks to strengthen government powers to intervene in the distribution of goods, the operation of private companies, and prevent the dissemination of disinformation.

MOTION

Amend the Climate Emergency chapter of Policies for a Sustainable Society as follows:

In CC110, in the first bullet point delete the words “limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C” and replace them with “first reduce UK emissions to net-zero, and then to achieve a negative carbon economy, having”

and in the second bullet point insert after “Prime Minister and the Climate Crisis Cabinet (see CC180), and answerable also to Parliament”

So that CC110 now reads:

“CC110 For clear accountability the UK should:

- Strengthen the Climate Change Act to require the Committee on Climate Change to set carbon budgets on the basis of the need to first reduce UK emissions to net-zero, and then to achieve a negative carbon economy, having respect for climate science and equity.
- Create a strategic Climate Emergency Agency directly responsible to the Prime Minister and the Climate Crisis Cabinet (see CC180), and answerable also to Parliament. It will have priority over any government policies that are inconsistent with climate emergency targets.
- Require all public bodies and businesses to define and make publicly available their own mitigation and adaptation plans, and report progress made in their implementation on a regular basis.

and add new paragraphs CC180-181 as follows:

CC 180 The Green Party calls for a cross-party Climate Crisis Cabinet to be established by the incoming Government after the next election, to include representation from all parties proportionally to their national share of votes at the election, and with a clear mission to bring our country to at least net zero carbon emissions more quickly than is currently planned; and this should be included in our Manifesto for the next General Election.

“CC181 A future government may need to legislate for extraordinary powers to support a rapid transition in the economy and society. Any such powers must be subject to judicial overview and Parliamentary and public scrutiny, should not be seen as permanent, and should be widely discussed and accepted in society.

CC182 Measures taken under CC181 might include:

- government control of industries, companies, and financial institutions to maximise development of renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure and reduce avoidable greenhouse gas emissions
- protection of supply chains to maintain equitable allocations of essential goods and services
- equitable regulation of transport usage and general resource usage
- regulating for a press and media free of editorial bias while also controlling the spread of factual misinformation
- regulating capital movements
- Allocations of quantities of goods and services to private individuals or households.

CC183 Targeted financial, regulatory and administrative support will be provided to help promote robust initiatives by communities UK-wide seeking to adapt transformatively to climate-driven pressures and to strengthen local economic and social resilience generally.

E03

GREEN WORLD MOTION

Martha James, Joseph Hudson-Small, Adam Turner, Darren Yates, Kate Dodd, John Macefield*

SYNOPSIS

This motion passes no comment on the benefits of Green World or the desirability to have a journal. It seeks to remove the requirement for Green World from the constitution; the Party Executive (GPEx) can decide on its suitability as part of its external and internal communications strategy.

MOTION

SOC Note: This motion will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

Delete Clause 17 of the constitution, Green World, and re-number.

E04

HEATING HOUSES: TO REMOVE MENTION OF USING HYDROGEN

David Flint, Les Levidow, Tony Firkins, Phil Horton, Pamela Harling, Richard McCarthy, Kaye Belmonte, Ben Foley, Bryony Holroyd*

SYNOPSIS

Supplies of green hydrogen will remain limited within our ten year planning period and hydrogen is an inefficient heating method. Therefore we should not use it to heat buildings and should prioritise its other uses.

BACKGROUND

Background paper located in Appendix 1

MOTION

EN016 reads:

“Hydrogen will be produced from excess renewable electricity generation by electrolysis. The Green Hydrogen produced – along with synthetic fuels derived from it – will have a role in electricity generation (EN010), heating homes (EN021), industry (EN030) and transport (EN041). Production of hydrogen from fossil fuels will be phased out.

Delete words “heating homes (EN021),”

So that it reads:

“Hydrogen will be produced from excess renewable electricity generation by electrolysis. The Green Hydrogen produced – along with synthetic fuels derived from it – will have a role in electricity generation (EN010), industry (EN030) and transport (EN041). Production of hydrogen from fossil fuels will be phased out.

EN021 reads:

EN021 Heating of buildings will be transformed by the use of solar thermal, heat pumps, biofuels, stored heat, hydrogen and relevant derived synthetic fuels, electricity and geothermal. The use of natural gas for heating will be phased out entirely.

Delete words “hydrogen and relevant derived synthetic fuels,”

So that it reads:

EN021 Heating of buildings will be transformed by the use of solar thermal, heat pumps, biofuels, stored heat, electricity and geothermal. The use of natural gas for heating will be phased out entirely.

EN022 reads:

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

Delete “energy efficient very low carbon standards.” and substitute “be energy efficient and to have low embodied carbon. This will be achieved through the Planning system (see paras LP151, 152, 413 and 414).”

So that it reads:

EN022 New buildings will be built to be energy efficient and to have low embodied carbon. This will be achieved through the Planning system (see paras LP151, 152, 413 and 414).

E05

IMPROVING TRANS POLICY ON NON-BINARY IDENTITIES

Kathryn Bristow, Jamie Coombes, Kimmy Milham, Matt Rogan, Emily Herbert, Clare Hartland, Esme Hay, Alex Feis-Bryce, Luanne Thornton, Peter Price, George Calascione, Joseph Baker, Jenny Vernon, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Robert Crowston, Jay Calderisi, Roz Henderson, Barry Parson,s Bryony Holroyd, Robin Brabham*

SYNOPSIS

Currently our transgender policy categorises non-binary identities differently to other genders, which non-binary people can find othering, this motion seeks to update the language to be more inclusive.

MOTION

Current text:

RR530 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 recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary identities exist and are valid. 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.

Delete “that non-binary identities exist and are valid”

And replace with “non-binary people are non-binary”

So it reads as:

RR530 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 recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary. 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.

E06

LAND USE POLICY CORRECTIONS

Tony Firkins, Anne Gayfer, Andrew Melville, David Howdle-Smith, Ceri Galloway, Cath Sutherland, Pamela Harling, Richard McCarthy*

SYNOPSIS

The Land Use Voting Paper was presented to Spring 2023 conference. This was passed. Due to administrative errors, some policies were not properly presented in conference documentation. Standing Orders Committee and Policy Development Committee have not resolved these errors. Thus this motion is required to correct the errors. Full motion in attachment.

MOTION

Last bullet of LD100 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- Treating land as a capital investment should be discouraged, as will be trading it for speculative profit

Correct to:

- Treating land as a store of wealth should be discouraged, as should trading it for speculative profit

Third bullet of LD200 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- a transition in land-use that will take place over a period of 10 years

Correct to:

- a transition in land-use that will be nearing completion in 10 years

Ninth bullet of LD200 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- healthy food and other resources for local need

Correct to:

- healthy and nutritious food and other resources for local need

In LD304, after the 5th bullet, start a new paragraph with, "Where land is help by..."

and a further new paragraph with, " The maximum penalty..."

First bullet of LD401 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- reversing biodiversity loss

Correct to:

- reversing biodiversity loss and increasing abundance

Final paragraph of LD401 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

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.

Correct to:

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

Fourth and fifth bullets of LD503 are incorrectly merged, and currently reads:

- Start-up funding for young entrepreneurs in agriculture/horticulture (see FA203) * Farm and land business advisory services (see FA202, FA204, FA301, FA304).

Correct to:

- Start-up funding for young entrepreneurs in agriculture/horticulture (see FA203)
- Farm and land business advisory services (see FA202, FA204, FA301, FA304)

In LD506, first bullet needs to be split into two bullets that currently reads

“Land Value Tax – see EC780, EC781, EC782, EC792 * Carbon tax – see EC777, FA301 and CC121”

Correct to

- Land Value Tax - see EC780, EC781, EC782, EC792
- Carbon tax - see EC777, FA301 and CC121

LD507 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

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

Correct to:

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

LD508 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

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

Correct to:

LD508 Enforcement of stewardship responsibilities - As a mechanism of last resort Commons Trusts will have enforcement powers (see LD304).

CC300 first sentence to bullet is incorrect and currently reads:

CC300 The Climate Emergency is also covered in the following chapters of the PSS:

Correct to:

CC300 The Climate Emergency is also covered in the following chapters of the Policies for a Sustainable Society:

CJ361 reference to land policy at end is incorrect.

Correct LD306 to LD304.

EC777 is currently incorrect and currently 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.

Correct to:

Include reference to (EC779) at end of first sentence. Add LD502 to first list of bracketed references so that it reads “(see FA301, FA602, LD502, LD505)”

FA203 first bullet is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- 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.

Correct FA203 first bullet to:

- Agriculture support will be provided by the Land Management Investment and Support scheme (see LD502, 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 promoting a transition to non-chemical methods of farming.

FA204 first bullet is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- 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)

Correct FA204 first bullet to add reference LD502 so that the reference reads “(see LD502, LD505)”

FA301 fourth bullet is currently incorrect and currently reads:

“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).”

Correct FA301 fourth bullet to add reference LD502 so that the reference reads “(see LD502, LD504)”

FA602 first bullet is currently incorrect and currently reads:

- 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).

Correct FA602 first bullet to add reference LD502 so that the reference reads “(LD502, LD505)”

FR200 first sentence up to colon is wrong and currently reads:

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):

Correct FR200 to omit word “key”:

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 outcomes (See LD200):

IN402 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

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.

Correct IN402 to omit the word “key”:

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 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.

LP413 is currently incorrect and currently 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.

Correct to:

LP413 All planning applications will be required to submit whole life carbon (including land use change emissions, where relevant, see LD501, LD502, LD504 and LD505) 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.

LP516 is currently incorrect and currently reads:

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

Correct to:

LP516 To minimise land hoarding, local authorities should exercise compulsory purchase orders in the public interest. See also LD304 and LD508.

Renumber current MC373-378, to MC372-377, respectively.

HT043 (formerly TM043) is currently incorrect and currently reads:

HT043 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 Green Party's policy of Land Value Tax has no reduction or exemption for properties which are left vacant. It will deter the ownership of second 'holiday' homes and encourage greater use of underused buildings. (see EC793)

Correct HT043 at end to replace reference to EC793 with EC781.

RR406 third bullet is incorrect and currently reads:

“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).”

Correct reference at end of RR406 to LD306 to LD304.

E07

PROMOTE GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER REPRESENTATION IN THE GPEW

Virgil Bitu, James Brooks, Melissa Mattie, Sarah Cemlyn, Ellie Crane, Sam Alston, Naomi Bennett, Eloise Cummins, Paul Beswick, Jack Underwood, Ria Patel, Melissa Poulton, Harry Hayfield, Sarah Nicmanis, Nicola Elliott, Hannah Copley, Eve Allsop, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, AC Baker, Rajiv Sinha, Elise Benjamin, Richard Lawley, Sam Riches*

SYNOPSIS

Systemic barriers for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are widespread. This motion sets out how the Green Party should support Gypsies, Roma Travellers who join the party, to make contributions and to be empowered to stand as candidates, in order to improve Gypsy, Roma and Traveller political representation.

MOTION

- The Green Party Equality and Diversity Committee will collect information on the number of election candidates who identify as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller and report it back to conference within 18 months.
- The Green Party Equality and Diversity Committee will collect information on the number of members who identify as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller on Green Party Executive Board (GPEX), Green Party Regional Council (GPRC), Green Party Conference Committee, Green Party Standing Order Committee, Green Party Disciplinary Committee, Green Party Alternative Disputes Resolution Committee and Green Party Policy Development Committee and report it back to conference within 18 months.
- The Association of Green Councillors is requested to collect information on Green Party elected representatives who identify as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller, and report it back to conference within 18 months.
- The Green Party Equality and Diversity Committee will provide specific dedicated support to members from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community who wish to stand as candidates.
- GPEX will set up a mechanism by which new members who identify as Gypsy, Roma or Traveller are directed to the relevant liberation group(s).

REAFFIRM OPPOSITION TO HS2

Joe Rukin, Mark Keir, Jeremy Parker, Brent Poland, Natalie McVey, Juliet Carter, Sue Cooper, Carlyne Culver, Sarah Green, Nigel Hennerley, Jess Lee, Susan Millington, Georgina Wright, Sally Brooks, Catherine Bunting, Mike Shipley, Peter Gower, Fiona Gurr, Fiona Mawson, Ian Middleton, Simon Pitts, Leo Smith, Matthew Lowe, Andrew Melville, David Howdle-Smith, John Macefield, Hilary Wendt, Aldo Mussi, Talia Woodin, Carol Yapp, Alexander Corcos, Val Saunders, Kevin Priest, Clare Nash, James Murray-White, Karen Wildin, Catherine Rennie-Nash, Steve Hale, Harry Hayfield, Nicholas Cox, Christina O'Neill, Joshua Worley, Glyn Evans, David Clark, Amanda Iremonger, Mel Moden, Tina Rothery, Phil Mason, Tom Fitton, Claire Kirby, Charlotte Lewin, Pam Lunn, John Cherry, Julia Lagoutte, Jane Livermore, Heather Tailby, Hazel Dawe, Jenny Haynes, Pat Morton, Phil Wall, Sue Hampton, Peter Gower, Richard Hayes, William Powell, Caroline Cattermole, Corinne Lusher, Peter Briggs, Emily Taylor, Karen Wildin, Cathy Gaulter-Carter, Cate Cody, Sally Brooks, Alison Layland, Rosemary White, Nick Ford, Rachel Smith-Lyte, Kath Hodgson, Janey Wall, Vicki Stinchcombe, Gillian Davis, Marian Hoffman, Robert Palgrave, Tom Merry, Walter Houston, Cameron Wilkes, Keiron Brown, Linda Aspey, James Kennedy, Helen Palmer, Deborah Smith-O'Reilly, Gillian Binks, John Whitelegg, Chris Millman, Colin Clark, Renate Aspden, Pam Bellingier, Claire Barker, James Booth, Jane Hutchings, Jenny Langley, Derek Langley, David Howard, Lynn Haanen, Catherine Rennie-Nash, Corinne Poland, Ann Mills, Wendy Edwards, Caroline Roaf, Julia Middleton, Lucy Watson, Zoe Hatch, Erwin Schaefer, Gillian Davis, Derek Langley, Jenny Langley, Ian Head, Margaret Okole, Robert Barry, Ronnie Lee, Louise Ryan, Kate Mammolotti*

SYNOPSIS

At Spring Conference 2011, the Green Party passed policy TR11.3 to oppose HS2, which was to be reviewed if HS2 would reduce demand for transport, energy use, land take and CO2 emissions. On all of these tests, the case for HS2 has got worse and opposition should be renewed.

MOTION

In Record of Policy Statements (RoPS) add:

“The Green Party recognises that following the building of HS1, ‘The Kent Principles’ were drawn up to govern the building of any future high-speed railway line. These principles would seek to balance the needs of the environment, habitats, communities, and the railway. HS2 completely ignored these principles, and as such the design principles to build what was intended to be the fastest in Europe and for its length the most expensive railway in world history, have been set by the construction industry, seeking to maximise revenue. HS2 is a project designed with no sympathy for anything, other than profit and growth economics and as such must be opposed by The Green Party.”

“The Green Party should not approach high-speed rail, or any other proposed project which the Party might support in principle, in a political vacuum, without looking at the real-world implementations and the effects of projects and policies.”

“While the Green Party continues to support the idea of high-speed rail in principle, any such project must first and foremost be considered against the climate and ecological emergency, and demonstrate that it can be constructed in time, without adversely impacting the climate, ecological sustainability or associated economics. Specifically, the GPEW requires that any such project should be designed with clear constraints from the outset based on the ‘Kent Principles’. These should be: to run at a maximum of 200mph/320kph to minimise the impact to habitats, the natural

environment and communities; to follow existing transport corridors where possible; to integrate into the existing rail network and have intermediate stations; and that any such project must be justified by a transport need and a clear ability to reduce carbon emissions, which must include a full assessment of all embedded carbon created during construction. Such projects should only be supported if they can also demonstrate that ticket prices will be affordable from the outset.”

“The Green Party notes that In 2020, the Wildlife Trusts, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, RSPB and National Trust produced a report which concluded HS2 would risk the loss of, or significantly impact: 5 Wildlife refuges of international importance; 33 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; 693 Classified Local Wildlife Sites; 21 Designated Local Nature Reserves; 26 Large landscape-scale initiatives; 18 Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves; 108 Ancient woodlands; Other irreplaceable habitats such as veteran trees, wood pasture, old meadows; Extensive further areas of wider natural habitat; and that several scarce, protected and endangered wildlife species are under threat such as barn owls, white-clawed crayfish, willow tits and the lizard orchid. Rarities like dingy skipper may become locally extinct. The response from HS2 Ltd was that ‘The Wildlife Trust report was inaccurate and misleading. The fight against climate change needs to be based on facts.’”

“Furthermore, in 2023 the Wildlife Trusts reported that: HS2 Ltd had used inconsistent mapping and modelling; wild spaces and habitats were being undervalued; the benefits of new habitat creation was valued higher than existing established habitats; wildlife which was being trapped between construction areas was being ignored; many ponds had been only partially counted; huge numbers of trees and hedgerows which had been cut down were not counted at all; and the nature loss would be 7.9 times more than HS2 Ltd had accounted for. The response from the ‘High Speed Rail Industry Leaders Group’, (a vested interest lobbying group consisting mainly of the construction firms building HS2), was that the Wildlife Trust data was ‘Untested’ and ‘Unsurveyed’.”

“It is essential that the Green Party stands full square behind the Wildlife and Habitats policies of the party which have been passed at conference, and that the GPEW seeks to support the analysis of NGOs which exist for no other reason than to protect habitats, nature and wildlife in the face of corporate greenwashing from the construction industry. Failing to support such NGOs in such a situation would considerably damage the credibility and reputation of the Green Party, as well as ongoing working relationships with such organisations.”

“Through the ongoing work of Green Party members, we can demonstrate that HS2 Ltd have not assessed or mitigated all of the risks to groundwater in the Colne Valley (West London), or that raw drinking water quality is being protected. Works in the Mid Chilterns Chalk aquifer should be halted in line with current GP policy. Since the party originally passed policy on this matter, slurry pools and sinkholes have appeared above HS2 tunnelling works and the GPEW calls on the Government and regulators to uphold UK law and protect clean drinking water.”

“The construction industry has openly set up lobbying bodies, with the stated intention of dictating the political discourse around the HS2 project. This is one of the main reasons that HS2 had support from other Westminster parties from the outset of the project, as lobbyists seek to build up political momentum behind projects when they are little more than a politically appealing slogan. As the Green Party continues to become more of a political force, we must be wary of specifically targeted lobbying efforts concerning projects, especially those which are lacking in specific detail, which would benefit from the perception that they are environmentally sound.”

“All of the land which HS2 Ltd state they may require, whether it has been fenced-off or not, is currently covered by what is probably the largest single injunction ever seen in the UK. The Green Party believes that the criminalisation of being on such land represents an undemocratic attack on the right to peaceful protest, and it is high-handed actions like this, and the archaic way in which much of this land had been possessed by HS2 Ltd without even paying for it, which further demonstrates why the Green Party must oppose the HS2 project. “Many non-violent protesters have been arrested, and some jailed and the Green Party praises the commitment of non-violent climate campaigners, eco-warriors and habitat defenders who have spent months in camps, tree houses and tunnels, attempting to prevent the destruction to the natural environment which has been caused by HS2. These protests

include the UK's longest ever tunnel protest in Swynnerton which lasted 47 days, and a Euston tunnel protest of 31 days."

"Since 2010, the original HS2 budget of £33bn has spiralled out of control, whilst its functionality, notably the link to HS1 and the Channel Tunnel has been cut. The current situation is that 13 years after HS2 was first proposed, there is still no workable solution for how HS2 would get into Euston station, and whilst the Infrastructure and Projects Authority have rated the HS2 project as 'amber-red' for many years, in July 2023 they reported that Phase 1 and 2a had returned to a 'red' rating, meaning *'Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable.'*"

"We are in a climate emergency and HS2 does nothing but add carbon this decade, which is the all important decade to prevent runaway feed-back loops. In fact, due to the land take, loss of mature trees, and millions of tons of concrete and steel, when we factor in construction HS2 will never be carbon neutral. The way the carbon case concerning HS2 has been presented is of significant concern. Each of the three statutory carbon forecasts presented by HS2 Ltd to Parliament, which are prepared in line with BS EN 15978 and BS EN 15804 (Sustainability of construction works) and PAS 2080 (Carbon management in infrastructure), have shown that even on a 120-year forecast HS2 would not reach carbon neutrality due to the embedded carbon of the construction process, minimal modal shift, and the fact HS2 is intended to increase demand for travel. However, this has not stopped HS2 Ltd, away from these statutory frameworks, from expediently greenwashing HS2 as a 'Zero Carbon Railway' to the public. The case for HS2 is not supported by science. There are no independent assessments of carbon impact of embodied carbon, operational carbon, loss of trees and hedgerows, or scrutiny of the HS2 Ltd numbers of modal shift. It would be wrong to support any transport infrastructure project in the absence of these data."

"GPEW policy TR244 states that the Green Party believes that long-distance service provision should not concentrate on high speeds where this will affect local service provision or take up an excessive amount of limited resources, and that the Green Party supports the principle of a new north-south high speed line which would reduce the number of short-haul flights within the UK. However, since the outset HS2 costs have spiralled, with no-one knowing what a 'fully funded' HS2 project would cost to build (let alone the cost of subsidising in operation), yet electrification projects have stalled, ticket offices are due to close across the country and rail workers are striking. It is abundantly clear that out of control spending on HS2 is already impacting on local service provision, long before HS2 is due to open."

"The Green Party believes that HS2 represents business as usual economics, as it is an enclosed system which will not reduce car use or flying, and it has been specially designed to aid airport expansion. The Chief Executives of Birmingham and Manchester Airports have both gone on the record stating that they see HS2 as a mechanism to expand the number of international flights from their airports. Given the limited nature of HS2, it is far from certain that it would lead to a reduction in the number of internal flights."

"Currently, £135m of taxpayers money is being spent on HS2 every week. The GPEW notes that at a time of cost of living crisis, when public sector pay is being cut in real terms, when the NHS is grossly underfunded, when education is grossly underfunded and many thousands of children rely on school meals for basic nourishment, squandering such vast sums on a project that has gone so awry is abhorrent."

"We cannot build our way to a sustainable environment, and as such the GPEW reaffirms opposition to the HS2 project."

E09

THE UK'S MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Catherine Rowett, George Edgar, John Street, Evelyn Leslie, Geoffrey Davis, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Richard Wilson, Kruna Vukmirovic, Brent Poland*

SYNOPSIS

The Europe Policy Working Group proposes to insert into the Europe Chapter an affirmation of the importance of continued membership of the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights.

MOTION

To insert into Policies for a Sustainable Society the following new section:

Part 10: The Council of Europe

EU1000 The Council of Europe has an essential role in support of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The UK should be a committed and active member.

The Council of Europe

EU1010 The Green Party of England and Wales will ensure that the UK remains an active and committed member of the Council of Europe, which through its Conventions, its committees, and its facilitation of parliamentary and NGO exchanges plays a vital role in strengthening respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law across Europe. We will work to strengthen the effectiveness of the Council of Europe and its institutions, as a foundation of a fairer society throughout Europe on the basis of common values. We will support the continued development of the Conventions to ensure that they remain relevant in a changing world.

EU1011 The Green Party is fully committed to the European Convention on Human Rights, which is the cornerstone of the work of the Council of Europe, and provides protection for fundamental rights and freedoms across Europe. See RR400-402 for the party's policy on access to Convention rights in the domestic courts.

EU1012 The Green Party supports early completion of negotiations for the accession of the EU to the European Convention on Human Rights.

E10

UPDATE THE COMPANIES ACT TO PUT PEOPLE AND PLANET BEFORE PROFIT

Nadine Storey, Pamela Harling, Julian King-Salter, David Giaretta, Chesca Walton, Leslie Davies, David Howlde-Smith, Reinger Tegtmeier, Daniel Wimberley, Hamish Riddoch, David Flint, Graham Tavener, James Hewitt, Jonathan Essex, Andrew Wainwright, Esma Toler*

SYNOPSIS

Companies should be required to put environmental and social priorities ahead of financial returns to shareholders.

This will be done by amending the Companies Act and making mandatory the declaration of a purpose in companies' Articles of Association in line with the amended Companies Act.

MOTION

EC652 currently reads:

EC652 The right of the shareholders to dividends must not be the single most important criterion for company policy making. Those with a stake in the company's decisions must have the right to make informed input into those decisions. These 'stakeholders' include the share holders, the workers, consumers, the local community and advocates for the local environment. New legal and institutional structures will be created to enable these stakeholders to have a voice in the running of companies and other relevant organisations.

Conference approves the following changes to existing policy EC652 as follows:

After 'making', insert: 'The Companies Act 2006 (section 172) will be amended such that directors of a company must prioritise the well-being of all living entities (including all nations, all species and future generations, as well as all people alive today) and avoid negative environmental and social consequences. This means that companies will need to invest profits in a just transition of their company before distributing dividends to shareholders. Companies will also be required to include a clear purpose in their Articles of Association aligned with this change to the Companies Act.'

After 'workers', delete 'consumers,'.

After 'local community', add '(where appropriate)'.

Before 'environment', delete 'local'.

Such that it reads:

EC652 The right of the shareholders to dividends must not be the single most important criterion for company policy making. The Companies Act 2006 (section 172) will be amended such that directors of a company must prioritise the well-being of all living entities (including all nations, all species and future generations, as well as all people alive today) and avoid negative environmental and social consequences. This means that companies will need to invest profits in a just transition of their company before distributing dividends to shareholders. Companies will also be required to include a clear purpose in their Articles of Association aligned with this change to the Companies Act. Those with a stake in the company's decisions must have the right to make informed input into those decisions. These 'stakeholders' include the share holders, the workers, the local community (where appropriate) and advocates for the environment. New legal and institutional structures will be created to enable these stakeholders to have a voice in the running of companies and other relevant organisations.

E11

CONSOLIDATING THE ENERGY IPPS AGREED AT SPRING CONFERENCE 2023

Vix Lowthion, Phil Horton, David Giaretta, Julian King-Salter, Tony Firkins*

MOTION

Consolidating the Energy IPPs agreed at Spring Conference into the PSS.

1 ADDITIONS TO THE ENERGY CHAPTER

A To change the Energy chapter as follows.

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

After improvements insert “and grants” so that it reads.

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

B To add a new short-term policies section at the end of the Energy chapter. The current chapter states policies at a high level and we think it would become unbalanced if we inserted detailed polices of the sort found in the IPPs.

Short-term polices

EN130: The ‘green levies’ currently added to electricity bills will be moved to gas bills.

EN131: The Supplementary Tax on the profits of North Sea oil and gas producers will be raised.

EN132: The price of low carbon electricity will be decoupled from the price of gas through market reform.

EN133: The five largest energy supply companies will be nationalised. See also IN604.

EN134: Emergency grants will be provided to homeowners, landlords and councils to fund immediate insulation improvements to those at risk of fuel poverty.

2 POLICIES NEEDING NO CHANGE TO THE PSS

a) Renewables

IPP policy: Invest in domestic energy security by massively ramping up onshore and offshore wind and solar.

This is covered by EN010:

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

b) Retrofit

IPP policy: Introduce a massive publicly funded programme to insulate all homes, matched with other measures to reduce energy demand.

This is covered by EN020 and 021:

- EN020 Large-scale refurbishment programmes will be carried out to greatly increase the energy efficiency of existing buildings.
- EN021 Heating of buildings will be transformed by the use of solar thermal, heat pumps, biofuels, stored heat, hydrogen and relevant derived synthetic fuels, electricity and geothermal. The use of natural gas for heating will be phased out entirely.

c) Regulation

IPP policy:

- Regulate all energy supply companies to facilitate the transition to a fully renewable domestic energy system.
- This regulation will support rather than undermine smaller energy companies and energy cooperatives.

Covered by:

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

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

d) Universal Basic Income

IPP policy: Introduce Universal Basic Income payments to support everyone with the rising cost of living. This would be taxable but not counted when calculating benefits to ensure impact is proportionate to need. Covered by EC730 to EC734:

- EC730 Universal Basic Income sufficient to cover an individual's basic needs will be introduced. Universal Basic Income is an unconditional, non-withdrawable income payable to each individual as a right of legal residence in the UK. It will not be
- subject to means testing and there will be no requirement to be either working or actively seeking work.

.....

- EC734 We appreciate that introducing Universal Basic Income as a sudden single change is probably not feasible. Instead we would propose to gradually introduce its main features into the existing social security system, beginning with removing conditionality, reducing the number and complexity of payments, and reducing withdrawal rates.

E12

BAN GREYHOUND RACING

Hannah Spencer, Maralyn Pickup, John Davis, Debbie Charman, Emma Randall, Gilda Davis, Cathryn Westwood, Diana Newson, Brenda Dennett, Nick Newson, Victoria Caulfield, Phillip Oliver, Susan Tibbles, Anthony Wood, Valerie Wood, Martin Skelton, Stephen Holman, Helen Brown, Jane Leicester, Robert Beggs, Owain Sutton, Eve Allsop, Emily McIvor, Edward Green, Zack Polanski, Julia Middleton, Katy Coxall, Susan Tibbles, Renate Aspden, Jane Leicester, Michael Welton, Margaret Okole, Martin Blake, Manuela Ferringi, Rodrigo Capucho Paulo, Richie Bryan, Angela Thomson, Jake Welsh*

SYNOPSIS

Revised AR428 commits to end animal racing, with an immediate ban on greyhound racing. Intractable problems with this industry include “wastage” (about 12,000 dogs vanish annually); injuries; neglect; useless “policing”; and routine race-fixing by doping. The RSPCA, Dog’s Trust, Blue Cross, and most of the public support a ban.

MOTION

AR428 reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Re-write so that it reads:

The Green Party will end the exploitation of all animals in commercial racing. In the first instance, a Green Government will end greyhound racing as soon as practicable, at least within three years. This will stop the unnecessary deaths and suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry, and contribute to the body of measures aimed at reducing the harm from problem gambling. We will stop advertising and broadcasting animal racing on all media platforms within 12 months (e.g. racing 'tips' on Radio 4). A high compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare and re-homing, and industry wind-down. Finishing any animal racing industry will be carried out with support for those persons deemed dependent on the industry.

E13

BANNING HIGH CARBON ADVERTISING

Caroline Lucas, Jenny Jones, Ellie Chowns, Tom Scott, Molly Scott Cato, Joshua Harris, Anthony Slaughter, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Robert Beggs, Joshua Harris, James Hewitt, George Ttoouli, Jonathan Essex, Stuart Middleton, Cath Miller, Katy Coxall, Raphael Hill, Zack Polanski, Edward Green, Adrian Ramsay*

SYNOPSIS

The climate crisis poses an existential risk. Advertising of high carbon products is a significant driver of consumption habits that are perpetuating climate emissions. The continued advertising of high carbon products is incompatible with efforts to address the climate crisis. This motion seeks to regulate and ban such advertising.

MOTION

Conference notes that high carbon advertising, as defined as forms of advertising that promote goods, products and services that are carbon intensive, is incompatible with a sustainable society. High carbon advertising underpins mass carbon consumption and promotes high carbon goods, products and services, and is therefore a significant factor in the climate crisis.

Conference also notes that advertising controls on the grounds of reducing societal harms are an existing practice, as seen with tobacco products, and that various schemes internationally have sought to restrict high carbon advertising, such as in France and Amsterdam.

Conference notes that, in order to help mitigate and adapt to the effects of the climate crisis, there needs to be a focus on increasing public understanding and awareness of the role of consumption emissions, whereas high carbon advertising is currently a platform for greenwashing and for the minimisation of harms caused by high carbon products, goods and services.

Conference notes the immediate need for regulatory controls and oversight of high carbon advertising, with the intention of promoting alternatives (such as active travel, healthier foods and sustainable fashion) and ultimately banning all such advertising.

Conference notes in order for this to become policy we will need amendments in the Climate Crisis, Culture, Media & Sport and Transport sections of policy, as detailed below:

1. Amend CC121, delete "For instance, it should require all adverts for high carbon products, to carry an 'environmental health warning'" and insert "The advertising of high carbon and other environmentally

damaging products will also be regulated to reduce demand, and ensure consumers have a more accurate picture of such goods, products and services. This will be achieved via measures such as a ban on the advertising of high carbon products, alongside environmental health warnings and the promotion of zero carbon alternatives.”

2. Amend CMS683, delete “Environmental Advertising. Products which are harmful to the environment, for example in terms of greenhouse gas emissions through use, or embodied carbon in their manufacture or distribution, will be required to carry a prominent warning in all advertising.” and replace with “ High carbon products, which promote greater carbon consumption or emit significant levels of embodied carbon in their manufacture or distribution, require strict regulation to address their role in driving consumption patterns that are incompatible with tackling the climate emergency. The advertising of such products should be banned. Greater action will also be taken to counter greenwashing in advertising, through tougher regulations such as environmental health warnings and the promotion of alternatives.
3. Amend CM687, after “services such as” insert “fossil fuels”, delete “progressively reduce and ultimately eliminate all advertising for and promotion of such good and services” and insert “ban all such advertising.”
4. Amend TR550, delete “resources wasted and damage done by excessive use of air transport” and insert “environmental damage caused by frequent air travel”, delete “considers that governments should” and insert “would”, insert “ It would also introduce tough measures to end air travel advertising in recognition of its impact as a high carbon activity “ after “human health”
5. Amend TR552, delete” introduce legislative controls on the advertising of air travel” and insert “ban the advertising of air travel”.
6. Amend TR553, delete “specifically” and insert “Until there’s a ban on the advertising of all air travel”, delete “will campaign for UK and/or EU legislation for” and insert “supports”, delete “and would take up a significant and specified proportion of the area of each advert/ticket” and insert “.” after “flight tickets” and after this, insert “Advertising restrictions would ensure consumers aren’t exposed to overly frequent advertising for air travel (or other high carbon products and services) and would instead actively promote alternatives.”

E14

‘CARE EXPERIENCE’ AS A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC

Vivien Lichtenstein, David Zell, Naranee Ruthra-Rajan, Georgina Wright, Joshua Alston, Marisa Johnson, Naomi Bennett, Janet Hall, David Urban, Rajiv Sinha, Kim Marshall, James Hewitt, John Coyne, Jane Mitchell, Raphael Hill, Paul Lincoln, Anna-Maria Toms, Sam Riches*

MOTION

Add to Record of Policy Statements:

Recognising the manner in which some members of society are treated adversely following their having been in care as a young person, the Green Party endorses ‘Care Experience’ as a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act 2010.

We request elected members to propose motions at their respective councils and assemblies, ensuring people who have had experience of being in care are thus protected, or to vote in favour should others so propose.

We request our Parliamentarians to propose the Equalities Act 2010 be updated to include 'Care Experience' as a protected characteristic.

E15

FAIR PAY THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Robert Magowan, Alexandra Burton, Kai Turer, Reiner Tegtmeier, Andrew Gray, Brent Poland, Paul Valentine, Peter Murry, Jane Baston, Rebecca Mulvaney, Sam Lockhouse, Russell Warfield, Dame Hyndman, Martin Francis, Paul Philo*

SYNOPSIS

A motion to make clear the Green Party's support for proper workplace trade union recognition and collective bargaining, and specifically to abolish the Pay Review Bodies that currently make recommendations on pay for almost half of public sector workers.

MOTION

This conference notes:

- Just 17% of the UK public thought the Government did a good job of negotiating with trade unions to prevent public sector workers from going on strike earlier this year.[1]
- Pay Review Bodies are used to obscure the role of Government in setting public sector pay, to avoid negotiation with trade unions and to undermine their role as the voice of workers.
- Decisions claimed to be based on objective recommendations from these bodies are in practice political decisions by the Government of the day, and frequently recommendations are ignored.
- Collective bargaining is standard practice across Europe, strengthening the role of trade unions and making pay negotiations more transparent. The TUC and unions like UNISON have consistently called for collective bargaining to replace the Pay Review Bodies.
- Trade unions in both the public and private sector face too many undemocratic obstacles to recognition and basic engagement with their members, being forced to hold meetings outside the workplace and barred from communicating information about industrial action.

This Conference resolves:

- To abolish the Pay Review Bodies and move towards a system of collective bargaining for the public sector, where Governments negotiate properly with trade unions to deliver annual pay awards.
- To reaffirm the Party's commitment to providing independent trade unions with a statutory right of access to workplaces in order to speak to workers during their working hours.
- To repeal all anti-union and anti-strike laws since 1979, in line with other policy statements, to empower workers to organise and defend themselves collectively.

E16

ELECTRIFY THE EAST WEST RAILWAY LINE FROM THE BEGINNING

Emma Garnett, Rob Callender, Alex Nettle, Liam Kirby, Sam Easterby-Smith, Owain Sutton, Darren Yates, Andrew Browne, Chloe Mosonye, Leo Huckvale, Elliot Tong, Alan Francis, Lara Davenport-Ray, Phil Shpeherd-Foster, Pete Johnson, Martin Blake, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, Robert Crowston, Jay Calderisi, Helen Hitchcock*

SYNOPSIS

The government has committed to building East West Rail. This will largely replace the Varsity rail line, much of which was closed in the 1960s. The new railway line will fill an important gap in the network and will help reduce car dependency in the region, replacing car journeys with train journeys. However, current proposals will have diesel trains running on the line to begin with

SOC Note: synopsis word limit reached

MOTION

Insert into Record of Policy Statements “The Green Party supports the building of East West Rail in full and calls for the project to be electrified from the beginning. The railway should be accessible for everyone and be well connected to active transport routes. The route should minimise disruption to local communities as far as possible and bring local benefits. The route should minimise negative impacts on public green spaces, nature and wildlife and carry out appropriate mitigation works.”

E17

EQUAL NATIONALITY FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

Alina Baczynska, Rosemary Warrington, Nathalie Bienfait, Andrew Melville, Eve Allsop, Pete Elliott, Rupert George, Mary Wright, Frank Earp, Rosie Pearce, Simon Stafford-Townsend, Cassie Thomas, Lily Wilson, Rachel Collinson, Paul Grigoras, Craig Torano, Michal Chantowski, Deborah Scott, Jenny Vernon, Robert Crowston, Ben Foley, Riley Routh, Ani Stafford-Townsend*

SYNOPSIS

Current UK law does not treat biological and adopted children equally in its consideration of their eligibility for the right to UK citizenship.

This motion aims to make their equality explicit within our own policy.

MOTION

In NY513 where it says:

“NY513 This legislation will ensure that British nationality is automatically received by:

- a) All children born in the UK.
- b) All children born overseas of British nationals normally resident in the UK.

...”

Amend to read:

“a) All children born or adopted in the UK.

b) All children born overseas of British nationals normally resident in the UK or adopted overseas by British nationals normally resident in the UK.”

In NY514 where it says:

“NY514 British nationality will also be automatically available prior to their 18th birthday to all children of British nationals born overseas but now normally resident in the UK. Evidence of such residence would be required.”

Amend to read: “NY514 British nationality will also be automatically available prior to their 18th birthday to all children of British nationals born or adopted overseas but now normally resident in the UK. Evidence of such residence would be required.”

E18

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Celia Coram, Georgina Wright, Jane Carruthers, Zoe Garbett, David Howdle-Smith, Libby Hudon, Edryd Evans, Mike Shipley, Linda MacCallum Stewart, Andrew Melville, George Ttoouli, Martin Blake, Paul Grigoras*

SYNOPSIS

Policy amendments following the decisions of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) agreed in Montreal in December 2022 (COP 15). The government of the day signs on behalf of the UK and so is required to implement its decisions. Further consideration of the GBF is expected to lead to future amendments.

MOTION

Conference instructs the Policy Development Committee to make the following changes to the Wildlife and Habitats chapter of the Policies for a Sustainable Society (PfSS).

Insert at the end of the first clause of WH003 Text reading: ‘which are either in step with or, in some cases, exceed the Global Biodiversity Framework “30 by 30” targets.’ so that the clause reads: WH003: ‘Green Party Policy for the Regeneration of Nature aims to achieve the following outcomes, which are either in step with, or in some cases, exceed the Global Biodiversity Framework “30 by 30” targets.’

Insert at the end of clause WH102: ‘These targets will align with and be at least as ambitious as the “30 by 30” targets set in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Global Biodiversity Framework 2020-2030.’ So that the clause reads: ‘WH102 The Commission for Nature will set and monitor the delivery of short, medium and long-term

targets in the Environment Act 2021. These targets will align with and be at least as ambitious as the “30 by 30” targets set in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Global Biodiversity Framework, 2020-2030.’

Insert in paragraph WH103, after ‘the Rights of Nature Act: and in accordance with the UK obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.’ So that the clause reads: ‘ WH103 The Secretary of State for the Environment will be required by the Rights of Nature Act and in accordance with the UK obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to produce and implement a strategy and corresponding budget to achieve the targets set by the Commission for Nature. This strategy will be informed by science and devised in collaboration with devolved governments, local authorities, other government departments, and major NGOs involved in nature conservation.’

E19

GREEN RAIL STRATEGY FOR THE MIDLANDS AND THE NORTH

Jake Welsh, Alexander Sallons, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Fin White, Thomas Atkin, Avery Withers, Stuart Atkin, Olli Watkins, Pete Johnson, Adam Turner, Joseph Hudson-Small, Philip Davies, Phil Di Palma, Neil O’Doherty, Liam Kirby, Mike McTimoney, Owain Sutton, Fiona Aviani-Bartram, Scott Robinson, Alan Francis, Patrick McAllister, Andrew Browne, Rob Callender, Alexander Nettle, Sam Easterby-Smith, Darren Yates, Emma Garnett, Ellie Crane, Chloe Mosonyi, Christina O’Neill, Linda Ward, Richard Wise, Gary Burnett, Richard Small, Billie Nagle, John Francis, Sarah Nicmanis, Elliot Tong, Peter Brommer, Martin Osborne, Katie Fenn, Ben Auton, Neil O’Doherty, Ashley Corbett-Collins, James William-Nelson, Ambrose Nankivell, Phil Shepherd-Foster, Paris Hayes, Jon Owen, Martin Skelton, Ryan Hogg, Lee Huntbach, Robert Crowston, Jay Calderisi, Helen Hitchcock*

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 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.

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 fund and build HS2 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 accordance with existing Green Party policy.

The Green Party calls for the impact of HS2 to be improved further by funding and building Northern Powerhouse Rail which includes a high 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.”

E20

HEALTH POLICY - ABORTION

Chesca Walton, Laura Eccott, Devon Osborne, Zoe Garbett, Natalia Kubica, Joshua Harris, Gaynor Veal, Lorna Jane Russell, Frank Earp, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Anna Maria Toms, Alina Baczynska, RoseMary Warrington, Cathryn Westwood, Eve Allsop*

SYNOPSIS

Abortion rights recently came to the fore following the sentencing of Carla Foster, age 45 and a mother of 3 children, to 2 years in prison for terminating her pregnancy beyond the legal time limit. This motion intends to ensure GPEW remains a leader in abortion rights health care.

MOTION

Clarification on existing policy HE703

Existing text:

HE703 The Green Party would support a change in the law to allow the procedure to be carried out by appropriately trained nurses and midwives up to three months of pregnancy.

Revised text:

HE703 The Green Party would support a change in the law to allow abortion care to be approved and carried out by appropriately trained nurses and midwives up to 12 weeks of pregnancy. From 12 to 24 weeks, abortion care can be approved and administered by a single doctor. After 24 weeks, an abortion of pregnancy will require agreement from two doctors prior to being administered and is only allowed if there is a risk of life to the pregnant person or child, or remaining risk of grave physical, or mental injury from continuing with the pregnancy after alternative courses of treatment have been exhausted.

Clarification on existing policy HE706

Existing text:

HE706 The Green Party believes that no person should face imprisonment for ending their own pregnancy. A Green government would ensure that abortion is removed from the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act and is instead governed by the same robust regulatory and ethical frameworks as all other medical procedures. As abortion is a devolved issue in Scotland and Northern Ireland, it is intended that this policy would apply to England and Wales.

Revised text:

HE706 The Green Party believes that no pregnant person and no registered, medical professional trained in abortions in independently regulated conditions should face imprisonment for ending a pregnancy. A Green government would ensure that abortion is removed from the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act and is instead governed by the same robust regulatory and ethical frameworks as all other medical procedures. As abortion is a devolved issue in Scotland and Northern Ireland, it is intended that this policy would apply to England and Wales.

New Policy: Introduction of Safe Access Zones

HEXXX The Green Party would implement safe access zones, to be introduced with a 'blanket' provision, applying to all sites across England and Wales that provide abortion care without evidence of local harassment being required. Responsibility for establishing these safe access zones sits at a national level and not with local councils or health boards. Councils could be given the power to vary these zones depending on individual site circumstances. Breaches of the terms of these zones could be addressed by police intervention, with the potential for those breaching the terms of the zone being charged with a criminal offence.

"Abortion clinic" means:

- A place approved for the purposes of section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967 by the Secretary of State under subsection (3) of that section, or
- A hospital identified in a notification to the Chief Medical Officer under section 2(1) of the Abortion Act 1967 in the current or previous calendar year, and published identifying it as such, where "current" or "previous" are references to the time at which an alleged offence under subsection (1) of this section takes place.

A "safe access zone" means an area which is within a boundary which is 150 metres from any part of an abortion clinic or any access point to any building or site that contains an abortion clinic and is:

- On or adjacent to a public highway or public right of way,
- In an open space to which the public has access,
- Within the curtilage of an abortion clinic, or building or site which contains an abortion clinic, or
- In any location that is visible from a public highway, public right of way, open space to which the public have access, or the curtilage of an abortion clinic.

Within the safe access zone, the following behaviours are prohibited:

- Persistently, continuously, or repeatedly occupying a safe access zone;
- Impeding or blocking somebody's path or an entrance to abortion services;
- Intimidating or harassing a person;
- Seeking to influence or persuade a person concerning their access to or employment in connection with abortion services;
- Demonstrating using items such as leaflets, posters, and pictures specifically related to abortion; and
- Photographing, filming, or recording a person in the zone.

A NEW DEAL FOR CARERS

Thomas Atkin, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Diana Newson, Katherine Gilchrist, Avery Withers, Stuart Atkin, Callum Clafferty, Ben Samuel, Rob Callender, Robert Beggs, Nicole Freeman, Rob Freeman, Linda Freeman, Chesca Walton, Natalia Kubica, Edryd Evans, Katie Fenn, Pam Rosling, Bernard Little, Bernard Little, Stuart Middleton, Katy Coxall, Rowan McLaughlin, Fiona Davies, Roy Davies,*

SYNOPSIS

Carers save the UK economy billions a year, it's about time they got a fair deal. This motion would specify what changes we would make to unpaid carers lives in the UK.

BACKGROUND

"That the cost-of-living crisis is disproportionately affecting unpaid carers. Carers UK estimates that the number of unpaid carers has risen to 10.6 million, meaning 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 12 young people care for those around them. People of colour, disabled people, elderly people and LGBTIQ+ people who care are impacted worse financially and socially. Unpaid care is worth £193bn a year whilst austerity cuts to social care is massively affecting unpaid carer. To add insult to injury, Carers Allowance is means tested, is unavailable to under 16's and those in full time education and is removed from the cared for persons welfare payments.

Carers, including young carers, deserve a better deal from government. Supporting carers of all ages is vital.

To do this the current carers allowance payment needs to be increased to a living wage for the hours of care provided and young carers should have the right to be compensated by government, supported in education and be provided with respite written into law."

MOTION

Conference therefore:

- Insert in the PfSS at the end of 'SW905' to say "...and supports the increase of Carers Allowance to a living wage for unpaid care provided, including by young carers, and supports the removal of means testing and the removal of parts of the cared for persons welfare payments"
- Add to the PfSS: 'ED302' into the education policy document, stating "The green party acknowledges that carers who are members of one or more marginalised groups are more likely to suffer social, economic and health affects due to their caring."
- Add to the PfSS: 'ED303' into the education policy document, stating "The Green Party recognises that Young Carers are poorly supported in education, and therefore would mandate in law that all schools must have a 'Designated Young Carers Lead' to provide support."
- Add to the PfSS: 'HE1104' into the Health policy document, stating "The Green Party recognises the challenges carers of all ages face in regards to mental health and would therefore demand more frequent wellbeing appointments with Carers to check on their mental and physical health and would provide support for public sector organisations such as schools to signpost better mental health support for carers"
- Add to the PfSS: 'HE1711' into the Health policy document, stating "The Green Party recognises there is a lack of training around consulting and informing carers on patient care at all levels of the NHS and social

care, and would therefore make funds available for mandated carers training in all patient-facing roles in the NHS and Social Care, including around Hospital Discharge and End-of-life care.

E22

OPPOSING THE ANTI-BOYCOTT BILL

Martin Francis, Vivien Lichtenstein, Sam Alston, Annie Neligan, Les Levidow, Peter Murry, Ben Samuel, Steve Dawe, Jennifer Agricola, Mark Hollinrake, Jim McGinley, Jay Ginn, Danny McNamara, Simon Hales, Bill Linton, Brent Poland, Catherine Rowett, Tony Pearce, Anne Gray, Tarsam Singh, Pam Rosling, James Dickins, Brenda Puech, David McIntosh, Matt Patridge, Patrick John Boyd*

SYNOPSIS

This Motion commits the Green Party to actively oppose the EAPB Bill as it undermines the democratic right of public bodies to seek peaceful means to promote human rights and climate justice and calls on the Party to support the Right to Boycott Coalition.

MOTION

SOC Note: Text marked in red with a strikethrough has been found Out of Order: first for being trivial as suggesting a course of action which, to the best of SOC's knowledge, represents the status quo; and secondly for being vague or for having no consequential effect

1. Conference calls on elected Green Party members and those in the House of Lords to take every opportunity to proactively oppose the Government's Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill that passed its second reading by a majority of 268 to 70 on July 3rd 2023.

This toxic piece of legislation will prevent public bodies from making their own ethical decisions on investment and procurement as a peaceful and democratic way of exerting pressure on companies that undermine human rights, employment rights and the need to combat climate change. (1)

~~2.—Conference reiterates its support for active participation in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign as contained in the Green Party Conference resolution 2014. This called on the Green Party:~~

~~'to reiterate our calls on the UN, the EU and the US government to ensure that Israel complies with international law and to support these calls by active participation in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.~~

~~The campaign asks individuals, organisations, councils and governments to refuse to deal with companies and institutions identified as facilitating Israel's military capacity, human rights abuses or illegal settlement activity.'~~ (2)

3. Conference notes the Opinion submitted to the Labour Party by Richard Hermer KC of Matrix Chambers on the Bill (Conclusion):

'What can be said with a high degree of certainty is that many of the key provisions of this very poorly drafted Bill are deeply troubling from both a domestic and international law perspective. The implications for local democracy, for the proud history in our regions of campaigning for global human rights, for using our economic clout for the promotion of human rights, for free speech in this country and for compliance with our international law obligations are potentially profound.' (3)

4. Conference endorses the view of Caroline Lucas MP stated in an article for Left Foot Forward on July 4th 2023:

'[The Bill's] wordy title disguises its deeply dangerous nature – this is an anti-boycott Bill, sitting alongside reams of recent legislation rolling back the right to strike, the right to protest, and the right to seek asylum, to form a co-ordinated attack on democratic principles. Alarming, it will also undermine a wide range of campaigns for social and climate justice.' (4)

And notes her support for the cross-party **Early Day Motion 1415** on the Bill (4a)

~~5. The Green Party will actively support the 60 organisation strong Right to Boycott Coalition that comprises trade unions, faith organisations, human rights and climate justice campaigns and many others, in their efforts to defeat this Bill. (5)~~

Links

1. Background Notes from Greens For Palestine <https://1drv.ms/b/s!AuBvBc4XNcUqgXaP2bi8glzTtuOq?e=QlqaxF>
 2. 2014 Green Party Resolution <https://policy.greenparty.org.uk/our-policies/record-of-policy-statements/2014-2/>
 3. KC's Opinion on the Bill <https://1drv.ms/w/s!AuBvBc4XNcUqgW1-7omHF8p3USf?e=8xOgmo>
 4. Caroline Lucas Left Foot Forward Article <https://leftfootforward.org/2023/07/the-anti-boycott-bill-is-a-dangerous-assault-on-democracy/>
- 4a. Early Day Motion <https://palestinecampaign.eaction.online/signEDM1415/>
1. Right to Boycott webpage <https://righttoboycott.org.uk/>

E23

STRENGTHENING RIGHTS FOR GIG ECONOMY WORKERS

Matthew Hull, Alexandra Burton, Kai Turner, Alison Turner, Paul Valentine, Susan Tibbles, Jack Lennox, Rebecca Mulvaney, John Smout, Sam Lockhouse, Russell Warfield, Dame Hyndman, Tony Pearce, Paul Philo, Ken Barker, Rachael Hatchet, Ben Auton, Anne Gray, Rosie Rawle*

SYNOPSIS

A motion to improve and update policy on the rights of platform workers (workers engaged by platforms in the so-called 'gig economy') to provide proper legal protections. It covers the classification of workers in law, the regulation of platform employers and enforcement of the same.

MOTION

Conference notes:

- Platform workers lack fundamental protections in UK employment law, owing to the overall weakness of workers' rights and the misclassification of millions of workers as independent contractors.

- Platform employers have used their scale and access to capital to flout legal protections for workers, many of which were designed in an era when app-based work did not exist.
- Existing laws, including the Employment Rights Act 1996 and the Trade Union Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, offer loopholes for bosses to exploit.
- Existing regulations are insufficiently enforced by public authorities, leaving workers exposed to mistreatment and without recourse to the law when needed.
- Platform employers are complicit with police forces, licensing authorities and immigration authorities in targeting minoritised workers and especially those with precarious immigration statuses.

Conference believes:

- The advent and expansion of platform employment, without the empowerment of workers, has led to workers being atomised and more vulnerable to exploitation in multiple industries.
- Platform workers deserve total and complete protection from abuse and exploitation, and empowerment to unionise and defend each other.
- Public authorities should be providing protection to workers, leading regulatory enforcement against malpractice, and actively creating space for workers to organise in independent trade unions and take collective action.
- Each worker should have complete, and and equal, access to and use of the law to uphold their rights.

This Conference resolves:

- To reform employment law to close loopholes, bring platform workers under its protection under a single legal status of 'worker', with full and equal rights from the first day of employment.
- To increase funding to legal aid to ensure everyone can uphold their employment rights in court if necessary.
- To repeal all anti-union and anti-strike laws since 1979 in line with other recent policy statements, to empower workers to organise and defend themselves collectively
- To create a legal duty for other public authorities, especially licensing authorities, to suspend and ultimately remove operating licences for any company that repeatedly breaks the law in regard to workers' rights.
- To end the hostile environment and the racialised targeting of platform workers by police forces and immigration authorities.

E24

POLICY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Graham Tavener, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Martin Childs, George Ttoouli, Ann Mills, Brent Poland, Jack Lenox, Kimmy Milham, Daniel James, Mike Shipley, Diana Newson, Anne Gayfer, Tim Sheerman-Chase, Emily Heath, Leslie Davies, James Sommerville, Joshua Morris-Blake, Paul Keene, Phil Shepherd-Foster, David Mottram, Gina Dowding, Kate Belmonte, Matthew Nightingale, Paul Grigoras, Ani Stafford-Townsend, Natalia Kubica*

SYNOPSIS

The rise of AI is transforming many industries. AI is now used in public domain and corporate sectors and concerns exist at individual, national and international levels. However, the potential for benefit from AI is enormous, encompassing most areas of society so good governance rather than prevention is our aim.

MOTION

Insert into Record of Policy Statements:

POLICY STATEMENT on ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (also known as Machine Learning; referred to as AI throughout for ease of reading and to align with current EU, UN and UK Government publications)

The Green Party of England and Wales acknowledges that there are both existential threats and massive potential benefits for a sustainable future for humanity possible with the increasing prevalence of AI. We will introduce a precautionary regulatory system to avert the former and bring about the latter. In creating this regulatory framework we shall base much upon the EU AI Act and UNESCO recommendations, and aim to ensure UK legislation and practice aligns with this. We shall also foster international co-operation towards the establishment of a world-wide body that could oversee and police AI development globally.

Through regulation we will oversee that AI development is based on ethical principles for development and deployment so that systems using AI are safe, robust, transparent, accountable, and human-centric. Development will be regulated into producing systems that are socially and environmentally responsible, that include safeguards against inappropriate or under-age use, measures to address and rectify existing bias, discrimination and equality issues, measures that protect individual privacy and liberty, ways to rectify mistakes made and ways to allow use to be switched off or paused.

We neither aim nor wish to stifle the innovation and development of AI as an important sector of our economy nor to reduce the UK's current status as one of the most advanced nations in this field. To this end our current research frameworks will be enhanced along with other developmental ideas including "sandboxes" for safe yet innovative trialling of AI systems.

In addition to preserving freedoms, personal safety and maintaining physical health for every individual to a standard similar to that enjoyed in the UK today, AI development and usage will be regulated to encourage and facilitate for all individuals the freedom to live a worthwhile life, devoting time in whatever proportions they choose to the following "seven C's": - Curiosity, Conservation, Challenge, Creativity, Community, Charity, Care.

Initial regulation will make mandatory that AI generated content identifies itself, i.e we will regulate to prevent any instance where someone may act on or be influenced by the product of AI system without being aware of this, or under the impression that the content is generated by another human. We see this as an essential safeguard of our democratic processes. Many of the pernicious uses currently available or foreseen including social media influencing, news media or voter manipulation, deep-faking, virtual friendship apps and others will be controlled by this.

We will enable uses of AI in the interests of national security and defence whilst avoiding an arms-race developing between ourselves and other nations, also ensuring that "human-in-the-loop" control is always required in accordance with our policies PSD541 and PSD421. We will prohibit the use of remote biometric identification in public spaces.

We will require that the burgeoning uses of AI within the commercial sphere put social and environmental priorities ahead of financial returns to shareholders in line with our economic policies. AI may well create a new pattern of distribution of wealth and earning power with the potential for a few to accrue a great deal while others lose out, so we shall ensure our tax policies are able to address this fairly.

We assert that every individual has a right to the ownership of their own identity in terms of appearance, sound and creative output. AI platforms that can generate written text, music, images or realistic films will automatically be

subject to strong regulation which will make clear the way in which an individual can claim unfair use of their own creative output and curtail its continued use. More generally, copyright control may be extended so that AI providers compensate authors, musicians, artists and data producers such as published scientific data sets rather than assuming the internet is free. Data produced from publicly funded work might be freely consumed nationally and shared internationally.

The many positive uses of AI that already exist in the field of healthcare, fostered by enabling many independent research initiatives from central funding, will continue to be grown and the framework for doing so shared into other spheres including education, local government, the judiciary, transport and utility management and infrastructure.

We acknowledge the great potential for AI usage to augment, not replace, many professionals such as doctors, teachers and lawyers to the benefit of those receiving their services, whilst still retaining the need for humans to make all key decisions. Additionally, we aim to make available training in AI literacy and use for all so that we can each make good use of AI, for example to create our own healthy lifestyle plans or individualised learning plans with AI assistance.

In recognition of the many concerns over jobs and livelihoods owing to AI development we will implement packages of job retraining support for those displaced. We also see the growth of AI as making more likely and more immediate the need for Universal Basic Income, which we will introduce, policy EC402. Far from being just a safety net, UBI is a start towards enabling people to break free from the current model where so many labour essentially to benefit already wealthy shareholders and propagate our destructive levels of consumption. Universal Basic Income we see as a starting place for allowing us all to develop harmonious lives in which we feel enriched and valued beyond our current market-orientated measures; this truly is the potential of AI to transform our society and individual experience for the better, which we strive to bring into being.

E25

REMOVE AMBIGUITY AND IMPROVE CONSISTENCY IN TRANS RIGHTS

Shahrar Ali, Jessica Goldfinch, Kimmy Milham, Hazel Pegg, Vicky Meadows, Paul Milnes, Zoe Richards, Jenny Rust, Kate Souper, Zoe Hatch, Caitlin Collins, Lily Wilson, Matthew Nightingale, Peter Barnett*

SYNOPSIS

To add a clause to the second sentence in paragraph RR530, to make clear this is a statement of gender identity and to remove any possible ambiguity of meaning when taken in isolation. In third sentence, also change word to “valid” as consistent with what’s just been said.

MOTION

Current RR530

RR530 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 recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary identities exist and are valid. 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.

Add, at end of second sentence, “all as statements of gender identity.”

Replace, at end of third sentence, “real” with “valid”.

Amended text now reads:

RR530 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 recognises that trans men are men, trans women are women, and that non-binary identities exist and are valid, all as statements of gender identity. We shall respect transgender and non-binary people’s identities as valid. The Green Party shall include, and push for further acceptance of, transgender and non-binary people within all areas of society.

E26

SOLIDARITY WITH PROTESTERS IN IRAN

Natalia Kubica, Robert Beggs, Callum Clafferty, Laura Eccott, Meg Shepherd-Foster, Alina Baczynska, Rob Gardner, Jenny Vernon, RoseMary Warrington, David McIntosh, Jane Mitchell, Judge English, Rachel Collinson, Elaine Francis, Vivien Lichtenstein, Adi Daly-Gourdialsing, Elise Benjamin, Kate Mammolotti, Anna-Maria Toms, Rosie Rawle*

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party stands in solidarity with protesters in Iran facing brutal suppression, calls for safe routes to the UK for Iranian refugees affected by the state violence, and calls for asylum for political prisoners from Iran.

MOTION

Conference notes that:

- On the 16th September 2022, 22 year old Kurdish Iranian Mahsa Amini died in police custody in Tehran, having been detained for allegedly wearing her hijab too loosely. It is alleged that she died after being severely beaten by members of the Iranian Religious Police tasked with enforcement of public adherence with Iranian religious laws.
- Protests have taken place across Iran since Mahsa’s death, initially against compulsory veiling laws but since having grown into a wider movement against Iran’s theocratic regime. Protesters march under the slogan “Woman, Life, Freedom”.
- The Iranian authorities’ response to the protests has been one of shocking violence. Human rights groups report a death toll of over 500 people – including over 60 children – with over 18,000 reported to have been arrested. Protesters held in custody have reported being tortured and sexually assaulted, and some families of those killed have been forced to lie about their relatives’ deaths on TV. At least four people have been executed on charges related to the protests and at least 100 are at risk of execution, according to human rights groups.
- Some journalists reporting on the protests and some lawyers representing protesters have been arrested by Iranian authorities.

Conference:

- Believes that women should have the right to choose how to express their religious beliefs. Wearing the hijab should be a personal choice and compulsory veiling laws are abusive and patriarchal. Extreme violence should never be used to enforce laws.
- Welcomes the United Nations Human Rights Council’s decision to investigate human rights violations in the violent suppression of the protests in Iran and urges its commencement.
- Believes that the UK Government should immediately announce expedited safe routes to the UK for Iranian refugees affected by the state violence and provide appropriate accommodation and support upon their arrival.
- Calls on the UK Government to immediately offer asylum to political prisoners and dissidents in Iran.

E27

THE GPEW’S AMBITION TO BUILD STRONGER BONDS WITH TRADE UNIONS

Matthew Hull, Deolinda Maria Eltringham, Mark Hollinrake, Robert Magowan, Alexandra Burton, Kai Turner, Andrew Melville, Simon Hales, Les Levidow, Doug Landman, Steve Cowan, Jay Ginn, Brent Poland, Martin Childs, Jim McGinley*

SYNOPSIS

A motion to emphasise the Green Party’s desire to work hand-in-glove with trade unions in political, electoral, and other campaigns. The motion sets out the Party’s ambition to build permanent, substantial relationships with trade unions in order to achieve our shared goals of social and climate justice.

MOTION

Conference believes:

- Working people need a strong political voice amid growing political, economic and ecological crises.
- The Labour Party is, yet again, drifting away from the aims and hopes of the working class.
- The Green Party recognises and cherishes the traditions we share with the trade union movement of mass action, resistance to oppression and liberation of working people.
- It is up to the Green Party to solidify itself as a voice of working people, strengthen institutional bonds with the trade union movement (including welcoming affiliation), show practical and meaningful solidarity, and promote workers’ interests.

Conferences resolves:

- For the leadership of the Party to meet with trade unions and explore opportunities to build powerful, long-lasting relationships between unions and the party, to achieve our common goals of empowering the working class and transforming the economy to work for people and the planet, not profit.

SOC Note: The below text is out of order as contrary to the Constitution regarding local party autonomy, and for being vague

- ~~For local and regional parties to collaborate closely with trade unions in political and electoral campaigns, including by selecting and fighting for trade unionists as candidates at elections in England and Wales.~~
- ~~For the Party to put the liberation of working people, and trade unions, at the heart of its policy programme.~~

E28

ENHANCE THE CURRENT POLITICAL STRATEGY

Danny McNamara, Nicole Haydock, Peter Murry, Nadine Storey, David Giaretta, Kefentse Dennis, Julian King-Slater, Tony Firkins, Greg Dring, Jessica Goldfinch, Annie Neligan, Hamish Riddoch, Les Levidow, Brent Poland, Jenni Chan, Tarsam Singh, William Shutt, Roy Sandison*

BACKGROUND

Our current political strategy (Building Power To Transform Society – Green Party Political Strategy to 2030) was adopted at Spring Conference 2021 and was due for review in spring 2023.

In its current form the document is based on an “essentialist” view of what a political party is – the belief that there is a single, one-dimensional characteristic (competing for elected positions) that “defines” the notion of a political party, in contrast with the variety in real-life political parties across the globe.

One consequence of this is that much activity within the party – from the drafting of local party leaflets, through the management of public positioning, to the formulation of policy – comes to be subject to a simple “electoral test”. There is frequently tension between the requirements of this simple electoral test and the demands of multiple concurrent planetary crises.

Another consequence is that making “electoral success (our) top priority for all resource allocation decisions” often leaves little for other key aspects of the life of the party – such as equipping ourselves to be truly accessible and inclusive, and running mass-participation campaigns.

The purpose of this amendment is twofold. Firstly, it attempts to better align our strategy with our established core values (for example, “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.”) Secondly, it attempts to address the concerns of many members, heard at recent meetings and workshops across the party, who feel that the amount of time required for Greens to win effective political power on the scale required (even based on heroic assumptions) is much greater than the science now tells us we have left to address the multiple crises, in consequence of which we need a broader, multi-pronged strategy.

SYNOPSIS

Social and environmental justice will not be achieved through our own actions or by legislative means alone. We must work on several fronts and use multiple means to accomplish change. Our Political Strategy should emphasise this more clearly.

MOTION

Conference approves the following changes to the document “Building Power To Transform Society – Green Party Political Strategy to 2030”, first adopted (with an amendment) at Spring Conference 2021.

In the section titled **PURPOSE:**

Delete the first paragraph and replace with:

“We are a political party. We exist to ensure the implementation of change in line with our core values and philosophical basis. We do this in a variety of ways - through the exercise of power in elected government positions, through building a mass movement for change and through cooperation with sympathetic organisations of all types both here and in other countries.”

In the first sentence of the second paragraph, delete: “We have already grown our numbers of councillors and parliamentarians, but” and “we do more: our planet and our society require nothing less.”. After “We are facing a climate, ecological and social emergency that demands”, insert “urgent and radical economic, social and political changes both nationally and globally. These changes require universal recognition of the crises to pave the way for widespread behavioural change and for acceptance of the legislative agenda that will be required.”

In the second sentence of the second paragraph delete the last two words (“from within”) and insert: “on many fronts. We celebrate our successes in parliament and in local authorities, and we recognise that we shall achieve still greater success through unflinching advocacy of a radical policy agenda. We recognise also that the timescales for dealing with current planetary crises are very short – shorter than the time required for Greens to gain the requisite degree of power – and that in addition to seeking election we must inform public opinion, popularise radical policies, forge alliances with community groups, campaign groups, trades unions and others and change the terms of public discourse. In doing so we aim to generate a climate of opinion that shifts all decision-making - both in the public and private domains – in the right direction. As the crises become more self-evident to all, we shall reap electoral dividends from this approach.”

In the third sentence of the second paragraph, after “political base that”, delete the word “gets” and insert “is committed to campaigning for Green values and policies using the full range of approaches, including door-to-door contact, publicity, media, protest, demonstrations, disobedience, community and workplace alliances. This will also get”. After “the highest”, delete the word “and” and insert “enabling us”.

In the first sentence of the third paragraph, after “by focusing on” insert “(i) ensuring that as a party we are inclusive and accessible at all levels, (ii) developing our capacity for campaigning on environmental and social justice issues, (iii) maintaining mutually supportive links with other sympathetic groups and (iv)”.

In the second sentence of the third paragraph, replace the word “electoral” with “political”.

In the third sentence of the third paragraph, after “support Green” insert “campaigns, policies and”. Delete all after “candidates” and insert “and turns campaigners and supporters into voters and members”.

In the fourth sentence of the third paragraph, after “Through” insert “community engagement, local and national campaign work and”.

In the section titled **VISION:**

After the first sentence in paragraph 3, insert a new sentence: “As crises deepen and injustices become more acute, our work in highlighting the political choices that create them and the political remedies that are available will recruit more support for Green policies – through networks of community groups, campaign groups and trades unions with whom we work; through party membership; and through the ballot box.”

In the section titled **PRIORITIES:**

In the first sentence of the first paragraph, delete the word “priority” and replace with “priorities”. Delete the word “is” and replace with “are”. Before “to increase our number” insert the following: “(i) to ensure that the Green Party is wholly inclusive, accessible and representative of the community we serve, (ii) to build a large popular movement

around an honest account of the crises in climate, pollution, biodiversity and social justice and a fearless articulation of the measures needed to address these, and (iii) to use the credibility thus gained”.

Replace the current diagram with one that reflects the grouping of Priorities in the amended Strategy. (An example is shown in the .pdf that accompanies this motion.)

After the second paragraph, insert a new paragraph: “Note that our key priorities are interdependent and there is for this reason no hierarchy implied in the ordering that follows.”

In the sub-section titled **Priority 1 GET GREENS ELECTED TO BECOME A MAJOR FORCE IN POLITICS:**

In the first paragraph, delete the second sentence (“Electoral success will be the top priority for all resource allocation decisions.....”).

In point 1 under “Actions”, after “each General Election” insert “that does not flinch from the measures required to address planetary crises or social justice issues”.

Delete items 3, 4, 6 and 7 under “Actions”. (Explanatory note - these will be made more generic and moved to the section on building our organisation – see later.)

In the sub-section titled **Priority 2 BUILD CREDIBILITY:**

Before the first paragraph, insert a new paragraph: “Credibility is rooted in others trusting what we say and do – in other words, believing in us. We shall win this trust by being consistent, honest and transparent and by living by the values that we espouse as a party. Individual voters, campaign groups and other political organisations, through repeated contact with us through our issues-based and electoral campaign work, will recognise our readiness to deal honestly with difficult issues.”

Under “Actions”, insert a new point 1 (and re-number accordingly): “Conduct highly visible national and local campaigns on key issues and ally ourselves with suitable campaigns orchestrated by community and campaign groups, trades unions and others.”

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 5 (originally point 4), after “Focus our communications on building” insert “broad support for Green policies and political campaigns and on increasing”.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 8 (originally point 7), after “the Party” insert “, our policies, our campaigns”.

In the sub-section titled **Priority 3 BUILD OUR ORGANISATION:**

In the third sentence of the first paragraph, after “communities by campaigning for”, insert “Green policies and”.

Under “Actions”, insert new point 1 and re-number accordingly:

1. Measure our activities against a high-level political test that identifies how successfully they support our goals.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 2 (originally point 1), before “Train, coach and mentor” insert “Invest in training and developing our activists to help them mount effective political and electoral campaigns, in part through a programme to”.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 4 (originally point 3), after “support target” insert “campaigns and”.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 5 (originally point 4), after “tools and infrastructure” insert “(including cutting-edge digital tools)”.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 6 (originally point 5), before “Develop an income plan” insert “Follow an income-generation strategy and”.

Under “Actions”, in re-numbered point 11 (originally point 10), after “suitably resourced” insert “member-led”.

Under “Measures”, in point g), after “membership surveys”, insert “and high levels of reported satisfaction that party organisation, accessibility and campaigns are receiving fair budget priority”.

In the sub-section titled **Priority 4 BUILD A MOVEMENT**:

Under “Actions”, insert new points 6 and 7 and re-number accordingly:

6. Forge networks of relationships with local and national campaign groups, community groups, charities, trades unions and others through joint campaign work.
7. Invest in organising and developing materials for political campaigns that these other organisations can participate in and, reciprocally, add the weight of the Green Party to campaigns initiated by others.

In the section titled **NOT THE WHOLE STORY**:

In the first sentence delete “covering:” and insert: “. GPRC will make arrangements for these to be reviewed by members, with suitable provisions to maintain confidentiality, and will similarly consult with members on updates every two years. These plans will cover the following areas (note that the sequence does not imply a priority order):”.

Add a new bullet point to the list of strategic plans: “Collaboration with other organisations sharing our aims”

E29

USE PLANNING POWERS TO LIMIT CONVERSION OF HOMES INTO SHORT-TERM LETS

Daniel James, Hazel Pegg, Dylan Lewis-Creser, Anne Gayfer, Martha James, Ben Foley, Philip Nelson, Susan Tibbles, Sara Palmer, Jenny Vernon, Bryony Holroyd, Sam Riches, Colin Bertram, RoseMary Warrington, Judy Maciejowska, Janine Pyke, Brian Morris, Liz Reason*

SYNOPSIS

The Green Party will defend the right of people to have secure, long-term homes in their own communities. The UK government recently proposed new rights for property owners to legitimise the use of residential dwellings as short-term lets. Urgent action is required so that these homes are not lost permanently.

MOTION

Conference calls on Green Party councillors to propose the adoption of a ‘supplementary planning document’ by their local authority on the subject of short-term lets, and also to propose updates to their authority’s ‘local plan’ to support the principle of secure, long-term homes.

Short-term lets are defined as rentals of any whole residential unit for a period of less than six months, or rentals of any whole residential unit without a lawful tenancy agreement. Long-term lets are defined as whole residential units which have been or will be rented for at least six months by any tenant. The proposed planning documents would include the following policies:

- Applications to change the use of any type of residential property to short-term letting will be refused by the local authority if there is documented evidence of unmet need for housing in the local authority area, for example the results of local ‘housing needs surveys’.
- Applications for change of use to short-term letting of a residential property which has previously been let on a long-term basis will be refused on the grounds that this would diminish security of tenure.
- Residential property being used as a short-term let will be subject to enforcement action for unauthorised change of use, as if the property was being used as a hostel without planning permission, if there is documented evidence of unmet need for housing in the local authority area.
- Authority-wide Article 4 directions will be used to remove any permitted development rights for conversion of residential dwellings to short-term let use, to ensure that the local authority retains democratic control of any proposed property conversion away from secure, long-term residential use.
- Demand for short-term lets will be addressed via local authority support of the re-use of redundant commercial property for overnight accommodation, subject to the approval of relevant planning and building regulations applications.

E30

ZANE’S LAW

Elizabeth Mansfield, Dzaier Neil, Tina Rothery, Jonathan Bartley, Imogen Makepeace, Emily O’Brien, Anthony Shuster, Ben Samuel, Anna Vernon, Dale Rapley, Malcolm Beecher, Sue Williams, Hubert Adrian Briggs, Jessica Goldfinch, Tom Scott, Alexandra Geddis, Liz Reason, Peter Hughes, Nick Tigg, Debra Cooper, Adrian Ross, George Ttoouli, Robbie Spence, Siobhan Scanlan, Mandy Vere, Alexandra Geddis, David McIntosh, Ben Auton, Anne Price, Peternel Garbutt, Natalie Bennett*

SYNOPSIS

UK regulations on landfill and toxic waste disposal are dangerously inadequate, especially given climate breakdown, rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and flooding. ‘Zane’s Law’, named after 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola, who tragically died of Hydrogen Cyanide conducted by floodwater from a contaminated landfill site, proposes initial steps to address this crisis.

MOTION

Conference notes that current UK regulations with regard to toxic waste disposal and the danger to human life, to our environment, and to the planet as a whole, from both historic landfill sites and currently approved landfill sites operating the ‘dry tomb’ principle, are dangerously inadequate. Especially so, in the face of climate breakdown, with rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and widespread flooding.

In 2014, 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola died, and his father was paralysed with a diagnosis of Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) poisoning, during catastrophic flooding in the UK. Flood water passing through a historic landfill site carried HCN into Zane’s home, detected at high levels by the Fire and Rescue Services on the night of the tragedy.

‘Zane’s Law’ proposes measures to begin to address the crisis of contaminated land, which would align the UK with global best practice for the protection of communities from hazardous land; reflect the current concerns of the climate crisis; and reinstate the legislative provisions removed by the government from the 1990 Environment Protection Act, in 1993. The protection of citizens should be a primary government responsibility.

Conference, therefore, fully supports the Truth About Zane Campaign’s call for ‘Zane’s Law’ which would require:

1. That every Local Authority must keep a full, regularly updated, public 'Register of Land' that may be contaminated, within their boundary.
2. That the Environment Agency must keep a full, public 'National Register of Contaminated Land' to be regularly updated by information from Local Authorities.
3. That all the above-mentioned Registers of Land must be accessible and available for inspection by the General Public.
4. That Local Authorities must fully inspect any land registered that may be contaminated and must fully remediate that land if necessary.
5. That Local Authorities must be responsible for inspecting *previously closed landfill* sites and fully remediating them if necessary.
6. That the government must *take responsibility* for providing the necessary funds for Local Authorities to meet these new requirements, enacting the 'polluter pays' principle.

SECTION F

DRAFT VOTING PAPERS

F01

ECONOMY CHAPTER DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Peter Sims, Nadine Storey, David Wild, Vlad Cadar, Nick Barnett, Chesca Walton*

SYNOPSIS

This is the first Draft Voting Paper for the Economy Chapter Enabling Motion which passed in Spring 2022. It is a work in progress for initial feedback on structure/style and there are many points of detail which have yet to be properly discussed, let alone, a consensus reached.

This Draft Voting Paper is Proposed by Peter Sims as convener of Tax & Fiscal Policy Working Group which voted at joint [meeting with Economy Subgroup of Climate Emergency PWG between 7:30am and 9am on Weds 19th July 2023](#) to support this motion to autumn Conference.

PAPER

The Draft Voting Paper is Attached as Appendix 2

F02

GYPSY ROMA TRAVELLER POLICY WORKING GROUP DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Virgil Bitu, James Brooks, Carah Cemlyn, Ellie Crane, Jack Underwood, Sam Alston, Eloise Cummins, Paul Beswick, Elliott Tong, Nicola Elliott, Elizabeth May, Sarah Nicmanis, Raphael Hill, Hannah Copley, Ben Auton, Trish Marchant, Elise Benjamin*

SYNOPSIS

The traditional way of life of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers is threatened by the recent Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, criminalising nomadic life. Systemic barriers for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities remain. This motion seeks to address these barriers and ensure equity, equality, and justice for these communities.

MOTION

Delete RR700 – RR709 and replace it with the following RR700 - RR708:

Heading: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Rights

RR700 The UK Parliament should adopt specific legislation to protect Gypsies, Roma and Travellers from discrimination, or adapt the current Equality Act with specific provisions.

RR701 As a signatory and ratifier to the treaty, the UK Government should follow more closely the provisions of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

RR702 To improve the decisions in cases of discrimination against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers brought forward to the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Commission should invite at least one Gypsy, Roma or Traveller member on to its committee.

RR703 The UK Government should elaborate, adopt and implement a new National Strategy that addresses Gypsy, Roma and Traveller inequalities in life outcomes, and that supersedes the current National Strategy to tackle Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inequalities. The UK Government should support the creation of an effective, efficient, wider and recognised Gypsy, Roma and Traveller representative body, that will partner the UK Government and Parliament in this process of developing and implementing this Gypsy, Roma and Traveller National Strategy.

RR704 The Green Party will repeal those sections of the 1986 Public Order Act, the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act and the 2022 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act which discriminate against and criminalise Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. The Green Party would abolish “wide injunctions” preventing unauthorised encampments on large areas of public land, and create a system of planning assistance for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities to enable them to obtain planning permission for appropriate sites in keeping with both traditional lifestyles and modern aspirations of equality and human dignity.

RR705 The Green Party aims to ensure everyone is provided with housing appropriate to their needs, including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. The Green Party would legislate to require Devolved Governments and Local Authorities to implement a statutory duty to provide a national network of Gypsy and Traveller sites, both private and local authority (residential, negotiated and transit) on safe and healthy land; this would restore the duty previously contained in the 1968 Caravan Sites Act until 1994, but with stricter enforcement of the requirement of accurate assessment of local need, and without the added eviction powers of “designated area” status which existed under that Act.

RR706 Local Authorities would be obliged to support the creation of local Gypsy, Roma and Traveller mediator networks, that will aim to improve Gypsy, Roma and Traveller access to public services and the gathering of more comprehensive and accurate data on the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller population.

RR707 To improve representation and to raise public awareness regarding the Roma and Sinti Holocaust, the UK Holocaust Commission should accept at least one member of Roma or Sinti origin.

RR708 Local Authorities and civil society actors should support the preservation and promotion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller cultural heritage (e.g., June – Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, 8 April – International Roma Day, 2 August – Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, cultural events, fairs, festivals, etc). We would call on the Department for Education to give special attention to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller language and history and to include elements of this in the formal education national curriculum.

F03

HEALTH EQUITY POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Linda Freeman, Rob Freeman, Nicole Freeman, Katrina Davis, Louise Dunk, Adrian Spurrell, Gay Lee, Sam Easterby-Smith, William Ford-Young, Rebecca Mulvaney, Philip Miller, Vikki Cochran, Anne Everson, Antony Lempert, Pallavi Devulapalli, Amanda Onwuemene*

SYNOPSIS

20% of NHS spending treats avoidable illness from wider determinants of health; poor employment, poverty, poor housing, pollution, transport and poor local amenities. The right policies will reduce NHS and social care demand. The policy framework in the report ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’ can test and refine all our policies.

MOTION

That conference approves a 'Health in All Policies' approach and utilises the policy framework in the report "Fair Society, Healthy Lives in order that all of our policies are aligned to the following aims, designed to reduce health inequality.

- A Give every child the best start in life.
- B Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
- C Create fair employment and good work for all.
- D Ensure a healthy standard of living for all.
- E Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.
- F Strengthen the role and impact of health prevention.

SOC Notes: The paper is attached as Appendix 3

F04

DISABILITY POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Debra Cooper, Lauren Jones, Kefentse Dennis, Tom Beedle, Katrina Davis, Mike Shipley, Jack Underwood, Robert McCartney, Kat Sullivan, Elizabeth Mansfield, Jenni Chan, Andrew Melville, Jenneth Parker*

SYNOPSIS

An Enabling Motion passed at conference instructed the Disability Policy Working Group to rewrite the Disability Policy, and make it consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Green Party and other Green Party policies.

MOTION

This is an F motion and the purpose of this motion is to secure a place holder in order to enable a formal discussion of the Draft Disability Policy at Autumn Conference 2023 in a workshop session. The draft policy is not yet ready for publication, but will be made available before the Autumn Conference. Significant progress at the research stage has been made.

- The Disability Policy Working Group has an active Green Spaces Page, where all Green Party members can contribute.
- Regular formal DPWG (Disability Policy Working Group) meetings are held, and we have a wide range of contributors, with a diverse and lived experience of disability
- All Green Party policies have been analysed to discover the language used by the Green Party to describe disabled people and current provision for disabled people.
- Outreach and regular communication has been established with the Equality and Diversity coordinator
- The DPWG at all stages is inclusive and welcoming to all members who wish to bring their experiences to policy writing and development
- We have consulted and been given feedback by a disabled Green Party Councillor.
- We arranged a consultative session at Policy Fest on June the 27th, in order to discuss the Medical Model, The Social Model and the Holistic Model

- We arranged a consultative session at Policy Fest on June the 28th, in order to establish outreach links with Conveners of other policy working groups.
- We have established links with Transport, Wildlife And Habitats, Land Use and Tax and Fiscal and our next steps are to write impact assessments regarding how these policies affect disabled people.
- We will continue to hold zoom meetings on a regular basis during the of 2023 and we welcome new members to our group
- All Green Party members who wish to contribute to the development of this policy may contact the Convener of the DPWG at debra.cooper@bridgend.greenparty.wales

F05

HEALTH SERVICES POLICY

Linda Freeman, Naomi Bennett, Rob Freeman, Nicole Freeman, Katrina Davis, Louise Dunk, Adrian Spurrell, Lauren Jones, Rebecca Mulvaney, Berthold Lausen, Gay Lee, Anne Everson, Alan Measures, Marcus Grant, Antony Lempert, Karen Laurence, Amanda Onwuemene, Pallavi Devulapalli*

SYNOPSIS

Following feedback on an earlier draft, HPWG presents a revised Health Services Policy. The headline objectives are 1) Rescue the NHS, 2) Address Health Inequality, 3) Revise management of chronic illness, 4) Address Commercial Determinants of Health. Only those services affected by the headline objectives feature in the policy.

MOTION

That conference approves the draft policy for final development.

SOC note: The draft policy is attached below as Appendix 4

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND PAPER FOR MOTION

E04

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR MOTION E04

Hydrogen in Homes Briefing Paper

Introduction

A motion on Green Hydrogen was brought to Autumn Conference 2021, to clarify the party's position on hydrogen production and uses. The motion and its briefing paper can be found at [1]. This included proposals to use hydrogen in homes in policies EN010 and EN021. The briefing paper for that motion [1] did state that the hydrogen use for heat in homes would be limited. This has been incorporated into background documentation and Energy Policy Model (available at [3]). The briefing paper also noted that E3G (the Climate think tank) opposed this use.

Motion

The proposed H2 homes motion is to remove the support for hydrogen in homes from the policies EN010 and EN021. It also clarifies the relationship between policy EN022 and local planning policy. This change to EN022 is not a substantive change to policy and will not be addressed further in this briefing paper. The motion text is available on the agenda forum at [2].

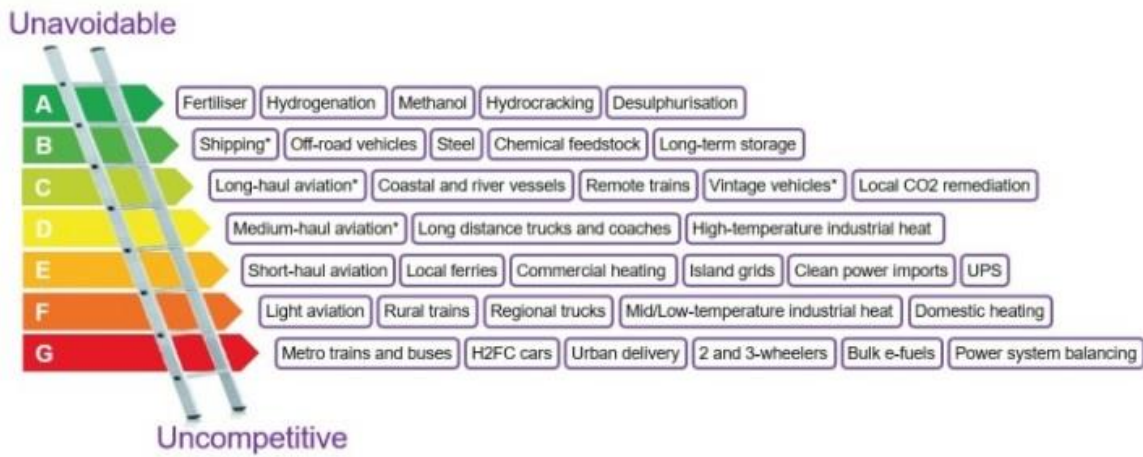
Current Position

Government Policy Options. The government in its Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (page 21) has different hydrogen scenarios according to whether there will be extensive use for hydrogen for heating buildings (4 million homes by 2035 on p170) or whether there will be more focus on heat pumps. The government decision on hydrogen in homes is expected in 2026.

The Green Party (GPEW) supports the more heat pump option for homes.. This is not clear in the current policy, as the detail is only included in the background documentation.

Arguments against using hydrogen to heat homes

Green Hydrogen Availability. Ongoing work by the Green Party energy policy modelling (see [3]) anticipates a shortage of Green Hydrogen over the next decade. This is largely due to lack of surplus electricity being available. This is backed up by other work (see below). Given this, use must be limited to situations where there are few other options, such as in some industrial processes. Although there are some differences of opinion about priorities, the hydrogen ladder, shown below, gives an idea of these priorities with "domestic heating" way down. So we do not want to appear to prioritise this in Green Party policy.



* Via ammonia or e-fuel rather than H2 gas or liquid

Source: Liebreich Associates (concept credit: Adrian Hiel/Energy Cities)

The Clean Hydrogen Ladder, Version 4.0 Source: Liebreich Associates (concept credit: Adrien Hiel/Energy Cities)

Hydrogen

Network. Although some of the existing gas network may be usable for hydrogen, considerable additional investment will be needed to ensure that the transmission and distribution to millions of homes can support this. See [5] page 80 for the costs of this. The costs will be much more limited if the distribution of hydrogen is just to selected industries and transport hubs.

Hydrogen as a Greenhouse Gas. Concerns have been raised about leaking hydrogen (fugitive hydrogen) acting as a greenhouse gas (see [6]). Although initial calculations have shown that this is not likely to be too significant in a Green Party scenario (see EPM at [3]), it is a precautionary argument that, until this impact is better understood, we avoid having a large domestic distribution network.

Dangers. An industry expert, (Hannah Bronwin of SSE), in a recent workshop, expressed the view that any hydrogen explosion could set back the cause of hydrogen by years, and thus impacting climate mitigation. Removing the domestic network will lower the risk of such a high profile explosion.

Costs

Extensive costings of the proposed hydrogen infrastructure are included in the Energy Policy Model (available at [3]). This includes use of surplus electricity generation, electrolysers, storage, distribution and end appliances (eg in a hydrogen boiler or in an industrial process). No direct comparison has been made of an option with and without hydrogen in homes. However it is clear that a solution that supplied all the requirements for hydrogen in the ladder above, from A to F, would be a very expensive solution. It will be much cheaper to use electricity generated directly to heat homes using a heat pump, than build out a system with enough spare electricity to produce enough hydrogen, with all the conversion losses involved, for all these uses.

In the trade-offs involved in the Energy Policy Model, only ~2 TWh (~3% of all hydrogen in a decade) of hydrogen has been allocated for homes heating about 1% of homes. Thus changing this to zero will have only a small impact on investment,.

Counter-arguments

The support for use of hydrogen in homes is usually coupled with continuing to use fossil fuels, with or without carbon capture, and potentially much larger quantities of hydrogen being available. This blue hydrogen use is against party policy.

The use of hydrogen ready gas boilers will have less impact on householders who can use gradually increasing hydrogen blends without any need for extra investment behaviour change. But while individuals and communities

hold out the hope that their home or area will have a truly emissions-free hydrogen supply the roll out of heat pumps may be delayed.

Particularly for homes that are hard to treat for insulation, or are in conservation areas where external appearance to homes is to be avoided, hydrogen boilers could be attractive to householders. Heat pumps may be hard to deploy without visual impacts or be less effective in some homes.

Campaigns

We will want to be clear about this in the next General Election manifesto. We have been explicitly requested to make this policy change by Caroline Lucas's office to align with her work and campaigning.

Policy Process

It is expected that this motion will be submitted to the Autumn 2023 conference, proposed by the Climate Emergency Policy Working Group (CEPWG) and supported by the Energy Policy Working Group (EPWG). It is also expected to be endorsed by these PWGs for accreditation. The two PWGs have worked closely on proposing this motion.

This makes energy policy more succinct.

This briefing paper contains relevant background material, costings, research, consideration of counter arguments, relevance to campaigns. It is posted on the members' website at [2].

If this motion is passed, other documentation, such as the Energy Policy Background Paper and Energy Policy Model, available on the EPWG Green Space will be updated. This briefing paper will not be maintained.

An extensive consultation within and outwith the Green Party will take place.

References

- [1] Green Hydrogen motion <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/climate-change-policy/cfiles/browse/index?fid=745>
- [2] H2 Motion and Briefing Paper
- [3] EPWG Green Space <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/energy-policy-working-group/>
- [4] Carbon Budget Delivery Plan
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1147369/carbon-budget-delivery-plan.pdf
- [5] Hydrogen Supply Chain Evidence
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760479/H2_supply_chain_evidence_-_publication_version.pdf
- [6] Fugitive Hydrogen Emissions in a Future Hydrogen Economy
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1067137/fugitive-hydrogen-emissions-future-hydrogen-economy.pdf

Tony Firkins
27 June 2023

APPENDIX 2: PAPER FOR MOTION F01

SOC Note: As this paper is 53 pages in length, a digital copy has been provided in lieu of a physical one, in order to save on excessive printing.

<https://illustrious-mousse-b63d64.netlify.app/files/economy-chapter-2023-draft-voting-paper-v1.6-autumn-2023-conference.pdf>

APPENDIX 3: PAPER FOR MOTION F03

SOC Note: As this paper is 14 pages in length, a digital copy has been provided in lieu of a physical one, in order to save on excessive printing.

<https://illustrious-mousse-b63d64.netlify.app/files/health-equity-policy-v1.pdf>

APPENDIX 4: PAPER FOR MOTION F05

SOC Note: As this paper is 15 pages in length, a digital copy has been provided in lieu of a physical one, in order to save on excessive printing.

<https://illustrious-mousse-b63d64.netlify.app/files/gpew-health-policy-draft-v-8.1.pdf>

APPENDIX 5: MOTIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT PROPOSERS

An Alternative Social Media Policy

Avoiding Climate Catastrophe

Break Up the DWP

Degrowth and Global Equity Policy

Degrowth and Import Licences

Democratic Approach to the Next General Election

Executive Pay Ratios

Federal Framework for a Northern English Assembly

Joint Liability for Wage Theft

Landfill Mining Policy

Menstrual Leave

Promoting Vegan Biscuits and Harnessing AI

Provision for Motion Recall

Provision of Template Constitution and Standing Orders for Local and Regional Parties

Remove Constitutional Right for GPRC to Expel Members

School Uniforms

Social Care Policy

Social Media Policy as an Appendix to the Code of Conduct

Special Interest Groups' Constitutions

Strengthen Green Party Health Policy on Drinking Water Fluoridation

Support for Communities that will be Lost to Sea Level Rise

The GPEW as a Cooperative Company Limited

There Should Be a Law Against Pollution

Tourist Tax

Trade Unions' Right of Access and Recognition

Update the E-Commerce Section of the Economy Policy

Update to the Extra Electoral Strategy

Updates to Standing Orders for Party Discipline

APPENDIX 6: MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER

SOC Note: this section is still to be completed, since SOC felt it important to prioritise giving members a chance to read in-order motions for the Prioritisation Ballot. However, proposers of the following motions will be contacted to discuss the reasons for their status in detail:

OoO1: Campaign to Stop the New Coal Mine in Cumbria (OoO for being vague)

OoO2: Change the Voting Arrangements for SOC (OoO for being vague/having no consequential effect)

OoO3: Four Day Week (OoO as having complex implications for other areas of policy without having gone through the agreed democratic processes);

OoO4: Supporting Parents and Carers Through Childcare, Nursery and Flexible Working (OoO as having no consequential effect)

APPENDIX 7: RECORD OF ORGANISATIONAL STATEMENTS FOR STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

- [TO BE ADDED]

APPENDIX 8: STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders Committee Standing Orders

[As revised and approved by Standing Orders Committee August 2022]

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 of 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 9: CONTACT DETAILS OF PROPOSERS OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Motion	Lead Proposer/s	Contact Details
A01, A02	John Nott	Jon.nott@greenparty.org.uk
D02, D03, D05, E03	Martha James	gprccochairs@greenparty.org.uk
D04	Claire Nash	Craven.greens@gmail.com
D06	Peter Price	Peterprice311@gmail.com
D07	Dylan Lewis-Creser	greenparty@dylanlewisceser.co.uk
D08, D10, D11	Nate Higgins	nate@nateh.uk
D09, E14	Vivien Lichtenstein	vivienlgreenp@aol.com
D12, D20	Ria Patel	Riapatel7568@gmail.com
D13, E05	Kathryn Bristow	green@kathrynbristow.uk
D14	Chloe Turner	chloehome@hotmail.co.uk
D15, D17, E19	Jake Welsh	jakewelsh@gmail.com
D16	Dzaier Neil	Tarakins60@gmail.com
D18	Brian Candeland	brian@candeland@myzen.co.uk
D19	Patrick McAllister	Patrick.mcallister@outlook.com
D21	Nathan Williams	nathan@thehenhouse.co.uk
D22, E25	Shahrar Ali	Shahrar4gpewdeputy@gmail.com
E01	Richard Wilson	Richard.mwilson@outlook.com
E02	Greg Dring	gdring2000@yahoo.com
E04	David Flint	davidcflint@gmail.com
E06	Tony Firkins	Tony.firkins@gmail.com
E07, F02	Virgil Bitu	Virgil_bitu@yahoo.com
E08	Joe Rukin	joerukin@gmail.com
E09, OoO3	Catherine Rowett	Professor.catherine@googlemail.com
E10	Nadine Storey	nadinejstorey@gmail.com
E11	Vix Lowthion	Vix.lowthion@greenparty.org.uk
E12	Hannah Spencer	Hannahkspencer1@gmail.com
E13	Caroline Lucas	Caroline.lucas.mp@parliament.uk
E15	Robert Magowan	Rob_magowan12@live.co.uk
E16	Emma Garnett	Emma_garnett@hotmail.co.uk
E17	Alina Baczynska	Alina.baczynska@yahoo.com
E18	Celia Coram	starsneedenergy@yahoo.co.uk
E20	Chesca Walton	Chesca.walton@gmail.com
E21	Thomas Atkin	Thomas26011@protonmail.com
E22	Martin Francis	martinfrancis@virginmedia.com
E23, E27	Matthew Hull	Hull5418@live.co.uk
E24	Graham Tavener	tavenergraham@gmail.com
E26	Natalia Kubica	nck165@gmail.com
E28	Danny McNamara	Mcnamara.danny@gmail.com
E29	Daniel James	daniel@64studio.com
E30	Elizabeth Mansfield	Lizmansfield999@gmail.com
F01	Peter Sims	ps@chiltern.org.uk
F03, F05	Linda Freeman	lindamf@hotmail.co.uk

F04	Debra Cooper	dcoopergreens@gmail.com
OoO1	Peter Murry	yrrumuk@gmail.com
OoO2	Liz Reason	liz@lizreason.co.uk
OoO4	Anna Portch	TBC