



**SPRING CONFERENCE 2014**

**FINAL AGENDA**





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## Section A

### A01 SOC REPORT

*Doug Rouxel and Rustam Majainah, co-conveners of SOC.*

Welcome to the First Agenda for the Green Party's Spring Conference 2014.

An electronic version of this agenda is available on request as a pdf file from SOC, email address [soc@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:soc@greenparty.org.uk). Paper copies are available from Green Party Office, 56-64 Leonard Street, Development House, London, EC2A 4LT, telephone 020 7549 0310

#### Content of the Final Agenda

There are no Voting Papers (Section B) and 0 Draft Voting Papers (Section E) at this conference. There are 17 policy motions (section C) and 8 organisational and other motions (section D); 3 motions have been ruled out of order, and are listed at the end of the agenda. 3 motions were submitted with insufficient signatures and were therefore not included in this agenda.

#### Composite Motions

SOC has not composited any motions in this agenda.

#### Amendments

There are 19 amendments which have been submitted and considered in order by SOC, 8 of these are in section C, 2 of them in Section D, 2 amendments were submitted without sufficient signatories and 4 amendments were ruled out of order, these are included in the out of order section at the end of the agenda.

#### Consequential

There are no consequential in the agenda.

#### Out of Order of Motions

There are three out of order motions, these can be found at the end of the agenda, marked Oo1 - 3

#### Prioritisation Ballot

SOC made a number of changes to the process by which the prioritization ballot was undertaken, a system which was free was found which allowed members to drag and drop motions into the preferred order, alongside the ballot, a survey was undertaken

in which only 2.5% felt the previous system was preferable.

There was also an increase in the engagement of the ballot, with 253 completing the ballot, an increase of 57 people over last conference. 246 of them completed the ballot online, and 7 of them via post.

SOC has continued to use the Borda count method of processing the preference data to create an ordered list of motions for section C and D.

One consistent request in our feedback has been to include a link to the text of the motions in the ballot itself, for administrative reasons this has not been taken up so far, and SOC is mindful that the ballot is linked mainly from the members website, with the overwhelming number of people visiting the ballot from the members website, it would be worth understanding exactly the format people would like to see, so that SOC can look into this for the future.

There were also comments made about the security of the process, with people only required to sign using a name and local party. This mirrors the level of security required to propose motions, and SOC is not minded at this time to increase the level of security to avoid the process becoming arduous and undo the process we have made in increasing the engagement within the wider party with the prioritisation process. It is very interesting to note that 42% of the people who took the survey had not previously taken part in the prioritization ballot, and it is clear that we are reaching out to a wider constituency within the party.

#### Fast Track Motions

SOC Proposes the fast tracking of the following motions:

D06 Deputy Chair of the National Executive

#### Errors in the Agenda

If you notice any errors in the first agenda please notify SOC for clarification during conference by emailing [SOC@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:SOC@greenparty.org.uk) or visiting the SOC table at conference.

#### Summaries and Synopses

Conference is reminded that

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words (300 for policy papers). If your synopsis is more than 50 words (300 words for policy papers), it will be cut by SOC. Any instances in this agenda are identified by the words "[excessive length, cut by SOC]" after the truncated synopsis. There has been a marked increase in the number of motions submitted with synopses over 50 words.

Proposing a motion from a committee, working group, local or regional party

There are a small number of minor benefits within the standing orders for motions submitted by committees and local and regional parties, they are related to the position which motions appear in the first agenda, and on the ballot paper for the prioritization ballot, there are no other explicit benefits for motions submitted in this way.

If your committee or local or regional party wishes to propose a motion, then the following conditions must be met, these are outlined in Section D part 1 of the standing orders for the conduct of conference, and reproduced here for your information:

"Motions and Draft Voting Papers may be submitted by any constituted Local Party or constituted Regional Conference, by the Regional Council or Party Executive, by a constituted Committee or Working Group of the Party, or submitted and signed by any four individual members.

No more than four motions may be submitted by any Committee, Working Group, Regional Conference or Local Party or submitted and signed by any four individual members to the First Agenda (not counting motions required of them by Standing Orders or the Constitution).

Motions submitted by a Local Party or Regional Conference must have been adopted by a properly convened meeting thereof and must be signed by three officials thereof and one Party member also present at the meeting. The signatories of motions submitted by a Committee or Working Group must include the Convenor and three other Party members. Any member may not sign more than four motions, excluding those signed by them as

officials in a Local or Regional Party or on behalf of a committee or recognised Members Working Group.”

### Original Text of documents proposed for amendment

Based on feedback from members at conference, SOC has attempted to ensure that where a policy does not appear in the motion in its original format that it is included as a note along side it, or in an appendix, depending on the length.

### Options in motions

There has been an increasing trend within motions to include “options” within a motion when submitted to SOC, these sometimes take the form of brackets with “(this OR that)” presented as an option. SOC has on a few occasions restructured these out as amendments to the motion, as they should appear, however, from this conference SOC will stop doing this and will be ruling motions which present options as out of order on the basis that they are ambiguous (as per SOCC’s, Section D, part 8 subsection c).

If you wish to present a motion then you should be clear and unambiguous about the proposal you wish to make, if you wish to have a discussion about the specifics of your proposal, that is what the pre-agenda process is for. All motions presented should be ready to go into the PfSS, The Constitution, or SOCC’s (or whatever else they might amend) and should not have possible options included in them. If amendment is required, then there is a formal process for these to go through.

### Committee Elections

There are a number of vacancies across the committees these will be elected in by-elections with the ballot during conference.

Conferences Committee has 1 vacancy, Disputes Resolution Committee has 3 vacancies, Equality and Diversity Committee has 3 vacancies, Green World Editorial Board has 1 vacancy, Policy Committee has 2 vacancies and SOC has 1 vacancy.

Nominations for these elections will close at 6pm on Saturday 1st March, the nomination paperwork is available in advance of conference and anyone

considering a position is encouraged to complete the nomination form electronically in advance and forward it to ERO@greenparty.org.uk who will print it and ensure that the candidate statements are published with all of the others. Nomination papers follow the Out of order motions in this agenda.

### Rules for Motions and Emergency Motions

SOC would like to remind everyone that although Standing Orders are suspended when an emergency motion is discussed, it is only Section A that is suspended. This is the section that deals with the requirement to submit motions by the First Agenda deadline.

The section of the standing orders that deals with reasons for SOC ruling motions out of order is NOT suspended. This is Section C8 of the standing orders, which states:

“Motions or amendments to motions shall be ruled out of order on grounds of being one or more of:

- a) contrary to the Constitution,
- b) retrospective in their effect,
- c) ambiguous,
- d) vague,
- e) trivial,
- f) requiring no consequential action,
- g) substantially changing policy areas or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation
- h) seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than one year and nine months previously,
- i) seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at Conference less than one year and nine months previously (see Appendix A), except where it is proposed by Regional Council and agreed by SOC that the specific exception to that requirement shall be made in respect of an area of Party Policy for which urgent need to update or clarify the policy outweighs the normal consideration of procedure.
- j) seeks to overturn, or fundamentally

amend, the result of a party-wide ballot held under the provisions of clause 11 (ii) or clause 17 (ii) of the Constitution, or to initiate a new party-wide ballot seeking to do so, within two years of the result of the original ballot being announced. An exception to this should be allowed if the motion is submitted by GPRC, having been supported by a 2/3 majority vote at a properly convened meeting of GPRC, on the grounds that GPRC believe that exceptional circumstances render it necessary to revisit the original decision in order to protect the well-being of the Party”

In addition, Section G1 of the Standing Orders states:

- b) Emergency motions shall only be accepted provided
  - i) the issue has arisen, or has substantially changed, since the deadline for motions
  - ii) the motion is consistent with the PfSS and neither changes nor adds to the text of the PfSS
- c) No amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders are permitted under this suspension.
- d) An emergency motion shall not:
  - Commit the Party to expenditure of more than one hundred pounds without the approval of the relevant budget holders
  - Significantly alter the Party’s agreed strategy.

Please bear these restrictions in mind when composing emergency motions.

### Submission of Emergency Motions – deadlines at conference

There will be an Emergency Motions slots on both Saturday and Sunday, and also at the end of the Remaining Business session on Monday. The deadline for handing signed emergency motions to SOC for discussion the following day will be 6pm on the previous evening, i.e. by 6pm on Friday for the Saturday slot. This means that emergency motions will not be accepted on Monday (the final day) for discussion that day.

These arrangements enable SOC to make the necessary preparations for the emergency motion session. A member of SOC will be available between 4pm and 6pm outside the main conference hall for proposers to seek advice on the content of their motions.

The order in which emergency motions are taken is a beauty contest. The more members' signatures you obtain before handing your motion to SOC the more likelihood there is of it being discussed in your desired slot.

Presentation of emergency motions on screen at previous conferences was well received. SOC would particularly appreciate proposers who are able to supply an electronic version of their emergency motions, so that we do not have to type them up ourselves.

Otherwise, if you can provide SOC with an electronic copy of the motion that would be greatly appreciated.

#### SOC Rulings

SOC has been asked to make a number of rulings since the last conference.

John Coyne, Liverpool Green Party asked "If a local party resolution seeks to instruct a local authority council group to take any action or desist from any action, then is it the case that the resolution is not binding on that council group or on any member of that group?"

SOC considered the relevant parts of the constitution for this to be:

#### 11. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

- i) Green politicians work hard to further the cause of Green politics and the Party should offer practical assistance and support wherever possible.
- ii) Green Party members who are elected or otherwise appointed to public office have responsibilities to the public, to the body on which they serve and to the Green Party. Whilst they must fulfil public duties, they also remain accountable to the Party.
- iii) Elected members and other representatives should seek to further the Object and Aims of the Green Party (as set out in section 3). Their accountability in fulfilling

this is to the appropriate Green party/parties corresponding to the Authority they have been elected to.

- iv) Elected members and other representatives have a responsibility to promote the policies of the national and local green parties, as expressed in the PSS and national, regional and local manifestos. Where they do not agree with Party policy and publicly state their own position, they should at the same time state and explain the position of the Green Party.

and

- vi) Green parties and their elected representatives should establish and use appropriate structures and channels for communicating both with the Party and with the electorate, such as liaison groups, meetings and publications.

On the basis of these section SOC ruled that there is nothing in the national constitution which makes decisions made at a local level binding on elected officials, although it is clear they must remain accountable to them, and ultimately that accountability comes in terms of the last resort option of deselection. Part vi of section 11 (above) clearly indicates that there should be accountability mechanisms on a local basis, and it is these mechanisms that SOC considers would be the point at which the local party would have the potential for decisions made at a local party meeting binding on elected officials, but this is not part of the national constitution and would only be decided at a local level - on the basis of section 5 part i paragraph 2 of the constitution: "The general practice of the Party shall be to encourage the greatest possible autonomy of each Local Party in its pursuit of the Object of the Party."

Ash Haynes of Norwich Green Party made a ruling request about general election selection processes, specifically regarding deferring the process and the eligibility of some members who were previously part of the local party, but who now come under a different local party.

SOC ruled that the only relevant part of the constitution is Bylaws referred to in Clause 5(xii): Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons. These rules do not conflict with the process which Norwich Green Party have followed, and point 3. c) specifically states 'At least one notice will be sent in reasonable time to each member eligible to vote in the selection ballot'. Should anyone feel that an incorrect process has been followed, it would be the role of GPRC to arbitrate, as outlined in point 2.

Tim Summers, Lambeth Green Party asked for a ruling on whether or not the membership rights outlined in Section 4 part viii of the constitution allowed GPRC to close a complaint without it proceeding to a disciplinary investigation and independent tribunal.

SOC ruled that on the basis of Section 4 part viii of the constitution which states that disciplinary cases can only be brought with the agreement of the chairs of regional council and the executive, as such, if the co-chairs of GPRC do not agree to the case being brought then GPRC are within the constitutional rights not to proceed with any further process.

Jon Lucas Bath and NE Somerset Green Party asked Can you advise as to whether you think we could advise our members that a postal ballot is available for them, but that we prefer to use an electronic ballot for all who don't object to this method, as it will obviously save us and them money.

SOC ruled that the relevant sections of the constitution here are By-laws referred to in Clause 5(xii): Selection of Candidates for the House of Commons and secondly Appendix C: Definitions, Part 1 Postal Ballot.

There is a requirement for a provision for postal voting is section 3 part b of the by-laws referred to above. This is unclear, and as such SOC look to the rest of the constitution to interpret what this might mean. Historically, the definition (as outlined in the appendix to the constitution) the party used for a postal ballot did not include the use of electronic voting, and as such this potentially left local parties open to challenge (heard by GPRC as per the by-laws) if they used it in their selection processes, however this was



updated at Spring conference 2013 to include electronic voting, and allow local parties to use this process along side postal ballots on request, as long as the ERO for the selection process is in agreement with the use of electronic ballots. As such, under Appendix C part 1, C, electronic voting is allowed to be the default methodology for voting in internal selection processes.

### **SOC and it's position within the party**

Over the last 6 months the conveners of SOC have been asked, requested and instructed by senior postholders within the party to undertake actions that were not supported by the constitutional position of SOC or were not in line with the decisions specifically made by conference.

SOC would like to remind all members that only conference is able to instruct SOC to take a particular course of action. At all other times it is the role of SOC to put the constitutional position, take actions based on the constitution and relevant standing orders and that SOC remain the final authority for interpreting the constitution within the party.

These attempts to undermine the position of SOC and to attempt to force it to operate along lines which could be considered partisan to a particular political current within the party are not acceptable, and that SOC would prefer to see these differences played out in open discussion, debate and where consensus is not possible decided on through voting, as outlined in Section 12, part I of the constitution of the party.

## **A02 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Sam Riches, Policy Coordinator.*

Policy Committee has met regularly over the last year, with Sam Riches taking over from Stuart Jeffrey as Policy Co-ordinator during the autumn. The post of Policy Co-ordinator attracted no candidate in the postal ballot over the summer, and Sam was co-opted following a vote by GPEx.

She has been on a steep learning curve but has been ably supported by some experienced members of Policy

Committee as well as one newer member, and also some co-optees. We hope to have a full-strength committee following by-elections at this conference.

Considerable effort has gone into supporting the development of two major policy revisions, on Energy and on Jobs and Industry, and it is very frustrating that these motions did not make it onto the final agenda for this conference. We have also put a lot of time into working through C motions, including encouraging proposers to provide supporting evidence for their motions. We have organised a training session at this conference on policy process which all members are invited to attend and contribute to, so that we can consider whether our current policy process is working as well as it could do, and what changes may be needed.

Policy Committee has continued to assist members with their questions on policy and the policy process. We are also focusing on updating the list of policy experts which we hope will soon be put to work advising on policy, and also writing briefings and policy pointers. Finally, we are working to improve the visibility and accessibility of policy working groups - for example, they are now being featured in Green Activist.

## **A03 DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

*Owen Clarke, convener, Disputes Resolution Committee*

The Dispute Resolution Committee has been unusually inactive for the last six months. We had only two members elected to the committee, and the only request for assistance which was from the Eastern Region was rescinded a month later because "things are slowly being resolved on their own". Partly because of the small number in DRC, no action has been taken to encourage local parties where disputes are believed to be occurring to ask for assistance.

It is hoped that the low level of requests for assistance is a true reflection of a low level of disputes within the Green Party, and that the three new members

required to bring the committee up to strength will be elected at Spring Conference.

DRC has an additional role beyond assisting in dispute resolution. This is the training of members to become competent in both the techniques used and the problems encountered during resolution is an essential task to enable the continuation of DRC. Resolvers are always few in number, two at the most in the past, the duties of most members being only to confer the right to resolvers to act in a specific case, and to offer any advice and assistance that they can. As a trial a new class of members has been created, Friends of DRC, to allow more people to become marginally involved in our work than the 5 members specified in the constitution.

Most of our work is done by email, with occasional meetings being held in Birmingham, for which traveling expenses can be claimed.

We look forward to meeting new members after Spring Conference who will be willing to work to avoid the loss of valuable time and effort caused by internal disputes.

## **A04 GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP REPORT**

*Rustam Majainah and Doug Rouxel, Co-chairs of the Governance Review working Group.*

After a slow start the Governance Review Working Group is developing quickly and looks to be keeping to the time limits set out in its founding motion at last conference.

Initial delays occurred in setting up the working group as the motion specified that SOC should form the committee, but did not specify how members would be selected. A decision was made to pick candidates with a diverse range of experience within the party to include those who were experienced in the current structure and operations of the party and those who were new and could bring a fresh perspective. We have had trouble contacting the 'Special Interest Groups' that the motion said would have a place on the working group. The motion specified three



places and it was decided they would go to Green Women, LGBTIQ+ Greens and Green Ethnic Minorities. The other members selected to be on the working group are Rustam Majainah & Doug Rouxel (co-convenors of SOC and chairs of the working group), Manishta Sunnia (E&D committee), John Street (International committee) (from the committees elected at conference) Liz Reason, Jayne Forbes and Matthew Pollitt (as members not on any other national committee) These members were selected from all of the applicants on the basis of experience of organizational change and a diversity of experience and views. Freda Davis was selected by GPRC as their representative on the group, Derek Wall was selected as the representative for GPEx, and Ben Sweeney was selected as the representative from DRC.

The original motion does not specify the term length for members of the working group, and it is certain (due to term limits) that some members of the working group would no longer be on their representative committee by the end of the process (there will most likely be a minimum of two different SOC convenors over the length of the review, for example). We feel that this inconsistency and constant swapping of members and chairs would be very disruptive to the process of the review, and as it was ambiguous in the motion we would like conferences' approval on our proposal that the members of the working group that are currently (or soon to be) appointed will stay on it for its duration regardless of their position within the party. The only exception to this would be if a member of the working group left the Green Party, in which case they would no longer be allowed to sit on the working group (for obvious reasons!).

Apart from the formation of the working group, the initial focus has been to come up with a timetable and terms of reference for the review. We have just had our first meeting by phone and will have another very soon, as well as a physical meet up at conference. We plan to have a finalised terms of reference by conference and will post it to the members' website as soon as it is available.

One further problem found with the

motion is that it specified an end date of Autumn Conference 2016, but another part of the motion was amended so that a more consultative process could take place. This process would take longer, and although we plan to run the review as efficiently and quickly as possible while consulting as many members as possible, it may not be possible to do within the given time frame. As such, in the future we may ask that the review's lifetime be extended to accommodate the increased consultation, though not at this stage when the end is so far off.

#### **Governance Review Timescale**

*(All dates refer to the conference at which the action should be completed by)*

**Spring 14** Working Group formed and terms of reference published, process of review confirmed

**Autumn 14** Consultation written and launched to members

**Spring 15** Consultation complete

**Autumn 15** Initial proposals brought to conference for discussion

**Spring 16** Final proposal voted on at conference

#### **Soon after: Referendum**

**Autumn 16** Final date motion can be put if delayed

## **A05 GPRC REPORT FOR SECTION A ON DRAFT COMPLAINTS PROCESS PROPOSAL**

*Mike Shone, Co-chair of GPRC*

The existing discipline and complaints process based on the Disciplinary Tribunal Standing Orders (DTSO) requires a very significant overhaul.

Though some aspects seem worth carrying over into a new system, important processes and timeframes are either missing or inadequate.

There have also been considerable difficulties in assembling members for Disciplinary Tribunals on the basis of The Panel system

(outlined in section 2. of DTSO).

GPRC therefore proposes that the Party

considers having a new complaints and disciplinary system based on a specific committee elected for that purpose.

Draft proposals are contained in an appendix at the end of this conference agenda.

The main features of the suggested new complaints and discipline system:

#### **A Complaints Committee**

Membership of the Complaints Committee to be based principally on elected regional representatives

Clear sets of processes for processing complaints including the submission, investigation, hearing of complaints and notification of adjudications

Specific Grounds on which complaints must be based

Rights of members subject to complaint

Rights of complainants

GPEx to act to oversee the membership establishment of the Complaints Committee

GPRC to act as the Appeals Committee for adjudicated complaints.

#### **Specific Grounds for appeal**

A pivotal operational relationship in the processing of complaints between the the Organisational Director (the former CEO) of the GPEW and the Chairperson of the Complaints Committee.

GPRC's main purpose in bringing these draft proposals to Spring Conference is to launch a consultation process within the membership of GPEW.

The consultation period starts at this Spring Conference and ends on the 15th June. GPRC will then draw up and approve a final draft at its July meeting and submit it to the 2014 Autumn Conference.

Members of the GPEW and GPEW bodies are asked to submit comments, suggestions and considerations for amendments to Mike Shone, GPRC Co-Chair at [mike.shone@talktalk.net](mailto:mike.shone@talktalk.net) by the 15th June.

#### **Section A (Reports from Party bodies)**

These reports will be available in the final agenda.

## Section B (Voting Papers)

There are no section B motions

## Section C (Policy Motions)

### C01 TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

*Proposed by: Caroline Allen, Sue Baumgardt, Louise Ryan, Ronald Lee, Patricia Tucker, David Collins, Peter Barnett, Karen Varga, Tim Turner.*

#### Synopsis:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is an agreement between the EU and the US, which is currently under negotiation. If passed this agreement will result in an assault on democracy and will weaken environmental protection, workers' rights, health and animal-welfare rules.

#### Motion:

(To be inserted into ROPS)The Green Party of England and Wales believes that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP),which aims at removing the regulatory differences between the US and the EU, is an assault on democracy. It would likely lead to the weakening of EU social and environmental legislation and ensure that new European legislation does not stand in the way of corporate interests. The Green Party will campaign against this agreement in order to protect legislation in areas such as environmental protection, workers' rights, health (including the NHS) and animal-welfare.

#### Amendment 1

*Proposed by Peter Allen, Peter Murry, Livio Pavone, Simon Hales, Will Duckworth, Howard Thorp.*

Add at end of last sentence:

“and will make this issue a central part of its forthcoming European Parliament Election Campaign.”

### C02 REVISING THE EDUCATION POLICY

*Proposed by: Martin Francis(\*\*), Romaine Phoenix, Lisa Murray, Richard Clark, Nicole Haydock, Tim Turner, Livio Pavone, Graham Wroe*

#### Synopsis:

The amendments and additions in this motion update policy through amendments and additions which take into account recent developments in education. It is hoped that the resulting clarity and sharper focus will be of practical help in the forthcoming local and General elections.

#### PRESENT POLICY INTRODUCTION

##### Present ED010

The Green Party believes that education should provide every one of all ages with the knowledge and skills they require to be able to participate fully and contribute to the society in which they live. This is not just academic knowledge, but social skills, life skills, and respect for other people's rights and lifestyles.

##### Amendment: Delete all and substitute:

ED10 The Green Party believes that education should provide everyone with the knowledge and full range of skills they require to participate fully in society and lead a fulfilled life. The Green Party rejects market driven models of education that see its role only in terms of international economic competitiveness and preparation for work.

##### Present ED011

We want to develop an education system that will nurture a desire to learn throughout life. We will do this through a child-centred approach to learning which builds on the skills and interests of each individual child.

##### Amendment: Add new sentence:

We will therefore end the current testing regimes and rigid age related benchmarking.

##### Present ED012

Education should be at the heart of communities and for communities, and should promote equality, inclusivity, social and emotional well-being and responsibility.

#### Amendment: Add at end

And democratically accountable to them.

#### Present ED013

Education is a right and an entitlement and should be free at the point of delivery to people of all ages.

#### Amendment: Add new sentence:

Education is social rather than market provision and we oppose any attempt to privatise state-funded schools or to enable them to become profit-making.

#### Add new ED014

Free schools and academies, although publicly funded, currently lack local democratic accountability and oversight. We will integrate them into the local authority school system.

#### Add new ED015

The Green Party recognises the key role of Local Authorities in the planning and provision of new school places, establishment of fair admissions policies, ensuring of equality of access for Looked After Children and those with disabilities and special needs, and the provision of School Support Services. We will therefore strengthen local authorities through adequate funding and seek to enhance their local democratic accountability. We will review and reduce the powers of the Secretary of State.

#### Add new ED016

EDO16 All teachers in state funded education will be employed through local authorities and have QTS (Qualified Teacher Status)

#### EARLY YEARS

##### Present ED021:

Many teachers believe that it is more appropriate to start academic learning at least one year later

##### Amendment: Delete all and replace:

The Green Party believes that the early years is a unique educational stage in its own right and not just a preparation for school. We recognises the great variance in children's development in the early years and the importance of a developmentally appropriate provision which includes the important role of play in early learning

## ASSESSMENT

### Present ED051

ED051 There is currently too much emphasis on national tests and fulfilling marking schemes, which can oppress teaching and learning and create a great deal of unnecessary pressure on children as young as 7. Teaching and learning are too often dominated by meeting targets and ticking boxes both for teachers and for pupils

#### Amendment:

Delete '7' and substitute '5'. [i]

### Present EDO54

ED054 The Green Party will abolish external SATS exams.

#### Amendment: add:

and the Year 1 Phonics Test

### Present ED056

Ofsted Inspections will be revised with quality teaching inspections similar to those in Wales, combined with spot check inspections and staff and student evaluations.

#### Amendment: Delete and substitute:

The Green Party will instate a system of local accountability using continuous, collaborative assessment of schools. We would replace OFSTED with an independent National Council of Educational Excellence which would have regional officers tasked to work closely with LAs. The National Council would be closely affiliated with the National Federation for Educational Research (NFER).

### Present ED057

Where school standards are reported this will be through value-added results and through the results of school inspections which will include school self-evaluation

#### Amendment: Delete all and substitute;

Where pupils' attainment and progress is reported as part of a school's holistic report to parents and the wider community it will include assessments, including value-added, moderated by the National Council of Education Excellence and the local authority's School Improvement Service as well as the school's own self evaluation.

## STRUCTURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF SCHOOLS

### Present ED076

ED076 Students will have a right to attend meetings of the Governing Body and members of the School Council will have voting rights.

#### Amendment: Delete and substitute:

Secondary and college students will have a right to attend meetings of the Governing Body and members of the elected School Council will have voting rights. Governing Bodies in primary schools will have the duty to regularly consult with the elected pupil School Council.

### Present EDO78

ED078 The Local Authority and Inspectorate will be involved in monitoring the structures to ensure there is consistency of standards and level of involvement and to help to share best practice.

Amend to substitute 'National Council of Educational Excellence' for 'Inspectorate'

### Add new ED079

ED079 The Green Party will encourage schools and colleges to set up Parent Forums or Parent Councils to enhance the school's accountability and improve communication and collaboration over issues such as curriculum, provision, homework, attendance and behaviour management.

## YEAR-ROUND OPENING OF SCHOOLS

### Present ED080

Well-equipped school buildings represent a key community resource, which should be used to the full. In parts of the USA, schools/learning centres are open every day throughout the year, from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. Families, pupils and teachers select their own periods of attendance, what they study or teach, and when they take holiday breaks. School capacity can go up 30% or more, meaning

no rationing of places, or (b) less need to establish new schools, or (c) smaller classes, or some combination of all three of these features.

#### Amendment EDO80

Add to first sentence 'throughout

the year' and delete all after the first sentence.

## SIZE OF SCHOOLS

### Add new ED104

We would restore the right of local authorities to plan and build new primary schools of an appropriate size. [ii]

## ADMISSIONS

### Present ED110

Our underlying vision is that every child and young person will be entitled to attend their local community school and for needs to be met on an inclusive basis.

#### Amendment: Delete ED110 and substitute:

Our underlying vision is that all children and young people are entitled to access to a fair, comprehensive and equal education system, regardless of their background.

### Present ED111

Currently vast sums of government money are spent on Specialist Schools and Academies, both of which restrict how a school chooses to spend its money. In practice, schools often decide on a specialism just to get extra funding, regardless of whether that specialism is needed in the area. Children rarely choose their school on the basis of their specialisms as they are likely to attend their local school. Even if this weren't the case, it would still not be appropriate for children as young as 10 to decide on their specialism and could discourage attendance at local community schools.

#### Amendment: Delete ED111 and substitute:

Currently there exists a range of inequality within our education system. This can often stem from unfair admissions processes, particularly in private schools, grammar schools, faith schools, free schools and academies. These processes often serve to work against already the most disadvantaged young people in our society (such as those from poorer backgrounds or ethnic minorities). In order to provide an equal opportunity for all young people then admissions must be as balanced and fair as possible.



**Amendment: Add new ED112 and move existing ED112 to Different types of Schools section as ED126:**

ED112 Selection by aptitude, ability, or social class runs counterproductive to creating a high quality education system for all students. Excellent all-ability schools with balanced intakes are the best way of ensuring that every child receives a first-rate education

**Present ED114**

Admissions structures will continue to be determined at a local level, which will encourage placing young people at the local school. In the longer term Faith Schools, Academies and private schools will conform to the same admissions criteria as Local Authority schools

**Amendment: Delete all and substitute:**

ED114 The local authority will determine admissions arrangements for all local state funded schools. Ideally young people will be placed at their local schools. However currently, due to the social and economic characteristics of different areas, placing children in their local schools can be a source of segregation and inequality. Therefore local authorities should aim to provide schools (particularly secondary) in their local area with a balanced, comprehensive intake as far as practically possible

**Amendment: Add new policy point:**

ED115 Green party policy fully supports the inclusion of all young people in mainstream education. There may be very exceptional cases where this may not be in the best interests of the young person - see Inclusion and Special Educational Needs section for explanation of this.

**DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOLS**

**Amendment ED120:**

ED120 Delete first two sentences ('Many different types of schools currently exist, including comprehensive schools, boarding schools, public schools, specialist schools and 'alternative' schools such as Steiner schools. In the state sector there are also specialist schools and schools for young people with special needs')

and replace with:

A range of different types of schools

exists and is being extended through academies and free schools. Currently diversity of provision is rapidly creating fragmentation and a lack of democratic accountability. The Green Party recognises that we do not yet have a fully comprehensive system of education.

**Amendment ED121**

At end of first sentence ('The Green Party acknowledges that there is a need to embrace a diverse range of educational approaches.) add:

within state-funded education.

**Present ED123**

There is a need to address why people choose to send their children to private schools. All comprehensive schools need to reach higher standards, with smaller classes and a diverse choice of subjects.

**Amendment: Delete all and substitute:**

State funded schools need sufficient finance to offer the smaller classes and varied curriculum that exist in many private schools.

**Present ED 124**

Children with a high level of ability or who are from a background where education is highly valued are likely to have a positive influence on the learning experience of their peers. Many of these young people are learning in the independent sector. This creates additional challenges to schools in the state sector and is to some extent causing social divisions in society. Overall standards are shown to be higher in mixed ability environments therefore the Green Party wants to create a system which facilitates and encourages greater integration.'

**Delete all and substitute:**

The Green Party recognizes that the current mix of local authority, private, faith, grammar, academy and free schools reinforces social and ethnic divisions in society. A truly comprehensive intake and mixed ability teaching, coupled with equitable funding based on need, will extend equality of opportunity. We will therefore create a system that facilitates and encourages greater integration.

**Add ED126 (Transferred from 112 Admissions)**

The Green Party will redistribute all available money to all schools according to their needs rather than their status.

**ACADEMIES**

**Amendment:**

Change heading to Academies and Free Schools

**Present ED130**

Academies are often introduced to deprived areas as the only chance the school has to attract funding. Buildings and land which belong to the state are leased to a private sponsor or outside body. In the case of an Academy this private sponsor decides what the school's specialism will be, what the curriculum will be and what wages individual teachers receive. The sponsor does not have to know anything about education yet has the power to make these crucial decisions.

**Amendment: Delete all and substitute:**

ED130. Academies are free to determine the admissions arrangements, curriculum and teachers' pay and conditions of service and are ultimately answerable to the Secretary of State rather than the local authority within which they are located. Academies remove control of buildings and the site from the local authority through long leasing agreements with the Academy Trust or sponsor [iii]

**Present ED131**

The sponsor has the power to appoint the Board which appoints the Principal and the Governors. In some academies the parents have the right to vote for as little as one parent governor. This also removes the democratic control by local authorities of institutions that are financed by national and local taxation

**Amendment: Delete all and substitute:**

There is a democratic and accountability deficit in academies with the Sponsor or Trust having the power to appoint the Board which appoints the Principal and governing body members. Parent governors, who may be as few as one, may be appointed rather than democratically elected and the make-up of the governing body often has a built in Sponsor or Trust majority.

Local authority representatives are not always appointed to the governing body, yet the local authority, although it has no power to intervene in an academy, retains the overall responsibility for children and young people's provision in the authority. This removes democratic control by local authorities that are financed by national and local taxation.

#### **Present ED132**

Academies can often take power away from parents, teachers and pupils regarding how the school is run. As with Specialist Schools the funding being offered can only be spent on certain things, for example in the case of an Academy the money is released for a new building so the school cannot choose to have a cheaper building or retro-fit existing buildings instead and spend the remaining money on,

#### **Amendment:**

Delete 'As with Specialist Schools' in second sentence and begin 'The funding being offered...'

#### **Add new ED133 and renumber accordingly:**

ED133 The Free Schools programme initiated is similarly democratically unaccountable with even more power handed to the Free School providers to decide the curriculum, admissions policy and whether to employ unqualified teachers or headteachers/principals with no formal teaching experience or qualifications. [iv]

#### **Present ED133 now renumbered as 134**

In the short term, where Academies are in operation, we would instigate a maximum 25% voting rights for sponsor appointees to ensure proper democratic and community representation on Academy boards')

#### **Amendment: Add new beginning sentence:**

ED134 For these reasons the Green Party is opposed to creating more Academies and Free Schools and will support community, school and parent campaigns that share this aim. The Green Party will integrate Academies and Free Schools back into the local authority school system.

## **TEACHERS**

### **Present 210**

Teachers are the key resource within the education system. They need first class initial preparation, continuing professional development and appropriate salaries.

#### **Amendment: Add**

Every child should be taught by a teacher with Qualified Teacher Status and Principals and Headteachers of state funded schools should have QTS.

### **Present ED211**

A Green government will work with the teaching unions to reverse the process by which teachers have gradually been deskilled and their professional autonomy eroded

#### **Amendment: Add**

and will review pension arrangements and retirement age with them.

### **Add New ED212**

The Green Party opposes the introduction of performance related pay in education.[v]

Notes in this motion:

- i The Phonics Test is currently taken in Year 1 when the child is 5 or 6 years old.
- ii The current primary school places crisis in some areas and the Government's ban on local authorities building new schools has resulted in primary school expansions creating schools of more than 840 4-11 year olds and reduction in play and other shared spaces.
- iii The academies programme has undergone changes under the Coalition Government and there are now a range which include academies with a single private sponsor, academy chains, local authority schools that have voluntarily converted to academy status without a sponsor, and local authority schools that have been forced to convert to a sponsored academy as a result of an unfavourable Ofsted inspection.
- iv The Free Schools programme takes a disproportionate amount of

funding from the main education budget and may be housed in inappropriate buildings with a lack of classroom space and outside play area. Free Schools do not have to be built in areas where there is a school place shortage and have often been set up in areas with surplus places. There have been controversies in terms of financial mismanagement, staff qualifications, equality of access and safeguarding with some expensive new schools opening with very few pupils.

- v Good teams of teachers support each other by sharing resources and strategies and cooperate to ensure all students have the best possible education. Performance related pay destroys cooperation as teachers are encouraged to prove that they are doing a better job than their colleagues in order to win a pay rise. Teachers are likely to negotiate achievable rather than challenging targets to ensure that they will be met and this will impact on the rate of school improvement. Research has shown that performance related pay is demotivating to education staff.

## **C03 CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY**

[this motion has a background paper which can be found online at: <http://my.greenparty.org.uk/news/first-agenda-spring-conference-2014>]

*Proposed by: Tony Firkins(\*\*), Tom Beaton, Diane Scott, Daniel Goldsmith*

### **Synopsis**

Current climate change policy has clauses which are out of date and some statements are questionable. The policy can retain the same spirit, be simplified, and made more robust by making all scientific statements and targets refer to IPCC/UN reports and remove historical references.

### **Motion**

Delete CC03 The IPCC has issued three major 'Assessment Reports' since it was formed, the latest in early 2001. The first of these included the oft-quoted assertion that stabilisation of

greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere requires an immediate 60% reduction, at least, in emissions, and this remains broadly their view.

Replace with new CC003.

“The IPCC is issuing its fifth major ‘Assessment Reports’ during 2013 and 2014.”

Delete CC004 first word “However”.

Delete from end of CC004.

“It is clear that in any case no level of net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is sustainable in the long term, as the sinks (mainly forests and the sea) that are absorbing about half at the moment will inevitably reduce, due to the acidification and warming of seawater, and increased respiration in soil.”

Add to end of CC004. “However the Green Party recognises the authority of the IPCC to provide the scientific consensus.”

Delete CC005 The Kyoto Protocol, negotiated under the auspices of the UNFCCC, came into force in 2005. It commits most industrialised countries to greenhouse gas emissions reductions averaging 5% from a 1990 base by 2012. It is extremely complex, and has many serious flaws. Its major technical problems are the “Clean Development Mechanism” and the “Joint Implementation” proposals, which open big loopholes for profitable cheating. Also, the non-involvement of the USA is a major setback, emissions from international civil aviation and shipping are not counted, and the proposed compliance mechanism is toothless.

Delete CC010 The principal gases causing global warming are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), ozone, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and similar compounds, and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Kyoto Protocol controls apply to a basket of the following gases: CO<sub>2</sub>, (CH<sub>4</sub>), N<sub>2</sub>O, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>). Most CFCs are already controlled by the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances. The most important source activity by far is the burning of fossil fuels. Industrialised countries are responsible as at 2001 for about 60% of the world’s ongoing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and

historically for about 75% of the total.

Delete CC011 The warming is partially counteracted by cooling caused by dust, both from industry and intermittently from major volcanic eruptions; and from sulphate pollution. Expanding forests also absorb significant amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>; currently it seems that mature forests are also absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, though this effect cannot continue for long. Peat bogs are also a major store of carbon.

Delete CC012. So far just over half of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have been consistently absorbed. In the 1990s there was considerable debate about where the absorbing was happening, as it is much harder to measure than emissions. A scientific agreement was eventually reached that boreal forests, tropical forests and oceans were all absorbing significantly. However there is some evidence that the natural CO<sub>2</sub> sinks are declining in effectiveness; and some models suggest that many current sinks will become net emitters rather than absorbers over the coming decades.

Delete CC013. Emissions by high-flying aircraft cause additional warming effects because of the different nature of the upper atmosphere. These emissions are also not covered by the Kyoto Protocol. The IPCC have produced a special report on the subject. GP policy to address this is in TR500ff.

Replace with new CC010. The causes of climate change are documented in the “IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policymakers”.

Delete CC020 The IPCC’s Third Assessment Report, published in early 2001, predicts that with business as usual global mean temperature will rise between 1.4°C and 5.8°C during the 21st century. Work with more advanced models carried out subsequently by the UK Meteorological Office’s Hadley Research Centre suggests that, again with business as usual, rises of up to 8°C can be expected by 2100.

Delete CC021 The most serious direct effects of climate change are an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, effects of the temperature itself, and rising sea levels. The reinsurance industry has estimated that global damages

caused by storms, droughts & floods has roughly doubled each decade since 1950, reaching almost \$500 billion in the 90s. Extrapolation of this trend suggests that the annual rate of damages could reach the same magnitude as the annual global GDP by the 2060s.

Delete CC022 Effects on ecosystems, agricultural systems, people and economic systems will be increasingly severe. Many diseases, most notably malaria, are likely to become much more widespread. Rainfall patterns are likely to change drastically, including big seasonal and north/south variations in the UK. Food supplies will become erratic. Low-lying and island states, most notably Bangladesh, will become inundated and lead to at least 10s of millions of eco-refugees.

Delete CC023 Furthermore abrupt changes in climate are quite likely--they show up frequently in the paleological record. Possibilities forecast by different groups of scientists include the shutting down of the Gulf Stream, a complete dieback of the Amazon rainforest, and a rapid increase of perhaps 5°C due to methane emissions from warming continental shelves. Such jumps are potentially much more damaging to ecosystems and to human societies than more gradual change. Several other positive feedback mechanisms are known which could trigger rapid change, without being understood well enough to be accurately included in climate models. These include the effects of clouds, the changes in carbon absorption of plants under stressed conditions, and the link with a cooling stratosphere and ongoing stratospheric ozone depletion.

Delete CC024 Some scientists believe that a ‘runaway’ greenhouse effect is possible, leading to temperature increases of several 10s°C over a timescale of 50-200 years and to large parts or even all of the Earth becoming uninhabitable.

Replace with new CC020. “The impacts of climate change are documented in the “IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policymakers” “

In CC100 Delete at the end, “The



avoidance of dangerous anthropogenic change to the climate". And replace by "prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".

In CC111 Delete sentence. "Climate research at the Swiss ETH Institute has shown that this requires stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations at or below 450ppm CO2 equivalent."

Add to end of CC111. "The "IPCC Fifth Assessment Report Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis Summary for Policymakers" describes 4 Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) for greenhouse gases over the next century. Only one of these, RCP2.6, is likely to achieve the 2°C target. The Green Party policies shall be consistent with the UK doing its fair share in achieving RCP2.6 greenhouse gas level targets or similar pathways described in the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Emissions Gap Reports."

Delete CC201 On average, each person worldwide emitted about 5 tonnes of CO2 in 2000, of which 4 tonnes came from fossil-fuel burning. There were huge international variations, with the Americans averaging 20 tonnes, British 9, Chinese 2.5 and Africans 1 tonne. Climate research from the Potsdam Institute suggest that average global emissions will need to be reduced by at least 60% of the 1990 baseline by 2030. This equates on average to a 90% reduction in emissions by developed countries by 2030. Following the principle of convergence this requires UK emissions to be cut by 80-90%.

Delete CC202 The UK's commitment under the EU basket agreement reached in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol is a reduction in the 6-gas basket by 12.5% by 2008-2012 The Blair government has also committed the UK to a 20% reduction in CO2 by then.

Delete first sentence of CC203 "UK emissions in 2005 were just below the 1990 baseline and rising."

Retain second sentence of CC203 "We should aim steadily to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions to 10% of their 1990 levels by 2030."

Delete third sentence of CC203 " If this policy is adopted in 2007, the required annual rate is 9% per annum.

If adoption is delayed, the required rate is significantly greater, rising for the next few years by about 0.5 percentage points for each year of delay in starting.

–  
Replace third sentence with "The required reduction per year is in the region of 30 Mt CO2e until 2030 to allow this to be met."

Retain end of CC203. "We will also establish effective mechanisms for getting back on track should an annual target be missed. New and persuasive scientific evidence may arise that shows a need for deeper cuts in emissions and Green party public announcements should reflect the current nature of climate change science."

Delete CC208. The UN should modify the way the effects of different greenhouse gases are combined to focus on the impacts over a twenty year time period. Currently 100 years is used and this makes a big difference to the calculated effects of methane, resulting in serious under stressing of the importance of methane emissions reductions in the crucial next few decades.

Retain first sentence CC210 "The Green Party calls for urgent replacement of the Kyoto Protocol with a new protocol which meets the requirement for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with prevailing science and which has an equal focus on safeguarding carbon sinks."

Delete second sentence in CC210 " It is dangerous to wait until the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012."

Delete CC211. "Global concentrations are now increasing at significantly over 2 ppm CO2 each year and have been rising steadily since 1990. This is in part because targets for Annex 1 countries are not based on science, in part because the Protocol has not been ratified by the US and Australia, and in part because it excludes developing economies (notably China and India). It also not only lacks any meaningful ecosystem protection mechanism but actively facilitates ecosystem destruction via its Clean Development Mechanism (see CC240)."

Delete first sentence of CC220 "The Kyoto Protocol says nothing about the

future beyond 2012."

Delete start of second sentence of CC220 "To address that timescale t" and replace by "T".

Retain in CC200. "The Green Party advocates the adoption by the UNFCCC of a framework of Contraction and Convergence (C&C) as the key ingredient in the global political solution to the problem of Climate Change mitigation, and urges the UK and other governments use it as the basis for negotiations in the international fora."

Correct typo in numbering so that "CC2214" becomes "CC221".

Delete CC2214 "C&C is a scheme to provide for a smooth and equitable transition to a safe level of global CO2 emissions from human activity. It can be adapted either to follow-on from a successful Kyoto Protocol, or can equally be used in case the KP is not brought into force by enough countries ratifying it. C&C is not an alternative to the KP; it is a long-term framework for global cooperation towards a genuine solution; while the KP is a short-term fix that takes only very limited steps forward. A GP policy statement describes C&C in more detail.

Replace with CC221 "Contraction and Convergence (C&C) is a proposed global framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. The following GP policy statement describes C&C in more detail."

Add to end of CC222. In line with CC111 this should align with IPCC RCP2.6 or similar pathways.

## CO4 MAKING CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE

*Proposed by: Howard Thorp(\*\*), Jimmy Sayle, Lynton North, Simon Hales, Livio Pavone*

### Synopsis

Corporations and companies have behaved irresponsibly by awarding excessive pay rises to directors and senior managers whilst employees have seen little benefit from the success of these companies. Shareholders have failed to curb excessive pay rises for

those at the top. Too often corporations have ignored social and environmental problems [excessive length, cut by SOC]

### **Motion**

Insert into RoPS:

To make corporations behave responsibly we must require them to have regard to fair remuneration for all workers and behave in a socially and environmentally responsible way. We will do this by:

Requiring medium and large-sized companies to pay a living wage, curbing excessive pay for senior managers by ensuring that the same percentage pay rises are implemented across the board for all employees, and ensuring that senior managers and workers are in the same pension scheme

Changing company rules so that large and medium sized companies must take account of the environmental and social impact of their activities. Such companies will be required to undertake an annual audit and provide a public report giving details of water and energy use, waste management, resource efficiency measures undertaken and the social and environmental impact of their activities. The report would include information on any warnings or prosecutions for equality, diversity and environmental offences.

Insert into PSS (renumber subsequent sections accordingly):

EC653 We will require companies to ensure fair remuneration and pensions for all workers in companies, and curb excessive pay rises for executives and senior managers. Large and medium sized companies will be required to pay a living wage.

EC654 We will require large and medium sized companies to carry out an independently audited annual audit of their social and environmental impact. Companies will make the findings of the audit available in an annual public report. The format and content of the report will be specified in legislation but as a minimum it will include: water and energy use; waste management and resource efficiency; social impact; discrimination at work; and details of any health and safety breaches and environmental offences.

## **C05 EUROPEAN UNION MINIMUM WAGE**

*Proposed By: Howard Thorp(\*\*), Romaine Phoenix, Lynton North, Jimmy Sayle, Peter Allen, Simon Hales, Livio Pavone, Derek Wall.*

### **Synopsis**

The effects of globalisation have benefited corporations and their owners and managers but many workers have seen little or no benefit. In order to counter these detriments of globalisation it is essential that we move towards a global minimum wage, which is universal and enforceable. As a first step, the [excessive length, cut by SOC].

In the RoPS: insert

### **European Minimum Wage**

The effects of globalisation have benefited corporations and their owners and managers but many workers have seen little or no benefit. In order to counter these detriments of globalisation it is essential that we move towards a global minimum wage, and also global minimum labour standards, which are universal and enforceable. As a first step, the European Union, which is meant to have an economic level playing field, must implement a European minimum wage. We will work with the European Green Party and other like-minded organisations to ensure that a common minimum wage is introduced in the European Union member states as soon as possible.

In the PSS: insert a new section WR362 and renumber subsequent sections

WR362 Our elected European representatives will commence work as soon as possible with the European Green Party and other like-minded organisations and parties in the European Union to secure the introduction of European Union minimum wage legislation in the European Parliament in order to secure the same minimum wage for all citizens in all member states. This will be known as the European Union (EU) Minimum Wage. The legislation will ensure that the EU Minimum Wage will be increased annually in line with the cost of living. EU minimum wage

legislation will provide for a transition period of five years, and will stipulate that the highest existing member state minimum wage level must continue to rise in line with the cost of living during that period. All other member states will be required to raise their minimum wage levels to parity with the highest minimum wage by the end of the transitional period.

### **Amendment 1**

*Proposed by Sam Riches, Ida Holmane, Alan Francis, Benali Hamdache.*

Move the first three sentences of the proposed text for WR362 to ROPS. These sentences start 'Our elected European representatives will commence work as soon as possible...' and end '...in line with the cost of living.'

## **C06 ENABLING MOTION FOR HOUSING & PLANNING POLICY REVIEW**

*Proposed by: Tom Chance(\*\*), Ed Jones, Sandy Irvine, Darren Johnson, Caroline Bowes.*

### **Synopsis**

This is an enabling motion to commit the party to review the Housing and Local Planning Policies. The working group will be convened by Tom Chance.

### **Motion**

This conference instructs Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for redrafted PSS sections on Housing and Local Planning to a future Conference. The policy development process should seek the opinions and involvement of members of the Party with an interest or expertise in this field, as well as the views of outside professional and campaigning bodies.

## **C07 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

*Proposed by: Sarah Cope(\*\*), Jess Lee, Chris Cope, Moira Dunworth, Christine Clark, Shan Oakes, Lesley Hedges, RoseMary Warrington*

### **Synopsis**

Child sexual abuse is an issue that affects the lives of many people, with an estimated one in six children being

sexually abused. It is estimated the one in three women prisoners have been sexually abused as children and that

45% of sex workers have experienced the same.

Support for [excessive length, cut by SOC]

**Motion:**

Delete SW314:

[SOC note – as requested SOC have inserted the original text in the agenda here]

SW314 Much is made of ‘stranger danger’ but many children are at a risk of physical, verbal, emotional or sexual abuse from members of their own family. The Green Party will set up ‘safe houses’ where abused or otherwise stressed children can find sanctuary.

and replace with:

SW314 The Green Party would develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy for the prevention of child sexual abuse which would include, but not be limited to, the following components:

Funding research into the causes of child sexual abuse, and also the possible treatment of abusers. The emphasis would be on preventing those who are sexually attracted to children from abusing in the first place, as well as rehabilitating offenders who wish to change their behaviour. There would be a big increase in the funding of effective treatment programmes for offenders in prison and support for prevention focussed projects such as the Quaker-supported Circles of Support and Accountability programme

Running an on-going government public education campaign encouraging discussion of what is a taboo subject and a hidden problem, encouraging both perpetrators and victims to come forward for help.

Ensuring that organisations providing help to the victims of sexual abuse, such as the National Association of People Abused in Childhood, receive Government funding, meaning they will no longer need to devote much of their valuable time to chasing funding.

Ensuring that those coming into contact with children (such as teachers and

medical staff) are effectively trained to spot the possible signs of sexual abuse and early, sensitive intervention will be encouraged as well as training on signs to look out for in adults who may be at risk of abusing

Ensure children receive relationships and sex education including information about good and bad touch, good and bad secrets, knowing how to get help if something is worrying them and developing healthy relationships

Develop and ensure consistent delivery of appropriate education for children through primary and secondary schools and youth services at key transitional stages about personal boundaries, emotional literacy and body safety in order to increase knowledge, improve self-esteem, influence behaviour and increase confidence in seeking help.

[See also ED042]

As ‘institutional sexual abuse’ is a well-known problem, the Green Party would encourage institutions such as schools, businesses and faith groups to develop abuse prevention strategies, to include a structured and well-publicised process whereby abuse victims can report their concerns, be listened to and for appropriate action to be taken.

## C08 ARCTIC OCEAN

*Proposed by: Alan Borgars(\*\*), Ronald Lee, Stuart Neyton, Romayne Phoenix, Jimmy Sayle, Livio Pavone, Jessica Goldfinch, Howard Thorp*

**Synopsis**

Whilst there is a useful Green Party policy on the Antarctic which will help protect it, a similar one is urgently needed for the Arctic Ocean. Threats to the Arctic Ocean, especially from commercial shipping for energy exploration purposes by companies such as Gazprom, are becoming increasingly serious. [excessive length, cut by SOC.]

**Motion:**

To insert new international policy as follows:

IP520: The Green Party believes that a) the Arctic, as defined by the United Nations’ Environment Programme (UNEP), should be given ‘world nature

reserve’ status and b) there should be a complete ban on exploration of all natural resources in the UNEP defined zone.

IP521: The Green Party supports the creation of a specialised Treaty to protect the entire Arctic Ocean and its environment, and thus to ban any territorial claims by any nation to the Arctic Ocean. Shipping, land and air traffic will also be banned from the entire Arctic Ocean except for strictly environmental and naturalist research purposes.

IP522: Environmental and naturalist research, within The Arctic Treaty area, will be carried out with strict limitations placed on shipping, air and land motorised traffic. Research stations and their communities will have to follow protective environmental impact guidelines, to be laid down in the Treaty.

[Policy Committee Comment: The motion as it stands is in conflict with policy on indigenous peoples, IPP220-226, as the motion does not distinguish between national governments and corporations expanding into the Arctic and the rights of indigenous peoples.]

## C09 NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (NSA) AND SNOWDEN, WHISTLE BLOWING AND SURVEILLANCE

*Proposed by: Derek Wall, Caroline Allen, Howard Thorp, Ricky Knight, Nicole Haydock, Romayne Phoenix, Mark Northfield, Simon Hales*

**Synopsis:**

The disclosure of classified information about the practices of intelligence services such as the NSA or UK Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) throughout the world by Edward Snowden showed that illegal mass surveillance is a standard practice. Snowden has shown that from the UK Embassy in Berlin spying on members of the German government to [excessive length, cut by SOC]

**Motion: (To be inserted in to ROPS)**

The Green Party of England and Wales



believes that illegal mass surveillance must be opposed. The Green Party will campaign against such surveillance and will act to protect whistle blowers such as Snowden who oppose illegal intrusion by the state.

The Green Party of England and Wales believes Edward Snowden should be granted political asylum in a European Union (EU) state of his choice. The United Kingdom (UK) government must take joint action with other states to protect its citizens and companies from espionage and mass surveillance including a parliamentary inquiry into the national security measures that abuse the privacy of the public.

The EU must press for the immediate completion of negotiations on a data protection framework agreement for the law enforcement sector between the EU and the US, before considering future trade and security treaties.

The current Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Safe Harbour agreements between the US and the European Union should be suspended and then renegotiated. The European Court of Human Rights should check the alleged actions of intelligence services to determine if they are in breach of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

## C10 GREEN WAGE SUBSIDY

[SOC Note, there is a background paper and costing notes on this motion online at: <http://greenerblog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/costing-green-wage-subsidy.html>]

*Proposed by: Richard Lawson(\*\*), Molly Scott Cato, Peter Barnett, Tom Leimdorfer, Jenny Jones, Peter Waldschmidt, Sandy Irvine, Jennifer Parker.*

### Synopsis

Unemployment causes illness and poverty at individual and community level. It may lead to alienation, which can play into the hands of political extremists. Youth unemployment is high, and is known to have an economically disabling effect throughout life.

At the same time, there is a vast amount

of work [excessive length, cut by SOC]

### GREEN WAGE SUBSIDY

Add in the PFSS after EC733:

EC734 Unemployment has become accepted as a normal part of the modern economy. However, it has severe impacts on the health of individuals and communities. It bears particularly hard on young people, and some studies show that they are scarred for life by the experience of unemployment. Not just poverty and ill-health, but anger, resentment and alienation all result from unemployment.

At the same time as unemployment is inflicted on millions, there is a vast amount of good work left undone, work that would heal society and environment.

Green Wage Subsidy (GWS) aims to address these problems by turning unemployment benefits into a support for beneficial work as set out below.

GWS also prepares the ground for the introduction of full Citizen's Income

EC735 Every local authority will be required to set up a small Tribunal, of two or three officers, empowered to judge, systematically according to set criteria, whether the processes and product of employers who come before them are of net benefit to society and/or environment.

Applicants would typically be operating in the following fields:

#### Energy

Energy conservation  
Renewable energy technologies  
Energy efficient goods development and manufacture

#### Public transport

#### Pollution Control

Pollution control technology

#### Waste minimisation

Repair  
Recycling

#### Environment

Water management  
Sustainable agriculture  
Forestry  
Timber use  
Countryside management

### Human needs

Housing - new building and refurbishment  
Improvements to visual environment  
Education and training  
Counselling, caring and healing  
Community work  
Community enterprises such as cultural centres

### Leisure and tourism

Innovation, research and development in these fields

EC736. Businesses and public enterprises who believe they might qualify may go to the Tribunals seeking "Green Accreditation". Any economic grouping may apply: public services including local authorities, National Health Service, social services, co-operatives, charities, and private enterprises. The central criterion for acceptance is that the outcome of their goods and service is to the benefit of society and environment. Preference will be given to small local enterprises. Large national and multinational corporations will be scrutinised critically in terms of their Corporate Social Welfare standards and taxation contributions, and with a few exceptions will be unlikely to succeed.

Successful applicants may take on new workers (i.e. in addition to their present establishment) from Job Centres. New workers taken on under this scheme will be allowed to keep their current unemployment benefit in their new job. This can be seen as a 100% extension of the present limited "Earnings Disregard".

An appeal process will be provided to check on the decisions of the Tribunals where necessary.

Acceptance of a job offer will be voluntary. Refusal of a job offer will not result in any penalty.

EC737 The employer would bring the remuneration of the GWS worker up to the appropriate normal rate of pay for the job that is paid in the company. This decision should take account of the Minimum Wage and Living Wage. Living Wage for all employees is the preferred minimum level.

The effect of this is to transform the present "Job Seekers' Allowance" and

other forms of unemployment benefit change from being a dead, grudgingly granted “dole” into a Green Wage Subsidy (GWS) which stimulates the green sector of the local economy. The worker has employment and a better income as a result of taking on work, while the employer has a bigger workforce for a smaller outlay than would normally be the case. There is no significant cost to the Government in the short term. There should preferably be no time limit for this arrangement, so that in this regard it behaves in the same way as a Citizen’s Income (CI), and as years pass, the CI could be introduced gradually as a natural extension of the GWS.

EC738 It will be illegal for employers to replace their previous establishment with GWS workers, and if workers believe that they have been so replaced they can make a complaint to the Tribunals, who would have powers to reinstate the worker or, in the case of repeated offences, to revoke the offending company’s accreditation.

Participation in the scheme will be entirely voluntary on the part of employees and employers. The scheme will stand outside of any existent rules which provide sanctions for claimants who refuse work, and in the event of a claimant refusing work offered by accredited employers, there will not be any withdrawal of benefit.

The reason for this is that workfare and forced labour is contrary to the ethics of the Green Party. Also, forced labour is inefficient labour.

EC739 In order to avoid unfair competition between established companies and putative start-up companies, it may be decided that companies applying for accreditation must have been in existence for a period of time, for instance, at least two years. In special local circumstances, this rule may be adjusted by the Tribunal.

EC740 GWS money would otherwise have been given to unemployed people on condition that they do nothing apart from being obliged to prepare themselves for work that for most of them simply does not exist. Therefore, in the short term GWS would present no cost to public sector finances, since the money would have

been paid out in any case. Some of the GWS money would come back to Government in the form of increased tax revenues from firms which have benefited, and yet more would come back to society in qualitative improvements such as improved services, diminished inequality and improved morale. Calculations suggest that a GWS scheme operating at 50% of full capacity would benefit the UK economy to the tune of £10 Billion per year, at a cost (for the tribunals) of £34 Million a year. Because the GWS is permanent (as opposed to being time limited, which is the case with similar schemes at present) there would be a long term cost analogous to that of CI.

**Amendment 1**

Proposed as part of the main motion

In new EC735 delete “required” and replace with “allowed” from the first sentence.

**Amendment 2**

Proposed as part of the main motion

In New EC736 delete the sentence “scrutinised critically in terms of their Corporate Social Welfare standards and taxation contributions, and with a few exceptions will be unlikely to succeed”

And replace with:

“excluded from participation”

**C11 REVISION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS**

*Proposed by: Caroline Bowes(\*\*), Simon Marchant, Mary Smith, Steve Dawe, Hazel Dawe, Trish Marchant.*

Synopsis:

Although explicit reference to the system and social and environmental justice is welcome, the amendment to the philosophical basis, made in Spring 2013, presents issues that we feel need resolving if we are to develop consistent policies that fully reflect Green values.

These amendments seek to rebalance the recent changes. [excessive length, cut by SOC.]

**Motion:**

[SOC Note, the full text of the current philosophical basis is included as appendix 1 in this agenda.]

At the start of PB001 insert:

“For too long we have seen ourselves as above the natural environment which sustains us, rather than a part of that environment. Human activity is now putting the planet and the life it supports under enormous strain”.

After the first “A” of the first sentence of the current first paragraph of PB001 insert “social and economic”.

At the first “we” in the first sentence of the current first paragraph of PB001 insert “and other life forms”.

After the current first paragraph of PB001 insert:

“Politics which prioritises the accrument of capital, and relies on perpetual growth despite finite resources, has failed us”.

After “many” in the first sentence of the current second paragraph of PB001 insert “diverse communities, populations and species that inhabit our planet”.

After “few” in the first sentence of the current second paragraph of PB001 insert “wealthy and powerful individuals and corporations that benefit most from our current system. It”.

Delete the current “and” before the second “would” in the current first sentence of the current second paragraph of PB001.

After “democracy” in the current first sentence of the current second paragraph of PB001 insert: “, and which recognises and values our interrelationship with the natural environment,”

After the first “of” in current principle 1 of PB001 insert “environmentalism,”

Move current principle 1 of PB001 into the preamble between the text that reads

“The Green Party isn’t just another political party”, and the text that reads “Green politics is a new and radical kind of politics guided by these core principles;”

Retain the moved text as a separate paragraph. Renumber remaining principles so that they follow in the same order.

After the word “right” in current principle 4 of PB001 insert:

“Additionally we believe in building an equal society that supports social and distributional justice. A fair distribution of resources will provide benefits for all”.

After the word “theirs” in current principle 5 of PB001 insert:

“or without concern for the protection of flora and fauna”.

Insert new principle 9 containing the text:

“Changing values in society to those which will protect our planet, flora and fauna, and produce a fair and more equal world, is central to the radical Green agenda”.

And renumber so that current principle 10 remains principle 10.

## C12 ACTIVE TRAVEL BILL FOR ENGLAND

*Proposed by: Caroline Russell(\*\*), Caroline Allen, Andrew Myer, Charlie Kiss, Ben Samuel*

### Synopsis:

The motion proposes advocating for an Active Travel Bill for England on same basis as the Active Travel Bill Wales. The Bill is intended to enable more people to walk and cycle and travel by non-motorised transport, by planning in walking & cycling at design stage of all road projects.

Insert TR039

The Green Party advocates an Active Travel Bill for England on the same basis as the Active Travel Bill Wales passed in October 2013.

The purpose of the Bill would be to require local authorities to continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists and to prepare maps identifying current and potential future routes for their use.

The Bill would require new road schemes (including road improvement schemes) to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at the design stage.

The Bill is intended to enable more

people to walk and cycle and travel by non-motorised transport. This will benefit public health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address poverty and disadvantage and support sustainable economic growth.

Better information provision, and forward planning processes, would allow a more strategic use of funding and focus activity on promoting active travel and creating an environment where it is safe and practical to walk and cycle.

### Amendment 1

Proposed by: Caroline Russell, Caroline Allen, Alan Francis, Charlie Kiss.

The amendment seeks to insert “(now Act)” after “same basis as the Active Travel Bill” in line 1 and again in line 4.

## C13 TOWARDS A REAL DEMOCRACY.

*Proposed by: Linda Duckenfield(\*\*), Martin Deane, Lynton North, Bill Rigby, Gina Dowding,*

### Synopsis

The Green Party recognizes the growing democratic deficit, and the uniformity of monetarist received practice in the British political system and first past the post elections. We do not share the cynical view that a refusal to vote shows political apathy or voter stupidity. On the contrary, we recognize the [excessive length, cut by SOC]

### Motion

Insert into RoPS

That we will promote and support all legitimate means to make the abstention from voting count. This will include the widespread use of social media and petitioning (eg. makevotescount, avaaaz, 38 degrees etc) for it to be recognized that if the next election, either at the dissolution of the current coalition or in 2015, and at any subsequent general election achieves less than a 50% turnout, that any victor at such an election does not have a mandate to govern. We would positively encourage those hesitant or disenchanted with the main 3 parties not to vote, in protest.

We will support this policy by actively promoting the possibility, again via social and mainstream media, for real debate on real issues and the introduction of tele and electronic voting, widely used in some places, eg California. Such debates could include, eg the real causes of the financial crisis, ditto the housing crisis, ditto the energy crisis and the threats to public services including the NHS and public transport, also the real issues of EU membership.

If the country becomes, via these processes, recognizably without a formally mandated government, we will support demands that an emergency administration be formed to implement a mandated agenda, determined by the above processes.

Such an agenda, for example might include, (and we might campaign for)

reining in the banks, and exposing the reasons why the gap between the hyper-rich and the rest has become obscenely large, defending public services, the welfare state, education and the NHS as hard won public goods, re-regulating bus services, renationalizing rail services and the utilities. Investment in renewables and green jobs, and disinvestment from nuclear power.

That a general election be recalled after a period, on different principles. We would continue to promote forms of proportional representation, and the enfranchisement of 16 year olds.

We would also expose and resist the dominance of career politicians and the prevalence of ‘jobs for life’ via unchallenged safe seats, and also the under representation of women and ethnic minorities by proposing:

- a) that politicians in all posts should serve a maximum of 2 terms
- b) political posts be made available to job-sharers to promote work-life balance for the incumbents.

## C14 FOIE GRAS

*Proposed by: Tim Turner, Peter Barnett, Mark Dawes, Alison Plaumer, Alwynne Cartmell, Vivien Pomfrey, David Collins, Karen Varga, Patrician Tucker, Sue*



*Baumgardt, Louise Ryan, Ronald Lee(\*\*).*

### Synopsis:

Foie gras is produced by the cruel force-feeding of ducks and geese in order to enlarge their liver. The birds are then slaughtered and the livers 'harvested'. Production of foie gras is already banned in Britain but its importation and sale are still permitted.

### Motion:

Insert new AR412 and renumber accordingly: The Green Party will make it illegal to import and/or sell foie gras and any product that is the result of force-feeding.

## C15 AN ELECTED HEAD OF STATE

*Proposed by: Howard Thorp(\*\*), Livio Pavone, Stuart Neyton, Martin Cusack.*

A monarchy has no place in a 21st century democracy. The British monarchy entrenches social division and privilege in our society. We need to replace the monarchy with a Head of State, elected by the British people, who will represent our country in a ceremonial role.

### Motion

Delete PA455 and renumber subsequent sections.

PA455 A First Minister would also be elected by the central Parliament as a whole, who would be responsible for chairing a committee, the Coordination Committee, of all the convenors of parliamentary committees. This body would be responsible for coordinating the work of the different committees, and for dealing with matters that affect them all, such as the allocation of public expenditure. The First Minister would act as Head of Government, in particular in dealings with other states. The central Parliament would also elect, as at present, an apolitical Speaker, who would act as Head of State (see PA600c).

Insert a new PA601 and renumber subsequent sections

We will hold a two-part referendum on the abolition of the monarchy and whether to replace the role of the monarch with with an elected Head of

State. The role of an elected Head of State would be to represent the nation and to perform ceremonial duties on behalf of the people. The Green Party will campaign for abolition of the monarchy and an elected Head of State in this referendum.

### Amendment 1

Proposed by: Jimmy Sayle, Romaine Phoenix, Simon Hales, Stuart Neyton

Delete "Delete PA455 and renumber subsequent sections".

Replace with: -

Delete the words "who would act as Head of State (see PA600c)" from the final sentence of PA455, so that this sentence reads "The central Parliament would also elect, as at present, an apolitical Speaker."

## C16 CAR CLUBS

*Proposed by: Caroline Russell(\*\*), Caroline Allen, Andrew Myer, Charlie Kiss*

### Synopsis

Reducing the number of parked cars through Car Club provision, helps promote active travel, improving public health and alleviating parking stress. In areas of high car dependency with few public transport options, car clubs provide flexible and cost-effective access to a car without the expense of ownership.

Replace existing TR311 with:

TR311 The Green Party advocates active travel modes and use of public transport where it is available. We would promote the development of car clubs (the shared use of cars by local residents), where this will effectively reduce the number of car journeys that may otherwise be made or the number of cars parked in a locality. In areas without access to flexible public transport, we recognise that car-use may be essential to access jobs and services. We would promote car clubs in areas with poor public transport provision to provide a practical, cost effective alternative to car ownership and help reduce overall car use.

Existing policy for reference:

TR311 The Green Party would reduce

the need for people to feel that they need to own their own car. We recognise that while cars may always have a role to play in transport, individual ownership tends to increase usage and create reliance. Where cars are seen as necessary for some travel, we would promote the development of car clubs (the shared use of cars by local residents), where this will effectively reduce the number of car journeys that may otherwise be made or the number of cars parked in the locality, to promote the sharing of cars and journeys.

### Amendment 1

Proposed by Caroline Russell, Caroline Allen, Alan Francis, Benali Handache, Sam Riches, Thomas French, Amelia Womack, Charlie Kiss.

The amendment seeks to insert "(including rural areas)" after "areas with poor public transport provision" in line 4.

## C17 FIREWORKS AND BONFIRES

*Proposed by: Ronald Lee(\*\*), Mark Dawes, Tim Turner, Vivien Pomfrey, David Collins, Karen Varga, Patricia Tucker, Sue Baumgardt, Louise Ryan.*

### Synopsis:

To protect humans, domesticated animals and wildlife from the harm and distress caused by fireworks, while still allowing people to enjoy those fireworks that pose no threat to animals and the general local community. To reduce the risk of harm to hedgehogs and other animals from bonfires.

### Motion:

Add AR429: The Green Party will impose restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks. These will include a ban on those over a certain noise level and/or that travel more than a specified distance. Occasions on which fireworks can be used will also be restricted and measures introduced to prohibit their use in areas where wildlife and other animals will be particularly affected. There will also be restrictions on the construction of bonfires in order to minimise the risk to hedgehogs and other wildlife.

[Policy Committee Comment: The lack

of detail in parts of the motion has implications for publicly elected Green Officials, who could be asked difficult questions about a policy which is vague in a number of key areas.]

## Section D (Organisational and other motions)

### D01 INCREASING DIVERSITY IN THE PARTY

*Proposed by: Benali Hamdache(\*\*), Violeta Vajda, Fee Ferguson, Amelia Womack, Fiona Costello, Charlene Concepcion, Sam Hollick, Laura Shepherd, Paul Cohen, Joe Lo, Lewis Coyne, Siobhan MacMahon, Jake Pentland, Dave Plummer, Stuart Neyton, Ernestas Jegorovas, Thom French, Lisa Camps,*

#### Synopsis:

Like many political parties the Green Party struggles in engaging the full set of diverse communities in the UK. Engagement in politics of BAME groups is low, and recent member surveys suggests the Green Party has limited membership from BAME groups. The party must address this.

#### Motion:

The Green Party shall commit to ethnic quotas for list elections. This motion shall amend Clause 5(xiii): Selection of Party

Lists:-

v) d) The Regional Meeting shall consider the question of gender or ethnic minority balance on the Regional List.

to

“The Green Party shall work on a basis of 50%+ of all candidates on regional lists not defining as male, and a proportion of the list being from a black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) background. This proportion should be representative of the region’s demographics. If the candidates that put themselves forward at the deadline do not meet this criteria the deadline will be extended for 2 weeks, with a call specifically for BAME candidates. If after this time no eligible candidate

puts themselves forward the selection shall proceed without a full quota.”

In practice this will mean the regions following the following framework (when a party has a range local party has a choice of setting a quota in this range):

#### London

A Representative List would field 3 BME Candidates

#### West Midlands

A Representative List would field 1-2 BME Candidates

#### East Midlands

A Representative List would field 1 BME Candidate

#### South West

A Representative List would field 1 BME Candidate

#### North West

A Representative List would field 1 BME Candidate

#### North East

The region would not have an obligation to field a BME Candidate, but could set a quota of 1 candidate

#### Wales

The region would not have an obligation to field a BME Candidate, but could set a quota of 1 candidate

#### South East

A Representative List would field 1-2 BME Candidates

#### Yorkshire and the Humber

A Representative List would field 1 BME Candidates

#### Eastern

A Representative List would field 1 BME Candidates

In addition the party would commit to:

Monitoring of gender, disability, ethnicity & sexuality of elected officials (both in internal and external posts) & candidates.

A program to encourage leadership and candidacy from minority groups within the party

### D02 CITIZENS INCOME

*Proposed by: Alison Whalley(\*\*), Martin Collins, Penny Remfry, David Herbert, Stuart Morland, Julia Erskine, Matthew Cooke,*

#### Synopsis:

The time has come to push our policy for the introduction of a Citizens Income: unconditional, non-withdrawable, and paid to every UK citizen. There are very cogent arguments for a CI and I also think it is a way of starting a wider conversation about a steady state economy.

#### Motion:

“We call upon GPEx to establish a working group (WG) drawing on expertise in the fields of taxation, social security and any other relevant fields, to calculate a Citizens Income at a level that is reasonable and affordable. We also call for a second WG to be established to create and propose a strategy to raise public awareness and support for a Citizens Income.”

We also call on Green Party Regional Council to ensure that a Citizens Income is included in the manifesto for the next General Election in 2015.”

### D03 PLANETARY CRISIS

*Proposed by: Linda Whitebread(\*\*), Peter Cox, Ellie Crane, Nicholas Short, John Ranken, David Smith, Simon Sagers*

#### Synopsis

The extreme urgency of the planetary crisis means that we must focus on this issue, and its link to economics, in our campaigning.

#### Motion

[Extensive section cut by SOC for being out of order on the basis that it is vague, under section D, Part 8 subsection d, and Requiring no consequential action under subsection f of the same.]

Conference instructs the Party to

1. proactively set our own agenda rather than accept the agenda of the other parties; that agenda to prioritise the urgent need for positive action on the threats to the biosphere from climate

change, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity and despoliation of ecosystems;

2. emphasise the causal role of our economic system in exacerbating these threats, in particular economic growth, over-consumption, globalisation and financialisation;
3. In the run-up to the next general election and beyond
  - build a clear vision of an alternative future, highlighting the personal, social and economic benefits of a different way of doing things;
  - develop key short term transitional policies;
  - undertake a process of education within the party, helping local activists to explain these matters in the press and on the doorstep.

## D04 ANTI-GROWTH MESSAGE – MOTION FOR CONFERENCE

*Proposed by: Linda Whitebread, John Ranken, Mark Ereira-Guyer, Andrew Sterling, Robert Lindsay(\*\*), Rupert Read,*

### Synopsis:

Despite some slow but important electoral progress, the Green Party is still being marginalised in national media, particularly television and radio. This means that the few opportunities we do get to appear on national TV and radio must not be wasted, particularly in the run up to the PR-based Euro elections. [Excessive length, cut by SOC]

### Motion

The Green Party calls on our leader, deputy leader, MP and MEPs to use every public appearance, particularly crucial national television and radio appearances, to point out the futility of chasing economic growth in Britain and the positive benefits on wellbeing and quality of life of reducing consumption.

### Amendment 1

*Proposed by: Robert Lindsay, Mark Ereia-Guyer, Andrew Stirling, Colin Widdup*

Delete “every” in the phrase “to use every public appearance”, add “s” at end of “appearance”

After “to point out” add comma and “when and if they are provided the opportunity,”

So that the amended motion reads:

“The Green Party calls on our leader, deputy leader, MP and MEPs to use public appearances, particularly crucial national television and radio appearances, to point out, when and if they are provided the opportunity, the futility of chasing economic growth in Britain and the positive benefits on wellbeing and quality of life of reducing consumption.”

## D05 MP’S REMUNERATION

*Proposed by Derbyshire Green Party  
Proposed by John Youatt, Peter Allen(\*\*),  
Mike Shipley, Sue Ledger.*

### Synopsis

To ensure that MPs’ remuneration and expenditure is transparent. To encourage MPs to contribute to their local party and ensure that financial reports are provided to the local party. To encourage MPs from across the political spectrum to similarly report back to their local parties.

### Motion

Conference resolves:

To adopt a policy ensuring transparency in dealing with remuneration, including salary, allowances, expenses, sponsorship and any other income associated with work as an MP, and the expenditure of that income.

That on being elected, an MP will be encouraged to make a contribution from salary and other income to a constituency office;

That a report should be published 6 times a year by the MP in a manner that is open to public scrutiny and comment and displayed transparently.

That on being selected a Green Party candidate would make the following pledge and encourage other candidates to do the same:

### REMUNERATION PLEDGE

1. I will make a full time commitment to the job for which I will be well paid.
2. I will ensure that, in the interest of

transparency, a report is prepared every two months in which all allowances, other related income and expenses will be included. This report will be submitted to a local constituency body in a way that is open to public scrutiny, with receipts and justification for all expenses.

3. I will invite the local party to discuss with me a donation to it of a percentage of my salary, which will be used to fund support staff for my constituency work.
4. I will advertise all positions within my constituency office. Positions would be filled to industry-standard terms and conditions for conducting interviews and making appointments. Family members would only be employed through that open recruitment process.

### Amendment 1

*Proposed by Peter Allen, John Youatt, Jean Macdonald, Mike Shipley.*

Add as additional points under Conference Resolves:

To oppose the IPSA recommendation that MPs be awarded an 11% pay rise after the 2015 General Election

To support the IPSA recommendation that in future MPs salary increases be linked to increases in average pay.

## D06 DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

*Proposed by: Natalie Bennett(\*\*), Sarah Cope, Jessica Goldfinch, Cathryn Symons*

Synopsis: Under our current constitution, should the chair be incapacitated or unable to carry out their duties, there is no person identified to act in that role. This would hopefully help the chair by having a person to assist them, without putting an undue burden on the elected person’s other duties.

### Motion:

Insert after Item 7 xi of the constitution and renumber

xii) The Executive shall elect from among its elected members a deputy chair, to assist the chair in his/her



duties, and to act in the role of the chair at any time when the chair is unable to do so. Such elections are to take place at least annually.

## D07 ATTUNEMENT

*Proposed by: Lewis Coyne(\*\*), Benali Hamdache, Siobhan MacMahon, Charlene Concepcion, Ed Mason, Dave Plummer, Charlie Kiss*

### Synopsis

Conference recognises the benefits that some find from a moment's silence and reaffirms their right to it. However, some people find attunement during conference to be discomfiting or disorientating. Conference has a duty to make sure that people feel comfortable and should not impose a mandatory minutes silence on everybody.

### Motion

Conference requests SOC to delete the current Section J Part 1 of Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference and replace with 'Conference shall provide a safe place. A room that provides conference goers a space for quiet contemplation at all times during conference.'

## D08 ELECTING SOC

*Proposed by: Anne Were(\*\*), Stella Westmacott, Pippa Bartolotti, Chris Were*

### Motion

Section 9 (Annual Ballot)

Insert new i) (e) and re-number accordingly

"Standing Orders Committee"

[This just adds SOC to the list of posts which will be elected annually by postal ballot]

Section 10 iii)

Delete "Conference shall elect a Standing Orders Committee (SOC) which.." and insert "Standing Orders Committee (SOC)..."

Section 10 iv) delete "by annual conference"

[This removes reference to SOC being elected at conference]

## Out of Order Motions

### OO1 UPDATING MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

This is out of order on the basis of Section D, part 8 subsection d) "Vague", and subsection h) "seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than one year and nine months previously"

The motion does not clearly state the change to be made to the PfSS, and seeks to amend principles passed in a policy motion at the last conference.

Proposed by: Linda Duckenfield(\*\*), Bill Rigby, John Ashe, Martin Deane, Rita Wilcock.

### Synopsis

The policy agreed at last conference relied too heavily on the views of health professionals both within the NHS and mental health charities, and insufficient was paid to the views of those suffering from mental distress and also psychiatric abuse. We also need to be aware of the increasingly repressive agenda of psychiatric intervention

### Motion:

That we would add to our policy the following points, (paragraphs etc. to be determined)

That the context for mental distress, rather than the presentation for diagnosis, should always be paramount

That the agenda of the pharmaceutical companies dominates psychiatric prescribing, and indeed is the predominant intervention of psychiatrists, and that in some evidenced and widespread instances, pharmaceutical drugs can vastly exacerbate distress (eg the well known proportion of those taking SSRIs who as a result experience psychosis and suicidal thoughts or actions) That in some evidenced cases, commonly prescribed drugs can have lethal physical side effects, eg hyponatraemia. That psychiatric medication is being systematically overused on children, and any such prescribing should be questioned, and extreme caution employed.

That psychiatric services are

increasingly and inappropriately reliant on emergency services to carry out primary assessment and decision making. Ambulance teams tend to be better in these roles than the designated 'crisis teams' in psychiatric services, (because the first have an ethos of kindness and care, and the second do not necessarily have this) however this does not excuse such reliance. We particularly condemn the increasing use of Section 136s, where any manager or similar can call on the Police to remove someone with a history of mental distress to a 'place of safety'. Because of cuts in hospital beds etc – the 'place of safety' can, very inappropriately be a police cell, (also NB the inappropriate and occasionally tragic use of restraints) Or a person may be taken to hospital in shackles. Such practices are not welcome by the police themselves, but they are given no options but to carry out such escort duties, ditto after often very cavalier sectioning procedures by psychiatric professionals. We recognize that such procedures can and are being used in some instances to suppress protest, and that this agenda is conscious.

The formal power of doctors to deprive people of their liberty should be significantly more open to question. NB a criminal record can be discharged after a time lapse, a mental health diagnosis and label, particularly after a section, cannot. A mental health diagnosis can have serious repercussions on employment and even travel rights.

The 'co-production agenda', while it can be empowering in some instances, can also be a way for psychiatric services to plug their own deficiencies in either analysis or the provision of services via the unpaid work of 'service users'

We recognize the need for and the validity of a Mental Patients Union, to champion patient rights and provide a forum for solidarity.

### OO2 PROGRESSIVE COUNCIL TAX

This is out of order on the basis of Section C part 1: "In order to be included in the First Agenda, motions for sections B, C and D of the Agenda must first be submitted online by the

appropriate deadline for inclusion in a pre-agenda.”

This motion was not submitted online in the pre-agenda forums prior to the required deadline.

*Proposed by: David Walker, Ben Duncan, Tammie Cook, Alex Phillips, Paul Philo, Alfie Stirling, Valerie Phillips,*

### Synopsis

Until Council Tax is replaced this is a measure to reform it by working within existing rules. It offers the opportunity to raise much additional funds for Local Authorities and reduce the bills of the lowest earning households. This offers the chance to reduce the regressive nature of Council Tax and provide as much progressiveness as possible.

### Motion

Insert into RoPS

The Green Party recognises funding of Local Authorities should be assessed and determined as local as possible.

The current system of Council Tax is inherently unfair to low income households.

The Green Party supports utilising the available option of a referendum to increase Council Tax much beyond the government’s excessiveness threshold. This is to be done in conjunction with a funding policy from a Local Authority’s General Fund and/or via the Council Tax Reduction framework to ensure low income households pay less than they did before the increase; and to provide a less regressive structure to household bills.

Additional Council Tax discounts are also encouraged for households investing in environmental improvements.

This policy applies until Council Tax is abolished.

## OO3 REVISING THE SECONDING PROCESS

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Section D, Part 8, subsection e) – ambiguous.

These amendments to SOCC’s need a significant amount of additional work to ensure the changes will have any kind of impact, as it stands – it only

amends section C, and not Section D of SOCC’s. Due to this, it would create confusion, and potentially still allow 4 individual members to be the proposers of a motion.

*Proposed by: Benali Hamdache (\*\*), Sam Riches, Dave Plummer, Ida Holmane, Paul Cohen, Lewis Coyne, Mark Burkwood, Charlene Concepcion, Thom French*

Synopsis:

The policy process requires limited garnering of support from members. With only 4 signatures and perhaps only 100 votes at conference, a motion only has to demonstrate support from less than 1% of members. This motion seeks to make policy demonstrate wider engagement and peer review before it reaches conference

Therefore this motion would amend

### Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference

changing Section C Part 3:

Section C: Pre-Agenda

3. Following discussion, proposers must re-submit motions by the First Agenda deadline. Re-submitted motions may be identical to the original versions or substantially revised, but they must be on the same topic. They must be signed by the same body of the Party as previously, or by any four individual members, including the proposer of the original motion.

to

3. Following discussion, proposers must re-submit motions by the First Agenda deadline. Re-submitted motions may be identical to the original versions or substantially revised, but they must be on the same topic. They must be signed by either:

20 seconders OR 10 Seconders (including the proposer of the original motion)

or a majority vote of approval from:

Your Regional Party

2 Local Parties (AND/OR) 3 Local Parties

From GPex, GPRC or Policy Committee

From a list of self organising groups in the party - LGBTIQ Greens, Young Greens, GEM, Green Party Women.

### Amendment 1

Proposed with the original motion.

Delete “20” from the seconders provision of part 3 and replace with “10.

### Amendment 2

Proposed with the original motion

Delete “3” from the number of local parties required to support a motion and replace with “2”.

### Amendment 3

Proposed with the original motion

Delete “From a list of self organising groups in the party - LGBTIQ Greens, Young Greens, GEM, Green Party Women”

## OO4 AMENDMENT 1 TO C11 REVISION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section 8 part e (Trivial) and part f (requires no consequential action). Changes to the title and synopsis in the final agenda are trivial and do not require any consequential action, as the synopsis and title only appears in the agenda.

In the final agenda we would like the title to revert back to our original (Proposal to amend PBOO1 Philosophical Basis and Core Values: Restating our environmental/ecological credentials).

However if the title is character limited then we would prefer: “Restating the environmental credentials of our Philosophical Basis.

## OO5 AMENDMENT 2 TO C11 REVISION OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section 8 part e (Trivial) and part f (requires no consequential action). Changes to the title and synopsis in the final agenda are trivial and do not require any consequential action, as the synopsis and title only appears in the agenda.

Amend the synopsis to:

“Explicit references, including social justice, in amendments to the philosophical basis in Spring 2013, are welcome. However for some the overall changes adversely affected the position of environmental issues in our core beliefs.

Our amendments seek to rebalance those changes, restore an ecocentric focus, reduce ambiguity and retain Green politics.”

## OO6 AMENDMENT 1 TO C12 ACTIVE TRAVEL BILL FOR ENGLAND

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference, Section 8 part e (Trivial) and part f (requires no consequential action). Changes to the title and synopsis in the final agenda are trivial and do not require any consequential action, as the synopsis and title only appears in the agenda.

*Proposed by Caroline Russell, Caroline Allen, Alan Francis, Benali Handache, Sam Riches, Thomas French, Amelia Womack, Charlie Kiss.*

This amendment seeks to simplify the title to “promotion of car clubs”

## OO7 AMENDMENT 4 TO OO3 REVISING THE SECONDING PROCESS

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Section D, Part 8, subsection e) – ambiguous.

These amendments to SOCC’s do not solve all of the issues with Oo3, it fails to amend section D, part 1 paragraph 3, which still suggests a single local party could submit a motion, and there is no amendment to the process for submitting a motion when it has been approved by 2or 3 parties.

Proposed by: Benali Hamdache(\*\*), Thomas French, Siobahn MacMahon, Ida Holmane, Charlene Concepcion.

The motion should also amend Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference

Section D Part 1 to:

Motions and Draft Voting Papers may be submitted jointly by (2 OR 3) constituted Local Parties or constituted Regional Conference, by the Regional Council or Party Executive, by a constituted Committee or Working Group of the Party, or submitted and signed by (10 or 20) individual members.

No more than four motions may be submitted by any Committee, Working Group, Regional Conference or Local Party or submitted and signed by any four individual members to the First Agenda (not counting motions required of them by Standing Orders or the Constitution).

Motions submitted by a Local Party or Regional Conference must have been adopted by a properly convened meeting thereof and must be signed by three officials thereof and one Party member also present at the meeting. The signatories of motions submitted by a Committee or Working Group must include the Convenor and three other Party members. Any member may not sign more than four motions, excluding those signed by them as officials in a Local or Regional Party or on behalf of a committee or recognised Members Working Group.

Motions shall specify any amendments they seek of the Party’s Policies for a Sustainable Society. Motions and parts thereof not specified as amending the PSS will not be included therein.

With the texts of their motions, proposers shall be required to submit synopses of them, not exceeding 50 words in the case of a motion or 300 words in the case of a policy paper.

The names of signatories and a contact address shall be published with each motion. All the above regarding the adoption and signing of motions, but not their number, shall also apply to amendments to the motions.

## OO8 AMENDMENT 5 TO OO3 REVISING THE SECONDING PROCESS

This is ruled out of order on the basis of Section D, Part 8, subsection e) – ambiguous.

These amendments to SOCC’s do not solve all of the issues with Oo3, this infers that under the proposed process SOC may not propose motions to conference what so ever, this is despite the express provision in Section D part 3 of the standing orders for the conduct of conference.

Proposed by: Benali Hamdache(\*\*), Thomas French, Siobahn MacMahon, Ida Holmane, Charlene Concepcion.

The list of self organising groups recognised as being able to submit policy should also include GPTU.

So that the motion now states:

From a list of self organising groups in the party - LGBTIQ Greens, Young Greens, GEM, Green Party Women & GPTU



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## APPENDIX 1 – CURRENT OPENING OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

### Statement of Core Principles

PB001 A system based on inequality and exploitation is threatening the future of the planet on which we depend, and encouraging reckless and environmentally damaging consumerism.

A world based on cooperation and democracy would prioritise the many, not the few, and would not risk the planet's future with environmental destruction and unsustainable consumption.

The Green Party isn't just another political party. Green politics is a new and radical kind of politics guided by these core principles:

1. The Green Party is a party of social and environmental justice, which supports a radical transformation of society for the benefit of all, and for the planet as a whole. We understand that the threats to economic, social and environmental wellbeing are part of the same problem, and recognise that solving one of these crises cannot be achieved without solving the others.
2. Humankind depends on the diversity of the natural world for its existence. We do not believe that other species are expendable.
3. The Earth's physical resources are finite. We threaten our future if we try to live beyond those means, so we must build a sustainable society that guarantees our long-term future.
4. Every person, in this and future generations, should be entitled to basic material security as of right.
5. Our actions should take account of the well-being of other nations, other species, and future generations. We should not pursue our well-being to the detriment of theirs.
6. A healthy society is based on voluntary co-operation between empowered individuals in a democratic society, free from

discrimination whether based on race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, religion, social origin or any other prejudice.

7. We emphasise democratic participation and accountability by ensuring that decisions are taken at the closest practical level to those affected by them.
8. We look for non-violent solutions to conflict situations, which take into account the interests of minorities and future generations in order to achieve lasting settlements.
9. The success of a society cannot be measured by narrow economic indicators, but should take account of factors affecting the quality of life for all people: personal freedom, social equity, health, happiness and human fulfilment.
10. 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.

## APPENDIX 2: DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR COMPLAINTS AND PARTY DISCIPLINE PROCESSES.

### GPRC: Consultation Draft Proposals for :

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

#### 1. The Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) Complaints Committee

- 1.1 The GPEW shall have a Complaints Committee
- 1.2 The Complaints Committee will handle all complaints which have not been resolved at Regional or Branch level

#### 2. Composition and Meetings of the National Complaints Committee

- 2.1. The Complaints Committee shall consist of eleven members of the Party who are neither members

of Green Party Executive (GPEX) nor Green Party Regional Council (GPRC).

- 2.2 The members of the Complaints Committee are elected to serve a two year period.
    - 2.2a Each GPEW region shall be entitled to elect one member to the Committee.
    - 2.2b Annual Conference shall be entitled to elect one member to the Committee.
    - 2.2c If fewer than eleven members are appointed by the regions and conference then GPEX shall appoint the remaining members.
  - 2.3 GPEX shall appoint the Chairperson of the Complaints Committee from the membership of the Complaints Committee.
  - 2.4 The Complaints Committee shall meet as often as required to ensure that all complaints presented to the Complaints Committee under S.O. 3 can be considered no later than two calendar months after being presented.
    - 2.4a The minimum quorum for the Complaints Committee shall be five.
    - 2.4b The Chairperson of the Complaints Committee shall ensure that meetings are minuted.
    - 2.4c In the absence of the Chairperson the Complaints Committee the Committee shall appoint a Deputy Chairperson to act as Chairperson.
    - 2.4d Decisions of the Complaints Committee are made by a majority vote of those members attending. The Chairperson has a casting vote.
- ### 3. Complaints Procedure
- 3.1 The Complaints Committee shall consider "complaints" presented to it by the Organisational Director of the GPEW.
  - 3.2 On receipt of a complaint made in writing, the member concerned (sometimes referred to as the defendant) must be forwarded the complaint made against him/her and a copy of the complaints

procedure will be sent to him/her by the Organisational Director.

If the complaint is made verbally, the Organisational Director will request that the complainant puts his/her complaint in writing.

3.3 A 'complaint' presented from the Organisational Director is a proposal that the Complaints Committee should consider disciplinary measures against a member on one or more of the following grounds:

- i) that the member has contravened the Constitution of the Party
- ii) that the member has breached one or more of the number of Standards in the Party's Code of Conduct
- iii) that the member has brought the Party into disrepute

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

3.5 Complaints presented from the Organisational Director must be presented in a written format to the Complaints Committee Chairperson and must at a minimum specify:

- i) The Ground on which s/he proposes that the Complaints Committee should consider taking disciplinary measures:

and

- ii)
  - a) In the case of Ground 3.3 i) the clause of the Constitution that the member is alleged to have breached or contravened and the manner and circumstances in which s/he is alleged to have so done
  - b) In the case of Ground 3.3 ii) the clause(s) of the Code of Conduct that the member is alleged to

have breached and the manner and circumstances in which s/he is alleged to have done so.

- c) In the case of Ground 3.3 iii) the manner and circumstances in which s/he is alleged to have done so.

3.6 The Complaints Committee shall not consider a complaint that lacks the above minimum specifications detailed in 3.5.

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

a summary of the case against the defendant(s)

the date(s) of alleged breaches

the name(s) and local party(s) of the defendant(s)

names and contact details of witnesses

#### 4. Investigation of Complaints

4.1 Where a complaint is not dismissed under 3.6, the Complaints Committee shall consider whether there is a need to appoint investigators.

4.2 If it is felt there is such a need, then the Committee shall appoint at least two investigators from its membership to compile a report containing the evidence and circumstances behind the complaint. The Organisational Director will be notified of this.

4.3 The complainant and member concerned (the defendant) will be notified in writing by the Organisational Director of the decision to investigate.

4.4 The two investigators must make themselves known to both parties directly and make arrangements – if necessary - to meet them or talk to them at a mutually convenient time and place.

4.5 As far as practicable, the investigation report should be completed within one month of the Complaints Committee's decision to investigate. The report

and copies of any evidence and documents gathered in the course of the investigation will be sent to the Organisational Director.

4.6 The Organisational Director will simultaneously send a copy of that report to members of the Complaints Committee and the defendant and complainant, together with copies of the written complaint and copies of the original case file and of all the other evidence /documents gathered in the course of the investigation.

4.7 This investigation report shall then be presented by the investigators at the Complaint Committee's hearing of the complaint.

4.8 Any response received by the member concerned shall be presented at the Complaint Committee's hearing of the complaint.

#### 5. Date, Time and Place and Notification of a meeting of the Complaints Committee to consider a complaint

5.1 The Organisational Director must liaise with the Complaints Committee Chair to arrange the date on, time at which and place where the Complaints Committee will convene its meeting to consider the complaint.

5.2 The date should be one which is no later than two calendar months after the complaint is presented and which allows the Organisational Director to send at least fourteen working days' prior notification of the date, time and place of the meeting to the member against whom the complaint has been made.

5.3 The member against whom the complaint has been made will also be notified that:

- i) s/he will be given at least fourteen working days' notice of the date on, time at which and place where the Complaints Committee will meet to consider the complaint
- ii) s/he is invited to submit a written response to the report to the Complaints Committee Chair at GPEW HQ by 5pm three working

days before the date on which the Complaints Committee meets to consider the complaint

- iii) whether or not s/he submits a written response, s/he may attend in person on the date and the place where the Complaints Committee will meet to consider the complaint made against him/her and if s/he does so attend, s/he will be heard in person by the Committee as part of the consideration of the complaint
- iv) s/he may be accompanied by another Party member to assist him/her in explaining his/her position to the Complaints Committee.

5.4 The Organisational Director must send that notification to the defendant and provide a copy of the notification to the Chair of the Complaints Committee.

## 6. Processing of a complaint by the Complaints Committee

6.1 The quorum for Complaints Committee meetings is five excluding the investigators. The investigators will not be allowed to take part in the deliberation.

6.2 The Complaints Committee must take into account any response submitted in good time by the defendant.

6.3 If the defendant attends the Complaints Committee, the Complaints Committee will hear that member in person as part of the consideration of the complaint and if the defendant has brought another member of the Party to assist him/her in presenting his/her case to the Complaints Committee that other member will be permitted to assist (see 5.4iv).

6.4 If the Complaints Committee so wishes, the Organisational Director may be asked to be present in an advisory capacity. However s/he will not take part in the deliberations at the hearing of the complaint.

6.5 Where the complaint brought by the Organisational Director has originated in information being brought to his/her attention by another member (the complainant

), the Chair of the Complaints Committee may invite that member to attend the meeting at which the complaint is considered and give evidence to that meeting.

6.6 The Complaints Committee will normally reach its decisions by consensus.

However, in the event of failure to arrive at consensus majority voting shall apply.

6.7 If the Complaints Committee finds the Ground of the complaint to be not established it shall dismiss the complaint.

6.8 If the Complaints Committee finds the Ground of the complaint to be established it shall, taking reasonable account of all the circumstances, impose one of the three disciplinary measures of: censure, suspension for a fixed period or expulsion. In exceptional circumstances where the Complaints Committee does not consider it would be fair to impose any disciplinary measure it may determine to discharge the complaint.

6.9 Where the Complaints Committee imposes a suspension of three months or less, it shall be open to the Complaints Committee to direct that the suspension shall not come into effect before the latter of:

- i) the time having passed for the presenting of any appeal without any appeal having been presented

or

- ii) the dismissal of any appeal presented

6.10 The Complaints Committee's decision as regards any disciplinary measure shall have immediate effect (subject to a deferral direction in the case of suspension) and be final and binding subject only to the defendant's right of appeal to GPRC.

6.11 The Complaints Committee Chair shall report the decision to the Organisational Director and to the member. In a case where the decision is one of censure, suspension or expulsion the

Complaints Committee Chair's report to the member concerned shall advise him/her that s/he has the right of appeal to GPRC and that s/he may exercise that right by informing his/her intention to do so to the Organisational Director within twenty-one working days.

6.12 Any decision of suspension or expulsion of the member shall have the effect of suspending his/her membership of or expelling him/her from any Party group at any level of government of which s/he is a member and it is the Organisational Director's responsibility to inform the Secretary of the relevant group of a decision to suspend or expel and its effect.

6.13 The Organisational Director shall report all decisions of censure, suspension and expulsion to the next meeting of GPRC and to the next National Conference

## 7. Appeals

The Green Party Regional Council shall act as the appeals body

7.1 The Defendant may have a right of appeal against a Complaint Committee's decision. A Complainant has no right of appeal.

7.2 A member who has been censured, suspended or expelled by the National Complaints Committee has the right to appeal to GPRC and may exercise that right by placing that intention in writing to the Organisational Director within twenty-one working days of the National Complaints Committee Chair's report of the results of the hearing of the case to the Organisational Director.

7.3 Appeals may only be pursued on one or more of the following grounds:

That on the information before the National Complaints Committee it was unreasonable for the Complaints Committee to find the Ground of the complaint to be established.

- ii) That there is relevant, reliable, and significant information that



was not before the Complaints Committee that would have been likely to cause the Complaints Committee to find that the Ground of the complaint was not established.

iii) That the Complaints Committee's consideration of the complaint was procedurally unfair to the member to a significant extent.

7.4 The Organisational Director must acknowledge a member's intention to appeal and advise him/her of the four Grounds on which appeal may be sought and require the member to give written notification (the appeal statement) to the Organisational Director within twenty-one working days of the one or more Grounds on which s/he wishes to appeal and, in the cases of 6ii) and iii) respectively, of the information referred to and/or the respects in which the member considers the Complaints Committee's consideration to have been procedurally unfair.

7.5 On receipt of the appeal statement the Organisational Director shall refer it to the Co-Chairs of GPRC.

7.6 Thereafter one of the GPRC Co-Chairs (the Appeals Co-Chair) shall communicate with the member through the Organisational Director as regards the arrangements for the GPRC meeting at which the appeal will be heard and for the prior exchanging of documents and lists of witnesses intended to be brought to the meeting. The member, if s/he wishes, shall be entitled to bring another member of the Party to the meeting to assist him/her appeal and shall be advised of that right in the communications with him/her regarding the arrangements for the meeting.

7.7 The GPRC Appeals Co-Chair shall seek to achieve that the meeting to consider the appeal be the next GPRC meeting as far as is practicable and if that is not practicable then the very next and subsequent meeting of GPRC. This is subject to both the member and the Organisational Director receiving at least fourteen

working days' notice of the date, time and place fixed and of his/her right to attend and bring relevant documents and witnesses.

7.8 If no Ground of appeal is upheld by GPRC, it shall be dismissed.

7.9 If the appeal is upheld by GPRC, then the Complaint Committee's decision to impose a disciplinary measure will either be overruled and the original complaint dismissed or a lesser disciplinary measure imposed.

7.10 The GPRC Appeals Co-Chair shall arrange for the decision to be reported to the member and to the Organisational Director. The GPRC appeal decision shall be final and binding and not subject to further appeal.

7.11 A GPRC decision that itself imposes suspension on a member shall have the effect of suspending his/her membership from any Party group at any level of government of which s/he is a member and it is the Organisational Director's responsibility to inform the Secretary of the relevant groups of a decision to suspend or expel and its effect.

7.12 It shall be the responsibility of the Organisational Director to formally report the appeal decision to the next National Conference.

*Presented on behalf of GPRC by Mike Shone, GPRC Co-Chair (mike.shone@talktalk.net)*

