

**REGIONAL CONSTITUTION**  
**- LONDON LIBERAL DEMOCRATS -**

**ARTICLE 1: NATURE AND OBJECTIVES**

1.1. The name of the Regional Party shall be the: "London Liberal Democrats".

1.2. The area of the Regional Party shall be the Greater London administrative area, the area governed by the Greater London Authority ("the GLA").

1.3. The Regional Party is the successor to the London Liberal Party and the London Regional Council of the Social Democratic Party.

1.4. The objectives of the Regional Party shall be:

(a) to seek to achieve the objectives set forth in the Preamble to the Party Constitution;

(b) for that purpose, to secure the election of Members of Parliament from constituencies in the Region and of members & Mayors of local and other authorities in the Region, including the GLA;

(c) to participate in the formulation of party policy and to play a full part in the democratic processes of the Party;

(d) to play a full part in the campaigning activity of the Party at all levels;

(e) to assist Local Parties and recognised Council Groups within the Region; and

(f) to promote diversity of cultures within the Party and to represent the interests of under-represented groups in the Region.

1.5. In furtherance of its objectives, the Regional Party shall exercise the powers and fulfil the duties conferred upon Regional Parties by the Party Constitution in the manner specified in this constitution, and shall also undertake such other functions as the Local Parties in the Region may vest in the Regional Party.

1.6. In this constitution:

"The Articles of the Party in England" means the Constitution of the Party in England;

"The Regional Party" means the body governed by this constitution, its members being the members of the Party in the area of the Region;

"The Region" means the Greater London administrative area, the area governed by the GLA;

"The Party" means the Liberal Democrats;

"The Party in England" means the Liberal Democrats in England;

"The Party Constitution" means the Federal Constitution and the Constitution of the Party in England;

"Subcommittee" means a committee of the Regional Executive whose members are elected by the Regional Executive. It excludes those committees whose chair/s and/or members are directly elected by the Regional Party;

"The Greater London Authority" and "the GLA" means the Mayor of London and the London Assembly; and

"recognised Council Group" means a Council Group on a Local Authority which has been

recognised in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 8 of the Constitution of the Party in England.

All terms defined in the Party Constitution shall have the same meaning in this constitution.

## **ARTICLE 2: THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

2.1. A Regional Conference shall be held not less than once in each year. Subject to the provisions of this constitution and of the Party Constitution, the Regional Conference shall be the sovereign representative body of the Regional Party. One meeting of the Regional Conference shall be held in October or November each year and shall also be the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Party.

2.2. The business of the Regional Conference shall be:

- (a) to receive a report from the Chair on the activities of the Regional Party and the Regional Executive and representatives elected either by Conference or the membership of the Regional Party to other bodies since the previous Conference;
- (b) to receive reports from the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons and the House of Lords (the House of Commons report to be given by members representing Westminster Constituencies within the Region) and from representatives of the Party serving on the GLA;
- (c) to make policy on issues which relate exclusively to the Region;
- (d) to discuss and express its views upon other policy issues on a consultative basis; and
- (e) to submit motions and amendments including proposals to amend the Party Constitution to the Federal Conference and to the English Council.

2.3. In addition to the ordinary business of the Regional Conference, the Annual General Meeting shall:

- (a) receive, consider and, if thought fit, approve the accounts of the Regional Party for the previous financial year together with the auditors' report or an independent examiner's report on those accounts;
- (b) receive a report from the Treasurer on the financial affairs of the Regional Party for the year to date together with an outline budget for the following year; and
- (c) appoint for the current financial year (i) Auditors, if required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, or (ii) a person or persons to produce an independent examiner's report on the accounts for the next Annual General Meeting.

2.4. The Regional Conference shall (on the proposal of the Regional Conference Committee) adopt Standing Orders for the conduct of Conference, to be effective from the 2024 AGM. These Standing Orders shall provide for not less than 21 days written notice of the date, time and place of each and every Conference to be given to all voting members of the Regional Conference and to all Local Parties within the Region.

2.5. All members of the Regional Party shall be voting members of the Regional Conference.

2.6. Motions for the Regional Conference may be submitted by any ten members of the Regional Party, any Party member serving as an elected Member of Parliament representing a constituency in the Region, any recognised Council Group in the Region, any Party member serving as an elected Member of the London Assembly, any Party member serving as an elected Mayor in the Region, any Local Party in the Region, any Affiliated Organisation, or by the Regional Executive or the Regional Policy Committee; provided that none of them may submit more than two motions for any one meeting of the Regional Conference.

2.7. Special meetings of the Regional Conference may be summoned on the requisition of:

- (a) the Regional Executive;
- (b) a majority of Local Parties within the Region; or

- (c) one-twentieth of the number of members entitled to attend as voting members.

The requisition must specify the business to be conducted, and no other business shall be taken at the meeting.

2.8. The Regional Executive may postpone any meeting of the Regional Conference if it conflicts with a General Election or for other urgent reason/s, as so determined by the Executive.

2.9. There shall be a Regional Conference Committee, which shall comprise the Chair of the Regional Conference Committee (who shall be one of the Officers of the Regional Party elected in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution), the Chair of the Regional Policy Committee, a Young Liberals representative (as elected per clause 4.2d), and not more than 6 other members elected by the Regional Executive. Subject to direction by the Regional Executive on matters of finance, the Regional Conference Committee shall be responsible to the Conference for:

- (a) the organisation of the meetings of the Regional Conference;
- (b) the preparation of Standing Orders for the Regional Conference, subject to the approval of the Conference;
- (c) determining in consultation with the Policy Committee, subject to the Standing Orders, the business to be transacted at each meeting of the Regional Conference, including the selection of motions and reports for debate; and
- (d) promoting the Regional Conference and encouraging attendance at Regional Conference by members of the Regional Party.

### **ARTICLE 3: THE OFFICERS**

3.1. The Officers of the Regional Party shall be:

Firstly, Officers elected by the Regional Party:

- (a) the President of the Regional Party;
- (b) the Chair of the Regional Party;
- (c) the Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee;
- (d) the Chair of the Regional Conference Committee;
- (e) the Chair of the Regional Policy Committee; and

Secondly, Officers elected by and from the Regional Executive:

- (f) the Vice-Chair of the Regional Party;
- (g) the Secretary of the Regional Party;
- (h) the Chair of the Regional Local Parties, Membership and Council Groups Subcommittee;
- (i) the Chair of the Regional Campaigns Subcommittee;

Thirdly, Officers elected by the Regional Executive from the wider Regional Party:

- (j) the Treasurer of the Regional Party;
- (k) the Chair of the Regional Fundraising Subcommittee; and
- (l) the Regional Equity, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer ('Diversity Champion').

In practice, Subcommittees may style themselves as 'committees', e.g., the Regional Campaigns Subcommittee may be styled as: 'the Regional Campaigns Committee'.

3.2 The President of the Regional Party shall chair the Regional Conference (save insofar as provision is made in accordance with the Conference Standing Orders for some other person to chair all or part of the Conference) and shall be a public representative of the Regional Party.

3.3. The Chair of the Regional Party shall chair the Regional Conference when the President of the Regional Party is not in the chair (save insofar as provision is made in accordance with the Conference Standing Orders for some other person to chair all or part of the Conference). The Chair of the Regional Party shall chair all meetings of the Regional Executive and shall have a casting vote at such meetings; shall be the Regional Party's representative on the English Council Executive; shall be jointly responsible with the Treasurer of the Regional Party for the Regional Party's compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and will be supported/advised in this regard by the Scrutiny Committee; and shall be the Regional Party's principal executive officer.

3.4. The Vice-Chair of the Regional Party shall deputise for the Chair as and when required, and when chairing the Regional Executive shall have a casting vote; and shall exercise such other functions as may be prescribed by the Regional Executive.

3.5. The Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee shall, together with the Regional Candidates Committee, be responsible for the exercise under the Party Constitution of the Regional Party's functions in connection with the approval and selection of Parliamentary candidates; candidates for the Greater London Authority, directly-elected mayors, and other directly-elected public posts where the electorate comprises more than a single parliamentary constituency. The Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee shall be the Regional Party's member on the English Candidates Committee.

3.6. The Chair of the Regional Policy Committee shall, together with the Regional Policy Committee, be responsible for the development of Regional Party policy and for promoting the involvement of members of the Regional Party in the development of Party policy.

3.7. The Chair of the Regional Conference Committee shall, together with the Regional Conference Committee, be responsible for arranging the meetings of the Regional Conference, subject to the Standing Orders of the Regional Conference, and for maintaining a record of its proceedings and decisions taken.

3.8. The Secretary of the Regional Party shall be responsible for arranging the meetings of the Regional Executive and keeping minutes thereof, and for the Regional Party's communications with Local Parties and other bodies within the Party. The Secretary, in close cooperation with the Scrutiny Committee and the LPC, shall act as the first point of contact for constitutional uncertainties or internal governance-related matters which may arise out of the daily activities of the Regional Executive and its subcommittees.

3.9. The Treasurer of the Regional Party shall handle the financial business of the Regional Party in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and shall present the annual accounts and outline budget to the Annual General Meeting.

3.10. The Regional Officers shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice of meetings to all Officers, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting

#### **ARTICLE 4: THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

4.1. The Regional Executive shall be responsible, subject to the authority of the Regional Conference and in compliance with the Party Constitution and with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, for directing, coordinating and implementing the work of the Regional Party. The Regional Executive shall develop, maintain and implement a strategic plan for the Regional Party.

4.2. The members of the Regional Executive shall be:

(a) the Officers elected by the membership of the Regional Party (specifically, those Officers listed in Article 3.1 (a) to (e), inclusive);

(b) a minimum of fifteen Ordinary Members elected by the membership of the Regional Party, from whose number the Officers elected by and from the Regional Executive (specifically, those Officers listed in Article 3.1 (f) to (i), inclusive) shall be chosen at its first meeting following the election of a new Regional Executive, thus reducing the number of Ordinary Members on the Regional Executive by the same number;

- (c) The Officers elected by the Regional Executive from the wider Regional Party (specifically, those Officers listed in Article 3.1 (j) to (l), inclusive) who shall be chosen by the Regional Executive at its first meeting following the election of a new Regional Executive;
- (d) the elected Chair of the London Young Liberals, or another representative chosen by the London Young Liberals as determined by their own internal procedures. The Chair of the London Young Liberals, or other representative chosen by the London Young Liberals, may nominate a substitute if unable to attend a Regional Executive meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair of the Regional Party;
- (e) one member elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons representing constituencies in the Region. The elected member may nominate a substitute if unable to attend a Regional Executive meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair of the Regional Party;
- (f) one member elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords. The elected member may nominate a substitute if unable to attend a Regional Executive meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair of the Regional Party;
- (g) one member elected by and from Members of the Liberal Democrat Group on the GLA. The elected member may nominate a substitute if unable to attend a Regional Executive meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair of the Regional Party;
- (h) one representative of the Party's elected members serving on principal local authorities in the Region, elected biennially from among their own number. This elected councillor representative must not be either an existing Officer nor Ordinary Member of the Regional Executive. If they are either an Officer or Ordinary Member but wish to serve as the elected councillor representative, they must first relinquish their existing position. The elected councillor representative may nominate a substitute if unable to attend a Regional Executive meeting, subject to the consent of the Chair of the Regional Party; and
- (i) up to three additional members to be co-opted by the Regional Executive. Co-opted members shall have the same rights as elected members, including voting rights. The power of co-option shall be used, among other things, to ensure that there is fair representation of under-represented communities in the Region, taking into account race, religion, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation and that this would create a composition of the Regional Executive that reflects the community within the Region.

4.3. The directly-elected Officers (specifically, those Officers listed in Article 3.1 (a) to (e), inclusive) and the fifteen Ordinary Members shall be elected biennially by all the members of the Regional Party. Any vacancy occurring among the Ordinary Members (not including any reduction in their number caused by an Ordinary Member's election to an Officer position as detailed in Article 4.2(b)) may be filled by the Regional Executive.

4.4. A candidate for election as an Officer of the Regional Party or Ordinary Member of the Regional Executive must be a member of the Regional Party at the date when nominations close. In the case of the Treasurer, if the post cannot be filled from the membership of the Regional Party, the Regional Executive can elect a Treasurer from the wider membership of the Party in England.

4.5. In the biennial Regional Party-wide elections detailed in Articles 3 & 4, no person may be elected to hold more than one office, or be elected to be both an Officer and an Ordinary Member of the Regional Executive. Elections for Officers shall be counted in the order listed in Article 3.1 of this constitution, and for Ordinary Members after Officers. Any votes cast for candidates already elected to office shall be transferred to the voter's subsequent preferences.

4.6. The term of office of the Officers and all other members of the Regional Executive shall be from 1st January following the biennial Regional Party-wide elections until 31st December of the following year, save that the both the Secretary and Treasurer of the Regional Party shall remain in post until the first meeting of the new Regional Executive can elect their successors as detailed in Article 4.2(b) and (c), respectively, regardless of whether the Secretary of the Regional Party is re-elected to the Regional Executive in the preceding biennial Regional Party-wide elections.

- (a) Members of the Regional Executive shall be eligible for re-election, save that the

Chair of the Regional Party shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

(b) In accordance with Article 4.2(b) and (c) above, following the biennial Regional Party-wide elections detailed herein, at its first meeting in the year following those biennial elections, the Regional Executive shall elect those Officers listed in Article 3.1 (f) to (l), inclusive.

(c) The Regional Executive may remove any of the persons thus elected (in 4.6.(b)) following any breach of the member's Code of Conduct, or the Code of Conduct of the Regional Executive, as may be established following investigation and due process. The Regional Executive may also remove any of the persons thus elected should they fail to participate effectively or appropriately in their roles, again as may be established following investigation and due process. Apart from the case of a breach of the member's Code of Conduct, the investigation/s shall be conducted by the Scrutiny Committee prior to a confirmatory vote by the Regional Executive, should the Scrutiny Committee make such a recommendation for removal. If a member of the Scrutiny Committee is the subject of the investigation, they shall have no role in the investigation and the other members shall conduct the investigation on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee.

(d) Any vacancy occurring among the Officers may be filled by the Regional Executive, with any such filling of a vacancy for the offices listed under 3.1(a)-3.1(e) also subject to a confirmatory vote at the next Annual General Meeting. Should the position of Chair of the Regional Party become vacant, it shall be filled from the Officers. If more than one Officer wishes to stand, there will be an election by members of the Regional Executive. Any other vacancy may be filled from any member of the Regional Party. In the event the Annual General Meeting votes not to confirm any Officer appointed by the Regional Executive to fill a casual vacancy in the offices listed under 3.1(a)-3.1(e), that office shall be immediately vacated with the vacancy then being advertised to invite fresh applications and subsequently filled following a full ballot of Regional Party members (unless the Annual General Meeting which votes not to confirm such an appointed Officer occurs immediately prior to or concurrently with an election for a new Regional Executive, in which case the office shall remain vacant for the remainder of the outgoing Regional Executive's term of office). During any period when the office of Chair of the Regional Party is vacant, the Vice-Chair of the Regional Party shall be Acting Chair and, as such, required and able to exercise full powers and responsibilities of the Chair of Regional Party under this constitution, the Party Constitutions and relevant law, including being jointly responsible with the Treasurer for the Regional Party's compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

4.7. Within seven days of the conclusion of the Regional Party-wide elections, the Returning Officer shall send a list of the names and addresses of all Officers to the Chair of the Party in England and to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party. The Secretary shall send details of any later change of Officers to the Chair of the Party in England and to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party within seven days of such changes occurring.

4.8. The Regional Executive shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice of meetings to all members of the Regional Executive, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting. The agenda for each ordinary meeting of the Regional Executive shall include reports from each Regional Officer and from each subcommittee of the Regional Executive. Where there is new business to report, there shall also be reports from one of the regional representatives on each of the following: the English Council, the English Council Executive, and the English Candidates Committee. Both the Chair of the Regional Party and the Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee may make such reports within their Officers reports, if considered to be appropriate/necessary.

4.9. A special meeting of the Regional Executive shall be convened by the Secretary at the request of the Chair of the Regional Party or one-third of the members of the Regional Executive, to deal with the business specified in the notice of requisition.

4.10. One third of the voting members of the Regional Executive shall form a quorum. A meeting may continue without a quorum if no member present objects. Any member may within one week of despatch of the minutes of any such meeting require the reference to the next meeting of any decision taken in the absence of a quorum.

4.11. The Regional Executive shall have power to make, and from time to time revise, Standing

Orders for the conduct of its business. Such Standing Orders shall provide that:

(a) if any member of the Executive or of any committee of the Executive has any pecuniary interest direct or indirect in any contract, proposed contract or other matter, that member shall declare that interest and shall withdraw from the meeting while the contract, proposed contract or other matter is under consideration, unless the Executive, after the member has declared their interest, invites them to remain;

(b) if a dispute regarding any Local Party or any Council Group is the subject of debate at any meeting of the Executive or any subcommittee thereof, any member of that Local Party or Council Group (as the case may be) or anyone directly or indirectly involved in the dispute shall withdraw from the meeting while such a dispute is under debate, unless the Executive or the relevant committee invites them to remain; and

(c) there shall be a procedure for a vote of no confidence in the Officers or members of the Executive in cases of negligence, incompetence, or incapacitation.

4.12. In urgent circumstances the Officers may act on behalf of the Regional Executive. They shall report on such actions to the next meeting of the Regional Executive.

4.13. The Regional Executive shall appoint a member of the Regional Party who is not and has not within the preceding year been a member of the Regional Executive or of the Regional Candidates Committee to be a member of the English Appeals Panel.

## **ARTICLE 5: SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

5.1. The Regional Executive shall establish such additional subcommittees or working groups as it shall consider appropriate from time to time to carry out the work of the Regional Party, and may assign special responsibilities to any of its members, including duties which would otherwise pertain to one of the Officers. The Regional Executive may also delegate authority to committees jointly constituted with other regional parties for particular purposes. No committee, subcommittee, working group or individual member shall take action on behalf of the Regional Executive beyond their terms of appointment. All committees of the Regional Executive, subcommittees and working groups shall report on their activities to the Regional Executive.

5.2. The Regional Executive shall elect a chair (who shall be a member of the Regional Executive) and the members of all subcommittees of the Regional Executive. Each subcommittee should have a minimum of six members, including the subcommittee Chairs - except for the Scrutiny Committee, which shall have four members. All members of all committees, subcommittees and working groups and all the Regional Party's representatives on committees jointly constituted with other regional parties shall, save as expressly provided to the contrary in this constitution, be members of the Regional Party.

5.3. The standing subcommittees of the Regional Executive shall include a Regional Campaigns Subcommittee, a Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee, a Regional Local Parties, Membership and Council Groups Subcommittee, and a Regional Fundraising Subcommittee.

5.4. **There shall be a Regional Campaigns Subcommittee** of the Regional Executive, which shall be responsible to the Regional Executive for:

(a) the stimulation and co-ordination of campaigning and publicity activities within the Region;

(b) the undertaking of regional campaigns and the monitoring of the joint arrangements made by the relevant Local Parties for campaigning in elections to principal local authorities covering more than one Local Party;

(c) the management of Regional Election campaigns for the GLA

(d) the encouragement of Local Parties to coordinate campaigning for Parliamentary and local elections and between elections;

- (e) the promotion of the political image of the Party within the Region;
- (f) providing and coordinating assistance to Local Parties for Parliamentary and local elections;
- (g) training prospective candidates and other members in the Region, except training functions which fall within the terms of reference of the Candidates Committee; and
- (h) liaison in respect of these matters with appropriate Affiliated Organisations.

5.5. The Campaigns Subcommittee shall meet a minimum of six times a year.

5.6. **There shall be a Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee** of the Regional Executive (commonly known, and referred to elsewhere in this constitution, as the ‘Scrutiny Committee’), which shall comprise the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Regional Party and one other Regional Executive member, elected by and from the Regional Executive. The Regional Executive shall appoint a chair of the Scrutiny Committee from amongst its members, except that the Treasurer may not act as its chair, save when the Scrutiny Committee acts as a finance committee, i.e. considers matters outlined in (a) to (g) (below), when it may be chaired by the Treasurer. It shall be responsible to the Regional Executive for:

- (a) ensuring the compliance of the Regional Party with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;
- (b) the planning and administration of the budget and finances of the Regional Party, in accordance with Article 8 of this constitution;
- (c) consideration of the accounts of the Regional Party, and the submission of regular financial reports to the Regional Executive;
- (d) the submission of estimates of income and expenditure for approval by the Regional Executive;
- (e) oversight of the raising of funds for the purposes of the Regional Party in accordance with the fundraising and data protection policies of the Party;
- (f) negotiations with the English Council Executive on the proportion of subscription income to be remitted to the Regional Party;
- (g) the preparation, and submission to the Federal Conference Committee, of business motions for the Federal Conference - subject to approval by the Regional Executive;
- (h) the oversight of matters related to good governance that arise within the Regional Executive, in cooperation with the Regional Secretary.
- (i) oversight of the appointment, dismissal and terms and conditions of staff;
- (j) oversight of the general administration of the Regional Party including the activities of its staff; and
- (k) oversight of the provision and maintenance of office accommodation and equipment.

5.7. The Scrutiny Committee shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The Regional Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice of meetings to all members of the subcommittee, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting. In the case of urgency, the Scrutiny Committee Chair, Treasurer, or the Chair of the Regional Party may call an extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee without the requirement to give seven days' notice.

5.8 **There shall be a Regional Local Parties, Membership and Council Groups Subcommittee** of the Regional Executive (commonly known, and referred to elsewhere in this constitution, as the ‘Local Parties Committee’ or ‘LPC’ of the Regional Party). The Regional Executive shall elect its Chair (who shall be one of the Officers of the Regional Party elected in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution) and six other members, at least half of whom shall be members of the Regional Executive, at least one of whom shall be a member or a former member of the Regional Candidates Committee, and at least one of whom shall be a person who is or has within the preceding four years been a councillor on a principal local authority. The powers and



responsibilities of the LPC of the Regional Party shall be as set out in Article 7.

**5.9. There shall be a Regional Fundraising Subcommittee** of the Regional Executive, which shall comprise the Chair of the Regional Fundraising Subcommittee (who shall be one of the Officers of the Regional Party elected in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution) elected by the Regional Executive. The Treasurer shall be a member of this committee. The Regional Executive shall elect not more than four other members from the Regional Executive.

The subcommittee's work may be supplemented by further volunteers, who must be members of the Regional Party.

5.10. The Regional Fundraising Subcommittee shall be responsible for:

- (a) the undertaking and coordination of fundraising within the Region;
- (b) developing, maintaining and deepening relationships with major donors;
- (c) the appropriate coordination of/liaison with Regional committees, Executive Officers & members in order to facilitate effective fundraising; and
- (d) the encouragement of Local Parties to actively fundraise, providing support where practicable.

5.11. The Regional Fundraising Subcommittee shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The Regional Fundraising Subcommittee Chair shall give at least seven days' notice of meetings to all members of the committee, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE 6: OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE REGIONAL PARTY**

**6.1. There shall be a Regional Candidates Committee** (commonly known, and referred to elsewhere in this constitution, as 'the Candidates Committee'), which shall comprise the Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee, who shall be an Officer of the Regional Party elected in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution, and 6 other members elected by all members of the Regional Party. The Regional Candidates Committee may co-opt up to three additional members and shall use its power of co-option to ensure that the members of the Candidates Committee include at least one member who has contested a Parliamentary, Greater London Authority, or European Parliamentary election on behalf of the Party within the previous ten years, at least one member who is an approved parliamentary Candidates Assessor and at least one member who is a fully trained and accredited Returning Officer for parliamentary selections.

6.2. The Candidates Committee shall exercise the Regional Party's powers and duties under the Party Constitution in relation to the approval and selection of candidates for Parliamentary elections, directly-elected mayors, and other directly-elected public posts where the electorate comprises more than a single parliamentary constituency. The committee will carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the rules, policies and procedures agreed by the English Candidates Committee.

6.3. The Candidates Committee shall, if English Candidates Committee has delegated this function to regional parties, determine applications to the Regional Party for inclusion in the Lists of Approved Candidates for Parliamentary elections and in any event shall exercise all the functions of the Regional Party relating to the approval of Parliamentary candidates, directly-elected mayors, and other directly-elected public posts where the electorate comprises more than a single parliamentary constituency.

6.4. Any applicant to the Regional Party whose application is refused may request to be reassessed and/or may appeal under the Party Constitution.

6.5. The Chair of the Regional Candidates Committee shall appoint Returning Officers for the selection of prospective Parliamentary candidates, Greater London Authority elections, directly-elected mayors, and other directly-elected public posts where the electorate comprises more than a single parliamentary constituency. The Candidates Committee shall decide whether a selection should proceed where sufficient applicants of each sex are not forthcoming or withdraw following the composition of the short-list. The Candidates Committee shall undertake all other functions of the Regional Party under the rules for the selection and adoption of prospective Parliamentary

candidates, Greater London Authority elections, directly-elected mayors, and other directly-elected public posts where the electorate comprises more than a single parliamentary constituency. In particular, the Candidates Committee shall decide, in accordance with the policy decided by the English Candidates Committee or in case of disagreement, whether a new selection should be held as a result of boundary changes substantially affecting a constituency.

6.6. The Candidates Committee shall prepare for approval by the Regional Executive rules for the selection of candidates for Greater London Authority elections, including the selection of the Party's candidate for Mayor of London. Such rules shall provide for the selection to be by a ballot in which all members of the Party in the relevant electoral area are sent ballot papers by electronic mail, where possible and allowable - and in all other cases by post.

6.7. The Candidates Committee may make recommendations to Local Parties within the Regional Party for procedures to be followed for the approval and selection of candidates for local government elections, and shall exercise any functions in respect of such approvals and selections which Local Parties wish to delegate to the Candidates Committee.

6.8. The Candidates Committee shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The committee Chair shall give at least seven days' notice of meetings to all members of the committee, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting. In the case of urgency, the Candidates Committee Chair may call an extraordinary meeting of the Candidates Committee without the requirement to give seven days' notice.

6.9. The Candidates Committee shall report on its activities to the Regional Executive and to the Regional Conference, but it shall not be open to the Regional Executive or Conference to vary or reverse decisions taken by the Candidates Committee on matters delegated by this Constitution to the Candidates Committee. In event of any dispute between the Candidates Committee and the Regional Executive then the matter will be referred to the English Candidates Committee for adjudication.

6.10. **There shall be a Regional Conference Committee**, which shall be comprised in accordance Article 2.9.

6.11. **There shall be a Regional Policy Committee**, which shall comprise the Chair of the Regional Policy Committee (who shall be one of the Officers of the Region elected in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Constitution), a Young Liberals representative (as elected per clause 4.2d), and not more than six other members elected by the Regional Executive, at least half of whom shall be members of the Regional Executive.

6.12. The Regional Policy Committee shall be responsible for:

- (a) the formulation of party policy on issues relating exclusively to the Region, for presentation to the Regional Conference, after having consulted with key stakeholders (including all relevant Party staff, both those with a campaigns remit and those with a policy focus, whether employed (directly or indirectly) by the Regional Party itself, Local Parties in the Region, members of the Party who hold elected office in the Region, Affiliated Organisations, the Party in England, or the Party itself);
- (b) preparing policy proposals on other issues relating primarily to the Region, and reporting to the Regional Conference on these and other policy issues, after having consulted with key stakeholders (including all relevant Party staff, both those with a campaigns remit and those with a policy focus, whether employed (directly or indirectly) by the Regional Party itself, Local Parties in the Region, members of the Party who hold elected office in the Region, Affiliated Organisations, the Party in England, or the Party itself);
- (c) actively promoting consultation within the Region on the development of policy by the Federal Policy Committee;
- (d) the consideration of policy proposals on which the Regional Party is consulted by the Federal Policy Committee, and the submission of policy proposals to that committee;
- (e) the preparation and submission to the Federal Conference Committee of policy motions for the Federal Conference;

- (f) the expression of the initial views of the Regional Party on topical issues;
- (g) if so instructed by the Regional Executive, the preparation for approval by the Regional Executive of a regional manifesto for Parliamentary Elections, after having consulted with key stakeholders (including all relevant Party staff, both those with a campaigns remit and those with a policy focus, whether employed (directly or indirectly) by the Regional Party itself, Local Parties in the Region, members of the Party who hold elected office in the Region, Affiliated Organisations, the Party in England, or the Party itself);
- (h) the preparation for approval by the Regional Executive of a manifesto for elections to the GLA, after having consulted with key stakeholders (including all relevant Party staff, both those with a campaigns remit and those with a policy focus, whether employed (directly or indirectly) by the Regional Party itself, Local Parties in the Region, members of the Party who hold elected office in the Region, Affiliated Organisations, the Party in England, or the Party itself);
- (i) liaison with other regional parties on policy issues affecting the Region and such other regions;
- (j) assisting Party Groups on principal local authorities with policy development by such Groups and liaison on policy issues between principal local authorities within the Region;
- (k) stimulating and co-ordinating the policy-making activities of Local Parties;
- (l) encouraging the participation by members of the Regional Party in the development and making of Party Policy.

6.13. The Regional Policy Committee shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The Regional Policy Committee Chair shall give at least seven days' notice of meetings to all members of the committee, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting

## **ARTICLE 7: LOCAL PARTIES AND MEMBERSHIP**

7.1. The Local Parties Committee of the Regional Party shall exercise the Regional Party's powers and duties under the Party Constitution in relation to the adherence of Local Parties to the Party Constitution and to their own respective constitutions, and the compliance of such constitutions and any proposed amendments with the requirements of the Party Constitution and in relation to any question concerning the recognition of Council Groups. In particular, it shall be responsible for:

- (a) ensuring the adherence of Local Parties to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Party Constitution, and to their own respective constitutions;
- (b) reviewing any proposed new constitution for a Local Party or any proposed amendment to its existing constitution to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Party Constitution
- (c) investigating the affairs of any Local Party if there is reason to believe that the Local Party is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Party Constitution or its own constitution; or that events in connection with the affairs of the Local Party which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Party have taken place or are about to take place; or if requested by the Local Party itself to carry out such an investigation;
- (d) implementing any recommendations resulting from such an investigation, subject to the direction of the Regional Executive;
- (e) monitoring the joint arrangements made by the relevant Local Parties for the approval and selection of candidates for local authority elections and imposing and/or appointing a Party member to administer the procedures for the approval and/or selection of candidates for local authority elections where the relevant Local Party or Local Parties have not adopted or having adopted have not followed a procedure for the approval and/or selection of candidates in accordance with the provisions of the Party Constitution;
- (f) the exercise of the powers of the Regional Party in constituencies where no Local Party is recognised or where the Local Party has been suspended;

- (g) reporting to the Regional Executive on disputes as to proposed combinations of constituencies to form a Local Party;
- (h) the exercise of the powers of the Regional Party under Article 2.7 of the Articles of the Party in England on the readmission of previously expelled members;
- (i) the exercise of the powers of the Regional Party under Article 8 of the Articles of the Party in England (Councillors and Recognised Council Groups) including recommending to the Regional Executive whether the requirements for the recognition of Council Groups shall apply to all or any parish or town councils in the Region;
- (j) The exercise of the powers of the Regional Party under Article 3.11 of the Articles of the Party in England relating to decisions by Local Parties in the Region to allow candidates of other political parties or independents to stand for election without being opposed by a Liberal Democrat candidate in Westminster, large single seat or local authority elections.

7.2. Where there appears to be any conflict affecting a Local Party or a Council Group, the LPC may appoint a suitably experienced or otherwise appropriately qualified individual to be a conciliator, who shall be impartial and neither a member of the relevant Local Party or authority (as the case may be) nor any Local Party within the area covered by the authority, to seek to mediate and resolve the conflict. Any person who has acted as such a conciliator shall not play any part in any later investigation or formal decision regarding the relevant dispute.

7.3. For the purposes of any investigation of the affairs of any Local Party, the LPC shall appoint one or more suitably experienced or otherwise appropriately qualified persons who must be members of the Party but not necessarily of the Regional Party to act as investigators. No such person shall be a member of the Local Party concerned. At least one of such persons shall be a member of the Regional Executive and of the LPC, and any such member shall take no part in any subsequent proceedings of the Executive or of the LPC relating to action to be taken in consequence of the investigation. The investigators shall have such access as they require to the books and records of the Local Party concerned. The Local Party concerned and any affected Local Party officer shall be informed of any allegations against it and given a reasonable opportunity to reply or to take corrective action.

7.4. The decision to initiate the investigation of the affairs of any recognised Council Group shall be reserved to the full Regional Executive, save that in urgent circumstances this decision may be taken by the Officers on behalf of the Regional Executive following a recommendation by the LPC for such an investigation to be initiated. For the purposes of any such investigation, the LPC shall appoint a suitably experienced or otherwise appropriately qualified person (who must be a member of the Party but not necessarily of the Regional Party) to act as an investigator. No such person shall be a member of the Local Authority concerned nor of any Local Party covered by the authority. The investigator shall have such access as they require to the books and records of the Recognised Council Group concerned. The Recognised Council Group and any affected councillor shall be informed of any allegations against it and given a reasonable opportunity to reply or to take corrective action.

7.5. The Regional Executive shall receive a report on any investigation under this Article and shall be responsible for the implementation, so far as may be thought fit, of any decisions or recommendations made resulting from the investigation and for such purpose the Regional Party may act on behalf of and in the name of the Local Party (or any organ thereof).

7.6 The Regional Party may suspend a Local Party if the Regional Executive (following an investigation under this Article) is satisfied that the Local Party is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or to the Party (or its own) Constitution or that events in connection with the affairs of the Local Party which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Party have taken place or are likely to take place if preventative action is not taken. In case of urgency, this power of the Regional Executive may be exercised on its behalf by the LPC which shall forthwith report the action it has taken to the Regional Executive.

7.7. The Regional Party may order that a specified Local Party officer vacate his or her post if the Local Parties Committee is satisfied that the officer concerned is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or to the Party (or its own) Constitution or that by their actions, events are occurring or about to occur in connection with the affairs of the Local Party which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Party. Such power shall not be exercised without the Local Party and the affected Local Party Officer being informed of what is proposed and offered a reasonable

opportunity to reply or take corrective action.

7.8. There shall be a right of appeal to the English Appeals Panel against the suspension of a Local Party or the ordering of a Local Party Officer to vacate his or her post on the ground that the suspension was unreasonable. The Regional Executive may direct that the suspension or order to vacate the post shall take effect pending the appeal.

7.9. The Regional Party may de-recognise a formerly recognised Council Group if the LPC is satisfied that:

- (a) There is persistent or serious non-adherence on the part of the Council Group either to the Liberal Democrat Federal Party Constitution, the constitution of the Liberal Democrats in England, or its own Standing Orders, or
- (b) By the actions of the Council Group, events are occurring or about to occur in connection with the affairs of the Council Group which are, or may be, seriously detrimental to the Liberal Democrats.

Such power shall not be exercised without the Council Group being informed of what is proposed and offered a reasonable opportunity to reply or take corrective action. Any member of the Council Group concerned or any Local Party covered by the authority concerned may appeal to the English Appeals Panel against a decision to de-recognise.

7.10. The Regional Party, through the LPC, shall have the following powers and responsibilities with regard to any constituency where no Local Party has been recognised, or the Local Party has been suspended under the Party Constitution:

- (a) to exercise the functions of the Local Party under the Party Constitution
- (b) to ensure, in consultation with local members, that a prospective candidate is in place for any Parliamentary Election, unless the LPC is satisfied that this is not appropriate for the time being;
- (c) to take such steps as may be appropriate, in consultation with local members, to organise the fighting of local authority elections;
- (d) to act as an enrolling body for new members under the Party Constitution;
- (e) to summon and supervise meetings of members to form a Local Party or reconstitute a Local Party as soon as possible;
- (f) to hold and manage the assets of the Local Party for the benefit of the members of the Local Party or of any Local Party to be formed in place of the Local Party; and
- (g) to rule on disputes and give directions under the Party Constitution as to proposed combinations of constituencies. Members in any constituency in the proposed combination shall have the right to appeal to the English Council.

7.11. Where the Regional Party has directed a Local Party officer to vacate office the LPC shall either direct that there is to be a by-election for that post, in which case the previous incumbent would be ineligible to stand and the LPC shall nominate a Returning Officer, or it may appoint a suitably qualified member of the Party (but not necessarily the Local Party) to the role.

7.12. The decision of the Regional Party whether or not to agree to the admission or re-admission to membership of a person whose membership has been refused or revoked shall be made by the LPC.

7.13. The Regional Party shall not use the information contained in the Register of members except for the proper purposes of the Party and shall comply with the Party's rules in relation to the Party's Data Protection Act registration.

7.14. The LPC shall meet a minimum of four times a year. The LPC Chair shall give reasonable notice of meetings to all members of the committee, specifying in the notice the business to be transacted at the meeting, unless urgent circumstances require an immediate meeting of the LPC to be convened; in which case, it may be so convened by any of the following: the Chair of the LPC, the Secretary of the Regional Party, or the Chair of the Regional Party.

7.15. The LPC shall report on its activities to the Regional Executive, but it shall not be open to the Regional Executive to vary or reverse recommendations or decisions made by the LPC on matters delegated by this Constitution to the Local Parties Committee.

## **ARTICLE 8: FINANCE**

- 8.1. The Regional Party's accounting period shall be annual, ending on 31st December each year.
- 8.2. The Treasurer shall keep, maintain for six years, and pass to his or her successor accounting records which shall be available for inspection in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
- 8.3. The Treasurer shall ensure that no donation of over £500 is accepted except from a permissible donor and shall keep records and submit donations reports to the Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee and to the Compliance Department of the Federal Party.
- 8.4. The Treasurer shall annually produce accounts, which shall be approved by the Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee and by the Regional Executive, and if required by the Political Parties, Elections & Referendums Act 2000 shall be audited and submitted to the Electoral Commission.
- 8.5. The Treasurer shall submit the accounts of the Regional Party together with an independent report, or the report of the auditors, to the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.6. A copy of the annual accounts shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Party in England and to the Chief Executive of the Federal Party before the end of March in the subsequent year.
- 8.7. The Regional Party shall maintain one or more bank or other appropriate accounts in the name of the Regional Party for which the mandate for withdrawal shall require the signature of at least two Officers who shall not come solely from members of any one family. The Regional Party may maintain further accounts for the deposit of money not required for the time being, requiring the same signatures.
- 8.8. The Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee shall work with the Regional Fundraising Subcommittee to make arrangements, in accordance with the Party's fundraising and data protection policies, for the raising of funds to meet any expenditure of the Regional Party in excess of the proportion of subscription income to be remitted by the Party in England, and may also raise funds for distribution to Local Parties in the Region. The Regional Executive may, subject to compliance with the Data Protection Act, authorise the Regional Scrutiny (Finance & Administration) Subcommittee or the Regional Fundraising Subcommittee to use the list of members in the Region for fundraising purposes.

## **ARTICLE 9: ELECTIONS**

- 9.1. All contested elections under the provisions of this constitution shall be by secret ballot and by the Single Transferable Vote method in accordance with election rules made under the Federal Party Constitution.
- 9.2. Where the Regional Party is entitled to representation on any other body (other than the English Council), the Regional Executive shall determine whether the representatives are to be elected by ballot of all Regional Party members, the Regional Conference, or the Regional Executive.
- 9.3. The elections of Officers in clause 3.1 (a) to (e), Ordinary Members of the Regional Executive and the members of the English Council shall be conducted by ballot of all the members of the Regional Party.
- 9.4. Nominations for election must be in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder (who must be members of the Regional Party) and countersigned by the candidate. In the case of the election of the President of the Regional Party and the Chair of the Regional Party, nominations for election must be in writing, signed by a proposer and 14 seconds from at least five Local Parties (who must be members of the Regional Party) and countersigned by the candidate. In the case of the election of the Chairs of the Regional Candidates Committee, Regional Conference Committee, and Regional Policy Committee, nominations for election must be in writing, signed by a proposer and 4 seconds from at least two Local Parties (who must be members of the Regional Party) and countersigned by the candidate.

9.5. The Regional Candidates Committee Chair is required to be, or have been, at least one of the following: fully trained and accredited Returning Officer; Candidate Assessor; PPC; MP; AM, or MEP.

9.6. Whenever three or more persons are being elected, not less than 40% or, if 40% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 40% of those elected shall self-identify as men or non-binary people, and self-identify as women or non-binary people respectively.

9.7. The Regional Executive shall appoint some disinterested person to receive nominations and act as Returning Officer. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for running the elections in accordance with the election regulations agreed by the Federal Conference and supplemented for Regional elections by the English Council (as may then be specifically adapted for the Regional Party and formally adopted for it by the Regional Conference).

9.8. An unsuccessful candidate who alleges that there has been or may have been an irregularity in the election may within seven days after the declaration of the result appeal to the English Appeals Panel. Subject to any order made on such an appeal, no irregularity shall invalidate an election.

## **ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENT AND INTERPRETATION**

10.1. Amendments to this constitution, including any amendment by which the Regional Party seeks recognition as a State Party for the purposes of the Party Constitution, may be made only by the vote of at least two-thirds of those voting on a motion for amendment at a meeting of the Regional Conference. No amendment shall be made which conflicts with the Party Constitution. Motions for amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Regional Party in time for circulation with the notice convening the meeting.

10.2. In the event of any question of interpretation arising, or any question on which this constitution is silent, the Regional Executive shall have power to act according to its interpretation of the constitution, or at its discretion, without prejudice to the provisions of the Party Constitution relating to the resolution of conflicts.

***Presented to the Regional Conference (Annual General Meeting (“AGM”)) of the London Liberal Democrats on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023, with the meeting therein adjourned until 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.***

***Passed by two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Regional Conference (reconvened AGM) on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024.***

***Amended by the Regional Conference on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 by two-thirds majority vote to:***

- ***Tidy up and fix drafting errors (constitutional amendments tabled at item 6.1 on the AGM agenda)***
- ***Provide for Young Liberals representation on the Regional Conference Committee and the Regional Policy Committee (constitutional amendments tabled at item 6.2 on the AGM agenda)***