

Green Party Spring Conference

Blackpool Winter Gardens

20-23 March 2009

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Welcome to Green Party Spring Conference 2009 at the Blackpool Winter Gardens



**Peter Cranie,
Lead Euro Candidate,
North West Region**

We'd like to once again welcome members here to the North West for Conference. Our venue at the Winter Gardens is fantastic and a fitting launch point for our European Election campaign here in the North West.

Britain is in recession. The red, yellow and blue parties have dogmatically followed free market economics and deregulation. They have led us down a cul-de-sac in terms of economic and political thinking.

That is why Green Party Conference is so important. We are leading the way



**Caroline Lucas, Leader
Adrian Ramsay, Deputy Leader**

Welcome to Spring Conference and to the magnificent Winter Gardens. Blackpool is the perfect destination for this conference and not just for the beach, bars and bright lights. The North West is one of our target regions for the European election and we're also close to Lancaster where one of the most successful local parties in the country has 12 City Councillors.

This conference comes at a crucial time. Next month will see nominations open for the European and County Council elections on 4th June. These elections are a vital opportunity to make more Green gains across the country. We're cam-

not only on environmental issues, but in providing a practical vision for a better Britain. Green policy on social justice, housing, jobs and transport will provide the vision that the other parties lack.

We need a progressive vision, and nowhere is that contrast more starkly seen than in the North West. In this region, the contest for the final Euro seat is likely to be between the Greens and the BNP. It's a contest we can and must win.

So a warm welcome to you all. Let's work together at this Conference, as Greens, to put our ideas and our vision across to the electorate of Britain. There has never been a more important time for us to meet together, so please make the most of your time here at Conference, and please do use it to get ready for the European Election campaign.

paigining hard to defend our two existing seats in the European Parliament and to break through in other regions.

Every member can make a difference by helping in the elections, and with a full day of training on Sunday you can pick up plenty of tips and share experiences. The training is doubly important given that there could be a General Election at any time. Speaking of which, if your local party has not yet selected its General Election candidates please do so without delay. We want to ensure we stand more candidates than ever before!

The conference programme is packed with interesting policy discussions, panel debates and evening entertainment. We'll also be attempting to break the world record for the biggest ever canvass on Sunday afternoon in the Lancaster and Fleetwood constituency.

We look forward to talking to members during the conference.

Have a good time!

Keeping it Green

Recycling: recycling bins are in every room; please use them

Lights: turn off lights in empty rooms

Badge holders: please return at the end or bring with you next time

Crockery: please help the venue staff by returning used crockery

Safety & security: please keep gangways, entrances and exits clear

Smile: enjoy yourself, and if you're an old hand, give a warm welcome to newcomers

Thank You

Conferences Committee & Clover Events

Please wear your badge at all times

There will be **no access to the venue after 6pm** without your conference badge

Would you like to help organise future Green Party Conferences?

A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes to make conference happen, and conference committee needs more members to share the load and make sure we continue to make conference more attractive and affordable to members, stallholders and the wider world!

If interested please speak to an existing member of conferences committee (Sue Luxton, Emily Heath or Mohammed Jiwa) for more info, and consider putting yourself forward for election!

Contents

How Conference Works	6-7
Final Agenda	8-42
Introduction	8
List of contacts	8
Section A (Reports)	9-12
A1 Standing Orders Committee Report.....	9
A2 Policy Committee Report	10
A3 Dispute Resolution Committee.....	11
A4 GPEx Report	11
A5 Changes to SOC Standing Orders	12
Section B (Voting Papers).....	13
B10 Tourism voting paper.....	13
Section C (Policy Motions)	19-32
(Numbers in brackets refer to number of prioritisation votes received)	
C01 Campaigning for an alternative economic strategy (50).....	19
C02 Migration motion (39).....	20
C03 Domestic abuse (29)	21
C04 Gender and asylum(24).....	22
C05 Maternity services(24)	22
C06 Bringing climate change policy up to date (20).....	23
C07 Zero carbon Britain (19)	23
C08 Women in employment and business (18).....	24
C09 Intellectual property (15)	24
Timetable	25-28
C10 Concentrating solar power and European grids (14)	29
C11 Monetary policy (13).....	29
C12 Global financial architecture(13).....	30
C13 Carbon capture and storage pilot projects (11)	30
C14 Climate motion: geo engineering (5)	30
C15 Criminal justice (5).....	31
C16 Natural gas storage in underground salt caverns (5)	31
C17 Northern Ireland (4)	32
Section D (Organisational Motions)	33-34
D01 Subscription rates (B) (44)	33
D02 Subscription rates (A) (35).....	33
D03 Additional synopsis from policy committee (41)	34
D04 Prioritisation of motions (36)	34
Section E (Draft Voting Papers)	35-41
E01 Education DVP	35
Section O (Out of Order Motions).....	42
O1 Members website	42
O2 Convention of the Left	42
Venue Map	43
Fringe Guide.....	44-49
Guide to Blackpool	50-51
Autumn Conference Booking form.....	52

How conference works

A. Registration & Voting

When you register, you will be given your Conference badge and voting cards. Please wear your badge at all times inside the Conference venues and return the holder at the end of Conference. If you are a member you will be given a set of voting cards, for use in plenary sessions when a vote is called. There is a different colour for each day.

Voting is done by raising your hand with the appropriate card for that day. You will also receive a 'card vote' card. If this is used the procedure will be explained by the Standing Orders Committee.

Please note. Lost voting cards cannot be replaced. You need the correct voting card to vote.

B. Who's Who

Conference Committee

The Conference Committee is elected annually at Conference and is responsible for organising the conference, including all workshops, fringes, plenaries, and entertainment. It is not, however, responsible for the content of any of these. Its members are currently Sue Luxton, Mo Jiwa and Emily Heath.

Standing Orders Committee (SOC)

SOC draws up the Agenda for Conference and advises on the rules of formal debate. They can be found at a table at the front of the main hall.

They are responsible for ensuring that Conference sticks to the rules and guidelines set out in the Party's constitution. Its members are currently Pippa Lane (convenor), Payam Torabi and Mark Hill.

The first piece of formal business is always acceptance of the SOC report, as this determines the order of business. During Conference SOC supervises votes and speakers in the plenary sessions (see below). They also give advice to the chairs of the plenaries.

If you want to submit a speaker slip to be called to speak in a plenary session, or have any questions about items on the Agenda, then please ask a member of SOC to explain the procedure.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee is responsible for facilitating the policy making process within the Green Party. If you want information about the policy making process, for example how draft voting papers turn into voting papers, please contact them. The convenors are Policy Co-ordinators Brian Heatley & Matt Follett (job-share).

C. What's What

Plenary Sessions

These are held in the main hall. They are voting sessions where the formal business of Conference takes place. Items from the Agenda are discussed and voted on in these sessions. The Agenda is made up of motions put forward by members of the party for amending, or inclusion in, the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society.

Before a paper or motion is considered in a plenary session, there is a workshop.

If you have questions about the proposal, or wish to take part in the plenary debate, it is helpful if you attend the workshop, though that is not essential.



Workshops

These are discussions in small groups. They can be:

- * to discuss motions that will be debated in plenary sessions (so that the knotty problems can be sorted out in a less formal atmosphere)

- * discussions of draft voting papers (these are not debated in the plenary sessions)

- * organised by Policy Committee to facilitate policy development for future Conferences to consider.

Any member can attend a workshop. A report from the workshop is given to Conference at the start of the relevant debate.

Fringe meetings

These are typically held at lunchtime and in the evening. Fringe meetings are organised by a variety of individuals and groups, such as policy working groups or training sessions. They are not part of the formal business of Conference, but may cover educational or topical issues.

Attunement

Each plenary session starts with a 1-minute period of attunement during which all activity stops. This is a time for calm reflection. Please do not talk or move around during attunement.

The Agenda and SOC Report

The formal business of Conference is compiled into the Final Agenda by SOC. Conference must approve the Agenda before debate can start. This is done by approving the SOC report, which is always the first item of formal business at Conference. This is where you can challenge rulings, such as out-of-order motions, and other amendments, if you are unhappy with SOC's decisions.

Voting and Ballots

Any Party member may vote at Conference, so long as they have registered and received their voting cards. Voting is by show of hands, holding the correct voting card. For a motion or amendment to be carried, it requires a majority of those voting for over those voting against. Some motions, such as those that amend the Constitution or the Philosophical Basis, need a two-thirds majority.

A card vote (ballot)

This may be held at the discretion of the Chair, or if requested by at least 10 members. The ballot is held by placing card votes in designated ballot boxes in the hall; it is organised by SOC.

Proxy votes

In card votes only, you can vote on behalf of up to five non-attending members, if you bring written consent for that authority (a signed letter on their behalf) to the registration table to register proxy votes. There will be someone at the registration desk issuing proxy votes for an hour before each plenary.

Speaking in plenary sessions

Any member may ask to speak during a debate, simply by raising their hand with that day's voting card. In calling members to speak, the Chair will usually give priority to members who have a completed a speaker slip to ask to speak on that matter, and handed the slip to SOC before the start of debate. It is also a good idea to attend and make your point at the relevant workshop, which the Chair will usually attend.

The Chair will be concerned to achieve a balanced debate, representing the various points of view to inform members' decisions on how they will vote. The Chair will aim to call new as well as experienced speakers, and

involve both men and women.

Speaker slips can be obtained from the SOC table. The "start of debate" means before the motion was moved, even if you only want to speak on an amendment; however, if a debate continues into a second session, slips may be handed in also before the restart in the second session.

Emergency motions

The First Agenda deadline for motions to Conference is 13 weeks before it starts. Emergency motions are intended to enable Conference to address situations that have arisen since.

Emergency Motions are most often used by the Press Office to facilitate publicity for a Green Party message on an important topical issue. EMs can also be brought by individual members to address a topic that they feel important. All EMs need to be signed by at least four GP members and should not fall foul of the provisions in the Standing Orders for SOC ruling motions out of order.

Plenary time for emergency motions is available at various times during the conference. If you want to propose an emergency motion to be discussed by Conference, you should discuss it with Standing Orders Committee and the External Communications Co-ordinator before submitting.

Chairing

The chairing of plenary sessions is organised before the start of conference. Contact SOC if you are interested in chairing a session, at this or future conferences.

Guidance is available on what the job entails and the best way of acquiring the necessary skills is by co-chairing alongside someone with experience. We are always keen to encourage newcomers and broaden the expertise within the Party.



Introduction

Welcome to the final agenda for the Green Party's 2009 Spring conference.

Content of Final Agenda:

There is 1 voting paper (Tourism), 1 Draft voting paper (Education), 17 policy motions, and 4 organisational motions; 2 motions have been ruled out of order and are included at the end of the Agenda. A number of proposals were submitted with insufficient signatures and were not included at any place in this agenda.

Errors in the Agenda:

If you notice any errors in the final agenda please notify the convenor of SOC for correction.

Summaries & Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words which will appear in the Agenda Summary. If motions are not accompanied by synopsis, SOC may devise a synopsis from the text included, although it is not obliged to do so.

Committee Elections:

Elections will be held at Conference for all Committees that have vacancies. This includes the Standing Orders (3 places), Conferences (5 places), Campaigns (2 places), Policy (1 place), International (1 place), Disputes Resolution (2 places), and the Green World Editorial Board (3 places).

For information on these elections please contact the SOC Convenor.

Contacts for motions in this agenda:

The names of those signing motions are included after each motion, up to a maximum of 4 names, although only 4 are required. Where there are more than 4, then the first 4 are listed followed by "+ others". The principal contact for each motion is indicated by (**) after the name and contact details can be found below.

List of contacts for motions

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Section A

Reports & Items Requested from Previous Conference

Items in section A of the agenda are required by the Constitution or Standing Orders or at the request of a previous Conference. The reports will be included in the Final Agenda.

A1. Standing Orders Committee

Order of Business

The SOCC state that SOC must conduct a ballot to assist in the prioritisation of the motions.

The precise format is not laid out. We have used the same process used since the spring conference of 2008.

109 ballots were received, which 107 of these were via the online poll. We promoted the ballot on e-lists.

The motions have been proposed in the order set out above, on the basis of the prioritisation ballot except for the following changes:

Where motions were tied in numbers of votes, they were put in alphabetical order.

The Subscription Rates motions were put together meaning that Subscription Rates (A) was moved up the list ahead of two other motions which had achieved more votes than it.

SOC Vacancies

Mark Hill comes to the end of his three-year term under the constitution and will thus be stepping down at the end of this conference. Tim Dawes resigned after being elected GPRC co-chair. Jim Jepps resigned over a dispute regarding a tribunal process. There are thus 3 vacancies on SOC which we are seeking to be filled by election at this conference.

Other Vacancies

Posts for election at this conference are: Conferences Committee (4 places), Campaigns Committee (2 places), Policy Committee (1 place), International Committee (1 place), Disputes Resolution Committee (2 places), and the Green World Editorial Board (3 places).

The Electoral Returning Officer

SOC thanks Roger Creagh-Osbourne for his work as returning officer at Autumn Conference 2008. SOC has been searching for a new ERO and are happy to announce Gordon Hodgson as ERO for this conference.

Standing Orders

After conference, SOC made a number of minor changes to their standing orders— see item A5 of the agenda.

Summaries and Synopses

Conference Standing Orders state that all motions should be accompanied by a synopsis of not more than 50 words which will appear in the Agenda Summary.

If your synopsis was more than 50 words, it was probably cut by SOC.

Rulings

Rulings were made on the following:

SOC agreed to institute a tribunal against two members at the request of the London Federation of Green Parties. We cannot give further details due to confidentiality as the process is not yet complete.

Consultation on GPEX Election

Regulations

SOC wishes to consult on two contentious elements of GPEX election regulations. These have/will be sent to relevant stakeholders including GPEX and GPRC for consultation to give guidance to the new ERO in his drafting of the regulations. We also want to give conference the chance to discuss, hence its inclusion in this report.

The first proposal is regarding telephone canvassing. SOC is proposing the following as the basis of consultation (changes from current regulations struck out):

One of the key aims of these rules is to increase turnout in these elections in a fair way. For that reason it is important to enable candidates to communicate effectively with the membership.

Candidates for the posts of leader, deputy leader or co-leader and/or their agents are entitled to contact Party members via email, post or telephone. ~~—unless the member has previously notified Party office that they do not wish to be contacted in this way—~~ For this purpose an internal electoral register, of Party members who are happy to be canvassed, will be provided. New members will be given the option of opting into the register on joining while existing members will be given the chance to opt out through a prominent notice in Green Activist.

~~For this purpose,~~ Party office will provide on application to either the candidate or his/her agent a single electronic copy of the register, which will contain the following information ~~for members who have not 'opted out':~~

- Party member name
- Local and Regional Parties
- Contact telephone number

Rolls for telephone canvassing as above will be protected electronically by passwords, and be in an uncopyable PDF form. Each roll provided will have a different password, so their use can be tracked back to the candidates. The documents will also be protected so as to make them unprintable. Any paper copies provided by the office for candidates not using a computer will be printed on dark green (un-photo-copiable) paper, watermarked, and marked with a code that identifies the candidate to whom it was issued.

In addition pre-printed mailing labels will be provided by the office to any candidate (incl for annually elected posts) that requests them.

Before receiving this information, the candidate and/or Party member will confirm that use of this information will be restricted entirely to the conduct of the election. Any use outside of this election will not only be referred by the ERO to GPRC as a disciplinary matter, but may also fall foul of Data Protection Legislation.

The second proposal is regarding expense limits. SOC is propos-

ing the following as the basis for consultations:

- The expense limit will be reduced
- Extra support will be given to candidates in their campaigns by the national party.
- Expenses for first tier elections (Leader and Deputy Leader): 5p per member plus £250
- Expenses for second tier elections: 5p per member.
- The national party will provide two mailouts. In addition to the current booklet of candidate statements, a second mailout with 1 page of any content chosen by each candidate will be published and sent out by the national party.
- The national party will provide a website for each candidate.

Conference Timetable

The official notice for this Conference was published in the November edition of Green World

Distribution of the First Agenda

The full First Agenda was sent to local and regional party co-ordinators, and the monthly e-mail to members contained a link to the full agenda. The summary agenda is usually sent to all members via Green Activist but the last Green Activist went out before the First Agenda deadline meaning this was not possible.

Distribution of the Final Agenda

The final agenda was published on the Party's website on 31st January 2009 and circulated soon after on the party's email lists. Further, a link to the agenda was sent to all Local Party Contacts electronically. Hard copies of the agenda have only been made available to Conference delegates or Local Party Contacts on application to Party Office.

Submission of Emergency Motions

All Emergency Motions must be displayed at the Conference venue for at least one hour before the plenary session in which they are to be discussed. SOC would like to make the

administrative arrangements for emergency Motions clearer. To do this SOC has designed a form which will help members submit emergency motions and help SOC on the way! Please contact any member of SOC to request a form and to record your emergency motion with us. Once an emergency motion has been accepted by SOC, we enter it into the formal record of Conference and arrange for it to be displayed. There are sessions for Emergency Motions throughout Conference and these are in the timetable. Finally, as a word of advice, keep your emergency motion short (fewer than 250 words) and if possible send the text electronically to the SOC Convenor.

Contacts for motions in this Agenda

The names of those signing motions are included after each motion, up to a maximum of 4 names, although only 4 are required. Where there are more than 4, then the first 4 are listed followed by "and X others". The principal contact for each motion is indicated by (**) after the name and contact details can be found at end of the agenda.

MOTION: SOC proposes that Conference its report

A2: Policy Committee

For this conference there is one Voting Paper, on Tourism. This is laid under the rule which says that if there is no other Voting Paper, Policy Committee should select an existing section of the MfSS for review. There is also a Draft Voting Paper on Education following the first draft of this at last conference, and a total of 17 Policy motions.

The Education Draft Voting Paper follows the enabling motion passed two years ago, and is a substantial piece of work for which we are grateful to Rachel Fryer and the Education group. It will be debated at this conference at a workshop and at fringes, and a full Voting Paper is expected next conference.

Autumn 2007 Conference passed an enabling motion asking for a review of our policy on Northern Ireland. We have been unable to obtain any substantive comments from the other Green Parties in the Green Is-

lands Network, and have put before this conference a motion which simply deletes the existing Northern Ireland chapter. This leaves Northern Ireland in the same position as Scotland, with a brief mention in the Public Administration and Government chapter at PA400.

At last Spring conference a motion on Palestine and Israel was referred back to Policy Committee. There was a fringe on a proposed draft at last conference which raised a large number of issues. Unfortunately it has not been possible to present a substantive motion to this conference, but we do intend to take the work forward in further fringes.

Last Spring conference there was an enabling motion on Population. It has again proved impossible to achieve sufficient agreement to present a Draft Voting Paper at this conference despite the useful fringe meeting at last conference.

Policy Committee have raised concerns at the last two conferences about the large number of policy motions, and in our view the inadequate level of discussion and preparation of many of these motions. We have proposed two motions at this conference to address these problems, neither of which actually restricts the ability of members to submit motions, but which are designed to promote respectively more discussion and more thorough preparation. The first will give priority to motions from a recognised party group over motions simply signed by 4 members. The second will make Policy Committee work harder, allowing us on occasion to give a commentary on motions under a restricted list of headings; we hope such a procedure will encourage promoters of motions to consider these issues, and if necessary talk to us, before a motion is laid.

There are no less than five economic motions on this agenda that might otherwise fall within the scope of the work on revising the Economics Chapter – on intellectual property, monetary policy, global financial architecture, alternative economic strategy and women in employment. Submitting an Economy DVP would in these circumstances be superfluous – indeed we may

seek to encourage this process next conference, adding to our economics policy in bite sized chunks and then simply proceeding with a relatively non-controversial consolidating DVP at the end.

At last Autumn conference a fringe meeting discussed issues around the future of the MfSS. With this conference in pre Euro election mode and with a focus on training the work has been put on hold until after June 4th and will be progressed at a future conference.

Other policy work since last conference has included carrying forward the work on generating short positive policy ideas, creating a pre-budget report statement in collaboration with the Green New Deal Group, dealing as ever with routine policy enquiries, assisting press office rather more than usual, contributing to draft manifestos and keeping the MfSS and Record of Policy statements up to date.

We are grateful to the members of Policy Committee and our retiring GPRC friend Lesley Hedges for all their hard work and support over the past year.

Brian Heatley, Matt Follett

Joint Policy Development
Coordinator

A3 Disputes Resolution Committee

This half year has seen a more active DRC, with good response to emails and a keen interest in improving our effectiveness. There is now an email address DRC@groups.greenparty.org.uk which gives Green Party members access to all DRC members with confidentiality assured for raising points or asking questions. Communication between GPRC and DRC has been improved by the co-ordinator attending GPRC meetings to present a report and have conversations with individual regional councillors outside the formal GPRC meeting.

3 Disputes have withered away, and are not mentioned.

2 Disputes have had resolution abandoned.

In the West Midlands both sides felt that resolution had been ineffective. One side decided to ignore the

issue and the other is considering going to a Disciplinary Tribunal.

In the South East, the local party containing the dispute was disbanded for lack of officers. No resolution was achieved, nor did it seem possible.

The situation in the Eastern Region is ongoing, and after a period of worsening relationships a route to resolution is now clear.

No disputes have been resolved in the last six months.

There have been no new requests for DRC involvement in the last six months.

There is still one vacancy on the Committee, if you are interested in maintaining Party effectiveness by assisting in the resolution of difficulties, please put your name forward for election, either by email to soc@greenparty.org.uk or during your attendance at Conference. Normal discussion is by email. We expect in addition to have two or three physical meetings every year, transport costs to these meetings are borne by the DRC budget.

Owen Clarke

DRC Co-ordinator 15/1/08

A4 Green Party Executive

SOC recommends that GPEX submits this as an organisational motion to Autumn Conference and that it stands as an interim measure until then.

A vote to accept the report accepts the proposal as an interim measure but does not make a constitutional change.

Replacing MEPs and Assembly Members

GPEX became aware after the First Agenda deadline for this conference that the constitution contains no procedure to cover the situation when a Green Party MEP dies or resigns as an MEP. This may not be an entirely academic issue; in particular Caroline Lucas could be elected an MP while already an MEP any time between now and May 2010.

We have a very limited amount of discretion under electoral law to nominate a replacement. This power lies with our national nominating agent, the National Agent Chris Rose,

and we and he think that it is inappropriate that he should exercise this discretion without any guidance from the Party. Because this circumstance could arise before Autumn Conference 2009, which is the first time we can now fill this gap in the constitution, GPEX is setting out in this report how it proposes we should act if these circumstances arise before then. These proposals have the support of the GPRC co-chairs, and GPRC will be discussing them on 7/8 February. This report gives conference the opportunity to discuss and, by accepting the report, endorse these proposals, and also to have some debate in advance of Autumn Conference.

Under electoral law, when an MEP dies or resigns the returning officer is obliged to ask each person on the Party's list for the previous election in turn, starting with the next one down the list, if they are prepared to be the replacement. However, the Party can in practice block the appointment of a particular person by not providing a certificate. Thus the replacement MEP must come from the Party's list for the previous election, but we could exercise our discretion so as to ensure that a particular person on the list got the nomination.

GPEX has considered a range of options, from a system which allows the list to operate automatically provided that the person concerned is still a member of the party, to options where GPRC would exercise a wide discretion in picking someone from the list. We are proposing the following compromise system. At any time following a European Election a Region could decide, by a two-thirds vote at a Regional Meeting, that a person on the list, usually the person next on the list, was no longer suitable to be a Green Party MEP. Such a decision would then have to be ratified by GPRC, and the person concerned would be given the opportunity to defend their position. Once this process had taken place the list would operate almost automatically as if that person had been removed. Thus when the death or resignation of an MEP takes place, and the next person on the list (as possibly already modified by such a Regional recall)

is willing to serve as an MEP, and they have remained continuously in Green Party membership, or their membership is not suspended, and they are not a member of another party, then that next person on the list should automatically become the MEP.

The rationale for this procedure is that it is the Region that selects the list in the first place, the Region that should have monitored the performance of the next in line and so it is the Region that should take the initiative if there are reasons, such as inactivity, why the second in line person should not become a Green Party MEP. Natural justice demands that there is some kind of appeal mechanism, and hence the procedure involving GPRC. But it is also important that we can act quickly and without any distracting arguments once an MEP resigns or dies, and that is why that unless there has been a prior removal of a person from the list, the list should be followed automatically, except in the wholly exceptional circumstances when the person concerned has declined the offer or left the party.

Similar issues arise in relation to replacing members of the London and Welsh Assemblies. However our discretion is much more limited. We can only prevent the appointment of a particular person if they have ceased to be a member of the national party, but we can allow the appointment even if they have left the party. We propose that we would never exercise this discretion to allow the appointment of a person who was not a member of the party.

Brian Heatley, GPEX

A5 Changes to SOC Standing Orders

Section 2 and Section 5 were amended. Amendments in italics.

Section 2: SOC Convenor

Within a week of the end of each Autumn Conference SOC will appoint a convenor. In the event of a vacancy SOC must appoint a replacement within a week. The SOC convenor is appointed, or removed by a vote of no confidence, by a minimum of three members of SOC, or a simple majority if there are less than five members of SOC.

Within a week of their appointment following each Conference, the convenor must notify all members of SOC, the Conferences Committee Convenor, Policy Committee Convenor, the GPRC Co-chairs and the GPEX chair, of the time & place for meetings to discuss the first and second agenda for the forthcoming Conference.

The Convenor will maintain a copy of these standing orders.

Section 5: Decisions by E-list

The SOC Convenor will maintain an Email list ('E-list') to which all SOC members and the Returning Officer can post items and any Green Party member can join on a 'read-only' basis. SOC members must therefore ensure that the SOC Convenor has a current email address and telephone number for you.

The SOC Convenor will have the sole discretion to determine whether an item is suitable for decision by E-list with the exception of a vote of no confidence in the SOC Convenor.

Before doing so the Convenor should consider the complexity of the decision to hand and the ability to have a proper discussion via the E-list. Generally, it is anticipated that prior to a request for a formal decision by email, a discussion about the issue had taken place on the E-list and this will assist the Convenor in reaching his/her decision.

Once the Convenor has decided to use the 'E-list' he/she should post a simple email covering each decision to the list stating in the subject 'DECISION BY XX/YY/ZZ ON [SUBJECT]'. In the text of the email the Convenor should explain the decision to be made, make the relevant references to the Constitution & SOCC and confirm the deadline for a response. The deadline for response should be no less than 24 hours. Further, if the deadline is less than 72 hours the Convenor should attempt to alert the SOC members of the vote by telephone.

Members of SOC should vote by simply replying to the list 'FOR' 'AGAINST' or 'ABSTAIN'.

~~In particular, once the draft first agenda has been compiled and circulated to SOC members and provided there is no other business to be considered, it will be acceptable to decide by E-list to cancel the meeting to consider the first agenda established in (2) above. This option does not apply to the meeting to consider the second agenda.~~

Section B: Voting Papers

B10 Tourism voting paper

(Submitted by policy committee)

Synopsis

There are no other voting papers expected for this Conference, and so under section C5 of standing orders Policy Committee has to present one existing section of the MfSS for discussion at Conference as a voting paper. The Committee has chosen the Tourism section. This motion simply tables the section as it currently stands. Amendments to the section are invited for the final agenda.

Motion

Delete the existing Tourism section in the MfSS (TM001-TM101) and replace it with the following:

TOURISM

Background

TM001 Tourism is defined as travel to another place within one's own country or to another country for leisure purposes. Travel is a relative right. It must be balanced with the right of all to a healthy and sustainable environment, economy and social life. (see RR201)

TM002 The Green Party is concerned about ecological, social and economic effects of tourism.

We seek to ensure that:

- damage to the local and global environments is kept to a minimum;
- people are encouraged to take their holidays closer to home, reducing the amount of travel, particularly by air;
- the relationship between tourists and the communities they visit is an equitable one.

TM003 Tourism can have benefits. These can include inward investment and development in local communities. Such development must be sustainable. We encourage the development of facilities suitable for a variety of purposes throughout the year, to meet the needs of local people as well as tourists. We encourage

more self-reliant local and regional economies, which are diverse and can meet more needs locally. They provide communities with a more secure economy, less dependent on temporary seasonal work. They reduce waste of resources and pollution of the environment.

Amendment 1

After 'Background' insert:

TM001 In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that Article Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country, we recognise travel and tourism to be important rights.

TM002 Tourism is defined as travel to another place within one's own country or to another country other than for work or business purposes. The benefits of tourism must be balanced with the right of all to a healthy and sustainable environment, economy and social life. (See RR201)

TM003 We recognise that cultural exchange between peoples can be a positive thing, provided that this is done in a responsible way. We support 'working holidays, cultural exchanges and longer term study or travel in a country, as a means to understand the culture of the places one is visiting.'

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Amendment 2

Delete current TM001 and TM002 and renumber accordingly:

TM003 Tourism can have benefits. These can include inward investment and development in local communities. Such development must be sustainable. We encourage the development of facilities suitable for a variety of purposes throughout the year, to meet the needs of local people as well as tourists. We encourage more self-reliant local and regional economies, which are diverse and can meet more needs locally. They provide communities with a more

secure economy, less dependent on temporary seasonal work. They reduce waste of resources and pollution of the environment.

TM004 A shift towards sustainable tourism requires information of tourists and businesses about the economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism. This is necessary to ensure that tourist activities and facilities are on a scale which matches the local community, are sympathetic to and do not pollute the environment, and are determined to a large extent by the local community.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM004 A shift towards sustainable tourism requires information of tourists and businesses about the economic, social and environmental impacts of tourism. This is necessary to ensure that tourist activities and facilities are on a scale which matches the local community, are sympathetic to and do not pollute the environment, and are determined to a large extent by the local community.

Amendment 3

replace **TM004** with "The Green Party supports shifts towards more sustainable models for the holiday industry which ensure that activities and facilities are on a scale which match the local community, are sympathetic to and do not pollute the local environment, and are determined to a large extent by the local community."

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Policy aims

TM010 Tourism to consume fewer resources, particularly non-renewable resources. There must be a dramatic reduction in the intensive use of fossil fuel for travel, such as car and air travel (see EN510). Where resources such as water are scarce, there must

be particular economy in their use for tourism.

Amendment 4

delete TM010

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM011 To discourage unsustainable and damaging tourist developments. A more open and democratic decision-making process to determine what developments should be built, and that they benefit local people as well as tourists.

Amendment 5

delete TM011

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM012 To encourage involvement of tourists with the communities they are visiting. Separation of tourists from the local environment and people has led to a lack of perception and understanding, not least of issues addressed by these Green policies. We see positive integration of tourists and hosts in a sustainable way as the best way to achieve maximum benefit to both.

Amendment 6

delete second sentence of TM012

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Information and awareness

TM015 Raising awareness amongst tourists, tour operators, governments and international bodies about the environmental, social and economic effects of tourism is a vital first step in tackling the issues raised here. A rounded education for life includes consideration of such issues, at school and in higher education and government should make such issues clear in its handling of the tourist industry.

Tour operators and tourist industries

TM020 Sustainability applies to both tourists and the businesses which depend on their trade. The destruction of tourism resources for short-term profit will deny the benefits

to be gained from the access to and use of those resources in the future. At present most tour operators try to offer the cheapest package, without giving the buyer any advice on how they could reduce their impact on the place they are visiting and whether there are alternatives available which would be more sustainable and beneficial to the hosts.

Amendment 7

Insert new TM016

Encouragement will be given to non-commercial activities which promote tourism which is both environmentally responsible and which maximises the potential benefits of contacts between peoples. This in particular involves non-commercial activities such as exchange schemes, cultural festivals, study, working holidays, voluntary work, town twinning, sporting visits and links with particular institutions such as schools.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM021 To encourage awareness of these issues The Green Party would promote a Green tourism certification system, building on existing schemes but with more comprehensive criteria.

Amendment 8

Delete TM021 and replace with "To encourage awareness of the impact of travel and awareness of sustainability issues the Green Party would promote a Green tourism certification system, building on existing schemes but with more comprehensive criteria.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Amendment 9

Insert new TM022 and renumber:

"Such certification schemes would be constructed so as to both incentivise the providers of travel and tourism facilities to achieve a higher rating and also to encourage consumers to choose higher rated options."

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM022 Certification for tour operators would take into account factors such as:

a. the tour operator's membership of and status in independent environmental certification schemes such as Green Globe;

b. the extent to which tour documents inform tourists about the local culture and about the environmental/social issues which they might encounter, and advise them on how they could help to reduce their adverse environmental impact and to support the local economy of the places they are visiting;

c. the information provided in brochures and tour handouts about more sustainable modes of transportation such as trains, buses and passenger ferries, particularly for distances of up to 500 miles;

d. the information provided in tour documents about where and how to buy locally produced food and support smaller independent accommodation and food establishments;

TM023 Certification would also take into account the extent to which the tour operator:

e. is aware of and actively respects local, regional, national and international rules established by treaties protecting fauna and flora;

f. has procedures for undertaking a full environmental impact assessment before any new tourist development is created, to ensure that the chosen venue is environmentally, sociologically and anthropologically sufficiently robust to support the operation proposed without undue damage in these areas;

g. has a policy of minimising use of the most environmentally unsustainable forms of long-distance transport (e.g. by travelling where feasible over land and sea rather than by air);

h. adopts EMS (environmental management systems) to reduce any negative impact on the environment;

i. seeks the active involvement of host communities in the decision-making process with regard to new and existing tourist developments, both in the UK and overseas;

j. supports smaller independent local accommodation providers;

k. recruits personnel locally for all levels of responsibility, and gives these personnel full work benefits applicable to other workers in the same country;

l. protects and enhances the rights of workers employed in the tourist industry, including in other countries by insisting that overseas business partners adhere to acceptable standards in these areas.

Amendment 10

delete TM022 and TM023 and replace with:

TM023 Certification would also take into account the extent to which the tour operator:

e. is aware of and actively respects local, regional, national and international rules established by treaties protecting fauna and flora;

f. has procedures for undertaking a full environmental impact assessment before any new tourist development is created, to ensure that the chosen venue is environmentally, sociologically and anthropologically sufficiently robust to support the operation proposed without undue damage in these areas;

g. has a policy of minimising use of the most environmentally unsustainable forms of long-distance transport (e.g. by travelling where feasible over land and sea rather than by air);

h. adopts EMS (environmental management systems) to reduce any negative impact on the environment;

i. seeks the active involvement of host communities in the decision-making process with regard to new and existing tourist developments, both in the UK and overseas;

j. supports smaller independent local accommodation providers;

k. recruits personnel locally for all levels of responsibility, and gives these personnel full work benefits applicable to other workers in the same country;

l. protects and enhances the rights of workers employed in the tourist industry, including in other countries by insisting that overseas business partners adhere to acceptable standards in these areas.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM024 The Green Party believes such a scheme should be a UK contribution to the development of international standards with other countries. The UK should consult other countries, particularly those which are destinations of UK tourists, and should propose a set of guidelines on sustainable tourism.

TM025 The term “eco-tourism” has been adopted by many tour operators, and can be misleading in terms of its real impact on the environment and local peoples. The desire to see unspoiled/traditional landscapes and cultures in fact can lead to damage to those very things. There are no adequate UK or international standards, which could guide tour operators and tourists as to what constitutes an “eco-tourist” holiday. The UK should promote the development of such standards, in consultation with other countries.

Amendment 11

Delete TM025

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Tourism in England & Wales

Tourism and planning

TM030 The current planning process in England and Wales is fundamentally undemocratic and careless of local communities’ needs. This can allow developments for tourism which have negative consequences for the locality in which they are sited and for the livelihoods of local people. However, properly informed, open, democratic decisions primarily by the local community about tourist developments are needed to secure sustainable benefit for both the tourists and the economy and lives of local people. New development should be assessed for its capacity to sustain year-round use, not just in the tourist season.

Amendment 12

Delete TM030

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM031 Local, unitary and structure plans, where they do not already do so, should include tourism. The periodic reviews should include a full environmental impact assessment of tourism in the area, which would include recommendations and targets to ensure the achievement and maintenance of environmental sustainability. This would be supplemented by wider strategic environmental assessments.

TM032 Regional planning should encourage the provision of sustainable leisure facilities, so that more people do not feel a need to travel abroad for their holidays.

Tourism and the economy

TM040 Tourism is an important part of many local and regional economies in England and Wales. The Green Party seeks to ensure that the contribution made by tourism is sustainable, and benefits the economy of the locality where it takes place (see EC911). We promote democratic economic planning and management. (see EC511)

TM041 Much employment in the tourist industry is low paid, casual and seasonal work, and in bad conditions. The Green Party would encourage more stable employment, not least by promoting dual use of tourism facilities on a year-round basis (see TM030). Employers should not be able to deprive casual or seasonal workers of statutory employment rights (see WR332 and WR342 - 349). We would strengthen enforcement to ensure that employers meet their statutory obligations.

TM042 The Green Party favours a general review of legislation related to the conduct of restaurant and fast food enterprises. The key objective would be to reduce the negative environmental impacts of such enterprises and improve employment in them. Local authorities should be empowered to encourage certain types of outlet, for example small cafés or restaurants owned and operated by

local people, and to encourage all food outlets to source a significant proportion of their food supplies from local producers, to strengthen the local economy.

Amendment 13

delete from ‘facilities’ in TM041 and delete TM042’.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Amendment 14

TM042 insert the word ‘cafes’ between ‘restaurant’ and ‘and fast food enterprises’.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Amendment 15

TM042 insert the words ‘and drink’ between ‘all food’ and ‘outlets’.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM043 Some areas have many second homes/holiday flats, which are only occupied for a few weeks a year. This produces very limited benefit to the local economy. It is detrimental to the local communities, pushing house prices higher and pricing local people out of the market. The Green Party’s policy of Land Value Tax has no reduction or exemption for properties which are left vacant. It will deter the ownership of second ‘holiday’ homes and encourage greater use of underused buildings. (see EC793)

Tourism and transport

TM050 Tourists visiting this country increase the load on the national transport system. This impact must be managed in an environmentally sustainable manner, and to ensure that benefits of changes to provision or infrastructure apply both to tourists and the host community. Some areas will attract large numbers of tourists, and much of this tourism will be seasonal. Additional public transport should be provided at such times to cater primarily for tourists so that these journeys can be made with less environmental impact and disruption to local travel.

TM051 The Green Party wishes to cut the use of fossil fuels by encouraging the use of public transport rather than private cars for tourism. Local authorities should help co-ordinate the provision of public transport to existing tourist facilities. Local restaurants, hotels, facilities and tourist attractions should be encouraged to give special offers to those visitors who use public transport, in exchange for promotion of their facilities through the transport operators and local authority. Such a scheme would be self-financing “ and renumber accordingly.

Amendment 16

Delete “ and renumber accordingly.’ from the end of TM051.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM052 Similarly, new tourist developments must be subject to an environmental impact assessment including the number of new visitors likely. Where development bringing a significant increase in numbers of visitors is accepted, the developers must work with public transport providers and the local authority to ensure sufficient additional public transport is provided.

Amendment 17

Delete TM052

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM053 The Green Party encourages the use of environmentally sustainable modes of transport, as set out in the hierarchy of modes in our transport policy (see TR030). Facilities for walking, cycling, riding and provision of public transport help tourism to benefit both tourists and residents. We would empower local authorities to give grants to small and medium sized tourism enterprises to improve significantly their facilities for cyclists or links with public transport provision.

TM054 Canals and other waterways offer sustainable opportunities for tourism with limited consumption of resources. We encourage the use

of renewable energy and sustainable fuels for waterborne transport (seeEN302). Canals, rivers and waterways used for tourism need to be managed to ensure minimum disruption to the local ecology by tourist activities there. Speed restrictions on motorised craft must be enforced.

Tourism, our natural and cultural heritage, and the environment

TM060 Our country’s natural and cultural heritage attracts tourists. We need to ensure tourism supports the maintenance of that heritage, rather than damaging it through excess. A rich natural heritage, managed properly, can be enjoyed by tourists and local people in environmentally sensitive ways.

Amendment 18

delete TM060

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM061 Areas and sites which have come under severe pressure from tourist activities would be designated for absolute protection from further degradation. Local authorities should have responsibility for enforcement, and legal penalties would fall upon both individuals and corporate bodies responsible for damage. Local authorities, non-governmental organisations and the public would be consulted about the designation of such sites. Such designation would provide added protection for vulnerable sites. Sensitive natural habitats such as in the Lake District and Snowdonia require protection. The Green Party also promotes a general policy of conservation and protection for all our countryside for enjoyment by tourists and local people. (see CY501 - CY503 and CY550 andCY580)

Amendment 19

Delete TM061

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM062 Certain leisure pursuits which are resource intensive, such as motor boating, helicopter and small aircraft pleasure flights, have great-

er impact on the environment. Local authorities should be empowered to ban these activities from specific locations in which they are inappropriate. The costs of such activities to participants should reflect their impact upon the environment.

TM063 Golf course proliferation in Britain is unsustainable due to its varied environmental impacts. Further development would be discouraged and regulations would be placed upon existing golf courses requiring them to implement course management practices consistent with environmental sustainability.

Amendment 20

delete TM063 and replace with new TM063 below:

TM063 Certain type of leisure facilities such as golf courses and large caravan parks may have significant environmental costs and impacts. Regulations would be developed to ensure all facilities implemented management practices consistent with environmental sustainability and minimum impact on the natural and human surroundings.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM064 Caravan and camping sites can help encourage tourists to spend more leisure time in this country. Larger sites should be strictly monitored by local authorities to ensure environmentally responsible disposal of waste, minimum maintenance standards for health and safety and responsible use of the local environment.

Amendment 21

delete TM064 and replace as proposed TM064 below:

TM064 Certain type of leisure facilities such as golf courses and large caravan parks may have significant environmental costs and impacts. Regulations would be developed to ensure all facilities implemented management practices consistent with environmental sustainability and minimum impact on the natural and human surroundings.

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM065 Physical deterioration of historic buildings and artifacts can also be a major problem, whether due to pollution or excessive contact with tourism. But “historic” tourism can provide income to support the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings and may stimulate the conversion of other old buildings into tourist accommodation. The Green Party would support this, subject to safeguards for the buildings and surrounding area. Local authorities should preserve, promote and maintain local cultural treasures of all kinds in co-operation with locally based non-governmental organisations.

TM066 Those local authorities covering areas attracting significant numbers of tourists should maintain a Tourism Consultative Committee, to involve local businesses, people and community organisations as a specialised advisory body to recommend policy improvements, based on principles of sustainability.

Policies on International Tourism

TM070 While Green policies for tourism will vary to achieve similar objectives in diverse local circumstances, all are advocated on a basis of equity. Where we favour a particular policy at home, we think it only fair reasonable that other countries should be able to do likewise, rather than being exploited as a result of disparities in economic power. Our policies for international tourism recognise that principle, and seek to ensure that policies we recommend in England and Wales are respected by UK tour operators etc when implemented in other countries.

Amendment 22

delete TM070

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

International tourism and transport

TM075 There has been a rapid increase in international tourism and consequent journeys made using modes of transport dependent on fos-

sil fuels, most significantly air travel. This is resulting in ever growing emissions of greenhouse gases. This is leading to dramatic and potentially devastating climate change.

TM076 The Green Party wishes to reduce drastically the amount of travelling that takes place for tourist purposes, and would do so with the policies set out in the air transport section of our transport policy. Rather than travelling by air, we encourage people to travel overland and by sea. The UK should press governments to ease visa restrictions for people travelling through their country and improve co-operation between countries to develop international ticketing arrangements.

Amendment 23

Delete TM075-TM076

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM077 Our policies to change the nature of work would give people more leisure time to enable them to make journeys by more environmentally friendly means, and to reap the benefits of an enriched travelling experience. Our policies to improve people’s quality of life would reduce the desire to travel frequently to escape life at home.

Amendment 24

Delete TM077

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

International tourism and the economy

TM080 International tourism is a “high value” industry, offering comparatively large revenues and profits. However, those are usually channelled back to the tour operators, airlines and large organisations, often based in richer countries, rather than benefiting the local economies of the countries hosting the tourists. Imports of food, furniture, other goods and services, and personnel are at the expense of the local economy. Prices for goods and services are often pushed up by tourists’ demand for them, to the detriment of meeting

local requirements. The Green Party supports countries and communities seeking to require local purchasing, and the development of local industries to meet demand.

Amendment 25

Delete TM080

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

TM081 Where tourism developments by overseas companies prove unsustainable, host local communities will need to work together to enable them to reclaim disused tourist facilities and complexes for use by the local population, by means of renovation work, or, where this is not possible, demolition and rebuilding. Multi-use developments should be encouraged, so that they can better meet the needs of local people and tourists together. The Green Party supports countries and communities seeking to control development in these ways.

International tourism and the environment

TM090 International tourism depends on the attractiveness of the destination's resources to its visitors whether those are natural resources, such as beautiful scenery and wildlife, or human-made resources, such as historic buildings and ancient sites. The environment of faunal and floral species which are locally fragile, rare or close to extinction should be the object of scrupulous respect, in order to save the existence of such populations and their habitats as much as possible. These precautions should apply to wildlife of all kinds. Protection and conservation of historic buildings and sites must be fully respected. Consideration needs to be given to the architectural planning of tourist facilities by using building styles and materials in harmony with the natural and existing built environment.

TM091 UK and international guidelines for the tourist industry (see TM020ff) should be fully respected when the UK is making loans of money to countries to develop their tourist provision, or providing assistance to UK tour operators.

International tourism and local cultures and peoples

TM100 The Green Party condemns the forcible removal of people from their homelands to make way for tourist developments. Full respect must be paid to the cultural and spiritual environment of the hosts in the country visited, and all direct or indirect implications of the conservation of its heritage and traditions.

TM101 We recognise that cultural exchange between peoples can be a positive thing, provided that this is done in a responsible way. We support 'working holidays, cultural exchanges and longer term study or travel in a country, as a means to understand the culture of the places one is visiting.'

Amendment 26

Delete TM101

Proposed by: Matt Follett*, John Norris, Roger Creagh-Osborne, Brian Heatley, Alan Francis, Rachel Fryer

Submitted by Brian Heatley **, Matt Follett, Alan Francis, Roger Creagh-Osborne

Section C – Policy Motions

C01 – Campaigning for an alternative economic strategy

Synopsis

The resolution commits the GPEW to campaign for an emergency programme of economic and social reconstruction, based on the proposals of the New Green Deal pamphlet, but broadened and reinforced in order to transform fundamentally, rather than simply to try to stabilise and regulate, the current financial and industrial system.

Motion

The authors of the New Green Deal pamphlet are right to say that the current crisis undermines the credibility of the whole neo-liberal project and to point out the need for good old-fashioned direct government spending and job creation, putting new demand into the economy through investing in infrastructure and public services. However, the scale and intensity of the crisis has worsened since the report's publication and it is clear that a programme of infrastructural renewal even more ambitious than that envisaged by the pamphlet's authors is needed. Such a programme will require determined government and popular action to end the domination of the market and to use society's resources to transform fundamentally, rather than simply to try to stabilise and regulate, the current financial and industrial system.

It will require a programme of industrial restructuring of wartime proportions and a determined social programme that puts measures to advance equality at the centre of its proposals. In order to gain the active support of working people it will be necessary to make the defeat of unemployment an explicitly central objective of government economic policy, along with measures aimed at steadily reducing income and wealth differentials and safe-guarding the homes of families threatened with

repossession. In addition, workers affected by major changes in industrial strategy must be confident that their futures will be secured and improved, rather than threatened, by those changes.

Therefore, the Green Party will actively campaign, particularly within the trade union movement, for an emergency programme of economic and social reconstruction, based on the proposals of the New Green Deal pamphlet, but broadened and reinforced by the following measures:

1. The permanent retention of RBS, Lloyds/HBOS, B&B and Northern Rock in effective public ownership and their conversion into more responsive and democratically controlled institutions, a surplus profits tax on the clearing banks and the introduction of powers to control the investment policies, dividends and bonus payments of all privately owned financial institutions.

2. The active development and promotion of alternative vehicles for the provision of credit, including publicly owned and accountable banks, local community banks, credit unions, building societies and other mutuals.

3. Government powers to direct the investment policies of the pension funds, including the requirement to invest a certain percentage of their funds into government bonds each year.

4. Implementation of a direct taxation policy aimed at steadily reducing income and wealth differentials.

5. The regeneration and restructuring of our public transport system, including the return to public ownership of the railways and democratic public control of local and regional bus services, including the re-introduction of municipal and other commonly owned services.

6. Funding for a major programme of social housing construction and refurbishment by local authorities, housing co-operatives and housing associations in order to respond to the aspirations of the four million

families currently on housing waiting lists.

7. Powers to enable families in mortgage arrears to transfer the tenure of their homes to social tenancies.

8. Taking all large scale energy production and distribution into public ownership.

9. A programme of large scale direct public investment in the conversion of existing engineering and construction component manufacturing to more socially useful production, the development of their productive capacity and a big expansion in relevant R&D.

10. An absolute guarantee of jobs and retraining with no loss of pay or security for workers having to redeploy from declining to expanding sectors as a result of the major changes in industrial strategy that are required -for example, the contraction of the motor vehicle, armaments and aero-space industries and the run-down and replacement of much of the existing electricity generation capacity.

Amend MfSS section EN400 to:
The large scale production and distribution of electricity and gas will be brought into a fully accountable public sector.

Amendment 1

Delete paragraph numbered 1 (The permanent retention of...) and replace with;

1. The creation of a monopoly on the creation of credit, both for corporate and retail banking, operated by the Bank of England under the direction of the Government. The retention of RBS, Lloyds/HBOS, B&B and Northern Rock in permanent and effective public ownership and their conversion into a chain of smaller, more responsive and democratically controlled local banks. The introduction of powers to control the investment policies, dividends and bonus payments of all privately owned financial institutions.

Add after paragraph numbered 10 (An absolute guarantee of jobs...) a new paragraph;

11. Countering the loss of jobs by introducing a statutory 35 hour working week and banning the systematic use of overtime working.

Proposers: Sean Thompson, Cllr. Romayne Phoenix, Joseph Healy, Peter Murry, Andy Hewett and two others.

Amendment 2

In Section 8 of C01 delete all and replace with:

“Taking all energy distribution into public ownership and ensuring that energy production becomes a mixture of public and private enterprises.”

Delete section of motion amending MfSS section EN400 and replace with:

“EN400 The distribution mains for electricity and gas will be brought into a fully accountable public sector. Energy production would be a mixture of public and private enterprises.”

Proposed: Darren Johnson*, Ruth Jolly, Tracy Dighton-Brown, Sue Luxton and two others.

Amendment 3

Delete all of paragraph numbered 10.

Proposed by Matt Follett*, Brian Heatley, Chris Haine, Rachel Fryer and two others.

Amendment 4

Delete Section 10 of motion C01 and replace with

10. Full implementation of the Citizens’ Income Scheme as quickly as possible. Retraining for those having to move from declining industries to new industrial sectors brought about by the move to a peaceful, low-carbon economy. Large-scale expansion in training provision for the jobs needed to create a low carbon economy (such as plumbers, electricians, builders and engineers). Extra support for communities heavily reliant on increasingly redundant industries and encouragement for new industries (such a wind turbine manufacture and low emission bus production) to locate in these areas.

Proposed: Darren Johnson*, Ruth Jolly, Tracy Dighton-Brown, Sue Luxton and two others

Submitted by Sean Thompson **, Katie Buse, Matt Selwood, Peter Allen and five others

C02 - Migration

Synopsis

The European Green Party at its spring Council agreed the following policy on Migration, which is now the common policy for the European elections across Europe. With this theme now an important issue, with the rise of the far right across Europe and the need for a progressive and humane policy on migration, we believe that it is time to modernise the party’s policy on migration.

Motion

We therefore call upon the Green Party of England & Wales to adopt the migration policy of the European Green Party and to amend the MfSS accordingly. The EGP’s Migration Policy is below together with the proposed amendments to the MfSS.

1. Nationals of the “new member states” to have the full freedom of movement immediately after their accession. All third country nationals already settled in the EU, including their family members, should have full access to the labour market, health and education facilities. After three years of residence and work, they should receive the same social rights and freedom of movement and settlement as European Union citizens.

2. A legal framework on EU-level for minimum standards on the rights of labour migrants. The EU has to guarantee protection against abuse by employers and slum lords, give migrants the possibility to integrate, develop their skills and participate. The minimum standards encompass transparency, criteria and time limits on application procedures, the right to the national minimum wage, family reunification and access to housing and education.

3. Rejects the proposed idea of circular migration, admitting migrants only temporary, because of the risk

of failure like the old “Guest worker system”. Migrants that are admitted temporarily must have the chance to obtain a permanent residence permit. Member States should stimulate migration by creating conditions for migrants, without affecting their rights and choices. Furthermore, the EU shall contribute to the transfer of skills and knowledge by granting access to their universities and high schools to a generous number of people from “developing countries”.

4. All migrants are entitled to fundamental human rights. Family reunification is one of those rights: we fully honour everyone’s right to live with his or her family, as stated in the European Convention on Human Rights. There is a tendency of Member States to restrain people from exercising this right, making unreasonable demands to migrants who want to reunify their family in the European Union. Barriers such as having to pass a language test in their home country or requiring that they earn much more than the minimum wage are prejudicial. We greens reject these requirements and guarantee the right to live in family. Other rights can be incremental in time, up to the point in which migrants have the same equal rights that European citizens have.

5. Every person who needs shelter according to the Geneva Conventions must have the possibility to get access to a fair asylum procedure in Europe. The Greens demand that access to a fair asylum procedure is always granted to those who need it, in a language the asylum seeker understands or with the help of translator and with free legal assistance at all stages of the procedure. In each case an individual assessment is needed, based on objective information of the human rights situation in the home country. Agencies should never use lists of “safe third countries” which rarely reflect the harsh living conditions in some countries. The agency responsible for processing the claim should be independent from the government.

6. There are now migrants, displaced persons and their families, who must leave their land because of environmental disaster that results from both incremental and rapid

ecological and climatic change that includes sea level rise, coastal erosion, desertification, collapsing ecosystems, water contamination and weather events that are more frequent and unpredictable. As a result, inhabitants are unable to live safe or sustainable lives in their immediate environment. Some island nations may cease to exist. The word refugee has been used with strong moral connotations of societal protection in most world cultures, and it must now be extended to those who are forced to migrate because of climatic change.

7. We favour the revision or removal of the Dublin II convention on the grounds that it creates a disproportionate burden for some countries and complicates the processing of asylum claims. The removal of this Convention is essential for small former “transit” countries. The European Refugee Fund may help in shifting the balance by compensating financially Member states dealing with the biggest share of asylum seekers. The European Union should take responsibility for asylum seekers crossing the Union border: asylum seekers may not be deported to neighbouring countries without having assessed the asylum claim.

8. The Greens oppose the principle of detaining persons not found guilty of any crime but who just violated an administrative rule (i.e. entering or staying without proper documentation in the European Union). Detention is a juridical paradox. In cases of last resort, if detention is unavoidable, the EGP calls for a detention as short as possible (preferably only a few days) and in the best conditions possible (as regards to recreation, hygiene and privacy), and never be applied to minors, asylum seekers and those in vulnerable positions. All detainees should have access to free legal advice, social assistance and medical support within the centre. For a better transparency, centres should be checked by an institution responsible for controlling the standards of detention places. Centres should also be made accessible to politicians, media, NGOs and international organisations. The use of handcuffs and other degrading treatment on migrants when

they need to go out of centres is condemned.

9. Many irregular migrants suffer from their insecure situation, the lack of rights and the risk of abuse and exploitation. Irregular migrants should have access to basic provisions such as health care, and education for children. EGP wants to diminish their number by creating more legal ways for entering the European Union. Furthermore, Greens favours regularisations for irregular migrants who have contributed to the Member States for a number of years.

10. We recognize a distinction between people helping out irregular migrants (smugglers, people offering a shelter or rescuing them at sea...) and people abusing migrants (traffickers, slumlords...). Although the abuse of migrants is to be sanctioned, helping undocumented migrants should be tolerated and not considered a crime. Captains who rescue boat people should not be punished by law. Instead all member states should open their harbours for castaways.

11. Asylum seekers fleeing a conflict should be granted a high quality protection, with minimum rights, such as family reunification and access to the labour market. If the conflict they fled is still going on after three years, they should be granted a permanent residence permit.

12. For us greens is fundamental to recognize that a integrated society is one that respect diverse groups as well as individuals. It is not only the migrant that should adapt to Europe: Europe must also adapt to the migrant. The inclusion process is a dialogue, and as any other dialogue has two directions. As much as we ask from migrants to adapt into a new society, we also ask the existing society to change and welcome the newcomer.

Delete section MG421 of Migration Policy (which refers to opposing a Common Immigration Policy)

So it should now read:

MIGRATION section of Europe Policy

EU781 Add at beginning:

“The Green Party supports the principle of a Common Immigration Policy for the European Union.

We believe that shared obligations towards Asylum Seekers (see EU780) and immigrants provides the best available way to deal with future challenges arising from refugees displaced by climate change and other factors.”

EU784 (new clause)

“The Green Party believes that the greenhouse gas emissions of all European states have substantially contributed to Climate Change. This has already caused extreme weather events impacting most strongly upon the poorest states in the World. We envisage this situation may become worse until significant cuts in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are achieved. We therefore believe that European states have a general duty to alleviate the problems they have helped cause. They should relieve poverty in the poorest states and, whenever necessary, provide homes for refugees who may have been displaced as the result of European patterns of consumption and profligate use of fossil fuels.”

Submitted by Joseph Healy **, Farid Bakht, Noel Lynch, Hazel Dawe and two others.

C03 – Domestic Abuse

Synopsis

This policy aims to address the causes of domestic abuse and to ensure that its victims are recognised and given the appropriate resources to safely escape the abusive relationship. It aims particularly to ensure that funding is secure and that this is regarded as a core area of government services.

Motion

Insert a new section titled “domestic abuse” after CJ350 (Hate Crime) and renumber subsequent sections.

CJ351 Addressing the imbalances of power – including economic and social power – that can leave individuals vulnerable to domestic abuse is central to many aspects of Green Party policy. The Green Party recognises that domestic abuse takes places in a range of circumstances, in all types of relationships, and that the victims can be women or men, children or vulnerable adults, includ-

ing disabled adults and older adults. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that a large majority of cases involve abuse by men against women, with research indicating that one in four women will experience domestic abuse during their lifetime. On average more than two women a week in Britain are killed by current or former domestic partners. Abuse can be physical, emotional or psychological, financial, or involve restricting of personal freedom.

CJ352 Relationship education to inculcate values of respect for others and respect for difference will be provided in schools and other appropriate environments. Such education will also provide knowledge about the unacceptability of abusive behaviour of all types, and about when potential victims are most vulnerable (such as women during pregnancy, in relationships involving drugs and alcohol), how abusers can gradually wear away at resistance, and what escape routes are available.

CJ353 Programmes will be provided that train all frontline staff dealing with the public, including housing officers, street rangers, police, workers in the health services and particularly maternity services, and other relevant individuals to recognise signs of abuse and to be able to provide pathways of escape for victims. They will recognise that for different victims different referral points and aid agencies will be appropriate. Victims will not be pushed towards police and the criminal justice system against their inclination or will. Peer support networks, with appropriate training and support, will be encouraged.

CJ354 Multi-agency working is essential to identify the full extent of domestic abuse and improve prevention or early intervention. Crime Reduction Partnerships must take lead in co-ordinating information from refuges, NHS, Police, Children's Services, Adult Services, social housing, schools, voluntary organisations and any other appropriate local body who may have information about individuals and families at risk.

CJ355 The Green Party recognise that domestic abuse can have wide ranging impacts, affecting whole families and neighbourhoods.

Where children are living in households where there is physical abuse among partners, the children can often also be at risk of physical abuse, and witnessing abuse can have long-term psychological damage. We will expand access to counselling is for all those affected by domestic abuse, the victims, the witnesses and the perpetrators. This is the most effective way of reducing re-offending and breaking cycles of offending within family and neighbourhood networks.

CJ356 It will be assumed that victims will be assisted to remain in their own homes with the provision of all necessary safety measures (including alarms, improved locks and grills, extra police patrols, "neighbourhood watch" schemes etc). Where this is not possible or desired by the victim, appropriate immediate refuge and future housing will be available for all victims escaping domestic abuse. All of these provisions will be publicly funded with permanent guaranteed funding, so that there is certainty about their continuity. Victims will be offered appropriate counselling, and measures put in place to attempt to prevent offenders reoffending.

CJ357 For victims escaping domestic abuse, lack of funds can be a major barrier. If the abuser controls finance and the victim can not access public funding (e.g. working individuals who can't claim benefits), then the barriers to escaping are increased. All essential services will be made readily available to all victims to help them through the trauma and difficulties to escape abuse, including help with housing, legal costs, etc. The court system will be provided with appropriate resources and guidance to ensure that the needs of victims of abuse are recognised, both in hearings related to their case and other matters.

CJ366 Asylum policy will recognise that claimants may be especially vulnerable to domestic abuse, and will ensure that asylum claims of victims fleeing abuse are treated appropriately. It will also recognise that claims may be validly made on the ground that victims' own state will not or cannot protect them from an abusive partner.

Submitted by Natalie Bennett **, Maya de Souza, Leila Kiersch, Janet Hargreaves, and two others

C04 - Gender and asylum

There was no synopsis submitted with this motion.

Motion

Insert into RA405 in the refugees and asylum seekers chapter of the MfSS after "Convention":

The Green Party further recognises that gender issues may be a rightful cause for an asylum claim, as where, for example, a woman or girl may be subject to female genital mutilation or forced marriage were she to be denied asylum.

Submitted by Romaine Phoenix **, Cathryn Symons, Sarah Mitchell, Maria Iacovou

C05 – Maternity Services

Synopsis

In 25% of NHS trusts, intervention rates are double the targeted level. Lack of continuity of care, a shortage of midwives and consultants and beds contribute to high death rates and threaten mothers' and babies' health. About 11 million UK women have suffered post-birth trauma.

Motion

Insert a new section after H302, titled "Maternity Services" and subsequently renumber.

H303 All women should be entitled to the highest standards of care during pregnancy and birth, and post-natally. We will ensure that women are given the information they need to make appropriate choices about how they wish to give birth, and that a full range of options, including home birth and a range of styles of hospital delivery, is made available to all women.

H304 The incidence of medical intervention in childbirth has escalated in recent years, particularly the rate of caesarean sections, which are expensive and, when not medically required, risky. We will work to reduce the number of interventions in childbirth, and change the culture of the NHS so that birth is treated as

a normal and non-medical event, in which mothers are empowered and able to be in control.

H305 All women will be entitled to the care of a single midwife through prenatal care, birth and the first month of post-natal care, in line with the model of care currently provided by independent midwives. This will be made possible by initiatives to improve the recruitment and retention of midwives.

H306 Independent midwives currently fill a gap in NHS provision, and as such will be supported in the short to medium term - for example, by measures to make it easier for appropriately qualified midwives to obtain professional indemnity insurance. In the longer term the aim will be to bring all such provision inside the NHS, ensuring that midwives who may previously have felt unwelcome in this environment are made welcome and their practice supported.

Amendment1

Replace the proposed H306 with: We will ensure that the NHS embraces the current quality and style of care as offered by Independent Midwives so that they are able to work within the NHS system and offer this type of care to all women in a single tier system. We shall ensure that midwifery training places are increased to meet medium and long term needs. This will be achieved by: ensuring that terms and conditions for midwives are improved, increasing investment in midwifery services to ensure that these policies are delivered, specific funding for midwife training along with targeted recruitment drives, and ensuring that the culture of midwifery services is supportive for both mothers and midwives.

Proposed by Stuart Jeffrey*, Noel Lynch, Lesley Hedges, Joseph Healy, Romaine Phoenix

H307 All women and their partners will be offered a full range of psychological support after birth to help deal with trauma and post-natal depression. The Green Party will ensure that baby clinics are open for adequate hours, so that women can get access to health visitors and take their babies for regular check-ups at

a location and time that is convenient for them.

H308 Maternity units should be sufficient in number and located so that all women are within reasonable reach of one. Special Care Baby units will be expanded in line with the increasing number of babies that need intensive care, but special attention will also be given to preventative efforts to reduce the number of low birthweight and other problems that contribute to this need. Funds allocated for maternity services should be ringfenced to ensure that they are used for the intended purpose.

H309 Throughout maternity services the focus will be on compassion and on providing a safe, supportive environment. Complaints will be treated with sympathy, and systems arranged to ensure that complaints can be registered easily and are investigated properly, challenging the 'conspiracy of silence' that discourages women from speaking about their traumatic experiences for fear of frightening other women.

Submitted by Sarah Mitchell **, Sian Berry, Mike Shaughnessy, Natalie Bennett and two others.

C06 – Bringing climate change policy up to date

Synopsis

Various events that have taken place since the existing CC policy was drafted have rendered parts of it inaccurate insofar as they described the then-current situation. This motion brings them up to date, hopefully without introducing new parts that are likely to likewise go out of date.

Motion

Delete CC003 and replace by the following:

CC003 The IPCC has been issuing major 'Assessment Reports' (ARs) every few years since it was formed, which are generally regarded as the definitive statement of the broadly-agreed scientific position. It has normally been, and still is, the case that good-quality research work done after the last AR will be both more accurate and more pessimistic than the

AR. Such work then often becomes a key piece of evidence informing the writers of the next AR.

Delete CC205 (It contradicts CC206, which was added later without this being spotted)

and

Replace CC211 by:

CC211 Global concentrations are now increasing at significantly over 2 ppm CO₂ each year and have continued rising steadily for a number of decades. This is in part because targets for the Kyoto Protocol were not based on science, and in part because it excluded 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).

and

In CC221 (mislabelled CC2214), delete the section:

"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."

Submitted by Tony Cooper **, Derek Smith, Janet Alty, Jonathan Essex

C07 – Zero Carbon Britain

Synopsis

There are growing concerns that the magnitude of the climate change problem has been understated. These concerns are informed both by recent changes in the real world, notably the Arctic, and by recent research work. To do the UK's bit we have to stand alongside the CAT and call for a zero-carbon Britain.

Motion

Add new subsection CC014:

CC014 As of 2008 there is much broader recognition within the scientific community of the effect of numerous different feedback effects. One study has investigated the effects by looking at paleological comparisons for some tens of millions of years in considerable detail. The potential impact of these feedbacks is very large and very hard to predict accurately.

and

add new para CC112 after CC111:

CC112 The research on feedbacks referred to in CC014 suggests that reductions to below the 2008 figure of approximately 380 ppm CO₂-equivalent may well be needed. Observations of the recent very, and unpredictably, rapid decay of Arctic sea-ice help to confirm the importance of feedback processes and of the need for urgent emissions reductions. Application of the precautionary principle means that the world should aim to cut all greenhouse-gas emissions back to zero if not below as soon as is practicable.

In **CC201** delete "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%."

And

Replace CC203 by:

CC203 UK emissions in 2005 were just below the 1990 baseline and rising. We should aim steadily to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2030.

[this is a modification of the 1st sentence of what was a long para]

Add new para CC204 after this:

CC204 There should also be a target of a minimum of 10% emissions reductions year on year for the first ten years, by which time emissions would have declined by 65%. By then, safe and effective mechanisms for reducing greenhouse gas concentrations should have been developed, and percentage targets should be replaced by numerical ones to complete the reduction to zero. That such a stiff target is achievable in practice is demonstrated by the Centre for Alternative Technology's "Zero Carbon Britain" report, which spells out in considerable detail one set of policies to achieve it.

Add new para CC205 thereafter:

CC205 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 or even "negative" emissions by seques-

tration and or sink enhancement, and Green party public announcements should reflect the current nature of climate change science."

[This is a modification of the text at the end of the current CC203] and renumber through to the end section C.3

Submitted by Tony Cooper **, Derek Smith, Janet Alty, Jonathan Essex

C08 - Women in employment and business.

Synopsis

Women working fulltime in the UK are paid 17% less than men, and the Equality and Human Rights Commission "Sex and Power 2008" survey showed that the percentage of female directors has stalled at 11%, and fallen in a number of categories. Serious action is needed.

Motion

The Green Party calls for the forthcoming Equality bill and Act to include the following provisions

1 Medium and large-sized companies be required to undertake equal pay audits that compare the earnings of their employees and to take action to redress inequalities.

2 Legal changes to make it much easier for women to take equal pay cases to court, and to allow women to take such cases as a group, with the support of the unions.

3 Significant funding is put into encouraging girls and women to consider a broader range of careers.

4 The law to follow Norway's in requiring that companies listed on the Stock Exchange have 40% of their board members being female within five years of the date of the passing of the legislation.

Submitted by Natalie Bennett **, Caroline Lucas, Sue Luxton, Raphael Levy and three others

C09 – Intellectual Property

Synopsis

This motion fills a gap in the Economy Chapter identified in the Autumn 2006 economy enabling motion. It supports the Green value of greater

sharing and while giving reasonable protection to creative people makes it generally more difficult to obtain patents and similar forms of protection than at present.

Motion

Delete Policy Statement RECO5.1, 'Intellectual Property' passed Autumn 2005 from RoPs and insert in the MfSS after EC990 the following and renumber:

Intellectual Property

Background

EC1000 The term intellectual property covers a number of different areas, such as cultural products (see EC1012 below), software, physical inventions, drugs and natural entities protected by different means such as copyright, patents and trademarks. There are differences within and between these areas, and there can be no single intellectual property policy. The crucial balance in policy is between ensuring that there is adequate funding and incentive for innovation for socially and environmentally valuable activity and encouraging the widest possible sharing of these rights, which are public goods.

Policy

EC1010 Our general presumption is to encourage the Green value of greater sharing and to make it more difficult to obtain patents and similar forms of protection than at present. Specific policies are below.

EC1012 On cultural products (literature, music, film, paintings etc), our general policy is to expand the area of cultural activity, that is ways that culture can be consumed, produced, and shared, reduce the role of the market and encourage smaller and more local cultural enterprise (see CMS200 onwards). Specifically we will

a) introduce a Citizen's Income (see EC730), which will allow many more people to participate in cultural creation;

b) introduce generally shorter copyright terms, with a usual maximum of 14 years;

c) legalise peer to peer copying where it is not done as a business;

	Ballroom	Main 1	Main 2	Balcony Bar	Arena 2	Link 1	Link 2	Ice Lounge	Balcony 1
1100 – 1150				The Freepost scheme explained – <i>Mark Hill</i>		Workshop A01 (SOC report)			
1200 – 1250	Plenary - Opening Speech, Emergency Motions, Standing Orders Committee Report								
1300 – 1350		Workshop C01 (Campaigning for an alternative economic strategy)	Workshop C03 (Domestic abuse)	First timers at conference – <i>Emily Heath</i>	Workshop C04 (Gender and asylum) and C08 (Women in employment)	Workshop C06 (Bringing climate change policy up to date)			
1400 – 1450		Workshop C02 (Migration motion)	Workshop C11 (Monetary policy)	Management of Euro and County election expenditure <i>GPEX</i>	Workshop C05 (Maternity services)	Save the Humans - reframing our Party's ideas as common sense <i>Rupert Read and Matt Wootton</i>	Workshop C07 (Zero Carbon Britain)		
1500 – 1520	Leader's Speech								
1520 – 1650	Plenary - Section C (Policy Motions)								
1700 – 1750		Workshop A04 (GPEX report)	Workshop C09 (Intellectual property)	Winning Green votes in rural areas <i>GPEX</i>	Core services: how rape crisis centres and women's refuges should be funded <i>Natalie Bennett</i>	Progress in Green Economics in the last 6 months <i>Green Economics Institute</i>	Young Greens committee meeting - all welcome		
1800 – 1850	Panel - Economic inclusion: Can the poor afford a green agenda? with Jean Lambert MEP, Peter Cranie, chaired by Romyne Phoenix (to 1930)								
1900 – 1950					South East Green Party regional meeting	Designing, printing and distributing ward newsletters <i>GPEX</i>	A Green Rural Manifesto: Housing / Farming / Employment <i>Robert Somerville</i>	Beyond the Green New Deal <i>Sean Thomson</i>	Workshop C10 (Concentrating solar power) and C13 (Carbon capture & storage) Workshop B01 (Tourism Voting paper)
2000 on	Evening Social at Bar Red - Getting to know each other: Green Party 'speed friend-ing' evening								

Saturday (Registration open 0900-1800)

	Ballroom	Main 1	Main 2	Balcony Bar	Arena 2	Link 1	Link 2	Ice Lounge
0900 – 0950		Workshop A02 (Policy report) and A03 (DRC report)	Workshop C14 (Geo-engineering)		Workshop C16 (Natural gas storage)	Workshop C12 (Global financial architecture)	Workshop C15 (Criminal Justice)	
1000 – 1150	Plenary - Section A (Reports), Section B (Tourism Voting Paper) Emergency Motions (from 1140)							
1200 – 1250	Panel - The Failure of the 'Growth Economy': towards new economic solutions, with Dan O'Neill, Nic Marks, chair Caroline Lucas MEP (to 1330)			Workshop D01 (Subscription rates B) and D02 (Subscription rates A)	How to beat the Lib Dems <i>GPEX</i>	The most important environmental campaign in Britain? <i>Campaign for Democracy</i>	First timers at conference <i>Emily Heath</i>	Workshop Education Draft Voting Paper (1 of 2) <i>Rachel Fryer</i>
1300 – 1350				NATO expansion to the East. A new Cold War for Europe <i>Green Left</i>	Campaigning and Activity Planning Meeting <i>Economics Working Group</i>	Transition towns - a model for the future of the economy? <i>Jonathan Essex and Lydia Somerville</i>	AGC business meeting	Workshop D03 (Additional synopsis from policy committee)
1400 – 1450		2009's integrated election campaigns <i>GPEX</i>	Workshop D04 (Prioritisation of motions)	Meet the MEPs <i>Jean Lambert and Caroline Lucas</i>	Solar Twin details <i>tba</i>	Climate Geo-Engineering <i>Deepak Rughani</i>	Bringing business back to our seaside towns <i>North West Green Party</i>	
1500 – 1520	European Elections Rally							
1520 – 1650	Plenary – Section B (Tourism Voting Paper), Section C (Policy Motions)							
1700 – 1750		Committee Hustings Conferences (5), <i>International</i> (1)		Committee Hustings Standing Orders Committee (3), <i>Green World Editorial Board</i> (3)		Committee Hustings Disputes Resolution Committee (2), <i>Campaigns</i> (2), <i>Policy</i> (1)		
1800 – 1850	Panel - Energy Solutions for a Renewable Future (to 1930)				Green Party Executive Question Time <i>GPEX</i>	Recession, GP Policy and relations with the TU movement <i>Green Party Trade Union Group</i>		Update on progress on green economics <i>Economics Working Group, Miriam Kennet</i>
1900 – 1950					Women by Name (women only) <i>Natalie Bennett</i>	Mobile Phone Masts: how to oppose inappropriate sites <i>Sam Riches</i>		Young Greens campaigns meeting

Monday (Registration open 0900-1200)

	Ballroom	Main 1	Main 2	Balcony Bar	Arena 2	Link 1	Link 2	Ice Lounge	Balcony 1
0900 – 0950		Workshop C17 (Northern Ireland)							
1000 – 1020	Deputy Leader's speech								
1020 – 1150	Plenary - Section D (Organisational Motions) Section C (Policy Motions) Emergency Motions (from 1140)								
1200 – 1250	Panel - Air Rage: putting a brake on aviation (to 1330)			Green World Editorial Board – board meeting, all welcome <i>Richard Scrase</i>	Workshop Education Draft Voting Paper (2 of 2) <i>Rachel Fryer</i>	Rational belief and conspiracy <i>Shahrar Ali</i>	The Freepost scheme explained <i>Mark Hill</i>	How to beat the Tories <i>GPEX</i>	
1300 – 1350				SOC Consultation on changes to GPEX election regulations	North West Green Party regional meeting	National canvassing software <i>GPEX</i>	Conferences Committee feedback session	Modifying the Party name <i>David Wyllie</i>	
1400 – 1520	Plenary - Remaining Business, Emergency Motions								
1520 – 1540	Close of Conference								

d) liberalise 'fair use' policies to operate outside the academic environment, and allow greater development from existing copyright material; and

e) make it impossible to patent broad software and cultural ideas.

EC1014 So far as concepts embodied in physical objects are concerned, we would generally shorten patent terms and relate them to the timescale of innovation in the industry concerned. We believe too that specific measures are needed to spread already patented ideas needed by many people who may not be able to afford them and to promote research in socially useful areas where the poverty of the potential customers makes rewards unlikely (eg drugs for tropical diseases):

a) in the long term we would promote international funding (perhaps from a Tobin Tax (see EU445)) to buy out the owners of certain patents, based entirely on global social and environmental usefulness, with the patent becoming available to all once the payment had been made;

b) in the absence of such an international regime, we would enable the government effectively to nationalise a patent where it was in the public interest to do so. Such a patent would be publicly available and the creators of the patent compensated;

c) we would fund a programme of government research in socially and environmentally useful areas where the prospect of inadequate rewards is inhibiting research activity.

EC1016 We would encourage and make easier the voluntary use of the open source model, not just for software.

EC1018 All published material created in the public sector (eg maps, government publications, university research) would be available to all free of financial restrictions, distributed in open standard formats, and Crown Copyright would cease to exist.

EC1020 We would impose a national ban and seek an international ban on the patenting of living material (see ST360, AG613, AR410).

EC1022 As part of the proposed dissolution and replacement of the WTO (see IP122), the GP would seek to abolish the TRIPS Agreement and

transform WIPO into a body that would help poor countries to acquire the knowledge required to develop on an ecologically sustainable basis. The requirements of the Convention on Bio-diversity must take precedence over trade rules for all aspects of IP that are ecologically sensitive, including seeds, genes and other life forms.

EC1024 We would restrict the value of claims for intellectual property violations to a proportion of the monetary gain made by the commercial exploitation by the user, and not allow damages.'

Submitted by Brian Heatley **, David Smith, Matthew Linden, Tom Chance and one other.

C10 - Concentrating solar power and European grids

Synopsis

This motion gives support to Europe-wide renewable energy initiatives such as Concentrating Solar Power plants and highly efficient long-distance High Voltage DC transmission lines - which will also be important for the utilisation of offshore wind power - and builds in the principle of a fair deal for producer countries.

Motion

Insert and renumber:

EN809 Support will be given to Europe-wide renewable energy initiatives such as the provision of large scale concentrating solar power plants in Southern Europe and the North African Deserts and the building of highly efficient long-distance High Voltage DC power lines. Such initiatives would need to operate within new international arrangements involving both the producer and consumer countries, and which gave the producer countries in particular a fair return for the use of their resources and an appropriate level of control over the entire system.

Insert and renumber:

EN810 We will expand our grid interconnections with neighbouring countries to help smooth out the variability of renewable electricity generation and electricity demand,

as variability is less pronounced over wider geographic areas.

Submitted by Jon Hooper **, Ricky Knight, Roger Creagh Osborne, Tom Tibbits and one other

C11 – Global financial architecture

Synopsis

There was no synopsis submitted with this motion.

Motion

In Economy section of MfSS, under International Finance, insert new paragraphs as follows:

EC961 The tripartite global system regulating international finance should be replaced by three new bodies: an International Reserve Bank to administer the neutral international exchange currency (EBCU); an International Clearing Union to oversee goods and carbon trading; a General Agreement on Sustainable Trade.

EC962 All countries belonging to the tripartite system should make their currencies convertible but according to internationally negotiated and fixed exchange rates. Domestically countries would be expected to administer exchange controls

EC963 The global trading system would aim to achieve balance trade between countries; those which operated extended surpluses or deficits would be fined.

EC964 The US dollar should no longer be accepted as equivalent to gold in international transactions and other national or supra-national (i.e. the euro) currencies should no longer be used as international reserve currencies.

EC965 Their role should be taken on by a neutral international currency - the EBCU - linked to the right to produce carbon dioxide.

EC966 All countries international debts should be cancelled in a world-wide jubilee and the trade surpluses and deficits of all countries should be cancelled simultaneously.

Amendment 1

Delete EC966

Proposed by Rachel Fryer*, Matt Follett, Alan Francis, Ben Duncan and one other

Delete the section on Debt and renumber subsequent sections accordingly.

Submitted by Molly Scott-Cato **, Phyllis Leslie, Brian Leslie, Stuart Jeffrey, and two others.

C12– Monetary Policy**Synopsis**

There was no synopsis submitted with this motion.

Motion

Part 1: At the beginning of EC661, add:

“The world money supply has increased over the medium to long term. Almost all is created by commercial lending institutions. The resultant debts are an important promoter of economic growth and consumption, as well as instability.”

Part 2: Insert new EC 662 and renumber:

EC662 Greed-driven lending and financial engineering lead to the accumulation of debts, derivatives and other securities based on debt, and so to financial crises. In particular we aim to avoid:

1. Excessive economic dependence on private debt;
2. The reliance of banks on inter-bank lending rather than customer deposits;
3. Excessive lending on mortgages and for consumption;
4. Complex and opaque financial instruments, which managers of financial institutions and regulators themselves do not understand;
5. Lack of transparency on financial markets, and lax and inadequate official regulation.”

Part 3: Insert at the start of old EC663:

“In the longer term” so that it reads “In the longer term the banking...”

Part 4: Replace old EC 662 (renumbered EC663 per part 2 above) with:

EC663 The current economic system enables commercial banks and other financial institutions to exert an unacceptably large influence on the economy. Their lending power should be reined in, enabling the emphasis of lending to be transferred to sustainable production.”

Part 5: Insert new EC 664 and renumber (insert after part 4 clause) with:

EC664 We will introduce strict controls on the financial sector to ensure that it serves the purposes of a sustainable economy. To ensure stability, we will regulate all financial instruments firmly and permit only those that are transparent, that offer limited risk of financial destabilisation and are clearly beneficial. We will ensure there is stricter regulation of the banks, limiting them principally to the on-lending of customer deposits and enforcing fractional reserve ratios. We will require transparency in all financial trading, including that undertaken by private investment funds.”

Amendment 1

Add new EC665 and renumber:

EC665 Since these restrictions on bank-lending will severely restrict the money supply, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England will be instructed to monitor the need for increase (or decrease) in the money supply, based initially on maintaining the amount of money existing at the time of implementation of these measures. Criteria will be developed in the light of experience, aiming to avoid both inflation and deflation. It will accordingly instruct the Bank of England to create any supplement needed, on a monthly basis, and credit it to the Treasury to be spent by the government on projects that help society and environment. If the occasion arises that a surplus is threatening to cause inflation, the Bank of England will receive back and cancel an appropriate amount of money.

Propers: Brian Leslie*, Phyllis V Leslie, Stephen Lawrence, Richard Lawson and one other.

Submitted by Richard Lawson **, Clive Lord, Stuart Jeffrey, Rupert Read, and one other.

C13 - Carbon capture and storage pilot projects**Synopsis**

This motion introduces a policy on Carbon Capture and storage, that there should be pilot projects to investigate the feasibility of capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions from power stations, which could potentially become a means of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere if used with biomass.

Motion:

In the energy section of the MfSS under “Short-term Objectives”, append to policy EN301:

“To set up industrial pilot projects of Carbon Capture and Storage technology, focusing on techniques which can be used for both fossil-fuels and biomass.”

Submitted by Jon Hooper **, Jon Lucas, John Coyne, Mike Shipley and one other.

C14 - Climate motion: geo engineering**Motion**

The Green Party opposes any attempts at planetary geo-engineering at the cost of biodiversity, ecosystems and human communities. Without biodiversity, ecosystems cannot function. Ecosystems are essential for regulating the global climate, including the carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, cloud formation (which affects the earth’s albedo), the rainfall cycle and storm tracks, as well as hydroxyl production and thus global methane levels.

Ocean-fertilisation poses an unknown but potentially serious threat to marine biodiversity, which plays an essential role in regulating the global carbon cycle, as well as putting fishing communities at risk. We call on all countries to enforce the moratorium on ocean fertilisa-

tion adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Amendment 1

Add "(e.g. with iron to increase algal growth as a means of sequestering carbon)" after 'Ocean-fertilisation'.

Proposed by: Deepak Rughani*, Christine Way, Jonathan Essex, Lesley Grahame and two others

Climate geo-engineering by increasing the earth's albedo poses a major and unknown new threat to the climate system, to biodiversity and to people. Sulphur aerosol injections into the atmosphere, for example, could reduce global photosynthesis through 'global dimming', abruptly change rainfall and weather patterns, and increase acid rain.

So-called 'carbon negative' bioenergy and large-scale soil carbon sequestration schemes linked to industrial agriculture and forestry have been proposed as means of drawing down atmospheric carbon dioxide. They include biochar and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage. Applied on a large scale, both threaten biodiversity and ecosystems as well as very large numbers of human communities and their food security would also be at risk and could dramatically worsen the global freshwater and soil depletion/erosion crises. Any large-scale 'carbon negative' bioenergy programme would require very large-scale land conversion and thus exacerbate the displacement of peoples crisis already caused by industrial agrofuels. So-called forest and agricultural 'residues' are vital for maintaining the soil nutrient and carbon cycle and in maintaining biodiversity, and the consequences of removing ever larger quantities of 'residue' are unknown and could be very severe. We therefore oppose any government support, including carbon finance, for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage and for soil sequestration linked to industrial agriculture and industrial forestry.

Amendment 2

Replace with CC303 with:

CC303 So-called 'carbon negative' bioenergy and large-scale soil car-

bon sequestration schemes linked to industrial agriculture and forestry have been proposed as means of drawing down atmospheric carbon dioxide. They include biochar and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage. Applied on a large scale, both threaten biodiversity and ecosystems as well as very large numbers of human communities and their food security. They could also dramatically worsen the global freshwater and soil depletion/erosion crises. Any large-scale 'carbon negative' bioenergy programme would require very large-scale land conversion and thus exacerbate the displacement of peoples, a crisis already caused by industrial agrofuels. So-called forest and agricultural 'residues' or 'wastes' are vital for maintaining the soil nutrient and carbon cycle and in maintaining biodiversity, and the consequences of removing ever larger quantities of 'residue' are unknown and could be very severe. We therefore oppose any government support, including carbon finance, for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage and for soil sequestration linked to industrial agriculture and industrial forestry.

Proposed by: Deepak Rughani*, Christine Way, Jonathan Essex, Lesley Grahame and two others.

Small farmers throughout the world have developed many different and effective ways of conserving and enhancing soil carbon as well as agro-biodiversity, adapted to their local circumstances. Their collective understanding and experience represents a unique knowledge bank which is vital for true climate change mitigation and an agrarian transition. Their ways of life particularly through the validation of land rights must be supported. The Green Party supports the Via Campesina call for food sovereignty.

Earth is already in the midst of an extinction crisis. Many of our life support systems are also rapidly degrading and some are on the brink of collapse. The Green Party considers it dangerously reductionist to support any climate mitigation intervention which further imperils other life support systems.

Background info: TNI and CSO declarations

Submitted by Deepak Rughani **, Christine Way, Vanessa Hall and Lesley Graham and three others.

C15 – Criminal Justice

(submitted by policy committee)

Synopsis

This motion removes some unnecessary detail from the Criminal Justice section of MfSS.

Motion

In CJ500(i) delete 2nd sentence "This would be set at 0.5 joules of muzzle energy unless and until evidence is produced that it should be otherwise."

Submitted by Alan Francis **, John Norris, Rachel Fryer, Matt Follett and two others.

C16 - Natural gas storage in underground salt caverns.

Synopsis

Energy companies make determined claims that millions of tons of natural gas must be stored otherwise, "the UK will be prey to the political and economic whims of the countries that supply it."

Plans to create massive storage facilities in underground salt caverns are being submitted, but there are fears over safety where these are located close to residential areas.

Motion

1. The Green Party reaffirms that the most desirable management of energy can only be achieved by maximising the use of renewable energy resources which would, in turn, reduce or eliminate the need to import natural gas.

2. The Green Party maintains that the precautionary principle should be used to safeguard public health and for this reason we call for a ban on natural gas storage in underground salt caverns within 5 miles of a populated area.

Submitted by Philip Mitchell **, Emily Heath, Tricia Clark, Chris Coates and one other

C17 – Northern Ireland

(Submitted by policy committee)

Synopsis

Autumn 2007 conference passed a motion instructing Policy Committee to review the MfSS chapter on Northern Ireland in the light of recent developments and in consultation with the Northern Irish, Irish and Scottish Green Parties.

Motion

Delete the Northern Ireland chapter of the MfSS (NI100-NI332), including the note added in autumn 2007.

Submitted by Brian Heatley **, John Norris, Rachel Fryer, Matt Follett and two others

Section D - Organisational Motions

D01 - Subscription rates (B)

(submitted on behalf of GPEx)

Synopsis

This motion seeks to introduce a tiered structure into the subscription rates for members paying annually, to replace the existing two-level rates of “full” and “low-income”. The aim is to put the minimum rates up roughly in line with inflation, while encouraging those who can afford it to pay more.

Motion

In accordance with article 4(iii) of the constitution, GPEx formally proposes to change membership subscription rates to the party as follows:

- a. The option of payment by direct debit to remain unchanged.
- b. The annual rate for student membership to remain at £5.
- c. The rates for life membership to be put up, by the rate of inflation since the last increase in January 2005, to £470 for an individual and to £620 for a joint membership.
- d. The rate structure for other single members paying annually not by direct debit to be changed completely to be based on income levels as per the following:

income	rate
0-£10,000	£12.00
£10,001-£20,000	£24.00
£20,001-£30,000	£36.00
£30,001-£40,000	£48.00
£40,001-£50,000	£60.00
over £50,000	£72.00

As is already the case for conference attendance fees, the party will not ask for people’s incomes to be divulged.

- e. Second and additional members living at the same address to be given a 50% discount.

[Most of the background comments to motion A apply] These rates to be introduced as soon as is administratively practical.

Submitted by Tony Cooper **, Chris Haine, Jon Lucas, Khalid Hussenbux

D02- Subscription rates (A)

(submitted on behalf of GPEx)

Synopsis

This motion seeks to empower GPEx to set subscription rates, rather than conference, so that it can respond more rapidly to changing financial situations. It also embeds the regional- and local-party capitation proportions into the constitution.

Motion

Replace Section 4 (iii) of the constitution by the following:

The rates of subscription for membership shall be proposed by GPEx and approved by GPRC, subject to the following conditions:

1. There shall be a cheap rate for students.
2. There shall be a cheap rate for low-income people, where the classification of a person as “low-income” is determined solely by that person him- or herself.
3. There shall be reduced rates for multiple persons living at the same address
4. Such rates must be reviewed at most three-yearly intervals.
5. Capitations to Regions and Local Parties shall each be a percentage of the total amount of subscriptions received from members in the relevant party. The regional party’s share shall be 8% and the local party’s share shall be 16%.

Background

(not for insertion into constitution)

Relevant Part of Current Constitution:

4 iii) The rates of subscription for membership, and the proportions in which they shall be divided between Local Parties, Regional Parties and The Green Party, shall be set by the Party Conference.

Membership subscriptions and capitation rates shall be subject to regular reviews as of Green Party AGM 2001. Such reviews shall be carried out on a 3 yearly basis by GPEx in consultation with GPRC.

Capitations to Regions and Local parties shall each be a percentage of the total amount of subscriptions received from members in the relevant party.

1. Rates were last reviewed in October 2004 and the current rates introduced in January 2005. Inflation since then according to the Retail Prices Index is about 16%.

2. The majority of new members now join by direct debit, and are invited to pay a minimum of £1 per month or £10 per year. This is hoped to encourage people to pay a little more than they would have otherwise, and to stay members for longer. The evidence suggests that this is probably the case. It also should reduce administration costs.

3. Current capitation rates are 16% to local parties and 8% to regional parties. This motion does not change these rates. Although it might seem odd to put numbers such as these in the constitution, I don’t know of anywhere else where they are written down apart from in the motion (which I drafted) some years ago to introduce them and in the administrative procedures of the office. Putting them in the constitution explicitly will mean that it requires a 2/3 majority of conference to change them.

4. Current membership rates for people not paying by direct debit are as follows:

Single Low-income	£10.50
Single Full	£31
Joint Low-income	£14
Joint Full	£41
Student	£5
Single Life	£400
Joint Life	£530

The joint rates apply to any two people living the same address.

5. The Scottish Green Party has a structure as follows:

Their membership rates are based on self-assessed gross annual income, as follows:

Income	rate
0-£10,000	£12.00
£10,001-£20,000	£24.00
£20,001-£30,000	£36.00
£30,001-£40,000	£48.00
£40,001-£50,000	£60.00
over £50,000	£72.00

There is also a student rate of £5.00.

6. If this motion is passed, GPEX plans to introduce as soon as is practicable annual rates similar to the Scottish ones:

The minimum rate of £12 to be kept a little more expensive than the minimum dd rate to encourage people to join by the latter route. Second and additional members living at the same address to be given a 50% discount. The student rate to be unchanged at £5.

Life membership rates to be increased (by the amount of inflation) to £470 for an individual and to £620 for a joint membership.

Submitted by Tony Cooper **, Chris Haine, Jon Lucas, Khalid Hussenbux

D03 - Additional synopsis from policy committee

(submitted on behalf of policy committee)

Synopsis

Policy Committee suggest that it may be helpful for final agenda papers to have occasionally a brief commentary from policy committee. To assist decision making at conference, Policy Committee suggests that the provision of a brief verbal commentary would achieve a similar aim.

Motion

To add to Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference:

Section D, Point 5 - to add a section g: Policy Committee may make comments on policy motions for publication at the end of the motion in the Final Agenda. Policy Committee must inform SOC of any such comments by the Final Agenda deadline.

Additional Policy Committee comments may also be made verbally during the plenary at the discretion of the chair and to be heard between the workshop report and the proposer of the motion.

Comments may only address the following points:

- Conflicts or interactions with or implications for other areas of policy
- Conflicts or interactions with or implications for publically elected green representatives
- Extent to which Policy committee has been provided with evidence that motion has been discussed
- Extent to which it is a proposal that affects government finances
- How far it is suitable for the format proposed (e.g. MfSS addition or policy statement)
- Evidence or data relevant to the motion

Submitted by Matt Follett **, Brian Heatley*, Rachel Fryer, Alan Francis, Roger Creagh-Osborne and one other

D04 - Prioritisation of motions

Synopsis

This organisational motion seeks to automatically give a higher priority to motions which are proposed by a recognised body of the national party and to encourage proposers of motions to consult with Policy working groups and policy committee. The presumption is that a motion which has already been endorsed by a vote of a body within the party is likely to have had better prior discussion and scrutiny than one simply proposed by any four members.

Motion

In Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference Section D: Final Agenda delete 5d) and replace with

“d) The order of motions in the Policy and Organisational sections shall be determined by SOC. In this SOC shall group motions proposed by GPRC or a Regional Meeting first, motions proposed by a recognised national committee or working group (for example policy working groups recognised by Policy Committee) second, motions proposed by a valid full meeting of a local party third, and motions proposed by individual members last. Within each group the order shall be decided by a prioritisation ballot under SO D1.

Submitted by Rachel Fryer **, Clive Lord, Matt Follett, Alan Francis, and one other.

Section E - Draft Voting Papers

E01 – Education Draft Voting Paper

Synopsis

The Autumn 2006 conference passed an Enabling Motion instructing Policy Committee to initiate a policy development process to bring a proposal for a redrafted MfSS section on Education to a future conference. This Draft Voting Paper will give those attending this conference the opportunity to comment on this work so far at a workshop session. Members can also participate in this work following conference through the Education Policy Working Group (Convenor Rachel Fryer).

The Draft Voting Paper will be followed in due course by a full Voting Paper at a later conference.

The draft that follows reflects extensive debate within the Education Policy Working Group over the two years since the enabling Motion was passed, in meetings both at conference and outside it, and in e-mail exchanges, and reflects opinions expressed more widely in the Party.

Motion

Delete the Education (ED100 – ED608) chapter of the MfSS and the Policy Statements ‘City Academies (April 2005)’ and ‘Opposition to Trust Schools (Spring 2006)’ in RoPs and replace with the following:

Education

Introduction

ED001 The Green Party believes that education should provide everyone with the knowledge and skills they require to be able to fully participate in and contribute to the society in which they live. Not just academic knowledge, but social skills, life skills, and respect for other people’s rights and lifestyles.

ED002 We endorse the Unesco Four Pillars of Education (in Delores, J. Learning, the Treasure Within(1996) Unesco), which are:

- Learning to Know
- Learning to Do
- Learning to live together
- Learning to Be

Greater emphasis on the last two of these would help to achieve a more balanced education system.

ED003 Creating a healthy sustainable society will involve creative thinking and the ability to solve problems.

ED004 Children start school as eager learners. By the end of their school career, too many have no or few positive outcomes, and no desire to continue any formal education. Some have been excluded or have stopped attending.

ED005 Our education system in the UK is one of the most highly funded in the world yet is failing growing numbers of people.

ED006 In recent years there have been too many rapid changes to the system which can create instability and uncertainty and be detrimental to participants in education. - ??delete??

ED007 Education should be at the heart of communities and for communities, and should promote equality, inclusivity, social and emotional well-being and responsibility.

ED008 Education should be a right and an entitlement and free at the point of delivery to people of all ages.

ED009 What people learn should be built around creating a sustainable future for the 21st Century and beyond.

Early Years education

ED100 The Green Party acknowledges that in most countries academic learning is not compulsory before the age of 7.

ED101 Most of these countries are considered to have higher levels of attainment than those of British schools.

ED102 Play of all kinds, and the active exploration of the arts and the natural world, are important ways for children to learn and develop, especially in the early years.

ED103 With a child-centred approach to learning the needs of these children who show a willingness and readiness for academic learning will still be met.

ED104 In accordance with the values outlined in the Introduction there will be an emphasis on social cohesion, play, enjoyment, relatedness and character building rather than knowledge and skills particularly in the early years.

ED105 Free (or subsidised) nurseries and early years education combined with Citizens’ Income would help to create structures that encourage and support parental involvement and nurture in these important years.

ED106 All early years establishments must enable regular outdoor access for children.

ED107 As with our policies on schools, early years establishments will be of a human scale; small enough to provide community units with continuity and consistency of staff for all children and small enough to provide a safe and secure environment as a base for children’s exploration of the environment and social relationships. To help achieve this they will be within walking distance of children’s homes in urban areas. (1 x yes to specify size)

ED108 There will be greater health involvement in these important years and health visitors will make regular visits to all early years establishments.

Age of learning

ED 120 With early years education extending to a higher age we will explore, in accordance with other European countries, changing the primary school age to start at the age of 7.

ED121 We will explore all-through schools (for ages 7-18) such as those in Scandinavia, which can alleviate the challenges of transition between schools and strengthen community cohesion and relations between staff, parents and pupils. This would be in the context of smaller schools (see Size of Schools)

ED122 It will continue to be compulsory for all young people to be educated between the years of 7-16. From the age of 14 this may be delivered in a variety of contexts including apprenticeship schemes. ???safe-guard still needed???

OR

Young people may choose to leave school from the age of 14 to work. This will meet the needs of young people who are de-motivated from learning and allow them to mature and learn in a work context with the freedom to return to education at a later stage, should they choose to.

Structure and Accountability of Schools

ED200 In order to maximise engagement with and good communication between parents, students, teachers and other staff, there will be considerable efforts to ensure that all parties are democratically involved in the running of the school through School Councils and Governing Bodies. The relationship between and responsibilities of the Head and the Chair of the Governing Body must be clearly outlined.

ED201 There are many good examples of successful structures, yet it would appear that this depends largely on the Head and the rules of accountability which exist in each school. Currently schools rely on the good will of parents to volunteer their time to ensure the smooth running of the school. This creates accessibility issues as not all parents are able or willing to volunteer their time and not all schools have enough volunteers or an adequate skills base to create a successful Governing Body. Governing Bodies will be properly funded to acknowledge the high level of responsibility granted to people involved in them so that those who would be unable to afford to be involved are recompensed for their time and expenses.

ED202 The Local Authority 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.

Curriculum

ED250 According to Article 12 of UN Convention on the Rights of the

Child, children's opinions on what and how they are taught should be taken into account. Children and young people's own interests and enthusiasms are the natural starting-point for productive learning, the roots from which a broad curriculum can grow. Therefore the approach to (having a) National / School Curriculum will be revised in order to promote a diverse education within the boundaries of what is appropriate for the child, the school and its location. It will allow a much higher level of devolution to Local Authorities to individual schools in setting their own curriculum. At the same time it will ensure that all children and young people have experience of:

a How to engage with learning, and how to develop speaking, listening and debating skills.

b The development of essential numeracy and literacy skills.

c The environment, through academic work and on a practical level, including children and young people's understanding of their own physical environment and enabling them to be actively involved in improving their local environment.

d Experience and enjoyment of all art forms

e Emotional literacy and well-being, social skills and physical well-being including education in sex and relationships from an age the school considers appropriate. This will be achieved through the learning environment (see below) and through more rigorous teacher training which focuses on these issues and through greater emphasis on the arts which increase self-expression and through this emotional literacy.

f Practical life skills such as basic cooking, DIY skills, First Aid and managing of bank accounts.

g Citizenship skills. The agenda for Citizenship Skills will not be determined by central government but instead by an independent body (such as the Politics Association). This would include understanding the history of and the politics and political structures of the area / country and, above all, experience of the democratic process through being involved in the running of their own school community.

And a learning environment

h Which provides education in social skills and relationships through cooperative and participative learning ie through group-work

i Which caters for a variety of interests, intelligences, skills and talents including academic and vocational training.

j Which caters for and encourages different learning styles, appropriate to the individual and, if applicable their Special Educational Needs. This would imply more pupil-centred rather than teacher-led learning.

k Which promote outdoor and physical activity.

l Which offers education in a second language from as young an age as is possible / from the age of 7 which continues at secondary school, encouraging those that are gifted to developing their language skills

m Which offers a cross-curriculum approach at all stages of learning, allowing greater individual choice over subjects and topics where possible through project-based learning, thus overcoming the current fragmented timetable separated into artificial, disconnected subjects.

n Which enables children and young people to become self-directed learners, who will be equipped to take advantage of learning opportunities throughout their lives.

Assessment

ED300 Assessment is a generic word which incorporates styles of assessment ranging from internal ongoing informal monitoring to external exams.

ED301 A healthy education system would include a broad range of cumulative, formative and summative assessment, including self-assessment.

ED302 However there is currently too much emphasis on national tests and fulfilling marking schemes, (?particularly in the form of SATS?) which can oppress or suppress teaching and learning and create a great deal of unnecessary pressure on children as young as 7.

ED303 Assessment should be unobtrusive and in the interests of enhancing the learning of the individual child.

ED304 The Green Party will abolish external SATS exams. (delete if this has already happened)

ED305 The Green Party will abolish league tables in their current form as they give an over-inflated impression of schools with a higher ability intake which can contribute towards problems with admissions.

ED306 Ofsted Inspections will be revised or replaced with quality teaching inspections similar to those in Wales, spot check inspections and staff and student evaluations.

ED307 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

ED308 Having a broad range of assessment techniques which celebrate positive achievement, thus allowing for rewarding work which displays creativity and ability but may not otherwise meet the demands of a task

ED309 Assessment will feed into strategies for educating the individual child and into education strategies nationally.

ED310 Currently teaching and learning are too often dominated by meeting targets and ticking boxes. There will be more emphasis on qualitative (informal) assessment.

Size of Schools

ED320 Many problems schools experience stem from both class sizes and the size of schools which can be intimidating and overwhelming for children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable. This leads to disruption, a lack of engagement in class and less sense of community in the school. There is considerable evidence that being educated in smaller groups produces better results. The Green Party would seek to reduce both class and school sizes.

ED321 Existing large schools will be supported to reorganise internally into smaller communities ('mini-schools').

ED322 Existing small schools will be protected, and developed as community resources rather than closed. They will be encouraged to become partners with nearby schools where possible, to share resources and specialist staff.

Admissions

ED350 Our underlying vision is for every child and young person to attend their local community school wherever possible?. There are children with behavioural difficulties and emotional difficulties who actually need to be protected by segregation - not to mention protecting the other children from them. And yes, I will disagree with Simone on this one! Needs should be met on an inclusive basis.

ED351 Currently vast sums of money are spent on specialist schools, City Academies and Trust Schools, all of which can discourage attendance at a local community schools and, especially in the case of specialist schools, restrict how a school chooses to spend its money. The Green Party will redistribute all available money to all schools according to their needs rather than their status.

ED352 Many of the existing problems in our admissions system stem from the emphasis on SATS and League Tables, both of which the Green Party will abolish (see Assessment).

ED353 There will be greater involvement and dialogue / participation / communication between the school and the parent / guardian.

ED354 In the longer term all-through schools would be considered as outlined in

Age of Learning

Different types of schools

ED400 All young people have a right to receive a high standard of education at their local school, regardless of their background, where they live, what their financial background or level of ability is.

ED401 Many different types of schools currently exist, including comprehensive 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.

ED402 The Green Party acknowledges that there is a need to embrace a diverse range of educational approaches. This diversity will be available to all young people with-

out discrimination of any factors such as financial background.

ED403 There are many problems with our current state education system. There is a need to address why people choose to send their children to private schools.

ED404 On average twice as much is spent per pupil in the independent sector than in the state sector. The differences this leads to are that in the state sector schools and class sizes are larger, making them more anonymous and with less community cohesion. Teachers do not have the same amount of time available in their paid hours for marking, preparation and other administrative work, thus making their jobs much more pressurised.

ED405 Children with a high level of ability or who are more likely to be from a background where education is valued have a positive influence on the learning experience of their peers. Sadly an increasing number of these are now learning in the independent sector and this creates additional pressure on schools in the state sector and is to some extent causing social divisions in society.

ED406 As outlined in Admissions and in Structure and Accountability in Schools an important factor in improving the education young people receive and increasing community cohesion is parental involvement. Parents and carers need to feel valued by the schools and involved in its running and to this end will have greater powers in school governing bodies.

ED407 The state currently subsidises independent schools, for example through paying for places for children from military backgrounds. This highlights the need for the state to fully represent the diversity in our education system, for example by increasing the number of state-funded boarding schools.

ED408 In the short term we will remove the charitable status of independent schools and increase the amount of funding available to schools deemed to be in special measures.

ED409 We will continue to aim for all community schools to provide everyone with an education which will fit everyone's individual needs

through a diverse curriculum which offers choice and is appropriate for everyone's needs and ability. (See Curriculum) However, we recognise that some people will continue to choose to be educated outside mainstream schools. Therefore we will provide state funding for all schools, allowing for a diverse educational system to be equally accessible to all children and young people regardless of their parents' income so that ultimately no school is fee-paying. We would expand dialogue between all schools so that they can all learn from each others' different approaches and so there is an opportunity for integration and sharing of resources.

OR

In order to support state education we will invest considerably greater money in the state to remove the anomalies so that there is much greater incentive for parents to send their children to state schools and greater equality of opportunity for all young people.

City Academies and Trust Schools

ED500 City Academies and Trust Schools 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 a City 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.

ED501 The sponsor has the power to appoint the Board who 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.

ED502 So Academies and Trust Schools 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 a City 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, for example, more teachers.

ED503 For these reasons the Green Party is opposed to City Academies and Trust Schools.

Grammar Schools and mixed ability learning

ED510 The grammar school system decides which young people are likely to succeed academically when they are only 11 years old with a single test which many consider to be a poor indicator of ability and skills. For those who fail this can take opportunities away from them and cause them to lose confidence in their abilities at an age when they are only just beginning to explore learning. The system can also cause social divisions. Evidence shows that the overall standard of achievement is higher where people are educated in mixed ability environments. For these reasons the Green Party will allow no new grammar schools and gradually integrate grammar and secondary modern schools into the comprehensive system.

ED511 For the above reasons we will encourage mixed ability learning in all schools as far as possible but would allow schools the freedom to opt for streaming according to ability in some subjects.

Subject enrichment

ED515 Subject specialisms will be provided as far as possible by community schools. In addition we will facilitate Local Authorities to introduce enrichment time one afternoon per week during which schools will pool their resources and provide transport for young people from all schools in the area to attend enrichment activities of their choice including sports, creative and practical subjects as well as other subject enrichment and extension activities.

Home-based Education

ED520 We support parents' rights to educate their children in settings other than at school.

Too often parents exercise this choice as a result of negative experiences such as children experiencing bullying, feeling restricted by the curriculum or intimidated by large schools and class sizes. The Green Party's radical reform of the education system would alleviate many of these issues. Where parents still choose to educate their children at home this would be supported by Local Authorities who would work to ensure that all young people have a broad and diverse education of a high quality.

ED521 All schools will be obliged to offer home-based educators part-time school attendance agreements if requested.

Teachers

ED530 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; we will reduce the current burden of paperwork which is often driven by an excessive use of targets as this has been cited as the most common reason teachers leave their job. This would free their time and resources to give them the opportunity to respond to the needs of each individual child.

Inclusion and Special Needs

ED550 The Green Party supports the principle of offering all people the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school, and meeting everyone's needs, whatever the level of need may be. There are many positive benefits for all people in being educated alongside people with a variety of needs and abilities and this will lead to a more integrated society.

ED551 In exceptional cases it is not appropriate to be fully integrated into mainstream education for all subjects, for example where there are multiple learning difficulties. In the longer term the Green Party hopes to address this through having special units in mainstream schools.

ED552 Local Authorities may explore ways of meeting particular needs, for example, one school in an area can cater for people with visual

impairment and another school for hearing impairment.

ED553 Ultimately some special needs schools may continue to exist. Whether to attend a mainstream or a special needs school is a very sensitive decision and will be taken by the parent and young person together with the advice of a special needs coordinator.

OR

The ultimate goal is for society to accept diversity and eschew the medical ('deficit') model of handicap and therefore encourage all students to attend ordinary schools and for there to be no special schools

Faith Schools

ED600 Education should include a celebration and recognition of religious diversity and spirituality.

ED601 The Green Party recognizes the right of parents to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ED602 We will seek to cater for these rights and needs through ensuring that children and young people can practise their faith in schools, for example by providing prayer space for those who need to practise their religion regularly. ??At the same time we will abolish the requirement for a compulsory daily act of worship?? Religious instruction, however, as distinct from religious education in understanding different religions will take place outside school curriculum time.

ED603 We recognise the importance of human values and the moral dimension in learning, often expressed through spiritual and political values. This will be achieved through the curriculum and ethos of the school and through understanding the contribution we can all make to society.

ED604 All schools, both state-controlled and privately run will be required to embrace a multi-faith perspective throughout the exploration of the curriculum by giving equal respect to all faiths, as well as respecting the rights of children to adopt a secular world view should they wish to.

ED605 The Green Party feels that Faith Schools can create (cultural) divisions in society and discourage children and young people from attending their local community school.?delete?

ED606 Therefore in the longer term a Green government will not fund faith schools. Where faith schools already exist they will reflect the inclusive nature of British society and become part of the Local Authority admissions system. This non-discriminatory approach will be extended to staff who must not be more or less likely to get a job in a faith school due to their own faith.

OR

However, we recognise that some parents will want to send their children to faith schools and within the conditions above will continue to fund them within the state system.

Health in Schools

ED610 Schools and teachers will continue to have a duty of care towards young people. Whilst we recognise that parents are more likely to have a significant influence on their children in regards to most aspects of their personal development, it is very important to promote this through the school, as outlined in the Curriculum section. The school environment must be a loving one full of care. There will be regular health checks in schools and a return to school nurses. Crucial to all of these factors is how teachers are trained for this in their Initial Teacher Training.

Food

ED 620 It will be a minimum requirement that all children are provided with a balanced nutritious lunch including local and organic non-GM food, free from additives. Vegetarian, vegan, religious and other dietary requirements will be catered for. Vending machines will only supply healthy snacks and not crisps, carbonated drinks and sweets. Schools will be encouraged to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food. Not only will this provide invaluable and essential education in the importance of a good diet, it will greatly improve behaviour, quality of life and learning.

Environmental Education

ED621 In order to create a sustainable society, environmental education must be prioritised. Schools will undertake an energy audit of the school and provide environmental education through academic and practical work. This will include children attending their local community school so they are not dependent on cars for transport. Schools will be required to provide their own recycling and compost facilities. In this time of rising energy prices schools will be provided with grants to retro-fit their buildings with insulation and install solar panels, solar water heating, be well insulated and where appropriate have wind turbines. They will also have rainwater and grey-water flushing systems. This is particularly important in schools so that young people accept and expect these as part of normal daily life.

ED622 Providers of education should manage their own resources in a sustainable way. They may act as research establishments for the development of sustainable lifestyles.

Youth Schools

ED625 In addition to compulsory education there will be Youth Schools in every town as in other European countries such as Denmark for young people.

In addition to providing somewhere safe for young people to socialize in the evenings, structured learning will take place as it does in adult education, providing a wide variety of courses including a range of life skills, practical and vocational training.

Further education

ED 630 Currently Further Education colleges are run independently from Local Authorities. They receive a much lower unit cost per pupil than schools and the teaching salaries are lower.

ED631 The Green Party believes that Further Education colleges should be publicly owned and funded at the same rate as secondary schools and be subject to the same requirements as schools regarding Sustainability, Environmental education and health.

D632 The Green Party will continue to encourage a broad education and as such will move towards / adopt / consider implementing courses and qualifications similar to Scottish Highers and the International Baccalaureate.

ED633 Further Education will be accessible to people of all ages and offer a wide range of practical, vocational and academic courses and qualifications.

Higher Education

ED640 Under a Green government there would be no student loans as there would be no tuition fees and living costs would be met by Citizen's Income.

Higher Education is essential in developing a civilized society. Education should be treated as a process and not a product. It should enable a democratisation of knowledge and skills which is available to anyone who wants to study a degree and is capable of it, regardless of their age or background. It should be free at the point of delivery (to everyone / to all EU citizens). In the short term we will reintroduce student grants to meet living costs.

ED641 Higher Education should not be an expectation for young people. Evidence suggests that the best results are achieved by people who have an active desire to study at this level when they feel ready, rather than be an automatic extension of Further Education.

Funding

ED650 Higher Education is facing a funding crisis. Departments are closing, students are being forced to pay increasing fees for their education, lecturers are working longer hours and receiving worsening pay and conditions and the student to tutor ratio is increasing. The Green Party will support a properly funded, accessible Higher Education system which would reverse these trends.

Accountability

ED660 Higher Education Institutions are funded directly by the state or through Chartered Organisations and Trusts,

OR

All HE Institutions and their Student Unions will be publicly owned.

ED661 All Governing bodies will adopt structures similar to the senate model used by Open Universities. Governors and Board members will be elected by both staff and students.

Accessibility

ED670 Higher Education will offer real support to mature students and students with families. There will be a minimum requirement for Universities and Higher Education Institutions to offer a free crèche to students and staff, nappy changing and breast-feeding facilities as well as religious facilities such as prayer spaces to cater for people from a wide range of ages, religions and ethnic backgrounds.

Additional funding will be given to Open Universities to make them more accessible.

Targets

ED680 Statistical targets should have well-founded reasons, for example aiming to ensure that standards are improving and that a representative cross-section of society has access to Higher Education. The existing target, for example, of getting 50% of school leavers into Higher Education does not have any such clear aims.

Elitism

ED690 A disproportionate number of the highest salaries are offered to graduates of institutions which are considered to be elitist, many of which select a very high proportion of students from the independent sector.

ED691 This will be addressed through a combination of these institutions offering Widening Participation Programmes and creating a series of firm targets which will ensure increased social diversity through taking a proportionate amount of students from the state sector. (Proportionate with other institutions / proportionate with school leavers? / proportionate with school leavers applying for HE? - to be discussed)

Standards

ED700 Currently the standard of achievement of students with comparable degrees and results from different institutions is inconsistent. There will be much more rigour applied to ensure consistency through external accreditation systems.

ED701 There will be systems in place to provide a quality assurance of staff and full accountability within departments.

Curriculum

ED710 Due to the nature of the economic growth we have been experiencing there has been a shift in recent years away from manufacture and industry-related subjects. Whilst trends in the subjects students choose to study will continue to evolve there will be sufficient funding to protect minority subjects and to cater for potential swings back.

Research

ED720 It is essential that there is not a commercial bias in research undertaken in Higher Education Institutions. There will be sufficient funding to encourage independent and ethical research.

Transition into Higher Education

ED730 The Green Party recognises that under the current system the ability of students transferring from school or Further Education to Higher Education is extremely diverse, sometimes depending on their social background or the school / college they attended. Until this is no longer the case, in order to ensure full accessibility and high standards, institutions will be funded to offer an externally accredited Foundation Degree to students they consider to have the potential to study at a Higher Level but who are not yet ready for it.

Transition from Higher Education into Employment

ED740 Studying any subject should provide people with transferable skills, such as developing an enquiring mind, research skills and the ability to construct well-reasoned arguments. Some subjects are naturally more vocational than others. Students should be prepared for the po-

tential outcomes of their degrees at the outset of the course and receive guidance throughout the course in how to achieve their chosen career path.

International Students

ED750 Currently many Higher Education Institutions are dependent on international students due to the inflated fees they pay. In some cases this can lead them to accept international students who are less able than EU students whom they reject. Under a Green Government Higher Education Institutions will be properly funded by the state so that where international students are fee-paying the amount the institution charges will mirror the fee they receive from the state in funding for an EU student.

Environmentalism in Higher Education Institutions

ED760 Currently some Institutions have some of the worst records for their environmental footprint. Under a Green government Higher Education will adhere to the same stringent regulations as large businesses and other institutions. (cross reference with?)

Adult education

ED800 As stated in the Introduction the Green Party believes that life-long learning will help to create a healthy society.

ED801 Adult education comprises of a wide variety of courses, some of which will lead to qualifications.

ED802 As adult education is constantly evolving it demands a flexible approach to new courses whilst ensuring core aspects of education are preserved even where enrolment is low.

ED803 To promote accessibility it will be provided in town centres rather than in out of town universities where possible.

ED804 Ideally all adult education will be free at the point of delivery. If this is not possible there will be a minimum requirement to provide free education for adults to learn essential literacy, numeracy and life skills and to gain skills and qualifications which will help them directly gain employment.

ED805 Adult education should embrace and encourage learning for learning's sake and as such funding for additional courses will be decided at a local level without it having to be target-driven and focused only on qualifications.'

Submitted by Rachel Fryer **, Matt Follett, Steve Dawe, John Vivian and one other

Amendment 1

Policy Statement:

1. The Green Party is seeking to establish an education service in the UK of the highest quality standards possible, via a vibrant public sector that is free at the point of use and available to all.

2. The Green vision for educational provision is that it should be accessible to all, its funding principles should be based on need and it should be democratically owned and controlled by local people. The Greens are seeking to establish an education service that brings out the best in individuals and contributes to a society that is cohesive, equalitarian and socially just, as well as enhancing our economic wellbeing.

3. Private education is a barrier to creating more opportunities for all, democratic control and a more socially just society. It is an anachronism from another age that fosters class divisions and provides privileged advantage to a moneyed elite.

4. The Green Party suggests that the best approach to assimilating the private sector into the public education provision should be through a voluntary process of institutional integration combined with a substantial increase in funding to public sector education improving quality standards generally.

5. Voluntary integration of the private sector would be achieved by offers of attractive refurbishment grants and free support services from the local LEA to private schools.

There would also be 'buy out' packages to private school freeholders and enhanced transfer of agreement terms and conditions for staff. No child's education would be disrupted, LEA coordination of admissions only starting with initial intake. All existing management structures and

traditions of the schools involved will be respected.

6. Those who remain in the private sector would be classed as a business and have all charitable status removed and would pay all relevant taxes such as VAT and Corporation Tax. All state sponsored scholarships would be directed to LEA provision and remaining private schools would be asked to contribute to national initial teacher training costs.

Proposed by Rachel Fryer*, David Williams, Craig Simmons, Alison Williams

Section O – Out of Order Motions

Two motions have been ruled out of order. The Standing Orders for the Conduct of Conference explain:

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

- a) contrary to the Constitution,
- b) retrospective in their effect,
- c) ambiguous,
- d) vague,
- e) trivial or requiring no consequential action,
- f) substantially changing policy areas, or having complex implications for other areas, without having passed through the agreed process of consultation or seeks to significantly amend the principles passed in a policy motion or Voting Paper less than two years previously, or if it seeks to re-present a policy proposal which has been debated and defeated at Conference less than two years 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.”

SOC has a duty to rule any such submitted motions out of order – it is not a choice. If the members of SOC, in their collective judgement, consider that a motion is in breach of any of the requirements above, it must rule it out of order.

SOC has provided explanations for its decisions at the end of each motion.

O1 Members website

Synopsis

This motion calls for information on the members’ website to be kept up to date.

Motion

The members’ website is an essential tool to those interested in internal democracy within the Green Party. Over recent years the information has become very outdated.

The last GPEX minutes are dated 2006 and the posting of GPRC minutes is sporadic. The list of GPEX officers is also out of date.

Having the minutes of meetings and up to date contact details for GPEX members is imperative to the internal democracy of the party and the information is essential for any member wishing to put themselves forward for election for posts in the future.

We call in GPEX to ensure these pages are kept up to date and minutes are posted within a reasonable time after they are approved.

Submitted by Andrew Collingwood **, Derek Wall, Sean Thompson, Roy Sandison and one other

SOC’s decision

SOC deemed the motion to be vague (SOCC 9d) in that it did not call on GPEX to amend its standing orders or for a specific individual to commit to a specific action.

O2 Convention of the left

This Conference notes the success of The Convention of the Left, which took place in parallel with, and as an alternative to, The Labour Party Conference in Manchester.

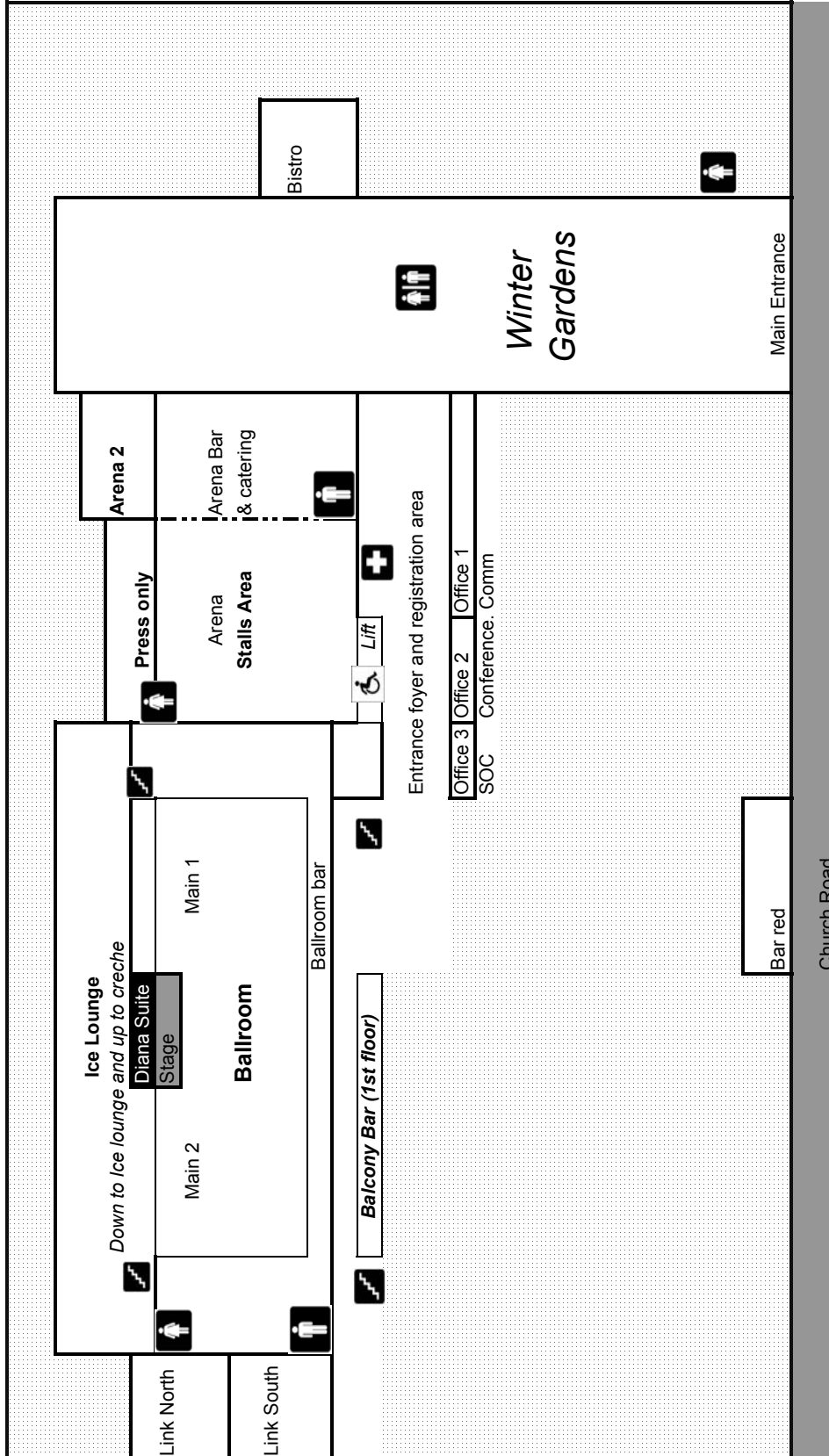
The Convention provided a forum for a large number of people and organisations on the left to come together to debate issues and strategies, concentrating on what unites us rather than what divides us. The sustainability of the planet was a central theme throughout. The Convention of The Left seeks to maintain the spirit of the Manchester convention and is intending to organise future events. Conference agrees to become a sponsor of The Convention of the Left and to commit the GPEW to become actively involved in the organisation of a Convention of The Left in Brighton during the week of The Labour Party Conference in 2009

Submitted by Peter Allen **, Sean Thompson, Derek Wall, Romayne Phoenix and one other.

SOC’s decision

SOC deemed the motion to be vague (SOCC 9d) in that conference has no budget to sponsor events and the motion does not commit specific bodies or individuals within the party to take action.

Rough Guide to the Winter Gardens layout



Fringes and Workshops

Friday 20

1300 First timers at conference

Emily Heath

1400 Management of Euro and County election expenditure

Meet our good friends from the Electoral Commission and receive the very latest briefings on election campaign expenditure and reporting rules - particularly of relevance this year given co-incident elections

Chris Haine, GPEX

1400 Save the Humans - reframing our Party's ideas as common sense

In this session, Rupert and Matt will present (textually and visually) a preliminary version of their

ideas for making our radical Green message into something that is intellectually and emotionally natural for many voters, by activating latent 'Green' values, in the manner of George Lakoff's 'reframing' stratagem. This session will also formally launch the 'Green Words Workshop' internet project.

Rupert Read & Matt Wootton

1700 Core services: how rape crisis centres and women's refuges should be funded

Funding for rape crisis centres and women's refuges usually consists of short-term grants, voluntary fundraising and a general process of unstable, uncertain cobbling together of money. What should be done to change this?

Natalie Bennett

1700 Progress in Green Economics in the last 6 months

This fringe will outline achievements in Green Economics and also talk about different strands which make up green movement economics so that campaigners and members can argue for our brand of economics and sound credible when canvassing to the public

Miriam Kennet, Green Economics Institute

1700 Winning Green votes in rural areas

Tips and strategies on winning ward campaigns, and building up parliamentary potential, in traditionally unfavourable rural areas

Chris Haine, GPEX

1700 Young Greens committee meeting - all welcome

A meeting of the Young Greens to plan campaigns for the forthcoming year. All Young Greens and other members of the Party are welcome

Andy Birkby, Young Greens

1800 A Green Rural Manifesto: Housing / Farming / Employment

The last 30 years have seen the progressive reversal of localization. Globalization, supermarkets, large industrial farms have flattened rural economies... topped by unaffordable housing. A specific package of rural policies is needed. Else localization is a dream. Land-based

employment, Profitable small farms and new approaches to housing provision is the alternative

Robert Somerville

1800 Beyond the Green New Deal

The current global economic crisis is qualitatively different from previous cyclical downturns. We need to implement a programme which will end the domination of the market and use society's resources to transform fundamentally, rather than simply to try to stabilise and regulate, the current financial and industrial system.

Sean Thompson

1800 Designing, printing and distributing ward newsletters

Come and share your ideas, experience and frustrations with producing ward newsletters. There will be plenty of examples to take away, on-line templates, and practical advice on organising a distribution network

Chris Haine, GPEX

1800 South East regional meeting

It is very important that any members of the South East attend this meeting as it will be one of our final meetings before the European elections. We will be discussing our campaign strategy - how we will keep our MEP seat and increase the Green vote in the South East.

Rachel Fryer, South East GP

How 'green' is the food on your plate? . . .

... dig deeper

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The spring 2009 issue - 'The Industrial Sea' - focuses on sustainable fisheries.

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Did you know that a Government department employs around 170 civil servants to promote arms exports?

UKTI: Armed & Dangerous

UKTI helps promote UK businesses abroad. Yet despite arms sales making up just 1.5% of all exports, UKTI employs as many staff to promote these sales as it does for all of the other industries combined!

For more information on how the Government is giving hugely disproportionate support to the arms trade, as well as helping to promote arms sales to countries involved in conflict and human rights abuses, visit www.caat.org.uk



1900 Fundraising from ideas to action

A session for local and regional fundraisers to share ideas and, more importantly, experience of what works. Includes a briefing on national fundraising plans. We hope that the Party's new national membership and fundraising development officer will be in post by the time of conference and able to attend.

Jon Nott

1900 General election gee up

Meet the national elections team and learn about the plans and preparations for the General Election (whenever it comes). Hear about the fundraising, web sites, candidate briefings and media operation being built to support you - and how all this fits in with targeting our "Greens for Parliament" constituencies.

Chris Haine, GPEX

1900 Homophobia in Eastern Europe and the Green Response

Homophobic attacks and outright discrimination remain the norm in much of Eastern Europe, with Pride marches banned etc. Greens in many Eastern European countries are at the forefront of the battle against this intolerance and have formed coalitions with LGBT groups

Joseph Healy, LGBT group

Saturday 21

1200 Education DVP 1 of 2

A chance to look at and discuss the Education Draft Voting Paper. 1. An examination and discussion of the Introduction, Structure and Accountability of Schools, Curriculum, Assessment, Admissions and Faith Schools.

Rachel Fryer

1200 First timers at conference

Emily Heath

1200 How to beat the Lib Dems

Tips and strategies for winning ward campaigns where your main opponents are the Lib Dems.

Chris Haine, GPEX

1200 The most important environmental campaign in Britain?

The next general election will be decided by 12,000-15,000 floating voters in key marginals who have absolute power over political parties. Instead of making a choice we get these people to make a demand. Whichever party agrees to a reformed political process first, which includes referendums, wins the election.

Graham McArthur, Campaign for Democracy

1300 AGC business meeting

A meeting to discuss the ongoing work of the Association of Green Councillors - all councillors and candidates welcome.

Jon Barry, AGC

1300 Green Economics Working Group: Planning Meeting

This meeting provides members with the opportunity to plan budget responses, and campaigning for the next six months and to share responses to difficult economics questions they might get during an election campaign. Also to plan writing policy and other economics materials- and training sessions and meetings outside of conference and to report back on activities and successes within the last 6 months.

Miriam Kennet, Economics Working Group

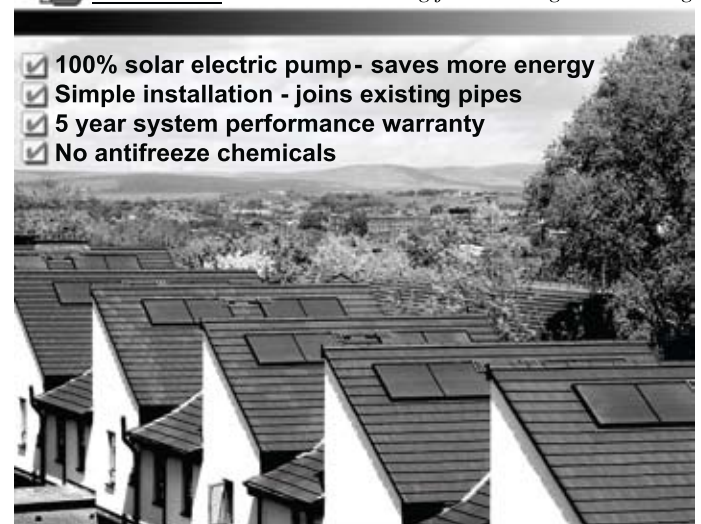
1300 NATO expansion to the East. A new Cold War for Europe

The war in the Caucasus in August 2008 between Russia and Georgia was sparked by the NATO decision to consider Georgia for membership of NATO. The stationing of Star Wars missile bases in Eastern Europe is also increasing Russian fears of encirclement. Is Europe facing a new threat of war with Russia?

Joseph Healy, Green Left

1300 Transition towns - a model for the future of the economy?

How do you inspire a whole town with the confidence to believe a sustainable future is possible? Transition Towns are already responding to the climate crisis and peak oil challenges together - strengthening community by creating a shared vision and acting together.



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Fringes and Workshops

Fun and inspiring local stories breathe life into our policies and illustrate what greens stand for in our communities.

Jonathan Essex &
Lydia Somerville

1400 2009's integrated election campaigns

Learn how work to elect a Euro MP this Spring may be just the filip you need to kick start a local ward campaign and elect your first councillors. And what would we do if Brown called a "Super Thursday" triple election?

Chris Haine, GPEX

1400 Bringing business back to our seaside towns

Peter Cranie, North West GP

1400 Climate Geo-Engineering

James Hansen states that atmospheric concentrations of CO2 need to drop from 385ppm to below 350ppm CO2 if we are to prevent dangerous climate change. Cooling down the planet requires either enhancing natural biospheric negative feedbacks or creating new artificial ones, the latter known as climate geo-engineering. This workshop overviews the most widely promoted methods of geo-engineering and explores the risks associated with bio-geoengineering (including 'biochar') in some detail.

Deepak Rughani

1400 Meet the MEPs

Danny Bates, MEPs

1800 GPEX Question Time

An opportunity to learn about the work of GPEX co-ordinators, ask questions about the strategic direction of the party and to discuss ideas to improve the working arrangements of the party's institutions.

Chris Haine, GPEX

1800 Update on progress on green economics

Policy group members specialists speak about topical events and issues especially the credit crunch and what green solutions they are developing and share best practise. This is an opportunity work in depth on economics issues for development for use in elections etc.

Miriam Kennet, Economics Working Group

1800 Recession, GP Policy and relations with the TU movement

The recession is developing at such a pace, (or spiralling out of control!) that GP members will almost certainly need an updated on it. It has vital implications for Greens and Trade Unionists will its threat to jobs and prosperity lead to a sidelining of the Green agenda or could it provide a unique opportunity to both enact proposals for constructing a Green infrastructure and a reformed economic system?

Peter Murry, GP Trade Union Group

1900 Mobile Phone Masts: how to oppose inappropriate sites in planning applications

Lancaster Mast Watch will present their new 'one-stop shop' website with information about the latest scientific thinking on the risks posed by mobile phone masts as well as specific advice on finding your way through the deeply undemocratic planning process around new masts and upgrades to existing masts.

Sam Riches

1900 WomenbyName (women only)

For women in the Green Party to network, promote and encourage each other to stand for internal and external elections, and to offer practical support and assistance.

Natalie Bennett

1900 Young Greens campaigns meeting

A meeting of the Young Greens committee and its members to inform members of activities and plan upcoming events. All Young Greens and other members of the Party are welcome.

Andy Birkby, Young Greens

Sunday 22

1800 Communicating our green values

Politics is about people and ideas. But it's about so much more than the personalities and policy shopping lists that dominate public debate. How do we communicate the Green values that make us stand out from the "business as usual" politics of the establishment parties?

Jon Nott

1800 Green Councillors sharing good ideas and successes

A discussion workshop for Green Councillors to share details of their local successes and discuss new ideas. The workshop may also be useful for target ward candidates.

Jon Barry, AGC

1800 Green Party Women

Women and men are welcome to attend this meeting of the organisation that aims to make links between the party and women's groups and organisations nationally and internationally, to promote the women-friendly policies and approach of the party, and to work generally to promote women's rights. Elec-



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tion of officers will be carried out (greenpartywomen.org.uk).

Natalie Bennett

1800 Monetary Reform Policy Working Group meeting

The vital issue, now urgent: reform of money creation to resolve the credit crunch and economic depression. What essential reform to push. How to get the message out urgently to the wider party membership to debate - and to the general public, in advance of the party's adoption of it

1800 Transport Working Group
To discuss transport issues and party campaigns on transport

Brian Leslie, Monetary Reform Policy Working Group

1800 Transport Working Group

To discuss transport issues and party campaigns on transport

Alan Francis, Transport Working Group

1900 Assimilation of the private sector of education with public provision - a process

David Williams

1900 Citizens Income: towards a more detailed policy

At the Spring Conference in 2008, a motion was passed mandating the Green Party Economics Working Group to draw up a comprehensive policy for the implementation of

CI. At this fringe session, the draft policy, complete with detailed costings, will be presented, and will be open for discussion

Maria Iacovou

1900 Democratic structures in the NHS - time for change

With the abolition of Patient Forums in April last year, LINKs (Local Involvement Networks) were supposed to be the next big thing in public involvement. But they are widely perceived as a failure. Malcolm Alexander, Chair of the National Association of LINKs Members, addresses how to put public involvement back at the heart of the NHS.

Joseph Healy

1900 Governance best practice

We will have been working with the new leadership structure for six months by the time of conference and GPEx want to start a discussion about what second order structural changes might be needed to ensure we continue to practice Green leadership - transparent, accountable and empowering.

GPEx

1900 Why the race to be Britain's 4th party matters; beating the BNP in target regions

Peter Cranie, North West GP

Monday 23

1200 Education DVP 2 of 2

A chance to look at and discuss the Education Draft Voting Paper. 2. An examination and discussion of the Adult Education, Further Education, Higher Education and Early Years education sections of the Draft Voting Paper.

Rachel Fryer

1200 Modifying the Party name

To consider possibilities for a new name that reflects the Party's objectives and does not make it sound simplistic or trendy (original synopsis was 160 words, too long).

David Wyllie

1200 Rational belief and conspiracy

What should we believe when confronted by particularly inconclusive debates in politics? When do we have good rounds, or sufficient evidence, to either uphold or reject conventional wisdom? Do conspiracy theories exist which, if only for pragmatic reasons, the Green Party should not prioritise or campaign on?

Shahrar Ali

1200 Green World Editorial Board

An editorial board meeting, at which readers of GW (the party's membership magazine) are wel-

come; comments, suggestions and other input is much appreciated.

Richard Scrase, Green World Editorial Board

1200 How to beat the Tories

Tips and strategies for winning ward campaigns where your main opponents are the Conservatives.

Chris Haine, GPEx

1300 North West regional meeting

Peter Cranie, North West GP

1300 National canvassing software

Road test the new national canvassing software and learn about the roll-out of the system across local parties.

Chris Haine, GPEx

1300 Conference Committee Feedback Session

Come and tell the outgoing and incoming committee what you felt worked well at this conference and what could be improved on. Offers of help with organising future conferences always welcomed!



BOLIVIA INFORMATION FORUM

Bolivia is going through a crucial process of political change, and developing an alternative economic and social model to include the previously excluded indigenous peoples. BIF distributes regular information, organises events and is building a network of people and organisations interested in promoting the interests of Bolivia's most vulnerable groups.

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Panel Discussions

'Economic inclusion: can the poor afford a green agenda?'

Friday 20 March, 6pm

The current economic crisis will impact on everyone, but the poorest people are in the most vulnerable position. This panel will explore how we include people economically and how a green response to the economic crisis must also address poverty and ensure poor people do not bear the brunt of the crisis. It will include the question of access to credit and financial services, the role of trade unions and credit unions, and explore proposals from anti-poverty organisations.

Speakers:

Jean Lambert MEP (for London)
Peter Cranie - Number one Euro-candidate for the Northwest
+ Speakers to be invited from credit unions, trade unions and anti-poverty movement.

Chair: Romaine Phoenix

The Failure of the 'Growth Economy': towards new economic solutions

Saturday 21 March, 12 noon

Caroline Lucas is bringing together three expert speakers for a panel discussion on alternative solutions for a fairer and more sustainable economic future. As the growth-obsessed global economy implodes, taxpayers are left to pick up the bill from years of financial mismanagement and government bailouts. Across the world, people are rightly questioning the wisdom of returning to the destructive boom-bust economics of old and are looking for alternative economic solutions that recognise the failure of free market capitalism to deliver widespread security or prosperity for people or planet.

This panel aims to explore an innovative model of economics which puts the environment, long term sta-

bility and social justice at its heart. Growth in GDP no longer necessarily makes us richer in terms of our natural resources and human wellbeing. A transition towards a steady state economy would mean prioritising well-being indicators over GDP, imposing tough caps on climate emissions, redistributing wealth and promoting greater self sufficiency. Together with a green jobs revolution in renewable energy and energy efficiency, a steady state economy may provide the template for a 21st century economic system fit for purpose.

Speakers:

Dan O'Neill, Director of European Operations at the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE)

Molly Scott Cato, Green Party economics spokesperson and writer
Nic Marks, Founder of nef: new economics foundation centre for well-being

Chair: Caroline Lucas MEP

Energy Solutions for a Renewable Future

Saturday 21 March, 6pm

Do you know how The Green Party would meet its ambitious targets for CO2 reductions? Do you know how the Green Party would manage to "keep the lights on" once all our energy comes from variable renewable resources? Could you explain the party's policy of Tradable Carbon Quotas to your electorate?

* An informative and exciting introduction into the energy technologies of the future.

* Listening to the industry – what are the current political barriers to renewable energy?

* Useful explanations of existing party policy – essential knowledge for all candidates.

* A panel of energy experts ready to answer your questions.

Maternity Services Re-born

Sunday 22 March, 6pm

Some 60% of births should be "normal", but in 25% of trusts less than a third are. Lack of continuity of care, a shortage of midwives and beds contribute to high death rates and threaten mothers' and babies' health. The NHS paid out £560m in compensation in 2005-6, and half of that was related to obstetric cases. About 11 million UK women have suffered post-birth trauma.

There's no doubt about it: NHS maternity services in the UK are in crisis. We will hear from four experts in the field with differing opinions as to what the possible solutions could be.

Professor Wendy Savage

Professor Wendy Savage is a distinguished gynaecologist and champion of women's rights in childbirth and fertility. She was the first woman consultant to be appointed in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in London. She is the mother of four children.

She brings to her practice the added value of empathy with the patient, and holds a firm belief in patient involvement in decisions such as the location of a delivery, whether natural delivery should be pursued in the case of a breech presentation, or whether a Caesarian section should be carried out only in the last resort. She was an elected member of the general medical council from 1989-2005.

Wendy has authored several books, including *Caesarean Birth in Britain* and *Birth and Power: A Savage Enquiry Revisited*, and she has published papers on a number of topics, including induced abortion, sexually transmitted disease, childbirth, and caesarean section.

Sarah Davies

Sarah Davies is a Senior Lecturer in midwifery at the University of Salford. Qualified for 26 years, she is a passionate believer that 'small is beautiful' in maternity care. Whilst

Young Greens

Young Greens Fundraising Quiz

Come and support the Young Greens by attending our Fundraising Quiz on Sunday evening. Tickets are available in advance from the Young Greens stall or on the door at a cost of £5. This will be a lively and sociable event, a great way to wind down after a day of Conference. Prizes to be won!

Young Greens Saturday Night Social

Please come to the YG Campaigns Fringe on Saturday at 19:00. On finishing the fringe the Young Greens will be heading off for a big night out in Blackpool - woo! If you can't make it to the fringe then we'll be meeting at reception at 20:00.

Young Greens Stall

If you are hoping to link up with other YGs or want to find out about what YG activities will be happening at Conference, then come to our stall which will be (wo)manned throughout the weekend.

working as a community midwife in Buxton, she was part of the successful campaign against the closure of the local maternity unit. Nowadays, as well as teaching students and carrying a small clinical caseload, she is currently exploring ways of expanding caseload midwifery in the NHS. She is also involved in the campaign against the planned centralisation of maternity hospitals in Greater Manchester. She is a member of Keep Our NHS Public, the Association for Improvements in Maternity Services and the Association of Radical Midwives.


Rowan Pelling, writer and broadcaster


Rowan Pelling is a respected writer and broadcaster who is currently a columnist for The Daily Telegraph. Formerly the 'editrice' of the Erotic Review, Rowan has written extensively on her own experiences of

Green Party Revue

Sunday evening, Theatre Bar

Bored by Brown?





Tired of the Tories?

This year, at the Green Party Spring Conference, we would like to host an outwardly focused revue. It's your chance to take a snipe at our political rivals. Perhaps it's a limerick about Labour, or a BNP rap...

If you have an idea for a sketch or a performance, please send your ideas, and what time you'd like to go on, to Peter Cranie peter.cranie@greenparty.org.uk

childbirth and is a passionate believer in the need for change in maternity services. In 2004 she presented 'The Truth about Childbirth', a hard-hitting documentary on the subject for Channel 4.

Annie Francis, Independent Midwives UK

Annie has been a midwife for ten years. She currently works in a busy midwifery practice in London, offering home birth and continuity of care.

As a member of Independent Midwives UK, (formerly the IMA) which is a Social Enterprise organization, Annie has been working on the development of an alternative, sustainable model of care for midwives and women which could offer genuine continuity and choice within the NHS. This model of care is a way of broadening provision at a local level,

providing an integrated, responsive and flexible service for any woman who chooses it, free at the point of delivery.

Chair: Sarah Cope

Air Rage: putting a brake on aviation

Monday, 12 noon

Aviation, and how we tackle it, is one of the most hotly contested areas of debate within the environmental movement. Campaigners from mass grass roots movements up to mace swinging MPs have shown just how passionately people feel about the growth of air travel.

A diverse panel will discuss why we need to tackle the growth in aviation and the range of tactics we should employ to get our message across.

About Blackpool & Fleetwood

Welcome to Blackpool, England's largest and most popular seaside resort. 200 years ago it was a hamlet of just 500 people, but it grew rapidly in the late 19th century after railways were built enabling workers from northern mill towns to flock to the sea for holidays. Now a densely populated town of 150,000 people, it attracts 10 million visitors each year - for holidays, shows, nightlife, conferences and the famous illuminations (every autumn).

Blackpool's 7 miles of seafront include sandy beaches and a wide promenade, the iconic Blackpool Tower, three piers, a 'Golden Mile' of amusement arcades, and the Pleasure Beach with rollercoaster rides. The Blackpool tramway, one of the oldest electric tramways in the world, runs for 11 miles up to Fleetwood.

Less visible to the casual visitor are the serious social and economic problems that Blackpool shares with many other British seaside towns. The area has high unemployment, very low wages, and huge health inequalities, including the second lowest life expectancy for men in England and Wales, and high rates of teenage pregnancy.

The conference is a perfect opportunity for us to re-establish an active Green Party group in the Blackpool area, and strengthen our activities in the nearby fishing port of Fleetwood. Lancaster & Fleetwood is the North West's target parliamentary constituency, newly created by boundary changes. Greens are

very active and successful in the Lancaster part of the constituency, with 13 elected councillors. However Fleetwood is quite a different place, and geographically very remote from Lancaster, being separated by a large rural area and the River Wyre. We have leafleted the whole town twice in the past year, but we have not done any door-knocking there yet, so the planned 'mass canvass' in Fleetwood on Sunday afternoon will give our campaign there, and our candidate Gina Dowding, a big boost.

Councillor Emily Heath,
*NW Green Party Co-ordinator
& Conferences Committee member*

Local facilities

The Winter Gardens is in the heart of Blackpool's town centre, so all amenities are close by. There is an NHS walk-in centre on Talbot Road.

Transport

Rail: Blackpool North station is about 5 minutes walk from the Winter Gardens. For train times, tel: **08457 484950**.

Trams & Buses: run by Metro Coastlines - see **www.blackpooltransport.com**. Route maps and timetables will be available at the conference helpdesk, or phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**.

Taxis: **01253 293 222** or freephone **0800 137 226**.

Cycling: Blackpool has recently been designated a Cycling Demonstration Town. It is very flat



and has a wide cycling-friendly promenade. But you'll need to bring your own bike as there are no cycle hire facilities near the conference venue.

Shops

It has to be said that Blackpool is not the most interesting place to go shopping – being comprised mostly of chainstores. But for those who like a recycled bargain, there are plenty of charity shops, mainly on and around **Talbot Road**.

There is a lively indoor market on **Abingdon Street** which includes the tiny Utopia Wholefoods. There is also a small Holland & Barrett in the pedestrian precinct near the Grand Theatre.

Food & drink

Barista on Birley Street is an independent coffee shop with probably the best coffee in Blackpool.

Mochaccinos café on Cheapside serves speciality teas and coffees and Italian-style food.

West Coast Rock Cafe on Abingdon Street is an American-style diner serving Mexican and burgers, and often hosts live music and DJ's in the club above.

Septembers Champagne Bar & Restaurant on Queen Street has a long-standing reputation as one of the best places to eat in Blackpool.

The best Italian restaurant is probably **La Piazza** on Cedar Square.

For fantastic Indian food including amazing veggie options, **Jali** at the Carleton Hotel (on the seafront just north of the town centre) is highly recommended.

Things to do in Blackpool

The **Tourist Info** centre is opposite the Town Hall on the corner of Corporation Street. Attractions include a Sea-Life Centre, Waxworks Museum, Dr Who Monster Museum, and Superbowl.

The nearest **swimming pool** (Moor Park Baths in Bispham) is a 20-minute bus ride away (no. 11). The 10-screen Odeon **Cinema** is on Rigby Road near Central Pier.



The **Solaris Centre** (a tram ride south along the prom) is Blackpool's flagship regeneration project – a formerly derelict solarium which was refurbished in 2004 incorporating renewable energy and other sustainable design features. It is now a thriving centre for environmental businesses and education, run by Blackpool Council. It is open to the public (10am – 5pm, including weekends) and has a Fairtrade café, art gallery and an exhibition hall with information on recycling, cavity wall insulation, combined heat and power units, domestic wind turbines and solar water heating and ground source heat pumps.

Live Music

Thursday 7pm til late: Blackpool Balkanism – community band and DJ playing Gypsy, Balkan and Eastern European Beats and Rhythms, upstairs at Mojoes Gurkha Bar, Back Church Street. £2 entry.

Friday 8pm til late: Jam Factory (a 20 piece World Jazz Orchestra from Blackburn) playing at a night called 'Raise the Galleon', upstairs at Mojo's Gurkha Bar, Back Church Street. £2 entry.

Thurs 8pm, Fri 7.30pm & Sat 2pm & 7.30pm: 'Thriller Live' at the Grand Theatre, showcasing Michael Jackson's music and dance. Tickets from £14.50 to £26.50

Green Party Conference Booking Form: Autumn 2009

Friday 4th to Monday 7th September 2009, Hove Town Hall, Hove..

Conference starts 11am Friday (registration opens at 10am) and finishes at 4pm Monday.

BOOK NOW FOR 25% DISCOUNT ON FEES.

Name/s 1: _____

2: _____

Local Party: _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please provide an email address - whenever possible this will be the only form of communication used to cut down on paper use.

Conference Fees

Please tick the days you want to book

Friday 4th _____ Saturday 5th _____

Sunday 6th _____ Monday 7th _____

Crash Space

We are not yet able to confirm this, but if you would like to book floor-space please tick here to receive extra information nearer the time

Creche

Free crèche space for members is being organised. Please contact Leila Kiersch before 31st July to book in your children. (contact details below.)

Accommodation

Conference accommodation can be booked online at: <https://www.conferencebookings.co.uk/delegate/BTNGREENPARTY09>

Bookings on or before Friday 31st July

Income guide	Fri/Mon	Sat/Sun	
per annum	per day	per day	All 4 days
under			
£10,000	£7.50	£9.50	£30.00
£10-15,000	£11.00	£14.00	£46.00
£15-20,000	£16.00	£20.00	£63.00
£20-25,000	£20.00	£25.50	£81.00
£25-30,000	£24.00	£30.00	£97.50
£30-40,000	£30.00	£38.00	£121.50
£40-50,000	£38.00	£48.00	£154.00
£50,000+	£51.00	£63.00	£203.00

Fees Payable on the door

Income guide	Fri/Mon	Sat/Sun	
per annum	per day	per day	All 4 days
under			
£10,000	£10.00	£12.50	£40.50
£10-15,000	£15.00	£19.00	£61.50
£15-20,000	£21.00	£26.50	£84.00
£20-25,000	£27.00	£34.00	£108.00
£25-30,000	£32.00	£40.50	£130.00
£30-40,000	£40.00	£50.50	£162.00
£40-50,000	£51.00	£63.75	£205.00
£50,000+	£68.00	£84.50	£270.00

*Bookings received after 31st July will be processed at the higher rate. Bookings received after 21st August will be processed at the conference registration desk.

Fees total £ _____
Donation £ _____
Total amount £ _____

Cheques / P.O. payable to **The Green Party**.

Please send your completed form and payment to: John Street, Clover Events, 82 Babbacombe Rd, Bromley, BR1 3LS.

For booking queries, contact John Street (john@cloverevents.org, tel: 020 8460 1078).

For stall bookings, contact Leila Kiersch (leila@cloverevents.org, tel: 01974 261340).

For other queries, contact Sue Luxton: sue.luxton@greenparty.org.uk, tel: 020 8690 0658.