CONSTITUTION OF
THE WELSH LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

November 2026

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Preamble

The Welsh Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

Section A: The Party

1. The name of the Party shall be the Welsh Liberal Democrats/Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, hereinafter called the "Party".

2. The Party shall be part of a federation consisting of the Party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats, and the English Liberal Democrats, and the provisions of the Federal Constitution shall apply to Wales in the manner therein specified.

3. References in this Constitution to the "Board", the "Conference" and the "Appeals Panel" shall be construed as references to the relevant bodies of the Welsh Liberal Democrats and references to "Federal" bodies shall be construed as references to the relevant bodies of the Liberal Democrats.

4. Without imposing an obligation to provide all documents in a bilingual form, the Party shall accord equal status to the Welsh and English languages.

5. The Objectives of the Party shall be:

a. to promote the values and principles enshrined in the Preamble to the Federal Constitution;

b. to develop and promote policies that lead to the realisation of those values and principles; and,

c. in order to achieve such objectives, to secure the election of Liberal Democrats as Members of Parliament, Members of the Senedd, and members of local and other elected public authorities in Wales.

Section B: The Functions of the Party

The Functions of the Party shall be:

1. To provide the organisational, administrative and campaigning support for Local Parties (see Section H) and Associated Organisations within Wales;

2. To provide support for Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of both Houses of Parliament, of the Senedd and Welsh Liberal Democrat appointees to public bodies, endorsed either by the Welsh or Federal Leader;

3. To co-operate with the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and other relevant bodies in the provision of support for Welsh Liberal Democrat Councillors and Welsh Liberal Democrat Council Groups within Wales;

4. To increase the membership of the Party and maintain a definitive list of members.

5. To operate in compliance with all UK and Welsh Legislation relating to the running of a political party including all financial activity, with particular reference to, but not in exclusivity, the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (hereinafter referred to as PPERA) and any successor legislation.

6. To encourage members of the Party to make a full contribution to the work of the Party, the Federal Party and other constituent Parties and organisations within the Federation described in Section A.2 of this Constitution;

7. To promote public awareness within Wales of the work and policies of the Party;

8. To co-operate with the Federal Party and other constituent Parties and organisations within the Federation, described in Section A.2 of this Constitution, in the furtherance of shared objectives.

9. To raise the finance required to carry out the functions described in this Constitution and to maintain such an organisation, including staff, so to do;

10. To develop and formulate the policies of the Party on Welsh issues, to place the policies of the Federal Party in a Welsh context and to influence policy development within the Federal Party as is necessary and relevant to Wales and promote such policies; and

11. To provide for the approval of Parliamentary, Senedd and directly-elected Mayoral candidates and provide rules for Local Parties on selection procedures and to co-operate with the relevant Welsh or Federal Bodies in the provision of support for such candidates.

Section C: Membership

1. Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation.

1.1 Membership shall be acquired through an enrolling body, being:

a. a Local Party in the area in which the member lives, works or studies (or, another Local Party with its consent);

b. a Specified Associated Organisation representing Youth and/or Students; or

c. the Party in accordance with the provisions of its Membership Rules

1.2 Any member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass or intimidate any Party member, member of Party Staff, member of Parliamentary or Senedd Staff, Party volunteer or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the Party into disrepute.

2. An applicant shall become a member on acceptance by the enrolling body, payment of the requisite subscription, and registration.

3. Responsibility for renewal of membership shall lie with the Party, but it may, by a decision of its Conference, provide for this function to be fulfilled by any other body or bodies within the Federal Party. Membership will be automatically terminated if the renewal subscription is not received within three months following the due date.

4. All other matters relating to the admission or refusal of admission to membership of any person, or for the revocation or cessation of membership of any member, including the basis on which Local Parties may be involved in the recruitment and renewal of members, shall be governed by this Constitution, any Membership Rules made under this Constitution in accordance with Clause C.9, below, and any membership provisions in the Federal Constitution.

5. No person may simultaneously be a member of more than one Local Party. A member may re-register as of right in a different Local Party under the terms of Clause C.1.1a, or may, with the consent of the member's previous Local Party where that Local Party has ceased to be appropriate in terms of Clause C.1.1a, retain membership of that Local Party. A member who is an MS, MP, prospective

Senedd or Parliamentary candidate or member of a Local Authority may re-register as of right in a relevant Local Party.

6. Membership may be refused by an enrolling body on one or more of the following grounds:

a. material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
b. the admission of the applicant would be likely to bring the Party into disrepute; or
c. membership of another political party in Great Britain.

7. Disciplinary action may be undertaken by a Local Party Executive Committee, the Executive Committee of the Specified Associated Organisation (SAO) representing Youth and/or Students (if the member concerned is a member of the Party through that SAO) or the Board on one or more of the following grounds:

a. material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objects of the Party;
b. conduct which has brought, or is likely to bring, the Party into disrepute;
c. standing against the candidate of the Party in any Senedd or Parliamentary election;
d. standing against the candidate of the Party in any Local Authority or Mayoral election;
e. membership of, or support for, another political party in Great Britain;
f. failure to comply with electoral legislation; or
g. failure to comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (2001), the Electoral Administration Act (2006) and/or the Political Parties Act (2009).

8. In the event that one or more of the grounds for disciplinary action have been established under Clause C.7, above, a Local Party Executive Committee, the Executive Committee of the Specified Associated Organisation representing Youth and/or Students (if the member concerned is a member through that SAO) or the Board may, in accordance with the time-frames laid out in Clause F.3 of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Annexe II of this Constitution) impose any one or more of the following sanctions:

a. Revoke the membership of the individual concerned;

b. Bar the individual concerned from holding, or standing for election to, any specified Party office or role either permanently, for a specified period, or until satisfactory training has been undertaken by the individual concerned;

c. Bar the individual concerned from holding, or seeking to be elected to or appointed to any specified public office on behalf of the Party either permanently, for a specified period, or until satisfactory training has been undertaken by the individual concerned;

d. Bar the individual concerned from having access to data from Membership Services either permanently, for a specified period, or until satisfactory training has been undertaken by the individual concerned;

e. Reprimand the individual concerned.

The individual concerned, the Chief Executive of the Welsh Party and Membership Services, shall be advised accordingly

9. The disciplinary process shall not be initiated unless the relevant body has either received recent and appropriate training from the Party in this area of party discipline or has sought advice from the Party as to the processes involved. The relevant member must then be notified of the grounds for which disciplinary action is to be considered and be given a reasonable opportunity to reply. Where paragraph (c), (d) or (e) of Clause C.7 applies, membership shall be automatically and immediately suspended. In all other case, the body with the authority to initiate the disciplinary process may suspend membership whilst disciplinary action is being considered subject to the time-frames set out in Section F of the Membership Rules of the Welsh Liberal Democrats.

10. Disciplinary action, as set out in clauses C.7 and C.8 may be referred by a Local Party Executive Committee, the Executive Committee of the Specified Associated Organisation representing Youth and/or Students (if the member concerned is a member of the Party through that SAO) or the Board to the Federal Party, to be dealt with in accordance with Article 3.7 of the Federal Party Constitution. The referral may be made on a case by case basis or for an agreed period of time, or until such time as it is recalled.

In any case where such power has been so referred, all rights of appeal, notwithstanding the terms of Clauses C.13, shall be dealt with in terms of the procedures established under Article 3.7 of the Federal Party Constitution.

11. The Party's Chief Executive shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Party's Register of Members.

12. Subject to the above, and to the provisions of the Federal Constitution, the Conference shall determine and approve the Membership Rules applicable to the Party.

13. Any person aggrieved by a decision under Clauses C.6 or C.7, above, may appeal to the Appeals Panel, save that any appeal shall be governed by any timetables and rules specified by the Appeals Panel (Section M: Appeals Panel).

Section D: The Organisation of the Party

1. The organisation of the Party shall consist of:
    a. The Conference
    b. The Board
    c. Party Committees accountable to the Board:
        i. The Campaigns and Communications Committee
        ii. The Policy Development Committee
        iii. The Membership Development Committee
        iv. The Finance and Resources Committee
        v. The Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee
    d. Party Committees accountable to the Finance and Resources Committee:
        i. The Conference Committee
    e. Party Committees accountable to the Conference:
        i. The Constitutional Affairs Committee
    f. The Welsh Appeals Panel
    g. Local Parties
    h. Local Party Co-ordinating Committees (hereinafter referred to as LPCCs) may be established
    i. Specified Associated Organisations may be established

2. For the purposes of all ballots of members the Chair of the Welsh Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. He or she shall appoint an Acting Returning Officer who shall be responsible for the administration of any such ballots, and may appoint one or more Deputy Acting Returning Officers to assist them in their work.

Section E: The Officers of the Party

1. The Party Officers shall be:
    a. The President – who shall:
        i. Be the principal public representative of Party Members,
        ii. Chair the meetings of, and ensure the proper functioning of, the Board,
        iii. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of the Board,
        iv. Report on their activities, and those of the Board, to the Conference,
        v. Ensure any working groups established by the Board are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or Committees,
        vi. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
        vii. Work with the Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
        viii. Act as a budget holder for the activities of the Board, and ensure compliance with any financial procedures put in place by the Finance and Resources Committee,
        ix. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;
    b. The Deputy President – who shall:
        i. Assist the President in being a public representative of Party Members,
        ii. Chair the Constitutional Affairs Committee,
        iii. Chair the meetings of Conference,
        iv. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that committee,
        v. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,
        vi. Ensure members of the committee they chair, and any working groups established by that committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,
        vii. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
        viii. Work with the President, the Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,

ix. Act as a budget holder for the activities of their committee, and ensure compliance with any financial procedures put in place by the Finance and Resources Committee,
x. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;

c. The Leader of the Party – who shall be responsible for the political leadership of the Party and for promoting its cause in Wales;
d. The Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group – who shall:
    i. Represent the UK Parliamentary Group within the Party.
    ii. Be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the UK Parliamentary Group with the work of the Party and other parliamentary groups.
    iii. If not the Leader of the Party:
        1. Deputise for the Leader within the Party.
        2. Use the title of Deputy Leader of the Party.
e. The Leader of the Senedd Group – who shall:
    i. Represent the Senedd Group within the Party.
    ii. Be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Senedd Group with the work of the Party and other parliamentary groups.
    iii. If not the Leader of the Party:
        1. Deputise for the Leader within the Party.
        2. Use the title of Deputy Leader of the Party.
f. The Executive Officer for Campaigns and Communications – who shall:
    i. Chair the meetings of, and ensure the proper functioning of, the Campaigns and Communications Committee,
    ii. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that committee,
    iii. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,
    iv. Ensure members of the committee they chair, and any working groups established by that committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,
    v. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
    vi. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
    vii. Work with the President, other Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,

viii. Act as a budget holder for the activities of their committee, and ensure compliance with any financial procedures put in place by the Finance and Resources Committee,
ix. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;

g. The Executive Officer for Policy Development – who shall:
   i. Chair the meetings of, and ensure the proper functioning of, the Policy Development Committee,
   ii. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that committee,
   iii. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,
   iv. Ensure members of the committee they chair, and any working groups established by that committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,
   v. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
   vi. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
   vii. Work with the President, other Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
   viii. Act as a budget holder for the activities of their committee, and ensure compliance with any financial procedures put in place by the Finance and Resources Committee,
   ix. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;

h. The Executive Officer for Membership Development – who shall:
   i. Chair the meetings of, and ensure the proper functioning of, the Membership Development Committee,
   ii. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that committee,
   iii. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,
   iv. Ensure members of the committee they chair, and any working groups established by that committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,

v. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
vi. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
vii. Work with the President, other Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
viii. Act as a budget holder for the activities of their committee, and ensure compliance with any financial procedures put in place by the Finance and Resources Committee,
ix. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;

i. The Executive Officer for Finance and Resources – who shall:
    i. Be responsible for the overall budget and finances of the Party,
    ii. Be the Party's registered treasurer for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000,
    iii. Be responsible for the Party's compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000,
    iv. Chair the meetings of, and ensure the proper functioning of, the Finance and Resources Committee,
    v. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that Committee,
    vi. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,
    vii. Ensure members of the committee they chair, and any working groups established by that committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,
    viii. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
    ix. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
    x. Work with the President, other Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
    xi. Discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;
j. The Treasurer – who shall:
    i. Be responsible for leading the Party's fundraising activities,
    ii. Report on their activities to the Board, the Finance and Resources Committee and the Conference,

iii. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
iv. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
v. Work with the President, Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
vi. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them;

k. The Diversity Officer – who shall:
   i. Support the Party, each committee and Local parties to consider and act upon the needs of diverse communities,
   ii. Report on their activities to the Board and the Conference,
   iii. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
   iv. Work with the President, Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party,
   v. Discharge such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to them.

l. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates who shall:
   i. Be responsible for the approval of all parliamentary and large single seat (Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner) candidates; for selections for such seats, and for matters concerning the training and support of approved candidate,
   ii. Make provision for there to be lists of approved candidates for parliamentary and large single seat elections, ensuring there is a candidate for each of these seats or by-elections for such seats in Wales,
   iii. Liaise with The Board on all candidate-related issues,
   iv. Make provision for there to be lists of approved candidate assessors, Policy paper markers and Returning Officers for parliamentary and large single seat elections, ensuring there is a Returning Officer for selections in each of these seats and for by-elections in Wales,
   v. Chair the meetings of and ensure the proper functioning of, the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee,
   vi. Carry ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the duties of that Sub-Committee,
   vii. Report on their activities, and those of the committee they chair, in a timely manner, to Board members after each committee meeting, and the Conference on an annual basis,

viii. Ensure members of the Sub-Committee they chair, and any working groups established by that Sub-Committee, are kept informed of any relevant decisions made by the Board or other Committees,
ix. Contribute fully to the setting of party strategy at Board level, particularly with regard to their own specific duties,
x. Ensure the needs of diverse communities are considered and acted upon in all their work,
xi. Work with the President, other Executive Officers, Board members, elected representatives and party members in the best interests of the Party.

2 The Leader of the Party

a. The Leader of the Party shall be elected from the Welsh Liberal Democrat members of the House of Commons and the Senedd and shall become Leader of whichever Group they originate from. Candidates for this office shall be nominated by a Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the House of Commons, House of Lords, or Senedd; and supported by 50 members, of whom not more than seven shall be members of the same Local Party or Youth/Student SAO. No member shall sign more than one nomination paper. The election shall be by ballot of the membership in accordance with Annexe 1, Appendix 3 of this Constitution.
b. There shall be an election for Leader within twelve months of a Westminster General Election or a Welsh General Election depending on which Body the Leader resides. An election shall in addition take place if they resign, cease to be a member of the House of Commons or the Senedd, if a vote of no confidence by the relevant group from which they originate is passed by a majority of that Group or by a resolution of no confidence passed by at least 40% of Local Parties, following a quorate General Meeting of each Local Party. The Board shall select one of the Deputy Leaders, described in sections 3, 4 and 5, to assume the position of Acting Leader of the Party during a period where the Leader of the Party leaves the post without notice. The Deputy Leader shall act in the post for a maximum of 10 weeks, and as such, nominations must be opened within 4 weeks of the Deputy Leader taking on the post of Acting Leader. When opening nominations, the returning officer shall be mindful of the situation described in E.2.c. and should therefore keep the period of nominations to a maximum of 3 weeks.
c. Should there be no suitable candidate nominations put forward for election before the close of nominations, then the Returning Officer

shall reopen nominations for a further 3 weeks (in line with Appendix 3 Annexe 1). The reopened nominations shall extend the eligible candidates to include members of the House of Lords and Welsh Liberal Democrat members that are approved candidates for the House of Commons and the Senedd. Nominations containing 2 candidates to serve as joint leaders shall also be accepted at this point. Any nomination containing approved candidates shall be nominated by those listed in E.2.a. or by the Executive Committee of a Local Party. Should a member of the House of Lords, or an approved candidate be elected leader, then they shall serve for a maximum of 3 years before being eligible for re-election, at which point the eligible candidates for leader shall revert to those list in E.2.a. In such circumstances nomination shall open a minimum of 6 weeks before the 3rd anniversary of the Leader.

3 The Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group

a. If not elected Leader, the Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group shall be elected from the Welsh Liberal Democrat members of the Parliamentary Group in the House of Commons. Candidates for this office shall be nominated by a Welsh Liberal Democrat member of either House of Parliament supported by 30 members of whom not more than five shall be members in the same Local Party, or Youth/Student SAO. No member shall sign more than one nomination paper. The election shall be by ballot of the membership in accordance with Annexe 1, Appendix 3 of this Constitution.
b. An election for the Leader of the Parliamentary Group shall be held within twelve months of a General Election for a term ending with a similar election after the following election. An election shall in addition take place if they resign, cease to be a member of Parliament or a vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Parliamentary Group is passed by a majority of the Parliamentary group in the House of Commons or by a resolution of no confidence passed by at least 10 Local Parties, following a quorate General Meeting of each Local Party.
c. Should only one Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament be returned to the Westminster Parliament that member shall, if not elected as Leader of the Party, be automatically styled as Deputy Leader of the Party. In the event that there are no Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of Parliament then the Leader of the Parliamentary Group shall be elected from the Welsh Liberal Democrat members of the House of Lords according to the same provisions as laid out in Clause E.3.a and E.3.b above.

4. The Leader of the Senedd Group

a. If not elected Leader of the Party, the Leader of the Senedd Group shall be elected from the Welsh Liberal Democrat members of the Senedd Group. Candidates for this office shall be nominated by a Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the Senedd, supported by 30 members of the Party, of whom not more than five shall be members in the same Local Party, or Youth/Student SAO. No member shall sign more than one nomination paper. The election shall be by ballot of the membership in accordance with Annexe 1, Appendix 3 of this Constitution.
b. An election for the Leader of the Senedd Group shall be held within twelve months of a Welsh General Election for a term ending with a similar election after the following elections. An election shall, in addition, take place if they resign, cease to be member of the Senedd, a vote of no confidence in the Senedd Group Leader is passed by a majority of the Senedd Group, or by a resolution of no confidence passed by at least 10 Local Parties, following a quorate General Meeting of each Local Party.
c. Should only one Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the Senedd be returned to the Senedd, that member shall, if not elected as Leader of the Party, be automatically styled as Deputy Leader of the Party. In the event that there are no Welsh Liberal Democrat Members of the Senedd then the Leader of the Party shall be permitted to select a Deputy Leader, who shall act as the spokesperson for Welsh Affairs.

5. The President, Deputy President, the Executive Officer for Campaigns and Communications, the Executive Officer for Policy Development and the Executive Officer for Membership Development shall:

a. Be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 30 members drawn from at least 5 Local Parties.
b. Be elected for three year terms.
c. Commence office on 1 January of the year following their election, with the election taking place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three-year term.
d. Be restricted for two consecutive terms in the role.
e. Not be permitted to stand for re-election if their re-election would mean that they would serve more than three consecutive terms as a member of a committee.

6. The Executive Officer for Finance and Resources, the Treasurer, the Diversity Officer and the Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall:

a. Be elected by the Board at its first meeting following an election for Ordinary Members of the Board. Any member may apply.
b. Be elected for three-year terms.
c. Commence office immediately.
d. Be restricted for two consecutive terms in the role.
e. Not be permitted to stand for re-election if their re-election would mean that they would serve more than three consecutive terms as a member of a committee.

7. The Board shall create application forms for all Officer positions that require an application. The form shall ask for applicants to set out the skills and experiences they have for the role, and what they commit to delivering if elected.

8. Casual vacancies for:
a. The President shall be filled as soon as a by-election can be arranged in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the by-election does not need to be held alongside an Autumn Conference, and the term of office will commence immediately and end at the end of the original three year term. Until a new President is elected the Deputy President shall carry out the functions of the President in addition to the functions of the Deputy President.
b. Deputy President shall be filled as soon as a by-election can be arranged in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the by-election does not need to be held alongside an Autumn Conference, and the term of office will commence immediately and end at the end of the original three year term. Until a new Deputy President is elected the Constitutional Affairs Committee shall elect a member of the Committee to carry out the functions of the Deputy President.
c. The Executive Officer for Campaigns and Communications, the Executive Officer for Policy Development and the Executive Officer for Membership Development shall be filled as soon as a by-election can be arranged in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the by-election does not need to be held alongside an Autumn Conference, and the term of office will commence immediately and end at the end of the original three year term. Until a new Executive Officer is elected the relevant Committee shall elect a member of the Committee to carry out the functions of the Executive Officer.
d. The Executive Officer for Finance and Resources shall be filled at the next meeting of the Board in accordance with the relevant election

rules, save that the term of office will end at the end of the original three-year term. The Board should aim to meet within a month of the vacancy arising.

e. The Treasurer shall be filled at the next meeting of the Board in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the term of office will end at the end of the original three-year term.
f. The Diversity Officer shall be filled at the next meeting of the Board in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the term of office will end at the end of the original three-year term.
g. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall be filled at the next meeting of the Board in accordance with the relevant election rules, save that the term of office will end at the end of the original three-year term.

9. Officers of the Party other than the Leader of the Party, the Leader of the UK Parliamentary Group and the Leader of the Senedd Group shall be liable to removal from office.

a. The grounds upon which an individual may be removed from office shall be any one or more of the following:
    i. The individual has not fulfilled their appropriate constitutional duties;
    ii. The individual has failed to attend meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) for a period of at least six months;
    iii. The individual has been banned from holding office in the Party following disciplinary proceedings; or
    iv. The individual has otherwise acted contrary to the Party's best interests.
b. An individual may apply to the Chair of the Appeals Panel for dispensation from the effect of failing to attend meetings of the Board or relevant Committee prior to initiation of the process for their removal from office. If they have not done so they shall not be liable for removal from office on the grounds that they have failed to attend meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) for a period of at least six months, unless:
    i. There have been at least two meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) during that period; and
    ii. The individual has received at least seven days' notice of each such meeting; and
    iii. The individual has been afforded the ability to attend each such meeting in person, or by telephone or video conferencing.

c. The process for removal of an individual from office shall be initiated by the Board either:
    i. By a duly constituted meeting of the Board resolving that initiating the process for removing an individual from office is in the best interests of the Party and that all other possible avenues of reconciliation and/or mediation have been exhausted; or
    ii. By a duly constituted meeting of the Board being informed that a valid petition calling for the removal from office of the individual has been presented to the President (or the Deputy President if the petition calls for the removal of the President from office) and the Board resolving that all other possible avenues of reconciliation and/or mediation have been exhausted. In order for such a petition to be valid it must be signed by at least 10% of the total membership of the Party at the end of the quarter preceding its submission; and:
        1. Be in paper form (scanned copies of the petition will suffice, provided that the originals must remain available for submission on request),
        2. State on each sheet the name of the individual about whom complaint is made, the position they hold, and the grounds upon which it is sought to remove that individual from office,
        3. State on each sheet the date upon which the first signature was appended,
        4. Set out the name, party membership number, local party and hand-written signature of each signatory.
        5. Be presented to the President, or the Deputy President if the petition calls for the removal of the President from office, within 28 days from the date upon which the first signature was appended.
d. Following initiation of the process for the removal from office of any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees, the President shall notify the individual about whom complaint is made of:
    i. the grounds upon which it is sought to remove him or her from office; and
    ii. the date and venue of the meeting of the Board at which the matter will be discussed (of which not less than 14 days' notice shall be given to the individual concerned).

e. The proposal to remove from office any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees shall be considered at a physical meeting of the Board, to which each member of the Board and the individual about whom complaint is made has been afforded the ability to attend in person, by telephone or by video conferencing. No vote to remove an individual from office:
    i. shall be valid unless the individual about whom complaint is made has first been afforded the ability to make representations either in person or in writing;
    ii. shall be valid unless passed by a two-thirds majority of the total membership of the Board (whether present at the meeting or not); and
    iii. shall not take effect until whichever is the later of seven days after the date of the Board meeting in question or the determination by the Welsh Appeals Panel of any appeal brought by the individual about whom complaint is made within the said period of seven days.
f. Upon a decision to remove an individual from office becoming effective, the Returning Officer shall declare the position in question vacant and make provision for an election to fill that vacancy in accordance with Party's election rules. The notice of the election shall state the reason for the vacancy. The individual who has been removed from office shall (unless banned from holding office in the Party following disciplinary proceedings) be entitled to stand as a candidate in the subsequent election.

Section F: The Conference

1. The functions of the Conference shall be:
    a. the formulation of the policy of the Party;
    b. the receipt of a report from the Conference Committee;
    c. the receipt of reports, including a report from the Party's Senedd and Westminster Groups, financial and membership reports from the Board and other Committees;
    d. the election of Officers and members of all Committees and bodies referred to in this Constitution;
    e. the election of all representatives that may be provided for in the Federal Constitution;
    f. the appointment of an auditor to audit the accounts of the Party, which shall be proposed by the Finance and Recources Committee;
    g. the approval of such rules as may be provided for in this Constitution and consideration of proposals to amend such rules;
    h. the consideration of proposals to amend this Constitution; and
    i. all other functions required by this Constitution or by its status as the supreme decision-making body of the Party.

2. The debates of the Conference shall be based on policy papers submitted by the Policy Development Committee and motions submitted by any of the Party's Committees as laid down in Section D of this Constitution, Local Parties, SAOs, two-thirds of Welsh Liberal Democrat MS' if there is a minimum of 3, two-thirds of Welsh Liberal Democrat MPs if there is a minimum of 3, or supported by at least 10 members of the Party.

3. The Conference shall meet not less than twice in each year. The timings and agenda of these two meetings shall be decided by the Conference Committee save that the AGM shall be included within the meeting of the Conference held in the Autumn, as required by PPERA.

4. In exceptional circumstances the Board and the Conference Committee may jointly agree to postpone a meeting of Conference to facilitate election campaigning or respond to a specific civil contingency situation.

5. The Deputy President shall take the Chair at all meetings of the Conference. The Deputy President, in consultation with the Conference Committee, may

appoint other members to deputise for the Deputy President and take the Chair at sessions within individual meetings of Conference.

6. Any member of the Party shall be entitled to attend a meeting of the Conference on payment of the published registration fee.

Section G: The Party Committees

1. The Board

1.1 The responsibilities of the Board shall be:

a. Approving the Party's annual budget as proposed by the Finance and Resources Committee;
b. Ensuring the Party is compliant with all relevant legislation;
c. Maintaining the strategic overview and direction of the Party;
d. Appoint a line manager for any staff employed by the Party;
e. Deciding on the Party's staffing structure;
f. Developing the Party's messaging, in collaboration with the Campaigns and Communications Committee and the Policy Development Committee;
g. Ensuring all Committees fulfil their functions, including by exercising its powers of recall when necessary;
h. Making any political appointments to external bodies, with all appointments reported to Conference;
i. Ratifying the memberships of election campaign teams and manifesto working groups, following nominations from the relevant committees;
j. Ratifying the Party's election manifestos;
k. Ensuring that the needs of diverse communities are taken into account across the Party's activities; and
l. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

1.2 The Board shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
    i. The President,
    ii. The Deputy President,
    iii. The Leader,
    iv.The Deputy Leaders,
    v. The Executive Officers,
    vi. The Chair of the Welsh Young Liberals,
    vii. The Diversity Officer,
    viii. The Treasurer,
    ix. The Chair of the Conference Committee
    x. One of the representatives of the Welsh Members on the Federal Council, chosen by those representatives, and
    xi. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership.

xii. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates

1.3 The Board shall create and maintain working groups to undertake work on messaging, and to fulfill any other of its responsibilities as the Board sees necessary. The composition and terms of reference of any such working group shall be agreed by the Board.

2. The Campaigns and Communications Committee

2.1 The responsibilities of the Campaigns and Communications Committee shall be:

a. Communicating with journalists and the press;
b. Non-election campaigning;
c. Digital campaigning, including maintaining the Party's presence on social media platforms;
d. Managing the campaigns for by-elections to the Senedd;
e. Managing Wales-wide election campaigns;
f. The Party's presence at external events of national importance;
g. Maintaining and executing the processes of approving and selecting Parliamentary candidates;
h. Working with the Membership Development Committee to ensure adequate training and mentoring systems are in place for candidates and would be Parliamentary candidates;
i. Acting as the Party's brand ambassadors by encouraging consistent branding on all materials produced by the Party, and local and regional parties in Wales;
j. Campaigning in and communicating to diverse communities; and
k. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

2.2 The Campaigns and Communications Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
    i. The Executive Officer for Campaigns and Communications,
    ii. The Leader,
    iii. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals, and
    iv. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership;
    v. A representative of the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee.
b. Non-Voting Members:
    i. The Diversity Officer.

2.3 The Campaigns and Communications Committee shall create and maintain working groups to oversee:

a. The day-to-day running of Westminster, Senedd and nationally co-ordinated local election campaigning (the membership of such groups must be ratified by the Board);
b. Westminster and Senedd by-election campaigns;
c. Digital campaigning; and
d. The fulfilment of any other of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary.

Unless otherwise stated, the composition and terms of reference of any such working group shall be agreed by the Campaigns and Communications Committee.

3. The Policy Development Committee

3.1 The responsibilities of the Policy Development Committee shall be:

a. Developing the Party's policies on all matters devolved to the Senedd or are the responsibility of Welsh Ministers;
b. Providing political policy support and advice to the Party's candidates, elected representatives, and political appointees to external bodies;
c. Recommending the motions to be debated at Conference;
d. Considering reports from the Party's representative to the Federal Policy Committee;
e. Preparing the Party's election manifestos;
f. Developing relationships with the third sector, charities and other appropriate organisations;
g. Ensuring Party policies reflect the needs of diverse communities; and
h. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

3.2 The Policy Development Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
    i. The Executive Officer for Policy Development,
    ii. A representative of the Conference Committee,
    iii. The Leader,
    iv. A representative from the group in the Senedd,
    v. A representative from the group in the Westminster Parliament,
    vi. A representative of Liberal Democrat Councillors,

vii. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals,
and
viii. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership, and
ix. The Welsh Party's representative on the Federal Policy Committee.

b. Non-Voting Members:
i. The Diversity Officer.

3.3 The Policy Development Committee may create and maintain working groups to:

a. Produce election manifestos (the membership of such a group must be ratified by the Board);
b. Produce policy proposals in specific areas to propose at Conference; and
c. To fulfil any other of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary.

Unless otherwise stated, the composition and terms of reference of any such working group shall be agreed by the Policy Development Committee.

4. The Membership Development Committee

4.1 The responsibilities of the Membership Development Committee shall be:

a. Ensuring there is a planned programme of training for Party members;
b. The recruitment of new Party members, and the retention of existing members;
c. Communicating with members across a range of media;
d. Increasing opportunities for members to engage with the Welsh party, and increasing the number of members who do engage;
e. Liaising with and supporting local parties to fulfil their functions;
f. Liaising with and developing the skills of the Party's representatives in local government; and
g. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

4.2 The Membership Development Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
i. The Executive Officer for Membership Development,
ii. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals,
iii. The Diversity Officer,

iv. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership,
v. The Welsh Party's representative on the Federal People Development Committee.

4.3 The Membership Development Committee may create and maintain working groups to fulfil any of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary. The composition and terms of reference of any such working group shall be agreed by the Membership Development Committee.

5. The Finance and Resources Committee

5.1 The responsibilities of the Finance and Resources Committee shall be:

a. Drafting a budget, with clear budget lines for each committee, for consideration and approval by the Board;
b. In-year monitoring of the budget;
c. Managing the Party's resources;
d. Day-to-day compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act;
e. Borrowing money on behalf of the Party;
f. Inter-party financial management;
g. Overall financial control, including processes for approval of spending;
h. Processes for appointing staff, and the human resources requirements for employing staff;
i. Selecting an auditor to audit the Party's accounts, for approval by Conference;
j. Oversee the organising the event of Conference;
k. Fundraising;
l. Election spending and approval;
m. Ensuring party money is spent and resources used to increase engagement with diverse communities; and
n. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

5.2 The Finance and Resources Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
i. The Executive Officer for Finance and Resources,
ii. The President,
iii. The Treasurer, and

iv. 3 Ordinary Members elected from the membership;

b. Non-Voting Members:

i. The Diversity Officer,
ii. The Deputy President,
iii. The other Executive Officers, and
iv. The Chair of the Conference Committee,
v. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals (WYL)

5.3 The Finance and Resources Committee may create and maintain working groups to fulfil any other of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary. The composition and terms of reference of any such working group shall be agreed by the Policy Development Committee.

6. The Conference Committee

6.1 The responsibilities of the Conference Committee shall be:

a. Organising the event of Conference
b. The selection of motions and other items of the agenda of Conference, seeking advice from relevant committees
c. The recruitment and training of Chairs and Aides

6.2 The Conference Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:

i. The Chair of the Conference Committee
ii. A representative of the Policy Development Committee,
iii. A representative from the Finance and Resources Committee,
iv. A representative of the Campaigns and Communications Committee,
v. A representative of the Membership Development Committee
vi. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals,
vii. 4 Ordinary Members elected from the membership
viii. The Party's representative to the Federal Conference Committee.

6.3 Whilst these should be issues for the Conference Committee as a whole, where appropriate the Conference Committee should select leads from within their membership in the areas of:

a. Accessibility and transport

b. Diversity
c. External guests and fringes
d. Training
e. Any other area deemed necessary by the Committee

6.4 In the event where the Conference Committee cannot fulfil the tasks assigned, the Finance and Resources Committee should take on the responsibilities of the committee with the support of a task and finish group.

7. The Constitutional Affairs Committee

7.1 The responsibilities of the Constitutional Affairs Committee shall be:

a. Providing advice to Party members on the drafting of motions to Conference;
b. Maintaining the Party's constitution and other associated documents, and proposing amendments to Conference as required;
c. Producing and maintaining template constitutional documents for Local and Regional Parties;
d. Approving the final constitutions of Regional Parties; and
e. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

7.2. The Constitutional Affairs Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
    i. The Deputy President,
    ii. A representative from the Campaigns and Communications Committee,
    iii. A representative from the Policy Development Committee,
    iv. A representative from the Finance and Resources Committee, and
    v. 3 Ordinary Members elected from the membership.
b. Non-Voting Members:
    i. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals

8. The Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee

8.1 The responsibilities of the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee shall be:

a. Driving the identification and encouragement of potential candidates, Returning Officers, Assessors, Markers and Facilitators.

b. To have knowledge of, and support for, potential, approved and selected candidates.
c. Organisation of candidate assessment days.
d. Reviewing the social media check reports and other risk assessments for candidates and applicants for approval and taking any necessary actions.
e. Building, training and maintaining the Welsh pool of Returning Officers, Candidate Assessors and associated functionaries.
f. Liaison with the appropriate Officers and bodies to promote increased diversity amongst the pools of candidates.
g. Running all selections and maintaining the selection rules as per the Federal and Welsh Constitution.
h. Maintaining selection process and rules and recommending changes to these rules to the Board for ratification.
i. Maintaining all other process documents concerning Candidate assessments, Selections and Candidate Conduct as Standing Order Working document(s).
j. Organising training of Candidates in liaison with Federal Candidates Office and Welsh Membership Development Committee.
k. Running post-election candidate reviews.
l. Withdraw a candidate's approved status if circumstances so require.
m. Fulfilling all requirements of a Candidates Committee as specified in the Federal Constitution.

8.2 The Welsh Candidates Sub Committee shall consist of:

a. Voting members:
    i. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates.
    ii. 3 ordinary members elected from the membership.
    iii. An Assessment Officer.
    iv. A Selections Officer.
    v. A Candidates Officer.
    vi. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals.
b. The three Officers in G8.2.a shall apply and be appointed by the Board for 3 years based on their ability and knowledge of those specific areas.

9. The Board and each Committee established under this Constitution shall, unless otherwise provided, elect its own Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and representatives on other Committees at its first full meeting following the elections to that Committee. They shall also elect a Permanent Voting Alternate should the representative not be able to attend a meeting of that Committee.

10. The President or an Executive Officer may substitute for a representative or the elected permanent alternate from the committee which they chair to another committee at meetings of the other committee, if either:

a. The representative or alternate cannot attend a meeting of the other committee.
b. The positions of representative or alternate to another committee are vacant.

11. The Chair of each committee shall have an additional casting vote in the event of tied votes at committee meetings.

12. The Board and each Committee established under this constitution may co-opt members of the Party as non-voting members. Such co-opted members shall have full speaking rights in the Committee. Co-opted members may not serve as Committee Chairs or Vice Chairs.

13. Ordinary Members of the Board, Ordinary Members of the Campaigns and Communications Committee, Ordinary Members of the Policy Development Committee, Ordinary Members of the Membership Development Committee, Ordinary Members of the Finance and Resource Committee, Ordinary Members of the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee, Chair and Ordinary Members of the Conference Committee and Ordinary Members of the Constitutional Affairs Committee shall:

a. Be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 5 members.
b. Be elected for three-year terms.
c. Commence office on 1 January of the year following their election, with the election taking place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three-year term.
d. Not be permitted to stand for re-election if their re-election would mean that they would serve more than three consecutive terms as a member of a committee.

14. The Chair of Welsh Young Liberals, and the Representative of the Welsh Young Liberals to the Campaigns and Communications Committee, Membership Development Committee, and Policy Development Committee shall be elected by rules set out by the Welsh Young Liberals.

15. The Representatives of the group in the Senedd and the group in the UK Parliament shall be elected from members of those groups by rules set out in their standing orders.

16. The representative of Liberal Democrat Councillors to the Policy Development Committee shall:

a. be elected by Liberal Democrat Councillors from amongst their number. They must be nominated by 5 Liberal Democrat Councillors.
b. Be elected for three-year terms.
c. Commence office on 1 January of the year following their election, with the election taking place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three-year term.
d. Not be permitted to stand for re-election if their re-election would mean that they would serve more than three consecutive terms as a member of a committee.

17. Representatives to Federal Party Committees shall be elected as follows:

a. The three Representatives to the Federal Council shall:
    i. Be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 5 members.
    ii. Be elected for three-year terms.
    iii. Commence office on 1 January of the year following their election, with the election taking place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three-year term.
b. The Representative to the Federal Conference Committee, the Representative to the Federal International Relations Committee, the Representative to the Federal Policy Committee, and the Representative to the Federal People Development Committee shall:
    i. Be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 5 members.
    ii. Be elected for three-year terms.
    iii. Commence office on 1 January of the year following their election, with the election taking place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three-year term.

18. The Board shall create application forms for all Committee positions that require an application. The form shall ask for applicants to set out the skills and experiences they have for the role, and what they commit to delivering if elected.

19. Casual vacancies for Ordinary Members of all committees, the representative from Local Government to the Policy Development Committee and representatives to Federal Party Committees shall be filled by a by-election taking place alongside the next Conference, unless a by-election for an officer role takes place beforehand, or the Board decides that there is a need to fill the vacancy quickly.

20. The Board shall agree a Conflicts of Interests Policy which will be reviewed at least every three years, and published as an annex to this constitution. It will be applicable to all members of the Board, Party Committees, any working groups established by the Board or a Party Committee, and Returning Officers in all Party elections and selections.

21. Ordinary Members of the Board, Ordinary Members of the Campaigns and Communications Committee, Ordinary Members of the Policy Development Committee, Ordinary Members of the Membership Development Committee, Ordinary Members of the Finance and Resource Committee, Ordinary Members of the Conference Committee, Ordinary Members of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, Ordinary Members of the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee, the Representative from local government to the Policy Development Committee, the Representative to the Federal Board, the Representative to the Federal Conference Committee, the Representative to the Federal International Relations Committee, the Representative to the Federal Policy Committee and the Representatives to the Federal People Development Sub-Committee shall be liable to removal from office.

a. The grounds upon which an individual may be removed from office shall be any one or more of the following:
    i. The individual has not fulfilled their appropriate constitutional duties;
    ii. The individual has failed to attend meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) for a period of at least six months;

iii. The individual has been banned from holding office in the Party following disciplinary proceedings; or
iv. The individual has otherwise acted contrary to the Party's best interests.

b. An individual may apply to the Chair of the Appeals Panel for dispensation from the effect of failing to attend meetings of the Board or relevant Committee prior to initiation of the process for their removal from office. If they have not done so they shall not be liable for removal from office on the grounds that they have failed to attend meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) for a period of at least six months, unless:
    i. There have been at least two meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) during that period; and
    ii. The individual has received at least seven days' notice of each such meeting; and
    iii. The individual has been afforded the ability to attend each such meeting in person, or by telephone or video conferencing.
c. The process for removal of an individual from office shall be initiated by the Board either:
    i. By a duly constituted meeting of the Board resolving that initiating the process for removing an individual from office is in the best interests of the Party and that all other possible avenues of reconciliation and/or mediation have been exhausted; or
    ii. By a duly constituted meeting of the Board being informed that a valid petition calling for the removal from office of the individual has been presented to the President (or the Deputy President if the petition calls for the removal of the President from office) and the Board resolving that all other possible avenues of reconciliation and/or mediation have been exhausted. In order for such a petition to be valid it must be signed by at least 10% of the total membership of the Party at the end of the quarter preceding its submission; and:
        1. Be in paper form (scanned copies of the petition will suffice, provided that the originals must remain available for submission on request),
        2. State on each sheet the name of the individual about whom complaint is made, the position they hold, and the grounds upon which it is sought to remove that individual from office,

3. State on each sheet the date upon which the first signature was appended,
4. Set out the name, party membership number, local party and hand-written signature of each signatory.
5. Be presented to the President, or the Deputy President if the petition calls for the removal of the President from office, within 28 days from the date upon which the first signature was appended.

d. Following initiation of the process for the removal from office of any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees, the President shall notify the individual about whom complaint is made of:
   i. the grounds upon which it is sought to remove him or her from office; and
   ii. the date and venue of the meeting of the Board at which the matter will be discussed (of which not less than 14 days' notice shall be given to the individual concerned).
e. The proposal to remove from office any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees shall be considered at a physical meeting of the Board, to which each member of the Board and the individual about whom complaint is made has been afforded the ability to attend in person, by telephone or by video conferencing. No vote to remove an individual from office:
   i. shall be valid unless the individual about whom complaint is made has first been afforded the ability to make representations either in person or in writing;
   ii. shall be valid unless passed by a two-thirds majority of the total membership of the Board (whether present at the meeting or not); and
   iii. shall not take effect until whichever is the later of seven days after the date of the Board meeting in question or the determination by the Welsh Appeals Panel of any appeal brought by the individual about whom complaint is made within the said period of seven days.

Upon a decision to remove an individual from office becoming effective, the Returning Officer shall declare the position in question vacant and make provision for an election to fill that vacancy in accordance with Party's election rules. The notice of the election shall state the reason for the vacancy. The individual who has been removed from office shall (unless banned from holding office in the Party following disciplinary proceedings) be entitled to stand as a candidate in the subsequent election.

Section H: Local Parties

1. There shall be Local Parties in all parts of Wales.

2. Local Parties shall be recognised by the Party and entitled to the rights granted by this Constitution only if they have at least thirty members and have adopted a constitution incorporating the principles contained in the Federal Constitution and in this Constitution.

3. A Local Party's boundaries shall be determined and may be revised by the Welsh Board. In exercising this power the Board shall:

a. Consult pre-existing Local Parties and members in the area, including in particular those elected to public office at any level;
b. Give effect, as far as practicable, to any local agreement reached;
c. Take into account the ability of the Local Party to be able to play its part in pursuing the objects of the Party and the need for it to be an effective campaigning unit; and
d. Take into account the democratic right of members to participate in the affairs of the Party and the Local Party.

4. Except where a local agreement acceptable to the Welsh Board and satisfying the requirements above has been reached, a Local Party shall be formed of the members:

i. In a single Principle Local Authority area; or
ii. In the combined areas of two or more Principle Local Authorities; or
iii. In a subdivision of a Principle Local Authority area, taking into account Senedd or United Kingdom Parliamentary boundaries.

5. When the membership of a Local Party falls below thirty for a continuous period of six months, the, the clauses of 1-4 above shall be applied in redrawing the boundaries of Local Parties in that area.

6. The boundaries of Local Parties may be reviewed from time to time, either on the initiative of the Local Parties or the Executive, and in any such review the terms of clauses 1-4 shall apply.

7. In the event of a dispute about the boundaries or composition of a Local Party, any affected Local Party or an aggrieved member of it, may appeal to the Appeals Panel.

8. For the purpose of elections for a Parliamentary constituency, Senedd constituency or Local Authority comprising a plurality of Local Parties, the Local Parties concerned shall form a joint coordinating committee to co-ordinate campaigning and publicity, and to be responsible for the formulation of policy on local issues for that election with such powers and otherwise on such terms as may be thought fit.

9. The Conference shall publish, and may from time to time vary, a model constitution for Local Parties.

10. Each Local Party shall have a constitution, and may adopt a constitution which is not in the model form, or is in the model form subject to variations, and may from time to time amend its constitution.

11. Any Local Party constitution not wholly in the model form and any amendment shall be subject to approval by the Board. Such approval may be withheld if, in the opinion of the Board, the constitution or amendment:

a. contravenes the principles set out in Article 4.6 of the Federal Constitution or the Preamble to this Constitution or is otherwise in conflict with any of the provisions of this Constitution; or
b. is unworkable or defective, or omits or deletes provisions necessary to the proper functioning of the Local Party.

12. The constitution of a Local Party must comply with the following principles:

a. the Local Party must have an executive committee, which has officers and ordinary members and may have ex-officio and co-opted members, and which must report to the Annual General Meeting on its activities;
b. the executive committee must comprise both men and women and at least one person under the age of 26;
c. the election of officers and ordinary members of the executive committee must be by all members of the Local Party, voting either on a single roll or (in the case of voting for ordinary members of the executive committee) in branches;
d. there must be proper regulations (either in the constitution of the Local Party or in standing orders made thereunder) for the conduct of elections and meetings;
e. there must be a democratic process for the selection of candidates for election to local authorities;

f. the constitution of the Local Party may be amended only by a properly convened and quorate general meeting by the vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting, and no amendment shall take effect until it has been approved under Clause H.11 of this Constitution; and
g. those rules contained in Article 4.6 of the Federal Constitution.

13. The constitution of a Local Party is subject to this Constitution and, in the event of any conflict between them, this Constitution shall prevail.

14. The rights of a Local Party under this Constitution may be suspended by the Board if it is not adhering to this (or its own) Constitution, if it is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or if events have taken place which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Local Party or to the Party as a whole.

15. Before exercising any powers under Clause H.14 of this Constitution, the Board shall draw the attention of the Local Party to the grounds on which it is proposed to take this action, and shall give the Local Party a reasonable time to answer any allegations and/or take any necessary corrective action. A Local Party which is suspended under Clause H.14 of this Constitution may appeal that decision as provided by Section L: Appeals Panel, of this Constitution.

16. During the period of suspension the powers and functions of the Local Party and its organs shall be exercised subject to and in accordance with the directions of the Board, and the Local Party shall not be entitled to representation at the Federal Conference or at the Welsh Conference.

17. Where a Local Party has been suspended, the suspension may be lifted by the Board if it is satisfied that corrective action has been taken.

18. A Local Party shall be suspended if its membership has remained below thirty for a continuous period of six months, and shall remain suspended until its membership reaches thirty. A Local Party which has been suspended on this ground shall cease to have the rights conferred upon Local Parties by this Constitution.

19. Any person who is employed by or provides services to a Local Party for payment shall be appointed only by its executive committee and paid only through the Local Party's funds.

20. Each recognised Local Party shall appoint a Membership Secretary, who shall be responsible for such membership fees as are collected by the Local Party and shall account to the Finance and Resources Committee for such fees.

21. The Executive of a Local Party may approve the formation of ward or branch parties.

22. The Board shall have the power, in its absolute discretion, to recognise groups of local members of fewer than thirty members.

Section I: Local Party Co-ordinating Committees

Local Parties may form Local Party Co-ordinating Committees (LPCCs) to establish larger and more efficient accounting units for the purposes of PPERA, elections and the sharing of best practice. In the event that Local Parties determine to establish and maintain a LPCC for their local parties, the following provisions shall apply:

1. Function

LPCCs may assume principal responsibility for co-ordinating elections, sharing best practice, or forming a single accounting unit for the purposes of PPERA. LPCCs may be formed, at any time via a simple majority vote of the contributing local party executives. LPCCs may exist for the purposes of co-ordinating elections where it effects more than one local party, or to share best practice across similar geographic areas, where this is considered advantageous by the involved local parties.

An LPCC may:

a. Form a single accounting unit to manage contributing local party accounts, by instruction of contributing local party executives. The purpose of which may serve to reduce accounting units for contributing local parties.
b. This specifically excludes the virement of finances between local parties, unless explicitly agreed to by contributing local partys be way of motion to the local party executive.
c. Coordinate Senedd election campaigns;
d. Coordinate and supervising the selection of candidates within the contributing local parties;
e. Coordinate and initiate campaigns for elections where local parties feel this could be beneficial;
f. Raising money for conducting elections within the contributing local parties; Organise membership recruitment campaigns within the contributing local parties;
g. Coordinating policy on issues for contributing local parties in line with national policy and local needs;
h. Maintaining liaison between local parties, the Welsh Party, and elected members within the contributing local parties;
i. Coordinating local government election campaigns and collate information on local government elections within the contributing local parties.

2. Composition

An LPCC shall consist of:

a. A Chair, whose function shall be to chair meetings of the LPCC and report in writing to the Chairs of the contributing Local Parties at least four times a year. The Chair shall be nominated and elected by the representatives to the LPCC from the contributing Local Parties' membership at large.
b. A Vice-Chair, who shall carry out the functions of the Chair in their absence. The Vice-Chair shall be nominated and elected by the representatives to the LPCC from the contributing Local Parties' membership at large.
c. A Secretary, who shall take minutes of all LPCC meetings and shall conduct all correspondence on behalf of the LPCC. The Secretary shall be nominated and elected by the representatives to the LPCC from the contributing Local Parties' membership at large.
d. A Treasurer, who shall maintain the accounts of the LPCC and shall ensure that the LPCC is compliant with PPERA and any subsequent UK and/or Welsh legislation regarding the financial operation of political parties. The Treasurer shall be nominated and elected by the representatives to the LPCC from the contributing Local Parties' membership at large.
e. The Chair of each Local Party covered by the contributing local parties. Should the Local Party Chair already hold one of the four Regional Officer positions outlined above (a-d), the relevant Local Party shall not be additionally represented by this clause.
f. Representatives of each contributing local party elected at their Local Party AGM based on the membership in each Constituency at 1st of January of the year of the AGM. Local Parties shall be represented on the following basis:
g. Local Parties of up to 50 members shall be entitled to 2 representatives.
h. Local Parties of over 50 members shall be entitled to one additional representative for every 75 members (or part thereof) in excess of 50 members up to a threshold of 500 members. If a local party is in excess of 500 members they shall be entitled to additional representation of one representative for every 100 members (or part thereof) in excess of 500.
i. Sitting Members of the Parliament, Police and Crime Commissioners or Senedd Members and selected candidates for areas covered by the contributing local parties.

3. Meetings

a. LPCCs shall meet no less than four times a year. Normally, the Autumn meeting of the LPCC shall serve as the Annual Meeting, at which the LPCCs officers are elected.
b. The Annual Meeting of the LPCC shall be responsible for:
    i. Electing the LPCC officers set out in Clause I.2, above;
    ii. Receiving the audited accounts from the Treasurer;
    iii. Receiving reports from elected Parliamentarians or Police and Crime Commissioners;
    iv. Any other business deemed necessary.

4. Failure to Fulfil Functions and/or Responsibilities

a. Should an LPCC fail to fulfil its functions or responsibilities as set out in sub-sections I.1 to I.3, above, the functions and powers of the LPCC shall revert back to the local parties.
b. Treasurers for the contributing local parties will be required to nominate an acting treasurer until such time as separate accounts and accounting units have been established for the purposes of PPERA or that the LPCC has been re-established.

Section J: Candidates for Public Office

1. There shall be lists of persons approved to stand as official Welsh Party Candidates for the Senedd and the House of Commons.

2. Any member who has a minimum of twelve month's continuous membership of the Party and having renewed said membership, may apply to the Party to be assessed before being added to the list of approved candidates. Any member applying who does not meet this criteria may still apply but they will not be assessed until the membership criteria has been met. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall be permitted to grant a waiver to this rule in exceptional circumstances following consultation with the Chief Executive and/or the Party Manager.

3. No candidate or prospective candidate shall be entitled to style themselves a Welsh Liberal Democrat Candidate unless that person is an approved candidate under this Section.

4. Any person refused approval or disputing the grade given may appeal to the Welsh State Chair of Candidates. In deciding whether to enter an applicant on the list, the Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall take into account the matters referred to in Article 11.3 of the Federal Constitution.

5. The Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall ensure that prospective candidates are selected for each Parliamentary Constituency and for each Constituency for the Senedd, and may set selection procedures in motion where individual Local Parties have failed to do so within the six month period in the run up to an election or the imminent prospect of an election.

6. Selection shall nevertheless be in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Constitution, the selection rules maintained by the Welsh Candidates Sub-Committee and this Constitution but the Welsh State Chair of Candidates shall have authority to vary the operation of the Rules where it considers that such variation is required by unusual local circumstances.

7. If, following the selection of a Prospective Parliamentary or Senedd Candidate, a vacancy occurs in the seat, such selection shall cease to have effect and a new selection process shall take place to select a prospective candidate for the by-election save that the incumbent Prospective Candidate shall be guaranteed an

interview for potential inclusion on any shortlist that arises from the new selection process. The rules for the Selection of by-election candidates are made under the provisions of Articles 11.6 and 11.8 of the Federal Constitution and shall form an Annexe to the Welsh Liberal Democrat Constitution.

8. These provisions shall apply to the approval and selection of Senedd List Candidates except that the functions of the Local Party and its Executive Committee shall be carried out by such bodies as the Selection Rules shall provide.

Section K: Councillors and Recognised Council Groups

1. Scope and Definitions

1.1 This Section shall apply to County Councils, County Borough Councils, Community Councils, Town Councils and any successor local authorities in Wales.

1.2 For the purposes of this Section:

a. a Council Group means a political group or other grouping of councillors formally recognised by the relevant local authority for the conduct of its business;

b. a Recognised Council Group means a Council Group recognised by the Board under this Section as the official Welsh Liberal Democrat Council Group on that authority; and

c. a Liberal Democrat Councillor means a member of the Party recognised as a Liberal Democrat Councillor in accordance with Clause 2.

2. Liberal Democrat Councillors

2.1 A Liberal Democrat Councillor must be a member of the Party.

2.2 Where a Recognised Council Group exists on an authority:

a. a member of the Party serving on that authority who was authorised to stand and was elected as a Liberal Democrat candidate shall only be considered a Liberal Democrat Councillor if they are a member of the Recognised Council Group; and

b. a member of the Party serving on that authority who was not elected as a Liberal Democrat candidate shall only be considered a Liberal Democrat Councillor if they are a member of the Recognised Council Group and that the relevant Local Party or Local Parties have confirmed to the Board that the member satisfies the requirements for approval as a local government candidate.

2.3 Where no Recognised Council Group exists on an authority:

a. a member of the Party serving on that authority who was authorised to stand and was elected as a Liberal Democrat candidate shall be considered a Liberal Democrat Councillor; and

b. a member of the Party serving on that authority who was not elected as a Liberal Democrat candidate shall only be considered a Liberal Democrat Councillor if the relevant Local Party or Local Parties have confirmed to the Board that the member satisfies the requirements for approval as a local government candidate.

2.4 A person shall cease to be a Liberal Democrat Councillor immediately upon ceasing to be a member of the Party.

2.5 A member of the Party who serves on a local authority but is not a Liberal Democrat Councillor under this Section shall not describe or present themselves as a Liberal Democrat Councillor.

3. Recognition of Council Groups

3.1 The Board shall maintain a register of Recognised Council Groups.

3.2 The Board may recognise a Council Group only where:

a. the Group contains one or more members of the Party;
b. the Group operates under written Standing Orders;
c. the Group complies with this Constitution; and
d. recognition of the Group would not be seriously detrimental to the Party.

3.3 A Recognised Council Group may include councillors who are not members of the Party.

3.4 Following an ordinary election to a local authority, a Council Group consisting solely of members of the Party shall be entitled to recognition where it contains at least two-thirds of the councillors elected as Liberal Democrat candidates at that election, provided that it otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Section.

3.5 Where no Council Group qualifies for recognition under Clause 3.4, any Council Group containing one or more members of the Party serving on the authority may apply to the Board for recognition.

3.6 Where a Council Group seeking recognition includes one or more councillors who are not members of the Party, the Board shall recognise the Group only where it is satisfied that:

a. there are reasonable grounds for the arrangement; and

b. recognition is in the interests of the Party and its members serving on the authority.

3.7 There shall be no more than one Recognised Council Group on any authority at any one time.

3.8 Where more than one Council Group seeks recognition, the Board shall determine which Council Group shall be recognised, having regard to:

a. the interests of the Party;

b. the wishes of the members of the Party serving on the authority;

c. the effective representation of the Party on the authority; and

d. any other relevant circumstances.

3.9 The resignation, suspension, removal or departure of one or more members from a Recognised Council Group shall not of itself affect the recognition of the Group.

3.10 Members of the Party who leave a Recognised Council Group and establish a new Council Group may apply to the Board for recognition of that new Group.

3.11 A proposed replacement Council Group shall be entitled to recognition where:

a. at least two-thirds of the Liberal Democrat Councillors who were members of the original Recognised Council Group have joined the proposed replacement Council Group; and

b. the proposed replacement Council Group otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Section.

3.12 Where a proposed replacement Council Group does not qualify for recognition under Clause 3.11, the Board shall determine whether to recognise it in accordance with Clause 3.8.

3.13 Where the Board recognises a replacement Council Group, the recognition of the original Recognised Council Group shall cease.

4. Names of Council Groups

4.1 Only a Recognised Council Group may use the words “Liberal Democrat” or “Welsh Liberal Democrat” in its name.

4.2 A Recognised Council Group whose membership consists solely of members of the Party may use either of the following names:

a. The Liberal Democrat Group; or
b. The Welsh Liberal Democrat Group.

4.3 A Recognised Council Group whose membership includes one or more persons who are not members of the Party shall not use a name specified in Clause 4.2.

4.4 A Recognised Council Group whose membership includes one or more persons who are not members of the Party may include the words “Liberal Democrat” or “Welsh Liberal Democrat” in its name only where the name clearly indicates that the Group includes persons who are not members of the Party.

4.5 A Council Group containing one or more members of the Party shall not use a name that is likely to mislead the public as to the composition or political affiliation of the Group.

5. Standing Orders and Group Governance

5.1 Every Recognised Council Group must maintain written Standing Orders.

5.2 The Standing Orders must:

a. be consistent with this Constitution;
b. provide for the democratic election of Group officers;
c. contain fair and democratic procedures for resolving disputes;
d. specify procedures for the admission, suspension and removal of members; and
e. be lodged with the Party.

5.3 A Recognised Council Group shall not suspend or remove a Liberal Democrat Councillor from membership of the Group except in accordance with its Standing Orders and after giving the councillor reasonable notice of the grounds and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 Recognised Council Groups shall provide such reports and information to the Board as the Board may reasonably require.

6.2 Liberal Democrat Councillors shall work constructively with the Party, relevant Local Parties, candidates and elected representatives in furtherance of the objectives of the Party.

6.3 A Recognised Council Group shall notify the Board of any change to its:

a. membership;
b. officers;
c. Standing Orders; or
d. name.

7. Councillors Sitting Outside Recognised Council Groups

7.1 Where a Recognised Council Group exists on an authority, a member of the Party serving on that authority who is not a Liberal Democrat Councillor may sit as an independent councillor or as a member of a group consisting solely of councillors who sit as Independents.

7.2 A member of the Party serving on an authority shall not:

a. describe or present themselves as a councillor representing another political party; or
b. be a member of a Council Group representing another political party.

7.3 A breach of Clause 7.2 may be referred for consideration under the complaints procedures established under the Federal Constitution.

8. Investigation and Mediation

8.1 Any member of the Party, Local Party or Recognised Council Group may refer concerns regarding a Recognised Council Group to the Board.

8.2 Where concerns have been referred to it under Clause 8.1, or where the Board otherwise has reasonable grounds for concern regarding a Recognised Council Group, the Board may:

a. appoint an independent investigator;
b. appoint an independent conciliator or mediator; or
c. review the recognition of the Council Group.

8.3 A person appointed under Clause 8.2(a) or (b):
a. shall not be a member of the authority concerned;
b. shall not have been directly involved in the matter concerned; and
c. shall not act where there is a reasonable basis on which their impartiality might be questioned.

8.4 Nothing in this Section shall authorise the Board or a person appointed under Clause 8.2 to determine a complaint concerning the conduct of an individual member which falls within the complaints procedures established under the Federal Constitution.

9. De-recognition

9.1 The Board may de-recognise a Recognised Council Group where:
a. the Group has persistently or seriously failed to comply with this Constitution or its Standing Orders;
b. the Group no longer satisfies the requirements for recognition under this Section; or
c. the actions of the Group are seriously detrimental, or likely to be seriously detrimental, to the Party.

9.2 A Recognised Council Group shall not be de-recognised unless:
a. it has been informed of the grounds on which de-recognition is proposed; and
b. it has been given a reasonable opportunity to respond and, where appropriate, take corrective action.

9.3 Where the Board decides to de-recognise a Recognised Council Group, it shall give the Group written notice of its decision and the reasons for it.

9.4 A Council Group which has been de-recognised under this Section may appeal against that decision to the Appeals Panel.

9.5 The lodging of an appeal under Clause 9.4 shall not suspend the Board's decision unless the Appeals Panel directs otherwise.

Section L: Tithing of Elected Members

1. Welsh Liberal Democrat members elected to the positions outlined below are expected to pay a 10% tithe of their gross income associated with their elected position(s).
    a. Members of Parliament, and Senedd Members, elected since 2024 are expected to pay a 10% tithe of which 30% is to be paid to the Welsh Liberal Democrats to an account nominated by the Executive Officer for Finance and Resources, and the remainder of which is to be paid to any one of the following:
        i. the Welsh Liberal Democrats
        ii. the local party(ies), wholly or partially in the area they are elected to represent
        iii. a bank account established to retain a held seat, overseen by a local party, or group of local parties, wholly or partially in the area they are elected, or FRC.
    b. Police and Crime Commissioners are expected to pay a 10% tithe of which 30% is to be paid to the Welsh Liberal Democrats to an account nominated by the Executive Officer for Finance and Resources, and the remainder of which is to be paid to any one of the following:
        i. the Welsh Liberal Democrats
        ii. the local party(ies), wholly or partially in the area they are elected to represent
        iii. a bank account established to retain a held seat, overseen by a local party, or group of local parties, wholly or partially in the area they are elected, or FRC.
    c. Unitary Authority Councillors, elected in 2027, are expected to pay a 10% tithe to any one of the following:
        i. the local party(ies), wholly or partially with the authority area they are elected to
        ii. a constitutionally recognised branch, wholly or partially within the authority area they are elected to
        iii. a recognised Welsh Liberal Democrat group account.

2. Members experiencing financial difficulties may be excused from paying a tithe wholly or in part if agreed by the following:
    a. For Members of Parliament, Senedd Members, and Police and Crime Commissioners:

i. The Executive Officer for Finance, Chief Executive, and Party President.

b. For Unitary Authority Councillors

i. Mutual agreement of their group leader, local party chair, and local party treasurer.

3. Financial difficulties could be defined as being in receipt of income support, having lost their main source of income, or having been mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis by the roles outlined in Section L.2.

4. Members who fail to pay an agreed tithe for a period of 6 months, will automatically lose the whip, and their membership of the party will be suspended until such time as they pay an agreed tithe.
   a. Members who fail to pay a tithe will be expected to agree on a repayment plan with the roles outlined in Section L.2.
   b. It is up to the discretion of the roles outlined in Section L.2. as to whether to waive a repayment plan.

Section M: Associated Organisations

1. Any organisation of persons having a common link of interest which satisfies the following criteria:

a. its membership is limited to members of the Party or non-members who support the fundamental values and objectives of the Party;
b. its objects are consistent with those fundamental values and objectives; and
c. its internal procedures conform with the basic democratic principles set forth in Section C of this Constitution may be recognised as an Associated Organisation ("AO") by the Board.

2. a. Any such organisation which, in addition to satisfying the criteria set forth in Section M.1, above, consists solely (in the case of youth and/or students) of members of the Party and is listed in the Annexe to this Constitution shall be recognised as a Specified Associated Organisation ("SAO") by the Board. Other organisations may, subject to any criteria established pursuant to Section M.1, above, qualify for status as a Specified Associated Organisation following a proposal from the Board and a two-thirds majority of Conference.
b. Once so approved, an SAO shall be subject to the provisions in the same way as those SAOs which are specified herein. A list of such added SAOs shall be appended to the relevant Annexe of this Constitution. The Annexe shall expire at the end of every fourth Autumn Conference from 2008 (although the Board shall have the power to delay this each time by a further twelve months on a two-thirds majority) and must be renewed by means of an amendable motion from the Board to the Conference.

3. An Associated Organisation (AO) shall have the following rights:

a. to be consulted on policy matters of special interest to the AO or on which it has special knowledge or expertise;
b. to present evidence to any policy working group covering issues relevant to the organisation; and
c. to submit proposals for membership of any relevant policy working group.

4. Specified Associated Organisations shall:

a. Have the same recognitions procedure and rights as provided for SAOs at Federal level by the Federal Constitution; and

b. Have the additional right to identify with and move motions and amendments at meetings of the Conference through those members of the SAO who are members of the Conference.

5. For the purposes of exercising the rights conferred on SAOs by this Constitution, an SAO representing youth and/or students shall have the same rights as a Local Party.

6. If an AO, or an SAO, is in breach of the criteria set forth in Section M.1 or established pursuant to Clause M.2.a, above, it may be suspended from the exercise of its rights under this Constitution by the Board. Before exercising any powers under this Clause, the body proposing to suspend or recommend the suspension of the rights of the AO or SAO shall draw the attention of the AO or SAO concerned to the grounds on which it is proposed to take this action, and the AO or SAO shall be given reasonable time to answer any allegations and/or take any necessary corrective action.

7. The suspension of an AO or SAO may be effected by the Board and shall be reported to the next meeting of the Conference, which may revoke such suspension or, by a two-thirds majority, remove from an organisation the status of an AO or SAO.

8. Any suspension of an AO or SAO may be lifted by the suspending body if it is satisfied that corrective action has been taken.

9. A member of an SAO shall not be counted as a member for the purposes of Section E of this Constitution or participate in exercising the rights of an SAO under Sections D to H of this Constitution or of Article 10 of the Federal Constitution, if:

a. such a member is not a member of the Party;
b. in the case of the Youth and/or Student Organisation, such a member has reached the age of 26 and is not a Student;
c. such a member, having been originally enrolled by an SAO, has elected to exercise the relevant constitutional rights through a Local Party; or
d. Such a member, having been originally enrolled by a Local Party, has not elected to exercise the relevant constitutional rights concurrently as a member of more than one SAO or as a member of both an SAO and a Local Party.

10. The recognition by the Party of Associated Organisations, and the conferring by this Constitution of rights upon Specified Associated Organisations, shall not prejudice the independence of such organisations.

Section N: The Appeals Panel

1. There shall be an Appeals Panel comprising of a Clerk, who shall be the Party's Chief Executive, the Chair and ten other members nominated by the Board or a Local Party and confirmed by the Conference for a term of office of five years commencing on 1 January following confirmation. The Appeals Panel shall elect a Vice-Chair from amongst its members. The list of members of the Appeals Panel along with the date(s) of their appointment and/or expiry of appointment shall form an Annexe to this Constitution.

2. The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall be nominated by the Board and confirmed by the Conference for a term of office of five years commencing on 1st January following confirmation. The Chair of the Appeals Panel shall also serve as the Welsh Vice Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel in accordance with Article 14 of the Federal Constitution. Should the Chair of the Appeals Panel be ineligible to be the Welsh Vice Chair under the terms of Article 14 of the Federal Constitution, the Welsh Members of the Federal Appeals Panel shall elect a Vice Chair from amongst their own number.

3. Welsh members of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be nominated and confirmed by the same procedure outlined in M.1 above, and shall be ex-officio members of the Welsh Appeals Panel during the period of their membership of the Federal Appeals Panel.

4. Each member of the Panel shall be eligible for reappointment. No person shall be eligible for appointment if (and any member shall forthwith vacate office upon becoming) an MS, MP, Prospective Senedd or Parliamentary Candidate, or a member of the Board or the Campaigns and Communications Committee or an employee of the Party. The body making the original appointment may terminate the appointment because the appointee is no longer able to carry out his or her duties as a member of the Panel on account of ill health or for other good cause. Any casual vacancy on the Panel may be filled by the body making the original appointment for the residue of the term of that appointment and/or by a resolution of the Appeal Panel members providing this is subject to ratification by the Conference at the next available opportunity.

5. The Appeals Panel shall adjudicate on:

a. any dispute over the interpretation of this Constitution;

b. any claim that the rights under this Constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed;
c. any dispute between the Welsh Liberal Democrats and an SERC or Local Party, or between SERCs or between Local Parties; and
d. any matter expressly so provided by these Sections or by rules made hereunder.

6. The members of the Panel to hear a particular case shall be selected by the Chair, subject to the following provisos:
a. the Chair alone may determine any dispute over the interpretation of this Constitution;
b. at least three members shall hear any other case;
c. no member shall be from the same Constituency/Area as the appellant or have any direct involvement in the matters in dispute.

7. The Chair of the Appeals Panel and the Clerk may make and publish rules for its own procedures. The rules so published must be ratified by the Conference at the next available opportunity and shall form an Annexe to this Constitution. These rules shall include:
a. the initial processing of an appeal, including:
i. a power to the Chair to determine whether or not an appeal is valid;
ii. a power to the Chair to order a mediation process;
iii. an indicative timetable, and a power to the Chair to impose deadlines (and so that any appeal must, unless the Chair extends this deadline in exceptional circumstances, be concluded within three months of being lodged, and may be dismissed if the appellant does not co-operate with the related timetable) save that any appeal must be submitted to the Clerk of the Appeals Panel no later than two weeks after the incident which is the subject of the appeal has occurred; and
iv. an obligation on the Appeals Panel, so far as is practicable to identify the parties to an appeal hearing, and to notify all of them sufficiently in advance to enable them to submit documentary evidence and provide witnesses; and
b. the conduct of an appeal.

8. Any decision of the Panel shall, subject to any right of appeal under the Federal Constitution, be final and binding on all concerned. The Panel may

publish any decisions or issue any statement/direction in respect of a decision which, in the opinion of the Chair, are likely to be of value as a precedent. The Panel shall also report annually to the Conference on any adjudication it has made regarding the interpretation of this Constitution and the nature of any other complaints it has had to deal with and any recommendations to avoid the recurrence of similar complaints.

Section O: Support for Welsh Government Involving Other Parties

1. The Party Group in the Senedd (“The Senedd Group”), or an individual Welsh Liberal Democrat Member of the Senedd, may not form a government involving other parties in the Senedd, nor individual Members of the Senedd who are not Welsh Liberal Democrats, without the support of the Conference. The motion to support such a government must be proposed to the Conference by both the Senedd Group and the Board. The Senedd Group and the Board should agree a process to negotiate the terms of such a government ahead of each Senedd election.

Section P: Amendments to the Constitution

1. Save as is hereinafter provided, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of Conference present and voting at a meeting of the Conference. Motions to amend the Constitution may be proposed by the Constitutional Affairs Committee, the Board, Local Parties, Specified Associated Organisations or by 20 members of the Conference. Notice of motions to amend the Constitution shall be sent to all members of Conference at least one month before the meeting of Conference at which those motions are to be debated.

2. There shall be a standing, Constitutional Affairs Committee which shall have the power to amend the Constitution subject to ratification by Conference at its next meeting (and if necessary by any all-member ballot if the rights of an individual are reduced (Clause P.3 below)) following any changes. Additionally, the Committee shall:

i. ensure that this Constitution is compliant with any UK or Welsh Laws and Legislation covering the governance of Political Parties, such as PPERA.
ii. ensure that this constitution is compliant with the requirements and rules for State Party Constitutions set out in the Federal Constitution.
ii. review proposed amendments to this Constitution to ensure that they are valid amendments and to ensure that the integrity of the Constitution is retained by proposing additional drafting amendments.

3. a. Any proposed motion to amend the Constitution whose effect would be to reduce the rights of individual members (including any reduction in the matters for which a ballot of members is required pursuant to this Constitution) shall not be valid unless ratified by two-thirds of the members voting in a ballot.
b. The outcome of any ballot of the Party's Membership shall be notified to the Membership no later than four weeks after any result has been declared.

4. Any amendment to this Constitution shall take effect at the end of the meeting of Conference at which the amendment is adopted, or at the date an amendment is made by the Constitutional Affairs Committee (this amendment stays in place until the start of the ratification of the change at the next Conference), or if Clause P.3 is invoked, once the result of an all-member ballot has been counted and the result declared by the

Returning Officer save that any changes to the composition of a Committee shall not take effect until the next set of elections to that Committee.