

# Business Motion / Constitutional Business

## 1. One Member One Vote

Proposed by Standards & Practice Committee

Proposer: Neil Christian

Summator:

**Overview:** Following the move to OMOV we need to remove our Regional Party constitution's clauses that set out who is eligible to vote at conferences and in choosing the Regional Executive membership each year. This abolishes Local Party, Council Group and SAO voting representation rules.

We will retain clauses concerning Parliamentary candidates as some people stand for a seat in one region while holding their membership in another, and that can split across regional boundaries. We also remove clauses covering any regional assembly for the North West, given the lack of progress toward such devolved regional government.

We abolish the requirement that ballots be conducted postally, given the party's move to allow electronic / online voting. We will amend our split "24 county and 8 ordinary" executive member system into one merged "ordinary member" block of 32.

This means a series of changes through the constitution which are first summarised here, and then reproduced in full form as the changes will take effect below.

In 2.5 (voting members of Conference) retain a, e, f, h (members, regional assembly members, MPs / MEPs, PPCs / Euro-PPCs). Remove other lines and renumber.

Delete 2.6 (number of voting reps per local party)

Delete 2.8 (SAO representation)

Delete 2.9 and 2.10 (Council representation)

Delete 2.11 (Regional Assembly)

Delete 2.12 (election of voting members by groups mentioned above)

Delete 2.13 (gender balance in voting reps)

Delete 2.14 (non-voting members; no longer exist!)

Section 4.2 outlines the makeup of the regional executive.

In Section 4.2b we replace 24 county reps + 8 others with 32 elected region-wide. Retain reserved seat for Young Liberals representative. Then for the rest of article 4, delete references to County members. ("County or Ordinary" to become "Ordinary" throughout).

Finally in 4.6 we bring our language up to date with *their* replacing *his/her*, because "men and women" is the term you only use when "people" is too short and too inclusive.

2.5. The following members of the Regional Party shall be voting members of Regional Conference:

**(a) the members of the Regional Party and members of Local Parties in the Region.**

~~(a) the Officers of the Regional Party;~~

- ~~(b) — representatives of Local Parties elected in accordance with Articles 2.6 and 2.7 below;~~
- ~~(c) — representatives of the Specified Associated Organisation representing Youth and Students (and other Specified Associated Organisation(s)) elected in accordance with Article 2.8 below;~~
- ~~(d) — representatives of Party Groups on principal local authorities within the Region elected in accordance with Articles 2.9 and 2.10 below;~~
- ~~(e) — members appointed, nominated or elected by or through the Party of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Regional Assembly;~~
- (bf) Members of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons and the European Parliament representing constituencies within the Region;
- ~~(g) — Members of the House of Lords who are members of the Regional Party;~~
- (ch) prospective Parliamentary and European Parliamentary candidates for constituencies and European constituencies within the Region from the date of their selection until the end of the calendar year in which they stood for election, unless a new prospective candidate is selected for the constituency; and
- ~~(i) — the members of the English Council elected by the Region.~~

Members entitled to attend in more than one capacity shall not be entitled to vote more than once.

~~2.6. — Each Local Party shall elect the representatives of Local Parties at the same time, in the same manner and for the same term as Federal Conference Representatives, but on the following scale:~~

<u>Membership of Local Party</u>	<u>Number of Representatives</u>
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30 to 75	up to 4
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76 to 100	up to 6
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101 to 150	up to 8
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151 to 250	up to 10
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251 to 350	up to 12
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351 to 400	up to 14
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401 to 450	up to 16
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~~together with two (2) further representatives for every 200 members (or part thereof) in excess of 450, such numbers of members to be determined by reference to the latest list issued by the English Party.~~

~~A Local Party comprising more than one Parliamentary constituency shall be entitled to the higher of (i) the number of representatives which each component constituency with 30 members or more would be entitled to if it formed a separate Local Party or (ii) the number of representatives which that Local Party would be entitled to send if it comprised a single constituency.~~

~~2.7. — The provisions of the Party Constitution relating to cessation of office, election of additional representatives, and election of substitutes shall also apply to Regional Conference representatives.~~

~~2.8. — The representatives of the Specified Associated Organisation for Youth and Students (and/or such other Specified Associated Organizations listed in the Annexe to the Federal Constitution as may be agreed at an Annual or other General Meeting of the Regional Party) shall be elected by that organisation in accordance with its own procedures on the same scale as Local Parties with regard to its eligible membership within the Region. Eligibility to vote and to be counted as a member shall be on the same basis as for the election of Federal Conference Representatives.~~

- ~~2.9—The number of representatives to be elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on each County Council in the Region shall be according to the following scale:  
One (1) for a Group of up to six (6) members, Two (2) for a Group of seven (7) or more members.~~
- ~~2.10—The number of representatives to be elected by the Liberal Democrat Group on each District Council or Unitary Authority in the Region shall be according to the following scale:  
One (1) for a Group of up to six (6) members, Two (2) for a Group of seven (7) or more members.~~
- ~~2.11—All Liberal Democrat members of the Regional Assembly shall be voting members of the Regional Conference.~~
- ~~2.12—The representatives elected by the Liberal Democrats' Groups on principal local authorities and on the Regional Assembly shall be elected by and from those Groups to serve for the calendar year. No person may participate in any such election who is not a current and 'paid-up' member of the Party.~~
- ~~2.13. Where the number of representatives to be elected by any body at the same time is three or more, not less than one-third or, if one-third is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding one-third ("the Specified Number") shall be men and women respectively, provided that there is at least twice the Specified Number of male and female candidates respectively validly nominated by the close of nominations.~~
- ~~2.14. All members of the Regional Party who are not voting members of Regional Conference shall be encouraged to attend the Regional Conference as observers, and shall be entitled to speak at the Regional Conference subject to such restrictions as may be appropriate.~~
- 4.2. The members of the Regional Executive shall be:
- (a) the Officers of the Regional Party;
  - (b) thirty two (32)** ~~eight (8)~~ Ordinary Members who shall be Party members holding membership in the Region, to be elected in accordance with Article 10 hereof by the voting members of Regional Conference; ~~twenty-four (24) County Members to be elected in proportion to the number of members in each of the Region's five (5) Counties~~ ~~eight (8) Ordinary Members who shall be Party members holding membership in the Region, to be elected in accordance with Article 10 hereof by the voting members of Regional Conference;~~ one (1) member chosen by the Specified Associated Organisation for Youth and Students, in accordance with their own procedures;
  - (c) all Liberal Democrat Members of Parliament representing constituencies in the Region;
  - (d) all members of the House of Lords who are members of the Regional Party;
  - (e) all Liberal Democrat Members of the European Parliament representing the Region or any part of it;
  - ~~(f) all members of the Liberal Democrat group in the Regional Assembly appointed, nominated or elected by or through the Party;~~
  - (g) up to five (5) additional members to be co-opted by the Regional Executive. Co-opted members shall have the same rights, including voting rights, as elected members. The power of co-option shall be used, inter alia, to ensure that there is fair representation of under represented communities in the Region, taking into account race, religion, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation and that this would create a composition of the Executive that reflects the community within the Region.

PROVIDED that the total number of members drawn from all of the categories specified at items (c)-(g) above inclusively shall not exceed ten (10) in all. If more than ten (10) persons so qualify then

they shall agree among themselves as to who shall represent the group and in default of agreement the matter shall be determined by the longest-serving among them at his/her sole discretion.

Lapse or revocation of party membership shall automatically and immediately disqualify any member from membership of the Regional Executive.

- 4.3 The Officers and the ~~County~~ and Ordinary Members shall be elected annually by the voting members of the Regional Conference by ~~postal~~ ballot, nominations to close at the close of the Annual General Meeting.
  - 4.4 A Candidate for election as an Officer of the Regional Party or ~~County~~ or Ordinary Member of the Regional Executive must be a member of the Regional Party at the date when nominations close, ~~but need not be an elected voting representative to the Regional Conference.~~
  - 4.5 No person may hold more than one office, or be both an Officer and a ~~County~~ or Ordinary Member of the Regional Executive.
  - 4.6 The term of office of the Officers and all other members of the Regional Executive shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January following their election until the following 31<sup>st</sup> December, save that the President shall be elected to serve for a period of two years from 1<sup>st</sup> January following *their* ~~his/her~~ election. They shall be eligible for re-election, save that the Chair of the Regional Party shall not serve more than three consecutive terms and shall then not be eligible for election as Chair or Vice Chair for a period of two years. The President shall be eligible for re-election for a second term of two years.
  - 4.7 The Regional Executive shall fill any vacancy occurring among the Officers or ~~County~~ or Ordinary Members. A vacancy in the Chair of the Regional Party shall be filled from amongst the Regional Officers if any one of them is willing to accept the post, and if not from amongst the ~~County~~ or Ordinary Members of the Regional Executive. Any other vacancy may be filled from any member of the Regional Party.
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- 10.3. The elections of Officers, ~~County~~ and Ordinary Members of the Regional Executive, members of the Regional Candidates Committee, Regional Policy Committee and Regional Conference Committee and the members of the English Council and representatives on other bodies to be elected by the Regional Conference shall take place following the Annual General Meeting. The Secretary shall invite nominations in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting and the period for receipt of nominations shall close at the end of the Conference at which the Annual General Meeting takes Place.
  - 10.9 When elections are held at the same time for more than one position or class of position they shall be conducted and counted in the following order:
    - (a) Officers in the order set out in Article 3.1;
    - (b) Ordinary Members of the Regional Executive;
    - (c) ~~County Members of the Regional Executive, elected by voting members of Regional Conference from the same county;~~