**Constitutional Review:**

*Submitted by South Wales East Valleys Liberal Democrats*

Proposer: TBC

Summator: TBC

Conference notes:

1. The constitution should provide a safeguard to the democratic rights of members and should provide a framework of duties and procedures that enable the Welsh Liberal Democrats to achieve the aims and objective of the party.
2. The current constitution fails in this basic purpose because it is out of date, inflexible, and contradictory, and is thus unfit for purpose.
3. No-one has a current version of the constitution. Whist the constitution provides great detail on the procedures for amending the constitution, there is no duty placed on any person or committee to update and publish the amended document.
4. At the time of writing this motion, the latest published version of the constitution is dated 2015, and thus does not contain amendments made by the Constitution Review Panel, or at Conferences since the publication date. There is no requirement for a report of each conference to be published. If such a report were to be published, it could contain, amongst other useful information, a list of the voting outcomes of the motions debated at conference, including constitutional amendments, and a conference report would enable a dedicated member to maintain a current version of the constitution. As such, there are currently two years’ worth of amendments that are not published and it is entirely unreasonable to expect members, committees, officers and staff to be able to comply with unpublished constitutional rules.

Conference believes:

1. The task of updating the constitution, changing its content to reflect changes in operations and governance, and hopefully simplifying the document, is a major and lengthy operation.
2. Attempting to continue with the current constitution would be difficult because there is no current published version; because the latest publish version of the constitution contains reference to staff positions that no longer exist; has not been updated to incorporate the principle of one member one vote, encases the party in a structure that inhibits leadership and muddles accountability, that is often impractical because the number of staff currently employed by the Welsh party have neither the time nor the resources to undertakes the tasks required of them in the constitution, and is frequently contradictory, inflexible or silent on critical procedures.
3. While the constitution is being revised, some transitional arrangements are necessary to enable the party to function effectively. Any transitional arrangements should be in place for a limited period of time.
4. Some reasonable and fair way must be found that will enable the principles and safeguards contained within the constitution to be maintained whilst allowing the Welsh party the flexibility to develop and improve the way it works during the time the constitution is being revised.

Conference resolves:

1. To retain the first part of the latest published version of the constitution being ‘The Preamble’, all the subsequent sections titled ‘A: The Party,’ ‘B: The Functions of the Party, ‘C: Membership’, and ‘D: The Organisation of the Party’, together with the first paragraph of the next section ‘E: Officers of the Party’, paragraphs 5 to 8 (inclusive) of section ‘L: The Appeals Panel’, section ‘M: Amendments to the Constitution’, and Annex VIII: ‘Conference Standing Orders’, and to delete all of the remaining parts of the constitution and the Annexes and Appendices attached thereto.
2. The Constitutional Review Panel to publish within one month of this amendment a new document entitled ‘Guidance for Members, Committees and Officers of the Welsh Liberal Democrats’ to contain all the deleted parts of the latest published version of the constitution as detailed in the point immediately above.
3. To require officers and committees to abide by procedures and actions contained in the document ‘Guidance for Members, Committees and Officers of the Welsh Liberal Democrats’ who should not deviate from this Guidance document unless there is good reason to do so, such as the Guidance document is contradictory, out of date, inappropriate, or would require actions that serve no useful purpose.
4. Any Member, committee member or officer of the party may ask the Constitutional Review Panel for guidance on the interpretation of the point above, or may ask the Constitutional Review Panel to adjudicate on any dispute that may arise from an interpretation of the point above, in which case the decision of the Constitutional Review Panel shall be made within one month of the request, and shall be final.
5. To require the CRP to complete the revision and amendments to the full constitution before Autumn conference 2019, and to provide a report to each conference on the progress on their revision work, and on the functioning of this amendment.
6. This amendment shall cease to have effect after the close of Autumn conference 2019 or the 30th October 2019, whichever is sooner.