

**Welsh Liberal
Democrats**

**Democratiaid
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



MOTION AGREED AT AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2018

A New Governance Structure for the Welsh Liberal Democrats

Conference notes:

- A. The motion passed at the 2017 Spring Conference which resolved to review the governance structure of the Welsh Liberal Democrats;
- B. That a proposal to create a new structure was brought to the Spring 2018 Conference but was referred back to the National Executive Committee for further consideration;
- C. The revised governance proposals that were subject to a members' consultation by the National Executive Committee;
- D. The proposals to reform the Party's disciplinary processes on a federal basis, as a result of the Macdonald and Parasaram reviews;
- E. That the objectives of the Party, according to the Constitution, are:
 - 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, in order to achieve such objectives:
 - c. To secure the election of Liberal Democrats as Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament for the Wales Region; Members of the National Assembly for Wales; and members of local and other elected public authorities in Wales

Conference believes:

- I. That the objectives of the party as set out in the constitution should remain
- II. That any new governance structure should have the following principles at its heart:
 - A. Enabling the functions of the party to be fulfilled as effectively as possible by Party members on a voluntary basis, with or without the support of paid staff;
 - B. Allowing as many Party members as possible to contribute to the Party's activity, while keeping the formal mechanisms of the Party as slim as possible;
 - C. Being fluid enough to respond quickly to the ever-changing political climate;
 - D. Ensuring that power is shared within the Party, and that no one group of interest within the Party can dominate decision-making; and

- E. Making Party office-holders and committee members more accountable to the wider Party membership.

Conference therefore resolves that:

1. The Party's Governance Structure shall be:
 - a. The Conference, which shall remain the main decision making body of the party, continue to meet twice a year, and comprise of all Party members;
 - b. The Board, which shall have responsibility for the day-to-day management and running of the Party;
 - c. Four committees that shall be accountable to the Welsh Board, which are:
 - i. The Campaigns and Communications Committee,
 - ii. The Policy Development Committee,
 - iii. The Membership Development Committee,
 - iv. The Finance & Resources Committee;
 - d. The Conference Committee, which is accountable to the Finance & Resources Committee, responsible for planning and organising of Conference;
 - e. The Constitutional Affairs Committee, with responsibility for the maintenance of the Party's constitution;
 - f. A disciplinary process, which shall be run as part of guidelines and systems approved on a Federal basis.
 - g. The Welsh Appeals Panel, which shall adjudicate on:
 - i. Any dispute over the interpretation of the Constitution,
 - ii. Any claim that the rights under the Constitution of a member or of a Party body have been infringed, or
 - iii. Any dispute between the Welsh Liberal Democrats and a Regional or Local Party, or between Regional and/or Local Parties.
2. 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 Deputy Leaders of the Party – who shall deputise for the Leader within the Party and shall be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Party and the members of each of the Parliamentary Parties;
- e. 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;
- f. 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;
- g. 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;
- h. The Executive Officer for Finance & 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 & 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;
- i. The Treasurer – who shall:
 - i. Be responsible for leading the Party's fundraising activities,
 - ii. Report on their activities to the Board, the Finance & 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;
 - j. 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.

3. Officers, other than the Leader and Deputy Leaders, and committees shall be elected for three year terms and:

- a. The President, Deputy President, Executive Officers, Diversity Officer, the Local Government Representative on the Policy Development Committee and the representative to the Federal Board shall be restricted to two consecutive terms in the role;
- b. No person, except for the Leader and Deputy Leaders, may be a member of a committee for more than three consecutive terms; and
- c. A member of any committee elected by all members of the Party may not simultaneously serve as a member of any other such committee, save that a member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee may simultaneously serve as a member of any other committee.

The Board

4. The responsibilities of the Board shall be:
 - a. Approving the Party's annual budget as proposed by the Finance & 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 Communication 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.
5. The Board shall create and maintain working groups to undertake work on messaging, and to fulfill any other of these responsibilities the Board sees necessary.
6. The Board shall consist of:
 - a. Voting members:
 - i. The President,
 - ii. The Deputy President,
 - iii. The Leader,
 - iv. The Deputy Leaders (up to 4),
 - v. The Executive Officers (4),
 - vi. The Chair of the Welsh Young Liberals,
 - vii. The Diversity Officer,

- viii. The Treasurer,
 - ix. The Party's representative to the Federal Board, and
 - x. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership;
- b. Non-Voting Members:
- i. The Deputy President, and
 - ii. The Treasurer.

The Campaigns & Communications Committee

7. The responsibilities of the 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 National Assembly for Wales;
 - 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.
8. The Committee shall create and maintain working groups to oversee:
- a. The day-to-day running of Westminster, Assembly, European and nationally co-ordinated local election campaigning (the membership of such groups must be ratified by the Board);
 - b. Westminster and Assembly by-election campaigns;
 - c. Digital campaigning;
 - d. The maintenance of the candidate approval and selection processes; and
 - e. The fulfilment of any other of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary.
9. The Committee shall consist of:
- a. Voting members:
 - i. The Executive Officer for Campaigns & Communications,
 - ii. The Leader,
 - iii. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals, and
 - iv. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership;
 - v. A co-opted candidate assessor, should none be elected as a voting member through other means.

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

The Policy Development Committee

10. The responsibilities of the committee shall be:

- a. Developing the Party's policies on all matters devolved to the National Assembly for Wales;
- 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.

11. The 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.

12. The Committee shall consist of:

- a. Voting members:
 - i. The Executive Officer for Policy Development,
 - ii. A representative of the Committee with responsibility for organising Conference,
 - iii. The Leader,
 - iv. A representative from the group in the National Assembly,
 - v. A representative from the group in the Westminster Parliament,
 - vi. A representative from the group in the EU Parliament,
 - vii. A representative from the Party's elected Local Government representatives,
 - viii. A representative of the Welsh Young Liberals, and
 - ix. 5 Ordinary Members elected from the membership, one of whom shall become the Party's representative to the Federal Policy Committee;
- b. Non-Voting Members:
 - i. The Diversity Officer.
 - ii. A representative of Conference Committee

The Membership Development Committee

13. The responsibilities of the 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;
 - g. Increasing the numbers of approved candidates from diverse backgrounds;
 - h. Encouraging more potential candidates from diverse backgrounds to come forward and seek approval; and
 - i. The discharge of such other functions as the Conference or the Constitution shall allocate to it.

14. The Committee may create and maintain working groups to fulfil any of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary.

15. The 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, and
 - v. A co-opted accredited Party Trainer, should none be elected as a voting member through other means.

The Finance & Resources Committee

16. The responsibilities of the 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 or 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.

17. The Committee may create and maintain working groups to fulfil any other of these responsibilities the Committee sees necessary.

18. The Committee shall consist of:

- a. Voting members:
 - i. The Executive Officer for Finance & Resources Development,
 - 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, and
 - iii. The other Executive Officers (3)

The Conference Committee

19. The responsibilities of the 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

20. The Committee shall consist of:

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

21. Whilst these should be issues for the Committee as a whole, where appropriate the 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

22. Conference Committee should report directly to Finance and Resources Committee

23. 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.

Constitutional Affairs Committee

24. The responsibilities of the 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.

25. The 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.

Election of Officers and Committee Members

26. The process for electing the Leader and Deputy Leaders shall remain unchanged.

27. The President, The Deputy President, The Executive Officer for Campaigns and Communications, The Executive Officer for Policy Development and The Executive Officer for Membership Development shall be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 30 members from at least 5 Local Parties.

28. The Representative to the Federal Board, the Ordinary Members of the Board, the Ordinary Members of the Campaigns and Communications Committee, the Ordinary Members of the Policy Development Committee, the Ordinary Members of the

Membership Development Committee, the Ordinary Members of the Finance and Resources Committee and the Ordinary Members of the Constitutional Affairs Committee shall be elected by the Party Membership. Any member may apply but must have the support of 5 members.

29. The Executive Officer for Finance & Resources Committee, the Treasurer, the Diversity Officer, and the Representative to the Federal Conference Committee shall be elected by the Board. Any member may apply.
30. The Representative to the Federal International Relations Committee shall be elected by the Board. Any member may apply.
31. The Representatives to the Federal People Development sub-committee shall be elected by the Membership Development Committee from amongst their own number.
32. 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.
33. The Representatives of the group in the National Assembly, the group in the UK Parliament and the group in the European Parliament shall be elected from members of those groups by rules set out in their standing orders.
34. The representative from local government to the Policy Development Committee shall be elected by Party members from amongst the Party's elected Unitary Authority councillors, town and community councillors, Police & Crime Commissioners, and directly elected Mayors, who occupy their position as Liberal Democrats. They shall be nominated by 5 of their number.
35. The Board shall create application forms for all 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.
36. Elections by the membership shall take place alongside the Autumn Conference preceding the start of a three year term. Elections for all positions shall take place at the same time. Elections by the Board or a committee shall take place at the Board or Committee's first meeting.
37. Vacancies for Officers shall be filled by a by-election as soon as practical. Other vacancies shall be filled at 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.

Recall of party officers and committee members

38. Members of the Board (other than the Leader and the Deputy Leaders) and members of each of the Committees (in either case whether voting or non-voting members) shall be liable to removal from office in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 39 to 45 below.
39. The grounds upon which an individual may be removed from office shall be any one or more of the following –
- a. the individual has not fulfilled their appropriate constitutional duties;
 - b. (subject to paragraph 35 below) 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;
 - c. the individual has been banned from holding office in the Party following disciplinary proceedings; or
 - d. the individual has otherwise acted contrary to the Party's best interests.
40. An individual 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:
- a. there have been at least two meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be) during that period;
 - b. the individual has received at least seven days' notice of each such meeting; and
 - c. the individual has been afforded the ability to attend each such meeting in person, by telephone or by video conferencing;
- provided always that an individual at risk of removal from office on the said grounds may prior to initiation of the process for their removal from office apply to the Chair of the Appeals Panel for dispensation from the effect of failing to attend meetings of the Board or the relevant Committee (as the case may be).
41. The process for the removal of an individual from office shall be initiated by the Board:
- a. at any time following a decision to that effect at a duly constituted meeting of the Board; or
 - b. upon being notified that a valid petition has been presented in accordance with paragraph 37 below;
- provided that (in either such case) the process shall not be initiated until all possible avenues of reconciliation and/or mediation have been exhausted.
42. Members of the Party may present a petition to the President (or to the Deputy President, in the event that the individual about whom complaint is made is the President) calling for the removal from office of any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees. In order to be valid, any such petition:
- a. must state on each sheet the name of the individual about whom complaint is made and the grounds upon which it is sought to remove that individual from office;
 - b. must state on each sheet the date upon which the first signature was appended;
 - c. must set out the name, membership number, local party and signature of each signatory;

- d. must be signed by at least 10% of the total membership of the Party at the end of the quarter preceding its submission; and
- e. must be presented to the President or the Deputy President (as the case may be) within 28 days from the date upon which the first signature was appended; for this purpose scanned copies of the petition will suffice, provided that the originals must remain available for submission upon request.

Upon receipt of a valid petition calling for the removal from office of any member of the Board or any member of any of the Committees, the President or the Deputy President (as the case may be) shall give notice to that effect to the President on behalf of the Board.

43. 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:

- a. the grounds upon which it is sought to remove him or her from office; and
- b. 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).

44. 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:

- a. 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;
- b. 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
- c. 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.

45. Upon a decision to remove an individual from office becoming effective in accordance with paragraph 44 above, 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, provided that in that event the reason for the vacancy is stated in the ballot mailing.

Assembly Electoral Regional Committees (AERCs)

46. The local parties within each Assembly Electoral Region ("Region") may by a majority determine to establish and maintain an Assembly Electoral Regional Committee ("AERC") for that Region. In the event that the local parties in a Region

determine to establish and maintain an AERC for that Region, the provisions of the existing constitution shall continue to apply to that AERC. In the event that the local parties in a Region do not determine to establish and maintain an AERC for that Region, the Board shall exercise the functions of an AERC for that Region in accordance with the provisions of the existing constitution.

Local Parties

47. 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.
48. 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:
- a. In a single Council area; or
 - b. In the combined areas of two or more Councils; or
 - c. In a subdivision of a Council area, taking into account National Assembly or United Kingdom Parliamentary boundaries.

Conference calls on the Constitutional Review Panel to bring forward amendments to the constitution at Spring Conference 2019 to enable the governance structure as outlined above to be implemented.