

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH EAST YOUNG LIBERALS

[Ratified: x/x/2021]

[Last amended:]

Article One - Name

1. The full name of the organisation shall be the South East Young Liberals.
2. The names SEYL and SE Young Liberals may be used where appropriate.
3. The Executive may, after seeking the agreement of the English Young Liberals Executive, adopt additional names, abbreviations and variant branding without prejudice to the formal name.

Article Two - Disambiguation

1. 'Young Liberals' or 'Federal Young Liberals' shall be taken to refer to the specified Youth and Student organisation of the Liberal Democrats.
2. 'English Young Liberals' shall be taken to refer to the English branch of the specified Youth and Student organisation of the Liberal Democrats.

Article Three - Affiliation

1. South East Young Liberals shall be the official representatives of the youth and student members of the South East Liberal Democrats as specified by the Article Five of the Constitution of the English Liberal Democrats.
2. The Chair of the South East Young Liberals shall represent the South East Young Liberals within the state and federal structures of the Young Liberals.

Article Four - Mission and Objectives

1. The South East Young Liberals shall exist to serve two purposes: to represent the South East Liberal Democrats at universities, schools and colleges and to all young people across the South East of England, and to in turn represent the views of those young people to the wider party. This can be a difficult balance, but the leadership should, in general, serve its members first and foremost.
2. The South East Young Liberals shall;
 - a. Promote Liberal Democrat policies to young people and students in the South East of England,
 - b. Represent the interests of young people and students in the South East of England to the South East Liberal Democrats,
 - c. Represent the interests of young people and students in the South East of England within the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals structure.

3. The South East Young Liberals shall be the official representatives of the youth and student members of the South East Liberal Democrats within the framework of the membership rules of the Constitution of the South East Liberal Democrats.

Article Five - Membership

1. Membership of the South East Young Liberals is automatic for any member of the Federal Young Liberals who is also a member of a Liberal Democrat local party in the South East - meaning the ceremonial counties of East Sussex, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex.
2. Any member of the Federal Young Liberals who resides, studies or has employment in the South East, or is a member of a Young Liberals affiliated branch or society in the South East, but is a member of a local party outside of the region, may opt into membership through contacting the Chair, or designated portfolio holder, of the South East Young Liberals.
 - a. Members of Young Liberal affiliated branches or societies in the region are considered to have de-facto opt in membership.

Article Six - Executive

1. The Executive shall be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organisation as well as carrying out the instructions of General Meetings with regards to the long term direction of the South East Young Liberals. The term of office shall be from election or appointment, until the 31st of December of the same year.
 - a. The election or appointment of the South East Young Liberals Chair shall be undertaken under the relevant articles of the Constitutions and regulations of the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals.
2. The Executive shall consist of the Chair, one member from each ceremonial county represented by the region and three additional at-large members.
3. The Chair shall, at the first meeting of the Executive, assign portfolios and delegate responsibilities to members of the Executive.
 - a. One of these positions must be for Vice Chair, who shall adopt the responsibilities of the Chair if they are absent. The Vice Chair may be given additional responsibilities.
 - b. All other portfolios are created at the discretion of the Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive;
 - c. Not all members of the Executive are required to hold a portfolio;
 - d. Upon being assigned a portfolio, members of the Executive are entitled to an Officer title, named after their responsibilities;
 - e. The list of members of the Executive holding portfolios and an overview of their responsibilities shall be communicated to membership of the

South East Young Liberals and the Chair of the English Young Liberals within one week of the Executive meeting. Any changes should similarly be communicated.

4. Each Young Liberals affiliated branch or society within the borders of the South East may also send a representative, usually the Chair. They shall be full voting members of the Executive, though they may not hold portfolios.
5. Two individuals shall be permitted to jointly hold any executive role:
 - a. The individuals in question may cast only one vote between them during any vote of the Executive, and must be in agreement in order for that vote to be counted.
 - b. Where two individuals jointly hold a role, but one individual is absent from the meeting in question, the other individual shall be permitted to cast a vote.
 - c. Where two individuals jointly hold a role, and one individual resigns from the role, both individuals shall be deemed to have resigned and the role shall be vacated until filled by co-option.
6. As per the constitution of the English Young Liberals, the Chair shall:
 - a. Convene and chair all and any General Meetings of the South East Young Liberals;
 - b. Be the principal executive officer;
 - c. Be responsible for organising, establishing and supporting Young Liberals branches and student societies within the South East of England,
 - d. Represent youth and student members to the executive of the South East Liberal Democrats;
 - e. Be the primary point of contact in the South East for the Federal Young Liberals executive on a number of issues, including but not limited to campaigns, events, membership and media coverage;
 - f. Be the principal public representative and chief spokesperson for the South East Young Liberals, including but not limited to representing it to the media, youth and student organisations, other political parties and their respective youth and/or student wings, and other Liberal Democrats;
 - g. Organise and coordinate such activities as are necessary and appropriate to:
 - i. Recruit new members to the region;
 - ii. Develop the skills and experience of members in the regional;
 - iii. Contribute to Regional Party campaigning priorities;
 - iv. Contribute to Federal Organisation campaigning priorities.
 - h. Present a report to South East General Meetings with particular emphasis on activities undertaken in accordance with subsection g of this article.

7. Members of the Executive besides the Chair and representatives from other bodies shall be co-opted as soon as possible at the start of a Chair's term by the South East Young Liberals Chair and English Young Liberals Chair .
8. Vacancies to the Executive after the initial co-options shall be filled by a co-option by the Executive.
 - a. The exception to this is the Chair, which shall be co-opted under the relevant articles of the Constitutions and regulations of the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals.
9. Members of the executive must be members or opt-in members of the South East Young Liberals.
10. The Executive must meet a minimum of three times within the term of the Chair, either in-person or online.
 - a. Any member or opt-in member of the South East Young Liberals may attend Executive meetings. Their ability to speak will be at the discretion of the Chair.
 - b. The Executive must publish minutes of every meeting within 14 days of the meeting concluding.
 - c. The Executive may, by majority vote, designate an item of business as closed business, meaning only members of the executive may be present and that discussion of the item may not be included in the released minutes.
11. The Executive may create sub-committees, where positions shall be filled by members of the Executive, in response to events, issues, and circumstances.

Article Seven - Honorary Officers

1. There shall be an Honorary President and up-to three Honorary Vice Presidents, chosen by the Executive for a two year term. They shall collectively be known as the Honorary Officers.
2. Honorary Officers shall:
 - a. Be a liaison between the Executive and the South East Liberal Democrats.
 - b. Provide advice to the Executive.
 - c. Be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive with full speaking privileges.
3. Honorary Officers need not be members of the South East Young Liberals but must be members of the South East Liberal Democrats. In the event that any Honorary Officer ceases to be a member of the Liberal Democrats they shall be considered to have resigned their post.
4. Honorary Presidents shall be co-opted by the executive and serve a term of two years, and then until the co-option of their successors.

5. Should a vacancy arise, a replacement shall be co-opted by the Executive to serve the remainder of the term.

Article Eight - General Meetings

1. The General Meeting (GM) of the South East Young Liberals shall be the highest governing body of the South East Young Liberals and may overturn any action of the Executive.
2. General Meetings of the South East Young Liberals shall occur at least once a year, with an aim for them to occur twice a year.
3. The General Meeting shall be convened and chaired by the Chair of the South East Young Liberals. In their absence, the Vice Chair or another member of the Executive shall chair the General Meeting.
4. The General Meeting shall:
 - a. Debate and vote on motions submitted by members and opt-in members of the region.
 - b. Debate and vote on constitutional amendments submitted by members and opt-in members of the region. These shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass.
 - c. Receive and vote upon the reports submitted by each member of the Executive.
 - d. Be able to table a proposal to hold a binding Motion of No Confidence in any member of the Executive. These shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting to pass. Where the Motion of No Confidence is held in the person chairing the meeting, another member of the Executive shall Chair.
5. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 1% of the total recorded members of the South East Young Liberals, or four members; whichever is lower.
6. Although any member of the Liberal Democrats may attend General Meetings, only members and opt-in members of the South East Young Liberals shall have voting rights and count towards the quorum.
7. General Meetings may be held in person or online.
8. General Meetings shall be advertised to members and opt-in members of the South East Young Liberals at least fourteen days in advance of the meeting starting.

Article Nine - Constitutional Amendments

1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Executive or three individual members.
2. Amendments must be submitted to the Chair at least 48 hours prior to the expected date of the General Meeting.

3. Amendments can only be passed by a 2/3 vote of a General Meeting which maintains quorum throughout the debate and votes on the amendment in question.
4. Any amendment to the Constitution shall take effect at the end of the Chair's term, unless otherwise specified in the text of the motion proposing the amendment.

Article Ten - Miscellaneous

1. This is the sole authoritative constitution of the South East Young Liberals. Any constitution or other governing document not previously repealed is hereby superseded by this Constitution.
2. The Constitution shall bear the date of the General Meeting at which it was adopted or subsequently amended in order to clarify which is the current version of the Constitution
3. With regard to interpretation, where this constitution is silent the Constitution of the South East Liberal Democrats, the Constitution of the English Liberal Democrats, the Constitution of the Federal Party, the Constitution of the English Young Liberals and/or the Constitution of the Federal Young Liberals shall apply. In case of conflict between this constitution, and the constitution of the Federal Young Liberals, the English Young Liberals, , the South East Liberal Democrat, the English Liberal Democrats, and/or the Liberal Democrats, those constitutions shall take precedence over this.
4. The Chair, in consultation with the Honorary Officers, shall in the first instance rule on matters of interpretation brought to their attention by any member seeking clarification. This decision may be appealed to the Chair of the English Young Liberals.
5. A decision of the Chair (of this and/or the English Organisation) may be appealed to the relevant procedure of the English Liberal Democrats.