

## **Constitution of the North West Young Liberals**

### **Article One: Name**

1. The full name of the organisation shall be the North West Young Liberals.
2. The names NWYL and North West YL shall be used where appropriate.
3. The Executive may, at their discretion, adopt additional names, abbreviations and variant branding without prejudice to the formal name.

### **Article Two: Mission, Objectives and Affiliation**

1. North West Young Liberals shall exist to serve two purposes; to represent the North West Liberal Democrats at universities, schools and colleges and to all young people across the North West of England, and to in turn represent the views of those young people to the regional and wider party. This can be a difficult balance, but the leadership should, in general, serve its members first and foremost.
2. North West Young Liberals shall;
  - a. Promote Liberal Democrat policies to young people and students in the North West of England,
  - b. Represent the interests of young people and students in the North West of England to the North West Liberal Democrats,
  - c. Represent the interests of young people and students in the North West of England within the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals structure.
3. North West Young Liberals shall act as the Specified Associated Organisation representing Youth and Students referenced in the Constitution of the North West Liberal Democrats.

### **Article Three: Membership**

1. Membership of the North West Young Liberals shall be open to any person who is a member of a local party which is part of the North West Liberal Democrats, and who is also member of the youth and student wing of the Liberal Democrats.
2. Associate Membership of the North West Young Liberals shall be open to any person who is a member of the youth and student wing of the Liberal Democrats who resides in, works in or is a student in the North West of England who is not a member of a local party which is part of the North West Liberal Democrats.

### **Article Four: 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 NWYL. They shall serve the duration of the Chair's term.
2. The Executive shall work and actively communicate with local parties in the North West Liberal Democrats, local Young Liberals branches whose boundaries fall partially or wholly in the North West of England, the English Young Liberals, the Federal Young Liberals, the North West Liberal Democrats, relevant student societies and relevant party members in accomplishing its aims and goals.

3. The Executive shall consist of the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Campaigns and Communications Officer.
4. As per the constitution of the English Young Liberals, the Chair shall;
  - a. Convene and Chair all and any General Meetings of the North West Young Liberals,
  - b. Be the principal executive officer,
  - c. Be responsible for organising, establishing and supporting Young Liberals branches and student societies within the North West of England,
  - d. Represent youth and student members to the executive of the North West Liberal Democrats,
  - e. Be the primary point of contact in the North West 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 North West 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 co-ordinate such activities as are necessary and appropriate to:
    - i. Recruit new members to the regional branch;
    - ii. Develop the skills and experience of members of the regional branch;
    - iii. Contribute to Regional Party campaigning priorities;
    - iv. Contribute to Federal Organisation campaigning priorities;
    - v. Represent NWYL at North West Regional Party Conference;
    - vi. Hold events for members and supporters of the North West Young Liberals,
  - h. Present a report to NWYL General Meetings with particular emphasis on activities undertaken in accordance with Sub-Section G of this article.

And in correspondence with the constitution of the North West Liberal Democrats, the Chair shall;

- a. Act as the one (1) member chosen by the Specified Associated Organization for Youth and Students on the Regional Executive.
5. The Vice Chair shall;
    - a. Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in their absence,
    - b. Assist the Chair in carrying out their responsibilities,
    - c. Be responsible for organising General Meetings of the North West Young Liberals,
    - d. Record minutes at meetings of the executive,
    - e. Serve as an aide to the Chair of the North West Young Liberals for General Meetings of the North West Young Liberals.
  6. The Campaigns and Communications Officer shall;
    - a. Be responsible for coordinating, in consultation with the Executive, campaigns for North West Young Liberals based on the policy of North West Young Liberals and, where agreed by the Executive, based on the policy of the Federal Young Liberals, the North West Liberal Democrats and the Liberal Democrats.
    - b. Work with student societies, local parties and the Federal Young Liberals to

- ensure that there is a North West Young Liberals presence as widely as possible,
- c. Be responsible for organising the North West Young Liberals' strategy to assist in the election of Liberal Democrat candidates and aiming to recruit and develop young people and students to stand as Liberal Democrat candidates in elections.
  - d. Be responsible for, in conjunction with the Chair, North West Young Liberals' social media presence and overseeing the output of content from these accounts,
  - e. Be responsible for, in conjunction with the Chair, North West Young Liberals' relations with media organisations and, where possible, help to create positive news coverage.
7. Members of the Executive besides the Chair shall be co-opted as soon as possible at the start of a Chair's term by a panel consisting of:
    - a. The incumbent Chair,
    - b. An appointees selected by the incumbent Chair,
    - c. A representative nominated by the Chair of the English Young Liberals, who may self-nominate, should the Chair of the English Young Liberals wish to make a nomination.
      - i. The Chair of the English Young Liberals shall be contacted by the Returning Officer requesting a representative to be nominated.
  8. Vacancies to the Executive, besides the position of Chair, after the initial co-options shall be filled by a co-option by the Executive.
  9. A representative designated by all student societies associated with the Liberal Democrats in the North West of England shall also receive notice of meetings of the Executive.
  10. The executive must publish minutes of every meeting within 14 days of the meeting itself.
  11. The executive committee may, at will, create sub-committees of itself, in response to events, issues and circumstances.
  12. The executive may, by a majority vote, designate an item of business as closed business, meaning only members of the executive may be present and that the discussion on the item will not be recorded in the minutes.
  13. Members of the executive must be members or associate members of the North West Young Liberals.

#### **Article Five: Co-options of Executive Members**

1. A member of the North West Liberal Democrat Regional Executive shall be appointed by the Chair to serve as Returning Officer for co-options.
2. Co-options shall be conducted by the Single Transferable Vote.

#### **Article Seven: General Meetings**

1. General Meetings of the North West Young Liberals shall occur at least once a year, with an aim for them to occur twice a year.
2. General Meetings shall be the highest governing body of the organisation and may overturn a decision of the Executive or a Committee.
3. Quorum required for the General Meeting to conduct business shall be 1% of

total NWYL membership or 6 members, whichever is lower.

- a. If quorum is not met, those members present may hold consultation sessions on the agenda items and refer any decisions which were to be taken to the Executive except where this constitution specifically indicates that only the General Meeting may take a decision on the matter in question.
4. The General Meeting shall be chaired by the Chair or in their absence, the Vice Chair.
5. The General Meeting shall:
  - a. Debate policy proposed by members or associate members to be North West Young Liberals policy where the General Meeting may adopt the proposal as policy or reject it.
  - b. Receive and accept (or reject) a report submitted by each member of the executive,
    - i. This section shall be chaired by the Vice Chair,
  - c. Be able to table a proposal to hold a binding Motion of No Confidence in any member of the Executive where a two-thirds majority is required in order for it to succeed,
    - i. A proposer and seconder will be required in order for the Motion of No Confidence to be valid,
    - ii. If held in the Chair, this section shall be chaired by the Vice Chair.
  - d. Be able to be table a proposal to hold a Motion of Commendation in any member of the Executive where a simple majority is needed in order for it to succeed,
    - i. If held in the Chair, this section shall be chaired by the Vice Chair.
  - e. Take place in person and only be conducted online in exceptional circumstances.
6. The Executive may, providing all duties of the General Meeting outlined in Section 5 of this article, organise training events, presentations or speeches to be given at the General Meeting.
7. The Executive shall draw up Standing Orders to govern the General Meeting which shall be adopted subject to a vote at the start of the next General Meeting following the approval of this constitution.
  - a. These Standing Orders shall contain measures for their amendments and suspension.
8. Although any member of the Liberal Democrats may attend General Meetings, only members and associate members of the North West Young Liberals shall have voting rights,
  - a. And only members of the North West Young Liberals shall have voting rights on a Motion of No Confidence proposed against the Chair.

#### **Article Eight: 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 14 days 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 vote on the amendment in question.
4. Any amendment to the Constitution shall only take effect from the end of the meeting at which the decision was taken, unless otherwise specified in the text of the motion proposing the amendment.

#### **Article Nine: Miscellaneous Items**

1. This is the only constitution of NWYL that is authoritative, any other constitution or governing document is hereby repealed.
2. This Constitution shall bear the date of the General Meeting where it was adopted or subsequently amended in order to clarify that this is the most current version of the constitution.
3. With regards to interpretation,
  - a. Where this document falls silent, the constitutions of the North West Liberal Democrats, the English Liberal Democrats, the Liberal Democrats, the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals shall take precedence