

The Constitution of the West Midlands Young Liberals



**WEST MIDLANDS
YOUNG LIBERALS**

Ratified 15.2.21

1. Designation and Context

1.1. The name of this organisation shall be the West Midlands Young Liberals, which may be abbreviated to West Mids Young Liberals, West Mids YL, or WMYL, and shall for the rest of this document be known as 'the organisation'.

1.2. It is recognised that this group is a constituent part of the English Young Liberals, the Federal Young Liberals, the English Liberal Democrats and the Federal Liberal Democrats, and must therefore fulfil all stipulations and regulations contained within the constitutions and policies thereof.

1.3. Amendments to the group Constitution may be made, as approved by Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting by two-thirds majority vote.

1.4. Queries regarding the interpretation of this document should be referred to the executive of this organisation.

2. Purpose and Objectives

2.1. This organisation is the regional organisation of the English Young Liberals, covering the West Midlands region, corresponding to that covered by the West Midlands Liberal Democrats.

2.2. This organisation encompasses all Young Liberals, as defined in the constitution of the Federal Young Liberals, who are living, studying or working within the West Midlands region, as defined by the constitution of the English Liberal Democrats.

2.3. The objectives of this organisation shall be:

2.3.1. To provide an opportunity for members to get involved in the Young Liberals and Liberal Democrats.

2.3.2. To support, encourage and develop the skills and experience of its members.

2.3.3. To increase awareness of the Young Liberals and Liberal Democrats in the West Midlands Region, especially amongst young people and students.

2.3.4. To campaign and raise awareness of issues relevant to young people and students in the West Midlands.

2.3.5. To ensure Young Liberal representation within relevant local parties, the West Midlands Liberal Democrats, and the English Liberal Democrats.

2.3.6. To support the campaigns and election of young and student candidates to public office within the West Midlands region.

3. The Executive

3.1. This organisation shall be led by an elected executive, comprised of the following members:

3.1.1. Chair.

3.1.2. Vice-Chair/Non-Portfolio Officer (NPO)

3.1.3. Campaigns Officer.

3.1.4. Communications Officer.

3.1.5. Events Officer.

3.2. The Chair of the Executive will be elected alongside other English Regional Chairs, as overseen by the English Young Liberals. All other Executive members will be elected at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting, or may be co-opted by the Executive.

3.3. The role and responsibilities of the executive members shall be as follows:

3.3.1. Chair

3.3.1.1. To chair and co-ordinate the executive, the organisations, and the actions thereof.

3.3.1.2. To chair any meetings of the organisation or its executive.

3.3.1.3. To, if necessary, represent and act as a spokesperson for Young Liberals in the West Midlands.

3.3.1.4. To have the general oversight and responsibility for the direction and actions of the organisation as a whole.

3.3.2. Vice-Chair/Non-Portfolio Officer

3.3.2.1. To deputise the chair.

3.3.2.2. To take minutes of the Annual General Meeting, and any Extraordinary General Meetings or Executive Meetings.

3.3.2.3. To have responsibility for any financial matters the organisation may need to deal with.

3.3.2.5. To support other members of the executive in their roles if required.

3.3.2.6. To take responsibility for all matters which do not fall under the responsibility of any other member of the executive.

3.3.3. Campaigns Officer

3.3.3.1. To have responsibility for the organisations campaigning activities.

3.3.3.2. To organise action days for candidates in the West Midlands.

3.3.3.3. To act as a point of contact for young and student candidates standing for election in the West Midlands.

3.3.3.4. To act as a point of contact for campaigns in the West Midlands.

3.3.4. Communications Officer

3.3.4.1. To have responsibility for the external communications and promotion of the organisation.

3.3.4.2. To have responsibility for the organisation's social media presence.

3.3.5. Events Officer

3.3.5.1. To have responsibility for the organisation of any non-campaigning events.

3.3.5.2. To have the responsibility for ensuring accessibility and inclusivity at any events. Whilst this is a responsibility of all the executive, most of all the chair, the events officer should plan for an accessible as possible venue, and for the event to be inclusive to members from underrepresented backgrounds, of all abilities, and ones who are new to the organisation.

3.4. Members of the executive must be elected to their positions by election in an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, per the regulations of sections 4. and 5.

3.5. If an executive position falls vacant, the executive may choose to fill it by co-option, per the following regulations:

3.5.1. The vacancy must be advertised, and members given at least one week in which to apply.

3.5.2. Where the vacancy is contested, members of the executive will decide, by Alternative Vote (including Re-open Nominations) who will be co-opted.

4. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

4.1. There will be an Annual General Meeting at which the regional executive members shall be elected for the forthcoming year, which must occur within 12 months of the previous elections, as far as is practically possible.

4.2. All members (including present and potential executive members) are entitled to vote. Voting for contested elections (Elections with two or more candidates excluding R.O.N) shall be by Alternative Vote, carried out by secret ballot

4.3. In the event of two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes, the winner shall be selected by chance

4.4. A minimum of two weeks' notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the group; the executive should undertake all reasonable steps to encourage members to participate and to ensure that sufficient information about the roles available is available, promoting the elections through all available means.

4.5. Subsequent to the Annual General Meeting, the new executive officers will meet with their predecessors for a handover meeting within two weeks. Only at that meeting will officers assume responsibility for all matters relevant to their elected post and executive officer status, including all business undertaken by their respective predecessors.

4.6. The Annual General Meeting, by simple majority vote, may approve any decision of the group, including, but not limited to, the approval of minutes and the adoption of policies additional to this constitution, not including constitutional amendments

and the election of officers, provided that any such decisions are lawful under this constitution.

4.7. The Annual General Meeting may, by a 2/3 majority vote, pass a motion of no confidence in any member of the executive. This will result in their removal from the executive, and their replacement will be co-opted by the English Young Liberals Executive, in the case of the chair, or by the executive, in the case of any other executive member.

4.8. The Annual General Meeting may amend this constitution by a 2/3 majority vote.

5. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

5.1. Should the need for a General Meeting emerge outside of the ordinary time frame, there may be an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM).

5.3. Members must have one full week as notice of an EGM, and every effort should be made to make members aware of the EGM.

5.4. An EGM has all the powers of an AGM, as detailed in Section 4.