

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

### **Article One: Name**

1. The full name of the organisation shall be the North East Young Liberals.
2. The abbreviation NEYL 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 East Young Liberals shall exist to serve two purposes to represent the North East Liberal Democrats at universities, schools and colleges and to all young people across the North 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. North East Young Liberals shall;
  - a. Promote Liberal Democrat policies to young people and students in the North East England,
  - b. Represent the interests of young people and students in the North East of England to the North East Liberal Democrats,
  - c. Represent the interests of young people and students in the North East of England within the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals structure.
3. North East Young Liberals shall be the official representatives of the youth and student members of the North East Liberal Democrats within the framework of the membership rules of the Constitution of the North East Liberal Democrats.

### **Article Three: Membership**

1. Membership of the North East Young Liberals shall be open to any person who is a member of a local party which is part of the North East Liberal Democrats, and who is also member of the youth and student wing of the Liberal Democrats.
2. Associate Membership of the North East 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 East of England who is not a member of a local party which is part of the North East 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 NEYL. They shall serve the duration of the Chair's term.
2. The Executive shall work and actively communicate with local parties in the North East Liberal Democrats, local Young Liberals branches whose boundaries fall partially or wholly in the North East of England, the English Young Liberals, the Federal Young Liberals, the North East Liberal Democrats, relevant student societies and relevant party members in accomplishing its aims and goals.

3. The Executive shall consist of the Chair, the Deputy Chair, the Communications Officer, Campaigns Officer, the Deputy Campaigns Officer, the Events Officer, the Finance and Fundraising Officer and the Chair of the North East Young Liberals Women's Network.
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 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 North East of England,
  - d. Represent youth and student members to the executive of the North East Liberal Democrats,
  - e. Be the primary point of contact in the North 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 North 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 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,
  - h. Present a report to NEYL General Meetings with particular emphasis on activities undertaken in accordance with Sub-Section G of this article.
5. The Deputy Chair shall;
  - a. Assume the responsibilities of the Chair in their absence,
  - b. Be responsible for, along with the Events Officer, for organising General Meetings of the North East Young Liberals,
  - c. Record minutes at meetings of the executive,
  - d. Be the principal officer for all issues relating to membership development,
  - e. Oversee the development of North East Young Liberals policy, in consultation with the executive, and its progression to become policy within the North East Liberal Democrats, the Federal Young Liberals and/or the Liberal Democrats,
  - f. Serve as an aide to the Chair of the North East Young Liberals for General Meetings of the North East Young Liberals.
6. The Communications Officer shall;
  - a. Be responsible for, in conjunction with the Chair, North East Young Liberals' social media presence and overseeing the output of content from these accounts,
  - b. Be responsible for, in conjunction with the Chair, North East Young Liberals' relations with media organisations and, where possible, help to create positive news coverage.
7. The Campaigns Officer shall;
  - a. Be responsible for coordinating, in consultation with the Executive, campaigns for North East Young Liberals based on the policy of North East

Young Liberals and, where agreed by the Executive, based on the policy of the Federal Young Liberals, the North East 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 East Young Liberals presence as widely as possible,
  - c. Be responsible for organising the North East 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.
8. The Deputy Campaigns Officer shall;
  - a. Assist the Campaigns Officer in carrying out their role.
9. The Events Officer shall;
  - a. Be responsible for, along with the Events Officer, for organising General Meetings of the North East Young Liberals,
  - b. Be responsible for organising regular social events for members and supporters of the North East Young Liberals,
10. The Finance and Fundraising Officer shall;
  - a. Work with the North East Liberal Democrats to keep track of NEYL money stored in the regional party's bank account,
    - i. Alternative financial arrangements may be made subject to agreement of the Executive,
  - b. Fundraise money to assist North East Young Liberals in achieving its mission and objectives.
11. The Chair of the NEYL Women's Network shall;
  - a. Chair the NEYL Women's Network, to comprise of all female members and associate members of NEYL, and any non-binary members who wish to join,
  - b. Represent the views of women and non-binary members on the NEYL executive,
  - c. Organise events aimed at engaging women in the work of North East Young Liberals.
12. 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. Two appointees selected by the incumbent Chair who must be
    - i. A representative designated by all student societies associated with the Liberal Democrats in the North East of England or,
    - ii. A member of the previous executive who does not wish to seek co-option,
  - 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.
13. Vacancies to the Executive, besides the position of Chair, after the initial co-options shall be filled by a co-option by the Executive.
14. A representative designated by all student societies associated with the Liberal Democrats in the North East of England shall also receive notice of meetings of the

Executive, as shall all Honorary President.

15. The executive must publish minutes of every meeting within 14 days of the meeting itself.
16. The executive committee may, at will, create sub-committees of itself, in response to events, issues and circumstances.
17. 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.
18. Members of the executive must be members or associate members of the North East Young Liberals.

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

1. An Honorary President 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 Six: Honorary Presidents**

1. Four (4) Honorary Presidents shall be co-opted by the Executive to serve for a term of two years.
2. Each Honorary President shall represent a specific geographic area within the North East of England
  - a. One Honorary President shall represent the area covered by the boundaries of Northumberland County Council,
  - b. One Honorary President shall represent the area covered by the boundaries of Durham County Council,
  - c. Two Honorary Presidents shall represent the area covered by the boundaries of the metropolitan county of Tyne and Wear,
  - d. One Honorary President shall represent the area covered by the boundaries of the Tees Valley combined authority.
3. As specified in 5(1), an Honorary President shall be appointed to serve as Returning Officer for the co-option of members of the Executive.
4. Honorary Presidents shall also:
  - a. Be a liaison between the Executive and local parties in the area they represent,
  - b. Be a liaison between the Executive and the North East Liberal Democrats.
  - c. Provide advice to the Executive.
5. 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.
6. Should a vacancy arise, a replacement shall be co-opted by the Executive to serve the remainder of the term.
7. Honorary Presidents are not required to be members or associate members of the North East Young Liberals, but must be members of the Liberal Democrats.

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

1. General Meetings of the North East 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 NEYL 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 Deputy Chair. Should neither be available for whatever reason, the Executive shall determine a Chair from amongst their number.
5. The General Meeting shall:
  - a. Debate policy proposed by members or associate members to be North East 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, with the exception of the Campaigns Officer and Deputy Campaigns Officer who may elect to (providing both Officers and the Chair approve) submit a joint report,
    - i. This section shall be chaired by an Honorary Officer,
  - 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 an Honorary Officer.
  - 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. Four members will be required to table the proposal in order for the Motion of Commendation to be valid,
    - ii. If held in the Chair, this section shall be chaired by an Honorary Officer.
  - e. Take place in person, it may not be replaced by a meeting conducted online.
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 East Young Liberals shall have voting rights,

- a. And only members of the North East 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 NEYL 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 an issue arises regarding the interpretation of this document, the Honorary Presidents shall collectively rule. Where the Honorary Presidents be unable to agree by a simple majority, the Chair of the English Young Liberals shall cast the deciding vote.
  - b. Where this document falls silent, the constitutions of the North East Liberal Democrats, the English Liberal Democrats, the Liberal Democrats, the English Young Liberals and Federal Young Liberals shall take precedence; with the Honorary Presidents making decisions should any of these documents conflict.