



## **Social Liberal Forum Constitution**

### **1. Purpose**

Part of the Liberal Democrat family, the Social Liberal Forum supports the principles laid out in the preamble of the constitution of the UK Liberal Democrats.

The SLF exists to foster debate within and beyond the Liberal Democrats with the aim of developing policies based on social liberal principles (as 'social liberalism' is broadly understood within the traditions of the Liberal Democrats) and securing popular support for those policies.

The SLF seeks to build a progressive alliance of people, ideas and campaigns between the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party and liberal progressives in other political parties, think tanks and campaign groups.

### **2. Name and Objects**

2.1. The name of the Organisation shall be "Social Liberal Forum" or "SLF".

2.2. The SLF exists:

- a) To achieve the aims set out in the Purpose of this constitution, through policy development, research, fostering debate and campaigning
- b) To develop a network of active individuals and groups to campaign for our aims
- c) To build constructive relationships with organisations and individuals who share some or all of our goals.

2.3. SLF supports the principles of diversity and equality of opportunity in all its work and opposes all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination on any grounds. All individuals shall be treated with respect and courtesy by the Organisation and its officers. SLF will use its best efforts to ensure diversity in its Council and Officer team.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 SLF Membership is open to the following:

1. All members of the Liberal Democrats (including its UK sister parties)
2. All members of the Green Party of England and Wales (including its UK sister parties)
3. Any liberal progressives in other political parties who support the purpose of the SLF
4. Any liberal progressives who are independent of any political party who support the purpose of the SLF.

3.2 Membership of the SLF shall be by annual subscription. Subscription rates shall be determined from time to time by the Council.

3.3 The SLF will maintain a list of Registered Supporters who will receive a regular newsletter and will have the right to participate but not to vote in General Meetings and elections. The Council may for sufficient reason remove a Registered Supporter from the circulation list.

3.4 Communications with members and supporters will normally be by electronic means to

their last known email address. Members who wish to receive written communications may register with SLF.

3.5 The Council may expel any member who brings the organisation into disrepute or ceases to be a liberal and a progressive in politics, subject to an appeals mechanism to be determined by the Council.

3.6. All members shall have the following rights within the Organisation:

- a) to participate and vote in General Meetings and elections
- b) To attend Council meetings, unless the Council decides by a simple majority to enter closed business
- c) To submit or second motions and constitutional amendments
- d) To elect and stand for election to the Council.

#### **4. The Council**

4.1. The Council shall be responsible for the overall strategy, oversight and budget of the SLF, subject to decisions of a General Meeting. It shall meet at least four times a year.

4.2 The Council shall consist of twenty members elected every two years from amongst the members by all member ballot using the Single Transferable Voting system.

4.3 The Council may co-opt up to 3 further members from amongst the membership of SLF.

4.4 The Council may fill casual vacancies amongst Officers or Council membership from amongst members.

4.5 The Council shall appoint the Returning Officer who shall preside over all elections and ballots conducted on behalf of the Organisation. The Returning Officer may not be a candidate in elections, or a member of the Council.

4.6 The Council shall establish regulations for the conduct of elections and may establish other regulations for the good management of the organisation, subject to other provisions of this Constitution.

4.7 The Council may from time to time establish sub-committees which shall be chaired by a member of Council and may contain non-members of the Council. Such bodies shall not have the power to spend money on behalf of the SLF other than by the express permission of the Treasurer or Council.

4.8 Any member of Council who fails to attend two consecutive Council meetings may be deemed to have resigned, unless they have provided a satisfactory explanation. The Chair shall write to any Council Member who fails to attend one meeting, informing them of this rule.

4.9 The Council may take decisions by email by vote of a majority of all members of Council subject to 7 days notice.

#### **5. Officers**

5.1 The Council shall appoint the Chair of the SLF from amongst its number. The Chair shall chair Council and General Meetings. No individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms as Chair, save that a Chair elected less than one year before the end of a term may be re-elected for two further consecutive terms.

5.2 The Council shall appoint a Deputy Chair and Treasurer and may appoint a Director and other such officers as it deems necessary. Officers shall be ex officio members of Council.

5.3 The Council may appoint an Honorary President and one or more Honorary Vice Presidents. Honorary Officers must agree with the Purpose and objectives of the Organisation but are not required to be members.

5.4 Officers shall serve until the first meeting of Council following the biennial election.

## **6. General Meetings**

6.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting each calendar year, which shall take place within 15 months of the previous AGM and shall receive an Annual Report from the Council, including Officers, consider any motions submitted by members and shall receive and approve the annual accounts.

6.2 At least 28 days notice of a General Meeting shall be sent to all members.

6.3 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be requisitioned by the Council, or 5% of members or 20 members, whichever is the higher. There shall be at least 21 days and no more than 35 days between the receipt of the requisition and the date of the meeting. Members shall be given at least 21 days notice of the date of the meeting including the business or motion to be discussed.

## **7. Constitutional Amendment and Dissolution**

7.1 This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those voting at a general meeting.

7.2 The SLF may decide to dissolve the organisation by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets of the organisation shall be donated to a like-minded organisation as decided in the resolution to dissolve.

Date Agreed: 11 June 2016. Amended May 2018.