



# WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

**Title:** Governance Review: Steering Committee

**Proposed by:** WE Executive Committee

**Proposer:** Chris Paouros

**Type of motion:** Emergency Business Motion

**Motion text:**

1 Conference directs the Steering Committee as follows:

2 The Steering Committee shall:

3 **A.** appoint five extra elected members on the Steering Committee, making a total of 10  
4 elected members:

5 *In Article 7.5.12(iv), delete the word 'five' and insert 'ten'.*

6 **B.** appoint the Chief of Staff:

7 *In Article 7.3.1,*

- 8 ● *delete 'Executive' and insert 'Steering' in both instances.*  
9 ● *delete the final sentence.*

10 **C.** be the body to whom the Chief of Staff is accountable:

11 1) *In Article 6.5,*

- 12 ● *after 'Leader and' insert, 'to'.*  
13 ● *after 'the' insert, 'Steering Committee'.*

14 2) *In Article 6.6, After 'responsible for' insert 'the strategic, policy and communications*  
15 *functions of the Party, and ultimately for the overall running of the Party's central*  
16 *office' and delete, 'operationalising the Party's strategy in conjunction with the*  
17 *Executive Committee and for hiring other members of staff'.*

18 *See item F. of the Executive Committee motion for the other changes to Article 6.6.*

19 **D.** agree standing orders for committee procedures. *Insert as new Article 7.5.6.*

20 *See item J. of the Executive Committee motion for the rest of that new Article 7.5.6.*

21 **E.** issue guidance for candidate selection processes. *Insert as new Article 7.5.7.*

22 **F.** appoint five members (increased from three) of the Steering Committee to the  
23 Executive Committee, the majority of whom must have been elected to the Steering  
24 Committee by members at Conference. *Insert as new Article 7.5.8.*

25 **G.** may remove appointed members of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds majority

26 vote. *Insert as new Article 7.5.18.*

27 **H.** may remove Appeals Body members through a vote at Party Conference, subject to a  
28 two-thirds majority. While that vote is pending, the Appeals Body member who is  
29 subject to that vote may not sit on any appeals.

30 *Insert new Article 10.1.8:*

31 'A member of the Appeals Body may only be removed during their term of office by a  
32 two-thirds majority of members voting at conference. Should an Appeals Body  
33 member's actions reasonably be considered a breach of Article 7.10.1(i) – (v), a vote  
34 will be tabled by the Steering Committee at the Party Conference following such  
35 action to determine whether they should remain on the Appeals Body. That Appeals  
36 Body member may not sit on any appeals pending such a vote.'

37 **I.** ensure that the members of the Appeals Body have security of tenure.

38 *Insert new Article 7.5.19:*

39 'The Steering Committee shall ensure security of tenure for the Appeals Body,  
40 subject to Article 10.1.8.'

41 **J.** receive reports from the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee. *Insert as new*  
42 *Article 7.5.9.*

43 **K.** consult with the Executive Committee over which elections should be contested.

44 *In Article 9.1, after the word 'candidates', delete 'based on the recommendations of'*  
45 *and insert 'in consultation with'.*

46 **L.** assume the Executive Committee's responsibility for consulting with Hubs and local  
47 Branches on the process of selecting candidates for elections, and publish guidance.

48 *In Article 9.2, delete 'Executive' and insert 'Steering' in both instances.*

49 **M.** assume the Executive Committee's responsibility for deciding on the formation of  
50 national and regional hubs and the number and coverage of such Hubs in consultation  
51 with local branches.

52 *In Article 7.7.3, delete 'Executive' and insert 'Steering' and at the end, insert ', in*  
53 *consultation with the Branches within the respective Hub area'.*

54 **N.** approve the manifestos and policy proposals prepared by the Policy Committee. *Insert*  
55 *as new Article 7.5.10.*

56 **O.** present amendments to the Standing Orders to Conference for its approval.

57 *In Article 4.9.3, delete 'approve and' and after 'Conference' insert ', and shall submit*  
58 *amendments for Conference's approval'. [This clarifies confusing wording.]*

59 **P.** *In Article 4.1 delete 'biannually' and insert 'biennially' [This corrects the existing typo.]*

60 **Q.** amend the Constitution to reflect these amended responsibilities, including those that  
61 are its sole responsibility:

62 *In Article 4.2,*

- 63 ● *after '7.5.6' insert '7.5.7',*
- 64 ● *delete '7.5.13' and insert '7.5.10',*
- 65 ● *after new 7.5.10, insert '7.5.18, 7.5.20', and*
- 66 ● *after '9.1' insert '9.2'.*

**Motion rationale:**

It has been almost two years since the Party's structure was ratified by the 2016 Party Conference, and WE have learned a great deal about the roles, functions and effectiveness of our governance arrangements, as well as the political context, legal structure and regulatory environment.

In order to ensure that learning is properly embedded, the Steering Committee commissioned an independent consultant to conduct a governance review in 2018. The recommendations of that review were finalised in July 2018, following receipt of the audit findings report from the Party's appointed auditors (MacIntyre Hudson), and approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 1st August 2018. This motion is submitted as an emergency motion to conference because the independent review concluded after the deadline for motions.

The independent governance review found that, overall, the Party's governance arrangements are appropriate and effective and support the strategic aims of the Party. However, it also concluded that there needs to be greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the different committees, and the mechanisms for accountability between the staff team, officers, committees and Party members/registered supporters. These recommendations are set out across five motions and will enable the Party to better meet its aims and objectives over the coming years.