



# WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

**Title:**

Governance Review: Executive Committee

**Proposed by:** WE Executive Committee

**Proposer:** Chris Paouros,

**Type of motion:**

Emergency Business Motion

**Motion text:**

1 Conference directs the Executive Committee as follows:

2 The Executive Committee shall:

3 **A.** act on the request of the Steering Committee and shall report to the Steering Committee.

4 *Insert as new Article 7.4.5.*

5 **B.** ensure all appointed members of the Executive Committee shall be Directors of the Company.

6 *In Article 8.5,*

7 ● *after 'such Company' delete 'may' and insert 'shall',*

8 ● *after 'include' insert 'all'*

9 ● *after 'Members' insert 'appointed by the Steering Committee'*

10 ● *after 'Treasurer', delete ', unless there is a potential conflict of interest'.*

11 **C.** have as its membership the President, the M.C. and five additional Members from the Steering  
12 Committee.

13 *In Article 7.4.4, after 'consist of:' delete 'The Leader,' and after 'M.C. and' delete 'three' and insert*  
14 *'five'.*

15 **D.** give the President the casting vote in the event of a tied vote:

16 *In Article 7.4.7,*

17 ● *after 'tied vote', delete 'the Leader';*

18 ● *after 'the President' delete 'and the M.C.'; and*

19 ● *after 'shall' delete 'together agree on' and insert 'have'.*

20 **E.** allow the Chief Operating Officer and the Leader to attend Executive Committee meetings but not  
21 to vote.



- 22 *In Article 7.4.6, before 'Treasurer' insert 'Leader', and after 'Treasurer' insert 'Chief Operating*  
23 *Officer,'.*
- 24 **F.** may appoint a Chief Operating Officer for the Party, who shall report to them regarding the running  
25 of the Party's operations. *Insert as new Article 7.4.2*
- 26 *In Article 6.5:*
- 27 ● *after 'Treasurer' insert '(who may be the Party's Chief Operating Officer)'*
  - 28 ● *before 'Executive Committee' insert, 'and the'*
  - 29 ● *after 'Executive Committee' insert, 'respectively'.*
- 30 *See item C. of the Steering Committee motion for the rest of the amendment to Article 6.5.*
- 31 **G.** be responsible for the Party's operational decisions in conjunction with the Chief Operating Officer.
- 32 ● *In Article 7.4.1, after 'the Chief' delete 'of Staff' and insert 'Operating Officer'.*
  - 33 ● *The Party may recruit a Chief Operating Officer to be responsible for the running of the Party's*  
34 *operations. Insert as new article 6.7*
- 35 **H.** as part of its remit to determine subscriptions, choose to declare a fallow period where lapsed  
36 Membership may be continued for a period until renewed.
- 37 *In Article 3.2.7, after 'Membership' insert ', except in the case of a fallow period being declared by*  
38 *the Executive Committee, when Membership will carry on for such period until payment is*  
39 *renewed.'*
- 40 **I.** as part of its remit to call a Special Conference, define what such Special Conference looks like.
- 41 *Insert new Article 5.4:*
- 42 *'A Special Conference is the same as a Party Conference and the same rules, procedures, and*  
43 *powers apply.'*
- 44 **J.** develop standing orders for committee procedures, subject to the Steering Committee's agreement.  
45 *See item D. of the Steering Committee motion, re new Article 7.5.6.*
- 46 **K.** decide whether to sanction individual Members.
- 47 *Insert new Article 7.10.6:*
- 48 *'Should any Member of WE claiming to act in the Party's name act in a way in which that*  
49 *individual's action could reasonably be considered to breach Articles 7.10.1(i) – (v) above, the*  
50 *Executive Committee may decide whether to impose sanctions up to and including expulsion*  
51 *from the Party. Such sanctions may be appealed to the Appeals Body, according to Article 10,*  
52 *and their decision shall be final.'*

### **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.