

Exeter Green Party Constitution

Passed as amended by AGM 13 December 2021

1. TITLE AND STATUS

- 1.1 The name of the local party shall be Exeter Green Party, hereafter referred to as “the party”.
- 1.2 the party is a constituent part of The Green Party of England & Wales and is subject to its rules and constitution and is part of the South West Region.
- 1.3 The geographical area of the party is the principal local authority’s municipal boundaries of the City of Exeter.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The object of the party is to promote the aims of The Green Party of England and Wales as stated in its Constitution; by contesting and winning elections within its geographical boundaries to further the aim of implementing policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Party.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The membership consists of all members of the Green Party of England and Wales resident within the geographical area of the party.
- 3.2 Members may not be a member of another political party (other than Green Parties abroad) at the same time. Should a member join another political party then they immediately cease to be a member of the party.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The party shall elect an Executive Committee at the AGM made up of the following roles; a Local Party Coordinator, an Elections Coordinator, and a Volunteer Coordinator.
- 4.2 The Executive Committee shall be collectively responsible for appointing volunteers to the following roles: Treasurer, Agent, Data Manager, Secretary, and Ward Leads (hereafter known as Appointed Officers). If any of these roles is not appointed, a member of the Executive Committee must be appointed to fulfil that role until another volunteer is appointed.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee shall assume principal responsibility for ensuring the Party’s actions are compliant with any legal obligations and national party policies to which the Party is subject. These may include (but not limited to): equalities legislation; data protection legislation, electoral law, health and safety legislation and guidance
- 4.4 Where there is unanimous consensus amongst the Executive Committee, additional Appointed Officer posts may be created permanently or for a fixed period.
- 4.5 All appointments made by the Executive Committee under paragraphs 4.2 and existing] 4.3 shall be subject to confirmation at the next following Members’ Meeting held in accordance with section 7
- 4.6 The Executive Committee and Appointed Officers shall constitute the membership of an Elections Working Group.

4.7 The members of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for executing the party's agreed strategy, and shall take any decisions necessary (collectively or independently) to achieve this.

4.8 Members of the Executive Committee may delegate tasks to Appointed Officers, volunteers, or volunteer working groups where appropriate. However, Members of the Executive Committee remain responsible for tasks being completed in accordance with the party's strategy.

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.9 Elections to the Executive Committee shall take place every year at the AGM using Single Transferable vote and shall include an option for Re-open nominations (RON).

4.10 Elections to Executive Committee positions shall be conducted and chaired by a Returning Officer who is member of the Green Party of England and Wales, but not a member of Exeter Green Party, appointed by an outside governance body (such as South West Green Party Regional Committee).

4.11 In the event of a vacancy, a member of the Executive Committee may be elected at a members' meeting.

ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.12 Members of the Executive Committee may be recalled by a 2/3rds majority vote of a members' meeting, AGM or EGM.

4.13 Decisions of the Executive Committee may be called to a Members' Meeting, AGM or EGM for reconsideration by a majority vote of a member's meeting, AGM, EGM or a petition of more than 20 members. Under these circumstances a resolution agreed by a simple majority of the members present, if legally and practically possible, shall be binding upon members of the Executive Committee.

4.14 Executive Committee meetings shall be open to any member to attend, but voting is to be restricted to members of the Committee. The Executive Committee shall devise and implement procedures for ensuring that all members are aware of such meetings so that they can exercise their option to attend

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4.15 Executive Committee meetings shall be convened as often as necessary and at least once every 60 days. They will only be quorate with the attendance of all members of the Executive Committee.

4.16 All decisions of the Executive Committee, including the appointment of Appointed Officers, shall be minuted by the Secretary. Draft minutes shall be made available to all party members within 10 days of the meeting.

5. ELECTIONS WORKING GROUP

5.1 The Elections working group shall be convened as often as necessary and shall collaborate with all relevant party bodies, councillors and target ward candidates where appropriate to progress actions towards the party's elections strategy.

5.2 Meetings of the Executive Committee may take place during meetings of the Elections Working Group.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

6.1 Every year an AGM shall be held for the purposes of

- (a) Presentation of a financial statement for the year

- (b) Election of the Executive Committee
- (c) Determining and/or reviewing the party's strategies.
- (d) Any other functions as described in the constitution or required by the constitution or by-laws of the Green Party of England and Wales.
- (e) Any other business tabled by members of the Executive Committee

6.2 The quorum of an AGM shall be ten.

6.3 28 days' notice of an AGM, including a call for motions and deadline for nominations to the Executive Committee, shall be given to all members of the party. AGM motions and Executive Committee nominations should be sent to an officer nominated by the Executive Committee 14 days before the meeting, and papers for the meeting, including the names of candidates for the Executive Committee, shall be circulated to members at least 7 days before the meeting.

7. MEMBERS' MEETINGS AND EGMS

7.1 The Executive Committee (and Appointed Officers where appropriate) shall present a report to each Member's Meeting. Members shall be entitled to scrutinize reports of the Executive Committee at Members' Meetings.

7.2 Members' Meetings (including an AGM) shall be held at least quarterly.

7.3 Members' Meetings can decide, review, scrutinize, and amend the party's strategies (including overall expenditure limits) by simple majority voting. Strategy proposals and amendments may be proposed by any member, provided that 7 days' notice is given to an officer nominated by the Executive Committee.

7.4 All decisions of Members' Meetings shall be minuted by the Secretary. Draft minutes shall be made available to all party members within 10 days of the meeting.

7.5 Members' Meetings and EGMS shall be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee, or a volunteer delegated by the Executive Committee.

7.6 An EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) may be called by the Executive Committee, a Members' Meeting or a petition of more than 20 members.

7.7 The quorum of a Members' meeting or EGM shall be ten.

8. FINANCE

8.1 The Treasurer shall collect or arrange the collection of all money due to the party and shall receive all donations to the party and shall be the custodian thereof.

8.2 The Treasurer will arrange payment of any bills incurred by the party and will notify the Executive Committee and the Members' Meeting if the Party is in danger of becoming overdrawn.

8.3 Members of the Executive Committee or Appointed Officers may incur expenditure on behalf of the party provided prior approval is obtained from a meeting of the Executive Committee.

9. DISPUTES

9.1 Any disputes as to decisions or strategy shall be resolved by the members of the Executive Committee.

9.2 The party will seek to resolve any disputes between members through discussion and conciliation.

10. SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATES

10.1 The selection of elections candidates shall be by a process determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with the requirements of the constitution and by-laws of the Green Party of England and Wales. It shall be based on the principles of openness, fairness, inclusiveness, and allowing all members a vote on the final selections.

10.2 Before implementing a new process the Executive Committee shall inform the membership of the details of the process. To allow for member feedback, details of the new process shall be circulated at least 14 days before it is implemented.

11. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 This constitution can be altered by an AGM or EGM of the party.

12. WINDING UP

12.1 The party may cease to exist or join with other local Green Parties, only by agreement of an EGM or AGM. In the event of the party being wound up, the balance of funds shall be transferred to South West Green Party. In the event of the party becoming defunct, national rules apply.