

A22 Duration of approval of council coalition agreement

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 To agree that the branch's approval of the 'City of Edinburgh Council Coalition
- 2 Agreement between the Edinburgh Scottish National Party and the Edinburgh Green
- 3 Party' on 24 May 2022 remains valid, and can be enacted if necessary before 24
- 4 May 2023 without requiring a repeated branch vote, provided no changes are made
- 5 to it.

Reason

Following the May 2022 local elections, the Edinburgh Green councillors negotiated a coalition agreement to form a minority administration with the SNP. In line with section 6 of the party constitution, the agreement was approved near-unanimously by the Edinburgh branch committee on 23 May, and at a branch meeting on 24 May with 97% of members in favour.

Unfortunately, our proposed coalition was defeated, as Lib Dem and Conservative councillors voted a Labour minority administration into office. There is no written coalition agreement between the three parties, and as a result the administration consists of just 13 of 63 councillors. Two of these Labour councillors abstained from the vote in protest at replying on Tory support.

As a result, the administration appears to be highly unstable, and there is a reasonable prospect of it collapsing within the next year. Given this, in the event of the Labour administration collapsing, we would be well-placed to take over, in coalition with the SNP.

This motion would enable us to enact the agreement and form a coalition administration with the SNP in this scenario if it occurs in the next year, without requiring us to repeat the branch vote. This would avoid an unnecessary additional branch meeting, and requiring members to repeat a vote on an agreement they have already approved overwhelmingly. It would also enable us to act quickly, if the need arose.

Supporters

Rob Gowans

A23 Remove requirement to elect a Vice-Convenor

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Constitution:
- 2 Amend section 2.9 to read: “At each AGM, the Branch will elect two Co-Convenors
- 3 (at least one of whom must be a woman) and a Treasurer. The Branch shall inform
- 4 the SGP Party Office of all new post holders within two weeks of their election.
- 5 This shall equally apply to any changes in office bearers throughout the year,
- 6 for example resignations.”
- 7 Delete section 3.2 (Vice-Convenor)

Reason

This motion tidies up the constitution to reflect recent practice, as we have not elected a Vice-Convenor since 2020. The role is not included in the new committee structure to be elected at AGM 2022.

Supporters

Rob Gowans

A24 Transfer duties previously performed by a Membership Secretary to another post

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Constitution:
- 2 Amend section 3.4 to read:
- 3 “Membership Administration
- 4 3.4 One Branch officer must be nominated to process membership changes, updates,
- 5 and services. To this end the nominated Branch officer will liaise with Sub-
- 6 branches, Local Teams and the SGP Executive as required.”

Reason

This brings the wording of our branch constitution into line with the party constitution, which no longer requires branches to elect a specific Membership Secretary. In the new committee structure, it is envisaged that these functions would be included within the role of the Local Teams and Member Support Officers, with the support of their working group.

Supporters

Rob Gowans

A25 Allow proxy, or email voting for meetings

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders:
- 2 Amend section 1.4.16 to read: “Where practicable, arrangements may be made for a
- 3 Branch member who is absent from a Branch Meeting at the time of the vote, to
- 4 vote by proxy, or by email.”

Reason

Currently the branch Standing Orders specifically prevent a member from voting by proxy or post under any circumstances. For some decisions, such as the recent vote to approve the coalition agreement with the SNP, members who were unable to attend the meeting, but wanted to vote on an important decision were understandably frustrated that they were prevented from doing so. This motion would allow voting by proxy, or email, where it is reasonably possible to do so.

Supporters

Rob Gowans

A26 Update responsibilities of branch committee

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders:
- 2 Amend Section 2.2 to read: "The Branch Committee's responsibilities, which may,
- 3 where appropriate, be delegated to sub-committees, include:
- 4 (2.2.1 to 2.2.10 as per current standing orders)

Reason

This motion amends the Standing Orders to reflect the new branch structure in place from 2022, which includes a smaller committee and more formalised sub-groups. The motion clarifies that tasks which are responsibilities of the Branch Committee can be delegated to one of the sub-committees.

Supporters

Zoe Clelland

A27 Update membership of branch committee

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

1 In the Standing Orders:

2 Amend Section 2.3 to read:

3 2.3.1 Branch Committee membership consists of:

- 4 • Office bearers and other official posts
- 5 • Representatives of any representative groups with an organised presence in
- 6 Edinburgh
- 7 • Representatives of the Councillor Group (as ex-officio members)

8 2.3.2 Branch Committee Sub-groups consist of:

- 9 • Relevant office bearers
- 10 • Ordinary members
- 11 • Sub-Branch representatives where appropriate
- 12 • Co-opted members.

13 2.3.3 Those elected to public office for the Scottish Green Party may not also

14 hold an elected position on the Committee.

15 2.3.4 Office bearers and other official posts shall have a job description which

16 must be available to all Branch members.

Reason

This motion amends the Standing Orders to reflect the new branch structure in place from 2022, which includes a smaller committee and more formalised sub-groups. The motion clarifies the membership of each.

Supporters

Zoe Clelland

A28 Remove reference to party Operations Committee

Proposer: Edinburgh Greens Branch Committee

Motion text

- 1 In the Standing Orders:
- 2 Amend Section 6.2.1 to read “These amendments must be confirmed by the next
- 3 Scottish Green Party Standing Orders Committee meeting, failing which any such
- 4 change/s shall cease to apply.”

Reason

The current Standing Orders make reference to the party Operations Committee which was dissolved in 2019. These functions have now moved to the party Standing Orders Committee.

Supporters

Rob Gowans