

A37 Updating the Memorandum of Understanding between the Green Councillor group and branch

Proposer: Ben Parker (bpa15996) (Cllr group, Co-Convener)

Motion text

1. Notes that the Green Councillor group [agreed a motion at their AGM](#) to seek to update the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the branch in order to reflect changes to the Councillor group's long term sickness, and conduct and complaints policy.
2. Notes that the Councillor group Standing Orders (11.2) dictate that changes to the MoU must also be agreed by the branch.
3. Agrees to support the changes to the MoU as set out in the [agreed motion at the Councillor group AGM](#).

Reason

At its 2025 AGM, the Councillor group agreed the need for a complaints process and a long-term sickness process for Councillors. Working groups were formed to create these processes and have now completed. One of the documents which needs to be updated to reflect and refer to the new processes is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Councillor group and Edinburgh branch. This motion sets out to agree proposed changes to the text of the MoU in order to reference the newly adopted complaints and long-term sickness process.

Supporters

Alys Mumford (amu5240) (Cllr group, Co-Convener)

A38 Re-allocating vacated committee positions following an AGM

Proposer: Daniel Milligan

Motion text

- 1 In the branch standing orders, add new section:
- 2 2.4.8 For a period of one week following the AGM, if any officers or ordinary
- 3 members step down, the vacated position will be offered to the next runners-up
- 4 in the results of the voting.

Reason

Usually, if a committee position is vacated, it can only be filled again by co-opting someone new, which requires a vote at branch committee. This allows a period of 1 week for a newly elected committee member, if they wish, to take the decision to step down to let someone else take their place. This could be to either withdraw completely, or to volunteer for another vacant position on the committee instead. It would allow a runner-up to take their vacated position immediately without the need for a separate committee decision. They may wish to do this in order to address an imbalance in volunteer resources or the spread of gender diversity across the committee.

Supporters

Al Neathey

A39 Adding target ward and second candidates due to 2026 election success

Proposer: Rob Gowans

Motion text

- 1 AGM agrees that based on analysis of the 2026 Holyrood election results, the
- 2 branch will:
- 3 Add Pentland Hills as a target ward, in addition to the 13 existing target wards
- 4 in Edinburgh, for the 2027 local elections.
- 5 Run second Green candidates in the following wards in the 2027 local elections –
- 6 Leith Walk; Southside/Newington; City Centre; Morningside; and Leith.

Reason

The party and the branch operates a 'Target To Win' system. This involves deciding target wards to focus campaigning activity in order to maximise the number of Green councillors elected. As part of the current Branch Election Strategy, 13 wards have been designated as target wards for the 2027 election. As part of this it was agreed to review the target wards after the 2026 Holyrood election in the event of a significant change in our vote.

The 2026 election did see a significant increase in our vote. Across the seven constituencies covering Edinburgh (also including Musselburgh and Tranent), the Greens received the most regional votes of any party. We received 23.0% of the vote, up from 14.7% in the 2021 election, and 13.9% in the 2022 council election.

Based on analysis of the results by the branch Elections and Campaigns Group, it appears to be possible to elect councillors in a further ward, and second councillors in five wards. You can view full details of the analysis and proposal at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lb1lgv002bnxFCnpiiluPvXXKd5Lyf3/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118378518916217561124&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Supporters

Adam McGibbon

A40 Gender balance

Proposer: Daniel Milligan

Motion text

- 1 In the Constitution section on AGM and Meetings,
2 delete “(at least one of whom must be a woman),” from:
- 3 2.9 At each AGM, the Branch will elect two Co-Conveners (at least one of whom
4 must be a woman), and a Treasurer. The Branch shall inform the SGP Party Office
5 of all new post holders within two weeks of their election. This shall equally
6 apply to any changes in office bearers throughout the year, for example
7 resignations.
- 8 The revised clause will read:
- 9 2.9 At each AGM, the Branch will elect two Co-Conveners and a Treasurer. The
10 Branch shall inform the SGP Party Office of all new post holders within two
11 weeks of their election. This shall equally apply to any changes in office
12 bearers throughout the year, for example resignations.
- 13 In the Constitution section on Office bearers, add new section:
- 14 [title] Gender balance
- 15 3.1 All positions of leadership or convenorship in Edinburgh Green Party and its
16 sub-branches will be shared by persons who will, so far as is possible, be of
17 different genders. No trans or non-binary person shall be denied the opportunity
18 to hold an SGP office due to their gender. A formal gender balancing process
19 will not be adopted. Where gender balance has not been achieved by an election,
20 members who are elected are invited to consider whether their acceptance of
21 office aligns with SGP's purpose and direction.
- 22 Re-number the following sections accordingly.
- 23 In the branch standing orders section on Office bearers,
24 Delete “If the Sub-Branch elects Co-Convenors, at least one of them must be a
25 woman.” from:
- 26 3.7.1 Sub-Branches are encouraged to elect office bearers, but are not required
27 to do so. If the Sub-Branch elects Co-Convenors, at least one of them must be a
28 woman.
- 29 The revised clause will read:
- 30 3.7.1 Sub-Branches are encouraged to elect office bearers, but are not required
31 to do so.

Reason

The party is no longer able to implement formal gender quotas in an inclusive way. As a result, requirements for this must be removed from our branch rules. The party Standing Orders Committee (SOC) have proposed text, which the proposed new section 3.1 is based on. This and the relevant background info can be found on the members' hub here: <https://members.greens.scot/file/soc-emergency-paperpdf> .

Supporters

Al Neathey

A41 Technical changes to the Sub-branches section of Standing Orders

Proposer: Paul Wilson (pwi10299)

Motion text

1 **Section 3.2.1**

2 Clarify the level of meeting required to form or dissolve a sub-branch. Insert
3 branch before AGM or EGM

4 “The formation and dissolution of a Sub-Branch shall be agreed by a simple
5 majority of those present and voting at a quorate and properly convened branch
6 AGM or EGM”

7 **Section 3.4.1**

8 Pluralise the first instance of ward as sub-branches all cover more than one
9 ward.

10 [The responsibilities of Sub-Branches are to:]

11 “Implement campaigns and election strategy on behalf of the Branch in their
12 wards and other wards if required (e.g. distribute leaflets, run stalls,
13 canvassing)”

14 **Section 3.5.1**

15 As sub-branches consist of multiple wards and are not all in Edinburgh City
16 Council area, change

17 [Sub-Branch membership can consist of:]

18 “All members of the Scottish Green Party within a City of Edinburgh Council ward
19 area”

20 to

21 “All members of the Scottish Green Party within the sub-branch’s council ward
22 areas”

Reason

Section 3.2.1 change is a clarification for ease of comprehension.

The other changes bring the standing orders in line with actuality: sub-branches can (and all do) consist of multiple wards; the West Lothian sub-branch covers the West Lothian Council area.

Supporters

Daniel Milligan (dmi210528)

A42 Assignment of Pentland Hills ward to a sub-branch

Proposer: Daniel Milligan

Motion text

- 1 The branch formally includes the Pentland Hills ward in the South-West Edinburgh
- 2 Greens (SWEG) sub-branch.

Reason

The Pentland Hills ward has not been included in a sub-branch previously. As the branch membership has grown significantly in the last year, it would be a good time to include it in a sub-branch. Formerly, the ward has been supported by West Edinburgh Greens (WEG), but there are several advantages to having it included in SWEG.

1. SWEG has prior experience of having candidates elected to Edinburgh Council and currently has 2 councillors in Sighthill/Gorgie ward. Pentland Hills members can benefit from this experience. West Edinburgh has an experienced team and this motion would allow them to focus their resources on having their first councillor(s) elected.
2. For most of the Pentland Hills ward, public transport links are stronger with the current SWEG sub-branch area than with the WEG sub-branch area. Being a part of SWEG would make getting involved with party campaigning more accessible for the majority of members in Pentland Hills.

This has been previously been discussed and agreed at branch committee with involvement of members of the WEG, SWEG and Pentlands. SWEG has also agreed to this in principle at their 2026 AGM.

Supporters

Dave Owen

A43 Edinburgh Branch to bring "Scottish Green Party celebrates the 60 year anniversary of the creation of the Black Panther Party" motion to conference

Proposer: Mariusz Cebulski

Motion text

1 The Edinburgh Green Party will bring to Autumn 2026 conference a motion with
2 following text:

3 Preamble

4 In the 1960s the American Civil Rights Movement succeeded in ending official
5 segregation of people of colour, but failed to truly transform the lives of
6 minorities that still had to deal with deprivation, lack of education and
7 systematic racism of the police and judiciary.

8 As a reaction to the oppression of black Americans, in October 1966, Huey Newton
9 and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Party. The party was proudly
10 socialist, anti-imperialist and anti-racist, provided food, education and
11 clothing to the communities it was involved in.

12 Due to internal conflicts as well as government sabotage, which included
13 assassinations of multiple members, the party mostly ceased to exist in the 80s.
14 Sadly one of the reasons their revolution failed was entrenched patriarchy and
15 sexism within the organisation bigotries that should be completely rejected.

16 Yet its impact on the world is undeniable, as its members, like Angela Davis,
17 Kwame Ture and Fred Hampton, inspire radical movements to this day.

18 Motion

19 Scottish Green Party conference celebrates the 60 year anniversary of the
20 creation of the Black Panther Party and acknowledges its lasting impact not only
21 on the USA but the entire world.

Supporters

Damian 'Lennie' Sefton

A44 Edinburgh Branch to bring "Reforming National Executive" motion to conference

Proposer: Mariusz Cebulski

Motion text

1 Constitutional motion: Reforming National Executive

2 Preamble

3 There is compelling evidence that the National Executive needs reform.

4 The party went to the crucial 2026 election with more than a hundred thousand
5 pounds less than planned in our strategic plan and had to resort to a 150
6 thousand pound loan from the Green Party of England and Wales .

7 Autumn conference left the party with an almost 25 thousand pound overspend
8 showing lack of proper oversight of party staff.

9 The cultural review which has been agreed years ago only now is treated with
10 some urgency.

11 Finally the fact that in the seven years Executive existed, the position of co-
12 char, which is one of the most important posts in the party, for years was left
13 empty or was suddenly vacated by members frustrated with the way it works.

14 There are many reasons for this.

15 Most information is kept secret from both committee and ordinary members. Staff
16 key performance metrics, staff responsibilities, finance information, invoices,
17 contracts are only available to co-chairs, preventing committee members from
18 making informed decisions and providing effective oversight.

19 Co-chairs being the only ones with sensitive information and responsible for
20 managing staff and other committees, are overloaded with tasks and at high risk
21 of burn-out, especially since the posts are unpaid.

22 We need to reform the National Executive to make it more democratic and
23 efficient, spread the workload while focusing more on good governance.

24 Motion

25 Replace point 3.4.3.2 of Constitution with:

26 "SGP Executive shall be responsible for procuring legal services as required.
27 Access to legal advice by other office bearers, members and staff shall be at
28 the discretion of the Executive, subject to the Executive's obligation to
29 protect legal privilege of advice to the greatest extent possible and with the
30 exception of the legally required officers, who shall have the automatic right
31 to access legal advice unless they have a relevant conflict of interest."

32 Replace point 3.4.3.3 of Constitution with:

33 "SGP Executive shall present written reports to each Council meeting and shall
34 send a representative to Council meeting to answer questions on the report.
35 Reports by the SGP Executive, must be delivered to the Co-Convenors of SGP
36 Council no later than ten days before each Council meeting, and made available
37 to members at least one week before Council meetings."

38 Replace point 3.4.7 of Constitution with:

39 "SGP Executive will consist of:

- 40 a. Eight elected members of National Executive none of whom can be an elected
- 41 Member of Parliament or Councillors;
- 42 b. The Co-Leaders of the SGP;
- 43 c. The Co-Convenors of SGP Council;
- 44 d. The Treasurer of the SGP;
- 45 e. One delegate from each active SGP Representative Group;
- 46 f. One delegate from the SGP Parliamentary Group;
- 47 g. One delegate from the SGP Association of Green Councilors;
- 48 h. One delegate from the SGP Trade Union Group;
- 49 i. One delegate from each other SGP National Committee established by a General
- 50 Meeting or SGP Council, possessing no voting rights;
- 51 j. The senior member of SGP Staff, possessing no voting rights;
- 52 k. Additional members as defined by the Standing Orders for SGP Executive,
- 53 possessing no voting rights.
- 54 l. The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer of the SGP?"

55 Remove point 3.4.8.1 of Constitution.

56 Amend point 4.3.3 of Constitution.

57 4.3.3 There will be eight members of SGP Executive, elected for two-year terms,
58 responsible for:

- 59 a. Ensuring the membership responsibilities of the SGP Executive as defined in
- 60 the Constitution and Standing Orders are carried out;
- 61 b. Ensuring the general operation of the SGP;
- 62 c. Ensuring the effective working of SGP Executive;
- 63 d. Ensuring the effective line management of SGP Staff;

64 Amend point 4.3.3.1 of Constitution.

65 4.3.3.1 The members of SGP Executive may serve for no more than three
66 consecutive terms.

Supporters

Susan Rae

A45 Edinburgh Branch to bring "Creation of a regular Scottish Greens Newsletter" motion to conference

Proposer: Mariusz Cebulski

Motion text

1 Edinburgh Branch to bring "Creation of a regular Scottish Greens Newsletter"
2 motion to Autumn 2026 conference of following text:

3 Preamble

4 The Scottish Green Party prides itself as a democratic grass-roots movement, yet
5 communication between members and branches is extremely limited. Outside of
6 Slack with its limitations and council meetings with agendas full to the brim,
7 there is virtually no space for members to share ideas, successes, read about
8 other branches or just communicate.

9 The party needs an efficient way for members to communicate, because we are not
10 just individuals with similar ideas, we are a community.

11 Motion

12 The Scottish Green Party will establish a monthly members newsletter which would
13 be sent to all members and would be available on the members portal.

14 Any member can provide content as long as it follows all internal party rules,
15 but priority will be given to: Council co-chairs, Party leaders, Representative
16 Groups, Association of Green Councillors, MSP group, branch convenors. Each of
17 those groups excluding branch convenors would be limited to one article per
18 month.

Supporters

Damian 'Lennie' Sefton