Constitution of the Liberal Democrats in STEMM

As adopted by a resolution of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2020 and subsequently amended at the EGM held on Friday 1st March 2024 and the AGMs held on Sunday 19 October 2025 and Tuesday 10 November 2026.

1. Title

1.1. The name of the body governed by this Constitution shall be "the Liberal Democrats in STEMM" (short form: "LibSTEMM"), hereinafter referred to as "the Association". The Association is the sole successor body of the Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES), effective 1 March 2024. The Association is a branch of a UK political party registered under the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000; namely: the Liberal Democrats (hereinafter referred to as "the Party").

2. Aims

2.1. To promote better understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) fields within the Party and the public in general, and to explain the role of STEMM in the enhancement of the quality of life.

2.2. To serve the Party by establishing a network of members with STEMM expertise that can support Parliamentarians and Party policy makers.

2.3. To create a good fellowship amongst the STEMM community within the Party, and develop a better understanding between said communities and politicians.

3. Membership

3.1. Membership shall be open to any current member of the Party, provided that they subscribe to the Association's stated aims, on payment of the prescribed annual subscription.

3.2. If a member does not renew their annual subscription within 3 months of the subscription becoming due, or if they cease to be a member of the Party, their membership shall cease.

3.3. Members must treat others with respect and must not bully, harass or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of Parliamentary staff, Party volunteer or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the Association into disrepute.

3.4. The Association shall adopt a set of Membership Rules and Code of Conduct, identical or similar to the template Membership Rules and Code of Conduct recommended by the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC) and published online at: https://www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct

4. Diversity

4.1. The Association rejects all prejudice and discrimination based upon race, colour, religion or belief, age, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation and opposes all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.

4.2. The Association welcomes and encourages diversity within its membership and in its governing bodies, and seeks to be inclusive in all its activities.

5. Affiliations

5.1. The Association shall seek to maintain recognition as an Affiliated Organisation within the Party.

5.2. The Association may also affiliate to other organisations within the Party, and to external organisations that further the aims of the Association, provided that doing so does not conflict with maintaining Affiliated Organisation status within the Party.

6. Governance

6.1. The governance of the Association shall lie with its membership through General Meetings; between General Meetings, and subject to the decisions of those meetings, the general and financial business of the Association shall be controlled and carried on by the Executive Committee.

6.2. Only members who are current members at the date when a General Meeting is called shall be eligible to vote, or to stand for election, at that General Meeting.

6.3. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association shall be held each year between 1st October and 30th November at a date and venue (including via an online digital meeting platform) determined by the Executive Committee, save that the Executive Committee may arrange for an AGM to be held between 1st and 30th September in the event they wish the AGM to take place at or during the Party's Federal Conference.

6.4. The AGM shall also be called if a written requisition, signed by at least one current member, is received by the Chair or Secretary (including via electronic mail from the email address attached to the member's

record in the Party's database of members) and no AGM has been held during nor since the preceding calendar year.

6.5. The business of the AGM shall include:

6.5.1. The receipt of reports from the Executive Committee;

6.5.2. Receipt and consideration of the examined annual accounts for the previous financial year;

6.5.3. Determination of the annual subscription for the following year;

6.5.4. Acceptance and close of nominations for the election of officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee;

6.5.5. The appointment of an examiner of the Association's accounts for the following year or the approval for the delegation of authority to the Executive Committee to make such an appointment on the Association's behalf;

6.5.6. Discussion of the activities of the Association.

6.6. Notice of the AGM, together with copies of the proposed agenda, minutes of the previous AGM, examined accounts for the preceding year and requests for nominations for all Executive Committee places, shall be sent to all members, including any members who cannot be reached electronically, at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting.

6.7. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Executive Committee, and shall be called if a written requisition,

signed by at least twenty members or one quarter of the current membership (whichever is fewer), is received by the Chair or Secretary.

6.8. Notice of the EGM shall be sent to all members, including any members who cannot be reached electronically, at least twenty-one days in advance of the meeting, and shall specify the reason or reasons for which the meeting is being called and the precise business to be transacted, which shall be the only business of that meeting. Members unable to attend shall be encouraged to advise the Secretary of their views on the matter to be considered.

6.9. Voting at an AGM or EGM shall be by a simple majority of those members present and voting, except where otherwise stated by this Constitution. In the event of a tie on a simple majority vote, the Chair (or their nominated delegate) shall have an additional casting vote.

6.10. The Association shall comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and all other applicable data protection laws.

7. Executive Committee

7.1. The Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall comprise the following elected officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Officer; together with three elected Ordinary Members of the Committee.

7.2. Each office, other than Treasurer, can be jointly held by up to two individuals.

7.3. Any member of the Association may be nominated for election as an officer or Ordinary Member of the Committee. Each nomination must be submitted to the Secretary or to another officer nominated by the

Committee, in advance of the AGM, or to the AGM, by two members after obtaining the nominee's consent.

7.4. Two individuals can choose to stand on a "joint ticket" for a role.

7.5. Where two officers are elected on a joint ticket, they shall assume office and leave office together.

7.6. A member may stand for election to more than one position on the Committee, but may not be elected to more than one position unless the elections to all of these positions are uncontested and the AGM consents by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

7.7. If there are any uncontested elections, the nominations for each uncontested election shall be subject to approval by a simple majority of those present and voting at the AGM, immediately after close of nominations for the relevant position.

7.8. If there are no contested elections, the election of all the approved candidates shall be declared during the AGM and shall take effect on the 1st January following the AGM.

7.9. If there are any contested elections (where there are more candidates than vacancies):

7.9.1. the Committee shall appoint a Returning Officer, who shall not be a candidate in any of the contested elections, and who shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of online "ballots", their receipt and counting on return and the declaration of the results;

7.9.2. the contested elections shall be decided by a secret online poll of all members, using the Single Transferable Vote

method;

7.9.3. each candidate for a contested election shall be invited by the Returning Officer to provide a statement in support of their candidacy;

7.9.4. ballot links to an online voting facility, together with candidate statements, shall be circulated to all members, between fourteen and twenty-one days after the date of the AGM;

7.9.5. the deadline for online voting shall be between ten and fourteen days after circulation of voting links;

7.9.6. within three days after the deadline for online voting, the Returning Officer shall conduct the count and declare the result for each election, including any uncontested election, in the order shown in 7.1;

7.9.7. when the result of each election has been declared, the successful candidates shall have their nominations for any remaining elections declared void by the Returning Officer;

7.9.8. each election shall take effect on 1st January after the declaration of the relevant result by the Returning Officer, save that should such a declaration be made later than 31st December the successful candidate(s) shall then take up office immediately.

7.10. The Chair shall be eligible for election to that position no more than three times consecutively.

7.11. The Committee may co-opt a member of the Association to fill any

vacancy occurring among its officers or Ordinary Members between AGMs.

7.12. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, co-opt up to three members of the Association to join the Committee as Ordinary Members.

7.13. The term of office of officers and Ordinary Members (whether elected or co-opted) shall run until 23:59 GMT on 31st December, or until they are removed or resign from the Committee, or until their membership of the Association ceases, whichever is earliest.

7.14. The Committee may remove any officer or Ordinary Member who does not attend three successive meetings without good cause. Before exercising this power the Committee shall give the officer or Ordinary Member concerned an opportunity to state the reasons for their non-attendance.

7.15. If the office of Treasurer falls vacant at any time, the Chair shall immediately become the Acting Treasurer, until a new Treasurer has been co-opted or elected.

7.16. If the office of Chair falls vacant at any time, the Vice-Chair shall immediately become the Acting Chair, until a new Chair has been co-opted or elected.

7.17. The Committee may appoint subcommittees for any specified purpose. No subcommittee nor any member thereof may take action on behalf of the Committee beyond their terms of appointment. All subcommittees shall report on their activities to the Committee and may include persons who are not members of the Committee. The Committee and any subcommittees may delegate authority to take actions on their behalf consistent with this Constitution. The Committee may also delegate authority to committees jointly

constituted with other Affiliated Organisations of the Party for particular purposes.

7.18. The Committee shall ensure that personal data is safeguarded at all times, including information related to membership of the Association and any data held to facilitate participation in the Association's activities or to further its aims.

8. President

8.1. The Committee may, within the first month of the term of the Committee, nominate an Honorary President or Honorary Co-Presidents. Upon their acceptance of such a nomination, the Honorary President or Honorary Co-Presidents shall be deemed elected and serve in this office for a period of one year from the date of their nomination.

8.2. The Honorary President or Co-Presidents are entitled to attend (but not to vote at) all meetings of the Committee and any subcommittees thereof.

8.3. The Honorary President or Co-Presidents shall be public representatives of the Association and shall support its aims (as detailed in this Constitution), shall be guardians of this Constitution, and shall (to the extent that their time and availability may permit) seek to ensure that the Party has due regard to insights arising from STEMM fields when making policy or planning for government.

9. Refusal, Suspension or Withdrawal of Membership

9.1. The Committee may, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, refuse, suspend or withdraw a person's membership of the Association on the grounds that their activities or conduct are likely to bring the Association into disrepute or are not compatible with the

Association's aims (as detailed in this Constitution) or with the Party's fundamental values and objectives.

9.2. Before any meeting at which such a vote is to be taken, the Committee's officers and Ordinary Members must be notified and the person must be given a reasonable opportunity to make a written statement in their defence to the Committee.

9.3. Any Party member who believes that their rights as a Party member have been infringed by such a decision may appeal against the decision to the Federal Appeals Panel of the Party. Such an appeal may only be made if they have reasonable cause for believing the process has not been correctly followed and not just because they do not agree with the outcome.

9.4. If the appeal is successful, the person's membership shall be restored; the Committee may also restore the person's membership by a simple majority of those present and voting.

10. Finance

10.1. The finances of the Association shall be managed by the Treasurer subject to regular reports to, and guidance by, the Committee.

10.2. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer and the Committee to ensure that the funds of the Association are used solely in accordance with the Association's stated aims and that the Association never has debts beyond its available resources.

10.3. Association funds may be used to reimburse reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by officers and Ordinary Members in carrying out their duties for the Committee. By agreement of the Committee in any given instance, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by members of the Association who are not members of the Committee,

when such individuals are volunteering to assist in activities which further the Association's aims, may also be reimbursed.

10.4. The Association's financial year shall be 1st January to 31st December.

10.5. Following the end of each financial year, the Treasurer shall prepare financial accounts for that year, and shall facilitate an independent examination of the accounts, by a person who is not a member, for approval by the Executive Committee and consideration at the following AGM.

10.6. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer and the Committee to ensure that the Association complies fully with any requirements that apply to the Association under the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 or any successor Act.

11. Winding Up

11.1. The Association may only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at an AGM or EGM. Notice of the proposed dissolution must have been given in the notice calling the meeting. Upon dissolution, the Association's funds shall be applied to paying the Association's debts, and any remaining funds and other assets shall then be passed to the Party or its successor body.

11.2. If the Association ceases to function, and is no longer capable of holding an AGM or EGM, the Association's assets, including any bank accounts, shall become the property of the Party or its successor body.

12. Amendment and Validity of this Constitution

12.1. Nothing in this Constitution shall conflict with the Federal Constitution of the Party and, in the event of any apparent conflict, the relevant provisions of the Federal Constitution of the Party shall instead apply.

12.2. This Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at an AGM or EGM. Notice of the proposed amendment, including its precise wording, must have been given in the notice calling the meeting.