
Adopted at the founding party Meeting **26th January 2020**

ARTICLES

1. NAME

1.1 This Constitution shall govern the organisation known as "Reform Derby", hereinafter referred to as the "Party".

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The party will register and maintain its registration with the electoral commission of Great Britain as a minor party such that it can contest local elections in the City of Derby, England.

2.2 The role of the Party is to enhance the wellbeing of Derby City, its residents and businesses.

2.2 The Party will remain divorced from National and International Politics, focussing all energies and resources into local issues to ensure a more positive outcome for the city, its residents, local services and businesses.

2.3 The Party aims to use direct democracy with its elected officials taking decisions based upon direct constituent instruction.

2.4 On local matters the Party will always work towards the following aims, in no particular order.

2.4.1 Ensure the Councils annual budget is both fair and balanced.

2.4.2 Council Tax should be as low as practically possible.

2.4.3 Make the Council more transparent and democratic.

2.4.4 Council operations must deliver 'value for money' for all taxpayers.

2.4.5 Create a positive environment in Derby City to encourage inward investment.

2.4.6 Improve education standards in Derby City with a fair policy for educating children who live outside of City boundaries.

2.4.7 Keep services free at the point of delivery

2.4.8 Prioritise for ex-service personnel accessing local services

2.4.9 The council should provide an efficient and robust planning system

2.4.10 Provide the strongest protections for Children Services

2.4.11 Protect the local environmental in a balanced and sensitive way (local issues only).

2.5 Elected officials will have the right to vote in the best interests of their electorate in all matters, whilst committing to the core values of the party.

2.6 The Party has an open policy to support any other party in power sharing discussions in view of our mission statement.

3. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

3.1 The affairs of the Party shall at all times be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Representation of the People Act 1983, and any other relevant or subsequently modifying legislation, hereinafter referred to as the "Legislation".

3.2 Should any conflict arise between the Legislation and this Constitution, the Legislation shall take primacy and this Constitution will be amended to incorporate the necessary changes.

3.3 Should there be any specific query regarding the Legislation, the Committee shall submit such query to the Electoral Commission, whose response shall be deemed authoritative and final.

3.4 For compliance with the Legislation, the following specific, but not exclusive, items shall be noted.

3.4.1 The financial year of the Party will run from 1 January to 31 December.

3.4.2 The Party will operate as a single organisation for the purposes of section 26(2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 unless or until deemed otherwise appropriate by the Committee.

3.4.3 The Party Leader will ensure, in the event of the post of Treasurer being vacant, that the Party complies with the financial controls of the Legislation until a new Treasurer is appointed.

3.4.4 A Nominating Officer will be appointed under the terms of this Constitution.

3.4.5 The Treasurer shall submit in a timely manner to the Electoral Commission:

- (a) notification of any changes to the registered addresses and officers of the Party.
- (b) annual confirmation of the registered details and addresses of the Party.
- (c) reports detailing donations and loans made to the Party as required by the Electoral Commission.
- (d) the annual statement of accounts for the Party as required by the Electoral Commission, externally audited where required.
- (e) returns detailing Party campaign spending.

3.5 The party has adopted the financial scheme that accompanies this document.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Membership of the Party shall be open to all persons:

- (a) who accept its Constitution;
- (b) who are not members of any organisation whose objectives are incompatible with those of the Party;
- (c) who are over sixteen years of age;
- (d) who maintain their subscriptions;
- (e) whose membership is not disapproved by the Committee.

4.2 Membership of the party does not exclude the member from being a member of another political party. Elected officials however must 'sit' with the 'Reform Derby' Party.

5. AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Affiliation to the Party shall be open to all organisations:

- (a) who accept its Constitution;
- (b) whose objectives are compatible with those of the Party;
- (c) whose affiliation is approved by the Committee.

6. OFFICERS

6.1 The officers of the Party shall be

- (a) Party Leader
- (b) Chairman
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Secretary
- (e) Nominating Officer
- (f) Additional Officers (as required)

6.2 Officers which are not specifically required to be distinct and separate under electoral law may be combined.

6.3 The officers shall be full voting members of the Committee upon their registration with the Electoral Commission as registered officers.

6.4 Party officers are expected to attend all Special General Meetings, and Committee meetings.

6.5 The Party Leader shall give political and administrative direction to the Party, and shall approve the Party's manifesto and statements of the Party's policies.

6.6 The Chairman shall preside at all Special General Meetings and all meetings of the Committee.

6.7 The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Chairman or the Committee. The Secretary shall attend all Special General Meetings and all meetings of the Committee and shall act as Secretary thereof, keeping such minutes and records as necessary.

6.8 The Treasurer shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Party Leader, Chairman and the Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the Committee and shall perform all duties required of the office by the Legislation. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, and internal and external reporting. The Treasurer shall report to the Committee both the financial situation of the Party and the results of its activities. The Accounts and Financial Report to year end is given to the Committee and a business SGM is to be held within sixty days of the year end of 31st December. Where Party finances require

external auditing in order to comply with the Legislation, the Treasurer shall ensure that such independent audit is undertaken.

6.9 The Treasurer is allowed to accept donations from any source with the following provisos.

- (a) That the donation is legal in terms of the prevailing electoral law.
- (b) That the donor may direct where the funds should be spent, but not have any influence on policy whatsoever.
- (c) That any member with the signed support of five members may object to the Committee to a donation if it is felt to be influencing Party Policy. The Committee shall be the final arbiter in such a situation.

6.10 Party officers shall take office when registered as officers by the Electoral Commission.

6.11 The Committee shall call an SGM to appoint new officers as vacancies occur or create new Officers posts as the need arises.

7. COMMITTEE

7.1. The Committee shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution. The Committee shall establish and oversee an organisational structure to implement the aims and purposes of the Party as stated in Article 2. The Committee shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities. The Committee may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.

7.2 The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- (a) the officers of the Party as per para 6.1
- (b) Any direct appointments as per para 6.11 may be challenged by Party Members via the mechanism of a Special General Meeting.
- (c) No member may stand for election to the Committee unless he or she has been a paid up member for ninety days

7.3 The Committee shall take office as per para 6.10

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- 7.4 The Committee may, for cause, suspend any Party Officer serving on the Committee, Party Member or Affiliated Organisation by a vote of two thirds of the entire Committee. The suspended party may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Committee shall within 30 days of the hearing either affirm the Committee's suspension of the appellant, or order reinstatement of the appellant. At such times as the suspension is final, and where the appellant held a Party office that office in question shall be deemed vacant.
- 7.5 Any member of the Committee who fails to attend two consecutive regular meetings of the Committee may be removed from his position upon the report of the Secretary. The affected party shall have until the opening of the next regular meeting of the Committee to appeal this action; once the report of the Secretary at this meeting has been issued, the suspension shall be final unless the Committee rules to re-instate the suspended party.
- 7.6 The Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by:
- (a) actions of the Committee;
 - (b) call of the Chair;
 - (c) a written request of one third or more of its members.
- 7.7 The Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by mail, either via the postal service or electronically using email, facsimile or the World Wide Web. The Secretary shall post mail ballots on any question submitted by the Chair or by at least two of the members of the Committee. Seven working days shall be allowed for the return of the votes cast to the Secretary. If, at the expiration of this period, a quorum of the Committee have not returned their votes, the measure being voted upon shall be deemed to have failed; in all other cases, a majority of the votes returned shall carry the measure, except where a higher vote is required by this Constitution.
- 7.8 A majority of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business at all times, excepting where otherwise specified in this Constitution.

7.9 The Committee shall use roll call voting on all substantive motions. Additionally, the Committee must have a roll call vote upon request of any single Committee member present on any motion. On all roll call votes, the vote of each individual Committee member shall be recorded in the minutes.

7.10 The power to make and change policy shall be vested in the Committee in line with the general aims and policies of the Party.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The Committee may, at any time, call a Special General Meeting, hereinafter referred to as an "SGM".

8.2 Attendance at a SGM is open to non-suspended paid up party members only.

8.3 The Committee shall:

- (a) give notice of the date and place of the SGM to members at least one week before the intended date.
- (b) set the entire agenda for the SGM.

8.4 At a SGM:

- (a) only attending Party members unless granted a proxy by the chairman will be entitled to vote.
- (b) a two thirds majority of those voting will be required for a vote to be carried.

9. ELECTION CANDIDATE SELECTION AND SUPPORT

9.1 The Committee shall appoint one of its number to fulfil the legal obligations of Nominating Officer as defined under the Legislation.

9.2 The Committee shall maintain a list of approved electoral candidates, where:

- (a) any Party member may put themselves forward to the Committee as a potential candidate by submitting such a request in writing together with the seconding signatures of two other Party members.
- (b) selection of approved candidates will be by processes determined by the Committee alone though such processes must include a vote by the party members.
- (c) suspension or termination of a Party member will immediately revoke their

status as an approved candidate.

(d) all other factors being equal, preference will be given to potential candidates currently living or working within the geographical boundaries of the electoral area to be contested.

9.3 The Party shall, where it is deemed possible and appropriate by the Committee, provide financial and logistical support to approved candidates prior to and during election campaigns.

10. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION STATUS

10.1 The Committee shall have the power, for cause, and having voted to act in such a manner by a two thirds majority, to terminate the membership of the Party of any member, or the affiliation status of any affiliated organisation.

10.2 Where the Committee acts under Article 10.1, the Chair shall give 14 days written notice to the party in question and inform them of their right to appeal the decision.

10.3 Should the party wish to exercise their right to appeal, they must inform the Committee of their intent to do so within 14 days of receipt of the notification of intent to terminate.

10.4 Any such appeal will be heard by the Judicial Committee, within a reasonable time frame. The Committee shall not dismiss the appeal unless:

- (a) the continued membership or affiliation would, in the opinion of the Committee, be contrary to the best interests of the Party;
- (b) the appellant consents;
- (c) the appellant fails to prosecute the appeal;
- (d) the membership or affiliation ends otherwise than under this clause;
- (e) the membership or affiliation ends by reason of default in the payment of a membership or affiliation fee.

10.5 Notification of the decision of the Committee shall be proved by recorded letter.

10.6 Where a termination is upheld, any monies previously paid by the appellant to the Party by way of, but not exclusively, membership or affiliation fees, shall remain the property of the Party.

11. AMENDMENT OF THIS CONSTITUTION

11.1 Proposals to amend this Constitution shall be submitted to the Committee.

11.2 In order for a motion to amend the Constitution to be carried an SGM must be called and a three quarters majority of those attending the SGM must vote in favour.

11.3 In order for a motion to amend Article 11.3 (this Article) or any of the clauses of Article 2 to be carried, unanimity of those attending and voting at the SGM must be achieved.

11.4 Where changes to the Constitution are adopted, they will come into force immediately following the close of the SGM at which the changes were made.

12. DISSOLUTION OF THE PARTY

12.1 If the party is unable to fill the required posts or comply with the requirements of the electoral commission an SGM must be called and the party must either resolve the issue or immediately dissolve.

12.2 Upon the completion of the accounts any finances held by the party will be donated to a local cause within the City of Derby which must be agreed by vote at the final SGM.