

Constitution of the Foundation Party

How the party is organised and governed



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1. Name

The Party is named the "Foundation Party" (referred to elsewhere in this document as the "Party").

2. Principles and Objectives

- 2.1. The fundamental political ideology underpinning the Party is a combination of classical liberalism and conservatism.
- 2.2. The Party's core political values are as follows:
 - 2.2.1. National independence, sovereignty and self-government
 - 2.2.2. Open and genuine democracy without subversion
 - 2.2.3. Individual freedom and liberty as the pathway to prosperity and happiness
 - 2.2.4. Controlled national borders as a basis for nationhood and democracy
 - 2.2.5. Freedom of speech and tolerance of views we do not approve
 - 2.2.6. Equal opportunity and judging people on individuality not group identity
 - 2.2.7. Scepticism of power and a preference for free choice
 - 2.2.8. Free market capitalism, free enterprise and free trade
 - 2.2.9. Limited government, low borrowing and fiscal discipline
 - 2.2.10. Local autonomy, strong local government and meaningful local democracy
 - 2.2.11. Rule of law with robust policing and criminal justice
 - 2.2.12. Strong national defence and a special loyalty to our Armed Forces
- 2.3. The Party's core objectives are as follows:
 - 2.3.1. To secure the election of Foundation Party candidates to parliaments, assemblies and councils across all tiers of government throughout the United Kingdom, as well as other public offices such as Police and Crime Commissioner.
 - 2.3.2. To amass popular support around the principles and priorities as defined in Articles 2.1 and 2.2, and influence the national debate and public opinion.

3. Membership

3.1. Basis of Membership

- 3.1.1. Membership of the Party is open to those who are aged 16 or over, not members of another political party and committed to the principles and political objectives of the Party.
- 3.1.2. Membership is not available to those whose aims and values are fundamentally different to that of the Party as defined by the Constitution and/or determined by the Steering Committee, as well as those found to be members or associates of organisations that are explicitly proscribed by the Party.
- 3.1.3. Members of the Party are entitled to participate in the Party Conference and cast a vote in the election of the Party Leader and, if relevant, other elected personnel.
- 3.1.4. The personal details including name and address of Members of the Party shall be held on the Party's Membership Database and will form the definitive list of Members.
- 3.1.5. The Membership Database is confidential and sensitive personal data under the Data Protection Act 2018, as amended, and subsequent legislation, and shall be treated as such. The Executive Committee shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the information contained in the Membership Database is used solely for Party purposes and is not disclosed to any persons other than persons authorised by the Executive Committee.

3.2. Refusal or Revocation of Membership

- 3.2.1. The Party reserves the right to reject the Membership application of any individual and to terminate the Membership of any individual, if that individual's conduct can be reasonably described as one of the following:
 - 3.2.1.1. in violation of the terms of the Party Constitution
 - 3.2.1.2. in support of another organisation whose values and aims are incompatible with the Party's values and aims as defined by the Constitution and/or determined by the Steering Committee
 - 3.2.1.3. an instance of bullying, defamation, harassment, intimidation or abuse
- 3.2.2. The decision to reject or terminate Membership will be taken by the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final. In the case of expulsion paid membership fees will not be refunded.

- 3.2.3. No-one who has been expelled from the Party Membership shall be eligible for readmission without the prior approval of the Steering Committee.

3.3. Registered Supporters

- 3.3.1. The Party shall maintain a list of Registered Supporters who are not Members, but have expressed their support for the Party and an intention to help develop and/or promote the Party.
- 3.3.2. Individuals may become a Registered Supporter at the invitation of the Steering Committee.
- 3.3.3. Registered Supporters may be invited by the Steering Committee or the Executive Committee to attend any event or meeting held by the Party, but may not participate in any committee meeting vote or cast a vote in any party election.
- 3.3.4. The personal details including name and address of Registered Supporters shall be held on the Party's Membership Database and will form the definitive list of Registered Supporters.

4. Party Officers

- 4.1. The Party has a **Party Leader** who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organisation and is responsible for the political vision and overall strategy for the Party in consultation with the Steering Committee, Executive Committee and Policy Committee, and is the Party's chief spokesperson.
- 4.2. The Party Leader shall be delegated responsibilities and authority from the Steering Committee as defined by Article 1 of the Steering Committee regulation [Delegation of Authority and Matters Reserved for the Steering Committee](#)
- 4.3. The Party has a **Party Chairman** who is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the organisation and is responsible for overseeing and supporting the administration of the Party in conjunction with the Chief of Staff and the Executive Committee, which he or she chairs, and is the Party's second most senior spokesperson.
- 4.4. The Party has a **Party Secretary** who is responsible for the legal compliance of the organisation, with outside authorities and the law as well as the Party's Constitution and rules of procedure, various clerical duties in support of the running of the organisation, and for managing all matters relating to party discipline in conjunction with the Party Chairman.
- 4.5. The Party has a **Chief of Staff** who is responsible for organising, coordinating and supervising the day-to-day administration and operations of the Party in accordance to

- the Party's strategy in conjunction with the Party Chairman and the Executive Committee, and for managing members of the Central Office Staff.
- 4.6. The Party has **Central Office Staff**, managed by the Chief of Staff (or the Party Chairman if the post of Chief of Staff is vacant), which is a body of professional staff and/or volunteers who execute the administrative and operational functions of the Party such as membership administration, public relations, communications, IT, digital media, creative design, etc.
 - 4.7. The Party has a **Finance Director** who is responsible for the management of the Party's finances, the overall financial health of the Party, legal compliance on financial matters, and fundraising strategy and the expansion of the Party's financial support.
 - 4.7.1. The Finance Director will be registered as the Party Treasurer with the Electoral Commission as required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), and assume the legal responsibilities as defined by the Electoral Commission.
 - 4.8. The Party has a **Field Director** who is responsible for the provision of resources and support for all Party activists, candidates and elected representatives, and the adherence of Party rules and the Code of Conduct, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, Regional Field Organisers and County Field Organisers.
 - 4.8.1. The Field Director will also fulfil the role of the Nominating Officer, responsible for issuing certificates of authorisation for use of the Party's name and descriptions on a ballot paper, a role required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), and will be registered as such with the Electoral Commission.
 - 4.9. A Member is deemed a Party Officer if they occupy one or more of the following posts:
 - 4.9.1. Party Leader
 - 4.9.2. Party Chairman
 - 4.9.3. Party Secretary
 - 4.9.4. Chief of Staff
 - 4.9.5. Finance Director
 - 4.9.6. Steering Committee Member
 - 4.9.7. Executive Committee Member
 - 4.9.8. Policy Committee Member
 - 4.9.9. Member of any committee or sub-committee established by the Steering Committee or Executive Committee
 - 4.9.10. Field Director
 - 4.9.11. Regional Field Organiser

4.9.12. County Field Organiser

- 4.10. All Party Officers, members of the Central Office Staff, elected Party representatives and election candidates will be subject to a Party Code of Conduct as determined by the Steering Committee or another committee operating on its behalf.

5. Structure and Organisation

5.1. Steering Committee

- 5.1.1. The Party has a Steering Committee that is the Party's governing decision-making body and is primarily responsible for Party strategy and general oversight.
- 5.1.2. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Party Leader.
- 5.1.3. The Steering Committee is made up of the following members with voting rights:
- 5.1.3.1. the Party Leader (Steering Committee Chair)
 - 5.1.3.2. the following Founding Members for as long as their membership is active and in good standing:
 - 5.1.3.2.1. Chris Mendes, Mary Lawes, David Hirst, Debbie Barwick and Gerald O'Brien
 - 5.1.3.3. four elected Members, each one residing in and representing Members from a distinct quadrant of the country defined as follows (based on the electoral regions of the UK's former Members of the European Parliament):
 - 5.1.3.3.1. North: North East Region, North West Region, Scotland
 - 5.1.3.3.2. East: Eastern Region, East Midlands Region, Yorkshire and the Humber
 - 5.1.3.3.3. South: London Region, South East Region, South West Region
 - 5.1.3.3.4. West: West Midlands Region, Northern Ireland, Wales
 - 5.1.3.4. up to three additional individuals, each either a Member or Registered Supporter, recommended by the Steering Committee
- 5.1.4. The Steering Committee is made up of the following members without voting rights:
- 5.1.4.1. the Party Chairman

- 5.1.5. The Steering Committee shall meet at least four times a year either in person or remotely. An emergency meeting may be called by the Steering Committee Chairman but notice of the meeting must be greater than 24 hours.
- 5.1.6. The Steering Committee shall be quorate when at least half of the elected or appointed committee members, with voting rights, are present. The Steering Committee Chairman shall be counted in the quorum.
- 5.1.7. Matters expressly reserved for the Steering Committee, falling outside any delegation policy, are defined by Article 4 of the Steering Committee regulation [Delegation of Authority and Matters Reserved for the Steering Committee](#)

5.2. Executive Committee

- 5.2.1. The Party has an Executive Committee that is responsible for the Party's operational and administrative decisions in conjunction with and under the leadership of the Party Chairman and for the Party's finances in conjunction with the party's Finance Director.
- 5.2.2. The Executive Committee is made up of the following personnel:
 - 5.2.2.1. Party Chairman (Executive Committee Chair)
 - 5.2.2.2. the Chief of Staff
 - 5.2.2.3. the Party Secretary
 - 5.2.2.4. the Finance Director
 - 5.2.2.5. the Field Director
 - 5.2.2.6. up to five additional individuals, each either a Member or Registered Supporter, proposed by the Party Chairman and approved by the Steering Committee
- 5.2.3. The Executive Committee is chaired by the Party Chairman.
- 5.2.4. The Party Leader may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee and participate fully but shall do so without voting rights.
- 5.2.5. The Executive Committee shall meet once a month or more frequently if deemed necessary, either in person or remotely. An emergency meeting may be called by the Executive Committee Chair but notice of the meeting must be greater than 24 hours.
- 5.2.6. The Executive Committee shall be quorate when at least three committee members, with voting rights, are present. The Executive Committee Chair shall be counted in the quorum.

- 5.2.7. Prior to the appointment of at least three members of the Executive Committee, the Steering Committee shall assume the role and responsibilities of the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.8. The Executive Committee shall be delegated responsibilities and authority from the Steering Committee as defined by Article 2 of the Steering Committee regulation [Delegation of Authority and Matters Reserved for the Steering Committee](#)

5.3. Policy Committee

- 5.3.1. The Party has a Policy Committee that is responsible for developing policy proposals, managing policy proposals submitted from elsewhere within the Party, and keeping Party spokespersons informed and up to date.
- 5.3.2. The Policy Committee is chaired by the Chief of Staff.
- 5.3.3. If the post of Chief of Staff is vacant, a member of the Policy Committee approved by the Steering Committee shall chair the Policy Committee until the post of Chief of Staff is filled.
- 5.3.4. The Policy Committee consists of up to twelve appointed Members or Registered Supporters recommended by the Party Leader and approved by the Steering Committee.
- 5.3.5. The Party Leader may attend any meeting of the Policy Committee and participate fully, but shall do so without voting rights.
- 5.3.6. The Party Leader may submit policy proposals to the Policy Committee for consultation and development purposes as a matter of priority. Regional Field Organisers and County Field Organisers, on behalf of their local Members, and Members themselves, may submit policy proposals to the Policy Committee.
- 5.3.7. The Policy Committee shall not accept and/or develop policy proposals that violate the Party's core principles as defined in this Constitution (see Article 2).
- 5.3.8. Prior to the appointment of at least three members of the Policy Committee, the Steering Committee shall assume the role and responsibilities of the Policy Committee.
- 5.3.9. The Party Leader shall decide whether policy proposals, submitted by the Policy Committee, or any other committee, or any member, are adopted or not adopted as official party policy.

5.4. Field Network

- 5.4.1. Regional Field Organisers and County Field Organisers shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers and election candidates in the grassroots effort to identify, persuade, and mobilise targeted voters.
- 5.4.2. The geographical areas covered by the Regional Field Organisers shall be as follows: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, West Midlands, East Midlands, South West, South East, Eastern and London.
- 5.4.3. The geographical areas covered by the County Field Organisers shall be the counties and metropolitan cities of the United Kingdom.

6. Internal Elections and Appointments

6.1. Party Leader

- 6.1.1. The term of office for the Party Leader shall be five years from his or her election as Party Leader.
- 6.1.2. The Party Leader shall be elected by a general membership vote on a joint ticket with a candidate for Party Chairman as his or her running mate.
- 6.1.3. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the election of the Party Leader and for determining and publishing the rules of procedure and timeline for the election beforehand.
- 6.1.4. Only Members of the Party over the age of 18 may stand for the post of Party Leader. Nominations must be supported by exactly 30 Members.
- 6.1.5. In the event of a vacancy due to resignation, death, incapacity, disqualification or expulsion, the Party Chairman shall become Interim Party Leader and arrange an election to be held within 12 weeks of the post being vacated.
- 6.1.6. A vote of no confidence in the Party Leader may be proposed as a result of a unanimous vote by the Steering Committee and passed by a simple majority vote by Members in attendance at Party Conference or Special Conference called for that purpose.

6.2. Party Chairman

- 6.2.1. The term of office for the Party Chairman shall be five years from his or her election as Party Chairman.
- 6.2.2. The Party Chairman shall be elected by a general membership vote on a joint ticket with a candidate for Party Leader as his or her running mate.

- 6.2.3. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the election of the Party Chairman and for determining and publishing the rules of procedure and timeline for the election beforehand.
- 6.2.4. Nominations must be supported by exactly 30 Members.
- 6.2.5. In the event of a vacancy due to resignation, death, incapacity, disqualification or expulsion, or because the Party Chairman has assumed the role of Interim Party Leader (see Article 6.1.5), the Steering Committee shall confirm the appointment of an Interim Chairman as proposed by the Party Leader (or Interim Party Leader) and arrange an election to be held within 12 weeks of the post being vacated.
- 6.2.6. A vote of no confidence in the Party Chairman may be proposed as a result of a unanimous vote by the Steering Committee and passed by a simple majority vote by Members in attendance at Party Conference or Special Conference called for that purpose.

6.3. Steering Committee Member

- 6.3.1. The term of office for a Steering Committee Member shall be two years from his or her election as a Steering Committee Member.
- 6.3.2. The Steering Committee Member shall be elected by a general membership vote.
- 6.3.3. The Steering Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the election of Steering Committee Members and for determining and publishing the rules of procedure and timeline for the election beforehand.
- 6.3.4. Only Members of the Party over the age of 18 may stand for the post of Steering Committee Member. Nominations must be supported by exactly 30 Members.
- 6.3.5. In the event of a vacancy due to resignation, death, incapacity, disqualification or expulsion, the Steering Committee shall arrange an election to be held within 12 weeks of the post being vacated.

6.4. Eligibility

- 6.4.1. To stand for election as Party Leader, Party Chairman or Steering Committee Member, or be appointed as an Executive Committee Member, Policy Committee Member, Central Office Staff Member, Field Organiser, or company director, or any other role that can be reasonably described as a senior manager, an individual must be:
 - 6.4.1.1. Over the age of 18
 - 6.4.1.2. A member of the Party in good standing
 - 6.4.1.3. Not be disqualified by the [automatic disqualification rules](#) by the Charity Commission in relation to charity trustees and senior managers

7. Donations

- 7.1. The Party has an upper limit on donations to the Party from any individual or company of £20,000 per year.
- 7.2. In the event that a donation is made to the Party that means the total amount donated by the donor during the financial year has exceeded the £20,000 per year donations cap, the amount over £20,000 will be refunded within 28 days.

8. Finances

- 8.1. The Steering Committee is responsible for setting and approving the party's Annual Budget for each financial year.
- 8.2. The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day finances of the Party in conjunction with the Finance Director.
- 8.3. The Finance Director shall keep accurate and up-to-date financial records and he or she holds overall responsibility for the Party's monetary transactions.
- 8.4. The Finance Director has the right to sit on any committee or to attend and address any meeting where decisions are being discussed with financial implications for the Party, and to do so before any relevant decision is taken.
- 8.5. The Steering Committee has the power to establish a company to acquire, hold and dispose of the assets of the Party.
 - 8.5.1. Directors of the company must only include each member of the Steering Committee whose membership is active and in good standing unless there is a potential conflict of interest.
 - 8.5.2. The Steering Committee shall have the power to add or remove Directors of such a company at any time.

9. Internal Democracy

- 9.1. Before internal elections can take place within the party, and before documents and regulations can be approved democratically by the Party membership, as mandated elsewhere in this Constitution, the Party must have a minimum of five hundred registered Party Members.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

- 10.1. After the threshold for internal democracy within the party has been met (see Article 9.1);
 - 10.1.1. This Constitution can only be amended by a two-thirds majority of voting Party Members, or a two-thirds majority of Party Members in attendance and voting at the Party Conference.
 - 10.1.2. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Steering Committee, Executive Committee, or any Regional or County Organiser having held a vote in an open meeting of his or her Members in the respective local area.
- 10.2. Before the threshold for internal democracy within the party has been met (see Article 9.1):
 - 10.2.1. this Constitution may be amended at will by the Steering Committee by simple majority vote.

11. Amendments to Regulations

- 11.1. After the threshold for internal democracy within the party has been met (see Article 9.1), the following Steering Committee regulations can only be amended by the same process for amending the Constitution (see Article 10):
 - 11.1.1. Delegation of Authority and Matters Reserved for the Steering Committee
- 11.2. Before the threshold for internal democracy within the party has been met (see Article 9.1), the following Steering Committee regulations may be amended at will by the Steering Committee by simple majority vote:
 - 11.2.1. Delegation of Authority and Matters Reserved for the Steering Committee

12. Interpretation

If there are any queries as to the interpretation of the Party Constitution or Steering Committee regulations, or if a matter arises which this Constitution does not address, they should be directed to the Executive Committee who shall give an appropriate ruling.