

Proposed amendments to Constitution relating to membership

	Rationale	Details
1. Subscriptions	The changes proposed below will require a new section in the Constitution	INSERT a new section, before Section 6. Annual General Meeting, with the heading Subscriptions. Renumber subsequent sections.
2. Giving Exec the right to amend subscriptions	The Constitution currently states that subscriptions should be set at the AGM. This limits the organisation's ability to adapt to changing circumstances: a constitutional change is currently required to adjust subscription levels!	<p>DELETE the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Any changes in the subscription shall be determined at the AGM" (3. Membership) • "to be determined at the Annual General Meeting" (4. Affiliated Organisations) • Section 6 (d) "set the level of subscription for Members and Supporters" • Section 23: Level of Subscriptions in its entirety <p>INSERT into the Subscriptions section:</p> <p>"Subscriptions for LCER membership and affiliation are set by the Executive Committee, and may be amended by majority vote at any meeting of the Executive Committee. "</p>
3. No retrospective changes to subscriptions	This clause makes clear that changes to membership fees are not retrospective.	<p>INSERT, in Subscriptions:</p> <p>"Amendments to charges will not be applied retrospectively: members will not be asked to pay a higher membership fee until their current membership expires. Different fees may apply according to the circumstances of members; all members have equal status regardless of the fee paid."</p>
4. Honorary membership	The Constitution currently states that only paid-up members may serve on the Executive. In fact, some members of the Exec do not pay subscriptions. The proposed amendment formalises a status of honorary membership.	<p>INSERT, in Subscriptions:</p> <p>"The Executive Committee may nominate certain individuals as honorary members of LCER, in recognition of an exceptional contribution."</p> <p>REPLACE all occurrences of "fully paid-up members" or "paid-up members" with "current members"</p>
5. Overdue and lapsed membership	<p>The Constitution currently makes no mention of the stage at which we deem membership to have lapsed.</p> <p>The proposed insertion brings LCER into line with membership policy in the Labour Party.</p>	<p>INSERT, in Subscriptions:</p> <p>"A grace period of 6 months operates in respect of overdue subscriptions. Individuals whose subscriptions are overdue by less than 6 months will retain the rights of current members of LCER, except that they may not stand for election to the Executive Committee; members renewing their subscription within the grace period will be considered as having unbroken membership.</p> <p>Subscriptions overdue by 6 months or more are defined as lapsed; individuals whose subscriptions have lapsed will no longer be considered as members of LCER, and will be considered as new members in the event that they re-join."</p>

6. Rights at AGM	The Constitution currently does not specify who is allowed to attend, or to vote at, the AGM.	<p>INSERT at the end of Section 6. Annual General Meeting</p> <p>“Attendance at the AGM is open to all; voting is restricted to current members of LCER (including those whose subscriptions are up to 6 months overdue). Non-members may speak at the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. Exceptionally, the Chair may ask non-members to leave the meeting during the discussion of sensitive agenda items.”</p>
7. Distinction between Members and Supporters	<p>The Constitution currently defines <i>members</i> (must be Labour Party members) and <i>supporters</i> (not Labour Party members, and not allowed to stand for the Executive).</p> <p>In fact it is impossible to record this accurately on the membership database because we can't check who is a Labour member, and people don't always tell us when they resign, lapse, re-join, etc. The distinction between members and supporters only matters in the run-up to Exec elections, and then we check people's Labour Party membership manually.</p> <p>The proposed change keeps the rules almost identical, but means our records don't have inbuilt inaccuracy.</p> <p>The one change is to require two, not six, weeks' membership before being allowed to vote in elections.</p> <p>The Constitution currently does not bar from membership people who are members of other political parties, or people who do not agree with the aims of LCER. The second sentence of the above proposed insertion formalises this, and makes it easier to suspend from the organisation, or the Executive, members who do not believe in LCER's aims.</p>	<p>DELETE Section 5. Supporters and renumber subsequent sections</p> <p>REPLACE the text of Section 3. Membership with:</p> <p>“Membership of LCER is open to all members and supporters of the Labour Party who agree with the aims of LCER. Persons not agreeing with the aims of LCER, or those belonging to a political party other than the Labour and Co-operative parties, are not eligible for membership of LCER.</p> <p>To be eligible to hold elected, co-opted or appointed office in LCER (including serving as an officer, on the Executive, or as a national or regional representative) a person must be a current member of both the Labour Party and LCER.</p> <p>All members and affiliated organisations may vote at a General Meeting. The rights of members and affiliated organisations to vote in elections for the Executive, or to take part in any other ballot or decision, shall come into effect two weeks after the date on which that person or organisation was recorded on the LCER database as becoming an LCER member or affiliated organisation.”</p> <p>REPLACE in Section 8. Executive:</p> <p>“ Candidates for election to the Executive must be paid up Members, and shall be entitled to distribute a statement”</p> <p>(after change 4, this would read “Candidates for election to the Executive must be current Members, and shall be entitled to distribute a statement....”</p> <p>With “Candidates for election to the Executive must be current Members of both LCER and the Labour Party, and shall be entitled to distribute a statement ...”</p> <p>DELETE references to Supporters</p>
8. Minor		In 1. Title: replace “(hereinafter known as LCER)” with “(hereinafter LCER)”