

Motion to change the Westminster selection rules to introduce the changes required by the York Federal Conference Diversity motion

1. English Council notes the need to amend the Westminster selection rules to implement the changes required by the Diversity Motion which was passed at the 2016 Federal Spring Conference in York.
2. English Council approves the new Westminster selection rules which
 - for a seat where the Liberal Democrats received more than 15% of the vote at the 2015 General Election, requires evidence to be provided of what has been done to encourage candidates from under-represented groups to come forward, by introducing a simple pro forma to be completed by the local party and handed to the RCC before selection starts.
 - introduce a rule that if any MP elected as a Liberal Democrat in the 2015 General Election decides not to contest the next General Election, his replacement must be selected from an all-women shortlist.
 - Where there are two or more non-held seats where the Liberal Democrats gained 25% or more of the General Election vote in May 2015 in any region of the English Party, introduce the requirement that before any selections for seats in this category can start in that region, the relevant Regional Executive must
 - i. Designate at least one of these seats to select its candidate from an all-women shortlist, and
 - ii. Ensure that the 'Transitional Arrangements for Selecting Westminster Candidates Prior to the 2015 – 2020 Parliament Boundary Changes' rules will apply if any of these seats are affected by boundary changes. The relevant regional executive must decide which, if any, successor seats required to run a full selection as a result of the boundary change are to select from an all-women shortlist so as to maintain at least the same number of all-women shortlists as there would be prior to the boundary change.
 - Where the Liberal Democrat parliamentary result at the 2015 General Election was in the 10% of seats which had the highest percentage vote without returning a Liberal Democrat MP, and the seat is not subject to an All-Women shortlist, introduces a requirement that shortlisting committees must, subject to sufficient applications, have due regard for under-represented groups and should include at least two candidates from under-represented groups.
 - introduce arrangements to permit any local party to choose an all-women shortlist, an all disabled shortlist or to reserve some spaces for candidates from under-represented groups.
 - require that in any seat a shortlist of 3 candidates must contain a minimum of one woman, a shortlist of 4 or 5 must include at least 2 women, and shortlists longer than 5 must include at least one-third women.

Note: The March 2016 York Federal Conference passed by a clear majority the motion to improve the diversity of our MPs. The attached rules have been amended with changes shown to allow the requirements of the Federal Conference motion to be implemented.