

Bunreacht  
Óige an Páirtí Sóisialta Daonlathach an Lucht Oibre



SDLP Youth  
Constitution

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## **PREAMBLE**

In supporting and retaining the Principles of Liberty, Equality and Unity, through the Will and Principles of the Youth of this Island and our Friends across the Seas, and our shared belief in the benefits of Socialism and Democracy:

**We**, the Members of SDLP Youth,

**Do** solemnly affirm to protect the voice and rights of the Young People of the island of Ireland, to strive towards our common goal of healing the divisions of the past that have separated the people of our native home through the prospect of a United Future and a New Ireland and to listen to, to stand up for, to support and to deliver for those in need of assistance.

**We** hereby pledge to remain in good faith of the People, not to deceive them.

**We** hereby pledge to declare our support and counsel to the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

**We** recognise that Humanity has been founded upon and undoubtedly relies upon our shared natural environment. We hereby pledge to strive to ensure the protection of our natural environment in order to guarantee that it efficiently provides for the essential benefit of future generations.

**We** will remember the efforts and sacrifices of the Civil Rights Movement in their struggle to achieve an equal future for the People of the North of Ireland. We recognise that their struggle, which has achieved more than can be expressed in words alone, continues to this day. Inspired by their achievements, we pledge to continue to strive for the Civil and Equal Rights to which all People on this Island and throughout the World are morally entitled.

**We** hereby pledge our allegiance to the unquestionable rights, voice and goodwill of the Young People across Ireland, her islands and seas, no matter their religion, beliefs, gender, nationality, race, sexual orientation, social background, ability nor disability.

In this, *mar is inár solas treorach í Éirinn* (as Ireland is our guiding light), we adopt and fulfil this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 1**                    *Name, Structure, Emblems and Interpretation*

### **1.1 Name**

The name of the political youth organisation for which this Constitution stands is SDLP Youth.

### **1.2 Structure**

1. SDLP Youth shall form the youth wing of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”).
2. SDLP Youth shall abide by the rules and regulations governing the Party as set forth by the Party Constitution and by the rules and regulations as set forth by this Constitution and shall function, be organised and structured in the form set forth by this Constitution.
3. Should there be a contradiction between this Constitution and the Party Constitution, the Party Constitution shall prevail.

### **1.3 Emblems**

1. The official emblem of SDLP Youth shall only be adopted by means of a motion ratified by the Youth Conference, provided that at least two-thirds of Delegates present and voting approve the motion. Once it has been ratified by the Youth Conference, the proposed emblem must then receive the approval of the Party Executive Committee within 6 weeks of the closing of the Youth Conference in order for it to be deemed to have been adopted as the official emblem of SDLP Youth.
2. The motion to adopt the proposed emblem must be submitted to the Conference Organisation Committee by either:
  - a. the Youth Executive;
  - b. the Youth Council; or
  - c. one-third of the Branches.
3. SDLP Youth may use other emblems associated with the Party and its affiliated organisations and also other emblems as it deems fit to represent itself, with the approval of the Party Executive Committee.

### **1.4 Interpretation**

The Party General Secretary (in consultation with the Youth Executive) will provide the advice and final word on any dispute or grievance regarding the interpretation of the wording of this Constitution, or in any issue or grievance affecting SDLP Youth that may arise which is not covered or foreseen by this Constitution, or on any matter arising regarding the compliance of this Constitution with the Party Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 2**                    *Principles and Objects*

The Principles and Objects of SDLP Youth shall be as follows:

1. To foster and support a new generation of young people who are actively campaigning across every level of the Party and society in Ireland with the aim to aspire towards and to fulfil these Principles and Objects;
2. To organise and maintain in Northern Ireland a Socialist political youth movement;
3. To promote the policies decided upon by the Youth Conference and the Party Conference;
4. To strive towards a United Future through the promotion of a United Ireland and unity among the people of Ireland through agreed and mandated political structures and institutions, with the common goal of healing the divisions of the past that have separated the people of Ireland;
5. To organise and participate in campaigns and other activities and to support the Party in its general activities and in its aim to contest elections in Northern Ireland with a view to securing the implementation of the following policies:
  - a. the promotion of the general welfare of all young people across Ireland and elsewhere, with the aim to ensure that all young people have the ability to take hold of the opportunities available to them and to improve and increase these opportunities;
  - b. the creation of a society based on social justice and equality of opportunity and the promotion of economic development which combats social exclusion and poverty to achieve fairness for all;
  - c. the abolition of all forms of discrimination based upon religion, gender, age, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, class, social background, political belief or sexual orientation and the promotion of equality for all;
  - d. the promotion of arts and culture with a special responsibility to cherish and develop all the diverse aspects of our national cultures;
  - e. the public ownership and democratic control of such essential industries and services as the common good requires; and
  - f. the protection of the environment in order to guarantee that it efficiently provides for the essential benefit of future generations through sustainable development and the achievement of social and economic justice for all of the people;
6. To take an active and integral part in the functions and activities of the Party;
7. To recruit and involve young people in schools, colleges and in third-level education, those in employment and without work to the Party, in co-operation with the Party leadership, the Assembly/Parliamentary Group, the Association of SDLP Councillors and, in the case of SDLP Youth Branches, in co-operation with Party Branches, Constituency Councils and District Executives;
8. To work for the full participation of women in social, economic and public life on the basis of full equality;
9. To engage and co-operate with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and other social and economic organisations in campaigns and other activities;
10. To become an active member of the Young European Socialists and the International Union of Socialist Youth and to engage and co-operate with other political youth organisations;
11. To support the political and social structures and institutions of the European Union, to strive for the maintenance and improvement of relations amongst the nations of Europe and to ensure that the benefits of co-operating with fellow European neighbours are made available to all members of society in Ireland and in Europe;
12. To work for unity and harmony among the peoples of the world, to end divisions based upon religion, ethnic origin or perceived national identity and to promote a new international order of peace and justice throughout the world; and
13. To combat corruption, exploitation, oppression and intimidation in all areas of society at home and abroad.

## **ARTICLE 3**                      *Relationship with the other Party Structures*

### **3.1 The Party Executive Committee**

1. The Chair shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Party Executive Committee.
2. The Chair will be main spokesperson for SDLP Youth on the Party Executive Committee and will ensure the maintenance of the links and the good relationship between the Party and SDLP Youth.

### **3.2 The Party Conference and the Party Central Council**

1. The Youth Council shall elect two Full Members to represent SDLP Youth as Delegates to the Party Conference and to the Party Central Council. These Delegates shall be elected by means of the Single Transferable Vote at a meeting of the Youth Council held no earlier than 60 days and no later than 14 days prior to the opening of the Party Conference or the Party Central Council respectively. If a Delegate is unable to attend and vote at the Party Conference or at the Party Central Council, the Youth Executive may appoint an Alternate in their place. The Chair shall be responsible for informing the Party Executive Committee of the details of the Delegates and, if required, their Alternates. The Chair shall be ineligible to serve as a Delegate or as an Alternate.
2. SDLP Youth members who wish to submit motions or amendments to motions to the Party Conference or to the Party Central Council through SDLP Youth may submit these motions or amendments to the Youth Council. The Youth Council may approve, amend or reject these motions or amendments. Any motions or amendments which have been approved or amended by the Youth Council shall be submitted to the Party Executive Committee by the Youth Executive.

### **3.3 The Party Groups and Committees**

1. The Youth Executive will be responsible for SDLP Youth engagement with:
  - a. the Party Standing Committees; and
  - b. the SDLP Women's Group; and
  - c. the Assembly/Parliamentary Group; and
  - d. the Association of SDLP Councillors.
2. SDLP Youth Branches may also engage with
  - a. the SDLP Women's Group; and
  - b. the SDLP Assembly/Parliamentary Group with assistance from their respective Constituency Council Youth Organiser; and
  - c. the Association of SDLP Councillors with assistance from their respective District Executive Youth Organiser.

### **3.4 The Party Treasurer and the Party Treasury**

All financial relationships between SDLP Youth and the other Party structures are set forth by Article 10.

### **3.5 The Party Support Groups**

The Youth Executive will be responsible for SDLP Youth engagement with the Party Support Groups. The Party Support Group Youth Organisers shall ensure that SDLP Youth Associate Members of the respective Party Support Group remain involved within the Party and within SDLP Youth and will be in charge of the recruitment of young people to the Party within their respective functional areas.

### **3.6 The Third-Level Societies, SDLP Youth Branches and the Party Branches**

1. The Secretary shall ensure that all members of Third-Level Societies are informed of the details of their respective local SDLP Youth Branches and their respective local Party Branches in order to encourage them to remain active within SDLP Youth and within the Party.
2. The Secretary shall inform the Branch Secretaries of all (if any) members of Third-Level Societies who are eligible to be members of their respective Branch.

3. The Branch Secretary shall inform the Party Branch in question of all (if any) members of Third-Level Societies who are eligible to be members of the Party Branch in question.
4. In cases where there is no SDLP Youth Branch, the Secretary shall inform the Party Branch in question of all (if any) members of Third-Level Societies who are eligible to be members of the Party Branch in question.

### **3.7 The Party Branches, Constituency Councils and District Executives**

1. The Branch Youth Organiser, the Constituency Council Youth Organiser and the District Executive Youth Organiser shall be the main spokesperson on behalf of the local SDLP Youth Branch to the Party Branch, the Constituency Council and the District Executive respectively.
2. The Branch Youth Organiser, the Constituency Council Youth Organiser and the District Executive Youth Organiser:
  - a. shall update the local SDLP Youth Branch on issues and activities relating to or being participated in by their respective Party body; and
  - b. shall engage with the local SDLP Youth Branch in order to ensure that SDLP Youth members who are members of their respective Party body remain involved in their respective Party body and to encourage SDLP Youth participation in issues and activities regarding and/or being participated in by their respective Party body.

### **3.8 The Principal Youth Organiser**

1. All SDLP Youth Branches shall determine in their respective Branch Standing Orders which of the local Youth Organisers shall be the Principal Youth Organiser for the Branch.
2. The Branches may select either:
  - a. the Constituency Council Youth Organiser; or
  - b. the District Executive Youth Organiser; or
  - c. the Branch Youth Organiser (in the case of SDLP Youth Branches whose functional area does not exceed the functional area of more than one Party Branch); or
  - d. a local elected representative;
 as the Principal Youth Organiser.
3. A Branch may have no more than one Principal Youth Organiser but a Principal Youth Organiser may be the Principal Youth Organiser for more than one Branch.
4. The Principal Youth Organiser shall ensure the maintenance of the local SDLP Youth Branch(es) and shall co-ordinate the Constituency Council Youth Organiser, the District Executive Youth Organiser and the Branch Youth Organisers operating in the functional area of the SDLP Youth Branch in question.
5. The Principal Youth Organiser shall ensure a direct link between the local SDLP Youth Branch and the local Party structures.
6. In cases where there is no SDLP Youth Branch, the Constituency Council Youth Organiser, the District Executive Youth Organiser and the Branch Youth Organiser will ensure that SDLP Youth members in their respective functional areas remain involved in the Party and in SDLP Youth and will be in charge of the recruitment of young people to the Party within their respective functional areas.

### **3.9 General Provisions**

The Youth Executive shall engage with the Principal Youth Organisers, the Constituency Council Youth Organisers, the District Executive Youth Organisers and the Branch Youth Organisers to ensure the functioning of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 4**                      *Membership*

### **4.1 Full Membership**

1. Full Membership of SDLP Youth is open to any person who:
  - a. supports the Party, subscribes to the Principles and Objects of the Party and accepts the Party Constitution and this Constitution;

- b. is a member of the Party;
  - c. has reached at least 16 years of age and has not reached 31 years of age;
  - d. normally resides within the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland; and
  - e. is not a member of another Political Party, nor affiliated to another Political Party, within the Jurisdiction of Northern Ireland.
2. Party members between 16 years of age and 25 years of age inclusive shall be automatically deemed to be SDLP Youth members. Party members between 26 years of age and 30 years of age inclusive may elect to join SDLP Youth.

#### **4.2 Associate Membership**

1. If an applicant for Full Membership does not fulfil one or more of the requirements listed in Clause 1.1 of this Article (with the exception of Subsections a), e) and f) thereof) they may still be able to apply for Associate Membership of SDLP Youth if they:
  - a. have reached fifteen years of age, but have not reached sixteen years of age; or
  - b. normally reside outside the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland but are either an individual associate Party member, or a member of a Support Group thereof or a Third-Level Society situated outside the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland; or
  - c. are a member of, or affiliated to, another Political Party outside the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland (as long as the Political Party in question is included in a list approved by the Party Executive Committee).
2. Should an Associate Member who was classified as being only eligible for Associate Membership under the terms established by this Clause become eligible for Full Membership, they shall be able to remain as an Associate Member for a period of 42 days from the date upon which they become eligible for Full Membership. At the conclusion of this period, if they have not yet applied for Full Membership in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article, they shall be deemed to have resigned their Associate Membership and they shall have no standing within SDLP Youth. If, within the aforementioned period of 42 days, they have applied for Full Membership, their Associate Membership shall, if necessary, be extended by the Secretary until they have been officially deemed to have become a Full Member.
3. If a Full Member ceases to have Full Membership, or ceases to be eligible for Full Membership, they shall be deemed to have become an Associate Member if they remain eligible for Associate Membership. Should this occur, they shall have a period of 42 days during which to apply for Associate Membership, or Full Membership (should they be eligible for Full Membership), in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article. At the conclusion of this period, if they have not yet applied for Associate Membership or Full Membership, they shall be deemed to have resigned their Associate Membership and they shall have no standing within SDLP Youth. This Section shall not apply to those who had willingly resigned from Full Membership whilst they were still eligible for Full Membership.

#### **4.3 Applications for Membership**

1. Applications for Party Membership shall be made through the method as defined by the Party.
2. Party Members between the ages of sixteen years and twenty-five years inclusive, and those members between the ages of twenty-six years and thirty years inclusive who elect to become SDLP Youth members in accordance with Clause 1.2 of this Article, shall be informed by the Party of the details of the local SDLP Youth Branch within whose functional area they normally reside. The Party shall also forward the details of these members to the local SDLP Youth Branch. If there is no SDLP Youth Branch in the area in which they normally reside, their details shall be forwarded to the Secretary and the member shall be registered as an



Individual Member. The member shall also be informed by the Secretary regarding other SDLP Youth Branches to which the member may have a *bone fide* connection.

3. Those Party members who are deemed to automatically be SDLP Youth members shall not have to apply for membership paperwork; however, those Party members who elect to become SDLP Youth members must apply for SDLP Youth membership. This application may be made to the Secretary or to the local SDLP Youth Branch of the applicant in question.
4. Applications for Associate Membership may be made to the Secretary or to the local SDLP Youth Branch of the applicant in question.
5. The form of the paperwork required for Full Membership or Associate Membership shall be determined by the Secretary with the approval of the Youth Executive.

#### **4.4 Membership Fees**

1. Party members who are also SDLP Youth members shall pay an annual membership fee and any additional fees as appropriate as established by the Party. These members shall not be required to pay additional membership fees as SDLP Youth members.
2. Associate Members shall pay an annual membership fee as established by the Youth Conference. The period in which to pay this fee shall be the same period as that of the Full-Membership fee, as established by the Party Constitution. This fee must be less than that of the Full Membership fee. Should a decrease in the Full Membership fee result in the Full Membership fee being equal to or lower than the Associate Membership fee, the Treasurer (with the agreement of the Chair) shall, as soon as practicable, sign a written order to decrease the Associate Membership fee as appropriate. This order may be accepted or amended (but not rejected) by the Youth Council at the next immediate meeting thereof following the signing of the order.
3. A proportion of the Full Membership fees shall be paid into the Youth Treasury. This proportion shall be decided upon by the Party Conference through a vote on a motion jointly proposed by the Youth Executive and the Party Executive Committee.
4. Associate Membership fees shall be paid into the Youth Treasury.
5. SDLP Youth Branch members may be asked, from time to time, to make a small, voluntary financial contribution towards the maintenance of their Branch.
6. Only paid-up members may stand for election within SDLP Youth in accordance with this Constitution.

#### **4.5 The Register of Members**

1. The Secretary must maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of all Full Members and Associate Members, which must be divided into:
  - a. all Party members between sixteen and twenty-five years of age inclusive, who are automatically deemed to be Full Members;
  - b. all Party members aged between twenty-six and thirty years of age inclusive, who have elected to become Full Members; and
  - c. all Associate Members.
2. The Secretary must also include the details of each Full Member and each Associate Member, including the Constituency, District Council Area and District Electoral Area in which they reside, whether they have paid their Membership fees or not and, if applicable, the Party Branch and the registered SDLP Youth Branch and/or registered Third-Level Society of which they are a member.
3. The Secretary must regularly engage with the Branch Secretaries in order to ensure that Section 1 of this Clause is maintained.

#### **4.6 Members of a Registered Branch**

1. All SDLP Youth members shall have the ability to join a Branch as long as they:
  - a. reside within the functional area of the Branch; or
  - b. prove that they have a *bone fide* connection with the Branch.

2. Should a member not reside within the functional area of any Branch, or fail to prove that they have a *bone fide* connection with any Branch, they may choose to apply to become a member of their closest Branch.
3. No member may be a member of another Branch, registered or suspended, with the exception of Third-Level Societies in accordance with this Constitution.
4. Members of a registered Branch shall have functions and duties in accordance with this Constitution.
5. Members of a registered Branch may have other entitlements in accordance with this Constitution.
6. Members of a registered Branch may transfer their membership to another Branch, with the consent of that other Branch, as long as they are eligible for membership of that Branch. Following the receiving of confirmation of that consent from the Secretary of that other Branch, the Secretary shall re-register that member accordingly.

**4.7 Individual Members, Members of Suspended Branches and Members of Dissolved Branches**

1. SDLP Youth members may choose not to join a Branch. In this case, they may apply to the Secretary to be registered as an Individual Member.
2. A member of a Branch which has been suspended may transfer to, and be registered by the Secretary as a member of, another Branch (with the consent of that other Branch). In default of this, they shall be deemed to have become a member of a suspended Branch and shall be registered as such by the Secretary.
3. A member of a Branch which has been dissolved, or is deemed to have been dissolved, may, within 90 days from the day of the dissolution, transfer to, and be registered by the Secretary as a member of, another Branch (with the consent of that other Branch). In default of such a transfer by that date, that member shall be deemed to have become an Individual Member and shall be registered as such by the Secretary.
4. Individual Members and members of suspended Branches shall have rights, functions and duties as outlined by this Constitution.

**4.8 Resignation, Suspension or Removal of Membership**

1. SDLP Youth members may cease to be a member through the following methods:
  - a. the failure to pay membership fees for two consecutive years; or
  - b. a written resignation of membership, signed by the member in question, presented by the member to their Branch Chair or Branch Secretary, or to the Secretary of SDLP Youth; or
  - c. the removal of the member from the Register of Members in accordance with the methods established by Sections 2 to 4 of this Clause; or
  - d. whenever a member reaches thirty-one years of age; or
  - e. whenever an Associate Member who is an Associate Member only by virtue of being fifteen years of age reaches sixteen years of age without applying for Full Membership.
2. If a Full Member or Associate Member has been found and deemed by the Youth Executive to be ineligible for Full Membership or Associate Membership, the Youth Executive may resolve that the Full Member or Associate Member be removed from the Register of Members. The Full Member or Associate Member shall then be suspended from the Register of Members and the Youth Executive shall inform them of their suspension within 24 hours of the decision; the suspension shall last for the period as prescribed by Section 3 of this Clause.
3. A Full Member or Associate Member suspended in this manner may appeal this decision within 45 days through the Appeals procedure as outlined by Article 11. Should the Full Member or Associate Member fail to make an appeal to the decision within the period aforementioned, or should the appeal result in the decision of the Youth Executive being

upheld, they shall be deemed to have been removed from their Full Membership or Associate Membership.

4. A Full Member or Associate Member may also have their membership suspended or removed following a Complaints and Appeals procedure in accordance with Article 11.

#### **4.9 Basic Rights and Entitlements of Members**

1. Any person who is an SDLP Youth member conforming to and fulfilling the requirements for SDLP Youth membership as set forth by this Article and who is willing to pay the respective membership fees shall be awarded certain rights and entitlements as outlined by this Clause.
2. All SDLP Youth members shall have the right:
  - a. to attend meetings of SDLP Youth bodies of which they are a member of or which they are given the right to attend meetings of in accordance with this Constitution (SDLP Youth bodies may invite SDLP Youth members who are not members of the body in question to their meetings);
  - b. to participate in voting and elections subject to Clause 10 of this Article and to stand for election, to positions within SDLP Youth subject to this Constitution;
  - c. to attend meetings of SDLP Youth bodies at which an election is being held in which they are standing as a Candidate;
  - d. to raise Points of Order or Information at meetings;
  - e. to be provided with and read any relevant SDLP Youth documents;
  - f. to participate in the discussion of SDLP Youth policy and Party policy at meetings and to make suggestions and proposals regarding Party policy and SDLP Youth policy; and
  - g. to put forward any complaint, appeal or other request with regards to disciplinary action in accordance with Article 11.
3. All SDLP Youth members shall have other rights and entitlements in accordance with this Constitution and the Party Constitution.
4. SDLP Youth members shall not be deprived of any of the aforementioned basic rights and entitlements unless they are suspended:
  - a. as an SDLP Youth member; or
  - b. as a member of an SDLP Youth body; or
  - c. from an official position within SDLP Youth (with regards to the position they hold);
 in accordance with this Constitution.

#### **4.10 Voting Rights of Members**

1. Associate Members shall:
  - a. have voting rights at Branch meetings, including at the Annual General Meeting;
  - b. not be able to stand for election for any position within SDLP Youth, except with regards to positions within Third-Level Societies outside the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland or Delegates from these Third-Level Societies to the Youth Council;
  - c. be entitled to attendance and speaking rights at the Youth Conference but they shall not have voting rights thereof.
2. Members of Third-Level Societies who are Party members but are not SDLP Youth members shall have the right to vote at meetings of the Third-Level Society.
3. Members shall only have voting rights if they have paid the relevant membership fees or levy prior to the deadlines for paying up any membership fees or levy in accordance with this Constitution.
4. Members of Branches, Third-Level Societies, the Youth Executive, the Youth Conference, the Youth Council, the Committees and any *ad hoc* committees established shall have voting rights at meetings of the bodies of which they are members, subject to this Constitution.
5. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote each. Chairpersons of meetings shall have the right to cast an additional vote in accordance with Article 9;

6. All members shall have the ability to exercise their vote in accordance with Article 9; however, no member may have the right to vote at a meeting of an SDLP Youth body of which they are not a member;
7. SDLP Youth members shall not be deprived of any of the above basic rights and entitlements unless they are suspended:
  - a. as an SDLP Youth member; or
  - b. as a member of an SDLP Youth body; or
  - c. from an official position within SDLP Youth;
 in accordance with this Constitution.

#### **4.11 Duties of Members**

1. It shall be the duty of all SDLP Youth members:
  - a. to promote the policy decided upon by SDLP Youth;
  - b. to support the Party;
  - c. to attend and participate in as many meetings of SDLP Youth (of which they have the right to attend) as practicable and as many events organised or otherwise engaged in by SDLP Youth as practicable;
  - d. to make use of the rights to which they are entitled in accordance with this Constitution;
  - e. to subscribe to this Constitution; and
  - f. to fulfil and subscribe to the Principles and Objects of SDLP Youth as outlined by Article 2.
2. It shall be the duty of all Full Members to attend and participate in as many meetings of the Party (of which they have the right to attend) as practicable and as many events organised or otherwise engaged in by the Party as practicable.
3. It shall be the duty of all elected officials within SDLP Youth to exercise all of the functions and duties prescribed to them by this Constitution when required.

## **ARTICLE 5**            *The Branch*

### **5.1 Definition of 'Branch'**

1. The Branch is the basic unit of organisation within SDLP Youth.
2. A Branch may be established in any ward, or combination of wards under the methods set forth by Clause 3 of this Article and in compliance with the rules and regulations as established by this Constitution.
3. The boundaries of the functional area of a Branch must not cross the boundaries of another Branch.
4. After the establishment of a Branch has been approved by the Youth Executive, it must be registered by the Secretary.
5. In order to remain registered with SDLP Youth, a Branch must follow the rules and regulations as outlined by this Constitution.
6. All SDLP Youth members shall have the ability to join a Branch as long as they comply with Article 4.6.
7. The name of each Branch shall be 'SDLP Youth' followed by the name of the Branch's local functional area.
8. A Branch must have a minimum of five members, as defined by this Constitution. Any Associate Members, who are members of a Branch, shall be counted towards this number.

### **5.2 Definition of 'Third-Level Society'**

1. A Third-Level Society may be established at a University or other Institution of Third-Level Education, in compliance with the rules and regulations established by this Constitution and any rules and regulations established by the University or Institution of Third-Level

Education in question. Third-Level Societies may be established at Universities or Institutions of Third-Level Education may be outside Northern Ireland.

2. A Third-Level Society may be established by the Youth Executive with the approval of the Party Executive Committee, following consultation with the Youth Council, SDLP Youth members who would be members of the proposed Third-Level Society and, if necessary, the University or Institution of Third-Level Education in question, in compliance with the rules and regulations established by this Constitution and any rules and regulations established by the University or Institution of Third-Level Education in question.
3. After a Third-Level Society has been established by the Youth Executive and approved by the Party Executive Committee, it must be registered as an affiliated Third-Level Society by the Secretary.
4. In order to remain affiliated with SDLP Youth, a Third-Level Society must follow the rules and regulations as set forth by this Constitution and the Party Constitution along with any rules and regulations as established by the University or Institution of Third-Level Education in question.
5. Membership of a Third-Level Society will be open to Party members and/or Associate members who regularly attend and are registered as a student at the university or institution of third-level education at which the Third-Level Society in question functions.
6. Members of Third-Level Societies shall have the right and ability to join one other Branch, as long as they comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by this Constitution.
7. A Third-Level Society must have a minimum of five members or a number determined by any rules and regulations as established by the University or Institution of Third-Level Education in which it functions, whichever figure is greater.
8. Should the rules and regulations as established by the University or Institution of Third-Level Education regarding the election of the Officers of a Third-Level Society differ from those as set forth by this Constitution, the rules and regulations established by the University or Institution of Third-Level Education shall prevail.
9. Notwithstanding the fact that Third-Level Societies are not SDLP Youth Branches, hereinafter, within this Constitution (with the exception of Clause 3.1 of this Article), unless expressed otherwise, the term 'Branch' shall be interpreted to include Third-Level Societies.

### **5.3 Establishment of a New Branch**

1. A Branch may be established in any ward or combination of wards, with the approval of the Youth Executive, following consultation with the Youth Council and SDLP Youth members who would be members of the proposed Branch, in compliance with the rules and regulations established by this Constitution.
2. When a new Branch has been established and registered by the Secretary, the Chair shall set it a deadline of 6 weeks from its establishment to comply with the rules and regulations governing Branches as established by this Article.
3. During this period, the new Branch shall be entitled to send Delegates to the Youth Council; however, the Delegates shall not be entitled to voting rights at meetings of the Youth Council until the aforementioned rules and regulations have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Youth Executive.

### **5.4 Authority, Powers and Rights of Branches**

1. The Branch shall perform the main organisation of SDLP Youth and its members within its defined functional area or functional University or Institution of Third-Level Education.
2. All Branches shall make an annual report to the Youth Executive on their activities.
3. Branches shall send Delegates or, when appropriate, Alternates to the Youth Council.
4. Branches shall support the Party within their local functional areas or through their functional University or Institution of Third-Level Education.
5. Branches shall provide for the direct co-operation between SDLP Youth members and other Party members within their local functional areas or through their functional University or

Institution of Third-Level Society and shall encourage members to take an active part in the functions and activities of the Party.

6. Branches shall organise activities within their defined functional area or functional University or Institution of Third-Level Education for members to participate in.
7. Branches shall co-operate and engage with the Youth Executive in order to ensure the effective organisation of SDLP Youth nationally and locally.
8. Branches may establish relations with other Branches in accordance with the provisions set forth by Clause 12 of this Article.
9. Branches are encouraged to form working relationships with other political youth organisations which fall under the criteria as provided by Article 6.2.2. The Youth Executive shall work with the Branches and assist them in maintaining International Relations. The Youth Executive in order to ensure that the Branch's International Relations are in line with SDLP Youth policy. The Branch must receive the approval of the Youth Executive before engaging in International Relations.
10. Branches may establish *ad hoc* sub-committees, the powers of which shall be defined by the Branches as long as these powers comply with this Constitution and do not exceed the powers assigned to the Branch by this Constitution.
11. Branches shall have the right to establish their own respective Standing Orders. Branch Standing Orders shall only be able to be amended or suspended by a two-thirds' majority vote of the members of the Branch in attendance. Branch Standing Orders must be consistent with this Constitution.
12. Branches shall have other rights, functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

#### **5.5 Meetings**

1. Each Branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as an AGM) by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year and shall hold a minimum of five other meetings during the year, or additionally as required by the Branch Chair.
2. The Branch Chair shall determine the date and time of meetings.
3. A Joint Branch Meeting shall be deemed to be a Branch meeting with regards to all Branches involved in the said Joint Branch Meeting for the purposes of this Article.
4. A Branch Meeting shall only be deemed to be official and able to function if a quorum of the Branch membership (as provided by the Branch Standing Orders) is in attendance at the meeting.

#### **5.6 Structure of Branches**

1. The Branch shall elect at the AGM, by means of the Alternative Vote, a Branch Chair, a Branch Vice-Chair, a Branch Secretary, a Branch Treasurer and any other officer which it may from time-to-time deem necessary in accordance with the provisions of Clause 11 of this Article.
2. These members shall not be considered to hold rank above another member of the Branch.
3. No Branch member may hold more than one officer position, with the exception of cases in which a member is carrying out the duties of a position on an acting basis during a casual vacancy in the position.
4. The number of Branch Officers must not exceed the number of Branch members.
5. All Branch Officers shall serve until the next AGM or, in the case of acting-Branch Officers, until an election is held to fill the vacancy. All Branch Officers shall be entitled to stand for re-election at any time.
6. With regards to this Article, should the membership of a Third-Level Society be less than four, the Branch Secretary or the Branch Treasurer may also act as Branch Vice-Chair, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Third-Level Society.
7. All Branch Officers must subscribe to their respective declarations of office in order to enter into their office.

### **5.7 The Branch Chair**

1. The functions and duties of the Branch Chair will involve:
  - a. the chairing of Branch meetings;
  - b. the ability to call Branch meetings;
  - c. being responsible for deciding the agenda of meetings and the direction of the Branch;
  - d. the declaration of how the Branch has voted following divisions;
  - e. in the event of a drawn vote, the Branch Chair must cast the deciding vote;
  - f. the retaining of order, unity and stability amongst the members of the Branch;
  - g. guiding the Branch and setting the direction of the Branch; and
  - h. being the public representative of the Branch.
2. The Branch Chair may delegate any of their functions and duties to the Branch Vice-Chair.
3. The Branch Chair may delegate tasks and responsibilities to other Branch Officers or Branch members.
4. The Branch Chair may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

### **5.8 The Branch Vice-Chair**

1. The Branch Vice-Chair shall assist the Branch Chair in the carrying out of their functions and duties.
2. The Branch Vice-Chair shall deputise for the Branch Chair in the event of the absence of the Branch Chair, or whenever the Branch Chair is unable to carry out their functions and duties.
3. The Branch Vice-Chair may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

### **5.9 The Branch Secretary**

1. The Branch Secretary must compile a list of the Branch members, to be divided into:
  - a. Paid-up Full Members;
  - b. Paid-up Associate Members;
  - c. Branch Officers;
  - d. Full Members who were paid-up for the previous financial year; and
  - e. Associate Members who were paid-up for the previous financial year.
2. The functions and duties of the Branch Secretary will involve:
  - a. assisting and engaging with the Secretary of SDLP Youth for the maintaining and updating of the Register of Members as outlined by Article 4.5;
  - b. taking minutes of each Branch meeting, including any actions agreed to by the Branch at these meetings, and also ensuring that these minutes are distributed to all Branch members and all those who are entitled to attend Branch meetings; and
  - c. assisting the Branch Chair and Branch Vice-Chair in drafting an agenda for Branch meetings.
3. The Branch Secretary may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

### **5.10 The Branch Treasurer**

1. The Branch Treasurer shall be the head of the Branch Treasury and shall operate the finances of the Branch.
2. The Branch Treasurer shall keep all appropriate accounts and financial books. The standard and nature to which the Branch Treasurer must keep these accounts and financial books shall be determined in greater detail by the Branch with the approval of the Youth Executive.
3. The Branch Treasurer shall engage and co-operate with the Treasurer of SDLP Youth for the purposes of the maintenance of the Youth Treasury and shall carry out any function and duties prescribed to the Branch Treasurer by Article 10. Each Third-Level Society is required to forward annually to the Registered Treasurer, of their Accounting Unit, for each year a

statement of the financial position of the Third-Level Society in compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

4. The Branch Treasurer may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

#### **5.11 Other Positions within the Branch**

1. The Branch may create additional officer positions as it deems fit by passing a motion to create the position.
2. The Branch may define the functions and duties of the additional position by motions or Standing Orders. Any motion passed defining the functions and duties of an additional position must be included in the minutes.

#### **5.12 The Joint Branch Meeting**

1. Branches may form a working relationship between each other through the holding of Joint Branch Meetings.
2. The Officers of the Joint Branch Meeting shall be constituted as follows:
  - a. the Branch Chairs involved shall act as Co-Chairs of the Joint Branch Meeting. They shall be equal to one another;
  - b. the Branch Vice-Chairs shall deputise for their respective Branch Chair;
  - c. the Secretary of the Joint Meeting shall be the Secretary of the Branch hosting the Joint Branch Meeting; and
  - d. any other positions to which the Joint Branch Meeting may agree.
3. The Joint Branch Meeting shall be held as required by the agreement of the Co-Chairs.
4. The location of the Joint Branch Meeting must be in the functional area or the functional University or Institution of Third-Level Education of a Branch involved.
5. The Joint Branch Meeting shall consist of at least two Branches (but no more than five Branches).
6. The Joint Branch Meeting shall have the ability to set and amend its own Standing Orders, as long as these are in compliance with this Constitution.
7. The purpose of the Joint Branch Meeting is to provide a forum for discussion between Branches and to provide a platform for co-operation between the Branches involved, whilst also allowing them to maintain their autonomy from each other.
8. The powers of the Joint Branch Meeting shall be as follows:
  - a. to introduce, discuss, formulate and agree to initiatives for the Branches involved;
  - b. to propose motions, schemes and events for the Branches involved;
  - c. to plan and co-ordinate schemes, initiatives and events between the Branches involved; and
  - d. to make it incumbent upon one or more of the Branches involved to carry out any decisions made.

#### **5.13 Casual Vacancies**

1. A casual vacancy among the Branch Officers shall occur if a Branch Officer resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated.
2. Should a Branch Officer intend to resign, they must submit their resignation in writing to the Branch Chair, who must then inform the other Branch Officers and the Branch membership. Should the Branch Chair, or the Acting Branch Chair, intend to resign, they must submit their resignation in writing to the Youth Executive and to the other Branch Officers who must then inform the Branch membership.
3. Once they have received and verified the resignation, or have verified that there is a casual vacancy in the case that the member is permanently incapacitated, the Branch Chair or (in the case of a casual vacancy in the position of Branch Chair or Acting Branch Chair) the Acting Branch Chair (in accordance with Branch Standing Orders) shall declare that the position has fallen vacant.



4. Following the declaration that the position has fallen vacant, the Branch Chair or (in the case of a casual vacancy in the position of Branch Chair or Acting Branch Chair) the Acting Branch Chair (in accordance with Branch Standing Orders) must inform the Secretary of SDLP Youth. The Secretary of SDLP Youth shall then amend the list of Branch Officers in the Register of Branches in order to make an account of the vacancy.
5. The Branch Vice-Chair shall carry out the functions and duties of the vacant position until the vacancy is filled. If the Branch Vice-Chair is serving as Acting Branch Chair or, if the position of Branch Vice-Chair is vacant, the Acting Branch Chair (in accordance with Branch Standing Orders), the Acting Branch Chair shall appoint another Branch Officer or Branch member to carry out the functions and duties of the vacant position on an acting basis until the position is filled.
6. The vacant position shall be filled at the next meeting of the Branch, provided that the meeting is held no earlier than 7 days and no later than 30 days following the declaration of the vacancy.

#### **5.14 The Register of Branches**

1. The Secretary of SDLP Youth must maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of all Branches, which must be divided into:
  - a. all Branches and their respective Branch Officers;
  - b. all Third-Level Societies and their respective Officers; and
  - c. all Branches and Third-Level Societies suspended in accordance with Clause 15 of this Article.
2. The Secretary must also include the details of each Branch and each Third-Level Society, including their respective functional geographical areas (including the Constituencies and District Council Areas and, if necessary, the District Electoral Areas which fall within the functional geographical area) or their respective functional Universities or Institutions of Third-Level Education and the names of their respective Branch Officers.
3. The Secretary must also include the number of Full Members and the number of Associate Members which correspond to each Branch and Third-Level Society. The Secretary must regularly engage with the Branch Secretaries in order to ensure that the update of these figures is regularly maintained.
4. The Register of Branches shall be included as an Appendix to this Constitution.
5. The Secretary must ensure that the Youth Executive has an up-to-date copy of the Register of Branches.

#### **5.15 Suspension and Dissolution of Branches**

1. If a Branch is found to not comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by this Article, the Youth Executive may, by a two-thirds' majority vote of all of the members, suspend the Branch from the Register of Branches.
2. Should a Branch have been suspended from the Register of Branches, as long as it remains suspended, its Branch Chair shall be unable to attend meetings of the Youth Executive without invitation. The Branch in question shall also be unable to:
  - a. send delegates to the Youth Council;
  - b. propose Amendments to this Constitution or amendments to motions to amend this Constitution;
  - c. be counted as a Branch in the calculation of the voting procedure for Amendments to this Constitution, although its members shall still have voting rights in votes on Amendments to this Constitution as long as they qualify for the right to vote in votes on Amendments to this Constitution and these votes shall be counted as having been cast by Individual Members.
3. A Branch which has been suspended from the Register of Branches shall have the right to appeal against the suspension within a period of 90 days from the date of the beginning of the suspension.

4. If the Youth Executive is satisfied that a Branch which had been suspended from the Register of Branches has complied with the rules and regulations as set forth by this Article, its suspension shall be cancelled immediately.
5. The Youth Council shall have the ability to nullify the Youth Executive's decision to suspend the Branch in accordance with Article 7.1.4 at any time within two years of the date of the suspension.
6. Should a Branch have been suspended from the Register of Branches for a period of two consecutive years, the Branch shall be deemed to have been dissolved.
7. A Branch may elect to declare itself dissolved through a resolution passed by a two-thirds' majority vote of its members, with at least one-half of the membership present and voting. This resolution shall then be presented to the Youth Executive for its approval. The Youth Executive may accept the resolution by a two-thirds' majority vote of all of its members. If the resolution is accepted, the Branch shall be dissolved with immediate effect or at a date and time which may be otherwise specified by the resolution or by the Youth Executive with the agreement of the Branch Chair. If the resolution is rejected by the Youth Executive, the Branch shall maintain its standing within SDLP Youth.
8. A member of a Branch which has been dissolved, or is deemed to have been dissolved, may transfer to another Branch in accordance with Article 4.7.2. In default of such a transfer in accordance with the aforementioned Section, the member in question shall be deemed to have become an Individual Member and shall be registered as such by the Secretary of SDLP Youth.

## **ARTICLE 6**                      *The Youth Executive*

### **6.1 Establishment**

1. SDLP Youth shall be led and united by a committee to be known as the Youth Executive.
2. No member of the Youth Executive may:
  - a. hold a position within a Branch; nor
  - b. hold a seat on the Conference Organisation Committee reserved for a member to be elected by the Youth Conference.
3. All members of the Youth Executive must be paid-up Full Members.
4. All members of the Youth Executive shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Youth Executive.

### **6.2 Powers and Functions**

1. The Youth Executive shall have authority over all matters relating to SDLP Youth in between Youth Conferences, with the exception of the authority specifically allocated to other bodies and persons elsewhere in this Constitution.
2. The Youth Executive may form working relationships on behalf of SDLP Youth with other political youth organisations which are members or observers of the Young European Socialists and/or the International Union of Socialist Youth. The Youth Executive may also form working relationships on behalf of SDLP Youth with other political youth organisations which are not members or observers of the aforementioned international political youth organisations as it deems appropriate with the approval of the Party Executive Committee.
3. The Youth Executive shall make available to the Party Executive Committee and to the Party Conference a written report on the general activities of SDLP Youth.
4. The members of the Youth Executive shall individually make available reports, either written or verbally, on their activities to the Youth Executive and shall individually make available written reports on their activities to the Youth Council and to the Youth Conference.
5. The Youth Executive shall have the right to establish its own Standing Orders. Standing Orders of the Youth Executive shall only be able to be amended or suspended by a two-

thirds' majority vote of all members of the Youth Executive. Standing Orders of the Youth Executive must be consistent with this Constitution.

6. The Youth Executive shall receive written reports from the Branch Chairs on the activities of their respective Branches.
7. The Youth Executive shall have the ability to establish *ad hoc* sub-committees.
8. The Youth Executive shall have power to delegate tasks and functions within SDLP Youth.
9. The Youth Executive shall have the right to invite guests to their meetings. Invited guests shall have speaking rights; however, they shall not have voting rights. Invited guests may be asked to allow the Youth Executive privacy to discuss sensitive or controversial issues.
10. The Youth Executive shall have other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution and the Party Constitution.

### **6.3 The Chair**

1. There shall be a member of the Youth Executive who shall head the Youth Executive and who will have the title of Chair of SDLP Youth, hereinafter referred to as the Chair.
2. The Chair shall be the head and chief public representative of SDLP Youth.
3. The Chair shall have the ability to delegate tasks to the Vice-Chair.
4. The functions and duties of the Chair will involve:
  - a. the chairing of meetings of the Youth Executive;
  - b. the ability to call meetings of the Youth Executive;
  - c. being responsible for deciding the agenda of meetings and the direction of the Youth Executive;
  - d. the observation and conducting of voting during meetings of the Youth Executive and the declaration of how the Youth Executive has voted following divisions;
  - e. in the event of a drawn vote, the Chair must cast the deciding vote;
  - f. the retaining of order, unity and stability amongst the members of the Youth Executive; and
  - g. ensuring that the organisation of SDLP Youth is maintained through the enactment of this Constitution.
5. The Chair may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution and the Party Constitution.

### **6.4 The Vice-Chair**

1. The Chair shall be assisted in the carrying out of their functions and duties by a member of the Youth Executive who shall have the title of Vice-Chair of SDLP Youth, hereinafter referred to as the Vice-Chair.
2. The Vice-Chair shall deputise for the Chair in the event of the absence of the Chair.
3. The Vice-Chair shall carry out the functions and duties of any Officer position which falls vacant until an interim Officer is appointed or until the position has been filled in accordance with Clause 11 of this Article.
4. The Vice-Chair shall have special responsibility for the Branches, including:
  - a. ensuring that the Branches remain functional;
  - b. co-ordinating the local Youth Organisers; and
  - c. maintaining good relations and co-operation between the Branches and the Youth Executive.
5. The Vice-Chair may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

### **6.5 The Secretary**

1. There shall be a member of the Youth Executive who shall have the title of Secretary of SDLP Youth, hereinafter referred to as the Secretary.
2. The functions and duties of the Secretary will involve:
  - a. maintaining and updating the Register of Members;
  - b. maintaining and updating the Register of Branches;

- c. taking minutes of each meeting of the Youth Executive, including any actions agreed to by the Youth Executive at these meetings, and also ensuring that these minutes are distributed to all members of the Youth Executive and all those who are entitled to attend meetings of the Youth Executive;
  - d. assisting the Chair and Vice-Chair in drafting an agenda for meetings of the Youth Executive.
3. The Secretary may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution

#### **6.6 The Treasurer**

1. There shall be a member of the Youth Executive who shall have the title of Treasurer of SDLP Youth, hereinafter referred to as the Treasurer.
2. The functions and duties of the Treasurer will involve:
  - a. heading the Youth Treasury and operating the Finances of SDLP Youth;
  - b. keeping all appropriate accounts and financial books (the standard and nature to which the Treasurer must keep these accounts and financial books shall be determined in greater detail by the Youth Conference);
  - c. engaging and co-operating with the Branch Treasurers for the purposes of the maintenance of the Youth Treasury;
  - d. providing a written report to the Youth Executive on the financial state of SDLP Youth; and
  - e. operating as the chief unit financial officer of SDLP Youth for the purpose of fulfilling the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and engaging and co-operating with the Party Treasurer and any other Party financial officers for the purpose of the fulfilment of the aforementioned Act.
3. The Treasurer may carry out any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

#### **6.7 Other Officers of the Youth Executive**

1. In addition to the aforementioned Officers, the Youth Executive shall include a number of Officers in charge of various fields of responsibility with regards to SDLP Youth.
2. Each Officer shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Youth Executive.
3. No person may hold more than one portfolio, except for the Vice-Chair (or another Officer of the Youth Executive designated by the Vice-Chair or the Acting Chair) in case of a vacancy.
4. The portfolios shall be established and defined by an Appendix to this Constitution passed by the Youth Council outlining the titles of each individual portfolio and each of their respective functions and duties, as long as these functions and duties comply with this Constitution and do not exceed the powers of the Youth Executive as defined by this Constitution. The Appendix must establish no less than three portfolios and no more than six portfolios. This will ensure that there will be no less than seven and no more than ten voting members of the Youth Executive. The Appendix shall be adopted by the Youth Council at a meeting not more than 90 days prior to the Youth Conference. Any amendments to the Appendix shall only take effect at the first Youth Conference following the adoption of the amendment by the Youth Council. Amendments to the Appendix may abolish, merge or establish positions.
5. These Officers may perform any other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.
6. The Officers must also co-operate and engage with the Branches, in particular their respective equivalent Branch Officers, should there be any.

#### **6.8 Election and Entry into Office**

1. Each member of the Youth Executive shall be elected by the Youth Conference by means of the Alternative Vote and shall serve until the next Youth Conference following their election. The members of the Youth Executive may stand for re-election at any time, except in the case outlined by Clause 11.1 of this Article.

2. Following the declaration of the results of the election, the outgoing members of the Youth Executive shall be deemed to have vacated their positions, but shall continue in their positions on a caretaker basis until the newly-elected members of the Youth Executive each subscribe to their respective declarations of office before the assembled members of the Youth Conference.
3. Members of the Youth Executive who were elected by the EGM to fulfil a vacant position on the Youth Executive shall subscribe to their respective declarations of office before the assembled members of the EGM and shall serve until the next Youth Conference following their election.

#### **6.9 Meetings**

1. The Youth Executive must meet monthly, or additionally as required by the Chair or by a majority of its members.
2. The Youth Executive shall be advised and encouraged to rotate its meetings between as many District Council Areas as is practicable.

#### **6.10 Attendance of Meetings**

1. Should any member of the Youth Executive fail to attend at least half of the meetings of the Youth Executive during their term in office without a formal written apology presented to a member of the Youth Executive (who will be able to attend the meeting and must present it to the member chairing the meeting) during their term in office, or should they fail to attend two-thirds of the meetings of the Youth Executive during their term in office (regardless as to whether they had given apologies) they shall be prohibited from standing for re-election to the Youth Executive for two years from the end of their term.
2. There shall not be such a penalty on the Branch Chairs; however, they are encouraged to attend at least one meeting of the Youth Executive per calendar year.
3. The Youth Executive shall have the right to invite any other persons as it deems fit to its meetings, but these persons, while retaining the right to speak, shall not have the right to a vote at the meeting.

#### **6.11 Casual Vacancies**

1. A casual vacancy in the Youth Executive shall occur if a member of the Youth Executive resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated.
2. Should a member of the Youth Executive intend to resign, they must submit their resignation in writing to the Chair. Should the Chair, or the Acting Chair, intend to resign, they must submit their resignation in writing to the Youth Executive and the Party General Secretary.
3. Once they have received and verified the resignation, or have verified that there is a casual vacancy in the case that the member is permanently incapacitated, the Chair (or the Party General Secretary, whichever the case may be) shall declare that the position has fallen vacant and shall begin the procedures specified by this Constitution.
4. The vacant position shall be filled on an interim basis by a member appointed to the position by agreement between the Chair and the Vice-Chair. The interim Officer shall serve until the position can be filled by an EGM.
5. The vacant position shall be filled by an EGM, which shall be constituted in accordance with Article 8.7.
6. The EGM shall be held no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days following the position falling vacant.
7. The EGM shall fill the vacant position by an election by means of the Alternative Vote.

## **ARTICLE 7**                      *The Youth Council*

### **7.1 Powers and Functions**

1. The Youth Council shall encourage the sharing of ideas and development of policy and initiatives among SDLP Youth through the engagement of the various Branches.

2. The Youth Council shall encourage and maintain good relations and efficient communication between the various Branches and the Youth Executive. In this, the Branches must report to the Youth Council at each meeting and may answer questions taken from the floor of the Youth Council.
3. The Youth Council shall scrutinise the workings and decisions taken by the Youth Executive. In this, the members of the Youth Executive must deliver a written report to the Youth Council at each meeting and shall answer questions taken from the floor of the Youth Council.
4. The Youth Council shall have the ability to nullify or amend a decision taken by the Youth Executive by a two-thirds' majority vote with two-thirds of the members entitled to vote in attendance and voting.
5. The Youth Council shall have the right to set its own Standing Orders. The Standing Orders of the Youth Council shall only be amended or suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Youth Council. The Standing Orders of the Youth Council must comply with this Constitution.
6. The Youth Council shall have other functions and duties as defined and prescribed by this Constitution.

## **7.2 Membership**

1. The membership of the Youth Council shall be as follows:
  - a. three Delegates from each registered Branch;
  - b. five Delegates representing Full Individual Members and members of suspended Branches; and
  - c. all members of the Youth Executive.
2. The members of the Youth Executive shall be ineligible to serve as Delegates.

## **7.3 Role and Selection of the Delegates**

1. Delegates to the Youth Council shall have full attendance, speaking and voting rights at meetings of the Youth Council.
2. The Branch Delegates shall include the Branch Chair and two other Delegates elected by and from the membership of the respective Branch at the Annual General Meeting thereof. Should a Delegate be unable to attend a meeting of the Youth Council, they may nominate an Alternate to attend, speak and vote at the meeting in their place, after giving notice to the Branch Chair. If the Delegate does not nominate an Alternate, the Branch Chair may nominate an Alternate. The Alternate must be a registered member of the Branch in question.
3. No Delegate shall be able to represent more than one Branch.
4. Delegates representing Full Individual Members and members of suspended Branches shall be elected by and from these members at the Youth Conference by means of the Single Transferable Vote.

## **7.4 Role of the Youth Executive**

The members of the Youth Executive shall have full attendance, speaking and voting rights at meetings of the Youth Council.

## **7.5 Chairperson of the Youth Council**

1. The Youth Council shall be chaired by a Delegate to be selected in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Youth Council.
2. The chairperson of the Youth Council shall maintain order, determine the outcome of divisions and cast the deciding ballot should the Youth Council be equally divided following a vote.

## **7.6 Secretary of the Youth Council**

1. The Secretary of SDLP Youth shall act as the secretary of the Youth Council.
2. The functions and duties of the Secretary shall involve:

- a. taking minutes of each meeting of the Youth Council including any actions agreed to by the Youth Council at these meetings, and also ensuring that these minutes are distributed to all members of the Youth Council and all those who are entitled to attend meetings of the Youth Council;
  - b. drafting an agenda for meetings of the Youth Council with the agreement of the Youth Executive and a majority of the Branch Chairs; and
  - c. deputising for the chairperson of the Youth Council, should the chairperson be unable to carry out their functions and duties.
3. If the Secretary is unable to attend a meeting of the Youth Council, the chairperson of the Youth Council may appoint a Delegate or a member of the Youth Executive to carry out the functions and duties of the secretary of the Youth Council for the purposes of the meeting.

#### **7.7 Meetings of the Youth Council**

1. The Youth Council shall meet at least four times *per annum*.
2. The Youth Council may set a date, time and location for its next meeting. If the Youth Council does not set a date, time or location for its next meeting, these details shall be determined by the Chair with the agreement of the Youth Executive and a majority of the Branch Chairs.
3. A request to hold additional meetings may be made to the Chair on petition by either:
  - a. the Youth Executive; or
  - b. by a petition signed by the Officers of at least three Branches or by at least one-third of the Branches, whichever figure is lower.
4. The Youth Council shall be advised and encouraged to rotate its meetings between as many Branches as is practicable.
5. All members entitled to attend meetings of the Youth Council must be informed of the date, time and location of the meeting at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

### **ARTICLE 8**                      *The Youth Conference*

#### **8.1 Establishment and Purpose**

1. SDLP Youth shall hold an annual Youth Conference, which shall be the supreme governing body of SDLP Youth.
2. The Youth Conference shall exercise the direction and control of the policy, organisation and administrative affairs of SDLP Youth.
3. In this Constitution, with the exception of Clause 2 of this Article or unless specifically stated otherwise, "the Youth Conference" shall be determined to also refer to the EGM.

#### **8.2 Meetings**

1. The Youth Conference should meet every 12 months, but no later than every 18 months.
2. The date(s), time(s) and location of the Youth Conference shall be determined by the Youth Council. This decision must be made at least 60 days prior to the opening of the Youth Conference.
3. A period of at least two years must pass before the Youth Conference can be held within the same District Council Area again.

#### **8.3 Membership**

1. Every registered Full Member, who has been a registered Full Member for at least 7 days prior to the opening of the Youth Conference and who has paid their membership fee at least 3 days prior to the opening of the Youth Conference, shall have automatic membership of the Youth Conference as a Delegate.
2. Each Delegate at the Youth Conference shall be entitled to vote following the payment of a levy decided upon by the previous Youth Conference.

3. Full Members who have not fulfilled the requirements as set forth by Section 1 of this Clause and Associate Members shall have the right to attend and speak at the Youth Conference but will not have voting rights.

#### **8.4 Powers and Functions**

1. The powers and functions of the Youth Conference shall be as follows:
  - a. the adoption or amendment of the Standing Orders drafted by the Conference Organisation Committee;
  - b. the adoption, amendment or rejection of motions on SDLP Youth policy, organisation and administration, including motions to adopt Policy Papers and documents;
  - c. the adoption, amendment or rejection of Amendments to this Constitution, in accordance with the procedures as set forth by Article 12;
  - d. the receipt of reports;
  - e. the welcome of guest speakers;
  - f. the holding of workshops to discuss and formulate policy and to encourage and promote good relations between members; and
  - g. the election of the various officials established by this Constitution subject to the provisions relating to these positions as outlined by this Constitution.
2. The Youth Conference shall have other powers and functions as set forth by this Constitution.
3. Candidates for positions to be elected by the Youth Conference may be nominated by themselves or by a Full Member or by two Associate Members with their prior consent. The form of the paperwork for nominations shall be determined by the Youth Council. The paperwork must be presented to the Conference Organisation Committee before the date of the close of nominations.
4. The powers and functions outlined by this Clause shall be subject to the provisions for the procedures of the Youth Conference as outlined by Clause 5 of this Article.

#### **8.5 Procedures**

1. The Youth Conference shall normally be chaired by the Chair. The Vice-Chair, followed by other officials or members as may be determined by the Standing Orders of the Youth Conference, may deputise for the Chair in this role. The Secretary, or their deputies as determined by the Standing Orders, shall normally act as the secretary of the Youth Conference. For the purposes of the closed session, the duties of the chairperson and the secretary of the Youth Conference must be carried out by members of the Party who are not SDLP Youth members.
2. Motions and amendments to motions shall be adopted by the Youth Conference by a simple majority vote of the members in attendance and voting.
3. The Youth Conference may also adopt policy papers or other documents but only if they are presented as a motion stating "That this Youth Conference adopts the policy paper (or document) [title of policy paper or document]." Amendments to policy papers or documents may be adopted by the Youth Conference.
4. Constitutional Amendments (or amendments to Constitutional Amendments) may only be submitted to and adopted by the Youth Conference in the manner prescribed by Article 12.
5. Hereinafter in this Clause, with the exception of Section 11 hereof, "motion" shall be determined to also refer to an amendment to a motion and "Constitutional Amendment" shall be determined to also refer to an amendment to a Constitutional Amendment.
6. Motions may be submitted by any Full Member or Associate Member. The name of the Full Member or Associate Member who submitted the motion shall be included along with the motion as printed in the Preliminary Agenda and the Final Agenda.
7. The member who submitted the motion may also elect to nominate an SDLP Youth body (the name of which shall be included alongside, or in place of, the name of the member who



proposed the motion, should the member in question so choose) as a co-sponsor of the motion.

8. In the case of Constitutional Amendments, the name of the body which submitted the Constitutional Amendment shall be included along with the Constitutional Amendment as printed in the Preliminary Agenda and the Final Agenda.
9. A member of a body nominated as a co-sponsor of a motion may speak on the motion on behalf of the member who proposed the motion.
10. Motions shall be presented to the Youth Conference by the member who (or a member of the body which) submitted the motion to the Youth Conference. The member who presents the motion to the Youth Conference shall have the right to speak on the motion. Other members shall have the right to speak on the motion. For purposes of time constraints, a reasonable time limit may be imposed on the members' right to speak.
11. The Conference Organisation Committee may (following consultation with the member(s) who submitted the motions in question) merge various motions together into Composite motions should the Conference Organisation Committee decide that the motions are similar or overlapping. The Committee must ensure that the general ideals of the motions are respected. All procedures which may be carried out under this Section must be completed prior to the opening of the period for the submission of amendments to motions.
12. With the exception of Constitutional Amendments, motions may be presented to the Youth Conference from the floor regardless of the procedures for submitting motions as set forth by this Clause, provided that the proposer of the motion informs the Chair or other presiding officer. These motions may be:
  - a. Emergency motions or Emergency amendments (these motions shall require the support of a two-thirds' majority of those members present and voting);
  - b. Procedural motions;
  - c. motions to refer a motion back to the either the incoming Youth Executive, the Youth Council or the Party Executive Committee; or
  - d. motions to suspend part of or the whole of the Standing Orders (these motions shall require the support of a two-thirds' majority of those members present and voting).

#### **8.6 Submission of motions and amendments**

1. A member who (or an SDLP Youth body which) wishes to submit a motion to the Youth Conference must submit the motion to the Conference Organisation Committee. The Conference Organisation Committee shall then include the motion in the Preliminary Agenda.
2. If the Conference Organisation Committee rules that the motion does not comply with this Constitution, then the Committee shall engage with the member or body who submitted the motion in order to re-draft the motion to the extent that it complies with this Constitution. If, following this re-drafting process, the Committee rules that the motion now complies with this Constitution, then the shall include the motion in the Preliminary Agenda.
3. The dates of the opening of submissions and deadlines for submissions to the Youth Conference shall be as follows:

<b>Opening/Deadline</b>	<b>Days before the Youth Conference/EGM</b>
Opening of submission of motions (Youth Conference)	60
Opening of submission of motions (EGM)	60, or as soon as the EGM is called, whichever is later
Deadline for submission of motions	21
Opening of submission of amendments to motions	14
Deadline of submission of amendments to motions	7

4. The Conference Organisation Committee must compile all of the motions and Constitutional Amendments submitted to and received by the Constitutional Committee by the respective deadlines for the submission of motions and Constitutional Amendments into a Preliminary Agenda. The Preliminary Agenda must be distributed by the Conference Organisation Committee to the members of the Youth Executive, to the members of the Constitutional Committee, to the Branch Chairs and to all Individual Members by the date of the opening of the submissions of amendments to motions and amendments to Constitutional Amendments. The Branch Chairs shall be responsible for further distributing the Preliminary Agenda to all of the members of the Branch. All SDLP Youth members shall have the ability to ask the Conference Organisation Committee for a copy of the Preliminary Agenda if they had failed to receive a copy.
5. Amendments to motions shall be submitted to the Conference Organisation Committee for analysis in accordance with the same process as outlined by this Clause.
6. The Conference Organisation Committee must compile all submissions to be voted upon by the Youth Conference into a Final Agenda which will be included in the literature for Delegates.
7. The Final Agenda must be distributed to the all SDLP Youth members at least 4 days before the opening of the Youth Conference. All SDLP Youth members shall have the ability to ask the Vice-Chair for a copy of the Final Agenda if they had failed to receive a copy.

#### **8.7 The Extraordinary General Meeting**

1. A meeting of all SDLP Youth members may be held during the period between Youth Conferences. This meeting shall be known as an Extraordinary General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as an EGM). There shall be no limit on the number of such meetings in the aforementioned period, as long as they are held in compliance with the procedures as set forth by this Clause.
2. An EGM may be held for at least one of the following reasons:
  - a. to fill casual vacancies in the Youth Executive; or
  - b. to amend this Constitution; or
  - c. to discuss and formulate policies on a certain subject or subjects (motions submitted to an EGM called for this purpose, with the exception of motions to amend this Constitution, must remain within the field of the specified subject or subjects); or
  - d. to discuss and vote on issues deemed to be of such great importance that the whole SDLP Youth membership must be consulted on the matter at hand.
3. An EGM shall be convened by the Chair following their receipt of a petition from:
  - a. the Youth Executive; or
  - b. the Youth Council; or
  - c. one-third of the registered Branches.
4. The petition mentioned by Section 3 of this Clause must be signed by the chairperson or other officer of the body or bodies listed by the said Section 3. The petition must outline the reasons as to why an EGM should be held. Such reasons must be in line with Section 2 of this Clause and more than one of these reasons may be stated. If the petition is judged by the Chair to be valid under the terms of this Clause, the Chair shall begin the procedures for the holding of the EGM.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 of this Clause, in the case of an EGM held in order to fill a casual vacancy in the Youth Executive, the Chair shall carry out the procedures as outlined by Article 6.11.
6. The date(s), time(s) and location of the EGM shall be determined by the Youth Executive, with the approval of the Youth Council. The Youth Council may amend the date(s) and/or time(s) and/or location decided upon by the Youth Executive if it so wishes. The date, time and location must be as practical as possible for as many SDLP Youth members to attend as possible.

7. The membership requirements for Delegates to the EGM shall be same as those for Delegates to the Youth Conference as outlined by Clause 3.1 of this Article.
8. Each Delegate at the EGM shall have one equal vote each, following the payment of a levy, the sum of which shall be decided upon by the previous Youth Conference. This levy may differ from that which applies to the Youth Conference.
9. Associate Members and Full Members who have not fulfilled the requirements as set forth by Clause 3.1 of this Article shall have the right to attend and speak at the EGM but will not have voting rights.
10. The EGM shall have the same powers and functions as the Youth Conference as outlined by Clause 4.1 of this Article, with the exception of the power of election unless in the case an EGM specifically held in order to fill casual vacancies in the Youth Executive and even in that case, only the vacant position(s) for which the EGM had been specifically called for shall be put up for election.

#### **8.8 The Conference Organisation Committee**

1. The Youth Conference and the EGM shall be organised by a committee to be known as the Conference Organisation Committee.
2. The Conference Organisation Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-Chair.
3. The membership of the Conference Organisation Committee shall be comprised as follows:
  - a. the Vice-Chair;
  - b. the Party General Secretary;
  - c. two members selected by and from the Youth Executive; and
  - d. four SDLP Youth members (who are not members of the Youth Executive) selected by the Youth Executive.
4. The purpose of the Conference Organisation Committee shall be:
  - a. to select, organise and book a venue, or venues, for the holding of the Youth Conference on the date(s) and times and in the location prescribed by the Youth Council in accordance with Clause 2 of this Article;
  - b. to compile, print and publish literature for delegates at the Youth Conference, along with material to advertise the Youth Conference;
  - c. to invite Guest Speakers to address the Youth Conference;
  - d. to organise panel discussions to be held at the Youth Conference, including deciding upon topics and themes to be discussed and who shall sit on the panel(s);
  - e. to organise workshops for delegates at the Youth Conference through the invitation of organisations;
  - f. to arrange and organise activities for Delegates before and/or after the closing of the Youth Conference, should the Committee decide to do so;
  - g. to arrange and co-ordinate transport to and from the venue, if applicable;
  - h. to compile a list of the motions and amendments to be presented to the Youth Conference and include this in the literature for Delegates;
  - i. to set forth the agenda for the Youth Conference as outlined by Clause 7 of this Article, and to include a printed copy of this agenda in the literature for Delegates;
  - j. to draft the set of Standing Orders to be submitted to the Youth Conference for adoption or amendment;
  - k. to organise and oversee the elections at the Youth Conference in accordance with Article 9 and to receive all nominations for the positions to be elected at the Youth Conference;
  - l. to organise and oversee the elections at the Extraordinary Selection Meeting as outlined by Article 6.5; and
  - m. to rally and encourage SDLP Youth members to attend the Youth Conference and the Party Conference and may organise appropriate activities and facilities in order to fulfil this Subsection.

5. The Conference Organisation Committee must meet as soon as practicable following the decision on the date(s), time(s) and location of the Youth Conference by the Youth Council. The Vice-Chair will decide when and where meetings will be held. It is advised that meetings be held as often and as regularly as practicable in the period pursuant to the Youth Conference.
6. Should a vacancy arise in a seat reserved for a member specifically elected to the Conference Organisation Committee by the Youth Conference, the next Candidate who received the most votes who failed to be elected to the Committee at the Youth Conference shall be co-opted onto the Committee by the Chair with their prior consent. If there is no other member available for co-option or if there are fewer Candidates available for co-option than there are vacancies on the Committee, the available Candidates (if any) shall be co-opted onto the Committee by the Chair. The Chair shall then, as soon as practicable and upon the advice of the Youth Executive, co-opt members (with their prior consent) to fill the vacancies.

## **ARTICLE 9**                      *Voting Regulations*

### **9.1**      **Date of Close of Nominations**

The dates of the close of nominations for elections shall be as follows:

<b>Position(s)</b>	<b>Close of nominations</b>
Branch Officers; Delegates to the Youth Council/Party Conference/Party Central Council; the General Secretary	Day of the meeting for the election
All positions to be filled by the Youth Conference/EGM/ESM and the special election for the Constitutional Committee	14 days prior to the meeting for the election

### **9.2**      **Voting Procedures**

1. In the case of all voting, whether it be voting on motions or amendments to motions or voting in the election of officials, supporters and opponents of motions or Candidates for office (whichever the case may be) shall have the opportunity to speak before voting opens in accordance with the Standing Orders in place at the meeting.
2. In the case of voting on motions at meetings of an SDLP Youth body (with the exception of Constitutional Amendments to be voted upon by the Youth Conference), members entitled to vote shall do so by a show of hands, or alternatively, in accordance with Standing Orders in place, by a show of voting cards.
3. The chairperson, or other presiding officer, of the meeting shall judge and determine the outcome of the vote. Hereinafter in this Article, "chairperson" may be interpreted as also referring to "other presiding officer".
4. Should a vote result in a draw, the chairperson shall cast the deciding ballot.
5. Should the chairperson find difficulty in determining the outcome of a vote, or should the chairperson's decision be validly challenged (in accordance with Standing Orders), the chairperson shall direct those entitled to vote at the meeting to cast their votes. The casting of votes shall be by secret ballot. The chairperson shall instruct the tellers (as defined by Clause 3 of this Article) to make preparations for the vote. The vote shall be overseen and organised by the tellers or (in the case of the Youth Conference and the Extraordinary Selection Meeting) by the Conference Organisation Committee in co-operation with and in supervision of the tellers. The tellers shall count the ballots following the close of polls (as defined by Standing Orders) and shall tabulate and present the result of the vote to the chairperson. The chairperson shall then declare the result of the vote. A member present at the meeting may challenge the results and ask the chairperson for the ballots to be recounted; if a member challenges the results, they must provide a valid reason as to why

they believe a recount is necessary. The chairperson may grant a recount if they believe that there is a valid reason to do so and shall ask the tellers to recount the ballots. Otherwise, the chairperson shall proceed to declare to the meeting that the results shall stand as final.

6. The election of officials shall be held through the casting of votes by secret ballot. The ballots shall be fair and equal, with the title of the position (or positions) to be elected printed clearly at the top of the ballot paper and the name of each Candidate who had been nominated for the position prior to the close of nominations listed clearly and equally on the ballot paper. The ballot papers shall be printed following the close of nominations. One ballot paper for each separate election shall be distributed to each member entitled to vote in the election. The ballot boxes shall be in the care of the tellers appointed in accordance with Clause 3 of this Article. All members entitled to vote in the election shall be able to vote once prior to the closing of polls. If a meeting at which an election is conducted is divided over a number of days, polling may be suspended at the adjournment of one day of voting before being resumed at the reconvening of the meeting on the next day of voting (in this case, voting shall not take place during the adjournment and votes shall not be counted during the adjournment). Elections shall be overseen and organised by the tellers or (in the case of the Youth Conference and the Extraordinary Selection Meeting) by the Conference Organisation Committee in co-operation with and in supervision of the tellers.
7. All votes taken by the body shall be recorded in the minutes.

### **9.3 Appointment and Purpose of Tellers**

1. At least two tellers shall be appointed by the chairperson of the meeting at which the election is being held, or in another fashion as permitted by Standing Orders adopted for the purpose of the meeting.
2. The tellers must be nominated by an SDLP Youth member present at the meeting. Any nomination must then be seconded by another SDLP Youth member present at the meeting. Each member present may nominate only one member for appointment as a teller. The slate of tellers nominated shall then be ratified by members entitled to vote by a show of hands, or alternatively, in accordance with Standing Orders in place, by a show of voting cards.
3. In order to be eligible for appointment as a teller, an SDLP Youth member:
  - a. must not be a Candidate standing in the election; and
  - b. must be either a paid-up Full Member or a paid-up Associate Member.
4. In the case of elections to Branch positions, the tellers do not have to be members of the Branch thereof.
5. The tellers shall count and verify the votes cast in the election and tabulate these results in a record to be presented to the returning officer. The tellers shall judge the validity of the ballots. Ballots judged by the tellers to be invalid shall not be counted towards the results. The table of results shall include the total number of votes cast for each Candidate, the total number of votes cast, the total number of valid votes cast, the total number of invalid votes cast, the quota (in the case of elections conducted by means of the Alternative Vote or the Single Transferable Vote) and (in the case of multiple stages of elections conducted by means of the Alternative Vote or the Single Transferable Vote) the total number of exhaustive ballots and the number of votes transferred (and to which Candidate they had been transferred). The returning officer shall judge the validity of the record of results as presented.

### **9.4 Declaration of Results**

1. The chairperson or other presiding officer of the meeting shall be the returning officer for the purposes of declaring the results of the election, unless they are a Candidate in the election in which case, their deputy or another member selected in accordance with Standing Orders in place, shall be the returning officer for the purposes of declaring the results of the election.

2. The returning officer, after being presented with the results by the tellers shall meet first with the Candidates collectively and privately and shall announce the results to them. At this point, Candidates may challenge the results and ask the returning officer for the ballots to be recounted; if a Candidate challenges the results, they must provide a valid reason as to why they believe a recount is necessary. The returning officer may grant a recount if they believe that there is a valid reason to do so and shall ask the tellers to recount the ballots. Otherwise, the returning officer shall proceed to declare the results to the meeting.
3. The returning officer shall then declare the results before the assembled members who were entitled to vote in the election.
4. Following the declaration of the results, the returning officer shall deem the successful Candidates to be elected.
5. The results shall be recorded in the minutes.

#### **9.5 Uncontested Elections**

1. By the close of nominations, should the number of Candidates nominated for an election be equal to the number of positions available in the election, the election shall take place as scheduled and an additional option to "Re-Open Nominations (RON)" shall be included on the ballot paper as a Candidate. In the case of an election to fill a single seat, should "Re-Open Nominations (RON)" be successful in being elected, nominations shall be immediately deemed to have been re-opened, the election shall be rescheduled and the new date for the close of nominations shall be scheduled in accordance with Clause 1 of this Article.
2. By the close of nominations, should the number of Candidates nominated for an election be less than the number of positions to be filled, then the election shall be postponed and shall be rescheduled accordingly and the position(s) shall be deemed to have fallen vacant. Nominations shall be deemed to have been re-opened and the new date for the close of nominations shall be scheduled in accordance with Clause 1 of this Article.
3. In the case of an election which has been rescheduled following vote to re-open nominations or following a postponement as outlined by Section 2 of this Clause, should (following the rescheduled close of nominations) the number of Candidates nominated be less than or equal to the number of positions to be filled, then the nominated Candidate(s) shall be deemed to have been elected without the need for a ballot. In the case of there being less Candidates nominated and elected than positions to be filled, then nominations shall be opened to the floor at the meeting at which the election is being held in accordance with the Standing Orders of the meeting. If no nominations are received, then the position shall be filled on an interim basis as prescribed by this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE 10**                      *Finance, Fundraising and the Youth Treasury*

### **10.1 Finance**

1. SDLP Youth shall ensure that all of its financial practices comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
2. The financial scheme of SDLP Youth (which shall be included as an Appendix to this Constitution) shall be in compliance with the financial scheme of the Party.
3. The financial year for SDLP Youth and for all SDLP Youth bodies shall be from January to December of each year.
4. All financial activities engaged in or organised by SDLP Youth shall be overseen and managed by the Treasurer with the assistance of the Branch Treasurers and the Finance and Fundraising Committee in accordance with this Article.

### **10.2 Fundraising**

1. SDLP Youth may engage in or organise activities in order to raise funds for:
  - a. the Youth Treasury; or
  - b. for the Party; or

- c. for other organisations (subject to this Clause); or
  - d. for a combination of the above.
2. All fundraising activities engaged in or organised by SDLP Youth in accordance with this Clause shall be overseen by the Finance and Fundraising Committee.
  3. Should the Youth Executive engage in or organise fundraising activities on behalf of organisations other than SDLP Youth or the Party, they must first inform and receive approval from the Party Executive Committee.
  4. Should an SDLP Youth Branch engage in or organise fundraising activities on behalf of organisations other than SDLP Youth or the Party, they must first inform the Youth Executive and the Finance and Fundraising Committee and also inform and receive approval from the local Party District Executive or the local Party Constituency Council.
  5. All funds raised by SDLP Youth on behalf of the parties aforementioned in Section 1 of this Clause shall be paid to the appropriate respective parties as soon as practicable. The Treasurer, or the Branch Treasurer, may elect to set a deadline for the payment of funds raised.
  6. Funds may also be raised on behalf of an SDLP Youth Branch in accordance with Clause 3.4 of this Article.

### **10.3 The Youth Treasury**

1. SDLP Youth shall be an accounting unit of the Party in accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
2. The collection of funds raised on behalf of and/or allocated to SDLP Youth shall be known as, and in this Constitution referred to as, the Youth Treasury.
3. The Treasurer shall head the Youth Treasury and shall be responsible for its daily maintenance.
4. Funds raised on behalf of an SDLP Youth Branch shall form the Branch Treasury. The Branch Treasury shall be considered to form a part of the Youth Treasury that has been allocated for use by the Branch in question. In this, the Branch Treasurer shall engage and co-operate with the Treasurer in order to maintain the Youth Treasury by ensuring that all appropriate records and books are maintained. For the purposes of this Section, the Branch Treasurers must present a regular report to the Treasurer on the financial state of the Branch.

### **10.4 The Finance and Fundraising Committee**

1. The Finance and Fundraising Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.
2. The members of the Finance and Fundraising Committee shall be comprised as follows:
  - a. the Treasurer; and
  - b. the Branch Treasurers.
3. The Finance and Fundraising Committee shall elect a secretary from among its membership at its first meeting following the Youth Conference. The secretary shall take minutes of meetings and shall deputise for the Treasurer if they are unable to carry out their functions and duties as chairperson.
4. The purpose of the Finance and Fundraising Committee shall be:
  - a. to co-ordinate and manage the finances of SDLP Youth in accordance with this Article;
  - b. to engage and co-operate with the Party General Purposes/Finance Committee;
  - c. to assist the Treasurer in the carrying out of their functions and duties;
  - d. to efficiently manage and maintain the Youth Treasury;
  - e. to provide for the direct engagement and communication between the Treasurer and the Branch Treasurers;
  - f. to formulate a financial scheme for SDLP Youth, in particular for the Youth Executive and for the Branches, and to present and report this financial scheme to the Youth Executive and to the Youth Council; and

- g. to formulate plans for the organisation of events to raise funds for the Youth Treasury.
5. The Finance and Fundraising Committee must meet as soon as practicable following the Youth Conference. It shall then hold at least another three meetings before the next Youth Conference. The date, time and location of these meetings shall be determined by the Treasurer. Additional meetings of the Finance and Fundraising Committee may be called by the Treasurer, who will decide the date, time and location of the meetings. The Youth Executive, or the Youth Council, or at least three registered SDLP Youth Branches may request that the Treasurer call a meeting of the Finance and Fundraising Committee, with a given reason. Such reason given shall be considered by the Treasurer, who must make a decision at their own discretion within 7 days of receiving the request.

## **ARTICLE 11**                    *Complaints and Appeals*

1. A set of Standing Orders shall be enacted for the purpose of:
  - a. resolving disputes within SDLP Youth;
  - b. resolving complaints made against a member or a body having standing in SDLP Youth;
  - c. providing for other matters related to the above or covered by this Clause.
2. The Standing Orders shall be drafted by and adopted by the Youth Executive by a two-thirds' majority vote of the membership thereof. The Standing Orders as proposed by the Youth Executive shall be ratified, or amended and ratified, by the Youth Council by a two-thirds' majority vote of the membership thereof in order for the Standing Orders to be enacted. The Standing Orders may be amended from time-to-time by the same method prescribed for the adoption and ratification of the Standing Orders. The Standing Orders shall be included as an Appendix to this Constitution.
3. Any grievances and disputes regarding the interpretation of this Constitution shall be resolved in accordance with Article 1.4.
4. Grievances and disputes within Branches shall be settled by the Branch Chair. If the Branch Chair is unable to resolve a grievance or dispute, the grievance or dispute shall be settled by the Principal Youth Organiser.
5. Members involved in the grievance or dispute brought before the Branch Chair or the Principal Youth Organiser may appeal the Branch Chair's or Principal Youth Organiser's ruling to the Youth Executive.
6. Members shall have the option of taking a grievance or dispute directly to the Youth Executive.
7. The Youth Executive may, if the charge against a member is a serious contradiction to this Constitution, the rules and regulations governing discipline within SDLP Youth, the Party Constitution or the Party's Code of Discipline, decide to suspend the member's SDLP Youth membership status for a period in accordance with the Standing Orders. If a member is suspended, they shall have no standing within SDLP Youth for the duration of the suspension. The suspended member may appeal this decision to the Party Executive Committee.
8. In any case, all disputes may be appealed, either directly or following any stage in the appeals process outlined by this Article, to the Party Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 12**                    *Amendment*

1. All amendments to this Constitution (hereinafter referred to as Constitutional Amendments) must be submitted to the Youth Conference in accordance with this Article. Any amendments to Constitutional Amendments may be submitted to the Youth Conference in



accordance with this Article. Unless stated otherwise, hereinafter “Constitutional Amendment” shall be determined to also refer to an amendment to a Constitutional Amendment.

2. Constitutional Amendments may be passed by the Youth Conference, by a two-thirds majority of Delegates present and voting. Any amendments to Constitutional Amendments may also be passed by the Youth Conference by a two-thirds majority of Delegates present and voting.
3. All Constitutional Amendments must be expressed to be a Constitutional Amendment and must contain no provisions other than to outline of the proposed amendment(s) to the Constitution. Any motion which does not comply with this Constitution and is not expressed to be a Constitutional Amendment in accordance with this Section shall be deemed by the Conference Organisation Committee to be unconstitutional and shall have no effect.
4. A Constitutional Amendment shall only be submitted to the Youth Conference by a registered Branch, the Youth Executive, or the Youth Council. Any SDLP Youth member may propose an Amendment to one of the bodies and it must then be submitted to the Conference Organisation Committee by the body on behalf of the member who proposed it. The member does not need to be a member of the body which submits the Amendment.
5. The Conference Organisation Committee may, if it deems necessary, establish an *ad hoc* sub-committee which shall have the following functions:
  - a. to scrutinise proposed Constitutional Amendments and any amendments to proposed Constitutional Amendments in order to ensure that, if ratified by the Youth Conference, they would not create any contradictions or other serious ambiguities within this Constitution or with the Party Constitution and to recommend amendments to such proposals;
  - b. to ensure that all motions and amendments to motions presented to the Youth Conference are in compliance with this Constitution and the Party Constitution and to recommend amendments to such proposals; and
  - c. to engage with the Conference Organisation Committee for the purposes outlined in Subsections a) and b) of this Section.

This sub-committee shall be chaired by the Party General Secretary and shall consist of 2 to 4 members elected by and from the Conference Organisation Committee. Once they have been deemed by the sub-committee to comply with this Article, all motions and all proposed additions or amendments to this Constitution shall be included in the agenda for the Youth Conference by the Conference Organisation Committee.

6. If the Conference Organisation Committee (or the *ad hoc* sub-committee) rules that the Constitutional Amendment does not comply with this Article, then the Committee shall engage with the member who proposed it and the body which submitted it in order to re-draft the Amendment to the extent that it complies with this Article.
7. The Conference Organisation Committee shall treat Constitutional Amendments as motions and, therefore, may merge similar Constitutional Amendments into Composite motions after consulting those who submitted the Constitutional Amendments.
8. The dates of the opening of submissions and deadlines for submissions of Constitutional Amendments and of amendments to Constitutional Amendments respectively to the Youth Conference or to the EGM shall be the same as those which apply to motions and amendments to motions respectively.
9. Appendices to this Constitution are exempt from the ordinary process of amendment and can only be amended in accordance with their own provisions. Appendices may only be added to or removed from this Constitution in their entirety by the method provided for by this Article. Certain Appendices required by the provisions of this Constitution may not be removed in their entirety unless Article 5.14.4, Article 6.7.4, Article 10.1.2 or Article 11.2 respectively are amended to state otherwise.

10. A ratified Constitutional Amendment shall be enacted immediately upon the ending of the Youth Conference at which it had been approved or at a later date in accordance with any provisions which it may contain. The Chair shall enrol an updated copy of this Constitution with the Youth Executive and the Party Executive Committee within 7 days following any Constitutional Amendment.

## **SCHEDULE I**            *Declarations of Office*

### **1. Instructions**

Each of the following declarations of office shall be made and subscribed by the appropriate Officer in accordance with this Schedule and may be written in the English language, or the Irish language, or both at the Officer's own discretion. They may also elect to make and subscribe to the declaration in another language. They may also elect to include a religious affirmation when making the declaration of office if they so choose.

### **2. The Chair**

The declaration of office that the Chair-designate of SDLP Youth shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

"I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

- that I will uphold the Constitution of SDLP Youth;
- that I will guarantee the maintenance and continuation of the bodies established by the Constitution;
- that I will chair meetings of the Youth Executive in an fair, impartial and balanced manner;
- that I will provide for the good relations and efficient correspondence and co-operation between SDLP Youth and the Party to which its members have pledged their support and counsel;
- that I will ensure unity amongst the members of SDLP Youth through the settling of disputes, grievances and other issues and concerns, without prejudice or preference, to the best of my knowledge through a fair and balanced judgement; and
- that I will, to the best my ability, lead, organise and represent the members of SDLP Youth;
- that I will fulfil, to the best of my ability, all of the functions and duties of the office of Chair as prescribed by the Constitution."

### **3. The Vice-Chair**

The declaration of office that the Vice-Chair-designate of SDLP Youth shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

"I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

- that I will assist the Chair in the carrying out of their functions and duties;
- that I will deputise for the Chair in the event of their absence;
- that I will ensure that the Branches remain functional;
- that I will co-ordinate the local Youth Organisers;
- that I will maintain the good relations between the Branches and the Youth Executive; and
- that I will fulfil, to the best of my ability, all of the functions and duties of the office of Vice-Chair as prescribed by the Constitution."

### **4. The Secretary**

The declaration of office that the Secretary-designate of SDLP Youth shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

"I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

- that I will keep all records accurately and faithfully;
- that I will engage with the Branch Secretaries for this purpose; and

that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of Secretary as prescribed by the Constitution.”

**5. The Treasurer**

The declaration of office that the Treasurer-designate of SDLP Youth shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will operate and maintain the Youth Treasury and the Finances of SDLP Youth;  
 that I will keep all appropriate accounts and financial books faithfully;  
 that I will regularly report to the Youth Executive on the financial state of SDLP Youth;  
 that I will carry out the functions and duties of the chief unit financial officer of SDLP Youth for the purpose of fulfilling the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and to engage and co-operate with the Party Treasurer and the Branch Treasurers for the purpose of the fulfilment of the Act; and  
 that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of Treasurer as prescribed by the Constitution.”

**6. The Other Officers of the Youth Executive (Collective)**

The declaration of office that the other Officers-designate of the Youth Executive shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will carry out, to the best of my ability, the functions and duties of the office of [title of Officer] as appended to the Constitution;  
 that I will work effectively with my fellow members of the Youth Executive, with the Party and with the Branches for the better organisation of SDLP Youth at a national and local level; and  
 that I will fulfil, to the best of my ability, my functions and duties as a member of the Youth Executive as prescribed by the Constitution.”

**7. The Branch Chair**

The declaration of office that the Branch Chair-designate shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will preside over all meetings of [name of Branch or Third-Level Society] and to be fair and balanced in all of my decisions;  
 that I will engage with the Youth Executive through the Youth Council in order to provide a voice for the Branch;  
 that I will take care for all members of [name of Branch or Third-Level Society] and that I will ensure the unity and good organisation of the Branch; and  
 that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of Branch Chair as prescribed by the Constitution.”

**8. The Branch Vice-Chair**

The declaration of office that the Branch Vice-Chair-designate shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will assist the Branch Chair in the carrying out of their functions and duties;  
 that I will deputise for the Branch Chair in the event of their absence; and  
 that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of Branch Vice-Chair as prescribed by the Constitution.”

**9. The Branch Secretary**

The declaration of office that the Branch Secretary-designate shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will keep all records accurately and faithfully;  
 that I will engage with the Secretary of SDLP Youth for this purpose; and  
 that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of Branch Secretary as prescribed by the Constitution.”

#### **10. The Branch Treasurer**

The declaration of office that the Branch Treasurer-designate shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will engage with the Treasurer of SDLP Youth in order to assist them in the operation and maintenance of the Youth Treasury and the Finances of SDLP Youth;  
 that I will keep all appropriate accounts and financial books faithfully;  
 that I will regularly report to the Treasurer of SDLP Youth and the members of [name of Branch or Third-Level Society] on the financial state of the Branch;  
 that I will carry out the functions and duties of the chief unit financial officer of [name of Branch or Third-Level Society] for the purpose of fulfilling the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and to engage and co-operate with the Party Treasurer, the Treasurer of SDLP Youth and the local Party Treasurers for the purpose of the fulfilment of the Act; and  
 that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of Branch Treasurer as prescribed by the Constitution.”

#### **11. The Other Branch Officers**

The declaration of office that the other Branch Officers-designate shall make and subscribe shall be worded as follows:

“I, [name], do sincerely declare and affirm:

that I will fulfil to the best of my ability the functions and duties of the office of [title of Branch Officer] as prescribed by the Constitution and the Branch Standing Orders;  
 that I will do my best to support [name of Branch] and to engage with the Party in their activities; and  
 that I will engage with other Branches and the Youth Executive for the better organisation of SDLP Youth at a national and local level.”

## **SCHEDULE II**                      **TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. General Provisions**

1. The political youth organisation known as SDLP Youth which is officially recognised by the Social Democratic and Labour Party as constituting its youth wing shall be the political youth organisation for which this Constitution stands.
2. SDLP Youth and its bodies and structure shall be subject to reforms required in order to fulfil this Constitution. The nature of these reforms shall be determined by these Transitional Provisions.
3. These Transitional Provisions shall determine the procedures for the continuation of certain aspects of SDLP Youth under this Constitution while also providing for the times of the enactment of various Articles and provisions of this Constitution after the official date of the enactment of this Constitution.
4. The time of the enactment of any provisions of this Constitution which shall require Amendments to the Party Constitution in order to be enacted may be postponed until the adoption of the required Amendments. The required Amendments shall be outlined by an Appendix to this Constitution. The Appendix shall be removed following the adoption of the required Amendments by the Party Conference.
5. In these Transitional Provisions, the term “date of enactment” shall refer to the official date of the enactment of this Constitution as outlined by Provision 17 hereof.

**2. Regarding Article 1, Article 2 and Article 3**

Articles 1, 2 and 3 shall come into force in their entirety upon the date of enactment.

**3. Membership**

1. Full Party Members who had paid their membership fees in full and who had also been automatically deemed Members of SDLP Youth, or who had elected to become Members of SDLP Youth, upon the date of enactment shall be deemed to have become Full Members of SDLP Youth as if they had attained Full Membership in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
2. Any persons who are deemed to be and recognised as Associate Members of SDLP Youth by the Youth Executive on or before the date of enactment shall have standing within SDLP Youth as Associate Members for a period of 6 weeks from the date of enactment. If by the conclusion of this 6-week period any of those who were deemed to have been Associate Members by virtue of this Section have not applied for Associate Membership nor have applied for Full Membership (if they are eligible to do so), their Associate Membership shall be revoked and they shall not have standing within SDLP Youth.
3. Any persons who wish to apply for Associate Membership must do so by means of the provisions as set forth by this Constitution.

**4. Basic Rights and Duties of Members**

1. Any persons who are deemed to have attained Full Membership by virtue of Provision 3.1 hereof shall have all entitlements, rights and duties given to Full Members by virtue of this Constitution immediately upon the date of enactment.
2. Any persons who are deemed to have attained Associate Membership by virtue of Provision 3, Sections 2 and 3 hereof shall have all entitlements, rights and duties given to Associate Members by virtue of this Constitution immediately upon the date of enactment.
3. The Complaints and Appeals procedure outlined by Article 11 shall be enacted as soon as practicable following the date of enactment, with the requirement that this procedure must be operational within one year following the date of enactment.

**5. The Branch**

1. All Branches in existence and in operation immediately prior to the date of enactment shall continue to have standing within SDLP Youth following the enactment and shall be registered in the Register of Branches by the Secretary of SDLP Youth as if they had been established as a new Branch in accordance with Article 6.3.
2. These Branches shall be set a deadline of 6 weeks from the date of enactment to fulfil the rules and regulations for Branches established by Article 6. Following the conclusion of this period of time, any Branches which have not yet fulfilled the aforementioned requirements shall be suspended from SDLP Youth in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Article until such time as they have fulfilled these requirements.

**6. The Youth Executive**

1. On the date of enactment, the Youth Executive in operation immediately prior to the date of enactment shall become and be the Youth Executive for the purposes of this Constitution and the members of the Youth Executive shall continue to hold their respective positions as if they had been elected thereto in accordance with Article 6.
2. The members of the Youth Executive shall be, until amended, as follows:
  - a) Chair;
  - b) Vice-Chair (with additional functions as Campaigns Officer, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Constitution);
  - c) Secretary (with additional functions as Public Relations Officer, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Constitution);
  - d) Treasurer;
  - e) Equality Officer;
  - f) Membership and Recruitment Officer; and

g) Policy Officer.

3. The members of the Youth Executive in office on the date of the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council shall take their respective Declarations of Office before the assembled members of the Youth Council.
4. The powers, functions and duties attributed to the Youth Executive by this Constitution shall be made incumbent upon the members of the Youth Executive immediately upon the date of the enactment of this Constitution.
5. Decisions made by the Youth Executive, and by any *ad hoc* sub-committees which it may have established, prior to the date of enactment shall, until amended or revoked by those bodies with the authority to do so in accordance with this Constitution, shall continue to be in force and have effect after this date in accordance with their terms and conditions.

#### **7. The Youth Council**

1. Upon the date of enactment, the Youth Executive (acting by a two-thirds' majority of the total membership thereof) shall declare a date, time and location for the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council. This date shall be no earlier than 45 days and no later than 60 days following the date of enactment. The Chair must then send the declaration of the date, time and location of the inaugural meeting to the Branch Chairs (as recognised by these Transitional Provisions).
2. The Branches shall appoint Delegates and Alternates in accordance with the provisions of Article 8.4, with the exception that the Delegates shall be selected at the first meeting of the Branch following the enactment of this Constitution. The list of Delegates from each Branch shall be presented by the Branch Chairs to the Vice-Chair of SDLP Youth no later than 7 days prior to the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council.
3. The Youth Executive may nominate 5 Full Individual Members of SDLP Youth as Delegates to the Youth Council to represent the Individual Members (these Delegates would otherwise be elected at the Youth Conference). These Delegates must each not be from the same District Council Area or the same Constituency as another Delegate. These Delegates shall be nominated on a block ticket agreed to by two-thirds of the total membership of the Youth Executive.

#### **8. The Youth Conference**

1. Decisions made by the last Youth Conference prior to the date of the enactment of this Constitution, and by any *ad hoc* sub-committees which it may have established, shall, until amended or revoked by those bodies with the authority to do so in accordance with this Constitution, continue to be in force and have effect after this date in accordance with their terms and conditions.
2. Article 9 shall come into force in its entirety upon the date of enactment with the exception that the provisions regarding the Conference Organisation Committee shall be enacted in accordance with Provision 9.

#### **9. The Committees**

1. This Clause shall be interpreted as to include the Conference Organisation Committee and the Finance and Fundraising Committee.
2. The Committees shall be established on a date, or dates, set by a resolution passed at the first meeting of the Youth Executive following the date of enactment. These dates shall be prior to the first Youth Conference following the date of enactment.
3. The Committees shall take the form as established by this Provision until the conclusion of the first Youth Conference following the date of enactment.
4. The members of the Committees to be elected by the Youth Conference shall, prior to the conclusion of the first Youth Conference following the date of enactment, be instead selected by the Youth Executive. They shall be able to serve as members of their respective Committees pending their approval by the Youth Council at the inaugural meeting thereof. These members shall not be members of the Youth Executive and shall serve until the

conclusion of the first Youth Conference following the date of enactment or until their appointment by the Youth Executive is rejected by the Youth Council (in which case the Youth Executive must agree to a replacement member who must then be approved by the Youth Council).

5. Should a vacancy arise in a Committee seat which would normally be reserved for a member specifically elected by the Youth Conference, the Youth Council shall, at the next meeting thereof, elect a replacement member to serve until the conclusion of the first Youth Conference following the enactment of this Constitution; however, should a vacancy arise in this type of Standing Committee seat prior to the inaugural meeting of the Youth Council, then the vacancy shall be filled by the Youth Executive, pending the approval of the Youth Council as outlined in Section 4 of this Provision.
6. The date and location of the first meeting of each individual Committee shall be determined by their respective chairpersons.

**10. Voting Regulations**

Article 9 shall come into force in its entirety upon the date of enactment.

**11. Finance, Fundraising and the Youth Treasury**

1. All finances attributed to and which fall under the jurisdiction of SDLP Youth on the date of enactment shall form the Youth Treasury as outlined by Article 10.
2. Article 10 shall come into force in its entirety upon the date of enactment.

**12. International Relations**

SDLP Youth shall retain its status as a member of the Young European Socialists and of the International Union of Socialist Youth and any relations with other political youth organisations with which it may be engaging on the date of enactment.

**13. Constitutional Amendments**

Article 12 shall be enacted in its entirety on the date of enactment.

**14. Schedule I and the Appendices**

1. Schedule I shall come into effect on the date of enactment.
2. The Appendices required by the provisions of this Constitution shall be added to this Constitution within one year following the date of enactment and shall individually come into effect at such time as prescribed by the Youth Executive.

**15. Ratification and Promulgation of the Constitution**

This Constitution shall be enacted following:

- a. its adoption by the Youth Conference;
- b. its promulgation by the Party Executive Committee and the Youth Executive, on a date to be agreed upon by those two bodies; and
- c. upon which date it must be signed by the Party Leader, the Party Deputy Leader, the Party General Secretary, the Youth Executive and the Branch Chairs.

**16. Repeal of these Transitional Provisions**

1. These Transitional Provisions shall not be repealed, or otherwise removed, in the entirety unless they are deemed to have been fulfilled by an order signed by the Chair of SDLP Youth and the Party General Secretary, following a motion approved by two-thirds of the total membership of the Youth Executive and by two-thirds of all members of the Youth Council agreeing that all of these Transitional Provisions have been fulfilled.
2. This order shall then be submitted to the first Youth Conference following its signing as a Constitutional Amendment to repeal these Transitional Provisions and to make amendments to the Constitution to remove all references to these Transitional Provisions.

## *APPENDICES*

### **Appendix 1: The Register of Branches**

Article 5.14.4

<b>Appendix 2: Details of the Other Officers of the Youth Executive</b>	Article 6.7.4
<b>Appendix 3: SDLP Youth Financial Scheme</b>	Article 10.1.2
<b>Appendix 4: Standing Orders for the Complaints and Appeals Procedure</b>	Article 11.2