****

**Confelicity**

**Constitution**

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PREAMBLE

The vision of Confelicity is to create an environment where all of us, within us, can reach a state of mind of happiness, contentment and satisfaction; where we feel a deep sense of meaning and purpose for the future, on the path to fulfilling our potential for the betterment of ourselves and society.

In order to achieve this we believe in an **idealistic** approach that starts with visualising the most ambitious future in all areas of the political arena. We would then work backwards with great **pragmatism** as we work against the practicalities and realities of implementation and change.

We will be driving the movement that advocates transferring powers from national to **local** levels within the framework of a federal system. We seek to empower local authorities with real decision making powers for which they themselves will be held accountable to the electorate.

We will be driving the movement for a **society** that truly empowers all participants with a **democracy** that is **undivided** and leaves no one behind. Our new system will be designed to deconstruct arguments with patience, scrutiny and robustness; invite all opinions without fear of alienation; and conducted with transparency, openness, truthfulness and integrity at its foundation.

The culture of our party is based on: idealism, pragmatism, localism, undivided democracy, meritocracy, empathy, understanding, kindness, generosity, dutifulness, humility, patience, forgiveness, honesty, integrity, truthfulness, transparency, aspiration, fairness and respect.

**Political Overview**

We believe that a sustainable environment must form the foundation of all decision-making. We seek to create a clean environment, clean air and clean waters.

We believe we are entitled to live long and healthy lives through free access to health and social care. The ultimate aim should be for zero waiting times for quality diagnosis and treatment whilst doing everything possible to prevent the issues in the first place. We believe in medical privacy and bodily autonomy.

We will look to keep our community safe by bringing back ‘bobbies on the beat’ and getting to know by name the people in a society. We would allow Local Authorities greater powers over our Police Service to deploy the right number of highly trained Officers where needed, whilst doing everything possible to reduce criminal activity in the first place. We believe that providing an environment that leads to people fulfilling their potential making a living doing what they love will ultimately reduce the motivation for crime. We believe those who break the law ought to face the necessary consequences, however, we would look to create a prison system that seeks to rehabilitate, change mind-sets, and offer job opportunities in order to reduce re-offending. We believe in ending the era of unnecessary surveillance under the pretext of protection. We believe that helping other countries in diplomacy and bridging differences, rather than supporting war, will reduce the likelihood of acts of revenge from those whose resentments are fuelled forever by our aggression.

We believe everyone is entitled to a home that provides comfortable living conditions, as well as building the right number of homes at any given time to ensure no one is homeless.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to fulfil their potential through free education whether practical or academic, all the way through to PhD level education or professional apprenticeships. We believe in an education system where children receive the attention they need to flourish, whilst enjoying the social interactions of classmates. Therefore, our aim is to reduce school class sizes to 12 children per teacher and Learning Assistant, and ensure all teachers are qualified. We believe in an education system underpinned by the belief that it should develop a person’s deep understanding of the world; encourages a love of learning; has intrinsic value to oneself and the community; and that it is a life-long endeavour. We believe in an education system that trains our youth in ways that will directly contribute to the prosperity of themselves and society.

We will seek to create a true connection between education and careers, and ultimately create work opportunities where people can make a living doing what they love. (If throughout life that passion changes then the education system would seek to accommodate this too.) In order to create a job environment where this is achievable we believe that local governments needs to embark on a journey of planting seeds of industry and enterprise, looking at suitable brownfield sites to develop professional infrastructure for both online and offline businesses, where in years to come we can start to see quality career opportunities that connect to our current education system. Everything has a start, and with a thriving SME community comes a thriving jobs market in which people can actually make a living doing what they love, instead of facing an unfulfilling career that can contribute to mental health issues.

Job creation is central to all local economies. Clearly, the more jobs created, the more money people have to spend, creating more jobs. So whilst inward investment is always required from well-established organisations, our intention is to create full employment by creating the most fertile SME business environment possible for entrepreneurship to flourish. This includes lowering the risk of business failure by helping to reduce costs, and creating a business infrastructure and entrepreneurial culture that would encourage as many people to use their talent and start their own businesses.

We recognise that not everyone wants to start their own business and would prefer to be employed. As such, we believe that workers should be treated in a culture of compassion, empathy, kindness, support and dignity. We would encourage remuneration, particularly of ground-level employees, to be at a level where there is enough left over after bills toenjoy their lives.

We acknowledge that the cost of living is a fundamental barrier to the prospects of individual wealth and prosperity, and we would seek to redress the balance by supporting those industries that are fundamental to national infrastructure back into public hands in order to cap bills to an affordable level for all. Moreover, we would seek to address mortgage lending in the banking industry that is at the root of exorbitant house prices, and enact strong regulation of all the causes of inflated rents.

We encourage people to become as wealthy as their business or job enables them to be, however, we recognise that the resources used to generate their income would, in many cases, deprive other citizens of their use i.e. land, materials, people, etc. Therefore, it is expected that citizens will be recompensed accordingly through the local tax system to a level that both continues to encourage re-investment of the business and supply the necessary investment into public services.

We recognise that tax payer’s money is just that: it does not belong to a political party or a politician. Tax belongs to each person that has contributed into paying into the collective pot, and should be respected as such. We recognise that public waste is deeply off-putting for people to want to pay more tax, and so we would look to make taxation transparent for the public in a format that is easily accessible, understandable and where justification for expenditure can be made. All constituents would have the opportunity of suggesting tax amendments on a continual basis. We believe the tax system should incentivise Councils to grow business and therefore should be rewarded for facilitating a thriving economy and grow alongside the business success they help create instead of relying on counter-productive tax policies.

We recognise that budgets will slow the level of progress in reaching the ideal future; however, this can be tempered by a new National Local Volunteering Partnership that would bring together people who wish to bring their talents wherever the need may be. The premise of the scheme is to invite people who would like to make a contribution to the community and find satisfaction from volunteering. The basis of this scheme would not be to encroach on otherwise paid positions, rather fill the gaps that would never be able to be filled. We would look to utilise the skills, talent, knowledge and experience of newly qualified young people; retired seniors with still so much to give; as well as those that still work and who can spare a few hours of their expertise.

We recognise the individual’s right to be oneself, however, we do also seek to create a recognisable and distinct shared way of thinking on a local basis. We would look to build civic pride by promoting local history and telling the great stories of local people that could be told to inspire the next generation.  Though not in perpetuity as values change over time, history could be displayed across cities and towns in celebration of all their greatest people through art, architecture, monuments, literature, talked about regularly in our schools and community groups, with annual festivals and award ceremonies.  We would bring to the fore aspirational figures such as outstanding nurses, doctors, teachers, police officers, musicians, sport people, builders, entrepreneurs, volunteers, architects and politicians across the locality for young people to be inspired by. History should be embedded from a young age so they have an aspirational set of expectations for themselves and their community.  And through that illustrious history should emanate a strong sense of ideals that provide us with a deep sense of shared identity and purpose.

We believe in *Undivided Democracy* where democracy recognises differences, but does not divide. This means if only one member does not vote on a policy, the Party are instructed to deconstruct the individual’s reasoning to a point where agreement can be found. If agreement cannot be found the policy will never pass under Confelicity (see Article 2.4). Too many times division is caused by polarised arguments that democracy itself contributes to, causing alienation, isolation and indignation for those individuals that are on the wrong of the vote. Only by working together in partnership can the crux of the difference be found as opposed to the sharp edge of the democratic vote. We therefore believe in freedom of speech, debate and discussion in order to reach a conclusion that has been made in partnership and a spirit of unity. We believe a collaborative approach where conflicting parties can either find common ground together, or in cases where this has not been achieved, the subject is put to one side whilst further research can be carried out. This collaborative approach relies on each subject matter being explored, interrogated, and scrutinised with rigour and a level of critique that should include information on funding, agendas and affiliations.

We believe in a leadership philosophy that acts as a partner, facilitator and collaborator. We believe that any rule or law that is agreed by Confelicity must be followed by the Leader and all Party members. We intend to set the leadership standard as high as possible and reject hypocrisy and cronyism. We find any kind of government corruption abhorrent and will enact a zero tolerance on any behaviours that do not coincide with these standards in or outside the party. We believe that power needs a system of checking, challenging, scrutiny, rigour and total transparency and should be diluted as much as possible to fend against those that do misuse their power. Hence the voting structure of our Party empowers all members with the power of veto against the position of the Leader.

Confelicity will never compromise its core principles (i.e. localism, idealism, pragmatism and Undivided Democracy) outlined in this constitution, and would only enter a coalition if its position corresponded with another Party’s philosophies, politics and that the politicians themselves were people of the highest level of integrity, honesty and trustworthiness, as well as having the capability and drive to fulfil manifesto promises.

As a party we recognise that all rules and laws are developed within particular circumstances within a specific context. Therefore, we will always challenge preconceived ideas, rules, and laws that have become outdated and unfit for purpose within this constitution.

ARTICLE 1: Name, Objects and Succession

* 1. The name of the Party shall be Confelicity.
  2. This Constitution sets out how the Party will adhere to the regulatory requirements.
  3. It sets out how the Party will develop and implement policies to reflect the aims of the Party.
  4. Members of Confelicity must unanimously approve any amendments to the Constitution.
  5. The objectives of the Party shall be:
* to seek to achieve the objects set forth in the Preamble to this constitution;
* to secure the election of Confelicity as Members of Parliament and members of the Local Council.

ARTICLE 2: Provisions Relating to the Constitution

2.1 The following functions are reserved to Confelicity:

* the Party’s overall strategy;
* overall preparation for local and Parliamentary elections
* the external representation of the Party
* campaigning and raising of funds

2.2 The provisions of this Constitution shall be implemented with regard to meritocracy, but will promote a ‘Shared Experience Officer’ position as defined by the community that might request that officer.

2.3 Any candidate standing for election as a member of the Party must be a current member.

2.4 This constitution may only be altered:

If agreement from the Executive Committee is unanimous, which is based on a scored voting system, which follows:

* + Each member of the Executive Committee votes on a constitutional change from 1 to 100.
  + Any member that votes 49 or lower automatically moves the motion for the constitutional change to a review date no later than 6 months from the date of the vote.
  + All Executive Committee members must vote at least 90 or higher for a constitutional change to pass automatically.
  + If all members vote between 50 and 89, the Leader can pass the constitutional change if they themselves vote 90 or higher. In these cases, motions are only adopted on a probationary basis in which the policy will be subject to 3 monthly reviews until such time as all Executive Committee Members vote above 90.
  + If all members vote between 50 and 89, the proposed policy will be moved to a review date no later than 6 months from the date of the vote.

ARTICE 3: Membership and Supporters

3.1 Character of the Member

* Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives.
* Members are obliged to embody the culture of Confelicity to each other inside and outside the Party.
* Any forms of bullying, harassment or intimidation may result in the member’s expulsion.
* Members must abide by the Party’s data protection rules.

3.2 Becoming a Member

3.2.1

Membership of the Party will be determined by an interview with members of Executive Committee. The basis of the interview will be to ascertain whether the individual shares the aims and objectives of Confelicity as outlined in this constitution. They will then be inducted with the constitution and any other materials that will ensure the member has a full understanding of the Party and our expectations of them. They will then sign-off a contract that details the expectations between the Party and themselves. This will need to have been read, understood and accepted.

3.2.2

On successful completion of the interview the member will receive a membership card and membership number, which will entitle them to access to the membership area on the website, as well as receiving upon consent, regular communications through different channels.

3.2.3

In cases where it has been determined an individual has been deemed incompatible to the Party at that time, that individual will receive a letter outlining the reasons and offered a date no later than 6 months in the future for another interview if they so wish.

3.2.4

Members can be excluded in the event of acting outside the guidelines of the contract, as set out in the disciplinary process.

3.3 Membership is free at point of joining; however, voluntary donations are optional.

3.4 Members and Policy Making

3.4.1

Members will be able to participate and help formulate policies on all matters regarding the Party.

3.4.2

Seeking agreement of all members through partnership is consistent with the underlying principles of the Party, which state not to alienate, isolate and cause indignation by divided democracy.

3.4.3

Members are permitted to speak freely on any issue they wish to bring to the attention of the party. All opinions will be heard, respected, and explored until a reasonable conclusion is found within all party members.

3.4.4

An issue will remain unresolved until all nuances have been sufficiently resolved.

3.4.5

In cases where resolutions are not found, a short-term strategy will be developed at which point a specified date for review will be agreed.

3.4.6

The Executive Committee reserve the right to permit members to vote on constitutional changes. This includes cases where an individual member’s voting is consistently incongruent with the culture of the Party or aspirations as outlines in the preamble.

3.4.7

A policy is passed if agreement from members is unanimous, which is based on a scored voting system:

* + Each member votes on a policy out of 100.
  + Any member that votes 49 or lower automatically moves the motion for the policy to a review date not later than 6 months from the date of the vote.
  + All policies must have all members vote at least 90 or higher to pass automatically.
  + If all members average vote falls between 50 and 89, the Leader can pass the policy if they vote 90 or higher. In these cases, policies are only adopted on a probationary basis in which the policy will be subject to 6 monthly reviews until such time as all Members vote above 90.
  + If all members vote between 50 and 89, the proposed policy will be moved to review date no later than 6 months from the date of the vote.
  + The Executive Committee reserves the right to intervene on voting patterns of members that are in clear breach of the ethical standards of the Party.

3.6 Membership to the Executive Committee

3.6.1

The Executive Committee is open to all members.

3.6.2

Executive Committee participation is on a voluntary basis.

3.6.3

Board members will be obliged to attend all official party arrangements, meetings and events if they wish to participate in this capacity.

3.6.4

Members will be invited to interview for a position on the Executive Committee as vacancies arise.

3.7 Memberships will not have an expiry date. Only if the member decides to leave the Party or if the Party, through its disciplinary procedures, determine that the member’s Party status be revoked, will the membership end.

3.8 All matters relating to the admission or refusal of admission to membership of any person will be referred to the Executive Committee.

3.8.1

Appeals can be made to those members of the Executive Committee that did not conduct the interview, who will then make the final decision.

3.8.2

Appeals must be made within 14 days of the applicant being advised of the refusal to admit.

3.9 Membership may be refused by the Executive Committee on one or more of the following grounds:

* disagreement with the culture and vision of the Confelicity
* the admission of the applicant may bring the Party into disrepute
* they are members of another political party in Great Britain
* discrimination against another person on the basis of a protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

3.10 The Executive Committee shall have the right to suspend, investigate or expel from membership any person who no longer complies with membership rules.

3.10.1

Members who are expelled shall have the right to appeal a decision in accordance with the Constitution.

3.10.2

Members must be informed and has been given the opportunity to reply.

3.11 Party members will be kept by the Party. This information is to be used only for the purposes of the Party.

* 1. Members may:
* Vote on policies and manifestos pledges
* Hold elected or appointed positions within Confelicity.
* Stand for public elections as a Confelicity candidate if approved by the Executive Committee.

3.13 Member goals include:

* to recruit new members
* to gain new supporters
* to run as candidates for either/and Councillor or Parliamentary candidates
* to help campaign
* to take on roles within the Party where the need arises

3.14 Supporters

3.14.1

Individuals who do not wish to become a member are welcome to support the Party in any way they can.

3.14.2

They are able to cast votes, which will be taken into account. However, their votes will not be able to be made in an official capacity, whereby their votes are only notional and will not affect the final policy.

3.14.3 All supporters are welcomed to join Party activities and permitted to voice their opinions.

ARTICLE 4: Conference

4.1 The Conference shall consist of party members and supporters.

4.2 The Conference will meet once per year.

4.3 The purpose of Conference will be:

* to update members and supporters with any constitutional changes
* to review the year
* to outline the strategy for the coming year
* for the Leader and Executive Committee to give speeches on the progress of the Party and the future
* to give members and supporters the opportunity to raise any issues

ARTICLE 5: The Executive Committee

* 1. There shall be an Executive Committee, which will have the power for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of:
     + The Party’s strategy
     + Constitution
     + Culture
     + Objectives
     + Manifesto
     + Political policies
     + Selection and de-selection of the Executive Committee
     + Internal and external communications
     + Selection and de-selection of members
     + Selection of Council and Parliamentary candidates
     + Selection of the Executive Chair, Vice Chair, the selection of the Deputy Leader, selection of the Secretary, and Nominating Officer, Treasurer and the election of the Leader of the Party
     + Implementing decisions made at meetings
     + Handling disputes, complaints and various HR procedures in accordance with internal procedures and rules
     + Rules for the Executive Committee
  2. It shall consist of:

Voting Members:

* Leader
* Chairperson
* Vice-Chair
* Nominating Officer
* Treasurer
* General Secretary
* Selected Parliamentary candidates (or elected MPs)
* Selected Local Council Candidates (or elected Councillors)
  1. The Executive Committee will meet once per month
  2. The Executive Committee will debrief every election and shall report on their outcomes
  3. The Executive Committee shall present an Annual Report to Conference
  4. The Executive Committee can only make changes to the constitution according to the rules set out in Article 2.4.
  5. The Executive Committee must consist of at least 4 Members, which should include the Party Leader, Treasurer, The Chair and the General Secretary.
  6. The Executive Committee will determine selection rules for Executive Committee Members, Membership, and Council and Parliamentary candidates.
  7. All Executive Committee meetings will be open to Members and supporters via a digital platform.

5.10 Executive Committee Members must attend all meetings where reasonable to do so

5.11 The Nominating Officer shall authorise candidates to stand for election

5.12 The Party Chair will be responsible for Chairing the Executive Committee

5.13 The Secretary shall work with the Chair and assist with communications for the Executive Committee including circulating agendas, taking minutes, and other procedural duties related to Party meetings.

5.14 All supporters may be present at meeting, whether in person or via a digital platform

5.15 All supporters can speak at meetings.

ARTICLE 6: Leadership of the Party

6.1 The Leader shall be the main spokesperson for the Party

6.2 The Leader’s responsibilities include:

* Leading Confelicity’s Executive Committee, members and supporters
* Directing the Party internally and externally
* Proposing constitutional changes
* Proposing manifesto policies
* Leading the election strategy
* To act in partnership will the Executive Committee and all members of the party in order to facilitate their duties as best they can.
* Appointing roles to members of the Executive Committee
* To drive the party forward with strategic ideas
* To empower the Executive Committee with the room to make decisions as they see fit within the confines of the values and strategies of the party
* To vote on Party matters

6.3 Leader Voting Powers

6.3.1

The Leader will only have the deciding vote in constitutional matters if all Executive Committee Members have voted according to the rules outlined in Article 2.4

6.3.1

The Leader will only have the deciding vote in Party policies if all members have voted according to the rules outlined in Article 2.4

6.4 Leadership Tenure

6.4.1

Once elected, the Party Leader may stay on until such time as either they wish to resign, are incapacitated or have passed, or a vote to change the Leader is called by the Executive Committee.

6.4.2

The process to change the Leader is as follows:

* The Executive Committee must have formally written to the Leader to outline any specific issues about their leadership. In the event an issue(s) have not been satisfactorily dealt with according to the Executive Committee, they can write to inform the Leader of a vote of no confidence.
* The vote of no confidence will take place between the remaining members of the Executive Committee based on the voting system in Article 2.4 excluding that which refers to the Leader.
* In the case the Leader is voted out an election will take place.
* The new Leader can come from the Executive Committee or the membership.
* The new Leader will be voted by the Membership.
* The Leader will be voted in by the Executive Committee based on specific criteria including: experience, knowledge, expertise, passion, values and beliefs and ability to inspire others.

6.5 A leadership challenge can be launched at any time.

6.6 In the case of an election, a member of the Executive Committee will oversee the management of the election process, who shall be termed the ‘Returning Officer’.

6.7 The Leader will forfeit their role based on corruption, immorality, or poor decision-making.

6.8 The power of the Leader will be blocked by the power of only one Executive Committee member needing to vote a 49 in any given matter (where a 49 is interpreted as ‘no’ or ‘against’).

6.9 Although the Leader’s power is tightly controlled, the Leader will be heavily empowered in all matters outside of the constitution.

6.10 To ensure the Leader is kept in check, a Scrutiny Body will be responsible for auditing, reporting, critiquing, and challenging the Leader on any given matter.

6.11 Transparency between the Leader, Executive Committee and the members is fundamental to the collaborative approach, whereby decision making is made in open forums and live via appropriate digital platforms.

6.11.1 There will no closed meeting and all minutes will be circulated to all members.

6.12 Any former Leaders of the Party are entitled to stand for leadership of the Party in any future leadership elections

ARTICLE 7: Finance & Resources Committee

7.1 There shall be a Finance and Resource Committee, headed by the Treasurer, which shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for:

* Planning and administrating budgets and finances
* Presenting audited annual accounts to the Executive Committee
* Overseeing compliance outlined by the Electoral Commission and carrying out the responsibilities in relation to the political parties, elections and referendums act 2000.
* Ensuring financial reports are made to the electoral commission
* Ensuring financial reports are available to the party for the annual general meeting and/or conference.
* Providing regular financial updates to the Executive Committee.
  1. The Committee shall consist of:
* Chairperson
* Leader of the Party
* The person registered with the Electoral Commission as the registered Treasurer under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
* General Secretary

7.3 The Committee shall meet 4 times per year

ARTICLE 8: Parliamentary and Council Candidates

8.1 Confelicity will contest every parliamentary seat available where possible.

8.2 A candidate can also be a candidate or Councillor in Local government.

8.3 All members must unanimously vote for the parliamentary candidates and Council candidates using the system outlined in article 2.4.

8.4 All Confelicity endorsed candidates should act in accordance with the Party’s code of conduct.

8.5 Our candidates should:

* Support the underlying philosophy of the Party and support its overarching aims and objectives.
* Discuss any areas of concern about internal Party issues or external political issues that may conflict with their own thoughts in order to reach a workable conclusion that is satisfactory for both parties.
* On occasion where this cannot be found it should be agreed that the issue will be reviewed at an agreed date.
* Preferably live in the constituency they are seeking election.
* Be willing to be open and honest about their lives to the public via detailed biographies.

ARTICLE 9: Resolution of Conflicts

* 1. The Executive Committee will retain ultimate and complete authority to act to resolve conflicts.
  2. The process of conflict resolution will follow the agreed internal procedures of Confelicity to ensure consistent judgements and rights of appeal.