
The Association shall be called the Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists.

Membership shall be open to all members of the Social and Liberal Democrat Party who are engineers or scientists or who have an interest in any of the engineering or scientific disciplines.

The aims of the Association, *which is an equal opportunities organization*, shall be to:

* promote better understanding of engineering and science within the Party and the public in general and to explain the role of science and technology in the enhancement of the quality of life;

* serve the Party by bringing specialist knowledge into those areas of policy where a technical input is needed and establish a register of members’ expertise to act as advisers to MPs etc;

* create a good fellowship amongst engineers and scientists within the Party and develop a better understanding between engineers/scientists and politicians.

There shall be an Executive Committee which shall direct the affairs of the Association so as to best serve its aims, and which shall present a report to the Annual Meeting of the Association giving details of the previous year’s activity and finances and present plans for the coming year. Such an Annual General Meeting should he arranged so as to coincide with the Autumn Conference. The Executive shall be made up to a Chair, two Vice Chairs (of whom one should be an engineer and the other a scientist), a Secretary, a Treasurer and four members, all of whom shall be elected on an annual basis by members through a postal ballot, the elections to be completed no later than six weeks after the Annual General Meeting. The Executive shall have the right to co-opt no more than four other members for a one year period who who shall otherwise have the same rights as elected members. The retiring Chair and other retiring officers may be elected as ordinary members of the committee and can submit themselves to office after a lapse of two years. Every member of the Executive shall take upon themselves such roles and responsibilities as are necessary to ensure the Association’s aims are well publicised to its members, the Party and the public; that an annual and other conferences are arranged and managed; that working parties are established to pursue and
act upon specific topics or aspects of the Association; that the Association is represented
properly at Party conferences at regional, state and federal levels; that developing liaison is
pursued with other bodies of engineers and scientists and that representation is obtained on
such bodies as may be appropriate to promote the aims of the Association and the Liberal
Democrats. The Executive shall meet on a regular basis to manage the affairs of the
Association and shall ensure that members are given adequate notice of the date, time, venue
and agenda of general and other meetings and conferences so that the membership can participate
fully in the affairs of the association. The AGM shall set the amount of the annual subscription and
receive audited accounts. The Executive shall so conduct the affairs of the Association that it
becomes and remains a recognised Associated or Specified Associated Organisation within the
Liberal Democrat Party. The AGM shall have the authority to elect a President who shall be the
keeper and interpreter of the constitution, and up to two Vice Presidents all of whom shall have
honorary positions but with the same rights and privileges as any other member. The President or, if
absent, a Vice President should preside at the AGM. This constitution can be amended only at the
AGM of the Association by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, proper notice in
writing having been given to all members. Any two members of the Association may submit
amendments to the constitution to be with the Secretary no later than six weeks before the advertised
date of the AGM so that members may have no less than four weeks notice of any amendments and
other items of business for the meeting. Any ten members may call a general meeting to deal with
only those matters so requested in writing to the Secretary with the same time limitations as for the
AGM. The quorum for any general meeting shall be one tenth of members registered at that time.
The method of voting and the conduct of business at all meetings shall be in accordance with the
general practice of the Liberal Democrat Party.

ALDES Constitution 23rd September 2002