



# Council Group Bank accounts

## **Question: What do council groups who have group bank accounts have to do to ensure they comply with the donations rules?**

The Party's position on Council Groups who have their own funds as agreed with the Electoral Commission is as follows:

1. Council Groups are covered by "The Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (known as PPERA)".
2. They are classed as a member's association under Schedule 7 of the Act
3. They are not a way of avoiding the regulations on donations.
4. The Treasurer of the group should ensure that no donation of over £500 is accepted by the group unless the donor is permissible and they have 30 days from receiving the donation to accept or reject it.
5. If a Council group accepts an individual donation of over £7500 or a donor gives more than £7500 made up of multiple smaller donations over £500 in a calendar year, then the group treasurer is legally required to report it directly to the Electoral Commission within 30 of accepting it. They must report it themselves as Groups are not a part of the Party's Financial scheme.
6. The agreement we have with the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors (known as ALDC) is that groups should only use their accounts to receive and distribute the tithes from the members of their group.
7. Council Groups should not normally pay for campaigning but if they do the relevant notional (non-cash) donation should be declared to the relevant Local Party Treasurer(s).
8. Normally money for campaigning should be given to the relevant Local Party(ies) and declared as a donation from the Group and the address of the Donor should be listed as the relevant town hall (not a members private address) as the addresses of organisations are publicly displayed on the Electoral Commission website (individuals addresses aren't).
9. The Electoral Commission are satisfied that declaring donations from council groups does not hide the identity of individual donors as they members of the group is public information on council websites.