



Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD)

Democracy Review Submissions (Phase One – Three)

2018

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD)

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review - Phase One

Phase One of the Party's Democracy Review covers the role of: BAME Labour; Young Labour; and Labour Party Women's Conference.

The deadline for submissions this phase is 12 January 2018.

The proposals set out in this paper are for consideration and submission to the review

Submissions to the review can be made [here](#) or if longer than 250 words emailed to democracy@labour.org.uk.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on BAME Labour

BAME Labour needs reform

We welcome Jeremy Corbyn's democracy review as a huge opportunity to renew the Labour Party by increasing participation by its members. Among them are black members who are among the party's most loyal supporters.

BAME Labour, the socialist society affiliated to the Labour Party, is not operating as a democratic affiliate and is letting down the Labour Party, its members and its supporters.

BAME Labour claims it is open to Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority individuals, but many, including Party members, find it almost impossible to join and participate in.

As Labour's membership has almost trebled since 2015, BAME Labour membership has reached a new low. In 2010, BAME Labour had 3,363 members, at the time when Labour's membership was around 178,000. This year membership of BAME Labour had fallen to 731 whilst Labour's membership has risen to over 550,000.

The case for reform is self evident.

Reforming BAME Labour

There are various ways in which BAME Labour could be reformed. A properly functioning democratic affiliated organisation could be established or Labour Party members could self-identify and in effect become a 'Section' of the Party.

Below are set out a couple of alternative reform options (A & B) plus the reform suggestions of a CLP (C) - to assist Party members and CLPs when considering submissions to make to the review.

A) A Labour Party Black Representation Five Point Plan

Currently, BAME Labour has a two yearly conference. This should be annual and the conference should elect a national committee.

Labour's NEC is asked to submit to Labour's Annual Conference rule change proposals that will bring about a democratic, accountable, effective and mass-based socialist organisation of Black Labour Party members based on the five points below.

1. The organisation will be called the 'Labour Party Black Socialists' (LPBS) and be a membership organisation open to members of the Labour Party, or people aged 14 or over eligible for membership of the Labour Party who, pay an annual subscription to the LPBS and meet the requirement of being of African, Caribbean, Asian and other people who face discrimination on the basis of their colour.
2. The operation and finances of the organisation shall be under the direct control of its members through their elected leadership bodies.
3. The organisation shall have representation at all levels of the Labour Party, to include two representatives on the party's NEC, NCC, CAC and to Party Conference and the Policy Forum,

regional boards, LCFs, GCs and ECs, Women and Youth conferences, elected from the organisation's bodies at the appropriate level, limited to non-members of parliament (to include MPs, Peers and members of the Scottish Parliament) and assembly members, at least one of whom should be a woman. One should be African, Caribbean and the other Asian.

4. Our aspirations include achieving proportionality of black representation of elected local authority and parliamentary members according to the population of relevant geographical areas, using all-black shortlists and black women on all-women shortlists to achieve this.

5. We will work with Labour to get it to adopt a Black Agenda, drawn up by its black party member through their representative organisation, for its implementation by the party when it is in government.

B) All self-identifying BAME members to be considered members of BAME Labour

1. All members of the Labour Party who self-identify as BAME must be automatically considered members of BAME Labour. The current Socialist Society BAME Labour should be amalgamated into the new section, comprised of local, regional and national structures within the Labour Party, as with Young Labour and Women's Labour.

2. Ethnic Minority Forums (EMFs, see Chapter 14 of the Labour Party Rule Book) should make up the local BAME Labour groups, and must be strengthened and supported. They should feed up into the Regional and National Structures of BAME Labour through clear and democratic processes.

3. Ethnic Minority Officers should sit on the Executive Committee of their Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

4. The BAME seat on the NEC should be elected directly via One Member One Vote by all BAME members, with additional BAME representation on the NEC and throughout the Party to be discussed during the second and third phases of this democracy review.

5. BAME Labour should hold a biannual delegate based conference, with democratic procedures in place to empower members to shape the direction of the organisation. Policy passed should be fed into the national Labour Party.

6. Current rules regarding BAME Labour elections must be amended to engender greater opportunity for grassroots participation. Existing rules stipulating that Members of Parliament cannot stand for Division II of the NEC covering socialist societies (Chapter 4 of the Labour Party Rule Book) should be clarified to ensure that MPs cannot stand for the BAME Labour seat.

7. Additional funding is essential to ensure BAME Labour reaches its full organisational potential, and should be allocated as a percentage of the fees of the members of the Labour Party who self-identify as BAME. While this data is being calculated, and at all times in the future, enough must be given to cover a minimum of the salary of a staff member dedicated exclusively to the organisation, the costs of a biannual conference, and an activity fund directly accessible by the Executive Committee.

8. The Party must seriously consider strategies for standing more BAME candidates in safe seats. It must also recognise the exclusive culture that All Women's Shortlists have engendered, to the detriment of selection opportunities for BAME women, and seek to rectify this situation.

9. Questions about race or religion during interviews for selection processes are unacceptable, and must be ruled out of order.

10. There must be a serious commitment from the Party to take allegations of racism seriously, and to implement the recommendations of the Chakrabarti inquiry to ensure appropriate action is taken.

C) A CLP's views on reform of BAME Labour (passed on to CLPD)

All Labour Party members when they join to be given the option to self-identify as BAME (with options aligned to Census categories), so the Party has a large database of these members.

Existing members to be asked the same question.

All self-identifying BAME members to be automatically part of a new BAME organisation.

This information, currently not collected by the Party, could be used, for example, to invite BAME members to vote in elections, attend events, including conferences, etc.

Members who self-identify as BAME should not have to pay for membership of BAME Labour but should automatically be included in its membership.

There should be a national BAME conference, with elected delegates and a proper discussion on policy. BAME members should be able to vote for their national leadership, and for their representative on the NEC.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on Young Labour

Young Labour should have the following functions:

- a) Promote political education in line with the Labour Party's democratic socialist values and principles;
- b) Campaign in support of oppressed groups in society, including people marginalised on the basis of one or more of the following: class, sex, gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, disability and religion
- c) Promote the role of young people to advance democratic socialist values and principles within the Labour Party and society at large.

In order to meet these functions, Young Labour must have the structures which ensure autonomy, accountability, and adequate resourcing.

1. Autonomy

Young Labour shall have constitutional autonomy, with its own rulebook and standing orders to govern its structures. These shall be decided by Young Labour members and amendable by a sovereign Youth Conference, which could at a later date be complemented by a digital democracy platform which through integration with social media networks could be an aid to democratic political participation.

Young Labour shall have organisational autonomy with access to its own membership lists and the ability to organise its own events and campaigns independently. This is crucial for empowering young members to develop their leadership skills.

Young Labour shall have political autonomy, allowing it to take political positions which are independent from those of the main party.

Administrative functions shall wherever possible be devolved directly to Young Labour, so as to further strengthen Young Labour's operational autonomy in tandem with its political autonomy. These include, but are not restricted to, the registration and verification of groups, membership services, internal communications and finances.

2. Resourcing

Young Labour shall be properly resourced to be able to achieve its objectives. It shall receive an annual grant from the central party over which it has control, which may be financed from the membership fees of its members.

Young Labour shall have at least three staff members who are accountable to its democratic structures and mandated to carry out the political objectives of the Young Labour committee, whether on a UK-wide or regional/national level.

In line with the responsibilities of autonomy and proper funding, Young Labour shall have a Treasurer that gives financial reports of the organisation to Young Labour's annual conference.

3. Representation

Young Labour shall have representatives at every level of the party from branches through to the NEC. The NEC representative shall be elected by a One Member One Vote (OMOV) ballot, in order to allow as many people to participate as possible, and for options for additional representation for young members to be considered when the NEC composition is discussed at a later stage in the Democracy Review.

Young Labour shall be given a mandate to organise and have local groups in education institutions, ending the historic divide between Young Labour and Labour Students.

4. Education and Participation

Young Labour shall be encouraged and supported, financially or otherwise, in running both practical and theoretical political education programmes throughout the country.

Young Labour shall have the powers to establish local groups to allow young people the fora to debate and self-organise, encouraging active participation by the whole membership in laying the groundwork for a vibrant left youth culture and socialist future.

Supporting Argument

Deprived of both human and financial resources, Young Labour is currently but a mere shell of what it could be. Despite our party having some 110,000 members under the age of 27, Young Labour is still far too much of an afterthought in the minds of decision-makers. Without a solid, visible and coherent youth movement to develop their intellectual and organisational capacities, our young members are little more than fodder for doorstep campaigning, capable of short-term voter mobilisations. In order to fully harness the talent, creativity, and ideological commitment to transforming society of our young members, Young Labour must be allowed fully autonomy, fair representation in party structures, resources commensurate to its membership. The primary objective of Young Labour shall be to make, teach and keep young socialists. We must encourage and develop the young so that they can both understand and change the world, since to do so would require the unleashing of the creative potential of hundreds and thousands of committed young people moved by the desire to build society anew.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on Women's Conference

1. A Standalone Conference

- A two-day Spring Annual Women's Conference (AWC)

2. A Delegate Conference.

- Each CLP to be entitled to one delegate plus additional delegates to ensure a diverse and inclusive conference
- Delegates to be elected by Women Members, at a meeting to which all Women Members are invited and where they can vote

3. Non-voting Visitors

- Up to the capacity of the venue

4. Motions and Rule Changes from CLPs

- Each CLP entitled to send one motion and one rule change on topics relevant to Women Members
- Both to be selected by Women Members of a CLP on the same basis by which delegates are elected
- The motion need not be 'contemporary'
- Both motion and the rule change go to the next occurring AWC.

5. A Policy-making Conference

- Motions and rule changes are debated and voted on
- At least one motion and one rule change to be sent for debate at the Labour Party Annual Conference (LPAC) later the same year
- Rule changes passed by AWC on the organisation of AWC itself to be effective immediately without going to LPAC

6. Timely Notification

- to CLP Secretaries and Women's Officers (alongside info for LPAC) about procedures, fees, deadlines and help with travel costs

7. Under-represented groups of women

- Removal of barriers to participation
- Disability access to all conference areas
- Support for carers (if appropriate, a crèche)

8. Activities

- A range to include policy debates, keynote speakers and fringes
- A balance that does not impinge on the main business of debating and passing motions
- catering to be reasonably priced and plentiful

9. Special arrangements are needed for 2018

- There is insufficient time to organise a standalone in spring 2018 and cancel the one-day AWC planned for September
- There is a proposal from the Democracy Review to hold a specific event to maximise input from Women Members to the Democracy Review - this would be most helpful.

10. Two events in 2018

A Women's Democracy Day in about May 2018

- To debate the future organisation of Annual Women's Conferences with input from views submitted to the Democracy Review
- A delegate conference to give it legitimacy and its decisions weight, with delegates chosen as for AWC.
- Visitors up to the capacity of the accommodation
- Decisions will feed into the Democracy Review documents, AWC 2018 and LPAC 2018
- In addition, a debate on other structures, e.g. Regional Delegate-based Women's Conferences (accessible and interactive events for the women of the region), and the role and status of Women's Forums

A One-day AWC in September 2018

- To be organised entirely as indicated above for the two-day conference, as to delegates, visitors, motions, policy-making, notification, Under-represented groups of women and activities; except that there would be no rule changes from CLPs in 2018, because the standing orders etc. would not yet be in place.
- a space left in the agenda of the immediately following LPAC for one motion from AWC to be debated and voted on there.

11. Resources

- While the organisation of these two events for 2018 will place additional demands on party resources, it is reasonable that part of the additional income the party receives from our increased membership should be used to encourage member participation and democracy. If our trade union colleagues were also willing to contribute resources we would be most grateful.

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD)

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review - Phase Two

Phase Two of the Party's Democracy Review includes the governance of CLPs, the role of socialist societies and strengthening the involvement and participation of members.

The deadline for submissions this phase is 23 March.

The proposals set out in this paper are for consideration and submission to the review

Submissions to the review can be made [here](#) or if longer than 250 words emailed to democracy@labour.org.uk.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on the governance of CLPs

Governance structures need to facilitate a democratic inclusive Labour Party in which all members can contribute to:

- Policymaking at all levels (with Annual Conference as sovereign policymaking body)
- Management of local Constituency and Branch Labour Parties
- Election campaigns and selection of candidates at local and national level
- Local campaigning including connecting and working with affiliated Trade Unions

CLPs are diverse. They range from a few hundred members to thousands, cover safe Tory seats with no Labour councillors and safe Labour seats with no opposition councillors, they are rural and urban, and everything in between. Detailed below are recommendations which we anticipate will work for most CLPs. We believe these should be formulated into 'default CLP rules' (to replace the current 'model rules'). Rules should be clear, unambiguous and enforceable *not* open to interpretation. But it must be possible to negotiate exceptions with regional officers. Members' understanding of their own CLP should be respected and supported by Party staff. Our recommendations cover: Branch Labour Parties (BLPs), General Meetings (GMs), Executive Committees (ECs) and wider support for CLPs.

Branches Labour Parties (BLPs)

Active BLPs should be at the heart of internal party democracy. They are the first point of contact for many 'ordinary' members. At their best, they provide a nexus for campaigning, debate, political education and fundraising. Too often they are non-existent, poorly attended and/or talking shops dominated by councillors' reports. There needs to be active support for creating branches where they do not currently exist and for building these, where they do.

The General Meeting (GM)

In the 1980s and the 1990s the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy strongly advocated for CLPs to have a delegate structure. We feel there is no perfect system but now support continuing the current dual system in which CLPs have either delegate GMs or all-member meetings (AMMs), or the two combined (a decision making delegate GM within an AMM). This reflects both the state of the party and the shifting expectations of members. Whichever system is used, it must operate inclusively and accountably. Further, it should be straightforward to switch between systems and the Rule Book should set out a process for doing so including improved mechanisms for consulting members.

In all CLPs leadership nomination meetings should be AMMs. This is so that all members can vote in nominating potential party leaders. All members should be invited to and able to speak at all GMs; but in delegate meetings, only delegates can vote. At least a week's notice of all meetings should be sent to all members and at least two weeks' notice of AGMs.

All CLPs should hold at least 9 GMs per year, normally on a regular day each month. At GMs the Chair and Secretary must be conversant with the Rule Book and standing orders and these should be available for reference, if necessary, including online.

We would like to increase the involvement of the unions and other affiliates in CLPs.

We support maintaining the quorum at 25% of delegates and a number (not a percentage) of members as a quorum for AMMs graduated by total membership e.g. 10 for CLPs below 500 members, 20 for CLPs with 500-1000 members, 25 for 1001-2000 and, 30 for 2001+.

Currently the Rule Book allows voting for elected positions to be by elimination ballot or Single Transferable Vote (STV). Because of the practical difficulties of implementing these, some CLPs use First Past The Post which in politically-divided CLPs can lead to one group of members being disenfranchised. The national party should provide models of good practice for CLPs and resources to support their implementation. For example, they could create model online forms for nominations for various roles and could support the use of STV by creating an Excel Macro to count votes.

The Executive Committee (EC)

The EC is the servant of the GM. The EC should make decisions on administrative and organisational matters to enable the GM to focus on substantive and policy issues. The GM should have the final say over any contentious issues. In particular elections for national and regional conference delegates and nominations for internal elections should always happen in a GM not an EC meeting. The Rule Book should allow anyone challenging an EC decision a chance to explain their reason for doing so and the EC decision should be overturned on a simple majority vote of members present.

All EC meetings should have minutes that go out to all members.

The current officer positions that are common across CLPs are: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair Membership, Vice Chair Campaigns and Women's Officer. We would recommend adding to this an Online Communications Officer, a Political Education and Training Officer, and either individual Equalities Officers for BAME, LGBTQ and Disabilities or a combined Diversity Officer. These currently exist as Coordinator positions in many CLPs but we feel that they are strategically key so should be full officers. A 50% gender quota for officers should continue and posts left vacant where this is not met. The EC should include representation from branches where these exist with, at a minimum, branch secretaries attending EC meetings. When branch representatives have voting rights at least 50% should be women.

The aim should be to have grassroots members rather than councillors running CLPs and BLPs. We would welcome radical reform of Local Campaign Forums (LCFs) so that councillors no longer sit on these. If their current form is retained, councillors should not be allowed to stand to represent CLPs on LCFs and should not be eligible for the roles of Chair, Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer.

Wider support for CLPs

Currently CLPs receive just £2.50 per member per year and some free/subsidised services. CLPs are entirely volunteer run and coping with large memberships and democracy takes time. CLPs need more support, financial and otherwise, from the regional and national parties. The amount per member given to CLPs should at least double to £5. There should be free fundraising packs, campaign day materials and other resources, and rewards for building membership, for example, giving £6 per member to CLPs in the top 35% of relative membership increases with an additional bonus for being in the top 50% in constituencies where at the last general election, the labour candidate either lost by less than 4000 votes or won by less than 2000. Good notice must be given to CLP secretaries and other relevant officers of all national processes to ensure full democratic participation. All CLPs should get a free delegate space for National Conference (including travel and accommodation). Ideally, they should get fully-funded places for Women's Conference and for Regional Conferences as well. CLPs should be financially supported to widen access, for example, with the party covering the costs of childcare for members and of preparing large print mailings.

The Labour Party must improve the system of hearing members complaints. Currently complaints are considered by the GM before going to the NCC, with regional scrutiny. An ombudsperson should be introduced. Members have a right to complain and for their concerns to be heard by a member of Labour Party staff. Complaints against members and against CLPs should follow the principles of natural justice as laid down in the Chakrabarti Inquiry. Over recent decades a large number of CLPs have been suspended or put into special measures often for many years. Suspended CLPs should be reviewed within six months, and special measures should be a last resort and only used when there is a plan to take the CLP back to normal operation within a year.

Selection of Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPCs)

PPC Selection is a central aspect of Labour Party democracy. Each CLP should choose its PPC through an open selection by all its members. Any sitting MP representing a significant geographical part of the constituency should automatically be shortlisted.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on the role of socialist societies

1. Some of the affiliated organisations represent a tiny percentage of the relevant interest group in the Party, with self-perpetuating leaderships. So there is a regulatory issue to be addressed.
2. Concern regarding socialist society delegation to CLP GCs (each socialist society can send up to 5 delegates to each CLP GC, as long as they are members of both the socialist society and the relevant CLP). This is both inconsistent (some do, some don't) and non-transparent.
3. Socialist societies should be more welcoming and inclusive of new members
4. The Socialist Societies Executive is London-centric. Meetings are arranged at short notice at times when people from other parts of the country would not be able to attend without staying overnight.
5. Disability, BAME and LGBT Labour should each have a rep on the NEC, a Shadow Minister and an annual conference.
6. All socialist societies should elect their officers on a regular basis, from a ballot of their total membership, not just from those that are able to attend an AGM.
7. The Labour Party should do more to make members aware of the existence and purpose of socialist societies.
8. Socialist societies should have a non-voting right of attendance at National Policy Forum Commissions relevant to their subject.
9. There should be Socialist Society representation in the Regional Labour Party executives - without requiring a separate affiliation fee as at present.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on strengthening the involvement and participation of members

Introduction

Our party's membership is our greatest asset but it is under-utilised. In addition to shaping policy - dealt with in a separate section of this review - members' participation fall into the following categories:

- Campaigning in elections
- Selecting candidates
- Community activism and workplace organising
- Participation in Branch and CLP meetings
- Taking on roles within the party

There are a number of specific improvements which can be made to each of these areas. In addition, the conduct of members has been a focus. We believe that a mass membership party needs clear guidelines on members' rights and responsibilities and a mechanism for investigating complaints regarding breaches of either. We conclude with some suggestions regarding those.

Campaigning in elections

Campaigning in elections is one of the key ways in which members can participate in the Labour Party and contribute towards our shared success. But often campaigning can seem inaccessible or unappealing, and its purpose unclear.

- Guidance should be produced and circulated to explain how and why we do 'voter ID' campaigning.
- Guidance and training should be provided for members to ensure that they feel comfortable to go beyond 'voter ID' in their doorstep or phonebank conversations to focus on persuasion when this is appropriate.
- Training and guidance should be provided for all Campaign Organisers to include: how to efficiently run a board, building a welcoming environment for volunteers,

Selecting candidates

Selecting a candidate to represent the Labour Party in local, regional or national elections is one of the most important rights enjoyed by party members. It is vital that barriers to participate in this should be minimal:

- As a general rule all candidates should be ultimately selected by an all-member ballot of the members registered in the relevant area (e.g. CLP members for a parliamentary selections, ward members for councillor selections etc), with the possibility for members to vote by postal or online ballot.
- Where there is a process to produce a shortlist this should prioritise the involvement of members and party units.
- Where a candidate is restanding they should face an open selection contest unless they have the overwhelming support party affiliates and members: for instance in parliamentary selections nominations from $\frac{2}{3}$ of local affiliates **and** from party branches representing $\frac{2}{3}$ of constituency members.

Community activism and workplace organising

While our party was created to form secure working class representation in Parliament, electoral activity is not the only area where we can have an important impact. Local parties should be encouraged and supported to campaign on key local issues, and party members should be supported to participate in this.

- TULO Officers should be supported to link party members up with local trade union disputes and campaigns, including through provision of training.
- The national Labour Party should provide campaign briefings for local parties who want to organise local activity in support of national campaigns e.g. defending the NHS.
- Local parties should be encouraged to include 'community engagement' in one of their officer role descriptions and this officer should work with elected representatives to identify campaign opportunities in the local area.

Participation in branch and CLP meetings

Labour Party meetings are confusing to most new members (and to many longstanding members). The formality and the large number of acronyms and procedures can be off putting. Yet meetings are key to a democratic party and they need as many members as possible to participate. The following measures are recommended to begin to address this:

- A Political Education and Training Officer should be added as a core officer to all CLP executives, part of their role being to help people understand how the party works on a local level.
- The national party should prepare a series of resources (online and offline, printed and video) that can be used shared and adapted locally to help people get to grips with internal processes such as writing and proposing policy motions. A Labour Party wiki would be a great way of drawing on the collective energy and knowledge of party members to produce a resource for all who want to learn more.
- Often meetings with debates with external speakers can be more engaging than those dominated by reports and motions. To encourage branches and CLPs to organise these, national and regional staff should set up an online database of potential speakers organised by topic.
- While motions are a key mechanism for internal democracy, their structured debate with all speakers having to be heard by all members often makes for an un-engaging and uninformative discussion. The Rule Book should allow other ways of debating with motions including allowing small group discussion after an initial speaker for and against the motion.

Taking on roles in the party

Labour Party officers at branch and constituency level are critical to the party. As party membership increases these roles become more demanding and new members can find the thought of taking one on daunting. Here's some suggestions for involving as many members as possible in running our local parties:

- The Rule Book should explicitly allow job shares of all positions. This makes the roles more doable by sharing the workload and makes them feel more accessible to newer members. It also offers an internal system of support from the person with whom you're job sharing.

- There should be increased support at regional level for those with the most demanding officer positions of Secretary, Chair, Vice Chair Membership, Vice Chair Campaigns and Treasurer. This should include mentoring for new CLP secretaries and online forums for each of these officer groups where they can share their experiences and ask questions of and support each other.

Members' Rights, Responsibilities and Complaints

As a democratic socialist party, the Labour Party's ability to deliver depends on its ability to harness the talent, ideas, and commitment of its members. This depends on guaranteeing those members rights to transparency, accountability, participation, training, and disciplinary justice. We would suggest creating a Charter of Members' Rights that sets these out.

Transparency: members should have rights to access key documents on their local and national party including financial records and to know who are their elected representatives at all levels of the party and the elected representatives of affiliates participating in any vote.

Accountability: the Labour Party shall guarantee meaningful mechanisms of accountability between its members, elected representatives and paid staff. As well as providing written reports, elected representatives should take CLP or branch policy into account when voting, and should report any differences in their position to the CLP/branch. Regarding the staffing structure, members should be informed of the specific rights, remits, and responsibilities of staff members, as well as relevant lines of accountability;

Participation: members should have rights to take part in local party governance, policy development, selecting candidates, standing for selection as a candidate for public office, internal elections, and attending and speaking at Labour Party meetings.

Capacity Building and Skills Development: training should be guaranteed for incoming officers on branch and CLP Executives, prospective candidates, identifying and combating all forms of discrimination, campaigning and organising, and broadly in political education.

Disciplinary Justice: In line with the Chakrabarti Inquiry, natural justice must govern all disciplinary matters. Members should have the right to make complaints confidentially to an independent third party. There needs to be a transparent complaints procedure mapping each stage and including guarantees that cases will be dealt with in a timely manner. These assurances should be given to both the complainant and the subject of the complaint. Suspension should be a last resort and there should be an end to so-called auto-exclusions through which people are expelled from the party without any right to appeal. When members are expelled, the time lapse before their readmission should be proportionate to the offence. The outcome of any process should be reported to the complainant and the subject of the complaint before being made public.

Accompanying this, there should be a clear set of ethical guidelines focusing on mutual respect and making clear that all forms of discrimination and harassment are unacceptable. This Code of Ethics shall lay out a set of mutual responsibilities for all party members, elected representatives, paid staff and contractors. These shall include matters relating to discrimination, transparency, and data protection.

Any breaches of the Code of Ethics and the Charter of Members' Rights can be referred to a Ombudsperson appointed by and accountable to the National Executive Committee - and separate

to the usual staffing structure. The current process of dealing with complaints which relies on an investigation by CLP officers is not fit for purpose. Members have a right to complain and for this to be dealt with appropriately and confidentially by a member of Labour Party staff.

Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD)

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review - Phase Three

Phase Three of the Party's Democracy Review includes: the method of electing the Party Leader; the composition of the NEC; the policy process including CLP motions; and local government.

The deadline for submissions this phase is 29 June.

The proposals set out in this paper are for consideration and submission to the review

Submissions to the review can be made [here](#) or if longer than 250 words emailed to democracy@labour.org.uk.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on the method of electing the Party Leader

Q. How should we elect our Party Leader?

Suggested Submission

The electorate should continue (as in 2015 and 2016) to be Labour Party members plus affiliated supporters and registered supporters, with votes counted on the basis of one person one vote in a preferential ballot (again as in previous contests). The decision about who is our leadership should be made by this wide electorate, as it assists in selecting as Leader the candidate capable of securing the greatest electoral support for Labour.

Supporting argument

The widening of the leadership electorate in advance of the 2015 leadership contest established the most democratic leadership elections the party has ever had. This is resulting in Labour again becoming a mass party and is strengthening its relationship with Labour voters.

Our current Leader, Jeremy Corbyn, secured the votes of more than 300,000 people in the 2016 leadership contest. It strengthens the party to have a Leader elected with such a large mandate.

Q. What role should registered supporters have in leadership elections?

Suggested Submission

a) The role of registered supporters should remain the same - they should vote in leadership elections. It adds to the legitimacy of the leadership that it is chosen not just by party members, but also by affiliated supporters and registered supporters. It benefits the Labour Party to engage its most sympathetic voters in these important decisions.

b) The fee to become a registered supporter should be a maximum of 10% of the standard membership rate (currently the standard membership rate is £50 per year).

c) The registered supporters scheme should be changed to allow people to sign up to be one at any point, including outside of when there is a Leader or Deputy election.

Supporting argument

a) The registered supporters scheme allows the party to reach beyond our members to engage with Labour voters who are not ready to join the party but are willing to sign up as supporters. It is evident from 2015 and 2016 that there are tens of thousands of Labour voters willing to sign up as supporters. These are core supporters, who can be encouraged to mobilise at election times and, over time, to consider party membership. The registered supporters scheme to date has generated millions of pounds income for the party. In the 2015 Leadership election more than 105,000 registered supporters voted and in 2016 more than 120,000.

Since the election of Jeremy as Leader Labour's right wing have been campaigning to scrap the registered supporters scheme. Some even want to return to an 'electoral college' in which MPs and MEPS would one third of the entire vote. Such measures are not democratic and could obstruct the party from choosing as Leader the candidate with the greatest support amongst Labour's members and supporters.

In September 2016 Labour's members and supporters elected for the second time the leadership candidate most able to lead the party towards forming a government.

Labour's general election advance in June 2017 confirmed this as our national vote share went up by 9.6% to 40%, and we gained a net additional 30 Labour MPs. This advance was due to the policies introduced under Jeremy's leadership.

It is a great privilege for a party member to represent Labour in parliament as an MP. However MPs are mere mortals like the rest of us and evidently can be out of touch with what is in the interests of our voters. In June 2016 172 Labour MPs voted that they had no confidence in Jeremy. If Jeremy had been replaced that year by a right wing Labour MP we would have suffered at the 2017 polls, just like our pro-austerity sister parties across Europe. In June 2017 it was evident that there were Labour MPs not able to understand the popularity of both party and its manifesto, who acted as if a Labour Party led by Jeremy would go backwards, not forwards. There were MPs who could not even gauge the Labour support in their own constituencies.

There is no reason to give any privileged group of party members, such as MPs, a greater say in who should be Labour Leader. To maximise the party's possibility of victory the decision should continue to be made by 'one person one vote'.

The right wing wants rid of registered supporters simply because 80% plus of them voted for Jeremy in 2015 and 70% did so in 2016. It is simply a proposal to change the electorate to advantage the right wing. The party should not reduce its engagement with these core supporters nor and cut off this source of income.

b) During the 2015 leadership election registered supporters paid £3 to vote in the election. This was raised to £25 for 2016, with only a narrow 48 hour window allowed in which to pay the fee. Many Labour voters on low incomes are not in a position to just fork out £25 with less than 48 hours notice.

These changes to the procedures were aimed at reducing the involvement of registered supporters in the 2016 leadership election. Making such partisan changes should not be repeated again.

In 2015 the party looked outwards and encouraged Labour voters to sign up. But in 2016 the party was made to appear as if it did not welcome the recruitment of supporters.

Labour should be positive about engaging its core supporters and build up the largest possible network of them, including amongst low income voters.

c) This would allow local parties to have a list of local people who are supportive enough to sign up and pay a nominal fee, but who for whatever reason for not feel ready to join as a full member. The registered supporter fee would sign someone up for a full year. This would assist local parties in building up support for the party and recruit members.

Q. What should be the nomination threshold to get on the ballot paper to stand for Party Leader?

Suggested Submission

Give trade unions and CLPs real powers to nominate their choice of candidates on to the leadership ballot paper. There should be no veto held by MPs and MEPs.

When there is a vacancy for Leader, Labour's members and supporters should be entitled to a democratic choice. Party rules need changing so it is never possible for a candidate who is the most popular amongst members and supporters to be kept off the ballot paper. Currently MPs/MEPS can do just that by restricting the choice on the ballot paper.

The current situation is undemocratic and should be corrected by extending the power to nominate a candidate on to the ballot paper to both trade unions and CLPs.

Labour should change its rules so that in future a candidate can automatically be placed on the ballot paper if they are nominated by **either** 10% of CLPs that make a nomination, **or** by 10% of the nationally affiliated trade unions that make a nomination **or** by 10% of MPs and MEPs.

Supporting argument

Prior to 1988 the threshold required for a valid nomination to stand for Leader or Deputy Leader was 5 per cent of Labour MPs, whether there was a vacancy or an incumbent in post.

The current requirement, when there is a vacancy that a candidate has to be nominated by 10 per cent of the PLP plus EPLP, allows for an undemocratic restriction in the choice of candidates that can be voted on in a leadership ballot. It allows MPs/MEPs to have a veto and block candidates that have backing in the trade unions and CLPs from securing a place on the ballot paper.

When there was a vacancy for Leader, in both 2010 and 2015, some MPs got around the current rule and ensured a representative field of candidates by nominating candidates they did not intend to vote for. This allowed Diane Abbott in 2010 and Jeremy in 2015 to be included in the respective ballots. The MPs believed neither would win a leadership election.

Since Jeremy's election as Leader in 2015 many MPs have indicated they will not again nominate to provide the Party with such a breadth of choice.

A candidate who has wide support in the trade unions or amongst the membership but not the requisite backing of 10 per cent of MPs and MEPs, could be denied a place on the ballot paper. It is undemocratic for MPs and MEPs to have powers to so tightly restrict the range of candidates running in a leadership election. Labour's affiliated trade unions and local constituency parties should be able to join MPs/MEPs in having a real say over who is on the ballot paper. That is the best way to guarantee there is a representative choice of candidates.

How should "freeze dates" work in elections for the Leader, the National Executive Committee and for delegates to Annual and other Conferences?

Suggested Submission

The freeze date for membership and registered or affiliated supporter eligibility in a leadership election should be no earlier than one month before the close of the ballot.

Supporting argument

Encouraging Labour voters to become members and supporters, with the incentive of participation in a leadership election has proved to be a valuable way of building the party.

The later the freeze date the more members and supporters can be recruited and the more income the party receives.

In the 2010 leadership election the freeze date for members to join and be eligible to vote was just two weeks before the close of the leadership ballot.

In 2015 the freeze date was bought forward by a couple of weeks. A month before the close of the leadership ballot was the deadline for members to join and also for registered/affiliated supporters to pay their fee.

In 2016, however, an eight months plus freeze date was imposed on membership eligibility. Labour members who joined after 21 January 2016, approximately 150,000 in number, were deemed ineligible to vote, when the ballot was closing on 21 September.

As with other partisan changes introduced in 2016, the aim was to advantage Jeremy's opponent, irrespective of the party's clear interest in maximising its opportunities to increase the number of its members and supporters plus strengthen to its finances.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on the composition of the NEC

The current composition

Leader
Deputy Leader
Treasurer
Front Bench - 3
EPLP Leader
Young Labour
Trade Union representatives - 13
Socialist Societies
BAME Labour
CLPs - 9
Labour Councillors - 2
PLP/EPLP - 3
Wales
Scotland
Total 39

Recommended new composition

Option 1

Leader
Deputy Leader(s)
Treasurer
Trade Union representatives - 13 (gender balanced)
CLPs - 11 (gender balanced)
Scotland - 1 (elected by OMOV)
Wales - 1 (elected by OMOV)
Youth - 2 (1 from CLPs, 1 from TUs)
BAME - 2 (1 from CLPs, 1 from TUs)
Local Government - 2 (at least 1 woman)
Socialist Societies -1 (a woman at least every other election)
Total 36

In addition: Fully participating in NEC meetings, but not voting:

NPF Chair (unless on NEC)
Backbench PLP Rep - 1
Frontbench PLP Rep - 1
Chair of PLP
Chief Whip
Directly elected Mayors' representative

This composition would be more representative than the current NEC, with increased representation for the CLPs, Youth and BAME members.

Option 2

This option would add to Option 1 the 3 PLP/EPLP and the 3 Front Bench seats that currently exist. It would result in an NEC with 42 voting members.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on the policy process including CLP motions

The Review asks how we can strengthen the Policy-Making role of Constituency Labour Parties, Affiliated Organisations and our Party Conference.

CLPs and Affiliates need to have clear and fair access to our Policy-Making process before final decisions are taken by our Conference as a whole. Individual Affiliates and CLPs already have opportunities to participate in decision-making, but the following improvements are suggested:

INPUT:

At the moment each CLP and Affiliate is restricted to submitting either a single Motion or a Constitutional Amendment (with a statistically high likelihood of being ruled "out-of-order"). Even if a proposed Constitutional Amendment from an Affiliate or CLP is not ruled "out-of-order" (under application of the controversial "3-year Rule"), it is obliged (unlike a proposed Constitutional Amendment from the National Executive Committee) to lie on the table for over a year before it can even be debated.

We propose that in relation to each year's Annual Conference :

- * Each CLP and Affiliate may submit a Motion on a freely-chosen topic of either Policy or Organisation ;
- * Each CLP and Affiliate may subsequently also submit an Amendment to such a Motion ;
- * Each CLP and Affiliate may also be allowed to submit a Constitutional Amendment to the Party's Rules ;
- * When 5 or more identical Constitutional Amendments have been submitted, they shall have the right to be timetabled for debate and decision in the same year in which they have been submitted.

To facilitate these options, we would suggest the following timetable :

- (a) Conference Motions and Constitutional Amendments to be submitted by the end of July ;
- (b) Such Motions and Constitutional Amendments to be published and circulated by the last week in August ;
- (c) Any Amendments to such Motions to be submitted by the middle of September.

PROCEDURES :

We also recommend the following improvements to make our Party's Policy-Making more accessible :

- (1) At least 50% of Conference's time should be allocated to debate involving elected Delegates ;
- (2) A space in the timetable of the 2018 Party Conference should be reserved for a Motion selected by the 2018 Women's Conference ;
- (3) A system must be found for selecting speakers for debates which is both fairer and more transparent than previously ;
- (4) Motions / Topics and Constitutional Amendments should be debated and voted on separately, not bundled together in packages ;
- (5) An ongoing "Rolling Programme" of policy, subject to Amendments by Conference, should form the basis of Labour's Manifesto ;
- (6) The current Joint Policy Committee should be replaced by a Sub-Committee of the Party's NEC ;
- (7) If the existing National Policy Forum continues to exist, its make-up should be reformed to reflect the wider Party more closely, with the vast majority of places being shared equally between

representatives of regions / nations on the one hand and representatives of affiliated organisations on the other ;

- (8) The proceedings of the NPF should not be dominated by front-benchers ;
- (9) If NPF members are to have any manageable role, they would need a very significant increase in support-staff ;
- (10) Even with a substantially increased budget for support-staff, they cannot be expected to deal with submissions from individuals and non-Labour organisations ;
- (11) CLPs and Affiliates, however, would need to be given guarantees that all submissions to the NPF and its website have (a) been received and (b) been given detailed consideration ;
- (12) Conference Delegates must no longer be forced to vote on extremely long NPF documents on a crude "Take-it-or-leave-it" basis ;
- (13) 'The NPF should also be able to produce Minority Reports in order to give Conference more options' ;
- (14) NPF documents should in any case be subject to amendment or reference-back of particular parts ;
- (15) Any NPF documents seeking support must therefore be available for circulation in good time for proper assessment ;
- (16) A potential role for the NPF would be to ensure that Labour's front bench is kept fully accountable between Party Conferences.

We believe that these proposed extensions of Input to Conference and the above modifications of existing Procedures will together give all CLPs and Affiliates the positive confidence that their concerns and priorities will be heard. The consequent increase in "ownership" of our Party's programme will pay real dividends in terms of active involvement in campaigning.

POSTSCRIPT :

Three other points have been suggested with reference to Policy-Making but have a wider relevance. They are as follows :

- (i) Party Rules should be collated in a single place, so as to be accessible to Party members ;
- (ii) Procedures, Guidance Notes, Codes of Conduct and Appendices should be moved into the Party's Rule-Book, so that they are amendable only at Conference ;
- (iii) Party Decision-making should ultimately be the responsibility not of unaccountable appointees but of elected representatives.

Suggested submissions for the Labour Party Democracy Review on local government

[Note – these proposals apply to England. Comrades in Scotland and Wales should make recommendations for their nations.]

Selection of Labour local government candidates

Amendments to the way local government candidates are selected were introduced as part of a 15-part “package” put to the 2016 Annual Conference and decided by a single vote. That such a fundamental change was combined with a wide range of other unrelated issues was an affront to democracy, and its implications have only become apparent to many members in subsequent selection rounds. The present system is not fit for purpose. It gives a massive advantage to incumbents over challengers. Worse still, it is open to manipulation by those with a pecuniary interest in the result. While accepting that among Labour’s more than 6,000 UK councillors there are many hard-working ones, lack of genuine democracy both in the way candidates are selected and in the governance of Labour Groups strengthens the perception that they can become self-interested, self-perpetuating and privileged cliques, largely unaccountable to the membership.

Panel of candidates

The widespread practice of politically discriminating against supporters of the current Labour leadership in applications to local government panels must end. The interviewing panel must consist of a broad and representative spectrum of opinion within the party and be fair and disinterested.

In applying to the panel, prospective candidates should declare all sources of income (excluding pensions and personal savings) in excess of £1,000 per year, as well as their main occupation. This information should be available to members at shortlisting and selection meetings.

Sitting councillors, Assembly members, MPs, MEPs, police and crime commissioners, Combined Authority mayors, Executive mayors and any other elected representatives in receipt of payments from a public body must not be members of interviewing panels because of potentially conflicting pecuniary interests. This must also apply to all bodies dealing with appeals, with the exception of Regional Board members. Regional Boards have a duty to publish all procedural guidelines relating to selection procedures, and these must be available to all members.

There must be choice. There have been widespread reports of panels only slightly larger than the number of seats to be contested (and often with too few women). The eligible panel should be at least 50% greater than the number of seats to be contested.

At appeals, members must be allowed to be accompanied by a representative or friend who must be allowed to speak.

Freeze dates

Proposed rule change to Appendix 4, I (ii) g

The present rule reads:

“Only those members who have been a member for at least 6 months are eligible to attend any meeting in this procedure. A freeze date for calculating this 6-month eligibility may be set by the LCF with the approval of the RD(GS). If no such freeze date is set the 6 months shall be counted from the date of the first meeting convened to discuss a shortlist for a particular electoral area.”

Replace with:

“All members who are either in membership 12 months prior to the date of local government elections or have six months’ membership prior to the date of the shortlisting meeting shall be entitled (except in by-elections) to take part in shortlisting and selection meetings. In the case of by-elections, the eligibility shall be six months before the date of the election.”

Supporting argument:

The present rule allows for entirely arbitrary freeze dates, different in different parts of Britain, and open to manipulation by very small numbers of people to disenfranchise large sections of members. In selections for elections in May 2018, as many as half of all members have been disenfranchised in some areas, with logical absurdities resulting – for example, that while local government candidates normally need one year’s membership, members selecting candidates have needed well over a year’s membership.

Under the present rule, Regional Directors have insisted that the six-month countback starts from the date of the LCF meeting called to discuss the issue. By calling an LCF meeting on a particular date, an LCF secretary can, in conjunction with a Regional Director, determine the eligibility of members. Many LCFs have met infrequently, not holding AGMs according to rule, and LCF secretaries have been able to act without any effective accountability.

The present rule also leaves unclear what happens if the LCF does not agree with the Regional Director on the freeze date. In practice, where this has taken place, Regional Directors, citing delegated powers from the NEC, have imposed freeze dates on local parties.

Trigger ballots for councillors introduced in 2016 must be abolished

The new arrangements are fundamentally undemocratic. As detailed in our separately submitted document “**Local government Selection Procedures in Waltham Forest 2017**”, sitting councillors have every possible advantage, from access to membership lists in advance to the non-availability of information on alternative candidates. Coupled with a ban on any discussion of the merits and record of both incumbents and challengers, it makes informed choice almost impossible to all but the most engaged members.

The party must revert to its traditional democratic practice whereby all eligible members have access to information on all members of the panel, an equal right to make nominations and decide on the shortlist at a shortlisting meeting, and to vote (taking account of gender requirements and any other positive action measures) by eliminating ballot to decide on its candidates. Shortlisting and selection meetings must not take place on the same day except in exceptional situations.

Local Campaign Forums must be replaced by Local Government Committees

We support the Leyton and Wanstead rule change remitted at Annual Conference 2017:

Replacement of Local Campaign Forums by Local Government Committees

The Labour Party Rule Book 2015 Chapter 1 Constitutional Rules, Clause VIII The National Executive Committee, Sub Clause 3 B iii (page 5):

Replace “Local Campaign Forum (LCF)” with Local Government Committee (LGC)

Replace all subsequent references throughout the Rules to “Local Campaign Forum(s)” with Local Government Committee(s) and all subsequent references to “LCF” with LGC.

Chapter 12 Rules for Labour Party Local Campaign Forums, Clause 2 Objects, Sub Clause 4 (page 44):

Delete all and insert new sub-clause as follows:

4. To undertake activities within the area for the purpose of encouraging new candidates so that Labour groups are representative of the communities in which they work.

Chapter 12 Rules for Labour Party Local Campaign Forums, Clause 3 General Principles, Sub Clause 1 (page 44):

Replace “Campaign Forum” with Local Government Committee

Chapter 12 Rules for Labour Party Local Campaign Forums, Clause 4 Membership (page 44):

Delete all and insert new sub-clauses as follows:

1. The membership of the LGC shall consist 75% of delegates from the local CLP(s) and 25% from affiliates. At least 50% of delegates from each group shall be women.

2. Additionally, CLP campaign co-ordinators shall be ex officio members of the LGC. Any sitting MP, AM, MSP, MEP, PCC and / or PPC may attend their LGC. Where a Co-operative Party council exists for the area concerned and they sponsor candidates in local elections they shall be entitled to appoint a member to the LGC.

3. The LGC shall meet at least four times per year with representatives of the Labour group where one exists.

Chapter 13 Rules for local government Labour groups on principal authorities, Clause VIII Determination of group policy and action, Sub-clause 1 (page 49):

Delete “The Labour Group shall formulate election manifestos in consultation with the local Party and relevant CLPs”.

Insert: “The Labour Group shall formulate election manifestos in consultation with the Local Government Committee.”

This rule change is necessary because LCFs, like current selection procedures, are not fit for purpose. In many cases, they meet infrequently for the sole purpose of overseeing selections, they don’t fulfil any positive role in policy development, and they don’t organise campaigning. It also provides for greater representation from affiliates.

The function of the LGC should be akin to that of a shop stewards’ committee, consulting and negotiating with the Labour Group on behalf of members, branches and CLPs, and not a sub-committee of the Labour Group. For this reason, councillors should not be officers or delegates to the LGC.

LCF/LGC rules, constitution and any standing orders should be freely available to local party members, CLPs and branches.

Procedures secretaries must be elected by LCFs/LGCs. It is not acceptable, as happens in some areas of the party, for LCF secretaries to assume the role without election. They should be elected at the AGM of the LCF/LGC and their mandate should only be extended if there is a current selection process. No mandate must extend beyond two years without renewal.

Governance of Labour Groups

General

Rule Chapter 1.X needs a new clause stating that all Labour public office holders, all Labour Party officers, staff and role holders are expected to conform to the 7 principles of public life (the Nolan Principles) published by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Group secrecy

Labour Group meetings must be accessible to observers from CLPs, who must not themselves be councillors. Minutes of Group decisions must be accessible to party members in a timely manner.

Whip

Whipped decisions should be the outcome of Group decisions, and not the autonomous decision of the Chief Whip.

Complaints

It is essential that complaints against councillors are dealt with in a timely manner, and not stalled or manipulated around key dates like *purdah*.

Removal of Group Leaders

Currently to remove a Group leader requires a two thirds majority. In our view, this should be reduced to simple majority of all members of the Labour Group.

Accountability

Councillor contracts must be robust. Often they look good and paper, but are more honoured in *the breach* than in *the observance*, and not enforced. They should be published within the party and be accessible to branches. Labour Groups must put in place an annual membership consultation plan to be agreed by the LCF/LGC.

Ethical standards

Labour in government must return to the pre-2012 Standards Board. The present arrangements with Monitoring Officers are not fit for purpose in relation to corruption or other serious breaches of the code of conduct. This requires a change in the law, which should include a duty to declare all interests, not just those in the home local government unit.

In the meantime, Labour must put its own house in order. There is widespread abuse of the duty to declare interests, particularly in relation to directorships, rental income and property ownership. The reasonably widespread problem of false addresses must also be tackled. Where councillors genuinely divide their time between two addresses, they should only qualify to sit as councillors through their main residential address. Claiming to live at an address which is in fact rented out while they live at another address should be treated as a serious offence liable to expulsion. All interests must be declared, not just those in the resident local authority.

Councillor levy

The levy collected from councillors by Labour Groups should be controlled by the LCF/LGC. Accounts should be available to members of the LCF/LGC annually. Surpluses above a prudent reserve should be remitted to CLPs for election purposes at the end of the accounting period. Failure to pay the 2% minimum levy should be treated as a serious offence unless the Chief Whip is satisfied that a waiver should apply because of genuine financial difficulty.

Method of electing Labour Group leaders

In all councils, other than those with directly elected mayors, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Labour Group shall be elected by an electoral college composed of equal thirds of councillors, affiliates and members. In the event that the Leader is not re-elected, the Deputy Leader will take over. In the event that neither is elected, councillors will choose the Leader. In councils where Labour holds less than 25% of the seats, the LCF/LGC may apply to the Regional Board for permission to allow the Labour Group to appoint a Leader.

Removal of Group Leaders

Councillors should have the right to remove a Group Leader by simple majority vote. This should be used only in serious cases involving such issues as gross misconduct, serious criminal offences, and being subject to Labour Party disciplinary processes under Chapters 4 and 13 of the Rule Book.

Term limits for Directly Elected Mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and Combined Authority Mayors

Labour members elected to serve in any of these offices may not be selected as a candidate for more than two consecutive terms. There should be an open selection for each term.

Directly elected mayors

We do not believe DEMs are desirable other than in large cities, and not at the level of boroughs or other smaller local government units. Labour should aspire to replace them.

A fairer method of selecting London Assembly candidates

Labour's re-selection processes for "list"-based seats in local government in England – currently only the Greater London Assembly – requires that incumbents are confirmed or otherwise as candidates, and that new candidates are found and approved by panel. The candidates are then ordered by a member's vote, with the incumbents guaranteed the highest places.

This protection, i.e. the guarantee that incumbents get the highest ranking places on the list, should be removed. Members' votes should determine the order that incumbents and challengers are placed on the list, subject to the gender quota rules. The members should be offered an additional two candidates, who become available for call up in the event that one of the selected candidates becomes unavailable to stand.