

NCG Meeting - Minutes

Sat 1st December 2018

Date and time: Saturday 1st December, 2018, 10:30-16:00
Location: London
Participation: Jon Lansman (Chair), Emine Ibrahim, Becky Boumelha, Elizabeth Conway, Barry Gray, Martin Menear, Michael Thawe, Cecile Wright, Joe Ejiofor, Mike Bird, Lorcan McMullen, Yanis Gourtsyannis, Adam Klug, Emma Rees, Natasha Josette, Ian Hodson, John Taylor, Sam Tarry, Aneesa Akbar, Elizabeth Hayden.
Apologies: Apsana Begum, Carol Turner, Laura Snell, Tony Kearns
Staff: Laura Parker, Rachel Godfrey-Wood, Joe Todd, Santiago Bell-Bradford, Nav Mishra

1. Welcome and intro

Noted BAME members of the NCG need to leave early to go to a BAME Labour event so agreed to take BAME Labour motion before lunch.

2. Notes from previous meetings

Minutes – administrative oversight, minutes not circulated in time for meeting. **Action:** Becky to circulate for agreement after meeting.

Party Reform Group report to NCG – Barry Gray (Chair of Party Reform Group) gave feedback on the meetings for the quarter, including successes from conference and areas where further work is needed. Discussed strategy for working through the NEC, with LOTO and the Unions for achieving further democratisation of the Party.

Noted thanks to Rachel and staff and other Momentum activists for the huge amount of time and effort they put into the democracy review.

Noted the Party Reform Group will meet for the first time since conference on 13th Dec so conversation about areas of priority will be continued there.

Action: Barry and Laura to discuss how best to move forward and liaise with LOTO on the implementation of the democracy review.

3. Momentum's Strategic Objectives – Jon Lansman proposal on behalf of Review Group

Verbal proposal from JL based on preliminary discussions and agreement of the Review Group on adding two additional strategic objectives to Momentum's constitution - focusing on developing future leaders and building hegemony in the party (exact wording to be determined).

Discussed balance of organising within the Party and organising in communities, of building the capacity of groups to campaign on local issues and how to use this to empower and build the skills of activists and leaders.

Noted need to work closely with Labour Party community organising team and with Trade Unions on campaigning and developing leaders.

Action: Laura and Jon to bring back paper with detailed Strategic Objective proposals to next NCG meeting for discussion and agreement.

12. BAME Motion – Moved by Michael Thawe, seconded by Sasha Josette

CW proposal to broaden out the proposed advisory group to other Black groups. **Agreed** that there is a need for wider outreach but that in terms of a group focused on providing advice/ guidance to the staff team, including in relation to strategic communications and campaigns work, the Black NCG and staff caucus has the necessary legitimacy and expertise.

Agreed remit of advisory group will be advising on key strategic issues and messaging; work ongoing to refine this process and ensure that it is effective and efficient

Agreed.

4. Accreditation of groups

NHS Momentum

Agreed in principle to accreditation of NHS Momentum pending resolution of some points of detail (including on composition of steering group). **Action:** Laura/Santi, Emma and Yannis to liaise with NHS Momentum re democratic structures, reports to the NCG, and outreach to other Momentum activists campaigning on healthcare and the NHS.

Agreed in principle to accreditation of Momentum International - on the basis that this would not be engaging in work in Northern Ireland; proposal for Momentum International to have representation on the NCG not agreed. **Action:** Laura/Santi to speak to Momentum International and take forward.

5. Momentum Conference & Members Council Review

Noted thanks to staff for their work on the last conference and the analysis paper produced. Preliminary discussion around the need to focus on Momentum's strategic objectives when considering its activities and ensure that the Conference contributes to SOs.

Noted proposal to consider regional events instead of a national conference, with TWT-type engaging sessions and regional NCG reps in attendance.

Proposal from Emma Rees for extraordinary meeting with a Momentum Conference and Council Review Group to discuss concrete proposals on different options to be discussed in detail then brought back to the NCG. Seconded by Mike Bird. **Agreed.**

Noted need for the proposals to have estimate costs when being discussed.

Volunteers for new Conference and Council Review Group: Jon Lansman, Sasha Josette, Adam Klug, Emma Rees, Becky Boumelha, Sam Tarry, Leigh Drennan, Yannis Gourtsyannis, John Taylor. **Agreed** Sasha and Yannis to co-chair this group.

6. Motions on Membership Engagement

Motion from Dudley Momentum, proposed by Michael Thawe.

Agreed many of the proposals in the motion fell under the remit of the new Conference and Council Review Group, so agreed to take them to the Conference and Council Review Group meeting for consideration alongside other proposals.

7. NCG Elections

Rachel presented a paper on NCG role descriptions and election procedures.

Agreed procedure for candidates to pursue group endorsements was potentially expensive and not accessible to all, so agreed not to have any procedure for group endorsements for future NCG elections. **Action:** Staff to put out communication on this and ensure it is clarified in the procedures guidance sent to all.

Agreed need to identify a Returning Officer - proposal made that this should be Momentum's most senior paid officer (National Coordinator). This to be included in further amended version of the procedures document which the NCG Officers should sign off in early 2019

Noted difficulty of scheduling next years NCG elections given Brexit at the end of March and local elections in May. **Proposed** by Emine Ibrahim that in order not to clash with locals, NCG elections should be held after local elections in 2019. Seconded by Martin Menear. **Agreed.**

Action: Laura/Rachel to work on election timetable and include in revised version of the guidance at next NCG Officers Group meeting.

8. Labour Party Conference Review

Rachel presented review on Momentum's role at Labour Party Conference.

Noted with thanks from NCG to Rachel for her huge amount of work on the democracy review and wider Conference organisation.

9. Party Reform

Discussed under agenda item 2.

10. CAC

Barry Gray proposed Momentum NCG endorses incumbents Billy and Seema again for CAC and noted their sterling work on the committee over the past year.

Also proposed Momentum NCG endorses incumbents Jean Crocker and Teresa Clarke for Women's CAC, and Gemma Bolton as the third candidate put forward by the CLGA.

Both proposals **agreed.**

11. Black History Month Review

Noted with thanks to the Black NCG caucus and staff team for successful BHM videos - one of which had more viewings than any other BHM videos.

12. NCG Motions

Motion on NCG Communications proposed by Sasha Josette, seconded by Becky Boumelha and Yannis Gourtsyannis.

Noted remit of new communications system is to facilitate better/faster discussions between NCG members. Discussions pertaining to meetings and key decisions will still take place via email cc-relevant staff.

Agreed.

Motion on Disability Rights moved by Sasha Josette,

Noted Momentum needs to be working closely with Disability Labour which has new leadership and is very keen to work with Momentum.

Noted need to develop our systems for gathering data on our members.

Agreed.

Action: Joe Todd to do comms around this for International Day of Disability.

Motion on Constitution Change, moved by Liz Smith. Moved to next business.

13. AOB

Discussed possibilities for finding free meeting venues for NCG meetings. Sam Tarry agreed to look into possibilities with TSSA.

Action: NCG members to explore possibilities for upcoming NCG meetings.

Noted work Momentum is doing to ensure one united counter-Tommy Robinson demo.

Noted support from Momentum for Seema Chandwani in important upcoming by-election in Haringey.

Noted mayoral elections in Tyneside. **Agreed** to support left candidate Jamie Driscoll unless NEC nominations are reopened on the basis of encouraging more women to stand.