

NCG Meeting - Minutes Sat 20th Jul 19

Date and time: Saturday 20th July 2019, 10:30-16:00
Location: 17 Devonshire Square, London, EC2M 4SQ
Participation: Jon Lansman, Becky Boumelha, Liz Smith, Liz Hayden, Cecile Wright, Barry Gray, Michael Thawe, John Taylor, Apsana Begum, Carol Turner, Emma Rees, Sam Tarry, Leigh Drennan, Maggie (WGL), Joe Ejiofor, Emine Ibrahim
Apologies: Mike Bird, Laura Snell, Martin Menear, Helen McDonald, Lorcan Mullen, Ian Hodson
Staff: Santiago Bell-Bradford, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Laura Parker, James Goodman

1. Welcome and intros

Chair proposed change of order or agenda to allow for people delayed by transport to join us for those items where most debate envisaged. **Agreed.**

2. Quarterly Operational Paper

RGW spoke to paper.

Noted purpose of QOP is, 1) to aid with internal planning and processes in staff team, including M&E of work plan, and 2) to provide comprehensive and cohesive overview of workplan to NCG for better oversight.

JL asked what the relationship is between this process and internal budgeting. Also noted concerns that SO4 workplan overstates the importance of training and understates the importance of education and other aspects of leadership development.

LP clarified staff team involve Finance Lead in QOP discussions. Work has also been done to reconfigure the budget around core areas of activity, and the same with the organisation restructure. Noted the current QOP reflects the current structure, and the overemphasis on eg training rather than education will shift as new roles are hired and the restructure is implemented.

Proposed the NCG needs to have an overarching strategy discussion, including a review of the values, priorities and strategic direction of the organisation (e.g. on areas of priority, on long-term investment of resources vs short term wins, etc), which should then give better coherence and direction to the QOP and workplan. **Agreed. Action:** BB to put on agenda for next NCG meeting.

Noted of the 5 Strategic Objectives, 3 have been in use since the early days of Momentum to shape and give cohesion to the workplan, and they were reviewed and two extra were added by the Review Group at the end of last year.

Noted the concept of leadership in the QOP related to: people who lead on campaigns; who lead internal debates; who can play a role in developing the left and other leaders of the future.

Noted thanks to staff team for work on this.

RGW presented QOP from previous quarter.

Noted need for strategy development re election work to ensure we're working where we can be most effective, including prioritising supporting socialist candidates supportive of the leadership (including in Parliament and local government). Noted discussion on regional targets for elections.

Noted need to agree GE ways of working with the Labour Party in order to ensure maximum impact. **Action:** LP and JL to follow up.

Noted some tasks in the QOP are allocated to staff who have left. LP confirmed a full handover has been undertaken, the QOP document will be updated to reflect this work.

Action: Staff to add work on CAC elections under Conference Planning in QOP. Noted success in left CAC slate nominations.

Noted concerns around trigger ballot timetable and a possible snap general election, and the need for Momentum to consider the risks of this in work plan.

Noted Momentum has started work on pushing out Labour's equalities monitoring form to members, and noted suggestions including: pushing increased/improved communications from the Party ahead of elections encouraging people to self-identify if they want to vote; putting out communications through the Black press; including BAME organising in the job spec of one of the new organiser posts. Noted need to focus work plan around creating a strong, self-organised Black Caucus (the new BAME Labour) rather than anti-racism trainings or materials – and for staff workplan to focus around organising for the new structure and reaching out through our networks to support/build the movement. **Action:** Staff to take forward and add suggestions into QOP.

Noted work on councillor and PPC training sessions, and intention to do a session at Party conference. Noted ST suggestion we focus resources on supporting PPCs in marginal seats, who have to run very targeted campaigns and we can make a significant difference. Proposed Momentum do a review of PPCs so we can identify where to focus our resources. **Action:** Staff to take forward.

Noted successes of councillor trainings, and difficulties with scaling up these initiatives and reaching left councillors outside of our network. Proposal from BG to review issues related to council leaders selection. **Action:** Staff to take forward all proposals, and NCG to discuss as part of strategy item next meeting.

3. Conference planning

RGW spoke to item.

Noted progression on organising ahead of conference. Discussed new workplan around motions and procedures/strategy for prioritising them. Noted need to collaborate with Loto ahead of compositing meetings. **Action:** Revisit decision-making procedures at conference at next NCG meeting.

Noted staff will organise space for NCG to meet at conference outside of the securitised zone.

4. Selections report

RGW spoke to item and gave overview of ongoing selections, upcoming selections (inc retirement seats and TIGger seats).

Noted JT request to focus on mayoral elections.

Noted congrats to staff for Peterborough election, and Lisa Forbes being first Momentum-backed candidate who's made it into Parliament.

Noted need to prioritise resources for trigger ballot selections as soon as timetables become clear.

Discussed need to prioritise winnable selections and concentrate our resources.

AB raise question about how are we working with parliamentary colleagues, trade unions and local groups to ensure we have the relevant knowledge to understand where we need to concentrate our resources, and what are we doing at a national level to give local groups national context that could be helpful.

Noted discussion on need to map networks and prioritise Black candidates for top retirement seats to redress the failures of the last selection process, including the use of AWS' to block Black men. Noted regional imbalance of Black networks, and need to redress this. **Agreed. Action:** Momentum NCG Black members to meet ahead of next full NCG meeting to discuss proposals for taking this forward.

LP proposed a stand alone meeting to discuss opportunities for mapping/training Black leaders, including a possible morning NCG discussion and inviting key people in the Party to come and listen. **Agreed. Action:** Staff/BB to organise.

BG proposed NCG/staff map Black members/networks (councillors, trade unions, community leaders attached to the left etc) ahead of this proposed meeting. **Agreed. Action:** BB to send out action points ahead of next meeting.

5. Affiliations

CW spoke to Momentum Black Caucus request to affiliate.

Noted MBC request to affiliate included a paper that had been sent to JL but not circulated or received by other NCG members. Noted MBC intention to request affiliation as a separate organisation, and clarified Momentum intention to focus on building/supporting Labour Party liberation strands rather than devoting resources to develop internal liberation structures. **Agreed** MBC request to affiliate, on the grounds further discussion will be had to clarify their role and remit and request for name change to clarify separation.

JL proposed a nominal fee of £10 charged to all affiliated organisations other than trade unions and CLPs which affiliation fees have already been set. **Agreed.**

6. Democracy review papers

RGW spoke to paper.

Noted discussion around possible staggered elections, and questions around ensuring equalities considerations.

Noted discussion around proposal for 2 year term and questions of accountability versus cohesion and experience/effectiveness of NCG reps.

Noted need for smaller regions to make it easier for regional reps to visit/report back to members/groups.

JL proposed we put to the membership a rule change for the first two proposals in the paper on increasing the number of regions and representatives. **Agreed** unanimously.

JL proposed we put to the membership that we move to biennial elections. 9 in favour, 1 against. **Agreed.**

Barry spoke to his motion on using ERS services for Momentum internal elections.

EI seconded.

LP noted only 3 complaints at last election. Noted staff recommendation not to agree motion as service would cost £10-15k and elections would still use significant staff resources.

5 in favour, 7 against. Motion **not carried**.

7. Brexit

ST spoke to paper.

JL noted need to clarify the proposal, and to ensure any campaign on current Brexit policy has messaging signed off by LOTO.

Clarified the full paper was for context, not agreement. Clarified proposal was to fund/support campaign on current Labour policy on Brexit (anti-no deal Brexit, with messaging centring around austerity).

Noted ER proposal to consider regional targeting of messaging and resources. **Agreed.**

Action: BB to email out John McDonnell message to the NCG to all NCG members.

JL proposed messaging for the campaign gets signed off by the Officers Group. **Agreed.**

BB proposed we moved to vote and include proposal that we sign off all messaging with LOTO, and we collaborate with their timetable to ensure they're seen to be leading on the campaign. **Agreed.**

Proposal **agreed.**

8. Future Meeting dates

Agreed next full NCG meeting would be 14th September. **Action:** BB to circulate confirmation of this and all future meeting dates for the next term to NCG via email.

9. NCG Motions

LS moved motion on Momentum support for leadership policy agenda, CW seconded.

Carried.

Barry moved motion on circulating a motion on Palestine ahead of conference.

JL proposed a motion for circulation.

BB proposed we agree a positive motion that everyone is happy with, and NCG Officers can sign off on. Proposed BB writes and circulates motion for discussion. **Agreed.**