

NCG Meeting-Minutes
Wednesday 27/10/2019

Date and Time: 27th of October, 14:15-17:00

Welcome and Introductions

Item 1: NCG Elections Timetable

JL noted uncertainty regarding general election as affecting current plans for the NCG elections. JT noted a previous proposal not to have NCG elections until the end of the year and concluded that a postponement would make sense to the members. CW agreed and noted that the focus should be on a general election. ER asked what the members had been told about the prospective NCG elections. JL and OH clarified that the members were told of the provisional date to open nominations which was 30/10/2019. LD notes it is reasonable to postpone the election due to the possibility of an upcoming general election. LC/H noted happy to postpone and noted that we should push for the NCG elections after the general election. LM asked if it is known when exactly the last day to reasonably call an election and OH confirmed it is provisionally November 6. JL noted the motivation for the Government having the election outside of term-time and noted the importance when considering when a GE is called and also noted the uncertainty regarding the voting intention of the PLP as well as the motivations of the other parties. BG noted the LibDems/SNP alternative motion for an election to be held on December 9.

JL noted the consensus on delaying the NCG elections but addressed the lack of details and uncertainty around the political situation. JL noted that the NCG elections may have to be delayed further if Momentum are required to fight a leadership challenge. BG proposed fixing a date for a full NCG meeting to revisit the topic of NCG elections in light of more information regarding the political situation. LM noted that the NCG makes important decisions for Momentum and will be well past its mandate if the elections are delayed further. ER noted the difficulty of the situation. JL noted that Momentum's Constitution allows for NCG to delay elections until an election, referendum or leadership contest is over. JL officially proposes delay the NCG elections and to have a full NCG meeting in mid-January to review.

JT, BB, BG, CW, JL, LD, LS, SJ voted for this and LM abstained. **The motion was carried.** BG asked to confirm quorum, which was confirmed.

Action: NCG to delay elections until a full NCG meeting in January where the election timetable shall be reviewed.

Item 2: Affiliations and Re-affiliations

Proposal 1)

OH explained the proposal, detailing changes to affiliation fees as noted in the Item papers. OH noted that TSSA and CWU's fees would increase if these changes were implemented. JL noted concern regarding the affiliation costs of unions with 250,000 + members being increased to £5000. JL noted that £2000 may be more suitable. BB noted discussions from previous meetings where TK offered to negotiate higher affiliation fees from unions. BG agreed with JL and noted as Momentum does not currently have a 250,000+ member union affiliated and it should be reduced to a more reasonable fee. JL noted consensus for this and also clarified to BB that the action from previous meetings was to secure affiliation fees from unions before the next annual affiliation. JL proposed accepting the proposal with the amended fee of £2000 for 250,000+ member unions instead of £5000. Verbal agreement was made.

Possible affiliates to Momentum were noted and discussed. JL noted various affiliates and groups that may affiliate to Momentum, subject to adhering to Momentum's values and noted that Momentum NHS and MBC fall into this category. OH also noted that LARAF, Tribune, Labour for a Green New Deal have expressed that they want to affiliate as well as other groups, such as Labour Muslim Network, have shown interest in affiliation. OH noted a significant grey area in regards to affiliation.

JT asked JL if Momentum is still pursuing affiliation to the Labour Party. BG suggested that Momentum should not affiliate anyone without going through a proper process and noted that Labour for a Green New Deal originated from some staff members of Momentum and does not have an institutional structure. BG also noted more information is needed regarding each institution, their constitution and their members. BG noted that affiliations can affect future elections and there should be a just and fair process. SJ supported affiliation from other groups and noted that LGND has expanded far beyond its

original advocates. SJ also noted concern about Tribune being affiliated. LH noted that Tribune is supportive of Momentum's efforts and politics. LD also noted support of Tribune affiliation. LM asked for clarification regarding making decisions on affiliations at this meeting. JL clarified that the purpose of discussing the proposals allows Momentum to identify possible affiliates that share Momentum's values. JL also noted The World Transformed as an organisation that originated from Momentum itself and therefore does not necessarily create a problem. JL also noted the complexity of this topic but also noted that having as many appropriate affiliates as possible would be beneficial for Momentum. JL also noted the small amount of nominations from affiliates and the lack of effect on decision-making.

BG noted that Tribune doesn't represent a group in the Labour Party BG noted the difference in organisation structure and activities between the proposed/interested affiliates. BG noted his opposition to Tribune's affiliation. LM noted that the Officers could set criteria for affiliation. LM also noted that LGND has serious support and structural connections. ER noted that there needs to be a consensus on the criteria for affiliation. **Verbal agreement was made.**

Action: More information regarding potential affiliates to be circulated to the NCG.

Proposal 2)

JL noted there is no reaffiliation process set out for affiliates. JL noted that some affiliates have not always acted in-line with Momentum's values and this proposal allows the NCG to review affiliates. BG noted that this proposal does not allow for extra criteria to be applied to affiliations. OH clarified that the Constitution states that trade unions, CLP's and named groups are not subject to the review process when they reaffiliate whereas the "other groups" agreed by the NCG are subject to the process of review in this proposal. JL noted that some organisations have opposed Momentum's rules in the past and BG noted that it is not known if they currently support the rules. JL noted that this proposal should allow us to ask organisations if they support Momentum's rules and follow through on reaffiliation accordingly. JL asked for support on the proposal. LM asked if there is a way of terminating affiliation. OH noted that this proposal does not cover termination of affiliations and that could be brought to future NCG meetings. **Verbal agreement was made to accept the proposal.**

ACTION: Officers to discuss criteria for reaffiliation

Item 3: Welsh Labour Grassroots Data Access

BG noted that MB who originally addressed the issue this is not present on the call nor in the room and proposed delaying the discussion of the issue until he was present. OH noted that there are issues that needed to be solved by the NCG. JL also noted that at a previous meeting, there were some issues with data access and he is unsure if access was ever denied. JL noted that they should have access to their membership data. Oh acknowledged apologies for staff taking so long to deal with the data request, which was originally requested in January. Verbal agreement to hold off on resolving the issue until MB was able to present/discuss it in more detail.

LM requested an update on issues between Momentum and Campaign for Socialism. JL noted a meeting in Scotland with CFS. JL noted discussions for possible organisers in Scotland and support for elections and Holyrood selections. JL noted the unfortunate lack of support for the many Holyrood selections that have already taken place. JL also noted an agreement that if the money received by CFS from Momentum was less than 20% of income from members in Scotland, Momentum would supplement. Noted lack of accurate data regarding calculating accurate income. JL noted there is a planned exercise to integrate membership data with other data to improve analysis but may be difficult to calculate historically. LM noted the importance of good relationships regional groups like CFS and WLG and proposed that OH liaise with CFS and WLG to sort out the financial/data issues. **OH accepted and verbal agreement was made.** LM also noted that Momentum retweeted Ian Blackford's speech and damage to Momentum's reputation in Scotland and that there should be consultation with national representatives going forward. JL noted that it was discussed with Comms team and concluded that it was a mistake. JL noted apologies for the incident.

ACTION: OH/Staff to liaise further with regional groups regarding fundraising and data issues.

Item 4: General Election Update

SBB explained Momentum's General Election plans as noted in the relevant papers. SBB noted the change from MyNearestMarginal to MyCampaignMap, with a broader scope for campaigning advice, guiding canvassers to their most important marginal rather than their nearest. SBB noted that volunteers will be running calling and texting as well as updating our member/supporter data to ensure

it is accurate and maximise volunteer capacity. SBB noted the increase in response time to general queries from members and supporters. SBB noted there should be data collection at every Momentum event which will be quickly inputted by the data volunteers to create a quick follow-up action.

SBB noted the Clipping team, searching all news media for the best clips and passes them on to Comms for implementation in various campaigns. SBB also noted the Translation team to help reach new communities. Noted the events team and plans for distributed events to set up phone banks etc using either our data or the LP data. SBB noted the training team, Activist Handbook, persuasive conversation training is updated and a manifesto persuasive conversations training based on Labour's policy. SBB also noted the fundraising efforts in place.

SBB noted the plan for the first two weeks of a GE. Noted the expectation of raising £48,000 in the first two days of a GE campaign. MyCampaignMap launches in the first week, then the Labour Legends Campaign which asks for bigger asks from activists, including time off work. 'Let's Go' informal groups will be launched across social media to share positive news stories and videos as well as campaigning opportunities. SBB also noted that activist training will also be launched in the first week alongside the activist handbook. SBB also note the launch of our election strategy with participation from Party leadership in the first week and then going forward, running public strategy calls for people to call into.

SBB noted that Week 2 will see the launch of Momentum merchandise as well as the final recruiting for email/texting volunteer team. SBB noted that Momentum will sell an "activist pack" to help promote visual presence. SBB also noted that the Social Media Army will be launched, where activists will be sharing videos of themselves campaigning or talking about various actions on social media, alongside coordinated objectives. SBB note the launch of the manifesto activities.

LS asked how and where the trainings will be launched. SBB clarified that the distributed training will be assigned according to where it is most needed, sometimes outside of marginals and city centres. SBB noted that Momentum will still run its own national training as well as distributed training but all trainers will have access to Momentum's training resources. CW asked about synchronization with the Labour Party. SBB noted efforts to link with the Party previously and noted that all efforts will push activists towards LP activism. SBB noted both Momentum and the Party's Comms teams are communicating and acknowledged the difficulty with coordination and communication at the top level of the party. JL noted it would help Momentum to have a higher level of clarity from this level of the

Party. SBB noted that any plans for activities have been reviewed for both compliance and financial sense and reviewed according to various contingencies.

JL asked about the prioritisation all of the GE activities and if they activities been reviewed for compliance issues. JL also asked about activities in marginals and whether or not they have been assessed for cost implications. SBB noted that it has been considered but the fine details of compliance and regulated spending limits, especially in regards to marginals, are still to be ironed out. OH noted that the Operations Team has run an initial compliance audit with each team addressing risk management, GDPR issues, compliance with regulated spend and general financial control. OH also noted that there is some follow up from some activities due to lack of clarity regarding the regulatory status of some activities. OH noted that staff are developing financial systems to track spending for each team at regular intervals. OH noted that most systems have been broadly assessed and ready to go, although not in entirety. CD noted that the details of each activity affected regulatory status. OH noted the example of UniVotes, needs to have a change of messaging in order to not be regulated, although the tool itself is not necessarily regulated. CD noted that parts of an activity can fall under the “regulated” category and thus, careful consideration must be taken.

JL asked about quality control regarding distributed organising and risk management. SBB noted that all distributed activities, including events, must be reviewed by a staff member and signed off. CW asked about monitoring the Social Media Army output. SBB noted that there is a hashtag that will be used to monitor this output, also noted the LP is interested in this type of activity. BB asked about conflicting directions for activists from the Party and asked how we are communicating with our members regarding where they should be going and what activities they should be doing. ER added the importance of sharing the activist plan and making as much information available to activists from the beginning helps activists feel involved in the campaign and improves their abilities. BG asked, in regards to MyCampaignMap, if Momentum would specify why people are being sent to a specific marginal/seat and noted the importance of keeping activists in the loop of why they are being directed to a specific place. SBB clarified that it depends on communication with the Party and noted that the tool now allows for RSVPs which can help collect information regarding why activists are being sent where.. BB suggested high-profile promotion of MCM to members and supporters in order to boost fundraising. SBB noted.

JT noted the MCM as an opportunity to recruit new members and asked for more membership forms to be circulated. SBB noted. JL asked about activists creating their own events, the subsequent input on MCM and the feedback from activists who create their own event.

Action: SBB to send out new membership forms. SBB to provide more information on prioritizing and targeting actions.

Part 2: Budget and Regulated Spend Compliance

OH referenced a summary of the draft GE Budget. Noted balancing the risk of being over-committed financially and needing to stick to a budget. OH also noted the uncertain legal framework regarding the regulated period and the possible increase of regulated spending limit from the Party and concluded that there were many variables at play in regards to the budget. OH noted also that this budget draft accounts for most scenarios facing Momentum during an election. CD explained narrative of the budget, including estimates of the “best and worst” case scenarios in regards to; income, expenditure at full and reduced capacity and amounts of regulated vs unregulated expenditure for the purposes of compliance with the Electoral Commission limits. These estimates are based on both a 5-week campaign and an 8-week campaign. OH noted the length of campaign will affect the budget dramatically. JL noted that the plans do not incorporate changes that may occur due to when a general election is actually held. OH noted that if an election is not called in the next few weeks, the budget draft will have to be reviewed accordingly.

CD summarised key points of the budget, including increased expectations in both income and expenditure. The first is a full capacity budget and the second is a reduced capacity budget. CD noted that at the end of each week of the campaign, the budget will be reviewed as a dynamic budget, depending on the level of income. CD also noted that reductions in expenditure are likely to reduce income and the reduced capacity budget does not primarily affect activities that generate income. CD noted that the expenditure will be monitored very closely to stay within regulated spend limits and that they have made progress with calculating the last year of regulated spend.

. CD noted that intervention would occur before Momentum breached its regulated spending limit. JL noted the formal request for extra regulated spend from the LP and asked if we should review the

activities in regards to regulated spend and strategies for doing so. OH noted that our campaigning and public-facing activities, such as video, will take disproportionate cuts as opposed to less highly regulated activities if Momentum was close to breaching regulated spending limits. CD noted that we can shift from regulated to unregulated in various ways but this comes with advantages and disadvantages due to changing the nature of the activity. OH noted that operational costs are fixed and easy to predict whereas the cost of other activities such as advertising are extremely difficult to budget for in regards to regulatory limits. OH noted that towards the end of the campaign, we would have the flexibility to spend more regulated spend if necessary and this would have to be assessed dynamically.

LM asked about the possibility of two general elections in one year. OH noted that the EC would be expected to make allowances in regulated spending limits for non-party campaigners. LM asked about the consequences of breaching regulated spend. OH noted that in addition to being fined, people in Momentum can be held criminally responsible for specific offences and there is a reputational risk of Momentum being a repeat offender in terms of compliance.

LM asked about the EHRC report and its political implications in regards to a General Election. JL noted concerns. Discussion of the arrival of the report was had but it was noted there is no confirmation of the date. Noted that the Comms team should be prepared to specifically deal with any implications from this report and Momentum should be prepared to defend the Party at large.

AOB

- It was noted the NCG Officers agreed to broadly agree with CLPD in regards to problems in the shortened selections process. JL noted despite some problems, there has been a significant number of success for the left.
- CW noted the issues with the all-BAME shortlists as a result of the shortened selection process with reference to Nottingham East. Noted that in the future, there should be more thought as to how the all-BAME shortlists are applied.
- JT asked for clarification about future actions from Momentum for endorsed candidates. JL clarified that endorsements are mainly for the benefit of selections but priority will be given to endorsed candidates in the future. OH noted that it is difficult to allocate more resources to selected candidates.

- ER noted the upcoming McDonald's strikes in the coming weeks. Noted that Momentum should support. Verbal agreement.