

NCG Meeting

5/9/2020

11:00am-3pm

Apologies: Phil Clarke (partial), Sarah Doyle, Darran McLaughlin (partial), Shona Jemphrey (partial), Mike Bird (partial), Matt Wrack

Participation: Tracey Hylton, Phil Clarke, Abbie Clarke, Alan Gibbons, Ana Oppenheim, Andrew Scattergood, Angus Satow, Barry Gray, Callum Bell, Carol Turner, Gaya Sriskanthan, Craig Anderson, Darran McLaughlin, Deborah Hermanns, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jennifer Forbes, John Taylor, Jon Trickett, Liz Smith, Mick Moore, Mish Rahman, Rory Maclean, Solma Ahmed, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Tony Kearns, Shona Jemphrey, Mike Bird.

Staff: Ollie Hill, Chloe Koffman

Item 1: Officers Group Report

AS outlined Officers report and noted activities over the past month. GS gave an update regarding the Political Coordinator job role and noted the role is being advertised currently. AS asked about the decision around Momentum's involvement in GS elections. AS explained the decision. TH and PC agreed.

Decisions: n/a

Item 2: Working Group reports

SB noted that the refounding group has plans to include a members survey. DH asked about the housing campaign. DM noted the context and the subsequently modified campaign. DM noted work with other groups including ACORN and the LRU. DM noted work with the Nurses United campaign. HPS explained the campaign and EI noted the need for rough sleeping strategies.

Decisions: n/a

Item 3: Review Group Update

Closed session.

AS outlined the actions and decisions of the Review Group.

Item 4: Young Labour Elections Update

CB outlined results and process of Young Labour Primaries. RM noted low engagement in some regions and noted high engagement from students. DH noted there should be a push for higher engagement in the future. AO noted possible improvements in the future. CA noted issues with the timescales and some candidates but noted positives of the process. RM noted CfS involvement in the process.

Decisions: n/a

Item 5: SCG Discussion

JTr noted the ongoing dialogue with the SCG and Momentum. JTr noted differences in the Group. JTr noted online meetings and issues with voting in Parliament. JTr noted social media presence and upcoming events that Momentum could promote. JTr noted internal Party difficulties. TH asked about clarification around the members of the SCG. TH referenced previous consultations to set up a Black PLP. JTr explained the process for joining the SCG. RM noted the need for coordinating the SCG and Momentum's campaigns to maximise impact. JTr noted they can coordinate to support some of Momentum's campaigns.

Decisions: n/a

Item 6: Discussion of the leaked Labour report, the EHRC report and the suspensions of members

AG noted the recent publication of “Left Out” and noted the evidence of diverting funds to moderate Labour MPs with safe seats. AG noted the upcoming EHRC report. SA said antisemitism cannot be tolerated and noted there should be a separate meeting around suspensions and Momentum’s role.

Decisions: n/a

Break

Item 7: Holyrood Update

RM noted attacks on Richard Leonard and support from various aspects of the left.. RM noted upcoming events for the left in Scotland. RM noted upcoming articles in Tribune, the Morning Star and Labour List getting women involved in List selections. RM suggested that NCG members could help with this campaign. RM noted he will send across a strategy document. CT noted the Comms Group could focus on the campaign to get women involved.

Decisions: n/a

Item 8: Growth Team Overview

CB noted the document in the Drive and noted proposals to decentralise recruitment. CB noted the objectives outlined. CA noted the Momentum brand and that there could be a merchandise or a shop which could be a way of raising money.

Decisions: n/a

Item 9: Future relationship between Momentum and CfS

CA referenced motion passed at the CfS AGM last week. CA noted the previous relationship with Momentum. CA noted there will need to be input from staff as well as the Officers and there could be a working group. RM noted agreement. JT noted confusion around the differential in the organisations.

AG noted disagreement and noted that there are different groups in the regions that overlap with Momentum. MB noted that WLG was formed in 2003 and predates Momentum. SB noted that the platform of election was a refounding process which puts grassroots at the centre. SB proposed a working group with WLG as well as Cfs. CA noted the importance of combining databases from the respective organisations and noted the importance of continued cooperation between the two organisations. MM proposed forming these two working groups, AG noted support. MB noted that we would need terms of reference for the group.

GS proposed the two working groups and spend the next few weeks working out details before re-presenting to the NCG. No objections.

Decisions: Working groups for WLG and Cfs to be formed and finalised at the next NCG meeting.

Item 10: Latin Village Solidarity Motion

DH presented the motion and noted context around the motion. DH noted urgency around the situation as the market was closed due to lockdown and now has not been reopened. DH noted that the traders have asked TfL to look into repairs and noted that the market is unsafe and cannot reopen. DH noted that in the last month they have had meetings with Sadiq Khan about reopening with promising results. DH noted that the motion asks for support and solidarity as well as mobilizing support for the campaign. RM expressed support for the motion.

EI noted that Haringey Council does not own the land but it is partly privately owned and partly owned by TfL. EI noted previous gentrification in the area. EI noted context around the make-up of the council. EI noted that the information around the role of the council has to be made clear. MM noted support for putting it to a vote. DH asked for reassurance that the meetings will be supported by left-wing Haringey councillors.

GS moved to a vote on the motion, no objections made. Motion carried.

Decisions: Momentum to support the Save Latin Village Campaign

Item 12: Armed Forces Motion

AG introduced the motion from a member and noted support for the motion. AG noted the danger of veterans being exploited by the far-right and noted that the left needs to support veterans welfare and interpreters etc. AG noted that Momentum could support some veterans campaigns. SA noted the issue of homelessness among veterans and that the right should not be able to take advantage of it.

GS clarified that it is not necessarily agreeing everything in the motion but rather agreeing the spirit of the motion and committing to the idea of campaigning for veterans rights. AG agreed that we can develop a Comms strategy around this issue. CT noted the suggestion in the motion of forming a distinct group within the Labour Party would be inappropriate. RM noted how recruitment in the army disproportionately affects working-class young people and noted that the age of recruitment is 16, rather than 18. AC noted issues with the unionisation of the military and she wouldn't support this. AC noted that CLPs can already have functional Officers of their choice. AC noted we should focus on issues such as homelessness and mental health. TH noted support and noted that there could be a redeveloped motion.

AG noted that he is proposing to accept the spirit of the motion. GS noted that the motion itself cannot be voted on but Momentum could agree on supporting veterans rights and AG will discuss with Comms Group on how we can work on this.

GS asked for objections to agreeing on supporting veterans rights and developing a strategy to do so.

Decisions: Momentum to develop a strategy around supporting veterans rights.

Item 13: Updated Disputes Policy

Item deferred.

AOB

AS noted there has been a request for Momentum to support Diana Holland as a candidate for Treasurer for the NEC. AS noted that the process of electing this position is the same as the youth representative. AG noted support for this. AS noted there is another left candidate but is unlikely to get affiliate backing and is therefore unlikely to win. MM noted support. RM noted that he isn't against but before Momentum makes an endorsement, they should be presented with their views. CA noted that she is the existing Treasurer and TH noted she has union backing from left unions. DH noted that this method of voting shouldn't set a precedent for the future. AS noted agreement. GS asked if this needed to be done now or if it could be decided over the next few days.

GS moved to a vote on endorsing DH as Treasurer, this was carried.

SB noted that the LRC have sought to affiliate to Momentum. **GS moved to a vote on LRC re-affiliating, no objections were made.**

SB noted the split among BAME activists. Some people on the NCG will be meeting to reflect and debrief, with an open invitation to other NCG members and staff and asked those wishing to be involved to contact Sonali or Darran.

MM gave a brief report on the NEC campaign. Noted there may be issues electing the full slate of six and noted the importance of Momentum's commitment.

BG noted he hasn't been involved with the campaign meetings but CLPD is asking its members and supporters to promote the slate as much as possible. CT noted that smaller campaign activities, including social media, will be crucial in some parts of the left. BG noted CLPD fringe events starting from the 19/9.

Decisions: Momentum to support Diana Holland for Treasurer during the NEC elections

LRC agreed to be suitable for reaffiliation to Momentum.