

1.8.20

NCG Meeting 1/8/2020

Participation: Deborah Hermanns, Puru Miah, Phil Clarke, Alan Gibbons, Andrew Scattergood, Rory Maclean, Ana Oppenheim, Barry Gray, Callum Bell, Callum Cant, Carol Turner, Craig Anderson, Emil Charlaff, Gaya Sriskanthan, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jennifer Forbes, John Taylor, Jon Trickett, Leigh Drennan, Liz Smith, Matt Wrack, Mick Moore, Mike Bird, Mish Rahman, Sarah Doyle, Shona Jemphrey, Sonali Bhattacharyya. Tony Kearns, Tracey Hylton.

Apologies: Abbie Clark

Staff: Ollie Hill, Rachel Godfrey Wood, Chloe Koffman, Tyrone Nicholas, Emil Charlaff

Guests: Matt Buckley, Rob Perera

Item 1: Minutes

Discussion on publishing minutes with details of discussion. BG proposed presenting decision reports. AS agreed to revisit minutes procedures.

Item 2: Co-Chairs report

AS presented the co-chairs report and noted apologies for lateness of papers. AS noted discussions with John McDonnell and other positive conversations.

Item 3: Officers report

SB presented the Officers report and highlighted the OG decisions in the last two weeks. SB noted a new fundraising drive. AS explained the extraordinary meeting on 19/9. RM asked about the other organisations and how much they are contributing to the NEC campaign. RM asked for the plans for the donation drive. JT asked if a salary has been agreed for the Political Coordinator role. SB noted the paper around contributions. JT noted concerns around salary and calibre of candidate. AS noted.

Item 4: Momentum Volunteer Slack presentation

MM volunteers presented the volunteer slack and explained the role it plays for the membership. DH asked if there are any suggestions for how the NCG can interact with the Slack. MB noted the political education hub is a great idea and asked about the practicalities of using Slack. RM noted thanks to volunteers and offered any collaboration with the Comms working group. MB noted the enthusiasm and communication from the new NCG will help interaction between the NCG and Slack. RP noted practical issues with using Slack and possibility to approve over time. MB noted the role of the Welcome team on the Slack. RM proposed doing a focus group around the redevelopment of MyMomentum with the volunteer Slack.

Item 5: Review Group proposal

PC introduced the item and corresponding papers. MW gave a finance update and thanked CD and CL for their work. PC introduced the timeline proposed for the review group. PC introduced the Political Oversight document and noted the current political climate. AS noted the need for agreement and proposed agreeing the oversight document to be used with the Review Group's activities. TK noted thanks to the Review Group and noted that some elements of the strategy could be included in the political oversight document. TK noted there should be more emphasis on the affiliates and trade unions involvement with Momentum. TK noted he is happy to create some wording around this to be included. TK noted there should be wording around a green response to the economy in general as opposed to just in response to coronavirus. AS suggested NCG members make suggestions in writing to PC so they can be fed in for the meeting on 5/9. CT noted that international politics and policy are not included in the document. CT noted context regarding international politics and noted concerns around the GND content.

AS moved to a vote on the review group timeline, this was carried.

AS moved to a vote on the political oversight document, this was carried.

DH introduced the six month strategy document. DH noted the key projects included in the proposal. DH suggested forming a campaigns working group and forming a refounding Momentum working group to deal with key projects 1 and 2. RM noted the document is excellent and noted the refounding aim. RM noted he would like to put himself forward for the refounding working group. PC introduced his amendment about support for NHS workers pay and protests around this issue. AS moved to a vote on the amendment proposed by PC, this was carried.

TH noted MW's point and noted the push for public sector pay. CB noted support for the strategy.

AS moved the strategy document to a vote, this was carried.

AS noted the two working groups proposed, Campaigns and Membership (refounding), AS proposed no more than seven members for each and asked for any interest. HPS, PC, AG, JF, DM, MM volunteered for Campaigns and RM, AG, SB, GS, LS and DH volunteered for the Refounding/Membership group.

Item 6: Procedures Group paper

DH noted thanks to the procedures group. DH noted the main sections of the document and noted that the third proposal can have more time but it would be good to agree the first two proposals. AS noted agreement that proposal three needs more time to agree this but the first two proposals need agreement.

JT proposed an amendment to proposal two. JT proposed that the point 7b should replace “simple majority” with “2/3rds of members present”. DH noted that she would be happy to accept this. This was accepted.

CA noted a decision on meetings needs to be made. DH noted the options for the new meeting schedule and noted the options for in-person meetings. DH noted support for Option B with an annual in-person meeting. TH noted the practical issues and asked about costs and if this would be paid by Momentum. MW asked if the NCG should meet every month and many members attend a lot of meetings. MW noted support for Option B with one annual meeting per year. MW noted that Option C isn't suitable. JT noted there is not a need for monthly meetings and six meetings a year would be more suitable. JT noted that Option B is a possibility and this could involve an annual conference as well. AS noted that monthly meetings could be reviewed later down the line. MB noted quarterly meetings previously could not control the Officer group and the NCG needs to meet frequently. RM noted support for MB's point and supported the monthly meetings as the default. AS suggested agreeing the monthly meetings with the caveat of being able to make a recommendation for the frequency of meetings.

Moved to a vote on the monthly meetings, this was agreed.

AS asked for views on in-person meetings. MB noted the cost and the accessibility of online meetings is not very good for accessibility needs. MB noted concerns around the in-person meeting replacing the NCG meeting of that month as it puts a barrier for disabled people participating in democracy. MB proposed amending this so that it does not disenfranchise people who cannot attend. TH noted accessibility requirements and some NCG members are carers and this should be considered. MW asked about Option C, CA clarified.

AS moved to a poll on the in-person meeting options. Option B was carried. AS noted that the Equalities group should work on the accessibility of these meetings.

DH noted proposals in the Procedures document. MW raised point 2b and noted having two seconders is not normal in the movement and suggested there could be only one. MW noted that any asks for staff members should come through a working group rather than individual NCG members. DH noted if one seconder is preferred that is fine. DH noted that wording could be added to highlight that operational/resource requests they speak to the secretary. This was agreed. DH noted there is a clause for a six-month review of the standing orders and there is room for trial and error.

AS moved to a vote on proposal one and proposal two, this was carried.

TN introduction to Digital trade offs for following proposals

TN presented the digital capacity requirements and the longer term plans that may be put off due to a lack of capacity. TN noted the impact on the organisation if longer term projects are deprioritized. TN noted the lack of access for local groups through digital platforms and issues around data sharing. TN also noted the possibility of groups opting into national tools to improve campaigning abilities.

Item 7: Holyrood proposal + Young Labour proposal

RM noted the proposal has gone to the CFS exec and was agreed unanimously. RM noted the changes and concern around candidates getting ruled out during selections. RM noted the initial application process, working with CFS, Momentum and the left unions to find the most viable candidates. CA noted that they are still waiting on decisions regarding liberation groups and noted that we need to find not only the strongest candidate but one that fits within the criteria. CA noted we need to work towards a united slate of candidates.

AS noted that the Holyrood and Young Labour proposals are linked and should be taken together.

CB noted the importance of getting started on Young Labour primary. CB noted the proposal and noted the proposal for a panel that would ensure candidates for a primary process met minimum criteria. AS asked TN about capacity, TN clarified.

JT noted support for Option 2 but noted that the panel should be young and should only be made up of affiliates/Momentum members. RM asked about capacity, TN and RGW clarified. DH noted that young NCG members should commit to helping this project. DH noted primaries could help the left win in Young Labour. AO noted support for the primaries proposal and noted that it is a good way of engaging young members and find new talent. EI asked about the level of due diligence that we can carry out and if we can require proof of age. RGW noted that proof of age would be a step too far and the Labour Party uses self-ID. EI noted the importance of due diligence. RGW noted that the open primaries should use All Women Shortlists and all BAME shortlists, although where these were used would need to be decided by the panel.

AS moved to a vote on the Holyrood proposal. RGW clarified the proposal. This was carried.

AS moved to a vote on Momentum endorsing candidates in the Young Labour elections, this was agreed.

AS moved to a vote on how to endorse candidates for Young Labour, Option 1 was agreed.

Item 8: MyMomentum proposal

RM introduced the proposal. RM noted the uniqueness of MyMomentum and noted the ask that developing MyMomentum is an organisational priority. RM noted the proposal for focus groups to help develop the tool and run a consultation with the volunteer Slack. TN noted that developing a more detailed proposal would take time and he can't guarantee that there will be a fully fleshed out proposal at the next meeting. CB noted that this could help enthuse members and noted there could be a small donations campaign to help fund this. SB noted this could go with the membership re-founding process and these projects should collaborate.

AS moved to a vote on the MyMomentum proposal, this was carried.

Item 9: North West and Wales vacancy

AS noted that CBo has stepped down and sends his best wishes to the NCG. AS noted options in regards to the vacancy: to leave it open, co-opt a member or run a by-election. TH noted results of the NCG were on a clear platform about members and democracy. TH noted capacity issues and there could be a deferral until we can run a by-election. PM noted support for co-opting the runner up and noted this is administratively less cumbersome. AG noted support for a by-election. AG noted the runner up is not from Wales and noted that the by-election could only be done around October/November time after the NEC elections. SJ noted support for a by-election and noted that we should encourage new people to come forward. SJ noted support for waiting until after the NEC elections. SB noted support for a by-election. LD asked about the cost and noted concerns about lack of Welsh representation, asked about if the rules stipulated if there needs to equal representation within a region.

AS noted suggestion to delay the by-election until after the NEC elections. MB noted there aren't specific Welsh representatives but instead regional representatives that are from Wales. DH noted support for a by-election and the Officers group look into when the most appropriate timeframe would be. JT noted support for co-opting and noted the candidates have already been through the democratic process.

AS moved to a vote, a by-election was agreed. AS noted that the timeline for this could be decided at a later date.

Item 10: Labour Women's Conference 2021

CT introduced the proposal, that Momentum recognise the conference and participate in the planned conference in February 2021. CT noted that last year, Labour Women's Conference and it was a very successful event, with lots of support for left policies. CT noted the previous motion raised with the NCG in 2019. CT noted that it is important that Momentum do not lose sight of this for future plans. AS asked what specifically Momentum would do in regards to the conference. CT noted that the Equalities committee could make some proposals for Momentum. TH noted that Leading Women were put forward as the left contingent at the Women's Conference. TH suggested that TWT also gets involved with this conference to bring in new members. HPS asked how we can create self-organisation with women in Momentum and also asked if it is a policy-making conference. SJ noted she would like more clarification on what Momentum would be doing due to the lack of resources. JT noted support for this proposal and the 2019 proposal. JT noted the success of the conference. LS noted support for the motion and noted the growth of the women's group in her constituency since the conference.

CT noted there aren't specific proposals for how Momentum should intervene. CT noted the history of the role of women in the Party and noted women were a progressive force. CT noted that it is a policy making conference. CT suggested that the equalities work on the project and the NCG has time to decide how much resources they want to put into this.

AS put the motion was put to a vote, this was carried.

Item 11: Summer housing campaign

HPS noted the upcoming issues around the eviction ban lifting. HPS noted there could be thousands put through court proceedings and people being evicted. HPS noted the two proposals and the ongoing conversations with tenants unions around the country. HPS noted the need to channel Momentum members to eviction pickets and renters activism. HPS noted the proposal to create an educational campaign. HPS noted the proposal dependent on tenants union agreements. CB noted that housing campaigns are high-impact and can help mobilise activists.

AS noted proposal to repurpose My Campaign Map. TN noted that work would not be able to continue on this before the autumn because of the Young Labour commitments. RM noted that this could work in conjunction with the MyMomentum proposal and it could help activists mobilise in Scotland. RGW noted that withdrawing the MCM element from this proposal may be the only way to make it viable.

SB asked about the no recourse to public funds and noted that this is impacting on at-risk people and asked if we could include this in the campaign. DH suggested voting for the proposal but with the caveat that the MCM repurpose may not be feasible. DH noted the Officers and Treasurer should make a judgement on whether MCM repurpose is viable. EI noted that even though the ban is being lifted, there will still be a court process which would take some time. EI asked if there could be a search for capacity within the movement for free legal advice. EI noted support for campaigning on the no resource for public funds. JT noted that the Digital team is being overloaded and asked for clarification around the proposals. AO asked if there was any correspondence with the Labour Against Homelessness campaign. HPS noted that this is still in the early stages and they can reach out to other organisations after it is agreed. HPS noted that Momentum does not want to replicate the work of tenants unions and noted there will still be people at risk of eviction once the ban is lifted.

AS moved to a vote, postponing MCM repurpose until there is capacity. This was carried.

Break

Item 11: Uyghur Solidarity

AO explained the issue of the Uyghur people and noted John McDonnell has spoken out about it. AO noted discussions with GS about international issues and how to prioritise them. AS noted that this could be fed into the Comms working group. BG noted US campaigns against China. GS noted questions around how we prioritise human rights struggles overseas and the Comms working group should work on this. GS noted support for the motion. SB noted that the West and the US are moving towards a Cold War with China but we cannot dismiss human rights abuses in China on that basis. MW noted conversations around if Momentum should take positions on every political issue. MB noted agreement with MW about how Momentum responds more broadly to these issues. AG noted support for taking a

position of solidarity for the Uyghur people. AG noted disdain for American imperialism but noted human rights abuses in China.

AO suggested agreeing to the principle of Uyghur solidarity. GS proposed agreeing to retweet the demonstration in August and for comms working group to discuss comms expressing solidarity with the Uyghur people and promoting the demonstration. AO supported this proposal.

Moved to a vote on expressing solidarity and letting people know about the demonstration, this was carried.

Item 12: Equalities committee

AS proposed 5-7 people for the Equalities committee. TH outlined the process for forming the Equalities process. AS asked if there is agreement on the Equalities committee being formed, no objections. AS asked for expressions of interest. SB, DM, MR, JF, AO, LS noted interest and CK noted CT had expressed interest via email. AS moved to an online vote on the committee to decide members.

AOB

MB noted the Senedd elections next year and the selections for list selections are going out on Monday. MB noted that Progress is in power and it is important that the left acts. MB proposed that an email to go out to relevant members to alert them to this process. RGW noted there is no monetary cost but there is an email queue. HPS asked about what the process was for deciding the left candidates for these selections. RM echoed HPS' question and asked if there could be collaboration between CfS and WLG. MB noted that the selections are much more advanced than they are in Scotland and the timetable was sprung on us. AS asked if there were any objections, none were made, this was carried.

AG noted that the Comms working group have a Q&A to meet the NCG members via Zoom on the 16th/23rd with an email out to members to notify them. This was agreed.

RM noted that he was elected Chair of the Comms working group and if any NCG has Comms requests they should go through him.