

NCG Meeting

3/10/2020

11:00am-3pm

Apologies: Phil Clarke, Matt Wrack, Tracey Hylton

Participation: Andrew Scattergood, Alan Gibbons, Carol Turner, Abbie Clark, Ana Oppenheim, Barry Gray, Craig Anderson, Darran McLaughlin, Deborah Hermanns, Ed McNally, Gaya Sriskanthan, Harriet Protheroe-Soltani, Jackie Owen, John Taylor, Jon Trickett, Liz Smith, Mick Moore, Mish Rahman, Puru Miah, Rory Maclean, Solma Ahmed, Sonali Bhattacharyya, Tony Kearns, Rory Maclean, Shona Jemphrey

Staff: Chloe Koffman, Craig Lloyd, Rachel Godfrey Wood

Urgent AOB

JT proposed that the NCG consider supporting the Bakers union in their sick pay campaign. AS suggested bringing up in Item 5.

1. Chairs update (Andrew)

AS gave an update, noted ongoing review and the recruitment of the political coordinator. Noted thanks to the campaigns working group. AS noted thanks to JK, RCR, GR, GD and LW, who are leaving the organisation. Noted thanks to those working on the National Executive Committee campaign.

Decisions: n/a

2. Officer's Group Report (Gaya)

GS noted OG activities. Noted Equalities Groups activity, Political Coordinator recruitment, approved regional email addresses. GS noted approach from the Labour

Campaign for Electoral Reform. GS noted the need for temporary Comms support and discussions with the staff union on this.

Decisions: n/a

3. NEC update (Mick and Mish)

MM gave an update on the NEC campaign. MM noted the advice on the STV voting system. MM noted the upcoming social media campaign. MM noted the use of the hashtag #GV6.

Decisions: n/a

4. Equalities Committee Report (Sonal)

SB noted discussions around establishing BAME structures and equality committee activities.

Decisions: n/a

5. Campaigns Working Group Report (Darran)

DM gave an update on the eviction resistance campaign. DM noted ongoing discussions with ACORN and LRU. DM noted Momentum's aim to support and mobilise members for tenant's union-led activities. DM noted activists signing up to the campaign and possible trainings delivered by the LRU. DM noted the Momentum-backed slate in the Young Labour elections and the crisis in university housing. DM noted the development of a process for selecting a campaign for Momentum to be involved in. SB suggested that when a new campaign is proposed, the Campaigns Working Group (WG) and the Equalities WG should collaborate.

JT proposed Momentum supports the Bakers Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU) campaign for full sick pay and work with the BFAWU to promote the campaign. DM

suggested sending an email with the information and noted the upcoming process for selecting campaigns. JT noted possible support from the Socialist Campaign Group (SCG) around the housing campaign. HPS noted possible brief for MPs and CA noted Campaign for Socialism (CfS) activities around this issue.

Decisions: n/a

6. MyMomentum Report (Rory)

RM gave an update on the MyMomentum consultations and noted the success of the four consultations. RM noted three separate decisions presented from the paper. RM noted decisions on the scope of the redevelopment, the level of resources available for this development and a decision on whether a new working group should be created or it should be delegated to the Communications Working Group. RM noted recommendations for groups to be able to text and call their members as a priority rather than a forum, that a temporary new staff member should be hired in the digital team to work on this as well as volunteers who are proficient in coding and that it should be delegated to the Communications WG.

AS suggested going with RM's recommendations.

RM noted that the proposal can move forward on the basis of current capacity. RM noted that there is a desire for groups to be able to communicate with other groups but there is no formalised way of doing this currently. RM noted DH's point and noted that this can be delegated to the Membership WG.

AS asked for any objections to the recommendations to be carried out by the Membership WG/RM and for feedback to come back to the NCG/Officers Group. No objections.

Decisions: Membership working group and RM to work on the proposed recommendations and report back to the Officers Group.

7. Report from Membership Working Group on Refounding Process (Deborah)

DH gave an update on the Membership WG activities. DH noted the first round of re-founding groups. DH noted the progression on data access issues. DH noted discussions around a Momentum Leadership Development Programme and activities for Party conference next year.

Decisions: n/a

8. Support for NEC Councillor Candidates. (Alan Gibbons) and Request for endorsement by Momentum of Mick Antoniw as the Left candidate for the Welsh NEC seat. (Mike Bird/Jackie Owen)

AG noted the request for support for the NEC Councillor candidates and outlined their campaign. AG noted strong organising among councillors in the Party right. AG noted the importance of the left backing candidates, even if they are unlikely to win. SJ noted the lack of a democratic process regarding this decision. SJ proposed not endorsing this time but looking towards future ways of deciding this democratically.

PM noted he wanted to support the proposal and noted that it is a narrow electorate, so the impact on the Comms team may not be major. PM suggested that an email poll could be sent out to Momentum Councillors about the endorsement. AC noted that a Momentum endorsement may not add anything to the councillor candidates campaigns.

AS outlined two proposals:

First vote: Should Momentum make an endorsement in the NEC Councillor Candidate sections?

Yes: AG, CT, CA, JO, JTa, MM, PM, SA, TK, LS

No: AC, AO, DH, DM, GS, HPS, RM, SJ, SB

Abstentions: BG, EM, JT, MR

This was carried.

Second vote: Should Momentum endorse Jo Bird and Matt White? JO seconded AG's proposal to endorse.

Yes: CT, DM, JO, AG, JF, JTa, LS, MM, MR, SA, SB, TK, CA, DH, HPS, JO

No: n/a

Abstentions: AO, BG, CA, EM, GS, JTr, PM, SJ, AC

This was carried.

JO outlined the proposal for the left candidate, Mick Antoniw for the Welsh NEC seat. JO noted he is an incumbent and noted the opposition from the right. HPS seconded and noted support for Antoniw.

Yes: AO, AG, CT, CA, DM, DH, HPS, JO, JF, JT, LS, MM, MR, SJ, SA, SB, TK,

No:

Abstentions: AC, EM, JTr, PM, BG

This was carried.

Decisions: Momentum to endorse Jo Bird, Matt White and Mick Antoniw in the NEC elections.

9. Proposal to make Membership Working Group a Sub-Group (Deborah)

SB proposed DH becomes the Chair and the Membership WG become a subgroup. AG seconded.

AS asked for any objections. None made.

Decisions: Membership working group to become a subgroup with DH as Chair.

10. Democratic Process for Policy Motions at 2021 Labour Party Conference (paper)
(Deborah/Liz/Rachel)

DH noted the importance of power of the membership at Conference. DH noted the proposal for the agreement for the direction of the process of making decisions for Conference democratically. DH outlined proposals for motions for groups and affiliates, which can be shortlisted by the NCG, to then go to Conference.

AS noted the importance of a democratic process and noted the need for a focus on internal Labour Party democracy and mandatory reselection. JT noted support for the process but highlighted issues with staff capacity. RGW noted that it is the same as running a primary, although there may be a case for running an STV system. RGW noted there should be a criteria of policy/motions to be submitted and the shortlisting process would have to be carefully considered. RGW noted that rule changes could go through a separate process. SA noted support for the policy. DH noted the timeline and the process of organising the motions.

AS noted there should be considerations around working with the trade unions towards Conference activities. AO suggested that there be a member requirement for submitting motions, to provide higher quality motions. SJ noted Momentum could issue a model motion to help guide members. AS noted the issues with delegates not following CLPs wishes and noted Momentum should consider how delegates are selected.

AS asked for any objections to this proposal and for it to continue with the feedback provided. None made.

Decisions: Proposal agreed to develop a policy for members to submit and vote on motions for 2021 Conference, with feedback.

11. Review Group update (Phil)

AS noted the new timeline for the review/restructure.

AS proposed agreeing the new timeline

Yes: AC, AG, AO, BG, CT, CA, DM, DH, GS, HPS, JO, JF, JT, JTr, LS, MM, MR, SJ, SA, SB, TK

No: n/a

Abstentions: EM, PM

Decisions: New timetable for the organisational review agreed.

12. Political discussion post Labour Connected/Working relationship with Socialist Campaign Group and other left groups. (Deborah)

AS noted issues resulting from Labour Connected. DH noted there should be thought about how Momentum should relate to the Party going forward. AC noted the importance of defending successes made at previous conferences and making sure they are focused on by Labour. SB noted the divisiveness and dog-whistle politics which stemmed from Labour Connected. SB noted the success of Momentum's refugee video and we could address this more in future. LS noted the worsening political situation in America and Labour should be pressed on democracy. SA noted the 'patriotism' approach is concerning and the Tories moves to remove discussion of socialism from public spaces. BG noted agreement with SA and noted the lack of preparation for a second wave of coronavirus. BG noted the approach of other countries to suppress the virus and referenced the statement agreed previously by the SCG on 'Zero Covid'. DH noted the need to think strategically around Corbyn/Starmer voters. JT highlighted the strategic objectives around making sure the left is seen as electable and the role of the leadership. CT noted agreement with JT and noted the plurality of views among the working class in areas that Labour needed to win.

DH noted the public discussion around a "Socialist Coordinating Group" but noted issues with a centralised committee. DH suggested semi-regular strategic discussions with other groups on the left but maintaining commitments as a members association. EM noted commitments made at conference which need to be pursued, potentially over the vague

pledges made by Starmer. MM noted doubt over sticking to the pledges and noted that ordinary people aren't interested in speeches made by politicians or parliamentary processes. MM noted the lack of inspiration in Starmer's politics. MM noted exciting events outside of parliamentary politics, including increased union membership and the BLM movement. JF noted the particular issue of Brexit in the Red Wall seats and that many policies from the last election remain popular. JF noted wide support for Starmer in some areas and the importance of not alienating his supporters. CA noted the importance of Labour making an impact in Scotland and the success of the SNP in Scotland. JT acknowledged the issues in Scotland and noted that there are many seats outside the Red Wall that are winnable by Labour. JT noted the importance of Momentum working with other parts of the left and noted the importance of Momentum's influence. MR noted concern around the patriotism line taken by Starmer but noted the left should take ownership of this concept. MR noted rollbacks on the GND. TK noted the importance of holding Starmer to account on the pledges as otherwise trust will be lost with the electorate. SB noted that Starmer was elected in a completely different political situation and this must be reflected in the approach. LS noted that there needs to be legitimacy around Labour's approach to the economy and we must reject the "household economy" narrative. JTa noted the importance of holding Starmer to account with the ten pledges.

Decisions: n/a

13. Procedures Group communication proposal (Deborah)

CA outlined the proposal from the Procedures WG in order to improve communication between the NCG members. AS noted technical issues with using the Drive and possible issues with Slack.

AS asked for objections to the proposal, none made.

Decisions: NCG to adopt proposals and begin using Slack for official communication, continue to use the NCG Drive and use online votes when needed.

14. AOB

CA noted that Mike and Charlie have now left the NCG so has asked if anyone would like to join the Procedures WG.

AS thanked Mike Bird for his contributions to the NCG.