



25.09.2021 Momentum Rule Change Positions

The following Issues and Rule Changes are up for debate today at Conference.

Reference Back on the CAC Report

SUPPORT Reference back on the CAC Report for the following two reasons:

1. The CAC Report does not include the item of the election of the General Secretary, despite this being required by the rulebook (Chapter 4 Clause II 4A 'Election of General Secretary') and as was the case in 2018.
2. The CAC Report declares that if Card Vote 5 'NEC constitutional amendment on Party Democracy' carries, Card vote 13 – 'CLP constitutional amendment on Single Transferable' falls even though the two rule changes (the former introducing STV to the CLP section, the latter extending it to the Cllr and PLP sections) are not in contradiction.

Ratification of the General Secretary

Issue	Position	Arguments
Ratifying David Evans	DEMAND a vote	Since the NEC appointed Evans to act as General Secretary in May 2020, measures have been introduced to curtail the rights of Labour Party members.
	Vote AGAINST ratifying	Unprecedented restrictions have been placed on discussions of party business, with around 70 local party officers suspended from party membership for defending local party democracy.
	CALL for a card vote	The Party has hemorrhaged around 100,000 members, causing major financial problems for the Labour Party, which they are now attempting to address through redundancies.



		<p>Regional Parties have acted increasingly factionally and in an authoritarian fashion, for example by intervening in Labour Party meetings, fixing regional conferences (as in London), and bypassing democratic bodies wherever possible.</p> <p>The disciplinary process has been used to victimise and attack party members and activists, particularly those on the left of the Party, with members being sent fake notices of investigation, auto-exclusion letters, and getting suspended for spurious reasons.</p> <p>None of these measures have improved Labour as a campaigning force or made our party a safer space for minorities. The Community Organising Unit, which had been rebuilding the reputation of the Party in key areas, has been disbanded, and the results in local elections and by-elections have been abysmal.</p>
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PRIORITIES BALLOT

Priorities Ballot

The Priorities Ballot is to decide which subject groupings will be debated. 10 issues can be prioritised by the CLP section and 10 from the affiliates section. Momentum is recommending 10 subject groups with the greatest potential to advance a transformative agenda.

Housing
The NHS
Drug Reform
A Four Day Working Week
Electoral Reform
Right to Food
Immigration and Asylum Policy
Palestine
Coronavirus
Black Lives Matter



Delegates vote for the Priorities Ballot in the Ballot Area between 1.30pm and 4.30pm. Compositing meetings for successful motions will be held immediately after Conference ends on Saturday and Sunday.

Trade Union Priorities

With the exception of the Green New Deal, CLP delegates should not vote for these, in order to avoid wasting their votes.

Green New Deal
Community Wealth Building
A post-pandemic Industrial strategy
Social Care
Mental Health in the Workplace
Mineworkers Pension Scheme
Public Ownership
High Street and Business and Recovery
End Fire and Rehire and Protect workers' rights
Public services

NEC-Backed Rule Changes

Part of Rule Book	Rule Change	Position	Reasons
Card Vote 1	National Equalities	FOR	The establishment of new structures for party members who are BAME,



	Structures		disabled and women is a step forward for these groups and should be supported.
Card Vote 2	National Student Structure	FOR	The new student body has democratic structures and is a big step forward for Labour members who are students.
Card Vote 3	Updates to Language	FOR	These are necessary updates
Card Vote 4	Membership Rules	AGAINST	<p><i>Ch. 2 Clause II Charter of Members Rights (New) Sub-section 11 and 12.</i> Rule change codifies power of the NEC to launch disciplinary cases against MPs it has political differences with. There is no evidence of the current NEC using this as anything other than a factional weapon. MPs genuinely responsible for gross misconduct are likely to be allowed to continue with total impunity provided they are loyal to the leadership.</p> <p><i>CH 2 Clause III Membership Procedures (New) Subsection 2</i> codifies the already absurd and unjustified arbitrary power of the GS to reject membership applications for any reason at all.</p>
Card Vote 5	Party Democracy	AGAINST	<p><i>Ch. 4 Clause III Procedural rules for elections for national committees Sub-section A Election of the NEC.</i></p> <p>The introduction of STV into the CLP section has been driven as a factional tool to attain a majority of the pro-leadership faction on the NEC and now is being used in this CAC report to hypocritically deny debate on the merits of extending STV to the Cllr and PLP sections of the NEC.</p> <p>By-elections are also being removed meaning that candidates who weren't elected the first time will take up any vacancies.</p>
Card Vote 6	Party Meetings	AGAINST	<i>Ch. 17 Clause I Model Standing Orders for Party Units</i>



			<p><i>Sub-section 2</i> removes competency to decide quorum from the elected Regional Executive Committees to unelected Regional Directors.</p> <p><i>Ch. 7 Clause XI Duties of the General Meeting Sub-section 5</i> requires CLPs to gain permission from NEC to affiliate to any organisation. This is control freakery, limiting the autonomy of the CLPs to take basic politics decisions.</p>
Card Vote 7	Local Government	FOR	<p><i>Ch 12 Clause V Officers and Executive Committee Sub-section 3</i> clarifies the gender balance requirements of LGC officers in a way that improves gender balance.</p>

CLP-Backed Rule Changes

All CLP-backed rule changes have NEC recommendation AGAINST them.

Title	No.	Momentum Position	Arguments
Party donations	8	FOR	<p>Donations are a valid way of pooling resources and supporting political parties. But undemocratic, big money dominates politics. Wealthy individuals and big businesses frequently use donations to influence policy and secure benefits, as we see with the current Tory Government and as we saw in the New Labour years. This destroys trust in the political process and drowns out the voices of ordinary working people, whose power comes from voting or mass, democratic institutions such as trade unions and cooperatives.</p> <p>In order to help restore trust in politics and to make sure the Labour Party reflects the priorities of individual members, trade unions and working class voters, it's vital we limit the role of big, undemocratic money in our own Party. Labour was created to be the political voice of working people, not wealthy donors.</p>



Limitations on NEC Guidance	9	FOR	This rule change strengthens the rights to free speech in CLPs, which have been under attack in the last year.
PLP Report to Conference	10	FOR	<p>If adopted, this rule change would require the PLP to report directly to the conference, including on MPs' discipline, with the conference able to confirm or reject disciplinary decisions that are of concern to delegates.</p> <p>Party members and affiliates must have a mechanism to hold the PLP and decisions by the whip accountable.</p>
Constitutional Amendments to Annual Conference	11	FOR	The NEC already gets a waiver to the three year rule, CLPs should have the same rights too provided there is a rule change with sufficient support.
Election of the General Secretary	12	FOR	<p>As we have seen, the General Secretary can play a hugely influential role in affecting the democratic life of Constituency Labour Parties, determining what CLPs can debate and vote on, even overriding elected officials. Because of this, it is vital this key role is subject to more effective democratic oversight through an electoral process.</p> <p>Key Labour Party structures such as the regional offices are also directly accountable to the General Secretary, and the effective and transparent functioning of key democratic institutions, including the National Executive Committee and the Leadership's office, depend heavily on constructive input from the party staff. The General Secretary takes key decisions over the staffing structure, recruitment policy, and the allocation of resources within the Party. The development of key initiatives, including digital campaigning, canvassing techniques, community organising, and the development of campaigning materials, all depend on party staff, who are accountable to the General Secretary.</p> <p>Allowing members to elect the General Secretary will increase democratic accountability through all areas of the party.</p>
Single Transferable Vote	13	FOR	The Labour Party Rule Book currently does not specify the system of elections for representatives to the NEC. This has resulted in different election systems being employed for similar types of elections on an arbitrary basis.



			<p>Following the 2020 NEC decision to introduce single transferable voting for the NEC CLP positions, this rule change proposes bringing the elections for seats for the Association of Labour Councillors ('ALC'), directly elected mayors, and elected Police Commissioners, as well as the elections for the Commons members of the PLP, into line with the CLP section, so that all these elections use the same voting system, in order to enhance fairness on the NEC.</p>
Parliamentary Candidate Applications	14	No position	
Snap Parliamentary Election Candidate Selections	15	FOR	<p>There is currently no codification of the process for the selection of parliamentary candidates in the event of by-elections or any other Parliamentary selection which happens within an unexpected and short timeframe. The absence of any rules on this matter opens the door for processes being decided in a manner which is ad-hoc and which undermines the right of Labour Party members to select candidates for public office.</p> <p>The process laid out here guarantees membership involvement and oversight over the process by a range of different actors, by establishing a mixed panel of CLP, REC and NEC representatives at the shortlisting stage, with representatives of the CLP holding a majority in order to ensure members' voices are adequately represented.</p>