

London REC Sadiq for London manifesto endorsement meeting (Monday 9 March 2020)

Report Back from Momentum, London Labour Left and CLPD members on the London Regional Executive Committee (REC).

There was a positive presentation from the Community Organising Unit, which many attracted much commendation from many members of the London REC.

Sadiq Khan

Sadiq Khan thanked attendees for helping to draft manifesto. He said it was 'the most comprehensive consultation ever' – 154 submissions including from the PLP, Labour Groups, 13 separate responses from trade unions, 45 responses from individuals, 62 responses from CLPs (85% of London CLPs). Moreover, he said that the London Policy Forum had 23 working groups with more than 150 delegates.

He said that the manifesto would address misogyny, be a mandate on housing rent, help reclaim Pride, had a Green New Deal, help bus drivers and high streets and was tough on the causes of crime. He said that 'the last time Labour won a big election was 2005, and this was repeated in 2016'. According to him, the manifesto 'unites the movement'.

1. Social Integration and Equality (Joanna McCartney)

Joanna McCartney said that Sadiq has stood up for various communities (including Windrush, EU, trade unions to 'promote equality and fairness' and LGBTQ communities).

- Sean
- Alison asked for more detail about outsourced workers, many of whom are women.
- Stella Creasy MP said that 'the last Labour government wrong to cut by ESOL', and thanked Sadiq for reversing this.
- Rheian asked where the funding for [x] was coming from. She also raised the issue of BAME communities being more affected by [y].
- Taranjit asked what a new LGBTQ community centre would look like. She also questioned whether there will be support of Black Pride.

Joanna responded by stating that the manifesto was 'peppered with policies...including a companion pass' for someone who is travelling with another passenger who is disabled. She said that Sadiq has made sure that 'at least half his top team are women'. On the gig economy, she said that Sadiq will be 'seeing where they can do work to improve this'. She also said that 'Sadiq is setting up a commission to look a trust in public institutions'.

2. Housing, planning and development

Tom Copley thanked Sadiq and James for Labour's record on housing over the past four years. "We delivered x homes. We delivered just under 2,000 council homes. 'Homebuilding capacity funds'. 'Reforming the planning system' so that it was 26% affordable at the end of Boris Johnson to 38% in 2019. On Rent Control. More than ¼ rent from private landlords. 'It is time we give people affordability and security...he will be lobbying hard for the government to introduce that'.

- Bob Littlewood: 'I apologise to you for making the same comments as in the policy forum. [Crossrail development in East London] is causing many issues. It may appear parochial, but the problems of the east may be happening in other areas. Residents are being evicted or facing overcrowded. We want Sadiq to use more power to ensure that people are secure.
- Elly Baker: 'It is a shame that the manifesto is not more robust. She said it was sad there was no minimum, but rather, targets. We need genuinely affordable homes as suggested in the motions.
- Ranj: What is the definition of 'affordable'?
- Munir: Property developers are taking advantage of London. Munir that public land is being transferred for private gain using dodgy tactics, such as in Bexley. Munir says that Sadiq should be using call-ins more. Leaseholds on right to buy are being used by freeholders to make a gargantuan sum.
- Sean: More awareness needed for buildings to be suited for people with disabilities.
- James from the Trade Unions: What is affordable, social and council housing? We need to be clear. When we sell this land to private developers, where does the money go?
- Faye: Suggested that we should not be selling even a square inch of private land. We also need council house for council tenancy. We need to maximise council houses - rather than affordable homes - on public land. These are popular policies suggested by the London Labour Conference, and we should adopt them.

Tom's responses: 'We want to squeeze as much affordability housing from property developers, but we can go further. This is why this is being kept under review'. The reason why we cannot have a minimum, but instead, have a threshold, is being of the government. The affordable definition is 'complicated' because the government keeps changing it – no concrete answer....! The issue of transferring public land to private sector is 'happening less'. 'Councils have not build for so long that they do not have the capacity to build at the rate we want.' Moreover, they don't have the money (nearly £5bn needed according to the GLA).

3. Environment and transport

Florence: 'Hopper bus fare' has made a big difference. TfL fares have been frozen. The link between transport and climate – 'taking bold action' to change the air quality. Support black

taxi. Introduction of Night Tube. Before Sadiq, the TfL board was heavily male, had no BAME people and no disabled people. Now it's majority female and has disabled people.

- Chris Scott from TSSA: Want a 'pan-modal body to oversee' safety of frontline workers. Want a commitment to bringing Tube cleaners in-house.
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- James from Trade Union: Cleaners should be brought in-house. Congratulate cleaners being given free travel. Bus drivers need to be able to start/finish at bus garages, rather than left in the middle.
- Allen from Royal Mail (CWU)?: Clean air will never be achieved unless we address worn-out brake pads, which is more damaging to the lungs than exhausts.
- James McAsh: Also suggests cleaners should be brought back in house. Should publicise cuts to TfL grants.
- Sam Green: Carbon neutral (which is in the manifesto) is not the same as zero carbon. Sadiq's environment policy should be '10-point green plan' rather than 'Green New Deal'. Sadiq opening speech mentioned zero carbon but there is only Carbon neutral mentioned in the manifesto which is not the same thing. Carbon neutral does not neutralise emissions, rather it encourages companies to match with green energy output. Zero carbon is required for us to survive. Please do not mix up terminology during campaign. Sadiq's environment policy should be '10-point Green Plan for London' rather than 'Green New Deal' (which is to do with sweeping structural reform rather than what is outlined in manifesto), we don't want to devalue the terminology because we should still be holding the Tories to account and arguing for greater devolved powers and finances to Mayor for a GND for London going forwards.
- Florence: On the issue of cleaners, 95% are on permanent contracts, and they will be by 100%. Paid London Living Wage. No zero-hour contract. Agreed with everyone.
- Jim Kelly: We need the cleaners to be brought in-house. There needs to be a meeting between Felicity, Sadiq and his team.

4. Economic fairness, skills and prosperity

James Murray: Aiding EU citizens. Gender and ethnicity pay audit. How do we use the mayor's powers to ensure all Londoners are properly paid? It's very important to have insourcing in the manifesto (to use a mandate to negotiate with TfL). Important that Labour are leaders – any contracts to private sector needs to have Labour values at the heart of the GLA procurement, which must mean trade union recognition. The definition of 'key worker' needs to be looked into. London Weighting needs to be fit for purpose.

- Michelle from GMB: Like to see more ongoing trade union engagement on the Good Work Standards, including how to make sure that businesses which are procured by Sadiq do recognise trade unions.

- Danny Freeman: Wants more spelling out of Good Work Standards (p. 21)
- Francis: 'The issue of privatisation is unavoidable. We should follow the leads of Unite and GMB at Imperial. Can we say that everyone in the room agrees in principle?'
- Jim: I hope that everyone agrees in principle that we need insourcing.

James agreed with all the points made.

5. A safer and more secure London

Florence: 'We now have a Mayor of London funding youth services, which is not a statutory requirement. Funding extra police. Stop-and-search are recorded. Met police reflect London. More women in police. We will see commitment in the manifesto to funding all the areas. We will see a public-health approach to crime.'

- Seema: Is the Young Londoner' Fund going to be reduced to £25 million or increased to (from £45 million) £70 million going forward? Also [something about training for the police?]
- Gareth from the FBU: We still have 250 buildings in London covered in cladding. Will the Mayor support the FBU in lobbying the government to get rid of the cladding?
- Taranjit from GMB: Need to refer to Lammy report
- Sam Green: Has passed on a letter from youth and knife crime working group to feed into the manifesto, and wants to meet. Wants more focus from police to community-based solutions to tackling violence, and democratic accountability of the police.
- GMB person: 'We don't want a wish list...this is very robust'.
- Niamh: The consultation was better laid out than the presentation – more logical.
- Alison: Talked about how the manifesto was laid out and lack of focus on community engagement / groups.

Florence agreed with everyone. Agreed that Lammy report should be fed in. But only talked about transparency of police, not accountability. Agreed that presentation must be better.