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Momentum Proposal on CLP Governance

This submission is based on a combination of contributions by the Members' Council, Momentum members on My Momentum, our online platform for members, and the excellent proposals circulated by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD).

Branch and CLP Rules and Standing Orders

Inclusive CLP governance requires a framework which balances the need for flexibility to meet the diverse range of needs faced by all CLPs in the country, with the importance of clear, unambiguous, and enforceable rules which do not allow space for arbitrary interpretation. The party should support efforts to ensure that branch Chairs and Secretaries are familiar with the Rule Book and standing orders, and these should be available for all relevant members, in clear accessible language, potentially in an online platform such as Membersnet. All local standing orders should be consistent with a set of 'default' rules which are formulated to replace the existing 'model' rules, and should be made accessible for members. If standing orders are not accessible to all respective party members, they should be deemed invalid and the default rules shall apply. Members should also have access to clear explainers of the laws that regulate the use of data for branches and CLPs, which should also be made available on Membersnet.

All Member Meetings and Branch Structures

In recent years, many new activists have pushed for their CLPs to adopt structures based on All Member Meetings, on the basis that these are simpler to understand and involve more people in direct decision-making. However, this push should be balanced by the advantages of delegate structures in many CLPs, which guarantee the participation of trade union affiliates, give a strengthened role for party branches, and can allow for more engaging discussions and debates. We support the maintenance of the dual system, providing it is straightforward for CLPs to switch between different systems following discussion and votes at Annual General Meetings (AGMs). In CLPs with delegates-based systems, all members should be allowed to attend and speak at General Meetings (GMs), albeit in a non-voting capacity if they are not delegates. Existing rules limiting members for being delegates of one sole party branch or unit shall be enforced. In addition, it is essential for the Party to establish clear procedures in CLPs without active branches to allow party members to make nominal branch nominations in order to have a greater say in parliamentary selections. Leadership nomination meetings should always

be All Member Meetings. At least a week's notice of all branch and CLP meetings should be sent to all members and at least two weeks' notice of AGMs. All CLPs should hold at least 9 GMs per year, normally on a regular day each month. At GMs the Chair and Secretary must be conversant with the Rule Book and standing orders and these should be available for reference, if necessary, including online. All such motions received not less than 14 days before the meeting should be placed on the agenda by the Secretary.

The Role of Executive Committees (ECs)

Executive Committees (ECs) should be focus on making decisions on on administrative and organisational matters in order to allow the General Meetings (GM) to focus on substantive and policy issues. The GM should have the final say over any contentious issues. In particular elections for national and regional conference delegates and nominations for internal elections should always happen in a GM not an EC meeting. The Rule Book should allow anyone challenging an EC decision a chance to explain their reason for doing so and the EC decision should be overturned on a simple majority vote of members present. All EC meetings should have minutes that go out to all members. The current officer positions that are common across CLPs are: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair Membership, Vice Chair Campaigns and Women's Officer. We would recommend adding to this an Online Communications Officer, a Political Education and Training Officer and a Trade Union Liaison Officer (TULO), and either individual Equalities Officers for BAME, LGBTQ and Disabilities or a combined Diversity Officer, who would have full voting rights. These currently exist as Coordinator positions in many CLPs but we feel that they are strategically key so should be full officers. Councillors and MPs should not be allowed to stand for the roles of the roles of Chair, Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer. All Executive roles should have standardised role descriptions approved by the NEC, and published on Membersnet.

Crucially, CLPs must be supported to improve accessibility for disabled members, by ensuring that Executive officers are fully familiar with the guidance notes for CLPs produced by Disability Equalities Act Labour should be reading for all party officers, ensuring that events and meetings are held in fully accessible venues with accessible toilets, the provision of microphones, amplifiers, and T Loops to maximise accessibility. In addition, the Rule Book should explicitly allow job shares of all positions. This makes the roles more doable by sharing the workload and makes them feel more accessible to newer members. It also offers an internal system of support from the person with whom people are job sharing.

A 50% gender quota for officers should continue and posts left vacant where this is not met. The EC should include representation from branches where these exist with, at a minimum, branch secretaries attending EC meetings. Meanwhile, default rules should explicitly clarify the responsibility of outgoing Executive officers to handover all relevant and necessary resources for running the CLP, including membership data, bank accounts, and social media access, to incoming officers within a clearly delineated time span after each AGM.

CLP funding and technical support

Because CLPs are run entirely by volunteers, in many cases coping with expanded memberships, they require far greater support in order to fulfil their functions and help build up the Labour Party locally. In order to do this, the existing payment to CLPs of £2.50 per member per year should be increased to £5, and should be accompanied with free fundraising packs, campaign day materials and other resources, as well as weighted levels of additional support for CLPs in marginal constituencies. All CLPs should get a free delegate space for National Conference including travel and accommodation, as well as fully-funded places for Women's Conference and for Regional Conferences as well. CLPs should be financially supported to widen access, for example, with the party covering the costs of childcare for members and of preparing large print mailings. To increase accessibility, the party should consider piloting the use of video streaming in particular CLPs to allow people unable to physically attend meetings to participate.