

# YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2017

SUNDAY 24.09.17

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## Back policies to win the next General Election!

### Priorities Ballot: How to vote

In today's priorities ballot, CLPs and the unions can *each* choose four subjects for debate. The subjects chosen should help the Party present itself as united, moving forward and preparing policy to form the next government.

The unions have already agreed which subjects they will prioritise (see box, right). These issues will be discussed by Conference.

**CLP delegates should not vote for any of the four subjects chosen by the trade unions.** The CLPs' vote can select an *additional* four topics for debate (giving eight debates in total).

CLP delegates are urged to vote for these topics (highlights from the motions on the topics follow).

●**NHS:** the Party needs to step up our campaign on the NHS. Funding has been frozen, waiting times are growing, costly PFI and privatisation are draining away funds. Labour will have to undo much damage that the Tories are inflicting.

●**Housing:** the Tories are making the crisis worse. More council housing is necessary. The right to buy should be ended. The benefit cap is increasing poverty, so Labour should remove it.

●**Social Care:** another crisis the Tories are failing to address. A solution would be a national care service which should be funded from taxation, like the NHS. Care workers need greater protection at work.

●**Rail:** we need increased investment in the rail network, new lines to be built and electrification to be extended. Freight transport should be publically owned. For passenger safety, we need a guard on every

#### CLP Priorities

Vote for the following topics.

- NHS ●Housing
- Social Care ●Rail

They are the best ones for Conference to discuss – because they are the most important to our voters.

#### Trade Union Priorities

The trade unions will back these topics. That means they will be debated and CLP delegates do NOT have to vote for them. If you do vote for these topics, CLPs will lose one debate on other topics.

**DO NOT vote for these topics.**

- Growth & Investment
- Workers Rights
- Public Sector Pay ●Grenfell

train.

Voting to prioritise the four union subjects *and* the four recommended for the CLPs would help focus Conference discussions on clear issues that illustrate how a Labour government can take our last manifesto further forward to make people better off.

●A number of motions have been submitted on aspects of Brexit. However at this Conference it would be better if the discussion is focussed on the NEC statement that will be presented to conference.

●**To vote in the priorities ballot you go to the ballot area in the Brighton Centre between 10.30am and 3pm. After the priorities ballot, compositing meetings on successful topics will be held from 6.30pm. Delegates must attend and need to agree composites which establish clear policies taking forward Labour's policy.**

## Left victory for WCAC

Centre Left Grassroots Alliance candidates Teresa Clark and Jean Crocker were resoundingly elected to the Women's Conference Arrangements Committee at Saturday's Women's Conference.

Jean and Teresa are committed to injecting much needed greater democracy into Women's Conference.

While this year's conference is welcome progress, with a great atmosphere in the hall, there is still a long way to go. Next year's conference must be longer, more accessible and with proper opportunities to debate and vote on policy matters.

## Reinstated!

Congratulations to the delegates from just under 70 CLPs who were reinstated following the welcome decision of the National Executive Committee to extend the freeze date for Conference delegates in line with the extension of the deadline for electing delegates.

This was thanks to the hard work and tenacity of many of the delegates themselves, who mounted legal challenges to overturn the ban, leading to the tenacious Darren Williams putting in a successful motion to the NEC to have them reinstated.

See the CLPD/Momentum  
Guide to Conference on:  
[www.clpd.co.uk](http://www.clpd.co.uk)

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**CLPD**  
Campaign for  
Labour Party  
Democracy

## CAC pulls a fast one at NEC's expense

It is the NEC's role to agree the content of the conference agenda which is put to Conference for approval. The role of the Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC)/-Standing Order Committee (SOC) is "to arrange the **order** of the agenda for Party Conference" (2017 Labour Party Rule Book, p.15, our emphasis).

Never in living memory has the CAC/SOC unilaterally added its own content to the Conference agenda – hardly surprising, since it does not have the authority to do so. But this week the CAC/SOC has pulled a fast one!

Over recent weeks there has been an unremitting campaign that London Mayor Sadiq Khan should have a special slot at Conference. At the pre-Conference NEC meeting on Tuesday, several members strongly argued for Sadiq to be singled out from all of Labour's Mayors and be allowed to address Conference.

Keith Vaz (BAME Representative on the NEC) and Peter Willsman (Members' Rep) proposed and seconded that Marvin Rees, Labour's Mayor of Bristol, should be the speaker. However, the majority of the NEC made it clear that no one Mayor should be given special treatment and that more time should be given to delegates to address their Conference.

That should have been the end of the matter. But on the Wednesday, three members of the CAC/SOC (Gloria de Piero, Michael Cashman and the Unison rep) proposed that Sadiq be given a slot regardless of what the NEC might think. This should have been ruled as out of order but, by a small majority, the CAC/SOC exceeded its authority and instructed staff to let Sadiq have his moment in the limelight.

The NEC could have asserted its authority and overturned this illegitimate power grab. The NEC let the CAC/SOC get away with it, because they did not want to sour the start of our Conference. Sadly, of course, this was precisely what the plotters were banking on.

## Congratulations Jeremy!

For the third year running it's well done to Jeremy Corbyn – not for winning a leadership contest, but for leading us in a stunning performance at the General Election.

Instead of the disaster predicted in the media (and by some malcontents in the PLP), we experienced a net gain of 30 MPs, a 9.6% increase in our share of the vote (to 12,858,652) and over 3 million more votes than in 2015.

The Party's results should have been enough to silence the naysayers so we can unite to force – and win! – a General Election for the many, not the few. Unfortunately, there are still some who think they are bigger than the Party and are still trying to embarrass or undermine JC. Let's make this week a Conference where there may be some dissent – but as a Party we are determined to win.

## Awesome CLPD rally launches Conference

Last night, as a first time CLP delegate to Conference, I attended the CLPD rally to kickstart the week.

It was a phenomenal experience to hear Seema and Billy give rousing speeches – both inside and outside the hall – after their awe-inspiring victory in the CAC elections. There were well over 100 unable to get in, so there had to be two rallies – one in the hall, and one in the garden.

The rally was stoked further by

candidates Anna Dyer and Emina Ibrahim, speaking about the importance of the NCC election on Tuesday.

The rally was also addressed by Ann Black, Richard Burgon, Clive Lewis and Steve Turner. Steve who spoke passionately about our need to transform our society.

I'm off to join CLPD now, and I suggest you do too!

Logan Williams, East Devon Delegate

## CAC Sails Close to the Wind

At Conference last year a vital rule change was carried in the teeth of opposition from the platform. Until now if delegates opposed one line in a 50 page document, it was a matter of "take it or leave it" and delegates had to vote yes or no on the whole document. Last year delegates achieved the right to delete a part or even a single line, by moving "reference back" of the controversial bit, leaving them free to vote on the rest of the document.

This year we were looking forward to a burst of democracy. Unfortunately the CAC has given a lot of attention to restricting this right in practice.

At the Eastern Region pre-conference delegates briefing, party staff told delegates not to call for reference back during conference.

On Sunday morning, the CAC Report will be presented to Conference by Harry Donaldson. Alert delegates will be seeking clarification from Harry on this crucial matter. Watch out for any reference backs and be ready to support delegates trying to defend our rights.

## Message for delegates: be vigilant!

● Party officials are like civil servants. Our staff are there to ensure conference runs efficiently. They are not there to interfere in any way with delegates' political decision making. This is spelt out in their terms and conditions of employment. Any infringement should be reported to CLPD at once. We will ensure appropriate action.

● CLPs are fully entitled to mandate their delegates – all the trade unions mandate delegates.

Campaign Briefing is produced as a service to delegates by: CLPD, Left Futures and *Labour Briefing* (the magazine of the Labour Briefing Co-operative). Ring our Conference Team on: 07977-566 519

