

YELLOW PAGES

Annual Conference 2017

TUESDAY 26.09.17



The Voice of
Firefighters

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Support the composites

Today delegates will debate “investing in our future” and “health and social care”. Delegates will also discuss the remaining four composites (Housing, Grenfell Tower, Rail, NHS & Social Care) which contain important policy commitments on building council housing, fair funding for local government, halting the introduction of Driver Only Operation for passenger services, restoring NHS student bursaries and creating a National Care Service.

Some of these commitments have not come without a fight from CLP delegates in the compositing meetings. While Conference has improved in so many ways this year, old habits die hard. Delegates were faced with Shadow Ministers and party staff with ready-drafted composites – and had to argue hard for their wording to be included in the composites.

In particular, some delegates wanted to include a pledge in the Housing composite to scrap the regressive benefits cap.

Responding to the DWP’s benefit cap figures released on 3rd August, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation said, “The benefit cap has had only a small impact on moving people into work. To make a serious reduction to the benefits bill the Government should scrap the benefits cap and focus on addressing the serious lack of genuinely affordable housing.” As a next step, Labour should adopt this progressive policy.

A free press?

The *Yellow Pages* are produced by volunteers – who are out today with our collection bags.

Please be generous.

The *Yellow Pages* have a cover price of £3 for the week.

Your guide to the NEC’s proposed Rule Changes

● **NEC constituency section to be increased from the present 6 to 9.** This change is long overdue. When the Blairites seized control of our Party they rushed through a whole gamut of changes to our rule book.

These considerably increased the size of our NEC, giving 3 seats to the PLP and 3 for the Cabinet which were in the gift of T Blair. Alone of all the sections the constituency representation was reduced – from the longstanding 7 to only 6. Those 6, on an NEC of 35, now represent almost 600,000 members.

Under Blair, the political wing of the Party was so small that it is hardly surprising the government went round in circles. Addressing this injustice has been one of Jeremy’s top priorities. The strength of the case for doing so was proved when it was carried at the NEC *nem com*, with all of the trade unions (the Party’s industrial wing) supporting the political wing. The NEC also agreed that the trade unions would move up from 12 to 13 seats.

● Jeremy has also been anxious to address the restrictive rule that to be nominated for Leader you have to have the support of 15% of the PLP/EPLP. The agenda for this Conference contains the proposal

that 15% should be reduced to 5%. Jeremy informed the NEC that he felt there was a basis for a consensus, especially from the unions, for a figure of 10%. The NEC accepted Jeremy’s advice and agreed the 10% requirement should apply to both Deputy and Leader.

● At the NEC Jeremy also put forward his proposal for a detailed Review/Consultation into all aspects of the Party’s democratic structures/internal governance. This was welcomed by the NEC and carried *nem com*. It was also agreed that Claudia Webb (CLP rep) would be added to the review panel.

● Also on the conference agenda are rule changes submitted by CLPs and affiliates (see pages 14 – 17 of the Delegates Report). The NEC are recommending that the majority of these rule changes are remitted to the Review/Consultation for detailed consideration.

The movers of the balance of rule changes will be asked to remit in favour of the NEC proposals (see above). Delegates moving rule changes that the NEC is asking be remitted to the Review may wish to ask for an assurance that their issues will be taken seriously before they agree to remit.

NCC (CLP Section)

Our Party’s disciplinary processes are in dire need of attention – which they will get in the Review. But we still need comrades on the NCC who are even handed and committed to natural justice. Anna and Amina more than fit the bill.

CLP delegates need to ensure their vote is cast by a totally reliable delegate. As we advised yesterday, be in the ballot area by 9am.

● **Anna** says: “Our transparency and fairness need to improve.”

● **Emina** says: “Our internal constitutional arrangements should be democratic and fair.”

NCC, vote:



Anna Dyer

X



Emina Ibrahim

X

Against the odds

By Councillor Angela Cornforth

As a delegate to this conference who reads Tom Watson's blogs (interesting reading). (See note below, Ed.) I welcome Tom's efforts to control the gambling outlets which can ruin our High Streets and ruin lives. We have to accept that it was a Labour Government which relaxed controls on gambling, with the result that we have seen a proliferation of betting shops in our streets – and particularly in areas where people are struggling in times of Tory austerity and Tory cuts.

If you go into these betting shops you will see that a great deal of the problem gambling is not because punters are betting on the horses or the dogs – it is because they are pumping money into fixed odds betting terminals – which again are not controlled.

If you try to object to a betting shop in your area you will find that local authorities have difficulties refusing permission because of the way the legislation was first introduced.

We do not have to be against betting when we oppose excesses in the current system. Gambling brings in a great deal of tax to the Government - but at what cost? It is time for Labour and Jeremy to lead the way and to offer hope to residents who are fed up of seeing yet another betting shop in their local area.

[Editor's note: This is the first time Tom Watson has been positively referred to in *Yellow Pages*. This is because for once Tom was on his best behaviour, fully backing Jeremy, at Tuesday's NEC.]

●For a report of Tuesday's six hour NEC meeting go to:
<http://grassrootslabour.net>

●Yesterday, the delegate from Taunton Deane requested a reference back on the Work, Pensions & Equality section of the NPF Report, arguing the section fails to commit Labour to reverse social security cuts. The reference back was voted through by Conference, with massive support from CLP delegates – the first time a part of an NPF document has been referred back.

ASLEF calls for investment in infrastructure

By MICK WHELAN

General secretary of ASLEF, the train drivers' union

Investing in infrastructure – in our railway, roads and runways – is essential for the economic success of a nation. It is especially important in Britain as we are victims of our early success. Because the industrial revolution began here, much of our celebrated infrastructure – many of the bridges, tunnels, viaducts, and long stretches of track – was built by the great Victorian engineers at the height of the railway boom in the 19th century. It was cutting edge, then – but it's a little long in the tooth now.

Britain needs significant investment – in fast, reliable broadband as well as in rail, road and air links – because the ability to move people and goods around the country and provide services over the internet is

the platform on which we, as a country, will deliver employment, growth, and national prosperity.

It's ironic that while the need for investment in infrastructure is one of the few areas of consensus, successive governments have failed to deliver the much-needed funding it requires.

ASLEF has always argued for investment in the railway – partly because it will be good for Britain, and partly because it should be good for us. More investment will mean more trains, and more trains will mean more train drivers.

But the Conservative Party is instinctively reluctant to invest public money – even though many Tory MPs admit, privately, that the private sector cannot deliver what is needed. It's time to do what's right and invest in our country's essential infrastructure.

JVL is launched

An enthusiastic crowd of around 400 people attended the launch of Jewish Voices for Labour (JVL) on Monday evening at the Mercure hotel. JVL is a new organisation for Jewish members of the Labour Party.

In attendance were Ken Loach and also Len McLuskey (UNITE) and Tosh McDonald (ASLEF), who both expressed their intent to affiliate their unions to JVL.

Distinguished Israeli historian Avi Shlaim and former appeal court judge Sir Stephen Sedley explained the fallacy that criticism of Israel's infringements of Palestinian human rights, including supporting BDS, were in any way antisemitic.

David Rosenberg of the Jewish Socialists' Group contrasted JVL's celebration of Jewish traditions of solidarity with oppressed peoples with Jewish Labour Movement's identification with Zionism and the state of Israel.

Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi

Labour and Muslim Women's Empowerment
With MPs Diane Abbott, Rushanara Ali and Naz Shah.
Tuesday, 10:30am-12:30pm
Chartwell, Hilton Metropole

CLPD on the fringe

I attended the CLPD fringe last night following the great victories at the Women's Conference CAC election and the main Conference passing all the composites.

This meeting had a feeling of jubilation – created by the speakers, including Cat Smith, Jon Trickett and Kelvin Hopkins, discussing the change of atmosphere from their first conferences to the new found feelings of optimism.

The speakers urged us not to rest on our laurels as we have done in the past and to carry on our fight for a truly members-led Party.

Logan Williams, East Devon delegate

The Yellow Pages are produced as a service to delegates by: CLPD, Left Futures and *Labour Briefing* (magazine of the Labour Briefing Co-op).

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