We need more say for members – not another Deputy Leader!

This morning Conference will debate a rule change from Wirral West calling for an extra Deputy Leader. After a calculated speech from Tom Watson MP including how lonely it is to be Deputy Leader, the NEC switched its recommendation to “support” from the original recommendation (to “oppose”). They considered the rule change for no more than a couple of minutes. This is no way to make a significant change to our rule book!

Having at least one woman of the two members of the leadership team, as proposed by Hornsey and Wood Green, should certainly be supported (although their wording is problematic) but this ill-thought through tokenism is not the way forward.

Over the last year, members up and down the country have engaged with the Democracy Review to renew and reinvigorate our democratic structures. We have called for member-led policy making, equality structures to be transformed, and for representatives to be more accountable. There was no clamour for another member of the leadership team, and it was not recommended.

“Deputy Leaders? What, another one?” they might have said.

We have the leader we need in Jeremy Corbyn. The last thing we need is another divisive leadership contest when we should be focussing on democracy recommendations already in place and – even more important – winning a General Election and getting Jeremy into number 10!

Reject the rule change moved by Wirral West.

Vote Daniel Blaney for NCC

The grassroots’ candidate for the National Constitutional Committee (NCC) is Daniel Blaney. The NCC, elected at Annual Conference by conference delegates, hears disciplinary cases referred to it. It is therefore an important body which requires fair and objective members. The integrity of the Party’s disciplinary processes is essential to inspire the party unity needed to get a Labour Government elected.

At this conference one CLP representative is elected by CLP delegates.

There is only one vote cast per CLP. CLP delegates need to ensure their vote is cast by a totally reliable delegate, who should be in the ballot area at 9am.

Cllr Daniel Blaney has been a grassroots party activist for many years and is supported by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (CLPD), Jewish Voice for Labour, Labour Assembly Against Austerity, Labour Briefing Co-op, Labour CND and Momentum.

CLP Rule Changes – how to vote

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<tr>
<th>1st named CLP</th>
<th>Chap/Clause</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
<th>Yellow Pages’ recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Islington N</td>
<td>Ch 3.1:1</td>
<td>Would provide Standing Orders for Conference</td>
<td>For</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackley &amp; Broughton</td>
<td>Ch 3.1:2</td>
<td>Abolishes 12 month delay on debating CLP rule changes</td>
<td>For</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wirral W</td>
<td>Ch 4.1:2A</td>
<td>Addresses gender imbalance in Party Leadership but this is not the way to solve it</td>
<td>Against</td>
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<td>Kingswood</td>
<td>Ch 4.1:2Cvi</td>
<td>Abolishes category of Registered Supporters. But they help the Party develop and extend its support.</td>
<td>Against</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>Ch 4.1:4</td>
<td>Term limit for General Secretary Would hinder stability and party development</td>
<td>Against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Forest East</td>
<td>Ch 4.1:4</td>
<td>Term limit for General Secretary Would hinder stability and party development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond Park</td>
<td>Ch 5.1:7</td>
<td>Allows CLPs not to stand Parliamentary candidate. Encourages coalitions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockport</td>
<td>Ch 11:V</td>
<td>Allow Young Labour to have its own constitution</td>
<td>If this rule change has not fallen, Vote For</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Durham</td>
<td>Ch 12:1 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Re-establishes formal Local Government Committees</td>
<td>It should not have been decided to delay this reform. LCPs are not democratic. Vote For</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CLPD

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Today’s motions at Conference

Brexit – Keeping Labour’s options open
A single motion on Brexit will be discussed today, thanks to the commitment of delegates who spent over five hours in the composing meeting.

Today at Conference we are all in the dark as to whether the Tory Government will reach a departure agreement with the EU27 and, if they do, what the content of any deal will be. So, wisely, today’s composite motion reflects an understanding that it is best that the Party decides what tactics to follow when we know the situation that we confront at the end of the negotiations – and the scale of the problems and what alliances can be constructed, in and outside Parliament, to defend jobs and living standards, in line with Labour’s six tests.

Labour will end the “really hostile environment”
Today Conference has the opportunity to affirm that the next Labour Government will scrap the Immigration Act of 2014, which enshrined Theresa May’s “really hostile environment” into law.

As Home Secretary, May prided herself on developing policies that have resulted in British citizens who arrived as part of the Windrush generation being detained and deported, losing their homes, jobs and livelihoods.

Under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn and Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott, Labour has exposed these cruel policies and the Party has outlined new steps that a Labour Government will take to end these outrages.

● Vote for the “Justice for the Windrush Generation” motion.

Support Palestinians’ Human Rights
A motion supporting the Palestinian people is coming to the conference floor this afternoon. Demonstrating a commitment to Palestinians’ human rights, this composite of two CLP motions articulates Labour’s internationalism, which is based on justice, dignity and respect for the rights of all peoples.

The motion covers two of the emergencies Palestinians currently face.

● The first comes as a direct result of the Trump Administration’s funding cuts to UNRWA, the UN agency providing humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees displaced in 1948. Notably it supports developing links with young Palestinian refugees across the region, and with UNRWA schools.

● The motion also highlights the lethal attacks on non-violent protestors, including medics, in Gaza during their mass protests for their rights at the border fence these past months. We should show the Palestinian people they are not forgotten in Britain, and especially by Labour.

Delegates must make sure that they treat this important debate with an appropriate level of sensitivity and seriousness so that Palestinians get the considered advocacy they deserve.

Mohammed Azam