

# Campaign Briefing

# Wednesday

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## OMOV for the NPF now!

### Ann Black, NEC member writes:

“One-member-one-vote (OMOV) is a cornerstone of the modern Labour party. For the national policy forum it would give a voice to the 20% of constituencies who do not send delegates to conference, and create a more direct relationship between members and their representatives. When I visit local parties, most cannot name the NPF members who have spoken on their behalf for the last twelve years.

The change would not take the party back to the bad old days of internal strife, as some have suggested. That has not happened on the NEC, where I and my colleagues are elected by one-member-one-vote, nor in Scotland, where their successful policy forum is already elected through an all-member ballot. Indeed, one-member-one-vote was introduced in the 1990s to increase the diversity of political views, and to prevent dominance by any faction. That principle still holds good.

As always there will be arguments for and against, and delegates will have the final say. I hope that before the vote, they will confer with their local parties, and act in accordance with their wishes.”

“The range of views and the vitality of the debate that takes place in CLPs is clear in the submissions made to the NPF. Unfortunately this diversity of views is not reflected at NPF meetings.

At the NPF it is clear that one perspective dominates. As a result, many issues supported by a significant proportion of the membership, (e.g. support for the fourth option, the abolition of selection in schools and opposition to PFI) make little progress. If the NPF is to have credibility and more dynamism, it needs to be more representative of the membership”.

Carol Hayton, NPF member – South East region

*Guardian* letter 29.09.2009

“We call on all delegates from constituencies, unions and socialist societies to back the motion to elect national policy forum representatives by one member one vote. A party that can't trust its members won't win the trust of the British people.”

Ann Black, Sam Tarry, Neal Lawson, Gavin Hayes, Brian Fisher, Tom Copley, Jon Cruddas MP, Simon Weller, Alon Or-Bach, Billy Hayes, Chuka Umunna, Stephen Twigg, Tom Miller, Ken Livingstone, Tony Robinson, Gaye Johnston, Cat Smith, Sarah Hayward

“Dear delegate,

As CLP and regional representatives on the National Policy Forum, we believe that moving to one-member-one-vote (OMOV) elections is a big step forward to opening up our policy making body to all party members.

In the build up to the election it's crucial that activists and members across the party are engaged in forming our manifesto. Having OMOV elections for the NPF will help strengthen the link between representatives and party members.

We urge delegates from all parts of our party to unite together and vote to make the NPF a more accountable body that will regain the trust of members.”

Nicky Gavron - Fred Grindrod - Carol Hayton  
Beth Kelly - Patrick O'Keefe - Alon Or-bach

Members of the National Policy Forum

### OMOV Timetable

Rule change to be moved about 10am or shortly after. Voting (by card vote) probably at either at 12:35pm or 3:50pm. **Delegates must ensure they remain in the hall for the voting.**

For detailed and exclusive NEC and NPF reports, news and debates visit [www.grassrootslabour.net](http://www.grassrootslabour.net)

# OMOV for the NPF

continued

"We need to empower our members - democracy is at the heart of what it means to be a democratic socialist; it's a core Labour value. Democracy is not after all just a means to an ends but an end in itself.

Voting for OMOV would mean that we allow every member a say in the election of this key body - creating a much more pluralist NPF which would, I believe, have far more legitimacy and carry far more support from our members.

It's time democracy and policy making was put at the heart of our party by our members - so I urge you to vote for democracy, vote for OMOV, vote for the politics of empowerment."

Sam Tarry, National Chair of Young Labour

"The NPF will remain a sham until we have real institutional democracy in the party, only a vote for OMOV will ensure this."

Tony Robinson, former NPF and NEC member

## School Meals

The provision of free school meals should be extended to all primary age children as it helps give children a healthier diet and improves concentration and educational achievement.

Vote for the GMB Issue.

## Energy Regulation

Some of the poorest people in society are forced to pay excessive prices through pre-payment meters. This practice must end and greater control be exercised over the energy companies.

Vote to refer back the NPF Annex Report as it does not sufficiently spell out how these key demands will be achieved.

## Don't miss the high point of the week:

### Conference assessment and the way forward for Labour

6pm tonight – UMI Brighton Hotel

**Chair:** Gaye Johnston

**Speakers:** Richard Ascough (GMB)

Ann Black (NEC) \* Kelvin Hopkins MP

Peter Kenyon (NEC) \* Christine Shawcroft (NEC)

Cat Smith (Compass Youth EC) \* Peter Willsman (NEC)

**Entry:** £1 (Concessions 50p)

# Leeds strikers need your support

600 GMB and Unison members employed by the Lib Dem/Tory council in Leeds in the cleaning department are on their fourth week of strike over plans to cut their average pay by £6,000 a year from £18,000 down to below £13,000 to achieve equal pay. So instead of the council levelling up womens' pay to that of the men the council propose to do the reverse. There is to be a major benefit gig in Leeds on 18th October with a lot of local bands. They need the support of the entire Labour movement. In particular they need hardship funds. Visit [www.gmb.org.uk](http://www.gmb.org.uk) or [www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk) for details about the dispute or call Desiree Risebury, GMB Organiser on 07958 156848.

## Yet More Shenanigans

Reports are coming into *Campaign Briefing* thick and fast of what appears to be illegitimate interference in our internal democracy. So far we have heard strong rumours about officials in the South East, South West and Yorkshire regions taking selected CLP delegates out of the hall to meet the NPF Chair Pat McFadden. It is clear from the reports that Pat's pleading against OMOV is becoming increasingly desperate. Pat is fully entitled to lobby delegates but he is not entitled to ask party staff, who are supposed to be impartial, to do his dirty work for him.

It has also been reported that regional staff in the South East were telling delegates who to vote for in Monday's CAC election.

## Other rule changes today

**2.B5 Hendon and Hyndburn CLPs** propose a Charter of Members' rights ensuring transparency in the policy-making process, right to participation in party governance and the right to freedom of expression.

**SUPPORT**

**4.C.1.A.i.c Beverley and Holderness CLP** propose to increase the CLP seats on the NEC with a constituency seat from Scotland and one from Wales. This will increase the CLP seats to 8. Wales and Scotland have their own government and should have their own CLP reps on the NEC.

**SUPPORT**

**4.C.1.D.i The Labour Party Disabled Members Group** are proposing adding two nominees from their own Group and two from Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Labour to the NPF.

**SUPPORT**