

Proposal for Local Government

Local Government Committees

- Local Campaign Forums should be replaced with Local Government Committees which are comprised solely of representatives with mandates from party members and affiliates. The composition of these should be 75% for CLP delegates, and 25% affiliates.
- These committees should not include councillors to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Local Government Committees should convene an annual conference, which on a delegate basis, would set the strategic direction and key policies for the Labour Group on the local authority, and in election years would decide the local manifesto.

Selecting Elected Representatives

- The leaders of Labour groups should be elected on the basis of an electoral college between members and affiliates, with each sector holding 50% of the voting share. The NEC should develop guidelines to govern the election procedures of both sections.
- Elected Mayors should face an open selection process once during each term.
- All councillors should face an open selection process once during each term, and procedural guidance that undermines this principle should be abolished.
- Councillors should not sit on selection panels or disciplinary hearings to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Affiliated supporters should be able to participate in selections for councillors.
- Panel interviews for candidates should be used solely to screen out candidates who demonstrably fail to meet the required criteria, not to exclude candidates on political grounds.
- Affiliates should be able to hold their own interviews, with successful applicants being approved for the subsequent selection process. These interviews must match the standards of those carried out by the respective body in the Labour Party.

Supporting Argument

Labour's ability to deliver on its agenda of radical change will depend heavily on the policies implemented in local government, where the progressive aspirations of our members and trade unions are increasingly coming into conflict with property developers, cuts, and other restrictive Government policies that limit the autonomy of local government. Developing a transformative local government project depends on having party structures which broaden decision making, embed strong mechanisms of accountability, and empower members and affiliates to hold Labour Groups to account. A 2016 change in guidance notes to make councillor reselections subject to a trigger ballot, which was never approved by Conference, needs to be reversed, so that there are open selections for all councillor positions each term. Labour group leaders

should be elected by 50:50 electoral colleges following nominations by councillors, allowing not only members but also affiliates a central role in deciding Labour group leaders. Local Campaign Forums should be abolished and replaced with committees in which every member has a direct mandate from either members or trade unions, and councillors should not be on these committees to prevent conflicts of interest.