

LOCAL LABOUR PARTY

BRANCH LABOUR PARTY (BLP)

The membership of branches is drawn from the Labour Party members who reside or registered to vote within the branch area. Branch members are able to attend branch meetings, the AGM and candidate selection meetings

Branch officers carry out duties in the running of the branch. The branch secretary is to deal with the paperwork, correspondence and distribution of notices for meetings, the chair presides over the branch meeting and keeps things in order. The treasurer deals with the branch's money. If the chair was absent the vice chair would take the meeting

CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY (CLP)

Approximately 9 branches make up a CLP. These are the areas that are represented by one Member of Parliament.

Types of CLP

- Closed—only delegates may attend and vote;
- Open—any branch members may attend but not vote;
- All Member Meeting (AMM) - any branch members may attend and vote.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GMC) (OPEN & CLOSED CLPs ONLY)

Generally meets monthly and made up of delegates from:

- BLPs including BLP secretaries;
- Affiliated Unions;
- Socialist Societies (a membership organisation affiliated to the Labour Party, e.g. Fabian Society);
- Co-op Party;
- Women's Forums; and
- Youth Organisations.

It is responsible for holding the MP to account and running the party in the constituency. At the CLP meetings the GMC delegates are entitled to vote.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)

The Executive Committee manages the CLP and is appointed by the GMC at the AGM. It is responsible for taking decisions in between the GMC meetings and is made up of officers, some affiliated delegates and a rep from each branch (usually, but not always, the branch secretary).

Growing Labour's Grassroots (How the Labour Party Works)

Talk Socialism

COUNCIL (NEWCASTLE)

COUNCIL

Is controlled by the political party which has the greatest number of councillors. Council Officers (people who work directly for the council) are tasked with delivering decisions made by the council.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Is the leader of the largest political party on the council. They are decided by a vote by councillors.

CABINET MEMBERS or PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Members of the cabinet have specialised roles and are responsible for making strategic decisions. They are Councillors who have been invited by the Leader of the Council.

COUNCILLORS (MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL)

In Tyne and Wear (various in other areas) each branch has three councillors who are elected via a local election. This operates on a four year cycle with one councillor position contested every year, and no election in the fourth year. (2018 is an exception due to boundary changes)

Councillors represent all residents within their branch. All services within the Council are managed in their name. They have a complex role and must act in a number of capacities:

- As committee member;
- Constituency representative; and
- Party activist.

Every four years a councillor must stand for reselection should they wish to retain their position.

LABOUR GROUP

Labour Group is a monthly discussion meeting of Labour Councillors and candidates at which they discuss policy and make decisions on their position.

NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY

LABOUR PARTY LEADER

Elected by an alternative vote system by members, supporters and affiliated trade union members on a one member one vote basis.

PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY (PLP)

All Labour Members of Parliament as a collective body. Regular meetings of the PLP are held in private.

Candidates for Labour Party leader need the support of 15% of the PLP to appear on the ballot. The PLP have the power to trigger an extraordinary Labour Party Conference to choose a new leader if confidence is lost.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC)

Chief administrative body of the Labour Party.

It has 33 members including representatives from the:

- Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP);
- European PLP;
- CLPs;
- Affiliated trade unions; and
- Socialist societies.

NEC's responsibilities are to make sure all the various parts of the party function correctly; organise campaigns; employ the party staff; liaise with other European socialist parties.

NATIONAL POLICY FORUM (NPF)

Any member can stand for the NPF if they have a nomination from their own plus 3 other CLPs. Elections are every 3 years.

It is made up of 186 members representing:

- Government,;
- European and devolved assemblies;
- Local government;
- Affiliated trade unions;
- Socialist societies;
- The Co-op party;
- Regional reps elected by Labour Party members; and
- Minority groups.

It is responsible for overseeing policy development and submits documents to National Conference.

The Joint Policy Committee acts as a steering group for the NPF, has strategic oversight of policy development and is chaired by the leader of the party.

HOW TO BECOME A BRANCH OFFICER

Any Labour Party member can stand for an officer position within their branch. Self nomination at the branch Annual General Meeting (AGM). The branch secretary must make every effort to inform members that the AGM is taking place. The branch secretary is usually notified ahead of the meeting and the nomination may be seconded. The candidate with the most votes holds the position.

HOW TO BECOME A CLP DELEGATE (OPEN & CLOSED CLPs ONLY)

Any Labour Party member can stand for a delegate place. The number of delegate positions are based on the number of Labour Party members in the branch. Self nomination at the branch AGM. The Branch secretary is usually notified ahead of the meeting and the nomination seconded. Branch members present vote. The candidate(s) with the most votes holds the position. Also can be a delegate by receiving a nomination from a Trade Union or Socialist Society.

HOW TO BECOME A CLP OFFICER

Any CLP delegate can stand for an officer position within their CLP (or if an All Member Meeting any Labour Party member residing within the constituency). Self nomination at the CLP AGM. The CLP secretary is usually notified ahead of the meeting and the nomination may be seconded. CLP delegates who are present vote (if an All Member Meeting all Labour Party members may vote). The candidate with the most votes holds the position.

OFFICER POSITIONS

Branch Executive Officer positions (auditors and other functional officers are appointed as required):

- Chair—Presides over the meeting and keeps things in order;
- Vice Chair — Takes over the chair's duties in their absence;
- Secretary—Deals with paperwork, corresponds with members and distribution of notices for meetings; and
- Treasurer—Has responsibility for the money.

CLP Executive Officer positions (responsibilities similar to descriptions above but at CLP level):

- Chair;
- Vice Chair / Membership;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer; and
- Woman's Officer.

CLP additional functional officers could include; Youth Officer, Ethnic Minorities Officer, Campaign Co-ordinator, Political Education Officer, Training Officer, Information Technology Officer, Disability Officer, Trade Union Liaison Officer and Fundraising Officer.

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HOW TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR

The first step is to get on the panel of approved candidates. This involves filling in a form and attending an interview with three representatives from the Local Campaign Forum.

The form requires a personal statement in support of the application and asks about:

- Activity in the party;
- Activity in the community;
- Any public office;
- What contribution you might make.

The interview lasts about 30 minutes and a candidate is asked questions about :

- What you wrote on the form;
- Why you want to be a Labour councillor;
- How you would reconcile a difference between your branch members and the Labour group of councillors; and
- What you understand by equality of opportunity.

A candidate is then invited to a candidate selection meeting at a branch. They are required to make a short speech and answer questions from branch members. A secret ballot is held and the selected candidate announced.

Candidates require an agent to help run the local election campaign. From people who live in the ward a candidate requires ten signatures to support their nomination.

Campaigning involves:

- Door-knocking;
- Delivering leaflets;
- Street stalls with other members; and
- Engaging with local charities, businesses and community groups.

This is co-ordinate by the agent as well as keeping records of the money spent.

If you get the majority of votes in the local election you are elected as a councillor.

HOW TO BECOME A CLP DELEGATE TO REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Any Labour Party member can stand to be a CLP delegate to National conference with a nomination from their Branch or affiliated organisation.

The number of delegate positions are based on the size of the constituency. Up to 750 members = 1 delegate then an additional delegate for every 250 members. If the CLP has a constituted youth and women's section you are also entitled to an additional young person's and women delegate (and additional delegates again once the CLP is over 750 members.)

There should be a gender balance in the delegates who you send to Annual conference. If you are only entitled to one delegate (under 750 members in the CLP) the delegate must be a woman unless a woman went the previous year. (i.e. it should either alternate or a woman could in theory attend each time.) If a constituency sent a man to conference last year they must send a woman as the main delegate this year or whenever they next send a conference delegate.

HOW TO PASS A RESOLUTION

A resolution is a statement of position. Any Labour Party member can put forward a resolution at their branch meeting.

Effort should be made to circulate the resolution to the BLP ahead of the branch meeting so interested parties know to attend.

It is read out at the branch meeting. A vote is carried out on whether to pass the resolution.

If the resolution is passed then the branch secretary sends the resolution to the CLP. The branch then need to speak in support of the resolution at the CLP meeting.

LOCAL CAMPAIGN FORUM (LCF)

The LCF consists of elected representatives from:

- CLPs; and
- The Co-op party.

It's responsible for

- Getting Labour councillors elected;
- Overseeing the work of councillors; and
- Recommending policy for the local elections (although the final say is with the group of elected Labour councillors).