

CAC Composite draft constitution

Note: “Common ground” is that regarded to be reasonably similar or compatible from all four main constitutional drafts submitted by Labour Against the Witchhunt/ Sheffield Labour Left, Dulwich Labour Left, Tees Valley Labour Left, and London LLA, and also the smaller motion from Merseyside LLA. It is not possible to be exactly common, so some compromise has been necessary for practicality.

1) Aims

1.1 Common ground:

The Labour Left Alliance was set in July 2019 to bring together groups and individuals on the Labour Left in order to build a democratic, principled and effective alliance that:

- organises democratically and transparently;
- both supports a left leadership against attacks by the right, and is independent and able to criticise our left wing leaders when necessary;
- opposes racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all other forms of discrimination and is consistently internationalist, a stance which by definition includes support for the democratic and national rights of the Palestinians;
- opposes attempts to conflate anti-Zionism with antisemitism and opposes the witch-hunt against the left;
- campaigns to radically transform and democratise the Labour Party and the trade unions;
- campaigns for open selection so that the Parliamentary Labour Party better reflects the views of the vast majority of members;
- supports and encourages struggles against austerity and all forms of oppression.

Amendment from Rotherham Left Momentum

The constitution should avoid referring to specific strategic aims or tactics that will keep changing, but should instead contain general fixed principles.

Therefore, amend section 1 as follows:

Delete “Aims” and replace with “Principles”

Delete:

- *opposes racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and all other forms of discrimination and is consistently internationalist, a stance which by definition includes support for the democratic and national rights of the Palestinians;*
- *opposes attempts to conflate anti-Zionism with antisemitism and opposes the witch-hunt against the left;*
- *campaigns to radically transform and democratise the Labour Party and the trade unions;*
- *campaigns for open selection so that the Parliamentary Labour Party better reflects the views of the vast majority of members;*

Replace with

- *opposes all forms of persecution and discrimination, including racism and prejudice of all kinds;*
- *promotes internationalism, peace, and solidarity, and the democratic rights of all peoples, especially those suffering persecution;*

- *is an inclusive organisation that rejects unjust treatment or judgement of people, respecting natural justice and freedom of speech;*
- *promotes complete democracy and fully accountable working-class representation within and throughout the Labour Party and trade unions;*

Procedural note: Vote for or against

1.2 Differences:

Option A:

The aims in our constitution should be expanded to include other political issues from the following options:

- 1) "Free movement of people" [LAW/Sheffield LL]

Procedural note: Vote for or against

- 2) "Campaigns for a disciplinary process in the Labour Party which is wholly based on natural justice and due process" [Dulwich LL]

Procedural note: Vote for or against

Option B:

Our aims should also spell out our vision of socialism:

Opposition to capitalism, imperialism, racism, militarism and the ecological degradation of the planet through the ruinous cycle of production for the sake of production.

We envisage a democratically planned economy and moving towards a stateless, classless, moneyless society that embodies the principle "From each according to their abilities, to each according to their needs".

Commitment to achieving a democratic republic. The standing army, the monarchy, the House of Lords and the state sponsorship of the Church of England must go. We support a single-chamber parliament, proportional representation and annual elections.

We seek to achieve the full democratisation of the Labour Party. All MPs, MEPs and MSPs should be subject to automatic reselection. All elected Labour Party members should be expected to take no more than the average skilled worker's wage. The Parliamentary Labour Party should be subordinated to the National Executive Committee.

We seek the replacement of Labour's existing clause four with a commitment to socialism as the rule of the working class.

We support Labour as the federal party of the working class. All trade unions, cooperatives, socialist societies and leftwing groups and parties should be brought together in the Labour Party.

We shall work with others internationally in pursuit of the aim of replacing capitalism with working class rule and socialism. [London LLA]

Procedural note: Vote for or against

2) Structures

2.1 Common ground:

We encourage all those not already involved in local Labour Left groups to become active in one or help set one up. Our aim is to organise every single supporter in an active local or regional Labour Left group.

We welcome, on all levels of the organisation, those who have been unfairly or unjustly suspended or expelled from the Labour Party.

Individual supporters are requested to pay a minimum subscription to help secure the funding of LLA. Affiliation fees for individuals and groups to be set by the organising group.

Decisions on all levels are made by consensus where possible and by simple majority where necessary (not counting abstentions). Decisions should be reached as quickly as possible, allowing the discussion to be as thorough as possible.

LLA branches and affiliated groups are encouraged to communicate and form any collaborative ventures they wish.

We welcome national, regional and local groups, unions and individuals to become signatories of our appeal.

2.2 Difference: Political orientation/eligibility

Option A:

We want to organise within and also beyond the Labour Party to establish a broad-based socialist movement. [Merseyside LL]

Option B:

We expect all individual LLA supporters to be members of the Labour Party, and organisations to be politically oriented towards the Labour Party and actively engage with it. Other political parties and their members/supporters are not eligible to become signatories to the LLA. [LAW/SLL, Tees Valley LL, London LLA]

Option C:

LLA shall be a broad left organisation composed of the those groups and individuals who subscribe to its principles and who are:

- a. Bona-fide Constituency Left Labour Party / Momentum groups
- b. Labour Party branches or Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs)
- c. Broad Left Labour Party organisations
- d. Trade unions
- e. Labour Party organisations representing special interests or particular groups of members, (eg BAME, Women's groups, etc)
- f. Individual Labour Party members [Dulwich]

Procedural note: They will be taken against each other as they are incompatible, with an additional option of 'Neither'.

3) Organising group and steering group

3.1 Common ground:

The organising group meets at least quarterly. Meetings should be scheduled well in advance (at least one month). It publishes agendas, minutes, reports and financial overviews and may set up working groups. It discusses all motions and requests made by at least 10 LLA signatories.

The organising group comprises officers who are accountable to the OG. As a minimum, the following officers shall work together as a steering group:

- Secretary
- Chair
- national organizer
- treasurer
- social media and website coordinator.

Additional officers that may be included as the organisation grows, to be determined by the OG:

- Vice-Chair (or two co-chairs)
- Assistant Secretary
- Campaigns Officer
- Trade Union Organiser
- Membership and Affiliations secretary
- Media and Communications Officer
- Information Officer
- Campaigns Officer
- National Organiser

Where an officer position cannot be filled, the OG may co-opt a supporter of the LLA to the steering group – they will have speaking, but no voting rights.

The steering group produces regular minutes and work reports for the OG. If there is a serious disagreement on the SG, the issue should be brought to the OG to be resolved.

The SG is in 'permanent session' and will discuss motions or proposals that have been submitted by any affiliate or a suitable number of individual supporters. Should the movers disagree with the decision by the SC, they can submit their proposals to the Organising Group, which will have to discuss it at the earliest opportunity.

3.2 Difference: How is the leadership elected?

Option A [London LL]

- An Organising Group is elected at Conference
- Conference decides on the size and functions of the OG
- The OG elects its own officers

Option B [Sheffield LL]

- The Organising Group is made up of representatives from all the affiliated groups

- The affiliated groups can change their representative/s at any time
- The OG elects annually a Steering Committee of a size of its own determination

Option C [Dulwich LL]

- The Organising Group is made up of representatives from all the affiliated groups of over 10 members
- The OG elects an Officers Group with a maximum of 15 members
- The Officers Group will establish an executive body to oversee conduct and compliance with the constitution

Option D [Tees Valley LL]

- A Steering Committee is elected annually by OMOV electronic ballot
- There shall be a non-executive Constitutional Committee to provide effective oversight to ensure compliance throughout the organization with the LLA Aims and Constitution
- The Constitutional Committee shall comprise one representative from each region (elected by OMOV in that region) and one representative directly appointed by each of the national affiliates

Option E [Brighton LLA]

- The OG shall consist of 8 people elected at conference and one delegate from each affiliated organisation or branch consisting of 10 or more people.
- Conference should elect a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer who can be recalled by a 2/3 majority of the Organising Group, which will then elect a replacement until the following AGM.

Procedural note 1: They will be taken against each other as they are incompatible, with an additional option of 'Neither'.

Procedural note 2: If Option A or E is agreed:

Option 1: Immediate elections shall take place as per the CAC preparations.

Option 2: Call another conference in 6 months time to elect the OG and hear any amendments to the new constitution.

Option 3: Continue with the current OG until the next annual conference.

4) Conference and its composition

4.1 Common ground:

Conference takes place at least annually. A special conference will be held at the request a number individual supporters or affiliated groups or branches (to be decided by the OG).

Conference decides on political strategy, campaigning priorities, structures and the constitution.

The OG decides on a method to allow the full participation of individual members who cannot attend meetings of any affiliated groups.

The OG establishes a Conference Arrangements Committee for the purposes of deciding speakers and the agenda and publishes detailed guidelines and timetables for motions and amendments.

Amendment from Alan Pearson et al:

Add:

“The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1. CAC may facilitate in the compositing of motions by stakeholders but not submit motions of its own accord*
- 2. Stakeholders are defined as representatives from the local groups or affiliates that have submitted the motions to be composited*
- 3. Stakeholders must agree the final wording of the composite and shall agree a mover and a seconder who will speak to conference during the relevant debate*
- 4. If the stakeholders cannot reach agreement then Conference hears all the individual motions*
- 5. If a limited number of stakeholders agree a composite then Conference hears that composite plus the remaining individual motions*
- 6. CAC may submit procedural motions to facilitate the effective functioning of Conference subject to approval by the Organising Group*
- 7. Members of the CAC are ex-officio at Conference without voting rights unless they are delegates from a local group or affiliate”*

Procedural note: Vote for or against

4.2 Difference: How are delegate numbers determined

Option A:

The OG decides on a number or ratio of delegates from affiliated organisations.
[LAW/SLL, Tees Valley LL, London LLA]

Option B:

Group/organisation delegate numbers are determined as follows:

- between 10 and 100 members - two delegates
- between 100 and 500 members - three delegates
- between 500 and 2000 members - four delegates
- over 2000 members - five delegates
- Unions may affiliate at branch, regional or national level, but they may not have delegates from branches within regions where their Region itself is affiliated. Affiliated trade union national offices are entitled to one delegate.

[Dulwich LL]

Procedural note: They will be taken against each other as they are incompatible, with an additional option of ‘Neither’.

4.3 Difference: Voting at LLA conference

Option A: [Dulwich]

Motions must be passed by both

- a majority of individual members and
- a majority of affiliated groups

Where a motion fails to obtain majority support by both a. and b. above, but achieves a majority of one of them, then the motion will be referred to the Organising Group.

Option B: [London, Sheffield, Tees Valley]

All decisions are made by a simple majority of those voting.

Procedural note: They will be taken against each other as they are incompatible.