

# Election of Party Chair

(suggested rule change)

The Labour Party Rule Book 2010, Section B, Chapter 1, Clause VII, 1 Party Officers, B. Chair and vice-Chair reads:

- i) There shall be a chair and vice-chair of the party elected by the NEC from among its own members in accordance with the provisions set out in procedural rule Chapter 4 B.3 below.

Section B, Chapter 1, Clause VIII, The National Executive Committee reads:

1. The NEC shall comprise:

- A. 24 members elected in such proportion and under such conditions as may be set out in rules Chapter 3 C below and Chapter 4 C below.
  - B. the leader and deputy leader of the party
  - C. the leader of the EPLP
  - D. the treasurer of the party
  - E. three frontbench Members
- (*and continues..*)

Chapter 4, B. Procedural rules for elections for national officers of the party, 3. Election of chair and vice-chair reads:

- A. The NEC shall elect its own chair and vicechair at its first meeting each year. Those elected to these positions shall act in that capacity throughout the year and also act as chair and vice-chair of the subsequent annual session of party conference and any special sessions of party conference during the course of the year.
- B. The NEC shall also elect during the course of the year a panel of three assistant chairs who, together with the vice-chair, shall assist the chair in the conduct of party conference. These assistant chairs shall be elected by the whole of the NEC with one each coming from the representatives on the NEC from Divisions I and II, Division III, and Divisions IV and V, by selection from each division of the NEC of the senior member who has yet to be chair or vicechair. The decision as to who shall chair particular sessions of the conference shall be taken by the chair of the NEC after consultation with the members of the panel.

## **Amendment:**

In Ch 1, Clause VII, 1 B (i), replace the paragraph with the following:

“There shall be a Party Chair, directly elected for up to two two-year terms by party members and members of affiliated organisations (the elections to coincide with those for the NEC, NPF and party treasurer), and a vice-chair of the party elected by the NEC from among its own members. The elections for these positions shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions set out in procedural rule Chapter 4 B.3 below. ”.

In Ch 1, Clause VIII, 1, insert a new ‘C’: “the party chair” and renumber the remaining clauses accordingly.

In Ch 4, 3. Election of chair and vice-chair, insert new clause 'A' and renumber the remaining clauses accordingly:

- i) Nominations for the post of party chair shall be sought from CLPs and affiliated organisations in that year prior to the annual session of party conference which is two years following the previous election. Nominees shall be a member of the party who has been a member for no less than 5 years, but should not be the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Party, nor a Government Minister at Westminster, nor shall they hold any post or office appointed by the Prime Minister or Party Leader. Where the current party chair is male and is in his second two-year term, in order to provide gender balance, nominations shall be restricted to female candidates.
- ii) Nominees shall inform the General Secretary in writing of the acceptance or otherwise of their nomination at least two clear weeks before the commencement of the procedures for voting laid out in (iii) – (vii) below. Unless written consent to nomination is received, nominations shall be rendered null and void.
- iii) Voting in the election of party chair shall take place so that the results are declared at an annual session of party conference.
- iv) Voting shall take place consecutively in two sections as follows:
  - a. Section 1 shall consist of a vote of all eligible individual members of the party on the basis of one member one vote. This ballot shall take place on a national basis and shall be counted and recorded as an aggregate vote broken down by CLP. Eligible members shall be those currently on the national membership list who are endorsed and have not lapsed from membership.
  - b. Section 2 shall consist of those members of affiliated organisations who have indicated their support for the Labour Party and that they are not members or supporters of any other party or otherwise ineligible to be members of the Labour Party. Voting shall take place under the procedures of each affiliated organisation, but on a one-person one-vote basis recorded by affiliated organisations and aggregated for a national total. The ballot paper shall provide for the declaration of support and eligibility required under this rule if no prior declaration has been made.
- v) The votes of each nominee in each section shall be calculated as a percentage of the total votes cast in that section and shall then be apportioned as follows:
  - a. Section 1 (individual members of the Labour Party) – one half;
  - b. Section 3 (members of affiliated organisations) – one half;
- vi) The votes apportioned as provided in (v) above shall be totalled and the candidate receiving more than half of the votes so apportioned shall be declared elected. If no candidate reaches this total on the first ballot, further ballots shall be held on an elimination basis. The redistribution of votes shall be according to preferences indicated on the ballot paper.
- vii) The votes cast for each nominee in each section shall be recorded and published in a form to be determined by the NEC as soon as possible following any election.
- viii) In the event that a party chair, during the course of their term, becomes permanently unavailable, the NEC shall appoint one of their number to act as party chair for the remainder of that term.

New clause B (based on existing clause A) shall be amended to delete the reference to the chair to read as follows: "The NEC shall elect its vicechair at its first meeting each year. Those elected to this position shall act in that capacity throughout the year

and also act as vice-chair of the subsequent annual session of party conference and any special sessions of party conference during the course of the year.”