

Suggested rule change

## **Right of Party members to select candidates**

The Labour Party Rule Book 2010, Section B, Chapter 5 Selections for elected public office, A General rules for selections for public office, Clause 2 reads:

‘Party units shall act in accordance with guidance that shall be issued by the NEC in the application of these rules. The NEC has the authority to modify these rules and any procedural rules and guidelines as required to meet particular circumstances or to further the stated objectives and principles of these rules. Further the NEC has the power to impose candidates where it deems this is required by the circumstances.’

### **Amendment**

Replace the words ‘Further the NEC has the power to impose candidates where it deems this is required by the circumstances.’ with:

‘However, the NEC shall not override the general right of party members who reside in the electoral area concerned to participate in any selection unless the party finds itself for any reason without a duly selected candidate within two weeks of the close of nominations. In such cases, the NEC may appoint a selection panel of members drawn by lot from those of its members available (or, in the case of candidates other than for the UK or European parliament, available members of the NEC or appropriate Regional Board or party officials), plus the same number of members appointed by the appropriate party body for the electoral area concerned. In other cases where the need arises, the NEC may draw up a shortlist of not fewer than six candidates for selection by appointing a shortlisting panel drawn by lot from those members available (or, in the case of candidates other than for the UK or European parliament, available members of the NEC or appropriate Regional Board or party officials), plus the same number of members appointed by the appropriate party body for the electoral area concerned.’

### **Supporting Arguments**

*At recent general elections, there has been considerable concern about the number of late selections where candidates have been ‘parachuted’ into constituencies either by imposing candidates selected without any local involvement or by imposing shortlists which excluded popular local candidates. In many cases the time taken to organise the NEC selection or shortlisting process was no quicker than would have been possible at a local level by reducing the time allowed in the normal timetables for selection. In 2010, such decisions were taken without even the presence of local observers. This amendment therefore restricts the imposition of candidates to the most extreme circumstances, and in the case of imposition of either candidate or shortlist, that decisions are taken jointly with local representatives.*

**Closing date for constitutional amendments: 30 July 2010**