

Suggested rule change

The right to amend NPF documents at conference

The Labour Party Rule Book 2010, Section B, Chapter 3 Party Conference, 3C Procedural rules for party conference, 2. Conference rule 2 - Agenda. 2C reads as follows:

‘All affiliated organisations and CLPs may submit one contemporary issue which is not substantially addressed by reports of the NEC or NPF to Conference. The CAC shall determine whether the issues meet these criteria and submit all issues received to a priorities ballot at the start of conference. The ballot will be divided into two sections. One section for CLPs and one section for trade unions and other affiliated organisations. At least the four priorities selected by CLPs will be time-tabled for debate, as will at least the first four priorities selected by Trade Unions and other affiliated organisations. Issues must be in writing, on one subject only and in ten words or less and may be supported by an explanation of why the issue should be prioritised. Alternatively, a constitutional amendment on one subject only may be submitted in writing. Contemporary issues and constitutional amendments must be received by the General Secretary at the offices of the party by the closing date determined by the NEC.’

Amendment

Add at end: ‘In a year when conference is considering the final stage documents from the National Policy Forum, CLPs and affiliated organisations may submit one amendment to the material set out in the final stage documents. These amendments shall be subject to compositing for debate and voting at conference in accordance with recommendations from the Conference Arrangements Committee.’

Supporting arguments

The Partnership in Power rule changes introduced in 1997 substantially reduced the opportunities for members’ participation in Labour’s policy making process. A rule change promoted by CLPD, and carried thanks to the support of trade union delegates, now gives CLPs the right to debate four subjects of their choice. However, most policy proposals are still decided by the National Policy Forum where CLPs and affiliated trade unions are under-represented. The rule change we are proposing would allow CLPs and affiliated organisations to submit an amendment to the final reports of the NPF. This would give CLPs some direct role in policy-making.

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 30 July 2010