

Suggested Rule Change

To institute a rolling party programme

The Labour Party Rule Book 2012, Chapter 1 Constitutional Rules, Clause V Party Programme, subclause 2 (page 7) reads:

“Party conference shall decide from time to time what specific proposals of legislative, financial or administrative reform shall be included in the Party programme. This shall be based on the rolling programme of work of the National Policy Forum. No proposal shall be included in the final Party programme unless it has been adopted by the Party conference by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes recorded on a card vote.”

Amendment

Delete all and replace with:

“The Party programme will be updated annually by Party conference based on amendments submitted by affiliated organisations, the ALC, Young Labour and CLPs on the following basis:

- A. The National Policy Forum shall establish policy commissions which shall each year review the relevant sections of the Party programme by no later than the end of March, incorporating any relevant resolutions of conference. These revised policy documents shall be circulated to affiliated organisations, the ALC, Young Labour and CLPs who shall be entitled to submit a limited number of amendments in accordance with the decision of the National Executive Committee.
- B. These amendments shall be considered by the relevant policy commission which shall recommend whether to accept or reject them, or, if they thought appropriate, to include alternative options in the document to be resolved by party conference. Where there was a division of opinion, the commission would submit majority / minority recommendations to the National Policy Forum within its report.
- C. Policy Commission reports would be presented to an annual meeting of the National Policy Forum. The National Policy Forum would decide which course to take through a simple majority vote. Where a proposal is defeated, but receives more than 25% support, it would be presented to Conference as an alternative position.
- D. Party conference shall vote on each policy commission report as revised by the national policy forum, choosing between any alternative positions either presented as options within the report or as majority/minority positions.”

Supporting argument

This procedure would reform the policy-making process to (i) provide for a rolling programme based on amendments from party units, giving grassroots party individual and affiliated members direct input into policy making, (ii) enable party conference to make the final decisions on policy, choosing between any options which commanded more than 25% support. The proposal is based on a submission to Refounding Labour by the Trade Union & Labour Liaison Organisation (TULO).

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 22 June 2012