

## **London Young Labour Constitution**



### **1 Name**

London Young Labour

### **2 Aims and values**

- (a) To help young Labour Party members play a full and active role within the Labour Party.
- (b) To organise local campaigning and social activities for young Labour Party members and for young people within the community.
- (c) To train and politically educate young Labour Party members.
- (d) To change the culture, particularly the meeting culture, of the Labour Party at branch and constituency level to create a more inclusive environment that is attractive to young members and to organise more social activities.
- (e) To advise the London Labour Party on issues that particularly concern young people in London and issues that concern young members of the party.
- (f) To encourage young people to support Labour in all elections.
- (g) To recruit and retain many more young people into Labour Party membership.
- (h) To campaign against all forms of discrimination and prejudice, especially those based upon race, colour, religion, disability, class, gender or sexual orientation.
- (i) To reverse the declining numbers of young people who are registered to vote and that do not participate in elections.
- (j) To maintain good relations with youth organisations in London and the youth sections within the Labour movement across London.
- (k) To encourage CLPs to elect a Youth and Students Officer and to encourage and assist that officer to arrange youth activity.

### **3 Membership**

All individual members of one of the 73 London CLPs (see Appendix A) aged 26 years or under shall automatically be members of London Young Labour.

### **4 Geographical boundaries**

The geographical boundaries of London Young Labour are to be kept in line with that of the London Labour Party (See appendix A for list of constituencies covered).

### **5 Meetings**

- (a) London Young Labour aims to avoid excessive bureaucracy at their meetings. Only the activities planned, the division of duties and responsibilities between members of the group, or a programme of action need be officially recorded.
- (b) Political education discussions, speakers, campaigns and elections, social activities and fundraising should be the main items on the agenda of meetings with any other of the objectives and aims of Young Labour.

- (c) All members identified in clause 3 should be encouraged to attend meetings of the group.
- (d) The executive may restrict attendance to a meeting if absolutely necessary.

#### **6. LYL Annual Conference**

- (a) The regular sovereign body of London Young Labour is the LYL Annual Conference.
- (b) The AGM shall take place at least once every 14 months
- (c) All members of LYL have full and equal rights to vote, stand for election and submit written motions to LYL Annual Conference.
- (d) The AGM shall establish policy and mandates through a written policy process and a simple majority voting system.
- (e) The LYL Chair, Committee and National Committee reps shall be bound by the policy passed at LYL Annual Conference.
- (f) The LYL Committee shall establish a deadline for the submission of motions to conference, which shall be no less than 6 days prior to the opening of conference and a separate amendments deadline no less than 3 days prior to the opening of conference. Motions shall require a proposer and 5 seconders, and amendments shall require a proposer and one seconder.
- (g) The debate of motions at LYL Annual Conference shall be run in line with the conference Standing Orders (see Appendix C). These Standing Orders may be suspended or amended with a majority vote from the floor.

#### **6 Executive Committee**

- (a) The membership of the London Young Labour Committee shall be as follows
  - The London Young Labour Chair, elected at LYL Annual Conference.
  - The Women's Officer, elected by an autonomous caucus of self-defining women members at LYL Annual Conference.
  - The LGBT Officer, elected by an autonomous caucus of self-defining LGBT members at LYL Annual Conference
  - The Black and Minority Ethnic members Officer, elected by an autonomous caucus of self-defining black and minority ethnic members at LYL Annual Conference
  - The Disabled members Officer, elected by an autonomous caucus of self-defining disabled members at LYL Annual Conference
  - The Under-19s Officer, elected by a caucus of under 19s at LYL Annual Conference
  - 14 Executive members elected by Single Transferable Vote at LYL Annual Conference, at least seven of whom must be self-defining women. Executive members elected in this way shall be allocated responsibilities by the committee in line with Appendix B.
  - The elected rep on the Young Labour National committee, and London Young labour rep to London Regional Board, elected on a One Member One Vote (OMOV) basis in line with national Young Labour guidelines.
- (b) The executive will take action to promote greater involvement and representation of women in the activities of London Young Labour, in particular to ensure that greater numbers of women are elected to the executive. Such action should include socials to promote women's involvement, communications aimed at promoting women's involvement, training events for women etc.
- (c) The Women's Officer will be responsible for organising a social event in advance of the opening of nominations before each year's AGM to identify, encourage and support women members to nominate themselves for election to the executive.

- (d) The names and addresses of the officers of London Young Labour and any subsequent changes shall be notified to Labour Party head office.
- (e) The executive shall aim to meet on a monthly basis.
- (f) All executive meetings shall be open to all members of London Young Labour. (g) Regional Organiser in charge of youth shall be invited to observe the executive meetings.
- (h) Youth sections of Labour affiliated trade unions in London, the London Young Fabians, youth sections of affiliated socialist societies in London and the chairs of Labour clubs at the London Universities shall be invited to the executive meetings. (i) The Youth Representative on the London Regional Board is to be elected at the AGM or a general meeting immediately preceding the London Labour Party biennial meeting.
- (o) Each Executive member is expected to help fellow members in organizing LYL events, campaigns and other activities.
- (p) Each Executive member is expected to attend Executive meetings or send apologies when this is not possible. Where an Executive member does not attend two successive meetings without sending apologies the Secretary should contact them to ask for an explanation and report to the next executive meeting.
- (q) The London representative on the Young Labour national committee shall be a full voting member of the London Young Labour committee and shall be accountable to, and mandatable by, the London Young Labour committee, subject to section 6 (e) of this document.

## **7 Elections**

- (a) Candidates may be self-nominating.
- (b) The executive committee shall decide the procedure of the elections and this will be made clear to candidates on receipt of their nomination.
- (c) After the close of nominations for executive positions prior to the AGM, nominations will be held open for women for a further 5 days in the case of any position where no woman has yet nominated herself.
- (d) Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot under the Single Transferable Vote system.
- (e) The count shall be conducted by the returning officer appointed by the executive.
- (f) All candidates may observe the count or appoint someone to act as an observer on their behalf.
- g) In the event of any dispute, the decision of the returning officer shall be final.
- (h) The London representative on the Young Labour national committee shall be elected on a One Member One Vote (OMOV) basis in accordance with Young Labour national election rules.

## **8 Finance**

- (a) London Young Labour may raise and spend its own funds if the expenditure is to further the objectives of Young Labour as determined in these rules and by the National Executive Committee. The treasurer of London Young Labour shall be responsible for the finances of the group.

(b) London Young Labour shall submit its accounts to the London regional director or on request to the Young Labour office at Labour Party head office.

(c) An arrangement may be made between London Young Labour and the London CLPs for a proportion of young Labour Party members' subscriptions to be paid to the group.

(d) In the event of the dissolution of a London Young Labour all funds and properties shall belong to the National Committee of Young Labour.

### **9 Relationship with constituency parties**

London Young Labour shall work to maintain good relations with London CLPs. In particular, London Young Labour shall inform the London CLPs of any campaigns, activities or events they are running, organising or assisting with. London Young Labour welcomes the co-operation, encouragement and assistance of branches and CLPs and their officers from across London.

### **10 General relations**

(a) London Young Labour shall set up links with London young trade unionists and other single-issue groups whose aims and objectives are compatible with those of the Labour Party as decided by the Labour Party National Executive Committee. The NEC's decision in such matters shall be final and binding.

(b) London Young Labour shall give reports at least quarterly on their activities and any problems and difficulties they are experiencing to the relevant bodies.

### **11 Dissolution**

(a) The London regional director shall have the authority to dissolve, reconstitute or change the geographical boundary of London Young Labour.

(b) A Young Labour member within London may appeal to the National Executive Youth Committee against a decision by the London regional director to dissolve or reconstitute London Young Labour. The NEC's decision shall be final and binding.

### **12 National Rules**

London Young Labour shall adhere to the National Rulebook of the Labour Party and to the rules set out for Young Labour and Young Labour groups.

### **13 Affiliation**

London Young Labour shall affiliate to the London Labour Party if feasible and conditions are met.

### **14. Amendments to the constitution**

This constitution may be amended by a single two thirds majority vote of the LYL Annual Conference, with the exception of Appendix C, which may be suspended or amended with a simple majority.

## **Appendix A – List of London CLPs**

Barking CLP  
Battersea CLP  
Beckenham CLP  
Bermondsey and Old Southwark CLP  
Bethnal Green and Bow CLP  
Bexleyheath and Crayford CLP  
Brent Central CLP  
Brent North CLP  
Brentford and Isleworth CLP  
Bromley and Chislehurst CLP  
Camberwell and Peckham CLP  
Carshalton and Wallington CLP  
Chelsea and Fulham CLP  
Chingford and Woodford Green CLP  
Chipping Barnet CLP  
Cities of London and Westminster CLP  
Croydon Central CLP  
Croydon North CLP Croydon  
South CLP Dagenham and  
Rainham CLP  
Dulwich and West Norwood CLP  
Ealing Central and Acton CLP  
Ealing North CLP  
Ealing, Southall CLP  
East Ham CLP  
Edmonton CLP  
Eltham CLP  
Enfield North CLP  
Enfield, Southgate CLP  
Erith and Thamesmead CLP  
Feltham and Heston CLP Finchley  
and Golders Green CLP  
Greenwich and Woolwich CLP  
Hackney North and Stoke  
Newington CLP  
Hackney South and Shoreditch CLP  
Hammersmith CLP  
Hampstead and Kilburn CLP  
Harrow East CLP  
Harrow West CLP  
Hayes and Harlington CLP  
Hendon CLP  
Holborn and St Pancras CLP  
Hornchurch and Upminster CLP  
Hornsey and Wood Green CLP  
Ilford North CLP  
Ilford South CLP  
Islington North CLP  
Islington South and Finsbury CLP  
Kensington CLP  
Kingston and Surbiton CLP  
Lewisham East CLP  
Lewisham West and Penge CLP  
Lewisham, Deptford CLP  
Leyton and Wanstead CLP  
Mitcham and Morden CLP  
Old Bexley and Sidcup CLP  
Orpington CLP  
Poplar and Limehouse CLP  
Putney CLP  
Richmond Park CLP  
Romford CLP  
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner CLP  
Streatham CLP  
Sutton and Cheam CLP  
Tooting CLP  
Tottenham CLP  
Twickenham CLP  
Uxbridge and South Ruislip CLP  
Vauxhall CLP  
Walthamstow CLP  
West Ham CLP  
Westminster North CLP  
Wimbledon CLP

## Appendix B- Role descriptions

### A. Chair

- To lead London Young Labour
- To help other Exec members with events or schemes they are planning
- To chair all meetings of the London Young Labour (LYL) Executive, General Meetings, the AGM and associated events
- With the Secretary to send out regular e-mail bulletins to members.
- To oversee London Young Labour's contact with outside organisations and the media. To represent London Young Labour on the Young Labour National Committee
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

### B. Women's Officer (Vice-chair)

- To ensure the views of female members are heard on the Executive and within LYL
- To work to increase involvement of young women in LYL and the Labour party.
- To chair LYL meetings in the absence of the chairman, together with the Treasurer
- To prevent LYL acting in a discriminatory or prejudiced way with regard to women
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop women LYL members' skills.

### C. LGBT Officer

- To ensure the views of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members are represented on the Executive and within LYL
- To work to increase the involvement of young LGBT people within LYL and the Labour party.
- To prevent LYL acting in a discriminatory or prejudiced way with regard to LGBT people
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LGBT LYL members' skills.

### D. Disability Officer

- To represent the views of members with disabilities on the Executive and within LYL
- To make sure all possible steps are taken to include LYL members with disabilities in LYL events
- To work to increase the involvement of young people with disabilities in London Young Labour.
- To prevent LYL acting in a discriminatory or prejudiced way with regard to people with disabilities.

- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members with disabilities' skills.

#### E. Ethnic Minorities Officer

- To represent the views of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) members on the Executive and within LYL.
- To work to increase the involvement of young Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people in London Young Labour.
- To prevent LYL acting in a discriminatory or prejudiced way with regard to people Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop BAME LYL members' skills.

#### F. Under-19s Officer

- To represent the views of members aged under-19 on the Executive and within LYL
- To make sure all possible steps are taken to include LYL members aged under-19 in LYL events
- To work to increase the involvement of young people aged under-19 in London Young Labour.
- To prevent LYL acting in a discriminatory or prejudiced way with regard to young people aged under-19.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop Under-19 LYL members' skills.

Positions G to Q shall be filled by the Block of 14

#### G. Secretary

- To take notes and produce minutes of and book rooms for meetings
- To take a lead in organizing LYL events
- To assess the number and nature of LYL members
- To plan membership recruitment drives
- With the Chair to send out regular e-mail bulletins to members.
- Take a lead on co-ordinating the work of area organisers.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### H. Treasurer (Vice-chair)

- To inform the executive of our financial situation
- To assess an appropriate amount of money to spend on each event
- To work with the Regional Organiser in charge of youth and the fundraising officer to ensure all donations are dealt with legally and are registered as required.
- To chair meetings, in the absence of the chairman, together with the Women's officer

- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### I. Anti-Racism Campaigns Officer

- To further LYL's campaign against racism of all kinds
- To work with anti-racism organizations such as UAF, Searchlight, the Holocaust Educational Trust and Affiliated Trade Unions to help in the fight against racism wherever it may occur.
- To prevent racist views or actions being undertaken by the Executive, with regard to the content of meetings, events and communications
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### J. Trade Union Liaison Officer

- To maintain a good relationship with Labour-affiliated trade unions
- To encourage young trade unionists to join the Labour party and vice versa
- To make LYL aware of current Trade Union campaigns and aims.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### K. Campaigns and Member Development Officer

- To organise campaigning by LYL members in national, council, regional and European elections to exclusively support Labour members.
- To organise campaigns on a particular topics.
- To develop the skills and experiences of LYL members by co-ordinating with other executive members training for LYL members to develop their campaigning and other skills.
- To make LYL members aware of opportunities to develop their skills and become elected Labour representatives (e.g. selection timetables to become councillors, assembly members or MPs).

#### L. Social Officer

- To arrange social event that will encourage participation of all young members
- To arrange a new members event
- To arrange other socials, such as a Christmas Party.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### M. Fundraising Officer

- To secure money for LYL events that may require it, from sources such as affiliated trade unions, businesses and other organizations.
- To arrange fundraising events for LYL
- To this end it is necessary to work with the treasurer and trade union officer

- To work with the Regional Organiser in charge of youth and the treasurer to ensure all donations are dealt with legally and are registered as required.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### N. Political & Policy Officer

- To organise LYL events for members
- To organise all-member general meetings at which London Young Labour members vote to determine LYL policy.
- To keep a record of London Young Labour policy and keep the LYL Executive up to date with developments in this area.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members.

#### O. 4 Campaign Coordinators

- To represent the views of members on the Executive and within LYL.
- To work with the Campaigns Officer, CLP officers, Labour elected representatives and candidates to ensure regular LYL campaigning across the whole of London.
- To work with the equality officers to support the involvement of members from the
- area in LYL regardless of disability, gender, race or sexual orientation.
- To organise a campaign briefing or other event for CLP youth officers and/or young members from the area at least once every three months.
- To maintain a contact details for CLP youth officers in the area and work with them to support LYL campaigning, policy and social activities in the area.
- To maintain contact details of local newspapers covering the area and promote LYL
- activities to them in consultation with the Chair.
- To act as a point of contact for LYL members in the area who want to get involved in LYL activities.
- To support the work of the Secretary to increase LYL membership in a specific area.
- To work with the Campaigns and Membership development officer to work to develop LYL members' skills.

#### P. **Communications Officer**

- Alongside the Chair, to be responsible for ensuring that all LYL members are informed to and involved as much as possible with regard to LYL's activities
- To author, compile and send out LYL's monthly newsletter to all members
- To be the lead committee member responsible for the website
- To be the lead committee member responsible for social media

#### Q. **Outer London Officer**

- To be responsible for ensuring the participation of Outer London LYL members

- To liaise with relevant organisations, CLPs and trade unions in Outer London areas

R. The Young Labour National Committee rep

- Along with the Chair, to represent and uphold the LYL at the Young Labour National Committee

## **Appendix C: Debating procedure at LYL Annual Conference**

Conference shall be chaired by members of the LYL committee. The Chair and the Chair's aide shall not exercise a vote unless the vote is tied.

### **A. The order of debate is as follows:**

1. A proposing speech for the motion
2. Debates on any amendments to the main motion, which follow the same order of debate
3. An equally timed opposing speech against the motion
4. Further debate at the chair's discretion until the debate is balanced
5. Parts procedure
6. A vote. If the chair deems that there is a clear majority, they may declare the motion passed or fallen. If the chair cannot call the vote, the vote must be counted by tellers.

### **B. The parts procedure is as follows:**

- Any conference attendee may call for parts by specifying them in writing to the chair
- The parts may be to REMOVE or PASS any part of any motion or amendment
- The chair shall call one timed speech in favour of the parts (property of their proposer) and one equally timed speech against. They may call more if the debate is contentious and there is time.

### **C. Procedural motions are as follows**

1. A challenge to the chair's ruling on a vote: if this passes a revote on the motion or amendment will be held without further debate.
2. A call for a revote on any given amendment or motion: if this passes a revote on the motion or amendment will be held without further debate.
3. A call for a recount on any given amendment or motion: if this passes a count will take place again.
4. A call for more speeches on any given amendment or motion: if this passes, another round of speeches will be held. (The chair may also accept this motion without a vote).
5. No confidence in the Chair: if this passes, a new Chair will be elected from the floor by show of hands.
6. A call for a suspension of procedural motions: if this passes, no procedural motions may be proposed other than motion 8.
7. A call for a change in the agenda: if this passes, the agenda will be amended accordingly.
8. A reinstatement of procedural motions: if this passes, the outcome of motion 6 is reversed.

Procedural motions take precedence over the debating procedure. They can be proposed by any conference attendee. In the case of motion 5, the Chair will vacate, and the debate will be chaired by a different member of the LYL Committee.