

Report from Constitution Commission for Left Unity conference October 2016

Part 1 - Amendments where we recommend acceptance

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
Section 7	First level sub-paragraphs in Clause 7 incorrectly lettered : currently (a) Caucuses ; (b) Sections ; (b) Tendencies ; (c) Youth Caucus and Student Sections	re-letter section 7 should be lettered a,b,c,d	Tidying up of drafting error Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams
Section 12	First level sub-paragraphs in Clause 12 are incorrectly lettered : currently proceeding from (a) to (p) but then reverting to (a) to (c) under the heading 'National Office holders and spokespeople'	re-letter section 12 'National Office holders and spokespeople' at the end of section 12 should be lettered q,r,s rather than a,b,c.	Tidying up of drafting error Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams
Section 14	First level sub-paragraphs in Clause 14 are incorrectly lettered : currently proceeding (a) (b) (c) (d) (d) (e)	re-letter section 14 should be lettered a,b,c,d,e,f	Tidying up of drafting error Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams
Section 20a)	<p>Teesside LU branch is concerned by the decisions of SOC and EC to institute a 500-word limit and a priorities ballot for motions and amendments going to November 2015 conference.</p> <p>We believe that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any priorities ballot should be for all motions, take place after amendments are seen and be considered strongly indicative, but open to alteration by conference attendees. 2. Word limits are not a useful way to attempt to address the problem of efficient time management at conference and may very well make matters worse. A guideline to members to keep amendments to 500 words would be more useful. <p>We therefore strongly urge the standing orders committee to reconsider these decisions.</p>	Add at end of 20a):The outcome of the priorities ballot shall be regarded as strongly indicative but not mandatory by the Standing Orders Committee	Proposed by Teesside branch
Section 9	<p>h) Caucuses and sections may send one motion and one amendment to National Conference.</p> <p>i) A Conference Arrangements Committee, which shall consist of four members elected at each National Conference, plus the National Secretary, will be responsible for all aspects of the organisation of the following National Conference except the organisation and timing of its agenda, which is the responsibility of the Standing Orders Committee.</p>	Add New point 9 i) and renumber thereafter : "All motions submitted to national conference will be not more than 500 words long"	<p>We recommend a Limit of 500 for policy motions and no limit for policy commission submissions</p> <p>Proposed by Terry Conway</p>

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			and Merry Cross
Section 3 (d)	supports Left Unity candidates in elections	Add at end of 3d: Any member who stands against an officially nominated Left Unity candidate in an election is deemed to have resigned their membership.	Proposed by Croydon branch
Appendices relating to model stand orders	There are 5 motions relating to these	We agree the model standing order should be addressed, and updated, we propose that we as the Constitutional Committee carry this out and not the National Council, with our suggestions on changes to be approved by the next annual conference.	As stated 5 different motions will write every branch or person who submitted a motion. 1 by Croydon branch 2 by Brighton & Hove branch 1 by Ed Huxley and Ian Llewellyn 1 by Anthony Sweeney and Ruth Phelps
Addition	Add new Clause 21 Disbandment and renumber existing Clause 21 as 22 : a) The party shall be disbanded only by an effective resolution of a Special Conference called, either under the provisions of 9(b), or by resolution of a preceding National Conference.	Alteration from 75% to two-thirds needed for a disbandment vote to pass. Add new Clause 21 Disbandment and renumber existing Clause 21 as 22 : a) The party shall be disbanded only by an effective resolution of a Special	Proposed by Ashley Walker and John Pearson, Stockport branch as well

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	<p>b) The minimum period of notice of such a Special Conference shall be as specified in 9(b). The notice of the meeting shall be sent by the National Secretary to all members of the party and it shall contain the terms of the motion to disband the party.</p> <p>c) To be effective, a resolution to disband the party : (i) shall not have been formed by means of an amendment being put to a motion which did not contain a proposal to disband the party; (ii) must be carried by 75% of the members present and voting at the Special Conference.</p> <p>d) In the event that an effective resolution to disband the party is carried, all monies and assets in Left Unity whether held by branches, regional committees or the national organisation, shall be pooled into one central fund and be granted to an organisation(s) with similar objectives and values as Left Unity. The Special Conference at which the effective resolution of disbandment is carried, shall, as it deems fit, determine which organisation(s) shall be granted the pooled monies and assets, or it shall issue instructions to the body determined in accordance with Clause (e) below, to determine which organisation(s) shall be granted the pooled monies and assets.</p> <p>e) In the event that an effective resolution to disband the party is carried, the Special Conference at which the effective resolution to disband is carried shall, as it deems fit, either instruct the existing National Council to oversee the entire process of disbandment, or elect (at the Special Conference), a special council to carry out that role.</p>	<p>Conference called, either under the provisions of 9(b), or by resolution of a preceding National Conference.</p> <p>b) The minimum period of notice of such a Special Conference shall be as specified in 9(b). The notice of the meeting shall be sent by the National Secretary to all members of the party and it shall contain the terms of the motion to disband the party.</p> <p>c) To be effective, a resolution to disband the party : (i) shall not have been formed by means of an amendment being put to a motion which did not contain a proposal to disband the party; (ii) must be carried by two-thirds of the members present and voting at the Special Conference.</p> <p>d) In the event that an effective resolution to disband the party is carried, all monies and assets in Left Unity whether held by branches, regional committees or the national organisation, shall be pooled into one central fund and be granted to an organisation(s) with similar objectives and values as Left Unity. The Special Conference at which the effective resolution of disbandment is carried, shall, as it deems fit, determine which organisation(s) shall be granted the pooled monies and assets, or it shall issue instructions to the body determined in accordance with Clause (e) below, to determine which organisation(s) shall be granted the pooled monies and assets.</p> <p>e) In the event that an effective resolution to disband the party is carried, the Special Conference at which the effective resolution to disband is carried shall, as it deems fit, either instruct the existing National Council to oversee the entire process of disbandment, or elect (at the Special Conference), a special council to carry</p>	

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		out that role.	
Addition	<p>This conference decides to make the following change as an addition to the constitution of Left Unity.</p> <p>23) Gender equality</p> <p>a) All members of Left Unity shall for the purpose of gender equality in elected representatives, officers, committee members and council members, have the right to identify as the gender they wish to identify as when standing for the aforementioned positions.</p>	All members of Left Unity shall have the right to identify as the gender they choose. This gender identification will be respected by Left Unity at all levels, whether in using the requested pronouns when referring to a member or in electing people to posts where there is a gender quota or gender requirement.	Proposed by Stockport branch

Part 2 - Amendments where we recommend opposition

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
Section 8 (c)	<p>Motion to change the following text.</p> <p>In England, regional committees of representatives from branches will be organised for the following English regions London, South East, North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern , South West. Each branch will be entitled to send two delegates with speaking and voting rights (at least one of whom must be female) and as many observers as wish to come. Expenses of delegates to be met from regional funds, local observers from branch funds.</p>	<p>delete:</p> <p>‘of representatives from branches’ and ‘Each branch will be entitled to send two delegates with speaking and voting rights (at least one of whom must be female) and as many observers as wish to come. Expenses of delegates to be met from regional funds, local observers from branch funds.’</p> <p>insert: ‘Regional Committees shall adopt its own standing orders, subject to approval by National Committee.’</p>	Proposed by Southwark branch
Section 9 (c)	<p>Motion to change the following text.</p> <p>c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2,000 members the provisions in 7 (d) will come into force.</p> <p>d) National delegate conference</p> <p>i. Conference shall be organised on a delegate basis from branches, with the size of delegations based on two delegates per ten members or part thereof, at least one of whom must be a woman, or on such other proportion of branch membership as shall be decided from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>ii. The party’s national youth caucus and student sections shall be entitled to send delegates to National Conference on a basis that shall be</p>	<p>replace 9c by:</p> <p>All Left Unity national conferences from the beginning of 2016 onwards shall be delegate conferences, according to the provisions in 9d.</p>	Proposed by Croydon branch

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	<p>determined from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>iii. All party members are entitled to attend National Conference as visitors. Party visitors can participate in debates but will not have voting rights.</p>		
Section 9	<p>Motion to change the following text.</p> <p>And amendment to a motion proposed by Brighton & Hove branch</p> <p>Replace By : All members can attend and vote at a National Conference on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2000 members, and no sooner than November 2015, the provisions in 9(d) will come into force.</p>	delete '2,000' and insert '5,000'	Proposed by Crouch End branch
Section 9	<p>(c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2,000 members the provisions in 7 (d) will come into force.</p> <p>d) National delegate conference</p> <p>i. Conference shall be organised on a delegate basis from branches, with the size of delegations based on two delegates per ten members or part thereof, at least one of whom must be a woman, or on such other proportion of branch membership as shall be decided from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>ii. The party's national youth caucus and student sections shall be entitled to send delegates to National Conference on a basis that shall be determined from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>iii. All party members are entitled to attend National Conference as visitors. Party visitors can participate in debates but will not have voting rights.</p>	<p>In section commencing 'Replace with:'</p> <p>c) Delete: 'but should membership exceed 10,000 the following shall come into force to maintain OMOV'</p> <p>Replace with: 'as it grows by implementing the following online system by or before January 2015'</p> <p>d) i. Delete: 'along with watching a livestream of conferences to vote in real-time on motions'</p> <p>Replace with: 'all year round to propose and democratically vote upon policy proposals. This system will work as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any Left Unity member can propose a policy on our open policy voting platform. The only requirements these policies must meet are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The policy cannot contradict the party's fundamental principles – for example it cannot be discriminatory or oppressive, or attempt to overturn any part of our founding statements. b. They must be policy questions and not structural questions about the party – so constitutional amendments are not eligible, and nor can they instruct the party to take a particular action (for example, to support or not support a particular candidate in an election). c. There will be a 500 word limit. This 	Proposed by Tom Walker and David Stoker

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		<p>is intended to make it clear that we are voting on individual policies rather than more detailed position papers.</p> <p>2. Anyone (including non-members) can sign up to say they agree with the policy. (The format for doing so will resemble e-petitions, 38 Degrees etc.) We will put in place reasonable checks to make sure these signatures correspond to real people and avoid artificial inflation of the numbers.</p> <p>3. Each month the policy that has the highest total of supporters at 12noon on the last day of the month is put to an online yes/no ballot of all Left Unity members. This is done in the same way as National Council elections, through email ballots with provisions for a postal ballot where it has been requested. The ballot will last two weeks to allow discussion on the website and in branches.</p> <p>4. Policy proposals that are not successful in getting into the monthly ballot will be removed from the website after one year, but may be proposed again at any time. Policy proposals that do get into the monthly ballot but receive a 'no' vote in the ballot may not be proposed again in the same form, though may be submitted to Left Unity conference.</p> <p>5. Conference remains sovereign and can vote to overturn any policy made according to this procedure.'</p> <p>Delete from 'Such system if ready for implementation...' to end of motion.</p>	
Section 9	<p>f) Individual members of LU will have the right to submit motions, so long they are seconded.</p> <p>g) Sub-committees or working parties established by conference motion may be charged to submit proposals directly to National Conference</p>	<p>Insert new 9 (f) renumbering thereafter:</p> <p>"Deadline for motions to conference (with the exception of emergency motions) will be 10 weeks prior to conference. Composites will be released 5 weeks before the conference and amendments 2 weeks before the conference date".</p>	Proposed by Lambeth Branch
Section 10	10) DIRECT DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION, THE	Add new point 10e:	Proposed by

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	<p>INTERNET AND E-CONFERENCES</p> <p>a) Left Unity is committed to using IT, and in particular the internet, to enhance its democratic processes. Therefore, the National Council, or such sub-committee that it may establish to deal with these issues, shall regularly review this area and present a report to Annual Conference, with proposals, on developing the use of IT.</p> <p>b) The National Council shall organise E-conferences on specific single issues or questions as it decides or when requested by 25% of branches in the course of a three month period. These shall take place on a forum to be organised by the NC with online debate and voting, restricted via password protection to subs-paying LU members.</p> <p>c) Provision will be made for voting in all elections to be conducted by internet voting, but members may choose to receive postal votes instead.</p> <p>d) All discussion and debate will be expected to be respectful and adhere to the standards of behaviour set out in the Safer Spaces policy (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>e) Left Unity will additionally operate an online system all year round to propose and democratically vote upon policy proposals. This system will work as follows.</p> <p>i. Any Left Unity member can propose a policy on our open policy voting platform. The only requirements these policies must meet are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The policy cannot contradict the party's fundamental principles – for example it cannot be discriminatory or oppressive, or attempt to overturn any part of our founding statements. 2. They must be policy questions and not structural questions about the party – so constitutional amendments are not eligible, and nor can they instruct the party to take a particular action (for example, to support or not support a particular candidate in an election). 3. There will be a 500 word limit. This is intended to make it clear that we are voting on individual policies rather than more detailed position papers. <p>ii. Anyone (including non-members) can sign up to say they agree with the policy. (The format for doing so will resemble e-petitions.) We will put in place reasonable checks to make sure these signatures correspond to real people and avoid artificial inflation of the numbers.</p> <p>iii. Each month the policy that has the highest total of supporters at 12noon on the last day of the month is put to an online yes/no ballot of all Left Unity members. This is done in the same way as National Council elections, through email ballots with provisions for a postal ballot where it has been requested. The ballot will last two</p>	<p>Croydon branch</p>

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		<p>weeks to allow discussion on the website and in branches.</p> <p>iv. Policy proposals that are not successful in getting into the monthly ballot will be removed from the website after one year, but may be proposed again at any time. Policy proposals that do get into the monthly ballot but receive a 'no' vote in the ballot may not be proposed again in the same form, though may be submitted to Left Unity conference.</p> <p>v. Conference remains sovereign and can vote to overturn any policy made according to this procedure.</p>	
Section 12(a)	<p>Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 40 regional representatives ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women iii. 4 nationally elected principal speakers iv. 6 nationally elected office holders v. 15 nationally elected council members 	<p>Add new Point ii to 12(a), and re-number accordingly</p> <p>“One representative per branch”</p>	Proposed by Rugby branch
Section 12(a)	<p>Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 40 regional representatives ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women iii. 4 nationally elected principal speakers iv. 6 nationally elected office holders v. 15 nationally elected council members 	<p>Replace</p> <p>a) i) “40 regional representatives” with:</p> <p>a) i) Branch delegates with branches entitled to 1 delegate per 50 members or part thereof e.g. a branch with 49 members gets 1 delegate, a branch with 51 members gets 2 delegates.</p>	Proposed by Brighton and Hove branch
Section 12(a)	<p>Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as</p>	<p>In 12(a)i : Delete '40' and insert '22'. Delete 12(a)iii and iv and insert a new iii: '3 Principle officers'.</p>	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch

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	<p>may be decided from time to time by National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 40 regional representatives ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women iii. 4 nationally elected principal speakers iv. 6 nationally elected office holders v. 15 nationally elected council members 		
Section 12 (g)	The term of office for all members of the National Council will be 1 year.	Delete '1 year' and insert 'a maximum of 18 months'.	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch
Section 12 (h)	The National Council may create new National Officer posts, nominate spokespeople on particular issues and temporarily co-opt from within its own membership or the membership at large to fill them, subject to confirmation by National conference and thereafter elected by a national ballot of all members.	Delete ', subject to confirmation by National conference and thereafter elected by a national ballot of all members'	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch
Section 12 (j)	<p>A total of 40 regional and national representatives, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference, will be members of National Council, representing the following regions and nations (coterminous with regions for elections for the European Parliament):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Electoral region 1 - London ii. Electoral region 2 - North East iii. Electoral region 3 - North West iv. Electoral region 4 - Yorkshire and Humber v. Electoral region 5 - East Midlands vi. Electoral region 6 - West Midlands vii. Electoral region 7 - Eastern viii. Electoral region 8 - South West ix. Electoral region 9 - South East x. National electoral region 10 - Scotland xi. National electoral region 11 - Wales 	Delete all.	Proposed by Phil Pope and Gemma Brown
Section 12 (j)	<p>A total of 40 regional and national representatives, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference, will be members of National Council, representing the following regions and nations (coterminous with regions for elections for the European Parliament):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Electoral region 1 - London ii. Electoral region 2 - North East iii. Electoral region 3 - North West iv. Electoral region 4 - Yorkshire and Humber 	Delete '40' and insert '22'. Delete ', or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference,' and delete 'representing' and insert 'two representatives for'.	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch

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	v. Electoral region 5 - East Midlands vi. Electoral region 6 - West Midlands vii. Electoral region 7 - Eastern viii. Electoral region 8 - South West ix. Electoral region 9 - South East x. National electoral region 10 - Scotland xi. National electoral region 11 - Wales		
Section 12 (a) (b) (c)	<p>(a) National officers will be elected annually by national ballot. National officers will be responsible for implementing the decisions of National/Special Conferences and the National Council. The national officers and spokespeople will be accountable to the National Council and National Conference, providing regular reports of their areas of responsibility (b) The number and responsibilities of National Officers will be as follows, or as may be determined from time to time by the National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Principal Spokespeople - two male, two female, acting as leading spokespeople for the party at a national level ii. National Secretary (with responsibility for party organisation, preparation of agenda's, dealing with external correspondence and communications, liaising with Regional Committees, minutes and records and any other duties decided by National Council from time to time) iii. National Membership and Communications (with responsibility for membership, data protection and internal communications iv. Nominating Officer/Elections Co-ordinator; responsible for drawing up and implementing procedures for the democratic selection of party candidates for public office and other internal election processes, and for the overall co-ordination of national election campaigns. For the technical purpose of registration with the Electoral Commission only, this post holder will be designated party leader. v. National Treasurer; responsible for keeping details of party income and expenditure, preparation of quarterly financial reports to be sent to all National Council members and Branch Secretaries, and presentation of audited accounts to National Conference and the Electoral Commission vi. Media Officer; responsible for media strategy vii. Trade Union Officer (c) The positions of National Secretary, National Membership and Communications Officer, Nominating 	Delete 12(a), 12 (b) and 12 (c)	Proposed by Phil Pope and Gemma Brown

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	<p>Officer/Elections Co-ordinator, Media Officer, Trade Union Officer and National Treasurer are all open for job-share. However, if a job share is operating, although both may attend, only one of the two sharing post-holders may act as a voting/speaking member at any one meeting of the National Council</p>		
Section 13	<p>(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p> <p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>	Delete all.	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon branch
Section 13	<p>(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p>	<p>Replace (b) by : The composition of the Executive Committee will be the national office holders/spokespeople, and 12 members elected from the National Council.</p> <p>At least half of these members elected from the National Council must be from the Sections, regional or branch representatives.</p>	Proposed by Brighton & Hove branch

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	<p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>		
Section 13	<p>(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p> <p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>	<p>Delete(b) and replace with: The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople plus ten representatives to be elected for a period of one year by the National Council from within its own ranks of whom at least five must be women and at least seven from outside London.</p>	Proposed by Hackney branch and Tower Hamlets Branch
Section 13	<p>(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p> <p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should</p>	<p>Replace (b) by : The composition of the Executive Committee will be the 20 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p>	Proposed by Phil Pope and Gemma Brown

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	<p>be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>		
Section 13	<p>(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p> <p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>	<p>add 13f:</p> <p>f) The Executive Committee will elect its own officers and spokespeople as necessary to carry out its business as instructed by Conference and the National Council.</p>	Proposed by Phil Pope and Gemma Brown
Section 15 (b)	<p>All minutes of national committees and working groups will be published within a week. A record of the votes cast by each delegate or official shall also be circulated internally</p>	<p>Replace with:</p> <p>All minutes of national committees and working groups will be published within 7 working days. A record of the votes cast by each delegate or official shall be included within the minutes. In addition all national committees and executive committees meetings will be audio-visual recorded and posted online on the Left Unity Website and on a relevant website such as Youtube for members to view, this shall be done within 7 working days.</p>	Proposed by Nottingham Branch
Alteration	Income will be divided between the national	Left Unity believes that it is important	Proposed by

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	<p>organisation and local/regional activities according to the following formula, subject to review and agreement of national conference from time to time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. national office = 75% ii. region = 5% iii. branch = 20% 	<p>to move on from the simplistic truism that “the interests of the working class are basically the same everywhere”, in view of: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the significant inter-regional differences in house prices, unemployment rates, the incidence of poverty, type of jobs, ethnic and religious composition, and b) the differences across all regions in political geography between most cities and their nearby towns and that LU therefore needs to pursue an intelligence-led political activity that ensures that the balance of our internal structure enables us to become as well adapted to it as we can to this diversity. <p>In line with clause 8 d) (Regional Structures) of our Constitution, which sets out the role of regional committees, Left Unity pledges to ensure that its resourcing of the 3 layers of our internal structure reflects their importance, in view of our need to achieve a balance which reflects regional diversity.</p> <p>Section 17 c) (Finance) of the Constitution is therefore amended to change from</p> <p>“Income will be divided between the national organisation and local / regional activities according to the following formula, subject to review and agreement of national conference from time to time: national office 75%; region 5%; branch 20%”, to</p> <p>“Income will be divided between the national organisation and local / regional activities according to the following formula, subject to review and agreement of national conference from time to time: national office 60%; region 20%; branch 20%”.</p>	<p>Stockport branch</p>
<p>Section 4</p>	<p>STRUCTURE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES</p> <p>a) The minutes of all meetings of branches, regional, national committees, the Executive Committee or other party bodies will be published and made</p>	<p>Move section 4 section 4 (STRUCTURE AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES) consists of points that are relevant to other sections of the</p>	<p>Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams</p>

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	<p>available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>b) No member may hold a nationally elected post within the party for more than three consecutive years, following which s/he may not stand for election to that post for two years.</p> <p>c) The term of all elected posts within the party shall be one year, from Annual Conference to Annual Conference. All party bodies have the right to recall the elected delegates, officers and spokespersons accountable to them.</p> <p>d) As part of our overall commitment to gender equality, at least 50% of those elected to regional and national party bodies should be women.</p> <p>e) Care will be taken in when deciding the venue of all national meetings that they take place in geographic locations that are conveniently accessible and a London-centric approach is avoided.</p> <p>f) Members are expected to adhere to the principles and guidelines set out in the Safer Spaces policy (Appendix 1).</p>	<p>constitution. 4c contradicts another part of the constitution and does not reflect practice (that elections will be held annually and not necessarily at the same time as conference). It would be better if all the points were moved to their relevant sections and section 4 abolished.</p> <p>4a) move to section 10e</p> <p>4b) move to section 14f</p> <p>4c) delete first sentence. move second sentence to 14g</p> <p>4d) move to 14h</p> <p>4e) move to 9j</p> <p>4f) delete as duplicated by 3f</p> <p>re-number sections 5 onward</p>	
Section 9	<p>Motion to change the following text.</p> <p>c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2,000 members the provisions in 7 (d) will come into force.</p> <p>d) National delegate conference</p> <p>i. Conference shall be organised on a delegate basis from branches, with the size of delegations based on two delegates per ten members or part thereof, at least one of whom must be a woman, or on such other proportion of branch membership as shall be decided from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>ii. The party's national youth caucus and student sections shall be entitled to send delegates to National Conference on a basis that shall be determined from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>iii. All party members are entitled to attend National Conference as visitors. Party visitors can participate in debates but will not have voting rights.</p>	<p>Replace By : All members can attend and vote at a National Conference on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2000 members, and no sooner than November 2015, the provisions in 9(d) will come into force.</p>	<p>Motion is to implement changes is recommended for opposition, however, there is an error in the original text that states 7 (d) instead of 9 (d) we recommend we be allowed to correct this.</p> <p>Proposed by Brighton & Hove branch</p>
Section 12 (g)	Alteration	in 12g replace '1 year' with 'no longer than 13 months'. This would give some flexibility in timing as we do with national conference in 9a.	Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams
Section 12 (a) (b) (c)	(a) National officers will be elected annually by national ballot. National officers will be responsible	National Office holders and spokespeople	Proposed by Southwark

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
	<p>for implementing the decisions of National/Special Conferences and the National Council. The national officers and spokespeople will be accountable to the National Council and National Conference, providing regular reports of their areas of responsibility (b) The number and responsibilities of National Officers will be as follows, or as may be determined from time to time by the National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Principal Spokespeople - two male, two female, acting as leading spokespeople for the party at a national level ii. National Secretary (with responsibility for party organisation, preparation of agenda's, dealing with external correspondence and communications, liaising with Regional Committees, minutes and records and any other duties decided by National Council from time to time) iii. National Membership and Communications (with responsibility for membership, data protection and internal communications iv. Nominating Officer/Elections Co-ordinator; responsible for drawing up and implementing procedures for the democratic selection of party candidates for public office and other internal election processes, and for the overall co-ordination of national election campaigns. For the technical purpose of registration with the Electoral Commission only, this post holder will be designated party leader. v. National Treasurer; responsible for keeping details of party income and expenditure, preparation of quarterly financial reports to be sent to all National Council members and Branch Secretaries, and presentation of audited accounts to National Conference and the Electoral Commission vi. Media Officer; responsible for media strategy vii. Trade Union Officer (c) The positions of National Secretary, National Membership and Communications Officer, Nominating Officer/Elections Co-ordinator, Media Officer, Trade Union Officer and National Treasurer are all open for job-share. However, if a job share is operating, although both may attend, only one of the two sharing post-holders may act as a voting/speaking member at any one meeting of the National Council 	<p>Delete: 'National Office holders and spokespeople' and insert 'Principle Officers'</p> <p>Delete a)</p> <p>In b) where is says 'National Officers' and replace with 'Principle Officers'</p> <p>Delete i),iii),vi),vii.</p>	<p>branch and Croydon Branch</p>
Section 14 (d)	<p>Every candidate will be entitled to supply a statement of no more than 500 words (or such limits as deemed practicable by the Nominating Officer) saying:</p>	<p>insert: iii. any other political organisation of which they are a member</p>	<p>Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon branch</p>

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
	<p>i. which positions in LU they do or have held ii. whether they are members of a tendency and if so, which.</p> <p>These statements will accompany printed ballot papers and in the event of online voting be prominently available. All candidates will be expected to also provide contact details so that members may ask them questions prior to voting. The Nominating Officer (or members delegated by him/her as appropriate) will organise hustings opportunities, whether on-line or in person.</p>		

Part 3 - Amendments where we recommend deferral

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
<p>Additions to Section 8 concerning Ireland and overseas territories</p>	<p>Add e) Left Unity will organise in Northern Ireland should twenty people who are resident in Northern Ireland step forward and the constitution shall be amended to allow a Northern Ireland National Committee the same rights as the Scottish and Welsh National Committees, with one difference. On the issue of Northern Irish and Irish Unity Left Unity UK shall not take a position on this issue and shall allow the Left Unity members of Northern Ireland to decide the position of Left Unity Northern Ireland on any potential vote to unify Northern Ireland and Ireland into one nation.</p> <p>Add f) i. Left Unity shall be open to any peoples living in the British Oversea Territories or Crown Dependencies that wish to set up Left Unity in those locations and shall provide support to them. Discussion and potential amendments will need to be had at a later date about how these prospective groups would be integrated into Left Unity UK. ii. Left Unity in the case of Gibraltar (which is technically part of the mainland UK being part of the South West of England for purposes of the EU elections) shall organise to have a branch there should residents come forward to found it. Left Unity will stand in elections in Gibraltar as if it were physically part of South West England on an interim basis until such a time as a Gibraltar Branch wanted to change this arrangement.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Proposed by Nottingham branch</p>

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
Section 9	<p>(c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV), except that when Left Unity reaches 2,000 members the provisions in 7 (d) will come into force.</p> <p>d) National delegate conference</p> <p>i. Conference shall be organised on a delegate basis from branches, with the size of delegations based on two delegates per ten members or part thereof, at least one of whom must be a woman, or on such other proportion of branch membership as shall be decided from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>ii. The party's national youth caucus and student sections shall be entitled to send delegates to National Conference on a basis that shall be determined from time to time by Conference.</p> <p>iii. All party members are entitled to attend National Conference as visitors. Party visitors can participate in debates but will not have voting rights.</p>	<p>Delete paragraphs (c) and (d) and Replace with:</p> <p>c) All members can attend and vote at National Conferences on the basis of One Member One Vote (OMOV). Left Unity shall maintain a policy of One Member One Vote (OMOV) but should membership exceed 10,000 the following shall come into force to maintain OMOV:</p> <p>d) Online Direct Democratic Conferences</p> <p>i. Left Unity shall investigate existing systems and if necessary invest in (be it via crowd funding, internal party finance or joint finance with other parties (or combinations of the previous)) into creating an online voting system that can be used by members along with watching a livestream of conferences to vote in real-time on motions. Such system if ready for implementation can at the discretion of the party via a vote be implemented at any time before 10,000 members have joined the party as such a system would allow greater participation of members with policy making decisions especially for disabled people or those with temporary/long term illness who may be unable to travel to conferences and those who are unable to afford travel expenses or for other commitments cannot travel on the day but still have access to the internet.</p> <p>ii. Left Unity shall have policy and annual conferences put on rotation using the European Parliament Constituencies as locations in which conferences will occur, i.e: London, South West England, South East England, East of England, West Midlands, East Midlands, North West England, North East England, Yorkshire and the Humber, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland. (NOTE: As Left Unity does not organise in Northern Ireland it shall be void from this list until such a time as Left Unity decides to allow</p>	Proposed by Nottingham branch

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
		<p>organisation there).</p> <p>iii. How physical places at conferences will be allocated will be: within the region of the UK the conference is occurring tickets will be allocated as equally as is possible so that all branches in that region are given equal number of tickets per member with a set number put aside for members within those regions, but who do not belong to a local branch or a local branch does not exist convenient to them (this shall include members of the Left Unity Online Branch). After this any leftover tickets shall be reallocated on a first come first serve basis to individuals in that region and if any then remain the remainder shall be made available on a first come first serve basis to the rest of the branches UK wide.</p>	
Section 9 (f)	Individual members of LU will have the right to submit motions, so long they are seconded.	Replace 9(f) by: A group of at least five individual Left Unity members may submit a motion. However, at least one of the members must be elected as a delegate and attend conference to move the motion, otherwise it will fall.	Proposed by Croydon branch
Section 9 (f)	Individual members of LU will have the right to submit motions, so long they are seconded.	Delete "Individual members of LU will have the right to submit motions, so long they are seconded" and replace by "Motions can be submitted to the conference as long as they are signed by 10 members".	Proposed by Lambeth branch
Section 12 (b)	The National Council shall meet at least 4 times a year and one third of members must be present to form a quorum (not including unfilled positions or places in the calculation). Chairing to be rotational.	Delete '4' insert '6'	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch
Section 12 (i)	In the event of a vacancy occurring for any position within the National Council the Executive Committee will take immediate steps to organise the election of a replacement	Delete ' the Executive Committee' and ' immediate'	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon Branch
New addition	Addition	National Office holders and spokespeople, section b: Add: viii Disability Officer	No explanation on duties and no indication

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
			<p>they would wish conference or such to decide.</p> <p>Proposed by Hackney branch and Tower Hamlets branch</p>
New addition	Addition	<p>National Office holders and spokespeople, section b: Add: viii Access Officer</p>	<p>No explanation on duties and no indication they would wish conference or such to decide.</p> <p>Proposed by Crouch End branch</p>
Section 14 (f)	<p>If insufficient male or female candidates are nominated for positions requiring 50% gender representation, nominations will be re-opened once only, with an appeal for male or female candidates, as appropriate, to come forward. Pending the by-election, the female/male candidate, as appropriate, with the second highest vote will sit as an acting representative on the National Council. If no further male/female nominations, as appropriate, are received then the acting representative will be deemed to be elected for that year.</p>	<p>NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR INTERNAL POSITIONS WITHIN LU section f (previously e). Insert before section begins: Gender representation in elected bodies will be upheld by withdrawing male candidates who appear on the least number of ballot papers until sufficient women candidates are represented, in accordance with the 'at least 50% women' rule in 4d. For these purposes, the collection of non-gender-specific officer positions (ie. the officer positions excepting the principal speakers) is considered as one body.</p> <p>Insert after following sentence (If insufficient... to come forward): Where the elected body is that of the non-gender-specific officer positions, nominations are only re-opened for the position or positions that are vacated due to gender representation as above, rather than all positions.</p>	<p>Proposed by Tom Walker and Guy Harper</p>
Section 15	Addition	<p>In clause 15, add after sub-clause b) new sub-clause c) "c) LU members have the right to</p>	<p>Proposed by Mike MacNair and Jake</p>

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
		<p>freedom of speech and criticism and to open public reporting and discussion of the affairs of LU, so long as this does not amount to campaigning against a public action in which LU is currently engaged (such as campaigning against the LU candidate in an election campaign after the election has been formally called).”</p> <p>Re-number (more exactly, re-letter) the remaining sub-clauses.</p>	Conrad
Section 16 (c)	<p>Candidates for LU will agree to abide by the following Code of Conduct:</p> <p>i. In cases where an elected position require the post is carried out on a full time basis, Left Unity members will only draw a maximum of the median national wage (plus legitimate expenses, including London Weighting) – donating 20% of the surplus to Left Unity and 80% returned to public funds.</p> <p>ii. Where an elected position is a full time job Left Unity members will take on no other paid employment.</p> <p>iii. No Left Unity member will be allowed to continue in any single externally elected position for limited terms as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MPs and MEPs - 2 terms/maximum of 10 years - Local councillor, MWA, MSP - 3 terms/maximum 12 years <p>iv. After a gap of 1 term of office members may again seek nomination to stand as a candidate.</p> <p>v. All Left Unity members serving in elected positions must provide regular report backs at the agreed appropriate, local, regional, or national level, to Left Unity.</p> <p>vi. No elected Left Unity member may take any payment from NGOs, lobbyists or the private sector either in cash or in the form of gifts.</p>	<p>Delete “donating 20% of the surplus to Left Unity and 80% returned to public funds”</p> <p>Replace with “donating 50% of the surplus to Left Unity and 50% to a Left Unity-administered Solidarity Fund that makes grants to campaigns and movements the party supports”</p>	Proposed by Croydon branch
Alteration	<p>Income will be divided between the national organisation and local/regional activities according to the following formula, subject to review and agreement of national conference from time to time:</p> <p>i. national office = 75%</p> <p>ii. region = 5%</p> <p>iii. branch = 20%</p>	<p>delete 75% and insert 70%</p> <p>delete 5% and insert 10%</p>	Proposed by Southwark
Section 18 and Section 19	Addition	<p>Clauses 18, Disputes Committee, and 19, Appeals Committee:</p> <p>Rewrite as follows:</p>	Proposed by Liverpool branch

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
		<p>(18-19) DISPUTES AND APPEALS A. Disputes Committee (i) A Disputes Committee shall be elected annually by national ballot. This committee will consist of seven people, but shall include no members of the National Council. Its role will be to investigate disputes and complaints about the behaviour of individual party members in appropriate cases. (ii) The Disputes Committee may form a sub-committee of at least three members to consider any one case. Add to the rewrite as new 1 “all disputes and appeals members will receive training in equalities, in child protection and basic awareness of trade union procedures.”</p>	
Addition	Addition	<p>Conference does not accept the decision of the National Council to dedicate a whole day of the 2015 Party Conference to dealing with amendments to the Party’s Constitution. The Constitution was democratically adopted by the founding Conference of the Party less than 2 years ago and there are far more important political matters to deal with than spending a full day reviewing it.</p> <p>Conference resolves: i) That the Party Constitution Commission (PCC) be re-established as a permanent body, reporting to Conference. ii) The PCC shall comprise 7 members and shall be elected at the same time as the Officers and Standing Committees of the Party. iii) That branches and individual members may, at any time submit to the PPC, proposals for amendments to the Constitution. The PCC must give consideration to all such proposals received by it. iv) That the PCC will produce reports on proposals for Constitutional changes. The PCC will submit these</p>	<p>Defer as has already been enacted</p> <p>Proposed by Bath and North East Somerset branch</p>

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
		<p>reports to Conference.</p> <p>v) That all of the motions to amend the Constitution which were not reached at the 15/16 November 2014 Conference shall be referred to the PCC upon its establishment.</p> <p>vi) that the SOC shall attempt to divide the process of submission of the PCC report and any amendments thereto to Conference, with the aim that no more than two half hour slots per day of Conference business shall be spent on proposals to amend the Constitution.</p>	
Section 9	Alteration	<p>remove reference to 'annual' or 'special' conference.</p> <p>throughout the constitution there are references to 'National Conference', 'Annual Conference', 'Special Conference', and simply 'conference'. There does not seem to be any constitutional difference between these and the different terms simply confuse. The powers under 9b would remain.</p> <p>remove 'annual' from 7,10a,12k,12p,14c,17h,20a,21</p> <p>remove 'special' from 9b,9b(again),12q</p>	Proposed by Phil Pope and Sam Williams
Section 12 (a)	<p>Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 40 regional representatives ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women iii. 4 nationally elected principal speakers iv. 6 nationally elected office holders v. 15 nationally elected council members 	<p>Conference notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We have struggled to fill many of the Regional Representative positions. 2) Standing Committees such as SOC, Disputes and Appeals are short of members. 3) Membership of the National Council bars people from serving on these committees 4) At the moment the National Council has seventy positions. 5) The most contested positions are the directly elected members of the National Council – currently 15 positions. <p>Conference believes:</p>	Proposed by Phil Pope and Gemma Brown

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
		<p>1) The current National Council and Executive Committee are too large. 2) Reducing the size of the National Council and National Executive will improve efficiency as well as releasing a number of members to take part in other party activities. 3) Officers and spokespeople should be elected by the EC to ensure they remain accountable throughout the year and can be replaced at short notice if necessary.</p> <p>Conference resolves: 1) To amend 12a) of the constitution to read: a) Left Unity will be led and organisational/financial issues managed in between national conferences by the National Council (NC). The National Council will comprise the following members, or such number as may be decided from time to time by National Conference: i. 22 regional representatives. Two from each of the European constituencies. ii. 1 representative from each of the following Sections: Youth/students, LGBT, BME, disabled members, women iii. 20 nationally elected council members</p>	
Section 12 (k)	<p>It is the responsibility of the National Council, subject to the approval of each Annual Conference, to ensure the distribution of the number of representatives on the National Council for each region will be, as far as possible, proportional to the distribution of membership of LU in England, Wales and Scotland, excepting that:</p> <p>i. each region shall have a minimum of two representatives. ii. the calculation of distribution of regional seats will be based on the previous year's membership figures.</p>	Delete all.	Proposed by Southwark branch and Croydon branch
Section 13	(a) The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the party. The Executive Committee is accountable for all its actions to National Council and National Conference. The Executive Committee should refer all major decisions	Delete (b) and replace with: The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople plus ten representatives to be elected for a	Proposed by Crouch End branch

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
	<p>to National Council. This does not preclude the Executive Committee reaching interim decisions on urgent matters and seeking the ratification of National Council at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>b) The composition of the Executive Committee will be the National Office holders/spokespeople, one representative from each region, the representatives of Sections and 10 representatives from the nationally elected National Council members.</p> <p>c) Minutes of Executive Committee meetings should be tabled at National Council meetings and be available to members in a timely manner and in accessible forms.</p> <p>d) The Executive Committee should meet at least monthly.</p> <p>e) The Executive Committee shall produce its own Standing Orders, subject to approval by National Conference.</p>	<p>period of one year by the National Council from within its own ranks of whom at least five must be women and at least seven from outside London plus one representative from each caucus.</p>	
Section 15 (b)	<p>All minutes of national committees and working groups will be published within a week. A record of the votes cast by each delegate or official shall also be circulated internally</p>	<p>Replace with: All minutes of national committees and working groups will be published within 7 working days. A record of the votes cast by each delegate or official shall be included within the minutes. In addition all national council and executive committee meetings will be audio-visually recorded and posted on a password protected members' section of the Left Unity website within 7 working days. Confidential matters relating to disputes and/or personal matters will not be posted. Council/committee members may opt not to be filmed if there are workplace, safety or security concerns or restrictions.</p>	Proposed by Crouch End branch
Section 18 (c)	<p>If after all informal attempts at reconciliation are exhausted, the relevant branch should attempt to resolve the issue. Should a branch fail to resolve the issue or consider disciplinary action necessary, it should refer the matter in writing to the Regional Committee for consideration. If the Regional Committee decides that there is a case to answer, it will refer the matter to the Disputes Committee. Should the Regional Council decide not refer the matter to the Disputes Committee, the complainant may refer the matter in writing to the Executive</p>	<p>amend 18c as it contradicts 18a replace both references to 'Executive Committee' in 18c with 'National Council' so that 18c agrees with 18a.</p>	Proposed by Christopher O'Neill and Mike Thomas

Original section of constitution	Motion or explanation	How it would read with amendment	Comments and Proposer(s)
	Committee. If the Executive Committee decides that there is a case to answer, it will refer the matter to the Disputes Committee.		
Section 19	Addition	Add sub-paragraph (d) : “A sub-committee’s role is to investigate the case and formulate proposals for the committee. If the sub-committee proposes to overturn the Disputes Committee decision, then a full vote of the Appeals Committee is required (how such a vote is undertaken, at a face-to-face meeting or teleconference, etc, is at the discretion of the Appeals Committee).”	Proposed by Camden branch and Islington branch