

Rules of The Birmingham Labour Party

Clause I – Name

The Birmingham Labour Party.

Clause II – Objects

- II.1 To co-ordinate the activities of all members, CLPs, branches, wards and elected public representatives, within Birmingham for the purpose of securing the return of Labour representatives to the City Council.
- II.2 To undertake, in co-operation with CLPs within the area, propaganda, educational and other activities related to local government.
- II.3 To formulate an electoral programme, and to compile a panel of candidates in accordance with the provisions of chapter 5 of the national rules of the party.
- II.4 To ensure the establishment of a Labour group on the council in accordance with the rules for such groups contained in chapter 13 of the party rules.
- II.5 To provide an opportunity for CLPs within the area to work together on membership recruitment, retention and involvement including training.

Clause III – Management

- III.1 The management of this party shall be in the hands of a Board consisting of the following:
 - (i) Two delegates from each CLP i.e. Chair and Secretary of each CLP, with substitution from the eight CLP Officers as necessary to ensure there is at least one woman;
 - (ii) Four representatives of the City Council Labour Group two of whom shall be women;
 - (iii) Two representatives of the Labour MPs and MEPs one of whom shall be a woman;
 - (iv) Four representatives of trade unions affiliated to CLPs, drawn from trade union delegates to Birmingham CLPs, appointed by Regional TULO, two of whom shall be women;
 - (v) One representative of The Co-operative Party and other socialist societies;
 - (vi) One representative each of Young Labour and Labour Students;
 - (vii) One representative of the Women’s Forums;
 - (viii) The Regional Organiser for Birmingham and the Regional Director (both without voting power).

The Chair and a Vice-Chair shall be elected by The Board excluding those appointed under sections ii, iii and viii. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Regional Organiser in an ex-officio capacity for the first year only after which The Board will elect both positions (this does not preclude the Regional Organiser continuing). The media spokespersons for the organisation will be the Board Chair and the Regional Communications Officer.

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- III.2 Delegates and representatives must be individual members of the Labour Party in Birmingham.

Clause IV – Officers and Board

- IV.1 The Chair and Vice-Chairs shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Board
- IV.2 The officers shall consist of a chair, a vice-chair, and secretary/treasurer. At least one of the two elected officers shall be a woman.
- IV.3 Functional Officers shall be appointed as necessary who shall be ex-officio non-voting members of The Board if not already appointed as voting members.
- IV.4 The Chair of each Sub-Committee shall be ex-officio non-voting members of The Board if not already appointed as voting members.

Clause V – Meetings

- V.1 The annual meeting shall be held in May each year, or if such a meeting is not held, as soon as possible afterwards.
- V.2 The Board shall hold at least 4 and no more than 12 meetings in any year.
- V.3 Meetings should be conducted in a comradely fashion, in such a way as to maximise participation from delegates who should be encouraged to attend. Other observers are not permitted at business sessions of this party. No one entitled to attend shall be precluded because they cannot gain access to the meeting room for any reason. Harassment or intimidation of members on the basis of gender, sexuality, disability or race is unacceptable.

Clause VI – Finance

- VI.1 The administrative expenses of this party shall be met from contributions subscribed by the CLPs concerned in agreed proportions.
- VI.2 The CLPs shall be responsible for the expenses incurred in contesting elections within their area. They shall also meet a proportionate share of any expenses which the CLPs agree shall be incurred by this party in contesting such elections.
- VI.3 This party shall maintain a By-Election Insurance Fund. Payments will be made from the fund to assist CLPs in meeting the expenses incurred in contesting by-elections within their area. CLPs shall contribute to and receive payments from the Fund as determined by the procedural rules.

Clause VII – General

- VII.1 The electoral policy and programme for the City Council elections shall be decided by this party in consultation with representatives of the council Labour group.

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VII.2 This party shall seek to contest all seats in each ward in consultation with the CLP concerned.

Clause VIII – Candidates

VIII.1 Candidates for the City Council elections shall be selected in accordance with the rules for the selection of local government candidates laid down in chapter 5 of the national rules of the party and in the selection guidelines appended thereto along with any other regulations approved by the NEC.

VIII.2 In the event of a by-election arising The Board shall consult with the Executive Committees of the CLP and branches/wards concerned to ensure that a candidate is selected as far as possible following the procedure referred to above. Under normal circumstances candidates will be selected by ward members from a short list drawn up by 3 members of this party, 3 members of the CLP EC and 3 members of the Branch/ward EC. In the case of an emergency, this party shall take whatever action that may be necessary to meet the situation and to ensure that the vacancy is contested by the party.

Clause IX – Relations with the Labour group

IX.1 For the purpose of maintaining contact between the group and the party in the city each CLP shall appoint a representative to attend group meetings and the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of this party may also attend. Such 'group observers' may attend group meetings with the right to speak on all matters coming before the group (subject to clauses 13A.8 and 13A.12 of the group rules) but not to propose or second motions or amendments or to vote.

IX.2 All members of the Labour group may attend meetings of The Board as required. The group leader and (shadow) cabinet members or spokespeople shall attend to report to, and consult with, this party on the work of the group or their council committee, as requested.

Clause X – Miscellaneous

X.1 The general provisions of the constitution and rules of the party shall apply to this party.

X.2 This party is not an accounting unit of the party with regard to the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000, it shall therefore liaise with and co-operate with the Regional Office to ensure that the CLPs which have a geographical interest in this party are able to meet their legal and financial obligations.

Should this party fail to co-operate with the national party with regard to its obligations under the act, the NEC will not hesitate to take appropriate disciplinary action against individual members &/or suspend this party.

X.3 Any insertions or proposed changes to these rules (for local government committees) are subject to the approval of the NEC.

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X.4 The NEC shall have the authority to determine how these rules shall be applied in particular circumstances and make any adaptations necessary to suit different or new levels of local government as they arise.

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