**OXFORD & DISTRICT LABOUR PARTY**

Secretary

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**To: Members of the Oxford & District Labour Party**

You are invited to a meeting of the Oxford & District Labour Party at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday 8 September 2017** at the **Exeter Hall, Kidlington, OX5 1AB**, directions attached. Please arrive from 7:15 p.m. so the meeting can start promptly. There will be light refreshments courtesy of the Kidlington & Yarnton branch.

All members are welcome to join in discussion and to vote on policy, including resolutions. For this meeting, that includes all agenda items except 7(a) nominations for the women’s conference arrangements committee, where only women general committee delegates will vote.

**Please bring the papers in hardcopy or on mobile / tablet / etc. Also please note that amendments to the motions for annual conference at 7(b) and the ordinary motion at 8 must reach me by midnight on Tuesday 5 September.** Standing orders including procedures for motions are attached.

Ann Black, Secretary

**AGENDA**

*7:30* 1. Attendance, apologies and welcome

*7:31* 2. Agreement of agenda and timings

*7:32* 3. Minutes of the all-member meeting on 13 July 2017 (attached) and matters arising.

*7:38* 4. Urgent business, including any other business.

*7:40* 5. Parliamentary report – Anneliese Dodds MP

*8:25* 6. Fundraising collection

7. Annual conference 2017

*8:25* (a) **Women’s conference arrangements committee**. Each CLP may nominate candidates to the WCAC, which will steer the women’s conference towards an enhanced policy-making role, and elections will be held at the women’s conference on 23 September 2017. Nominations must be received from women delegates to the general committee by midnight on Monday 4 September. There will be a ballot within the all-member meeting if the quorum of 25% of women GC delegates is reached (13 for Oxford East, seven for Oxford West & Abingdon). Otherwise the CLP will not nominate, and women’s conference delegates will use their judgment in deciding how to vote. Lists of delegates are attached.

*8:30* (b) **Resolutions.** Each constituency may submit one contemporary resolution, which must relate to an issue arising after 3 August 2017, the date by which the national policy forum and NEC reports are compiled. Two resolutions have been received. The meeting is asked to debate each of them and vote for or against, and then vote to decide which motions out of those agreed, should be submitted for conference. Copies of amendments received by midnight on Tuesday 5 September will be brought to the meeting.

1. Ending UK support for Saudi Arabia, proposed by John Tanner and Stephen Marks

Conference notes:

1. On 9 August the UN Children's Fund reported that airstrikes in Yemen in 2017 already exceeded the total for all 2016, with the monthly average almost three times higher; and that there are over one million internally displaced people in Yemen.

2. On 11 August ten Nobel Peace Prize winners appealed to the Saudi authorities against the revelation that it is about to put to death 14 men arrested in protests in 2012. The letter reported that the condemned men, primarily young, had been tortured into making confessions that were afterwards retracted.

Conference believes:

1. That by continuing to licence arms exports to Saudi Arabia the Conservative government is complicit in the bombing of Yemen and the killing of more than 10,000 people.

2. That in its attempt to secure further arms deals the Conservative government mutes its criticism of human rights violations within Saudi Arabia including the use of the death penalty, the execution of minors and the flogging of those calling for freedom of expression.

Conference resolves:

1. That the next Labour government should impose an embargo on the export of military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

2. To do everything possible to campaign for human rights in Saudi Arabia and to support those working for them.

3. To work with trade unions to create a Shadow Defence Diversification Agency so that practical plans are in place to use the skills of those currently working in the arms industry on socially-useful projects such as renewable energy.

1. A publicly owned banking system, proposed by Lucas Bertholdi-Saad and Tom Zagoria

Conference notes that on 3 August 2017 Bank of England governor Mark Carney warned about the UK returning to the light-touch banking regulation that produced the financial crisis.

We note the revelation on 8 August that the “turnaround plans” of British banks including Barclays and RBS are being hindered by ongoing US Department of Justice investigations into their role in sparking the crisis.

The banks were to blame for the crisis, not the money Labour spent on Sure Start centres, schools and hospitals. Yet they were bailed out at public expense, to the tune of at least £800bn.

It is intolerable that when banks fail working-class people should suffer austerity to prop them up so they can continue as before.

We must ensure that such private interests are not again allowed to obstruct meeting the needs of our people. We therefore applaud and adopt the policy adopted by the TUC at the initiative of the FBU in 2012, to nationalise the banks and create a “publicly owned banking service, democratically and accountably managed... [to] play a central role in building a sustainable economy, investing in transport, green industries, housing, creating jobs and assisting recovery in the interests of working people”.

Ownership matters because we need democratic control: you can’t control what you don’t own.

Conference resolves that the next Labour government should bring at least the five largest retail banks into 100pc democratic public ownership to establish the kind of system described above.

1. NHS and Accountable Care System, proposed by Liz Peretz and Bill Mackeith

Conference notes:

* That NHS Accountable Care System contracts announced on 7 August impose a basis for 44+ local bodies to replace England’s NHS, bypassing Parliamentary debate and legislative process.
* On 9 August, the House of Commons Library revealed a doubling of NHS sites proposed for sale, 117 of which currently provide clinical services.

Accountable Care Systems, like their US counterparts, would provide limited services on restricted budgets, replacing many NHS hospitals with deskilled community units.  This would further damage indicators such life expectancy, already stalled since 2010. Both the ACSs and the asset sell-off serve to deliver the Five Year Forward View currently being implemented via ‘Sustainability and Transformation Programmes.

Conference reaffirms its manifesto commitment to restore our NHS by reversing its privatization, repealing the Health and Social Care Act, and halting Sustainability and Transformation Programmes.

We call on the Party to oppose and reverse:

* funding cuts (raising funding to Western European levels);
* the sell-off of NHS sites (more beds are needed according to the Nuffield Trist, not less); and
* Five Year Forward View policy which:
  + facilitates Accountable Care Systems, which should be rejected;
  + replaces 7500 GP surgeries with 1500 “superhubs”;
  + downskills clinical staff;
  + reclassifies NHS services as means-tested “social care”; and
  + cements the private sector’s role as Accountable Care System “partners” and as combined health/social care service providers.

Conference reaffirms Party policy to restore our fully-funded, comprehensive, universal, publicly-provided and owned NHS without user charges, as per the NHS Bill (2016-17).

*8:50* (c) **National constitutional committee election**. Both constituencies nominated Anna Dyer and Emine Ibrahim at the AGM, and delegates are asked to cast their votes for these two candidates at conference.

*8:51* (d) **Constitutional amendments**. A summary of proposed rule changes from the NEC and from CLPs is attached, and members are invited to advise delegates on how to vote.

*9:10* 8. Motion – Hate Crimes proposed by the East Oxford branch.

"The Oxford & District Labour Party calls upon Government to toughen punishments for hate crimes in particular Islamophobia incidents and racism, which has increased in Oxfordshire by more than 40% in a year. Over a 12 month period from April 2015 to 2016, the number of hate crimes reported were 398 in Oxfordshire, compared to 623 in the 13 months of April 2016 to May 2017.

We urge Government to review of hate crime legislation and bring back Commission of Racial Equality who should be given authority to investigate hate crime cases. This type of crime has no place in a civilised society."

*9:25* 9. Executive committee. The minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2017 are attached.

*9:29* 10. Future meetings. **Friday 13 October 2017** (Rose Hill community centre, including conference reports), **Thursday 9/Friday 10 November, Friday 8 / Thursday 14 December 2017.** Dates, venues and topics to be arranged.