**OXFORD & DISTRICT LABOUR PARTY**

Secretary

Ann Black

88 Howard Street

Oxford OX4 3BE

Tel: 01865-722230 (home) / 07956-637958 (mobile)

e-mail: annblack50@btinternet.com / annblack2001@gmail.com 1 March 2018

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

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Oxford & District Labour Party, including all members in the Oxford East and Oxford West & Abingdon constituencies, to be held on **Friday 9 March 2018** in the Bill Buckingham room at the **Rose Hill Community Centre**, Ashhurst Way, Oxford OX4 4HF (bus 3 from the city centre, get off at second stop in Ashhurst Way and cross the road - the centre is to your left. We have the room booked from 7:15 p.m. – please arrive by then in order to sign in. General committee delegates will be checked off on lists, so only members who are not delegates need to sign their names.

The executive committee agreed that alcoholic drinks will not be allowed in the meeting room, to encourage a calm and inclusive atmosphere for all our members. Members are welcome to consume them in the bar.

All members are welcome to join in discussion and to vote on policy issues. **Only general committee delegates may vote in approving the accounts** (item 8), **agreeing rule changes** (item 10), **nominating for national committees** (item 11), **electing officers and delegates** (item 12)**, and any other financial and constitutional matters.** A list of delegates at 21 February 2018 is attached - **please check this, and contact Ann urgently if your name was submitted by your branch and is not included.**

**AGENDA**

*7:15* 1. Registration

*7:30* 2. Welcome

*7:33*  3. Agreement of timings

*7:34* 4. Appointment of tellers

*7:35* 5. Minutes of the AGM on 10 March 2017, attached

*7:36* 6 Matters arising

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

*7:40* 8. Treasurer’s report and approval of accounts and budget – Alex Hollingsworth. Papers will be tabled at the meeting and displayed as overheads.

*7:50* 9. Officers’ reports. These are attached as a single document which includes reports from

(a) Chair – Jane Darke

(b) Secretary – Ann Black

(c) Membership secretaries – Jane Stockton / Dan Iley-Williamson

(d) Ethnic minorities officer – Jamila Azad

(e) LGBT officer – Tom Hayes

(f) Trade union officer – Mark Ladbrooke

*8:00* 10. Amendments to rules and standing orders. The full rules and standing orders are on the website at <http://www.oxfordlabour.org.uk/rules_roles>. The attached paper sets out an amendment to the membership and remit of the campaign committee, including the existing rule and the new rule proposed by the executive committee.

*8:05* 11. National positions. Each constituency is able to nominate up to nine members for constituency places on the **NEC (national executive committee),** four general places plus one youth place for the **NPF (national policy forum)**,and one member for the **NCC (national constitutional committee)**. General committee (GC) delegates have been invited to make nominations and to submit 100 words in support of their nominee. If more than the maximum numbers of candidates are nominated in any category, there will be ballots among GC delegates within each CLP for their respective nominations.

*8:10* 12. Election of officers and delegates. Nominations at 21 February 2018 are attached, and statements supplied by candidates will be circulated to delegates. Candidates for contested positions will also be able to speak for up to two minutes. Any remaining vacancies will be referred to the executive committee.

1. **Officers**. Delegates are asked to endorse all unopposed nominations. Currently there will be elections by delegates across both constituencies for ethnic minorities officer, youth officer and trade union officer.

1. **Conference delegates**. There will be separate elections among Oxford East delegates and Oxford West & Abingdon delegates for their respective delegates to annual conference.

(c) **Campaign Committee**.If the rule change at 10 is passed, branches will be asked to elect their representatives and an updated list of members in each category will be circulated, making clear who has voting rights. Expressions of interest are welcome from anyone wishing to get involved.

*8:30* 13. Fundraising collection

*8:30* 14. Oxford city Labour group. A report from council leader Susan Brown is attached.

*8:40* 15. Oxfordshire county Labour group.

*8:45* 16. Parliamentary report. Anneliese Dodds MP

*9:05* 17. Motions

17.1 **Eastern Ghouta** proposed by the East Oxford branch

This meeting notes with dismay

* That the indiscriminate bombing of civilians and deliberate targeting of essential infrastructure like hospitals are being carried on unabated by the forces of President Assad and their Russian allies, with reports of chemical attacks emerging
* That leading news organizations are reporting the verifiable deaths of 500 people this week alone (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-43155105>), with the figures set to climb drastically in the coming days
* That a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate end to the massacre and the opening of humanitarian corridors is being ignored by the key players involved in the conflict

This meeting wishes to confirm the British Labour Party’s commitment to

* The International Rules of Conflict and in particular, the Geneva Conventions
* UN declaration of Universal Human Rights
* Anti-imperialism and anti-sectarianism and all forms of discriminations based on race, gender and/or religious beliefs

This meeting therefore asks

* The Labour leadership to immediately and unequivocally condemn the actions of the forces of Presidents Assad and Putin in Eastern Ghouta
* The Labour Party to pressure the British government into demanding immediate ceasefire and securing of humanitarian corridors in Eastern Ghouta, and then to facilitate the delivery of emergency aid to the zone.

17.2 **NHS** proposed by Summertown & Wolvercote branch

This meeting notes:

a) that overwhelmingly agreed 2017 Labour Party Conference policy commits all sections of the Party to actively oppose the government’s Five Year Forward View. This includes the vehicles for this known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships, alongside the Accountable Care Systems being brought in as undemocratic replacements of a single English NHS. Current Conference policy commits the next Labour government to restoring our NHS along its founding principles as per the NHS (Reinstatement) Bill.

b) this meeting further notes Shadow Health Secretary Jon Ashworth’s words: “we’ve committed to halting STPs and at our Annual Conference we made clear our opposition as a Party to American style so-called Accountable Care Organisations which will see an expansion of private providers in the delivery of care”.

This meeting resolves to take this commitment forward and to take every step necessary to ensure that Conference policy informs Labour party, Labour councils’ and trade union campaigns in aiming to stall and stop current government policy. This action also constitutes preparation for implementing Conference policy for the restoration of our fully publicly-funded, publicly-provided, comprehensive, universal NHS by the next Labour government.

This meeting calls on the 2 CLPs

a) to campaign actively on the Labour Party Conference NHS policy from now on;

b) to call upon CLP representatives on the relevant Policy Forum to take these policies forward and ensure they are fed into the next Labour Party manifesto;

c) to call upon our MPs to publicly support the NHS Bill, and/or sign up to the #NHSTakeBack pledge;

d)  to call upon Oxford City Council, Labour councillors on the County Council, and our local Trades Unions to do everything in their power to implement the Conference decision to prevent the replacement of our national NHS with new unaccountable bodies and their models of private-public partnership.

17.3. **Immigration** proposed by Greater Headington branch

The Greater Headington Branch notes:

* the wide ranging and constructive discussion which we had on immigration on the 4th October 2017; and
* the consensus of the meeting on the 4th October 2017 that the Labour Party needs to develop an immigration policy that recognises that there are considerable differences between preferences for reducing specific groups of immigrants.

The public debate on immigration unfortunately polarises into a pro or anti stance which closes down discussion and of itself deters many immigrants from coming to the UK and growing our economy.

Labour Party policy is made democratically, through discussion and consultation with members, trade unions, experts, the public, and civil society groups. Policies that respond to uncorroborated assumptions that there is an overall public preference for reduced immigration without taking account of the nuanced differences on the 5 types of immigration[[1]](#footnote-1) and of the overall benefits of immigration may reduce immigration in ways that a majority of the public does not support.

We need to better understand which groups of people should be encouraged to settle in our country and who should not. There is much work to do to clarify a fair, coherent acceptable policy, and this should be done away from the glare of the media. Any policy will need to establish what level of immigration will result from it and what needs to be done to support that level of immigration with respect to housing, services, employment policy, foreign policy, education, wages etc.

This meeting instructs:

the Oxford & District Labour Party to support the call for the Labour Party’s Justice and Home Affairs Policy Commission[[2]](#footnote-2) to examine Labour Party thinking on the issue of immigration and asylum in 2018. We need to develop an immigration policy that is evidenced based, consistent with our socialist values and good for the country.

The Commission should aim to consciously introduce humanity and compassion back in to the language and practice of immigration law and break down the misinformation that has been allowed to take hold concerning immigration by showcasing a socialist immigration policy.

Furthermore we call on the National Policy Forum (or any successor organisation)[[3]](#footnote-3) to consider the output from the policy commission and produce a report on immigration policy for the Party Conference in 2019. Conference will be able to accept the report in full, reject it or delete part of a policy without rejecting the whole policy[[4]](#footnote-4).

[*Secretary’s note: this motion is mainly a record of the branch discussion. The part relevant to the AGM starts with an instruction to the meeting to support discussion of immigration and asylum during 2018 and to report to the 2019 conference. If no amendments are submitted it could be passed quickly.*]

*9:22* 18. Declaration of results of elections and nominations

*9:28* 19. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 21 February 2018 are attached.

*9:29* 20. Future meetings. **Thursday 10 May** (Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, review of elections and speaker on co-housing), **Thursday 14 June** (Abingdon United Football Club, speaker from the Labour campaign for electoral reform), **Thursday 12 / Friday 13 July** (venue and topic to be arranged), **Thursday 6 / Friday 7 September 2018**. (NB first Thursday / Friday to meet deadline for conference motions. Venue to be arranged.) **Thursday 11 / Friday 12 October 2018** (conference reportback, and member Jamie Tarleton on his experiences on the EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel))

*9:30* 21. Close of meeting

*Ann Black, secretary*

1. Work, joining family, study, asylum and other [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Labour Party** **Policy Commissions** : The Labour Party sets up policy commissions whose membership is drawn from the National Policy Forum, the Shadow Cabinet and the National Executive Committee. Its membership reflects all parts of our movement, including Labour party members, affiliated organisations and elected politicians. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The National Policy Forum (NPF) is currently the body responsible for overseeing the development of Party Policy. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Labour Party June 2017 Election Manifesto policy on immigration :** [Labour](http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/labour) promises **“fair rules and reasonable management of migration”** and rejects “bogus” immigration targets. **A new migration system** will be based on the UK's economic needs, identifying specific labour and skill shortages in consultation with business and unions. A Labour administration would take action to end exploitation of migrant workers, stop overseas-only recruitment packages and increase prosecutions for paying below the minimum wage. Labour would reinstate a Migrant Impact Fund to mitigate strains on public services in areas with high numbers of incomers. It would remove international students from immigration statistics. Income thresholds for visas would be replaced by a ban on accessing public funds. Indefinite detention of migrants would be ended. Britain would take in its “fair share” of refugees. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)