**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 **Thursday 6 September 2018** at the **Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford, OX1 2DH.** Many buses run to the city centre; the nearest car parks are at Worcester Street and Gloucester Green.

All members are welcome to attend, speak and vote on all policy issues including resolutions. However only delegates from branches and affiliates can vote to elect delegates to the south-east regional conference and to nominate for the regional board and the national policy forum (see item 9(a) through (c)). There will be a ballot for the Oxford West & Abingdon regional conference delegate, and general committee delegates will be asked to endorse all other nominations as these are not contested. A list is attached.

**Please bring the papers in hardcopy or on phone / tablet / etc. Also please note that amendments to motions for annual conference at 10(a) must reach me by 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 4 September.** Standing orders including procedures for motions are attached.

Ann Black, Secretary

**AGENDA**

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

*7:32* 2. Agreement of agenda and timings

*7:33* 3. Minutes of the all-member meeting on 13 July 2018, attached

*7:35* 4. Matters arising.

(a) **10 Motions** The motion on Gaza has been posted at <https://policyforum.labour.org.uk/commissions/gaza-motion-1> and the motion on the national policy forum has been sent to the general secretary for the attention of the NEC.

*7:37* 5. Urgent business, including any other business.

1. **By-election**. To note that a candidate will be selected for the Iffley Fields & St Mary’s county by-election on Thursday 13 September 2018.

*7:40* 6. **Oxford Cohousing** – presentation by speakers Fran Ryan and Sarah Westcott

Oxford Cohousing (OCH) has been in existence for eight years. The group is searching for a site in Oxford on which to build a development of 20-40 mixed tenure homes, including open market, shared ownership and social housing, ideally a third of each tenure type. Members would all have their own homes but would also sign up to living as part of an inter-generational community. Some facilities would be shared - gardens, socialising space (for eating together sometimes and for meetings/parties), guest rooms (to allow for smaller individual homes), workshops, laundry, micro renewable energy, cars etc. It has bid (unsuccessfully) for two sites and is now interested in finding an off-market deal to buy or lease local land.  
  
Oxford Cohousing is working closely with Oxfordshire Community Land Trust and other community-led housing groups in the city to promote and secure small developments of permanently affordable community-led homes in the city. While not huge in scale it could offer a significant contribution to addressing the local housing crisis.

*8:20* 7. Parliamentary report. Anneliese Dodds MP.

*8:40* 8. Fundraising collection

*8:40* 9. South-east regional conference. A note including nominations is attached for information for all members, though only general committee delegates from branches and affiliates may vote.

1. **Delegates**. To endorse Becky Boumelha as the Oxford East delegate, and to elect Adam Brodie or Alex Donnelly as the Oxford West & Abingdon delegate. Candidates’ statements have been circulated to GC delegates, and each candidate may speak for one minute.
2. **Regional board**. To endorse the nomination of Ann Black and Michaela Collord by Oxford East CLP, and Ann Black by Oxford West & Abingdon CLP.
3. **National policy forum**. To endorse the nomination of Carol Hayton by Oxford East CLP, and Carol Hayton and Sue Ledwith by Oxford West & Abingdon CLP.

(d) **Motions**. Each CLP may submit one motion of up to 100 words which must focus exclusively on party policy, and be relevant to the south-east region. No motions have been received.

*8:50* 10. Annual conference.

(a) **Motions**. Each constituency may submit one contemporary resolution, which must be no longer than 250 words and relate to an issue arising after 6 August 2018, the date by which the national policy forum and NEC reports are compiled.

Four resolutions have been received. The first has the same contents as the motion agreed at the all-member meeting on 14 June. It therefore represents local party policy and cannot be reversed within three months, and should be noted without debate. The meeting is asked to debate and vote for or against each of the other three motions, and then vote to decide which two out of all those agreed, including the first, should be submitted to conference. Amendments received by 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 4 September will be brought to the meeting.

1. **Electoral Reform** proposed by Sue Ledwith, Maggie Black and Peter Ledwith

"Conference applauds the attention properly given to the party's own democratic procedures in the democracy review, published for debate in September 2018, and believes that it is also time to address how our democracy serves the interests of all in our country.

Conference believes that first past the post is a fundamental barrier to addressing what is looking increasingly like a failed state.  We need a properly representative and transparent electoral system where no vote is wasted and all votes count.  We need to change to a form of proportional representation for all our elections.  In the national context this should be one which allows MPs to keep a local constituency link.

Conference therefore proposes that electoral reform should be in the Party's manifesto for the next general election, with the declared intent that a new electoral system be in place for the following general election."

(ii) **Ending the 'hostile environment' - justice for Windrush and Beyond** proposed by Rob Lemkin and Becky Boumelha

Conference notes:

1. The *Guardian* (10 August) reports that dozens of Commonwealth citizens who came to the UK before 1973 (the 'Windrush generation') and were wrongly targeted over their immigration status still await resolution of their cases.

2. On 9 August, 20 church representatives called on the Home Secretary to dismantle 'inhumane hostile environment' policies that cause 'racist discrimination' and erect barriers to basic public services for 'people who do not look or sound "British"'.

Conference condemns this policy that treats British citizens, and others entitled to be here, as illegal immigrants, and deplores Theresa May's role in its creation.

Conference notes that, beyond Windrush, this 'hostile environment' threatens hundreds of thousands of long-term residents including up to 200,000 children/young adults brought up in UK but not born here or born here to non-UK citizen parents. It also affects over 400,000 EU citizens and their children whose status is threatened by Brexit.

Conference supports:

1. Labour's policies to end the 'hostile environment' policy; close some detention centres, end indefinite detention and the deportation of former child asylum seekers; fully compensate Windrush victims; and to demand Government makes immediate interim payments.

2. The incoming Labour government repealing the Immigration Act of 2014 which enshrined in law the 'hostile environment'.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to set up an urgent task force to consult and consider a regularisation [or amnesty] for all those resident in the UK for 5 years or more.

(iii) **Social care** proposed by Liz Peretz, Hosnieh Djafari Marbini and Jane Stockton

On 18th August, the children’s commissioner, responding to a Social Market Foundation report, was concerned that, despite improving standards, more than 13,000 children had unacceptable levels of support from the care system.

Older people’s social services, mental health services, and all disability services are also in crisis, with devastating impact on those with acute and longer term social needs, and carers.

Conference agrees that social care in England is underfunded, de-professionalised and privatised and no longer exists as a coherent service .

Social care is a Health issue; without social support where it is needed acute care of all patients is compromised in A&E and hospital wards.

Social care policy is an equalities issue: women comprise a majority of social care staff and family carers.  It relies on low pay and zero-hour contracts, with minimal training and support.

The Women’s Budget Group shows investment in care services invests in social infrastructure. 2%\* of GDP would generate 1.5million jobs across the UK and provide a significant boost to GDP.

Privatisation has undermined quality and with companies going bankrupt, vulnerable people are at risk.

We call on the Party to commit to:

* developing a professional, skilled, user-responsive service meeting the needs of the population, publicly funded through progressive taxation, publicly provided and free at the point of use.
* increasing funding to the sector by at least 2%\*
* ending privatisation and bringing contracts back into public ownership.

(iv) **Brexit** proposed by John Tanner and Sally Joss

Recent polling, notably the poll published in the Observer on 11 August 2018, indicates that even in strongly pro Brexit areas voters are recognising that leaving the European Union is not the way forward for this country.

1. Conference recognises that Brexit represents a grave threat to the economy and unity of the United Kingdom.

2. Conference supports a radical Corbyn Labour government to transform the social and economic conditions that led many voters to support Brexit, but we must be honest with voters that leaving the EU will make the situation considerably worse.

3. Conference therefore urges that in the immediate term the Labour Party in parliament should:

i) work to bring about a General Election,

ii) oppose any Tory Brexit and call for a People's Vote on whether to accept the negotiated terms.

iii) reassert Labour's 2016 Remain campaign for membership of a reformed EU.

1. **Other conference business**. To report on proposed rule changes and anything else known at the time of the meeting.

*9:27* 11. Executive committee report. The minutes of the meeting on 25 July 2018 are attached.

*9:29* 12. Future meetings. **Friday 12 October 2018** (Rose Hill community centre, conference reports and Jamie on his experiences in Palestine and Israel), **Friday 9 November 2018** (St Clements Family Centre, Dr Dougal Hargreaves on child poverty and health), **Thursday 13 / Friday 14 December 2018** (short meeting with refreshments, venue to be arranged).