

**Delegates’ Report**

**Compiled by Mick Ekers, Anna Ingram, Helen McDonald, Jack Newman (Youth Delegate) & Mike Smith**

**Friday 18th November**

**TULO Welcome Reception**

**Clive Lewis, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

**Iain McNicol, Labour General Secretary**

Clive Lewis and Ian McNicol made short speeches urging unity in the party and that we must take advantage of our massive membership and get as many as possible actively involved.

In conversation with Clive on the topic of our difficulty engaging with the new members he suggested that our next few doorstep campaigns should be targeted specifically at new members. This will enable us to introduce ourselves, invite them to meetings and events and find out their skills and availability. Will also provide a great training experience for those who are nervous about canvassing as they are not likely to meet much hostility!

Met with Chris Vince from Chelmsford CLP and congratulated him on being elected unopposed as one of the two Essex representatives to the Labour East Regional Board. Asked Chris what the process was for being nominated, as I did not recall either of the Southend CLPs canvassing their membership for nominations. He said that he had the impression that many CLPs in the region had not involved themselves with this, and had not brought it to the attention of members, hence the large number of unopposed (20) candidates for the various regional positions. *[Note by the Party Secretary: Only members elected as Delegates for the Regional Conference are eligible for nomination to the Regional Board. We did ask members to put themselves forward. None of the Regional Conference Delegates we elected at an all-member meeting wished to stand as candidates for the Regional Board (perhaps because Board positions are time-consuming, not particularly influential and unpaid). The only member who did wish to stand for the Regional Board was not selected at the vote at that meeting to be a Regional Conference Delegate, and was therefore ineligible to stand for election to the Board].*

**Saturday 19th November**

**Chair’s Opening Remarks**

The conference was chaired by Eileen Davidson.

**Welcome to Southend-on-Sea: Ian Gilbert, Leader of Southend Labour Group**

Ian gave an overview of Labour’s achievements locally. A video of Ian’s speech is available on Southend Labour’s Facebook closed group at: [www.facebook.com/groups/125209196635/videos](http://www.facebook.com/groups/125209196635/videos)

**Regional Director’s Report: Cameron Scott**

There are now about 43,000 members in the Eastern Region, which is an increase of 186%. This conference is the biggest regional conference ever and sees the Fire Brigades’ Union (FBU) attending for the first time since re-affiliating to the Labour Party. Community Union and The Jewish Labour Movement have also affiliated at a local level. The Labour East Youth Conference also convened for the first time in the Eastern Region on 18th November 2016. There will be a national NHS Campaign Day on Saturday 26th November 2016.

However, there are challenges as Thurrock and Great Yarmouth have seen UKIP gains.

Cameron Scott gave thanks to Richard Howitt and welcomed the new MEP for the eastern Region, Alex Mayer.

**Conference Arrangement Committee Report: Rob Sanderson**

Rob Sanderson gave an overview of the upcoming votes and resolutions.

Ian Maidlow of Unite spoke about Unite’s additional resolution on the topic of an East of England campaign committee, which will not be debated at conference but will be passed to Labour East Regional Board for consideration.

Conference approved the CAC report unanimously.

**Taking on the Tories: Baroness Angela Smith, Shadow Leader of the House of Lords**

Baroness Smith spoke about the challenges that we are faced with as a result of the Conservative Party being in power. She said that, though Southend has never had a Labour MP, it has produced several and we need to work to elect more as the impact of Labour losing elections is great. We have seen rough sleeping double and an increase of £5 billion paid to private landlords in Housing Benefit. In 2015, only 1,000 Council houses were built and the Tory’s response to this was the Housing Bill which threatened Council housing even further. The House of Lords fought the Housing Bill, The Trade Union Bill and the Immigration Bill.

Baroness Smith said we are living in “dangerous and uncertain times” due to the likes of Bashar al-Assad, Donald Trump, Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson, and ‘austerity’ just means cuts that affect the most vulnerable.

“People’s lives depend on us”

“The people of this country need a Labour government”

However, Labour has the largest membership of any political party in Europe, with 43,000 members in the Eastern Region. We need to campaign on policies and show that we have the political will to see them through.

**Merit Awards: Presented by Baroness Smith**

Merit Awards were presented to:

* James ‘Bert’ Bremmer – Norwich Labour Party
* Bridget Gorham – Cambridge CLP
* Dave Wells – Castle Point CLP (posthumously)

**Labour and Local Government:**

Teresa Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Teresa Pearce was taken ill so was unable to attend conference.

**The Big Question – Tackling the Housing Crisis:**

**Introduction by David Ellesmere, Leader Ipswich Borough Council**

**Panel discussion with Kevin Price, Deputy Leader Cambridge City Council and Jon Clempner, Leader of Harlow District Council**

Teresa Pearce was replaced by Jon Clempner for this panel discussion.

David Ellesmere, the Leader of Ipswich Council, explained that there is not just one housing crisis; there are several issues that impact housing in Cambridge:

* affordable housing
* viability of development projects
* gaining public consent
* lack of political will to contradict residents who do not want developments near their houses
* reduction in social housing rents means a decrease in income for the Council
* “cap on aspirations” as social housing residents are charged more or told to leave their home if they earn more
* it’s too easy for developers to say that affordable housing is too expensive to build
* ministerial interference which stops developments
* empty homes that cannot be bought back into use, though compulsory purchase is a possibility
* homelessness has increased by 43% in recent years
* developers who want to build houses are reluctant to invest in the infrastructure

David Ellesmere then gave pointers as to what could be done:

* scrap all Conservative housing legislation
* restore funding for affordable housing
* set money aside for compulsory purchasing
* introduce compulsory sales for empty properties
* stop ‘land banking’ by charging Council Tax on land where development has been planned if the houses haven’t been built within two years

Kevin Price, Deputy Leader Cambridge City Council, said there were similar issues in Cambridge as those in Ipswich.

* approximately £15 million will be lost in rent reduction in the next 4 years
* the private sector cannot, and never has been able to, provide enough housing
* Cambridge has set up a housing association (Cambridge Housing Company) which has bought up private sector houses that are then rented out as Council houses at 80% of market rent
* mentioned SHOUT, Social Housing Under Threat, <http://www.4socialhousing.co.uk/>
* £70 million has been ring-fenced to build 550 Council houses in the next 5 years
* rough sleeping has spiked in the last 18 months

Jon Clempner, Leader of Harlow District Council, addressed some common myths about Council housing:

* Council housing is not subsidised by the taxpayer and it cannot be, legally
* there’s a strong economic argument for social housing, as well as the moral and social arguments
* campaigners are actively opposing the forced sale of higher value Council properties
* NIBYISM (not in my back yard) is a big issue but these people forget that their houses had to be built somewhere as well!
* “There’s more land dedicated to golf courses in the UK than there is to houses.”

**FRINGE EVENTS**

**ASLEF – Is a progressive Brexit Possible?**

The panel for this event was made up Kelvin Hopkins MP, Sandra Gage (councillor for Rushmere in Ipswich) and Howard Kaye from ASLEF. It was chaired by Lisa Forbes.

Kelvin Hopkins spoke first, stating that he has voted in favour of Brexit. He said that it was an opportunity to take the railways back into public ownership and to remove the current franchises. The East Coast Mainline was proof that nationalised railways worked. Sandra Gage disagreed with this, stating that Brexit was not about getting rid of franchises, that is what Labour is about. She argued that Brexit was never about investment in public services, and cuts will now be made due to lack of EU money.

Howard Kaye spoke next, pointing out that , as a party, Labour are now facing a ‘post-truth electorate’. He stated that ASLEF stood on a ‘Lexit’ platform. He listed the reasons for this as

The EU did not deal with Greece appropriately.

The EU wanted to introduce Europe-wide privatisation of rail services.

Brexit was a chance to strengthen people’s rights without interference.

It was a chance to take services such as the railways and the post office back into public ownership.

He ended by saying that Labour must promise to reinvest in public services.

**Labour First – Where Next for Labour?**

On the panel were: Allan Ollis, Vaughan West (GMB) who noted that like himself not all the panel were members of Labour First, Peter Trost, Norwich North, Gray Sergeant (RSE CLP), Judi Billing (Labour) Hitchin North.

Allan described Labour First as “A network of moderates”. Vaughan described himself as a member of the ‘Soft Left’ rather than a moderate. Said that we need candidates that “look like our members”, not parachuted in NGO Officers etc. Said we need to address inequality, minimum wage makes little difference to people at the bottom. “Don’t be afraid of the new members”.

Peter said he had never been a member of any group within Labour before. Asked that we should be open minded about Brexit, and noted that people had voted for a lack of free movement. Quoted John McDonnell: “Let’s make a big offer” to the electorate. Talked how people don’t like politicians, especially since the expenses scandal, we need big solutions on housing. Expressed fear of early election, we should consider Universal Basic Income.

Gray stated that we lost the general election on leadership, the economy and immigration. Talked about the economy, peoples aspirations to own a ‘bigger car, and have big holidays’. Talked about peoples ‘Cultural anxieties’ and fear that ‘Labour doesn’t care about England’. He mentioned that there is a small local group who meet up for coffee and to talk politics.

Judi said she was worrying that all her life she has been in a ‘bubble of internationalisation’ that was coming to an end. She said she was alarmed by the number of people who believe that marching with placards will solve issues. Said she would focus in future on international concerns and doesn’t have a way forward.

**Socialist Education Association – Challenging Changes in Education**

Jenny from the Socialist Education Association Executive and a teacher told us that there have been massive changes in education since 2010, particularly the move from local authority control to academisation, the introduction of free schools which have proliferated since 2011 and the changes to the National Curriculum and assessment since 2014. The new National Curriculum in primary schools has much higher expectations, with children expected to reach standards in Year 6 that were previously assessed in Year 8. The abolition of National Curriculum levels means that individual schools need to create their own assessment system, which leaves them open to private companies who are selling pre-packaged assessment systems into schools.

New AS and A-Level specifications have ‘de-coupled’ the two parts (AS and A2) so that all exams are completed at the end of the course rather than exams being taken twice a year in modules.

The new GCSE specifications have a new grading system which replaces A-G grades with 1-9 (where 9 is the highest grade, leaving space for grade inflation in the future). Teachers have no information about grade levels so cannot effectively mark students’ work and cannot predict grades. Employers are unaware of the changes and do not understand how the 1-9 grades work (but neither do the teachers, really!)

There is no requirement for teaching staff to have Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in academies.

For more information see:

* [www.politics.co.uk](http://www.politics.co.uk)
* [www.schoolcuts.org.uk](http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk)

Amanda, an NUT member and primary school teacher from Shoeburyness, Southend gave an overview of the local picture.

* Southend is becoming an unviable authority and schools are being forced to academies
* all secondary schools have converted to academy status and many primaries have too, though not necessarily through choice as, if they don’t convert, they are being forced into a Multi Academy Trust chain
* NUT are working to get academy chains to adopt union working conditions
* 92% of schools could face cuts to funding in the next year of around £500 per pupil in primary schools and £700 per pupil in secondary schools
* in Amanda’s school there will be a reduction of £224,031 by 202 which is equivalent to £602 per student or 6 full time teachers
* Shoeburyness High face a reduction in funding of almost £1 million which equates to £718 per student or 26 teachers
* Southend High School for Boys will see a reduction of £226,000
* there is a massive teacher shortage, even Southend High School for Boys are struggling to recruit
* constant testing and changes to assessment are causing stress and pain for teachers and students which pressures on students from disadvantaged backgrounds even more severe
* parents need to get involved to express their displeasure about impact on their children
* NUT and ATL have joined to create ‘one union for all’ to try to have more clout with the government

Martin, from the Socialist Education Association Executive and a policy researcher for Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) gave an overview of the education system in the UK. Labour have always been caution or ambivalent about educational selection and did not end the grammar system in its entirety when they had the chance. The 1970s were the highpoint of conversion to comprehensives but it was downhill after 1979.

All markets need differentiation and that is what we are seeing in schools, with academies and free schools attempting to offer a unique selling point to parents. There is ‘soft selection’ within the education system.

Public opinion is split on grammar schools with two main types of campaigners against the system of selection:

* parents in selective counties, who are usually Conservative voters, concerned about the inequalities of the 11 Plus exam, stress placed on students, tutoring cost and mental health issues in the grammar system
* socialists who argue that selection is a waste of talent, doesn’t acknowledge different progress rates etc.

Kelvin Hopkins MP said that grammars will be a big issue at the next election but we also need to think about other issues in education, like getting rid of charitable status for private schools. Sweden has reversed the selective system because it doesn’t work. Local authorities also need to be in control of schools. The Department of Education cannot oversee 40,000+ schools.

Jenny suggested some actions local people can take:

* become a school governor
* make sure Councillors are promoting the local authority as the best option for schools
* try to get Conservative voters onside to oppose grammars, they are divided so exploit that
* join the ‘education not segregation’ campaign

**The New Voter ID App –**

**A taster session on Labour’s latest campaign technology innovation**

Stephen Pattison described the new Voter ID App, which was followed by a session where the audience were given details of how to log on and give the App a trial using their own phones. The App will run on any device such as a smart phone or a tablet, and it has the look and feel of a “native” App that users will be familiar with.

Campaigners will be able to log on at the doorstep and to record the usual information including the voter, voter’s party allegiance, request for a postal vote form, etc. Once entered the information is automatically saved and uploaded to Contact Creator whenever the App has access to an Internet connection.

The use of the App enables campaigners to be sent off to various streets on their own with a list of voters to canvass, and there is no need to have sheets of paper, or referencing back to tell anybody what has been covered during a session.

Each session will have its own ID and a PIN code – the PIN code lasts 72 hours to comply with data protection legislation.

There is a comment field for each entry, but this isn’t suitable for logging information such as casework or voter concerns, although a future version of the App may add this feature.

Other future development being considered are: a Sat-Nav style of direction finding and to locate where canvassers are, providing local statistics for canvassers, and integrating a polling day/telling facility.

**Q&A: Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party (via video link)**

Jeremy talked about the Labour National Health Service campaign, STPs, Funding, Mental Health. Asked that we send STP plans to Jonathan Ashworth. Spoke on the PFI contracts and the resulting levels of debt for the NHS, said Labour would buy in these contracts or renegotiate them. Mental health a priority, suicide the biggest killer of young men in the country. “The NHS is a human right for all of us”. Talked about the campaign day on 26th November, said we should talk to people directly. “The NHS *is* efficient, and full of very hard working people.”

There should be a disability minister in the government. Urged everyone to see ‘I Daniel Blake’ and visit the Disabled People Against Cuts website - <http://dpac.uk.net/>

Talked about the situation in Kashmir, there has to be negotiations and a ceasefire.

Asked everyone to join us in Burston for the annual rally in September 2017

Part of Jeremy’s video link can be seen here:[www.facebook.com/groups/125209196635/videos](http://www.facebook.com/groups/125209196635/videos)

**The Big Question – Creating Jobs and Regenerating Our Communities:**

**Introduction by Sian Timoney, Deputy Leader Luton Borough Council**

Sian Timoney, Deputy Leader of Luton Borough Council, said that office to residential property conversions can be done without planning permission in Luton which is changing the face of the town centre. The Government Revenue Support Grant is now 40% less than it was in 2010-2011, which is an attack on poor communities who do not pay as much Council Tax. There are land value and viability issues but Luton needs 18,000 houses. Benefit changes are affecting some families by £1,000 a month. To redress Luton’s poor reputation there need to be 15,000 new jobs to attract people to move there.   
  
Norwich has 40% child poverty, 20,000 families earning less than £15,000 a year. We need an inclusive economic model, covering wages, schooling and housing. ‘Hard working people’ is a divisive expression. People are suffering irregular hours and insecurity, education is a disaster and this is the worst situation since the Poor Laws. We need to give electorate a strong narrative.

**Panel discussion with Alan Waters, Leader of Norwich City Council and**

**Jon Clempner, Leader of Harlow District Council**

AW said we must stop education being market lead. Cultural activity is important, creative thinking, creative minds leads to creative cities.

**FRINGE WORKSHOPS**

**Unite – Housing fringe discussion**

A discussion was led by Kevin Price Deputy Leader (Cambridge City Council) and Kelvin Hopkins MP (Luton North). As the housing crisis is growing it is important that we try to stop further sales of council houses under the Right to Buy scheme. There are many properties that are either empty or have fallen into a poor state of repair, and such properties should be brought into local council ownership, i.e., we need to “municipalize” houses. There is also a lot of land that could be used for building new homes, and land that has been proposed for homes but is lying dormant. The public ownership of land is an important issue if we are to tackle the housing crisis.

The housing crisis is no accident; there has been a consistent policy by Tory Governments not to build council houses. This arises from a cynical idea that if people buy their own homes then they will be more likely to vote Tory, whereas a council house tenant is considered more likely to vote Labour.

We should call for a repeal of the Housing & Planning Act 2016 and allow councils to build many more new homes. The principle of lifetime tenancies should also be established to take away the fear of tenants being forced to move. It is preferable that we refer to “council housing” rather than “social housing”, because the latter terminology implies that it is a lower standard of accommodation, however in the past all sorts of people lived in council houses, from labourers to professional workers, and we should try to make council houses a desirable option for those seeking a home.

**Local Government Policy Forum –**

**What Services Should Local Authorities Prioritise Delivering?**

In groups, participants discussed either: local democracy, housing or transport. Ideas from each group were fed back and will be distributed to CLPs once compiled.

**Community Campaigning –**

**Training session on how to run effective campaigns to engage residents in your area**

This was a useful session covering all aspects of developing and running local campaigns successfully. Topics covered included research and engaging with people to pick an issue. To set targets that are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time constrained). Ways of taking action, facilitating, persuading, identifying your decision maker and finding out what they want. Use local campaigns to build a good strong local brand.

The presenters said they would be happy to visit CLPs and run all day training workshops. More information in the Community Organising Guide booklet

**Workplace 2020: Kelvin Hopkins MP**

Kelvin Hopkins MP introduced Labour’s campaign for an alternative workforce for the 21st Century.

* The UK is the most unequal modern economy with 6million people earning less than the living wage
* unemployment has become endemic and the ‘norm’
* weakening of Trade Unions has led to non-unionised employment and workers’ rights being savaged, including tribunal rights
* we are seeing Dickensian working practices
* Trade Unions are fundamental in changing this

People should visit the Workplace 2020 website and submit their ideas and thoughts <http://www.workplace2020.org.uk/>

Comments were made by conference attendees:

Communications Workers’ Union – Will Brexit have an impact on Trade Unions? Will rights be eroded further and how can we shore up those rights?

Unite the Union – We must ensure that Labour connect with core voters but, as the EU Referendum showed, Unions are not necessarily aware of their members’ views. We also need to engage young people so they know the benefit of joining a union.

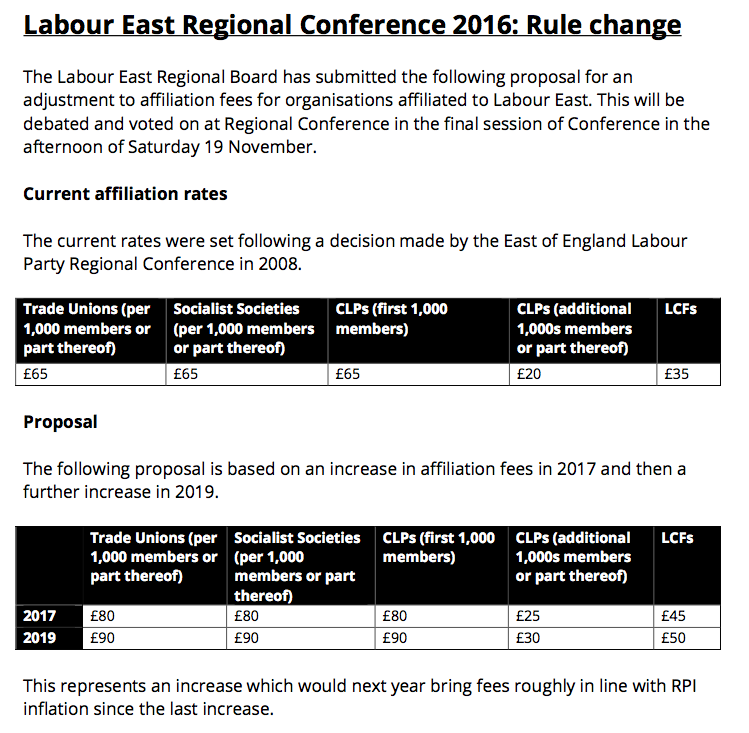
Fire Brigades’ Union – Workplace 2020 will be supported locally and there need to be reinvigorated links between workers and the Labour Party, we must offer a better alternative.

Unison – The connection between Trade unions and CLPs must be strengthened locally.

**Gala Dinner with Ed Milliband as guest of honour**

EM gave an excellent speech, amusing and self-deprecating but also inspiring. Despite it being a very hard year for many people, the referendum and US presidential election results in particular “It’s on us, we have to stay on the pitch” and continue the struggle. We lost the general election because our answers were not big enough. Jeremy Corbyn has some big answers and we must work together with him.

**Rule Change: Labour Eastern Regional Board**



**The rule change was passed.**

**Sunday 20th November**

**Chair’s Opening Remarks**

**Ballot Results: Rob Sanderson, CAC**

**Elections to Labour East Region Board**

Bedfordshire

* Rachel Hopkins, Luton South CLP (elected unopposed)
* Louise Whatham, Bedford CLP (elected unopposed)

Cambridgeshire

* Jocelynne Scutt, Cambridge CLP (elected unopposed)
* Chris York, North West Cambridgeshire CLP

Essex

* Eileen Davidson, Witham CLP (elected unopposed)
* Chris Vince, Chelmsford CLP (elected unopposed)

Hertfordshire

* Omar Ismail, Watford CLP
* Sue Jones, Welwyn Hatfield CLP (elected unopposed)

Norfolk

* Harry Clarke, Mid Norfolk CLP (elected unopposed)

Suffolk

* Sandra Gage, Ipswich CLP (elected unopposed)
* David Plowman, South Suffolk CLP (elected unopposed)

Local Campaign Forums

* Charlie Cochrane, Harlow LCF (elected unopposed)
* Marie Ferguson-Smith, Cambridge LCF (elected unopposed)

Young Labour

* Felix Preston, Braintree CLP

Socialist Societies

* Jeremy Newmark, Jewish Labour Movement (elected unopposed)

Labour East Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC)

* John Cook, Co-op Party
* Philip Smith, Unite

Labour East National Policy Forum Representatives

* Bryony Rudkin, Co-op Party
* Emma Toal, Harlow CLP

**Resolutions:**

1. **Fire and Rescue Cuts -** FBU

e the Conservatives returned to Government in 2010, Fire and Rescue Services in the East of England have faced the largest and most dangerous cuts in their history. The region has seen more than 800 firefighter posts cut across all areas of the service whilst response times to emergencies are at an all-time high. In the same period, communities in the East of England have witnessed the closure of vital, emergency fire stations and the loss of numerous front line fire engines.

This loss comes at a time when recent figures released by the Home office show that this year fire and emergency incidents have increased significantly across the East of England compared to the same period last year. Most worryingly we have seen a significant increase in fire related deaths, with 2 of the Brigades in our region being amongst the worst 10 in the country for highest home fire death rates.

Alongside this Firefighters and Emergency Control Staff have had their pay, pensions, Health & Safety and working conditions attacked and eroded.

The East of England is home to some of the highest risk areas in the UK, yet the fire services which hold the responsibility of tackling the risk have seen their funding drastically cut year after year.

Firefighters in the East of England face an ever changing landscape and respond to an ever increasing range of emergencies, including the severe flooding that we have seen hit the region over recent years, affecting many homes and businesses.

Fire and Rescue Services have seen cuts to their budgets leaving them at dangerous levels with diminishing resources. At a time when the government should be discussing investment into the fire service, it is only announcing further reductions in funding.

Therefore we call upon conference to instruct all Labour Councillors and Labour MPs in our region to highlight and oppose the cuts to the fire service at every opportunity. We ask that they take positive steps in addressing the funding and resourcing of Fire and Rescue Services in the East of England to include campaigning for a statutory duty for flood response to be placed upon all UK Fire and Rescue Services.

**Seconded by Communication Workers’ Union (CWU)**

**Two further speeches in support**

**CARRIED**

1. **Orgreave -** GMB and ASLEF

This conference notes with dismay and concern the Home Secretary, Amber Rudd's, recent announcement that she will not hold a public inquiry into the actions of the South Yorkshire Police and the events around the 'Battle of Orgreave', during the miners' strike of 1984/85, particularly as Theresa May, the previous Home Secretary and now Prime Minister, had held out hope that she was in favour of such an inquiry being held.

The subsequent failures and culture that existed in the South Yorkshire Police have now been exposed as a result of the successful campaign by the Hillsborough Justice Campaign.

This conference fully supports, the cross-party group of MPs led by the chair of the home affairs select committee, Yvette Cooper MP and including the Conservative MP Edward Leigh, asking Rudd to support the committee holding its own inquiry into Orgreave.

The operation of our police forces, whether in South Yorkshire or elsewhere in the country, need to be examined as the public deserve to know that the police can be trusted to uphold law and order without fear or favour and not be used as an arm of whoever happens to be in government at the time, otherwise public trust in the police will be undermined.

The families of the miners and the communities of South Yorkshire, at Orgreave on that day, deserve justice, just as much as the families and victims of Hillsborough or Aberfan.

This conference therefore calls on the Labour Party, all its MPs and members to continue to campaign for a public inquiry into the 'Battle of Orgreave' so that after 32 years justice is finally served.

### Seconded by [Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associated_Society_of_Locomotive_Engineers_and_Firemen) (ASLEF)

### Three further speeches in support

### CARRIED

1. **Selective Education -** Rayleigh and Wickford CLP

Labour East Regional Conference calls upon the next Labour Government to transform the fragmented education service within the UK so that all children are given access to a first class comprehensive system of education staffed by well qualified and trained teachers. All schools should be free from selection, existing grammar schools should be assimilated into this comprehensive structure so that no child is selected upon the basis of false and self-determining social stereotypes and that all children should be given the maximum support to achieve their goals in life.

**Seconded by Rosalind Scott, Harwich CLP**

**Supporting speech from Fire Brigades’ Union (FBU) and one other**

**CARRIED**

1. **Post Office Network Consultation**

Text of the motion was not made available electronically to include.

**Parliamentary Report: Daniel Zeichner MP and Kelvin Hopkins MP**

DZ - There are opportunities for our region. Powers such as those covered by the Buses legislation are being offered to encourage directly elected Mayors. Devolution is not OK for our region. Spoke on housing, ‘Pay to stay’ is a poisonous punitive policy. Discussed the NHS cuts and adult social care, the ‘STP’s are effectively just more cuts.

KH - After decades of marketization, privatisation and globalisation neoliberalism is now being challenged. Another financial crisis is possible; globally there is more insecurity, less pay. People’s lives are getting worse not better. We have to rebuild, return to optimism. When the Tories talk about ‘Industrial Strategy’ they are promoting a divisive philosophy. We need different ideas, a democratic solution that actually works and is our future.

**EU Referendum Report: Alex Mayer MEP**

AM explained how she came to be taking over from Richard Howitt. We didn’t miss an election. Alex was number two on the list so under European Parliamentary rules she was given his position, two years after the vote!

“We cannot let the Tory and UKIP Brexiteers get away with it”. The rise in hate crime shows that we need to fight for the soul of the country, and sell hope.

“Brexit means we need a Labour Government”

**European Report: Richard Howitt**

RH - “New members must be welcomed, involved and encouraged.

“We must treat each other with courtesy and respect.”

**Youth Conference Report: Jack Newman**

I attended the regional conference as the youth delegate for our constituency. I also attended the youth conference that was on just before main conference opened. It was a good lively debate of regional and national issues that allowed the youth to have a say on future policy as a representative from the NEC and national policy forum were present. It also included a speech from Iain McNicol who answered our questions on the future and what his role was with in the party.

Main conference was a good areay of ideas about regional issues with a huge crowd and was wonderful to see so many people involved that normally wouldnt be, with it being a lot of peoples first time.

Some fantastic speeches given with my personal favourite being Riccardo La Torre from the FBU in support of the FBU's motion to stop further cuts to the fire services.

**CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**

A photo album of 22 photographs taken at the conference is available of the Southend Labour Facebook Public Page: [www.facebook.com/LabourSouthend](http://www.facebook.com/LabourSouthend)