

## **Motion on Rochford and Southend East CLP rules and method of organisation**

### **1 This CLP notes that:**

- 2 • Following the Executive Committee's discussion paper issued in January 2017 branches  
3 and All Member Meetings of this CLP have discussed possible changes to the way the  
4 CLP is organised including branch and delegate structures.
- 5 • In 2011 the Labour Party undertook "Refounding Labour"; a significant review of its rules  
6 and regulations and made changes to the rule book that were passed by National Labour  
7 Party Conference in 2011.
- 8 • Rochford and Southend East CLP have held on record no rules or procedural rules  
9 formally agreed by a General Meeting of this CLP since the adoption of the principles  
10 brought forward by the Labour Party under "Refounding Labour" in 2011.
- 11 • Rochford and Southend East CLP has not formally considered how any rule changes  
12 adopted by the National Labour Party Conference in 2011 or any National Labour Party  
13 Conference since might impact on local party organisation.
- 14 • The last registered branch structure approved by the national party was Rochford &  
15 Wakering, Milton & Victoria, Southchurch & Thorpe, Shoeburyness & West Shoebury.  
16 However recent practice has been for three groupings, Central, Eastern, with Rochford  
17 members meeting with Hawkwell in the Rayleigh and Wickford CLP.
- 18 • Delegate structures are commonplace in CLPs with a large membership and a delegate  
19 structure was the basis of organisation for this CLP until circa 2005.
- 20 • Appendix 7 Clause IV.6. of the Labour Party rule book requires that branch delegates  
21 are elected prior to the CLP AGM. This CLP's AGM is due to take place on 10th June  
22 2017.

### **23 This CLP further notes that:**

- 24 • The membership of Rochford and Southend East CLP has more than doubled in recent  
25 years going from circa 200 in 2010 to over 600 in 2016.
- 26 • The default quorum for meetings of Labour Party units is 25% of eligible members as laid  
27 out in Labour Party rules Chapter 15 Clause I.D.i.
- 28 • All members have a right to participate in the decision making processes of the CLP and  
29 that Chapter 7 Clause 2.E. requires the CLP to *establish local policy forums, possibly in*  
30 *co-operation with neighbouring CLPs.*
- 31 • All strategic decision making of the CLP currently takes place exclusively in CLP-wide All  
32 Member General Meetings. All operational decision making takes place in the Executive

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33 Committee. In the event of an All Member General Meeting being declared inquorate all  
34 strategic decision making powers revert to the elected Executive committee.

35 • Any and all CLP members may attend an All Member General Meeting and there is no  
36 requirement for an All Member General Meeting to be representative of the party  
37 branches.

38 • Whilst branches are able to meet and are able to discuss issues and submit motions to  
39 be discussed at an All Member General Meeting they are not able to send delegates to  
40 General Meetings to act on their behalf or to mandate members of the branch attending  
41 an All Member Meeting in any way.

42 • All Ward Branches are currently part of a structure that has meetings and has elected  
43 officers. Branches meet in groups rather than exclusively as members all from the same  
44 ward and some branch members have expressed a desire to continue to do this.

### **45 This CLP believes that:**

46 • The increase in membership of Rochford and Southend East CLP is to be welcomed and  
47 celebrated and continued membership increases are to be encouraged.

48 • People generally are most motivated by the concerns and experiences that are closest to  
49 them and wish to organise and operate within the neighbourhoods that they are a part of  
50 and feel passionate about.

51 • Not all members feel comfortable participating in large All Member Meetings of 50 or  
52 more and would prefer to be able to attend smaller branch meetings where their voices  
53 are more easily heard. These smaller meetings are powerless to influence the CLP  
54 strategic decision making processes unless they have real decision making powers. The  
55 Labour Party allows for this empowerment of branch decision making through the  
56 democratic election of delegates from branches to a General Committee.

57 • Policy Fora allowing all members to attend and ideally including neighbouring CLPs,  
58 affiliates and, where appropriate the wider community, should become a regular  
59 occurrence in this CLP and should feed into the national policy making structures.

60 • Branches located close to the centre of town and within easy reach of the CLP offices at  
61 268 Sutton Road are able to dominate CLP All Member Meetings by virtue of it being  
62 easier for more of their members to attend.

63 • The inability of branches to elect delegates to a CLP All Member General Meetings  
64 means that members unable to travel to the centre of the town to attend CLP-wide  
65 meetings are not formally represented and have no democratic method of having their  
66 voices heard at a General Meeting.

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- 67 • Whilst quorum has not been formally called anecdotal evidence suggests that no All  
68 Member General Meeting of this CLP has, in the last 12 months, met the quorum as laid  
69 out in the Labour Party rules Chapter 15 Clause 1.D.i.
- 70 • Failing to organise in such a way as to ensure that a quorum is realistically possible for  
71 all General Meetings increases the likelihood of strategic decisions being made by the  
72 Executive Committee alone, and thereby denying democratic participation to the widest  
73 membership.

### **This CLP resolves that:**

- 75 • The Rochford and Southend East Constituency Labour Party adopt a branch and  
76 delegate structure as laid out in Appendix 7 Clause II and Clause IV of the Labour Party  
77 rules with immediate effect.
- 78 • Subject to approval from the Regional Director/National Executive Committee the  
79 following basis of representation and organisation be adopted:
- 80 - All CLP members will be eligible to attend General Meetings and may speak with  
81 permission of the chair. Delegates appointed in line with party rules will be afforded  
82 voting rights.
- 83 - Branches will elect delegates to a General Committee on the basis of 1 delegate per  
84 30 eligible members. Eligible members are determined by the rules laid down in the  
85 Labour Party rules Chapter 2 and Chapter 7. Branch Secretaries are automatically ex  
86 officio members of the General Committee.
- 87 - Delegate entitlement be calculated on the branches as currently registered with the  
88 Labour Party, however branches may continue to meet together at the discretion of  
89 branch officers, until such time as this CLP may review these arrangements.
- 90 - In the absence of any formally adopted rules this CLP is deemed to have adopted the  
91 model rules of the Labour Party in their entirety. Branches may, subject to agreement  
92 from the CLP Executive Committee, be made up of 1 or more local government  
93 wards. The CLP Executive Committee will not normally approve a ward grouping  
94 where that grouping leads to a branch membership of more than 50% of the total  
95 CLP membership. Branches will be constituted in line with the Labour Party rules  
96 Chapter 8 - Rules for Branches.
- 97 - Affiliated organisations be permitted to send delegates to the CLP General  
98 Committee in line with the Labour Party rules Appendix 7 Clause II.1.A. Affiliates may  
99 appoint their delegates through any method they deem appropriate within their own  
100 procedures.

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- 101 - Any forum properly constituted under Labour Party rules may send a delegate to the  
102 General Committee if allowance is made in the Labour Party rules for it to do so.
- 103 - The quorum for all business meetings of the CLP including branches be set at 10% of  
104 the eligible membership.
- 105 • Branches be invited to appoint delegates at their meetings in May and will notify the  
106 Secretary of the CLP of their appointed delegates by 1st June, in time for attendance at  
107 the CLP AGM on June 10th.
- 108 • The CLP will establish a programme of Policy Fora, in line with Labour Party rules, to  
109 which all members will be invited and eligible to attend. These Policy Fora will be  
110 organised by the CLP Political Education Officer subject to approval from the Executive  
111 Committee. There will be held a minimum of TWO (2) policy fora in any calendar year.

112 **Proposed by: Ashley Dalton**

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