



**WE Party Conference**  
Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

**Title:** Branch Representation in Decision Making

**Proposed by:** Camden Women's Equality Party and Lambeth Women's Equality Party

**Proposer:** Emma Ko

**Co-proposer:** Janet Baker

**Type of motion:** Business

**Motion text:**

1 The original constitution was written when the local branches were in their infancy. They are now  
2 well established, so now is the right time to move towards greater membership representation by  
3 allowing local branches to elect their hub co-ordinators and hub data managers.

4 We propose that the structure of WEP is revised by electing hub co-ordinators and data managers.

5 We propose the following method to elect the hub co-ordinator and hub data manager:

- 6 ● Each branch elects a branch representative,
- 7 ● This branch rep attends their hub,
- 8 ● Each hub then elects the hub co-ordinator and hub data manager,
- 9 ● In the event of a tied vote, both candidates will be offered a job share of the role.

10 The views of the membership will thus be represented on issues of the day, decisions about what  
11 campaigns to back and how WEP monies are spent. Branches can decide, in collaboration with the  
12 steering committee, the delineation of the hubs. All branch representatives, hub co-ordinators and  
13 hub data managers can be job shares.

14 We therefore recommend the following changes to the constitution:

15 7.7.3 Add "in collaboration with local branches".

16 7.7.4 Remove paragraph and replace with "Each hub shall be overseen by a hub committee  
17 consisting of one representative from each branch within that hub, elected by the membership of  
18 that branch. Each hub committee shall elect their hub co-ordinator and hub data manager. All  
19 representative, hub co-ordinator and hub data manager posts shall be available for job share."



## **Motion rationale:**

20 We want to do politics differently by having a member-led party.

21 At present, the leadership and Central Office issue directions to the local branches. There is no  
22 feedback loop to ensure that local concerns are heard and acted on.

23 Local branches are the lifeblood of the party. Members engage with WEP through their branches and  
24 we believe it is vital for this to be reflected in the decision-making process of WEP.

25 This motion will serve all WEPS's core policy objectives by making members more engaged and  
26 willing to be involved in political action.

27 Making a structure that is less of a triangle and more of a network will bring many advantages to the  
28 party.

29 It will:

- 30 ● attract more people to become active members by addressing the local as well as national  
31 issues they care about.
- 32 ● create more involvement in decision making, which will translate into more engagement with  
33 canvassing.
- 34 ● give better access to the knowledge of the membership.
- 35 ● ensure that voices are heard from different geographical locations.
- 36 ● create a more efficient line of communication between WEP Central office and the branches.
- 37 ● enable local branches to work more collaboratively and build greater cohesion between the  
38 regions.

39 A steering committee acting as a structured dialogue between the leadership and membership will  
40 make a profound difference to the way the party sees itself. Representatives, voted in at local level,  
41 will have the trust of the membership, so increasing the level of engagement and imbuing the whole  
42 party with confidence. Just as importantly it will create multiple opportunities to increase and diversify  
43 the membership.