



Eden District Local Campaign Forum (LCF)

Introduction

Within the Penrith & The Border Constituency Labour Party, only two of the Branches have Wards within their area: Alston Moor has 2 District Council seats, Eden & Penrith has 36 District Council seats. These Council seats are spread over a huge geographical area from Kirkby Stephen and Tebay to the South, to Kirkoswald and Hesket District to the North, Alston Moor to the East and Greystoke and down the length of Ullswater and beyond to the West.

We not only have one of the geographically largest CLPs in the country, we also are the most sparsely populated. This means that journeys to meetings can frequently take well over an hour each way. It is a significant problem to create an active, inclusive framework of meetings over such a large area.

These procedures are based on the 'Rules for Labour Party Local Campaign Forums' outlined in Chapter 12 of the Labour Party Rule Book 2017.

In undertaking their responsibilities, the Local Campaign Forum will work within the rules, guidance and procedures contained within Labour Party Rule Book 2017 and specifically:

- Chapter 5 (Selections, rights and responsibilities of candidates for elected public office)
- Appendix 4 (NEC Procedures for the selection of local government Candidates)

Eden District Local Campaign Forum Standing Orders

A. Name

The group shall be the Eden District Party Local Campaign Forum (LCF) of the Labour Party.

B. Objects

1. To co-ordinate the activities of branches and wards within the Eden District area for the purpose of securing the return of Labour representatives to the Eden District Council.
2. To work with the Labour Group and/or Councillors of the Eden District Council to organise opportunities for individual members, branches, trade unions, affiliated organisations and community organisations to enter into dialogue with the Labour Group on current local government policy issues and ideas for the Party's future programme and manifesto.
3. To compile a panel of candidates in accordance with the provisions of chapter 5 of the national rules of the Party (see attached).
4. To undertake activities within the area for the purpose of new candidate recruitment.
5. The LCF shall seek to contest all seats in each electoral area in consultation with the wards and branches concerned.

C. General Principles

1. The Campaign Forum will be structured to deliver the best organisation and campaigns in pursuit of the objects above and to secure the best possible representation for Labour in the authority.

D. Membership

1. The membership of the LCF shall be focused around campaign delivery, the recruitment and selection of candidates and the development of opportunities for wider engagement with council issues.

2. The membership of the Campaign Forums shall be as follows:

2 Trade Union representatives

1 Cooperative Party delegate (if available)

One delegate each from Groups 1 to 5 (see appendix 1)

Two delegates from Group 6 (see appendix 1)

The following members will be ex-officio members of the Campaign Forum:

2 delegates from the Labour Group (usually the Leader and deputy)

2 CLP Executive Officers (usually the Chair and Secretary)

CLP Campaign Coordinator

3. The ex-officio members must reside within the area of Eden District. Where the CLP Campaign Officer, Chair or Secretary does not reside within the Eden District, or if, for

whatever reason, they are unable to take on the additional role, the CLP shall elect delegates from the CLP Executive. Councillors shall not be a delegate from the ward groupings or trade unions.

4. The Eden District Council has 38 wards covering a very large, mainly rural, geographical area. At this time (January 2018) there are two active Labour Party Branches in the Eden District with 2 wards in Alston Moor Branch and 36 wards in the Eden & Penrith Branch. In order to get a representative coverage of the whole area, the wards are divided into 6 geographical neighbouring groups with one delegate coming from groups 1 to 5 below, and 2 delegates coming from the larger group 6.
5. The local Party should work to ensure that the membership of the LCF is representative of the communities in which it will work. Where it is not possible to elect delegates from any of the ward groupings, a delegate will be nominated from a grouping as near to the area as possible.

E. Officers and Executive Committee

1. The officers and Executive Committee shall be elected at the first meeting of the LCF and annually thereafter.
2. Where the number of LCF members make it practicable, the LCF may resolve that the whole LCF shall perform the functions of the Executive Committee
3. The officers shall consist of a chair, vice-chair, and secretary. At least one of the officers shall be a woman.
4. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the leader and deputy leader of the Labour Group and 2 members elected by the CLP.

F. Meetings

1. The annual meeting shall be held in May each year, or if such a meeting is not held, as soon as possible afterwards.
2. The LCF shall meet whenever necessary to deliver the best organisation and campaigns to secure the best possible representation for Labour in the authority. As a minimum, the LCF shall have at least one meeting a year for each of: the creation of a campaign strategy, the creation of a recruitment strategy, the creation of a selection strategy and to convene a selection panel.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet as required.
4. Meetings should be conducted in a comradely fashion. No one entitled to attend shall be precluded because they cannot gain access to the meeting room for any reason. Harassment or intimidation of members on the basis of gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability or race is unacceptable.

G. Finance

1. The administrative expenses of this LCF shall be met from contributions subscribed by the CLPs concerned in agreed proportions.
2. The CLPs shall be responsible for the expenses incurred in contesting elections and by elections within their area. They shall also meet a proportionate share of any expenses which the CLPs agree shall be incurred by this LCF in contesting such elections.

H. General

1. The electoral policy and programme for the appropriate elections shall be decided by the council Labour group or by this LCF where no Labour Group exists. In each case this LCF shall work to organise opportunities for wider consultation to assist the development of policy.
2. The Executive Committee of this LCF shall seek to contest all seats in each electoral area in consultation with the Wards and Branches concerned.

I. Candidates

1. The LCF shall select and convene an interview panel for the selection of candidates. The LCF may co-opt additional members, including members from other Labour parties, when it is deemed necessary, in line with the selection guidelines approved by the NEC.
2. Candidates for the appropriate elections shall be selected in accordance with the rules for the selection of local government candidates laid down in Chapter 5 of the Labour Party Rule Book and in the selection guidelines provided within Appendix 4 of the Rule Book.
3. In the event of a by-election arising the Executive Committee shall consult with the executive committees of the CLP and branches concerned to ensure that a candidate is selected as far as possible following the procedure referred to above.
4. In the case of an emergency, it shall take whatever action that may be necessary to meet the situation and to ensure that the vacancy is contested by the Party.

J. Relations with the Labour group

1. If and when there is a sufficient number of Labour District Councillors elected to form a Labour Group, the following clause will apply.
2. For the purpose of maintaining contact between the group and the local Party, representatives of the LCF and CLPs ('group observers') may attend group meetings with the right to speak on all matters coming before the group (subject to Chapter 13 Clause IX below and Chapter 13 Clause XIII below of the group rules) but not to propose or second motions or amendments or to vote. The number of group observers shall be locally determined but shall not exceed one third of the membership of the group up to a maximum of six observers.

K. Miscellaneous

1. The general provisions of the constitution and rules of the Party shall apply to this Local Campaign Forum.
2. Where this LCF is an accounting unit of the Party with regard to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, it shall co-operate fully with regard to its legal and financial obligations.
 - A. All accounting units will comply with their legal obligations under PPERA 2000 including using 1 January to 31 December as the financial year, maintaining adequate financial records, identifying and reporting donations and loans, producing an annual statement of accounts and providing all relevant information as requested to the Party. Failure to meet these obligations may lead to the NEC taking disciplinary action against individual members, the suspension of the appropriate Party unit or both.
 - B. Following each annual meeting of this LCF the secretary shall forward to General Secretary a copy of the LCF annual report, including the annual statement of accounts and such other information as may be requested by the NEC in the format required and in compliance with the CLP's legal and financial responsibilities under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
 - C. The annual statement of accounts must be presented to and approved by a general meeting in the first quarter of the year following the year in question. Where required by PPERA 2000, the annual statement of accounts must be forwarded to the Electoral Commission by 30 April of the year following the year in question.
3. Where this LCF is not an accounting unit of the Party with regard to the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000, it shall liaise with and cooperate with the Regional Office to ensure that the Branches / CLPs which have a geographical interest in the LCF are able to meet their legal and financial obligations.
4. Should this LCF fail to co-operate with the Party with regard to its obligations under the Act, the NEC will not hesitate to take appropriate disciplinary action against individual members and/or suspend this LCF.
5. Any insertions or proposed changes to these rules for Local Campaign Forums are subject to the approval of the NEC.
6. The NEC shall have the authority to determine how these rules shall be applied in particular circumstances and make any adaptations necessary to suit different or new levels of local government as they arise.

Appendix 1

Ward Groupings		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Kirkby Stephen (2 seats), Orton With Tebay, Brough, Ravenstonedale Warcop 6 seats 57 Members	Appleby (Appleby), Appleby (Bongate), Crosby Ravensworth, Long Marton, Morland, Shap, Kirkby Thore, 7 seats 64 Members	Ullswater, Askham, Dacre, Greystoke, Skelton, 5 seats 68 Members
Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
Alston Moor (2 seats), 2 seats 47 Members	Hesket District (2 seats), Kirkoswald, Langwathby, Lazonby, Hartside, 6 seats 94 Members	Penrith East (2 seats), Penrith North (3 seats), Penrith Pategill, Penrith Carleton Penrith South (2 seats), Penrith West (2 seats), Eamont, 12 seats 109 Members