

Rossendale & Darwen Constituency Labour Party

Code of Conduct 2018

The aim of this code of conduct is to establish an acceptable standard of behaviour for Labour Party members both during Party Meetings and when acting in the course of their Labour Party membership

Labour Party Rule Book

This Code of Conduct uses the Labour Party Rule book as a guide at all times the rules of the party take precedence over the rules of the CLP.

Members

All existing CLP members will be expected to follow and be governed by this Code of Conduct. All New Members will be provided with a copy in their new members' pack.

1. The Executive Committee (EC)

The CLP Executive is elected at the CLP AGM and remains in post for 12 months unless a member(s) resign or there is cause to hold an EGM. The Authority of the Executive is to be respected by all members regardless of the opinion of any member.

2. The Chairperson (Referred to as 'The Chair')

The Chair is elected at the AGM and will chair all meetings of the CLP. Where he/she is unavailable the Vice Chair will Chair the meeting. If either Vice Chair is unavailable then the Secretary will chair the meeting. The authority of the Chair is to be respected by all other members. The Chair has the right to remove any member from a meeting who is failing to respect the Chair or any other member.

3. The Vice Chair(s)

The Vice Chair exists to provide immediate support to the chair. The Vice Chair is elected at the AGM. Where the chair is unavailable should the meeting be in Rossendale the Rossendale vice chair will chair the meeting. Should the meeting be in Darwen the Darwen vice chair will chair the meeting. When the Vice Chair is chairing a meeting he/she carries the same authority as the chair and should be afforded the same respect as would be shown to the chair.

4. The Secretary

The Secretary is elected at the AGM and will chair a meeting of the AGM until a chair is elected. The Secretary is to be afforded the same level of courtesy and respect as would be shown to any other member of the EC. If the secretary is unavailable the treasurer will act as secretary.

5. Conduct of Members at Meetings

Only members of the Rossendale and Darwen Constituency Labour Party are allowed to enter and vote at meetings of the CLP. **ALL** Members are to treat each other with a level of decency and respect they would wish to be shown themselves, including conduct on social media.

6. Speaking at meetings.

Any member who wishes to speak at a meeting may only do so at the invitation of the chair all questions/points are to be addressed through the chair. The member is to raise to the feet (unless physically constrained from doing so). The member is to present their point/question in a clear and concise manner. **ALL** Members are limited to speaking for **3 minutes only**. Only at the direction of the chair may a member speak for longer. The member may ask **ONE** supplementary question/point but this **MUST be in line with their original point**.

7. Members with disabilities.

ANY Member who has a disability of any kind is as welcome as anyone else to attend. The CLP will make all reasonable adjustments to the meeting to accommodate their disability. However the member is also to use all practicable methods to aid there disability i.e those with hearing loss should use aids to assist them with hearing more clearly.

8. Motions

This CLP had adopted the Party's Model Standing orders including those for Motions and emergency Motions.

When a member wishes to put forward a motion they are to adhere to procedures for asking a question (See Rule 6). The motion is to be seconded by another member. The motion is to be **IMMEDIATELY** voted on by ALL Members there are to be NO other discussions or motions presented until a vote is held. member(s). Then the **Chair** has the right to ask that member(s) to leave.

Members who want to put emergency motions that have not been submitted in time for the secretary to send it out to members ie between 13 and 1 or 2 days before the meeting, should bring sufficient copies for members to be able to read the motion rather than rely on reading it out.

9. Intimidating Conduct

ALL Members have the right to express their opinions at meetings. They should be able to express their opinions freely and without feeling intimidated. However, all members opinions are not to be insulting or derogatory towards another member. The Chair will have the final say on whether or not a member's comments/opinion is appropriate. Anyone making inappropriate comments may be asked to leave the meeting.

10. Conduct towards LGBT Members

Some members identify themselves as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transsexual ALL of these members are welcome to attend any meeting and to stand for and hold office. Inappropriate comments towards an LGBT member is unwelcome. Anyone doing so WILL be asked to leave and may face further disciplinary action.

11. Social Media

The CLP has a presence on social media any member who wishes to post or comment on any platform attached to the CLP is to bear in mind that there post can be read by both members and non-members. ALL are to be reminded the code of conduct applies on social media as well as at meetings.

12. Complaints

Should a member have reason to complain about the conduct of another member then that member should refer their complaint to the Executive in the first instance. The executive WILL take any complaint seriously and treat it with confidentiality. The executive will meet and discuss the complaint and see whether there is reason to hold an investigation. Should an investigation be needed the executive reserves the right to suspend both members without prejudice. Until the investigation is complete, and a decision reached. In all instances and if it is appropriate the executive will look to resolve all complaints informally. Should formal action be required the executive will not hesitate to do so. In all cases Regional office and if appropriate the NEC will have the final say.

13. Membership of other organizations

All members are welcome to be members of any non-political organization or club. However, members are reminded that they are NOT allowed to be members of any other political party or any organization which is regarded as extremist in its views this includes but is not limited to.

- British National Party
- Combat 18
- National Front
- EDL
- English Democrats
- The Socialist party
- Anarchy

The Labour party is a social democratic party and welcomes anyone to join who wishes to see the election of a Labour government and a Labour MP for Rossendale and Darwen.

This Code of conduct is not designed to be exhaustive. It is the minimum standard of behaviour expected of a member when attending a meeting of the CLP.