



Labour

OPPORTUNITY 2016

**68th National Conference
INEC Convention Centre
Killarney, Co. Kerry**

Friday 27th February - Sunday 1st March 2015

AGENDA



Social Protection:

1. Conference notes the increase in employment and welcomes the fall in the rate of unemployment from a peak of 15.1% to 10.6% in December 2014, with 100,000 more people back in work in that time. The fall in the Live Register shows that the activation policies pursued by Labour are working.

- Conference welcomes the introduction of the Back to Work Family Dividend which provides a new support for lone parent and long-term unemployed families. The new scheme demonstrates Labour's commitment and determination in helping families return to work.
- Conference notes that JobBridge – the national internship scheme is providing opportunities to jobseekers to get experience and to get a job, with 6 out of every 10 placements going onto employment. However Conference calls for greater resources to be put in place to prevent the abuse of JobBridge by employers.
- Conference recalls that Labour has made tackling youth unemployment a priority and the number of young people out of work under 25 has continued to fall month on month, and that the Youth Guarantee, pioneered and pursued by Labour is being rolled out across Ireland.
- Conference notes that Labour has increased the funding to Community Employment schemes in Budget 2015 to €377 million, supporting over 20,000 places and over 1000 schemes across Ireland.
- Conference declares our commitment to ensuring the long term unemployed are not abandoned as happened in previous recessions, and notes the doubling of the number of places on JobsPlus to 6,000 in Budget 2015 which incentivises an employer to hire someone out of work for over a year.
- Conference resolves that Labour will continue to focus on helping those out of work into a job or self-employment, and will ensure all efforts are made to support jobseekers with the training, reskilling and supports they need.

Central Council

2. Conference notes that there is currently no statutory provision for paid paternity leave.

- Conference further notes that this places the majority of the burden of care for all new born children on the mother.
- Conference calls for the introduction of two weeks paid paternity leave for all fathers before the next election, as a short term measure to deal with this issue.
- Conference further calls on the Central Council to include a commitment in our manifesto for the next election on expanding this scheme and to consider allowing mothers to share a portion of their maternity leave with fathers in the context of improved provision for leave for mothers.
- Conference further calls on the Central Council to include in our next manifesto proposals for improving maternity and paternity entitlements for self employed and private sector workers.

Central Council

3. **Composite No. 1:**

- Conference acknowledges Labour's success in government in retaining core welfare entitlements and creating not only progressive pathways to and opportunities for employment but also an environment that better protects and supports our workers.
- Conferenced notes, however, that despite making pay related social insurance contributions self-employed persons do not qualify for the same welfare entitlements as their employed counterparts.
- Conference therefore calls for the full equalisation of welfare entitlements for self-employed persons in Budget 2016 and in the Labour Election Manifesto.
- Conference calls for a complete overhaul of the social welfare system in relation to self-employed persons.
- Conference notes the unfair nature of the means test system for former self-employed persons and the substantial delays occurring prior to any payment being made.
- Conference call for the abolition of the means test in its current form and replacing it with a fairer and equitable model based upon ability to pay.

**Dublin Bay North Constituency
Kilbeggan Branch, Longford/Westmeath**

Text of Original Motions for Information:

Conference acknowledges Labour's success in government in retaining core welfare entitlements and creating not only progressive pathways to and opportunities for employment but also an environment that better protects and supports our workers.

Conferenced notes, however, that despite making pay related social insurance contributions self-employed persons do not qualify for the same welfare entitlements as their employed counterparts.

Conference therefore calls for the full equalisation of welfare entitlements for self-employed persons in Budget 2016 and in the Labour Election Manifesto.

Dublin Bay North Constituency

Conference calls for a complete overhaul of the social welfare system in relation to self-employed persons.

Conference notes the unfair nature of the means test system for former self employed persons and the substantial delays occurring prior to any payment being made.

Conference calls for the abolition of the means test in its current form and replacing it with a fairer and equitable model based upon ability to pay.

Kilbeggan Branch, Longford/Westmeath

4. Conference calls on the Labour Party in government to reinstate the full adult rate of Jobseekers' Allowance for all claimants over the age of 18 and below the age of 26.

Labour Youth

5. As part of the Labour Force Activation measures people on, for example, Jobseekers' Allowance, are encouraged to participate on FÁS training courses and move onto Class J PRSI contributions. This is a big disincentive because on Class J only occupational injury benefit is covered, and for example, no credits are accrued for contributory old age pension etc. Conference calls upon the Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection to review the situation and correct this anomaly so that contributions under Class J will qualify for these benefits.

Shannon Branch, Clare

6. Conference notes that all JobBridge schemes offered to young people are not suitable in aiding young people with the careers they wish to pursue.

Conference therefore calls on the government and the Department of Social Protection to separate the offering of JobBridge schemes from the amount of social welfare received.

Conference also calls on the Department of Social Protection to expand the placements offered to young people to a broader range of areas.

UCD Branch, Dublin Rathdown

7. Conference recognises the value of gaining work experience at the beginning of a young person's career. However, despite the significant reforms carried out by the Tánaiste over recent years, many young people are still being exploited through unpaid and low-paid internships. Such internships place an undue burden on both the young people who partake in them and their families who support them, while also excluding those who cannot afford to work for no pay.

Conference believes that further regulation of this area is urgently required.

Conference calls for the creation of quality paid traineeships to replace all current internships – paid and unpaid, state-sponsored and private sector.

To achieve this, all internships must be reclassified as traineeships and brought in under the umbrella of minimum wage legislation. This will require a broadening of the definition of "trainee" in the legislation, but ensure that the trainee will receive 75% of the national minimum wage rate for the first third of the traineeship, 80% in the second third, and 90% in the final third, where each third period must be at least one month and no more than one year. If the traineeship is less than 3 months in duration, full national minimum wage rates must apply.

These measures will both ensure young people are not being taken advantage of while gaining the experience they need for their future career, and considerably reduce the disadvantage young people from working-class, rural or other disadvantaged backgrounds face when seeking employment in their chosen field.

Celbridge Branch, Kildare North

8. Conference believes that the Christmas Bonus for pensioners be increased to 100% in the next Budget.

Silvermines Branch, Tipperary

9. Conference recognising the lasting harm caused by child poverty, will seek to introduce legislation to require all future governments of Ireland to implement annual measures to reduce the rate by 2% every year until it is less than 10%.

Limerick City Constituency

10. Conference calls for an end to the gender gap which discriminates against older women in access to pensions both private and public. Recent data from the CSO illustrate that approximately only 51% of women have access to pensions. This means that older women are more vulnerable and more likely to experience poverty in old age.

Reasons:

- Many women in low pay work/part time work cannot afford private pensions;
- Disrupted work patterns due to traditional caring role;
- Farm women;
- Women working in a family business;
- The marriage bar;
- A pension system based on male breadwinner.

Conference acknowledges that some steps have been taken to reduce the gap. Farm women can apply to have a separate pension since 2009.

The Homemakers Scheme allows women that stay at home in a carer's role to care for children or incapacitated relative can have these years allowed for pension purposes. However this only applied to women taking up care duties after 1994.

Other women that have a disrupted work record such as those that were forced to cease employment due to the marriage bar and those working in a family business do not have sufficient contributions to access a contributory State pension.

Conference calls on the Homemakers Scheme to be made retrospective to include carers' pre 1994, and also to expand its scope to cover other women such as those outlined above.

Inchicore Branch, Dublin South Central

Communications, Energy & Natural Resources:

11. Energy Policy

Conference recognises the need for Ireland to develop a long-term energy policy that ensures a secure supply of affordable energy to households, communities and businesses. Conference supports actions to tackle energy poverty and ensure reasonable and affordable domestic energy bills.

Conference believes that Irish energy policy must also contribute to international efforts to tackle global warming, including by meeting internationally-agreed targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the promotion of energy efficiency. Conference recognises that investment in renewable energy of various kinds can increase energy security, create jobs in Ireland, and combat global warming.

Conference welcomes the growing public demand for a genuine say in energy policy matters and understands that real concerns have been voiced about energy infrastructure decisions. Conference believes that, while the debate must be properly informed, Government and industry have a responsibility to develop effective ways of involving and listening to the communities that are affected by energy infrastructure development.

Conference believes that these principles should be fully reflected in the energy White Paper currently being prepared by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Central Council

12. Public Service Broadcasting:

Conference supports public service broadcasting, which upholds social and cultural values, underpins broadcasting quality, and supports diversity and democracy. While commercially funded broadcasting plays an important role in our media, Conference believes that public funding remains essential to ensure the survival of public service broadcasting.

Central Council

13. Conference requests that our Labour Representatives in government put a proposal to Cabinet for the abolition of the €160 TV Licence payment. Conference believes that RTÉ takes in substantial revenue in other means such as advertising. Conference further believe that this €160 saving would offer much financial relief to people around the country.

Newport/Ballina Branch, Tipperary

14. Conscious of the fact that in the Republic household electricity prices are 33% higher than the UK and gas prices are 23 % above the UK, Conference calls for Labour in Government to change existing policy in order to reduce energy prices in Ireland in the interests of households, business and job creation. This to be done by reducing subsidies on existing wind farms and stopping any subsidies for future wind farms and promoting economically environmentally efficient energy production led by modern gas fired power plants.”

Maynooth Branch, Kildare North

Amendment:

Conscious of the fact that in the Republic energy prices are high, but equally conscious of the fact that we are fast approaching the point of no return with regard to climate change, Conference calls for Labour in Government to change existing policy in order to ensure a smooth transition to an energy sector which is not dependent on non-renewable fossil fuels and which will meet or exceed Ireland's international commitments to carbon reduction, in the interests of households, business and job creation, future generations of Irish people and our fellow residents of planet earth. This is to be done by developing a comprehensive Labour Party energy policy which is led by renewable energy sources.

Inchicore Branch, Dublin South Central

15. Conference calls on the Party in government to commit, in a meaningful manner, with local communities and state agencies to re-examine the findings and recommend a similar report to the former Department of Energy Ireland Report 'Small-Scale Hydro-Electric Potential of Ireland', 1985, to enable Ireland achieve a balanced plan for 2020 renewable energy obligations, and further to ensure that our communities, both rural and urban can benefit from the introduction of low-head water turbine electricity generation.

Downs/Coralstown Branch, Longford Westmeath

Health & Children:

16. Conference commends the ongoing work of Labour in Government in bringing forward much needed reform of our health service and specifically calls for the speedy implementation of free GP care for all children under 6 and adults over 70. It also welcomes the continuing work in key priority areas for Labour including the review of medical card eligibility, a new national framework for suicide prevention, proposals to extend the remit of HIQA to include private healthcare providers and homecare, the roll out of the National Dementia Strategy and to continue to develop the primary care and mental health infrastructure.

Central Council

17. Conference believes that Community Mental Health Services and Centres should be designated under the Mental Health Act for the purpose of having them inspected by the Mental Health Commission.

Central Council

18. Composite No. 2:

Conference commends the Labour Party for enacting legislation giving effect to the X case judgment after 20 years of inaction by successive governments.

Conference acknowledges that abortion is a day to day reality in Ireland and recognises that several thousand Irish women terminate pregnancies every year. Conference further recognises that the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill applies to only a small number of women seeking terminations.

Conference notes that the constitution and current legislation allows for access to safe legal abortion only for those who have the resources necessary to travel outside the jurisdiction. Conference believes that this inequality in abortion access is unacceptable.

Conference welcomes the recent work by medical and legal experts examining the effects of the 8th amendment on reproductive health and rights commissioned by Labour Women.

Conference endorses the proposals contained in the Labour Women expert advisory report on repeal of the 8th amendment.

Conference calls on the Central Council to include provision for holding a referendum to repeal the 8th amendment in the Labour manifesto for the next general election.

Labour Women

**Fitzgerald/Kearney Branch, Dublin Rathdown Constituency
TCD Thornley/Fitzgerald Branch, , Dublin Rathdown Constituency**

Text of Original Motions for Information:

Conference commends the Labour Party for enacting legislation giving effect to the X case judgment after 20 years of inaction by successive governments.

Conference acknowledges that abortion is a day to day reality in Ireland and recognises that several thousand Irish women terminate pregnancies every year. Conference further recognises that the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Bill applies to only a small number of women seeking terminations.

Conference notes that the constitution and current legislation allows for access to safe legal abortion only for those who have the resources necessary to travel outside the jurisdiction. Conference believes that this inequality in abortion access is unacceptable.

Conference further notes that the 8th amendment prevents legislation allowing termination of pregnancy in cases where there is a serious threat to the health of the mother or in cases of profound foetal abnormality.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to ensure that provision for a referendum to repeal the 8th amendment is included in any Programme for Government in which the we are a party to negotiation.

Labour Women

Amendment:

Delete paragraphs 4 and 5 and insert:

Conference welcomes the recent work by medical and legal experts examining the effects of the 8th amendment on reproductive health and rights commissioned by Labour Women.

Conference endorses the proposals contained in the Labour Women expert advisory report on repeal of the 8th amendment.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to ensure that provision for a referendum to repeal the 8th amendment is included in any programme to government in which we are a party to negotiation.

Fitzgerald/Kearney Branch, Dublin Bay South

Conference notes the work going on within the Party on repeal of the Eight Amendment, and notes further that a group of Party and PLP members are examining the best legal and political strategies to accomplish:

- (a) Repeal of Article 40.3.3 of the Constitution in its entirety;*
- (b) The introduction of detailed legislation providing for the circumstances in which abortion may legally take place.*

In light of this work, Conference calls upon the Party to ensure that the commitment to holding a referendum to repeal Article 40.3.3 would be included in the Labour manifesto for the next election. Conference further calls upon the Party leadership to ensure that this commitment to holding a referendum on repeal of Article 40.3.3 would be a core Party position to be strongly advanced in any negotiations leading to the formation of the next government.

Fitzgerald Kearney Branch, Dublin Bay South

Amendment:

Insert after "further" on line 2 "... the establishment of a Labour Women Commission on Repeal of the Eight Amendment, set up to examine..."

In paragraph 2 line 1 before "Conference calls" insert "... Conference notes and endorses the Report of this Commission. In light of this Report..."

Labour Women

Amendment:

In line 1 insert after "and notes further" delete "...that a group of Party and PLP members are examining" and insert "the establishment of a Labour Women Commission on Repeal of the Eight Amendment, set up to examine..."

In paragraph 3, line 1 delete "In light of this work" and insert "Conference notes and endorses the Report of this Commission. In light of this Report..."

TCD Thornley/Fitzgerald Branch, Dublin Bay South

Conference calls on the Central Council to include in the Labour Party manifesto for the next general election a commitment to holding a referendum to repeal the 8th Amendment of the Constitution.

Dublin Rathdown Constituency

Conference reaffirms its abortion policy of supporting a woman's right to choose.

In list of this, Conference calls upon the Central Council to include provision for holding a referendum to repeal Article 40.3.3 of Bunreacht na hÉireann in the Labour manifesto for the next election.

TCD Thornley/Fitzgerald Branch, Dublin Bay South

19. Conference recognises the contribution made by Nursing Homes in the care of the elderly.

Conference also recognise that this care is not always appropriate but can put huge stress on families as they struggle to meet the cost which can be as high as €1,200 per week.

Conference calls on Minister Kathleen Lynch to set up a pilot project, a community enterprise, not for profit "Community Care Home" within a parish catchment area, thereby enabling the elderly remain within their communities surrounded and cherished by their family, friends and neighbours, offering in effect the best care at an affordable price. This pilot will be independently assessed on quality of care and cost effectiveness criteria with a view to adopting the model nationally, before the only option is the privately run for profit model.

Fethard Branch, Tipperary

20. Conference notes:

The Labour Party's adoption of a policy of Universal Health Insurance (UHI) in 2002.

Conference affirms:

Its continued opposition to any policy that would promote the privatisation of health care services in Ireland.

Conference recognises:

That Universal Health Care (UHC) can be achieved through a diversity of mechanisms including: a free-at-the-point-of-use system funded through general taxation; through the creation of a single state owned health insurer; or through a universal health insurance (UHI) system.

Conference believes:

That a UHI system of multiple competing privately owned insurers would be expensive for patients, would exist only to deliver profits to insurance companies and would promote over-treatment.

Conference calls for:

The Government not to implement a UHI system of multiple competing privately owned insurers.

Conference further calls for:

The Policy Committee to explore other options for the delivery of Universal Health Care (UHC) in advance of the next general election.

Ranelagh Branch, Dublin Bay South

21. Conference notes that there are approximately 10,000-12,000 people suffering with M.E./C.F.S. (Myalgia Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). This is a serious and potentially disabling condition with up to a quarter of those affected being housebound or bedbound and depending on carers. Currently there is no Medical Consultant for this condition in the country, and this results in no centre of excellence for this condition for Irish people.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to actively promote the development of a Consultant post for M.E./C.F.S. sufferers in the country.

Greystones Branch, Wicklow/East Carlow

22. Conference recognises the creation of the Murphy Commission to Inquire into Mother and Baby Homes, but urges the government to ensure a 32 counties examination occurs in cooperation with the Northern Ireland authorities. The inclusion of all establishments involved in the incarnation of unmarried women and girls and the forced adoption of their children will cover county homes, Magdalene Laundries, Bethany Homes, State and private maternity hospitals; private nursing homes; infant hospitals; State and private adoption agencies.

A 32 county remit for any Commission of Investigation is essential to determine the extent of cross border traffic of both mothers and children and the complicity of both governments and various religious congregations in any illegal traffic and to ensure that the cost of any redress measures are born fairly by various groups and not unfairly laid at the door of the Irish taxpayers.

Malahide Branch, Fingal

Education:

23. Conference welcomes the recent review of apprenticeships in Ireland, and the establishment of a new Apprenticeship Council in November 2014.

Conference recognises the need to dramatically increase the number and type of apprenticeships available in Ireland, and the value of such employment-based training as an opportunity for many of our young people.

Conference notes that the Apprenticeship Council has recently issued a call for proposals for new types of apprenticeship, and that reviews of the existing trades are ongoing.

In line with the implementation plan of the review group on apprenticeships, Conference calls on Government to provide the necessary funding for the creation of new apprenticeships, to include, traditional and non-traditional areas such as hospitality and home care, during 2015, and to ensure that the first groups of new apprenticeships are made available to young people by the end of 2015.

Central Council

24. Conference endorses the government plan to establish a Technological University of the South East; urges the Institutes of Technology in the South East and the Department of Education and Skills to advance this urgently needed project which will include campuses in Waterford, Carlow and Wexford.

Wexford Branch, Wexford

25. Conference in recognising a right of access to third level education and the limitations of the student grants scheme will seek to introduce a state sponsored Student Loans Scheme designed to assist students with registration fees and maintenance costs.

Thomond Branch, Limerick City

26. Conference calls on Minister Jan O'Sullivan to bring to Cabinet a revised scheme of income/means criteria which takes account of the financial and other assets of the applicant and his/her parents, to replace the existing income only based third level grants scheme.

Dublin Mid-West Constituency

Environment, Community & Local Government:

27. Conference:

- notes that economic and employment recovery has given rise to intense pressures in the housing market, especially in urban areas, that requires aggressive and consistent action by Labour in Government;
- condemns the lack of investment in social housing during the Fianna Fáil-PD-Green Government and notes that Labour in Government have consistently prioritised major social housing programmes from the 1940s to date;
- commends the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government, Alan Kelly, and the Labour Parliamentary Party for committing to €3.8 billion investment in social housing over six years and calls for its implementation throughout 2015.

Central Council

28. Conference:

- notes that the current shortage of supply of housing supply is creating significant pressures on the private rental sector, especially in urban areas and on homelessness services, with too many families having to avail of emergency accommodation;
- reaffirms Labour's commitment to ending long-term homelessness by 2016, and notes that the 50% housing allocations policy instituted by Minister Alan Kelly for Dublin local authorities will see over 500 vulnerable people get homes in the first six months of 2015; and
- reaffirms Labour's commitment to implementing both the Homelessness Action Plan of December 2015 and the long term homelessness strategy as introduced by Minister Jan O'Sullivan.

Central Council

29. Conference:

- commends the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, for recently publishing the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015, Ireland's first major legislation in relation to responding to Climate Change;
- endorses the Bill's aim of setting out a national objective of transitioning to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy in the period up to and including the year 2050 and, in doing so, gives a solid statutory foundation to the necessary robust institutional arrangements to achieve that target, and;
- urges early enactment of the Bill.

Central Council

30. Conference:

- notes that Labour have protected housing supports throughout the fiscal crisis to the extent that €500 million a year of Exchequer funds is being spent on supporting tenants in the private rental sector and this accounts for half the revenue of the entire rental sector;
- notes that Labour in government were the first to extend housing supports to low-income working families through the Housing Assistance Payment;
- further notes that Labour in Government will bring forward proposals to regulate and professionalise the private rental sector in Ireland to bring it in line with other European countries. This includes the introduction of a deposit protection scheme, greater security of tenure for tenants in the private rental sector and a regime of rent certainty that curbs excessive and unaffordable rent increases.

Central Council

31. Conference notes that one in five households in Ireland now live in the private rented sector.

Conference further notes that approximately one-third of all private rented households receive state support to pay their rent under the rent supplement scheme

Conference notes with concern the difficulties that households are experiencing in maintaining and access private rented accommodation due to rapidly rising rents, especially in urban centres.

Conference further notes with concern that one family per day is becoming homeless in the Dublin region due to economic difficulties and that up to 200 homeless families are accommodated in private hotels.

Conference welcomes the strong priority given by the Tánaiste and Labour Party Leader Joan Burton TD to address the housing shortage that has given rise to these difficulties.

Conference further welcomes the Social Housing Strategy announced by Minister Alan Kelly TD to deliver 35,000 social homes and 75,000 more secure homes in the private rented sector by 2020 and the large capital investment package put in place to support its rollout.

Conference calls for a national strategy to address the ongoing difficulties in the private rented sector that includes:

- Stronger security of tenure for tenants living in private rented accommodation
- Rent certainty by means of regulating rents to curb excessive rent increases and profiteering
- Increased rent supplement limits to reflect real market rents
- Expediting the national rollout of the Housing Assistance Payment
- A certification scheme that puts the responsibility on landlords to prove that their property complies with legal minimum standards.

Dalkey/Killiney Branch, Dun Laoghaire

32. Conference calls on the Labour Party in government to institute an effective form of rent control, to deal with the rising numbers of people becoming homeless, similar to that long in force in other European and North American regions where rent increases are capped at around 16% in any 3-year period.

Galway City Central Branch, Galway West

33. Conference calls upon Labour in government to introduce legislation for regulation of private rented accommodation to provide security of tenure for tenants of private homes, recognising the problem of families being made homeless through unaffordable rents.

Sandyford Branch, Dublin Rathdown

34. Conference calls on the government to introduce legislation outlawing discrimination by landlords against recipients of rent allowance when advertising for rent and granting tenancies in residential property units.

Bray East Branch, Wicklow/East Carlow

35. Conference supports the introduction of emergency legislation to freeze rents within the private rental sector for a two year period.

Tallaght East Branch, Dublin South West

36. Conference welcomes the €3.8bn social housing plan which restores the State to a central role in the provision of social housing.

Conference deplores the privatisation of social need over the last fifteen years.

Conference urges acceleration of implementation of the strategy on homelessness.

Conference requests that the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government examine the difficulties that have come to light in respect of Housing Finance Agency mortgages and to bring forward proposals to alleviate the legacy impositions for some homeowners in this category.

Dublin South West Constituency

37. Conference notes that more and more young people and families are being excluded from secure housing due to rent increases.

Recognises the efforts being made by this government to address the housing crisis in Ireland with a €3.8bn investment into new social housing.

Conference agrees to ask the Tánaiste and the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to work together to introduce a system of rent regulation across the country similar to the model that currently operates in Germany. This would include making illegal the ability of landlords to increase rent by 20% over 3 years and the introduction of a local price level so that rents are affordable and consistent across all parts of the country.

Booterstown Branch, Dun Laoghaire

38. Conference calls on the government to utilise the financial resources of the Credit Union movement to invest in social housing.

Credit unions have large amounts of funds held on deposit. Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) should provide a new outlet for credit unions to invest their surplus funds, while earning a fair return on the investments. In this way credit unions will continue to survive and thrive and fulfil the economic and social objectives of the movement and their communities.

Sligo/ Leitrim Constituency

39. Conference commends Minister Alan Kelly, T.D. on the introduction of a much needed social housing strategy.

Conference welcomes the government's acknowledgement that a diverse and comprehensive base of social housing provision is required so as to meet a broad and pressing spectrum of housing needs.

Conference notes the employment potential of the proposed housing strategy.

Conference urges the government to insert a social clause in the public procurement of the housing strategy so as to ensure that a certain quota of jobs is reserved for young people, apprenticeships and long-term unemployed construction workers.

Ballyfermot Branch, Dublin South Central

40. Conference notes the landmark investment in social housing made by Labour in government.

Conference also notes the publication of 'Construction 2020' and the 'Social Housing Strategy' to set a path away from developer-led housing policy.

Conference calls on Labour in government to establish a 'Public Housing Institute' capable of attracting finance without adding to the national debt (NESC 2014) to fund high-quality social housing developments in partnership with local authorities and approved housing boards.

Edenmore/Ayrfield Branch, Dublin Bay North

41. Conference recognises the positive difference Labour has made in government, particularly Minister Kelly T.D. in his dealings with the water and housing issues.

Portroe Branch, Tipperary

42. Conference commends the new housing strategy as announced by Minister Alan Kelly.

Conference welcomes the return to new building for social housing and the commitment to work towards the elimination of the housing list.

Killarney Branch, Kerry

43. Conference calls for the urgent introduction of legislation to regulate the voluntary housing sector.

Sean O'Casey Branch, Dublin Central

44. ***Composite No. 3:***

Conference proposes that a referendum be held to ensure that Irish Water be held in public ownership.

***Dublin North West Constituency
Coolock/MickMulligan Branch, Dublin Bay North***

Text of Original Motions for Information:

Conference proposes that a constitutional referendum be held to ensure that Irish Water be held in public ownership.

Dublin North West Constituency

Conference calls on the government to bring in legislation to ensure that a referendum be held in the event of this or future governments attempt to privatise Irish Water.

Coolock/Mick Mulligan Branch, Dublin Bay North

Addendum:

The term “Irish Water” in this context includes any entity which may, in the future, take over the functions currently assigned to Irish Water. Conference calls on the Central Council to include provision for such a referendum in the Labour Party Manifesto for the next General Election.

Donabate Branch, Dublin Fingal

45. Conference calls upon the PLP to take all measures necessary to ensure that Irish Water remains in public ownership and control.

Conference while accepting the need to maintain and develop our water supply and waste water systems, insists that water charges be operated in a fair, reasonable and equitable manner. This to include fair charges that are affordable for all.

Wicklow/East Carlow Constituency

46. Conference calls for legislation to be introduced to strengthen the regulation of waste management services.

North Dock/East Wall Branch, Dublin Central

47. Conference notes the continuing problems of householders in obtaining flood insurance even where substantial remedial work has been carried out and calls on the government to ensure that the insurance industry provide a quotation to householders on request.

Dublin Central Constituency

48. Conference notes the radical changes to Ireland’s local government structures arising out of the “Putting People First” report and the Local Government Reform Act, 2014.

Conference believes that these changes were carried out against a background of severe economic distress and a perceived cost-saving benefit to the State.

Conference also believe that the rationalisation agenda was based on the presumption that larger councils would deliver more cost-effective local services.

Conference calls on the Party Executive Board and Parliamentary Party to seek a comprehensive review of the impact of the abolition of urban councils and their impact on the social and political well-being of our towns and cities.

Conference calls for a change to council structures so that the town and city once again become the primary focus of local government based on the recommendations of the Barrington Local Government Reorganisation and Reform Report of 1991, and calls on the Central Council to include this review and policy change to be reflected in Labour's manifesto for the next general election.

Charlie Smyth Branch, Carlow/Kilkenny

Addendum:

Conference calls for the local property tax to be upgraded to a local Council tax, each Council setting its own rate, applicable to all households.

Local service provision being returned to Councils including household waste and litter.

John O'Leary Branch, Wexford

Addendum:

Conference reaffirms its support for the introduction of a Directly Elected Mayor for Dublin and calls on the Central Council to include provision for same in the next General Election Manifesto.

Donnybrook Branch, Dublin Bay South

49. Conference calls on the Labour Party to return power of local government and restore town councils to towns about 10,000 (ten thousand), and a provision that on reaching such a population, all towns would have town council status.

James Connolly/Killarney Branch, Kerry

50. Conference notes with concern the increasing effects of man-made climate change and global warming, and proposes a stronger focus on sustainable economic growth policies, such as those encompassed in the theory of 'degrowth', rather than a single-minded focus on a model based around resource depletion and growth at all costs.

Santry/Whitehall Branch, Dublin North West

Addendum:

And Conference resolves that the Labour Party develops a credible and comprehensive policy to address critical climate change issues within the next 12 months.

Deansgrange Branch, Dun Laoghaire

51. Conference notes the dramatic expansion of 'new Irish' communities in Ireland over the past two decades.

Conference further notes that a considerable proportion of immigrants to Ireland have recently acquired Irish citizenship or are in the process of doing so.

Conference believes that 'new Irish' residents who have recently acquired citizenship must be fully included within the political process.

Conference therefore calls upon Labour Party Ministers and the Parliamentary Labour Party to take appropriate measures to ensure that:

- New citizens are automatically included on the Electoral Register by the Department of the Environment;
- Any voter who continue to be registered as a Local voter following acquisition of Irish citizenship is allowed to cast their ballot on production of an Irish passport;
- Conference further calls upon relevant Ministers to bring forward appropriate amending legislation to the Electoral Acts to ensure that such rules are in place for the next General Election.

Dublin West Constituency

Political Reform:

52. Conference notes that the Labour Party has a proud record of major political and institutional reform, including the introduction of the Ethics in Government Act, 1997, and the Freedom of Information Act, 1997.

Conference further notes that the Programme for Government envisages a far-reaching programme of political reform.

Conference welcomes the important reforms brought forward by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, TD, to restore the Freedom of Information Act, deliberately gutted by Fianna Fáil; to introduce a badly needed Whistle-blowers' Charter and to provide for Registration of Lobbyists.

Conference believes that radical institutional and political reform is essential to restore public faith in politics.

Conference calls upon the Labour Party in Government to legislate for the following short-term priorities in 2015:

- The election of the Ceann Comhairle by secret ballot of Dáil Éireann following the election of the new Dáil;
- The election of the Chairpersons of key parliamentary committees, including the Public Accounts Committee, European and Foreign Affairs Committees; by secret ballot from which the party whip is excluded;
- Introduction of a statutory requirement for senior officials such as the Secretary General of Government departments; Director of the Central Bank and the Financial Regulator to brief the relevant Oireachtas Committees annually;
- Removal of de facto 'leader's allowances' (currently paid as an unvouched payment of over €40,000 per annum) from all Independent TDs and Senators;
- An extension of the power of the Standards in Public Offices Commission to allow the Commission to initiate enquiries without receiving complaints from members of the public.

Clonsilla Branch, Dublin West

53. Conference welcomes the introduction of a series of reforms by the Labour Party in government, notably the enhanced Freedom of Information, Whistle-blower and Political Funding Gender Quota legislation, the X case legislation, reform of the public sector, educational reforms and political reform with increased Dáil sittings, new Banking Inquiry and reduction in the number of TDs.

Conference urges Labour to champion political reform in its remaining term, acting on the Constitutional Convention reports and will of the people as expressed recently in the Seanad Referendum, ballot box and on the streets. Labour has always sought a progressive Ireland. That Ireland rests on having a progressive, efficient, effective political system and one which holds any government, especially a future populist government, to account for its actions and inactions.

Naas Branch, Kildare North

54. Conference acknowledges the ground breaking achievements in political reform involved in the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act; the Protected Disclosures Act; the Ombudsman Act; the Regulation of Lobbyist Act; the guidelines on State Board appointment; the Open Government Partnership Initiative and the Open Data Project.

Conference looks forward to the further strengthening and consolidation of ethics legislation which will build confidence in our political and administrative systems.

Wexford Constituency

55. Conference calls on Labour in government to introduce a bill to ensure the rights of adoptees to access their original birth certificates.

Kilcummin Branch, Kerry

56. Conference calls on the Labour Party to examine the right of single and separated fathers with a view to upgrading these in light of today's circumstances, and report back to Conference 2016.

Nenagh Branch, Tipperary

Finance, Public Expenditure & Jobs:

57. Conference congratulates the government and the Labour Ministers for the remarkable turnaround in the public finances since Labour took office which has seen the annual deficit fall from 30% in 2010 to less than 3% as set out in Budget 2015.

Central Council

58. Conference recognises that increased debt costs money to service that could be spent on public services and welcomes the reduction in the debt GDP ratio as further evidence that the country is on the path to a sustainable economic future.

Central Council

59. Recognising the regressive character of the Universal Social Charge (USC), Conference resolves that the Labour Party will campaign for its abolition and replacement by a more progressive revenue raising mechanism. Moreover, Conference calls on the Parliamentary Labour Party to insist that progress towards abolition of the USC is prioritised in the deployment of any resources which may be available for tax alleviation in Budget 2016. This should be done in such a manner as to ensure that PAYE taxpayers on incomes up to the standard rate band threshold benefit no less than those on higher incomes in absolute terms. Conference also calls for the objective of abolishing the USC and replacing it by a more progressive revenue raising mechanism to be an element of the Party's manifesto in the next General Election.

SIPTU Trade Union

Amendment:

To delete everything after "Recognising the regressive character" and insert "of some aspects of the Universal Social Charge (USC), Conference resolves that the Labour Party will campaign for it to be reformed so as to render it a more progressive revenue raising mechanism. Moreover, Conference calls on the Parliamentary Labour Party to insist that progress towards abolition of the USC is prioritised in the deployment of any resources which may be available for tax alleviation in Budget 2016. This should be done in such a manner as to ensure that PAYE taxpayers on incomes up to the standard rate bank threshold benefit no less than those on higher incomes in absolute terms. Conference also calls for the objective of reforming the USC thus rendering it a more progressive revenue raising mechanism to be an element of the Party's manifesto in the next General Election.

Mullingar Branch, Longford Westmeath

60. Conference commends the government's efforts to reduce the burden of USC on low paid workers and urges the party to commit to reducing the burden further, specifically for low paid workers as economic conditions allow.

Killorglin Branch/Kerry

61. Conference call for a substantial decrease in USC.

Thurles Branch, Tipperary

62. Conference reaffirms its commitment to a progressive tax system and to universal access to healthcare and education as the foundation of a socially just society.

Conference further commits the Party to actively campaign on these issues.

Galway West Constituency

63. Conference calls on the government to:

1. Reinforce the progressive nature of the Irish tax system;
2. Avoid tax cuts that run counter to the need to provide proper funding for vital public services such as health and education;
3. Shift the focus from the taxation of incomes to the taxation of wealth and property;
4. Implement an effective natural resources tax;
5. Develop and implement an incentive structure for the progressive development of renewable energies for national and local economic development gain.

Gralton/South Leitrim Branch, Sligo/Leitrim

64. Conference expresses its total opposition to the ongoing policy of outsourcing and privatisation of our public and community services.

Our public and community sectors have seen widespread use of contractors who are clearly non-compliant with the most basic of employee conditions for its staff and the quality of the service provided fails to come up to any acceptable standards which would justify a value for money test.

The current policy to outsource many of our public and community services has resulted in the widespread dismantling of supports for those dependent on these services, including those in marginalised and disadvantaged areas of our society, and has also resulted in a sharp reduction in the terms and conditions of those working in the provision of services.

Conference calls on the government to ensure, at the very least, that any consideration of our public and community requirements includes a proper value for money assessment and an insistence that the supplier adheres to industry standard terms and conditions for its workers.

Conference further calls on the government to ensure where State funding is given to an organisation, that they adhere to best practice in industrial relations and will engage with State Agencies such as the Labour Relations Commission and the Labour Court where specifically requested to do so by the staff concerned and their representative unions.

Firhouse Branch, Dublin South West

65. Conference welcomes the restoration of the minimum wage and the establishment of the Low Pay Commission by the Labour Party in government.

Conference notes that low or stagnant wage rates have emerged as a pervasive feature in various sectors of the economy.

Conference believes that the increasingly strong economic recovery should be reflected in higher wages particularly for low-paid employees, to restore a decent standard of living throughout society and pave the way for the achievement of shared prosperity.

Conference further believes that tax reductions should be targeted towards low and middle-income workers but acknowledges that tax reductions alone will not be sufficient to achieve a living wage.

Conference calls for early and decisive action by the Labour Party to achieve a living wage as a cornerstone of government policy.

Castleknock Branch, Dublin West

66. Conference calls for implementation of a living wage as defined recently by the Party Leader and Tánaiste, Joan Burton, T.D. Unless income is at the level of a living wage, citizens should not be asked to pay for new taxes such as LPT or Water charge.

Ennis Branch, Clare

67. Conference welcomes the historic progress made in restoring Ireland's economic fortunes; the restored economic growth and growth in employment. Conference calls for the focus of next year's Budget to improve living standards for low and middle income earners and to tackle social exclusion.

Gorey Branch, Wexford

68. Conference recognising the importance of Collective Bargaining legislation to the Labour Party and the commitments on same contained in the Programme for Government, calls on the Executive Board to use its powers to convene a Special Delegate conference of the Labour Party, no later than two months after the commencement of the Dáil Summer Recess 2015, to debate the issue of Labour withdrawing from government, if the legislation on employees' rights to benefit from Collective Bargaining, which is envisaged in the Programme for Government has not been enacted by then.

Navan Road Branch, Dublin Central

69. ***Composite No. 4:***

Conference is concerned that the TTIP agreement is primarily one of deregulation that is targeted at easing regulation which protects labour rights', the environment and health and safety. The agreement has the potential to transfer power from domestic governments to multinational corporations resulting in government having no jurisdiction over domestic policy, regulation and fiscal decisions.

Conference calls upon Labour in government to approach the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement in a manner that puts shared prosperity and sustainable social economic development at the centre of the agreement. The TTIP should be negotiated in the public interest rather than in the interests of private investors.

The TTIP must:

Deeply integrate legislatures and social partners in the negotiating and implementation process as well as in the monitoring process after the agreement is in place;

Ensure sustainable development by requiring parties to protect fundamental labour rights and the environment and by including recourse to dispute settlement and trade sanctions if necessary;

Preserve the right to legislate and regulate in the public interest;

Protect the privacy of personal communications and information.

TTIP must not:

- Include an investor-to-state dispute settlement mechanism;
- Impede or deter financial services laws or regulations or interfere with attempts to protect against systemic financial risk;
- Undermine access to affordable medicines, medical devices or surgical procedures in any way;
- Undermine the place of work principle that must be applied from the beginning to all posted worker;
- Interfere with immigration reform efforts.

Conference does not support the lowering of any EU standards in regards to the environment, food safety, animal welfare and workers' rights.

While Conference supports the EU's efforts in job creation there are serious questions about the job creation claims being made around TTIP.

Conference is concerned that TTIP may jeopardise the health and wellbeing of those living in the EU and therefore calls on the EU to use these negotiations to encourage the US to raise its standards rather than lowering its own.

Conference affirms that while it does not oppose free trade in principle, TTIP does not amount to a traditional free trade agreement but rather threatens to constitute an historic infringement upon democratic governance.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to oppose the treaty unless these concerns are addressed.

A core element of the draft agreement is based on I.S.D.A. (Investor-State Dispute Settlement) which allows companies to seek redress, through an arbitration tribunal, if they feel that their investor rights have been violated. U.N. Reports say that U.S. companies have sued nation States 12 times in the last 15 years under similar free-trade agreements.

In view of the above, Conference commits to opposing undemocratic I.S.D.S. clauses in the final T.T.I.P. trade agreement.

***Labour Trade Unionists
Cabra & District Branch, Dublin Central
Donabate Branch, Dublin Fingal***

Text of Original Motions for Information:

Conference is concerned that the TTIP agreement is primarily one of deregulation that is targeted at easing regulation which protects labour rights', the environment and health and safety. The agreement has the potential to transfer power from domestic governments to multinational corporations resulting in government having no jurisdiction over domestic policy, regulation and fiscal decisions.

Conference calls upon Labour in government to approach the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement in a manner that puts shared prosperity and sustainable social economic development at the centre of the agreement. The TTIP should be negotiated in the public interest rather than in the interests of private investors.

The TTIP must:

- *Deeply integrate legislatures and social partners in the negotiating and implementation process as well as in the monitoring process after the agreement is in place;*

- *Ensure sustainable development by requiring parties to protect fundamental labour rights and the environment and by including recourse to dispute settlement and trade sanctions if necessary;*
- *Preserve the right to legislate and regulate in the public interest;*
- *Protect the privacy of personal communications and information.*

TTIP must not:

- *Include an investor-to-state dispute settlement mechanism;*
- *Impede or deter financial services laws or regulations or interfere with attempts to protect against systemic financial risk;*
- *Undermine access to affordable medicines, medical devices or surgical procedures in any way;*
- *Undermine the place of work principle that must be applied from the beginning to all posted worker;*
- *Interfere with immigration reform efforts.*

Labour Trade Unionists

Conference notes with concern the ongoing negotiations between the European Union and the United States in relation to the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership.

Conference does not support the lowering of any EU standards in regards to the environment, food safety, animal welfare and workers' rights.

While Conference supports the EU's efforts in job creation there are serious questions about the job creation claims being made around TTIP.

Conference is concerned that TTIP may jeopardise the health and wellbeing of those living in the EU and therefore calls on the EU to use these negotiations to encourage the US to raise its standards rather than lowering its own.

Conference affirms that while it does not oppose free trade in principle, TTIP does not amount to a traditional free trade agreement but rather threatens to constitute an historic infringement upon democratic governance.

Conference calls on the Labour Party to oppose the treaty unless these concerns are addressed.

Cabra & District Branch, Dublin Central

Conference notes that negotiations on the world's largest bilateral trade agreement (T.T.I.P – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) are well advanced. This agreement has the potential to provide a huge economic stimulus in the U.S. and Europe by encouraging investment and creating jobs.

However, a core element of the draft agreement is based on I.S.D.A. (Investor-State Dispute Settlement) which allows companies to seek redress, through an arbitration tribunal, if they feel that their investor rights have been violated. U.N. Reports say that U.S. companies have sued nation States 12 times in the last 15 years under similar free-trade agreements.

In view of the above, Conference commits to opposing undemocratic I.S.D.S. clauses in the final T.T.I.P. trade agreement.

Donabate Branch, Fingal

70. Conference notes with concern the uneven nature of the recovery in the regions.

Conference therefore calls for the setting up of an IDA special task force for Tralee and environs as a matter of urgency to address the need for jobs and investment in the town.

Tralee Rock Street Branch, Kerry

71. Conference notes with concern the unsatisfactory nature of the recovery in the regions, and in particular in Tipperary Town.

Conference further notes that Tipperary Town and surrounding area should be great places in which to live; work; and to raise families, in a safe and healthy environment.

Conference therefore calls on the government to set up a task force for Tipperary Town as a matter of urgency to address the need for the creation of jobs and investment in the town.

Tipperary/Cashel Branch, Tipperary

Culture, Justice & Equality:

72. Conference believes that the commemoration of the 1916 Rising does not belong to the government, a political party, or a particular section of society, but to all the people of Ireland.

Conference further notes the efforts of the Minister of State for New Communities, Culture and Equality to ensure that the State commemorations to mark the centenary of the Rising reflect the ethos of our Republic.

Conferences urges that this all-inclusive, reflective and forward-looking ethos be continued in the planning of the remainder of the Decade of Commemorations.

Central Council

73. Conference notes that almost 4,500 people, awaiting their Refugee application, are currently living in Direct Provision Centres including almost 1,800 children.

Conference believes that the key issue is the length of time people are spending in these centres awaiting the processing of their application.

Conference commends the establishment of a Working Group to examine the Direct Provision system and calls on the relevant Ministers to have the issue regarding the length of time applicants are spending in these centres addressed.

Central Council

74. In the context of the Programme for a National Government 2011-2016, and in the context of the rationalisation of the Courts system, Conference calls on Labour in government to bring forward legislation establishing a new Court of First Instance by merging the jurisdiction of the District Court with the Circuit Court jurisdiction into a new court jurisdiction to be called the County Court. The new County Court would sit in County Council and City Council areas at venues to be determined by population criteria. There would be a right of appeal from the County Court to the High Court.

Sandymount Branch, Dublin Bay South

75. Conference calls on Minister Aodhán O'Riordáin, with responsibility for mental health, people with disabilities and older people, to implement Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities during the lifetime of this government.

Clare Constituency

Rural Affairs, Transport & Fisheries:

76. Conference recognises the importance of the implementation of the 35 recommendations of the CEDRA Report for Rural Ireland. Conference acknowledges the efforts made by the Minister of State for Rural Affairs, with special responsibility for the implementation of the CEDRA report, in this regard and; acknowledges her efforts in establishing Recommendation 3.2.2 for the development of Rural Economic Development Zones in the South-east and Midlands. Conference calls for the immediate roll out of the REDZ areas in the identified areas.

Central Council

77. Conference recognises the Minister's efforts in establishing Rural Economic Development Zones in areas around the midlands and South-east. Conference calls for a moratorium on the closure of all rural schools, post offices, community centres, and Garda stations until the Rural Economic Development Zones have been established in selected areas.

Central Council

78. Conference recognises the vital role rural broadband plays as an economic driver in rural areas for business development and job creation. Conference calls on the Minister of State for Rural Affairs to fully support the roll-out and implementation of the National Broadband Plan (NBP).

Central Council

79. Conference urges the immediate implementation of Labour's strategy for rural development, both economic and social. Conference recognise the following aspects need special focus, namely broadband, integrated rural transport and low cost school transport, subsidised early childhood/childcare centres. Resources such as post offices, Garda stations, community centres and schools should be part of an integrated plan. Addressing these issues will further the aims of reducing isolation, rural poverty and enable human skill development.

Moycullen/Oughterard Branch, Galway West

80. Conference notes the need for adequate road transport infrastructure to facilitate balanced regional development.

Conference further notes the continued traffic problems in Adare, Co. Limerick (N21) and Macroom, Co. Cork (N22) and the arising accessibility issues for County Kerry.

Conference calls on the government and NRA to prioritise the respective Macroom and Adare By-Pass schemes as a matter of urgency.

Causeway Branch, Kerry

81. Conference notes that wild Atlantic salmon are in danger of extinction. Conference further notes that they are protected under the European Habitats Directive (Annex 1+2).

Conference calls on the government to ensure that no caged salmon fish farms be allowed off the coast of Clare, its surrounds and inland.

North West Clare Branch/Clare

International Affairs & Northern Ireland:

82. Composite No. 5:

Conference welcomes the vote of Dáil Éireann to recognise the State of Palestine and calls on Labour in government to follow the mandate from Dáil Éireann to ensure government recognition for the State of Palestine. Furthermore, Conference supports the Palestinians endeavours to hold Israel to account for their actions through the International Criminal Court.

Oxmantown Branch, Dublin Central
Sean O'Casey Branch, Dublin Central
Clondalkin Branch, Dublin Mid-West
Clontarf Branch, Dublin Bay North
Galway City East Branch, Galway West

Text of Original Motions for Information:

Conference supports the two state solution for the Middle East; calls on the government to give immediate recognition to the State of Palestine; and further calls on Israel to end its illegal occupation.

Oxmantown Branch, Dublin Central

Addendum:

Conference welcomes the vote of Dáil Éireann to recognise the State of Palestine and calls on Labour in government to follow the mandate from Dáil Éireann to ensure government recognition for the State of Palestine. Furthermore, Conference supports the Palestinians endeavours to hold Israel to account for their actions through the International Criminal Court.

Sean O'Casey Branch, Dublin Central

Conference calls on Dáil Éireann to recognise Palestine as a Sovereign State.

Clondalkin Branch, Dublin Mid-West

Conference calls on the Irish government to recognise Palestine as an independent State.

Clontarf Branch, Dublin Bay North

Conference acknowledges the existence and reality of the State of Palestine, and will seek to have that status officially recognised by the Irish government.

Galway City East Branch, Galway West

83. Conference calls on the Government through the European Council to take all possible action to show solidarity with the people of Syria.

Mount Merrion/Kilmacud/Foxrock Branch, Dublin Rathdown

84. Conference commends the work done by the government through the Tánaiste and the Minister for North-South Co-Operation on securing broad political agreement in Northern Ireland in the Stormont House Agreement.

Central Council

Party Affairs:

85. That Conference resolves to amend the Party Constitution as follows:

Standing Order 2(2) for Party Conference is amended by the addition of the following sentence: "The Conference Agenda shall include a section for non-contentious motions that may be adopted without debate, and a unit wishing to submit a motion shall indicate whether it wishes its motion to be placed in this section of the Agenda."

Central Council

86. That Conference resolves to amend the Party Constitution as follows: Standing Order 2(9) for Party Conference is amended by the addition of the following after "negative that resolution": "or which is in substance repetitive of that resolution".

Central Council

Note for information on Motion No. 86:

The relevant provision would then read as follows:

9. *Where the Conference has by resolution declared its policy on any matter, no motion concerning that matter and which seeks, whether directly or by implication, to negative that resolution or which is in substance repetitive of that resolution shall appear on the Final Agenda for a period of 3 years from the time that the resolution was passed, unless the motion is, in the opinion of the Executive Board, of urgent importance.*

87. That Conference resolves to amend the Party Constitution as follows:

Standing Order 2 for Party Conference is amended by the addition of the following after paragraph 10: "11. Where the CAC, with the agreement of the Central Council, decides that Conference should have a special focus on a particular policy theme, it may refer any motion submitted by a unit to the Policy Committee, which shall prepare a policy paper on the area in question, and the policy paper rather than the individual motions shall appear on the agenda for debate either in plenary or in a Conference committee or workshop."

Central Council

88. That Conference resolves to amend the Party Constitution as follows:

Standing Order 7 for Party Conference is amended by the addition of the following after paragraph 9: "10. The CAC, with the agreement of the Central Council, may structure debate on motions so that motions relating to specific identified policy areas are debated and voted upon in a Conference committee or workshop, and any resolutions thus passed are referred to a plenary session prior to the end of Conference for formal adoption without debate. The chair of such a committee or workshop shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the agreement of the CAC and these standing orders shall apply to such debate with any necessary modifications."

Central Council

89. Conference calls on the party leadership to engage fully with our sister parties in Europe and the Party of European Socialists to further a social recovery Europe-wide benefitting Ireland. Such a strategy should deal with issues of debt, investment, growth and jobs and illustrate the collective ability of progressive forces to deliver real benefits for European citizens.

Conference notes the positive initiatives taken by newly elected social democratic leaders in many European countries in recent times and urges the party to co-ordinate and work closely with like minded forces to ensure the EU institutions focus on a social recovery.

Conference finally requests the party to put in place mechanisms to ensure our voice is heard in Brussels particularly due to the absence of Party MEPs.

Central Council

90. Conference notes that Labour Disability has drafted an Accessibility Policy document, which aims to ensure that all Labour Party members with disabilities can partake in all Labour Party activities;

Conference is aware that Party members may have difficulties in accessing Party activities due to inaccessibility issues and wishes to have this addressed;

Conference therefore calls for the adoption of an Accessibility Policy having considered the proposals of Labour Disability.

Central Council

91. On the assumption that the current government runs its full term, Conference calls for a series of regional meetings, following the very successful model of the leadership hustings, to be completed prior to the next general election to consider the views of the membership on election and post-election strategy.

Skerries Branch, Fingal

92. Conference resolves that any future government of which the Labour Party is a party will constitute a Department of Labour. Being a government department headed by a Labour Cabinet Minister, responsible for industrial relations, apprenticeships and training, minimum wage rates and conditions of employment, and the protection and enhancement of employment legislation and workers' rights.

Fingal Constituency Council

93. Conference considers that the 2011 Programme for Government limits what Labour can achieve for its supporters and voters. Therefore Conference now declares that any prospective programme for government after the next election would need to radically progress Labour policies grounded in our democratic socialist aims and views, further than attempted in the 2011 programme.

Rathmines Branch, Dublin Bay South

94. In order to offer voters in Northern Ireland a choice beyond the old politics of Orange and Green, Conference calls on the Irish Labour Party and the British Labour Party to jointly organise in Northern Ireland by forming the Northern Irish Labour Party. Conference acknowledges that the SDLP should be part of any process in which the Labour Party begins to organise in the North of Ireland.

Members resident in Northern Ireland who join the Northern Irish Labour Party will automatically be members of both the Irish Labour Party and the British Labour Party, with all rights afforded to individual

members as set by the two respective parties. The Northern Irish Labour Party will run candidates at local, Northern Assembly, Westminster and European Parliament elections and will sit as Labour Party members in all institutions.

The Northern Irish Labour Party will, as a regional structure of both mother parties, hold an annual conference at which members will elect a leader, a deputy leader and members of the executive of the Northern Irish Labour Party. Once the Northern Irish Labour Party is established and is successful electorally in the Northern Irish Assembly, rules should be changed to ensure that the party leader is an MLA and will become the lead voice of progressive, non-sectarian, left wing politics in the Northern Irish Assembly.

Glasnevin North Branch, Dublin North West

95. Conference recommends that where a Constituency Council passes a motion in accordance with Constituency Council Standing Orders that a candidate selection convention for an upcoming local election or general election should be held on or before a certain date, and this decision is sent in writing to the General Secretary, that this request should be passed to the Executive Board who may consider the motion when setting the date for the relevant selection convention(s.)"

Ashbourne Branch, Meath East

96. Conference notes that under the current rules of party membership it is possible to be a paid up member of the Labour Party without being a member of any particular branch of the Party.

Conference mandates that the system of party democracy be converted from a branch delegation voting system to a 'One member, One Vote' system for all voting procedures including elections that take place at Party Conference.

Conference resolves that the Party Constitution be amended as follows:

In Article 2.7 subsection (a): after Party Member Section, delete "and be nominated by the section, as a delegate to the Party Conference".

In Article 2.7 subsection (e): after vote at elections for, delete "Party and Deputy Leader", and insert "for all party positions, and on motions proposed to Party Conference".

In Article 9.3, delete subsections (a)-(d) and replace with "all members of the Labour Party who have paid their subscriptions for the given year, at least one month prior to that Party Conference".

In Article 9, delete "subparagraphs 4, 5, 6"

In Article 10.3: after each panel, delete "delegates at Conference" and insert "members voting at conference".

UCC (Jim Kemmy), Cork North Central

Note for information on Motion No. 96:

The relevant provision would then read as follows:

2.7. An individual member is a person who is registered by Head Office as a Party member but who is not registered as a member of a branch or a constituency. An individual member may, subject to compliance with this Constitution –

- a) *participate as a member of any Party Member Section,*
- b) *be appointed as a member of the Central Council of the Party by a Section in which the member participates,*
- c) *be nominated by a Section in which the member participates to stand for election at the Party Conference to membership of the Executive Board or to any Party Office elected by the Conference,*
- d) *participate as an invited member in any committee or informal group involved in the review, development or formulation of Party policy, receive published Party policy documents and be kept generally informed on matters of Party policy and of administrative and organisational affairs,*
- e) *vote at elections for all party positions, and on motions proposed to Party Conference, and*
- f) *if under the age of 27 and a registered student in a post-secondary educational institute where a college branch (within the meaning of Article 4.3) is established, be registered as an individual Party member affiliated to that college branch (hereafter referred to as “an affiliated individual member” in respect of the college branch concerned).*

ARTICLE 9: THE PARTY CONFERENCE

1. *Control of the policy, organisation and affairs of the Party is vested in and exercisable by the Party Conference; its particular function is to debate, set the general direction of and formally adopt the policy of the Party. Every Party member shall abide by the decisions of the Party Conference.*
2. (a) *An Annual Conference shall be held once in every calendar year, at a time and place decided by the Executive Board. In a case where unforeseen circumstances arise, the Executive Board may decide to postpone an Annual Conference, to a date that is not later than the end of April in a following year; in such a case, the postponed Conference shall count as an Annual Conference for the year in which it is held.*
- (b) *A Special Party Conference may be summoned at any time by the Executive Board, to consider only those proposals that are submitted to it by the Executive Board.*
3. *The Party Conference consists of all members of the Labour Party who have paid their subscriptions for the given year, at least one month prior to that Party Conference*
7. *Conference delegate fees may be fixed by the Executive Board. The names and addresses of delegates, such other information as the Executive Board may prescribe and their delegate fees shall be transmitted to Head Office not later than the date fixed by the Executive Board for that purpose.*
8. *Every person elected by the Party Conference to a Party Office or to the Executive Board shall remain in that office or position until the conclusion of the next Party Conference, unless he or she dies, resigns, is removed from office or ceases to be a member. In the event of a vacancy so arising, the Executive Board may appoint a person to fill that vacancy; provided that, in the case of a vacancy arising in the office of Party Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall fill the vacancy.*

9. Every Annual Conference (and, with such modifications as may be necessary, every Special Party Conference) shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders set out in the Schedule.

Article 10 –

3. For the purpose of electing 6 delegates to the Executive Board by the Party Conference, the candidates shall be divided into a panel of men and a panel of women. 3 candidates shall be elected from each panel, members voting at conference having 2 votes and being entitled to cast a separate vote for the candidates from each panel.

97. Conference resolves that the Party Constitution be amended as follows:

In article 2.12 after “calendar year”, insert “and, if they join on or after the 1st of September, will remain a member for the following year”.

Drumcondra/Glasnevin, Dublin Central

Note for Information on Motion No. 97:

The relevant provision would then read as follows:

12. The names of persons admitted to membership by Head Office or by a constituency or branch shall be entered on a register of members (“the register”) maintained at Head Office, on receipt of their name, address and annual membership fee, and shall, on the date on which they are entered on the register, become and be members of the Party. A person who has been so admitted to membership is a member for the remainder of that calendar year and, if they join on or after the 1st of September, will remain a member for the following year and thereafter continues to be a member unless his or her membership ceases in accordance with this Constitution. In this Constitution, “member” means a person registered in the register as a member, who has not ceased to be a member in accordance with the Constitution

98. Conference amends the Party Constitution as follows:

Article 15, Section 2(b), which currently reads:

“The Executive Board may make provision, in cases where it is decided to select two or more candidates for a Dáil constituency or a local electoral area, based in different parts of the constituency or area, for separate selection conventions to be held in each such part, with the right to vote at each such convention being confined to Party members belonging to the relevant part of the constituency or local electoral area”.

Shall be amended to read as follows:

“The Executive Board may make provision, in cases it is decided to select two or more candidates for a Dáil constituency or a local electoral area, based in different parts of the constituency or area, for separate selection conventions to be held in each such part, with the right to vote at each such convention being confirmed to Party members belonging to the relevant part of the constituency or local electoral area – however, such selection conventions may only be implemented with the consent, by a two-thirds majority, of Party members of each such part, without which the Executive Board shall make provision for a single selection convention in the constituency or local electoral area, with no such restriction on the right to vote”.

Dublin Bay South Constituency

99. Conference resolves that the Party Constitution be amended as follows:

Party Conference:

In Article 9.3(d) after “each Party Section”, insert “and by each Sub-Section of Labour Equality (Labour Intercultural, Labour Disability, Labour LGBT)”.

Labour Equality

Note for Information:

The relevant provision would then read as follows:

3. The Party Conference consists of –

(a) delegates elected by branches, in accordance with the following scale of branch membership (and, in the case of college branches, affiliated individual membership):

<i>membership not exceeding 10:</i>	<i>2 delegates; and</i>
<i>for every 5 additional members:</i>	<i>1 delegate; and</i>
<i>for every 10 affiliated individual members</i>	<i>1 delegate;</i>

(b) delegates elected by constituency members in accordance with the terms of Article 2, section 8 (c);


(c) delegates elected by group members, in accordance with the following scale of individual members of each group member who are branch members of the Party:

<i>not more than 50:</i>	<i>1 delegate for every 5; plus</i>
<i>above 50 but not more than 500:</i>	<i>1 delegate for every 10; plus</i>
<i>above 500 but not more than 1,000:</i>	<i>1 delegate for every 15; plus</i>
<i>for additional Party branch members above 1,000:</i>	<i>1 delegate for every 20;</i>

(d) 1 delegate elected by each Constituency Council and by each Party Section and by each Sub-Section of Labour Equality (Labour Intercultural, Labour Disability, Labour LGBT).



 @labour

 facebook.com/thelabourparty

labour.ie

[#opportunity2016](https://twitter.com/hashtag/opportunity2016)