

Directly Elected Mayors: Co-operative Party Selection Guidance

This note sets out the selection process for directly elected mayors, where the local Co-operative Party can make a nomination as an affiliate of the Labour Party. Where two or more party councils cover the boundaries of the mayoral area, a joint process will be organised with support from Co-operative Party Head Office.

- The party council(s) should agree a deadline and invite expressions of interest from eligible Co-operative Party members who would like the Co-operative Party's nomination. Candidates should submit a 250-word statement on why they wish to have the Party's support and how they will champion co-operative policies – this should be circulated to members at or before the selection meeting.
- Members will be normally be eligible to be nominated if they have six months' continuous Co-operative Party membership by the Labour Party's freeze date and meet the requirements set down by the Labour Party.
- Where allowed by Labour Party rules, if at least one woman expresses an interest, the Co-operative Party may make two nominations, one man and one woman.
- If only one application is received (or only one man and one woman) then the executive(s) of the party council(s) may decide to make a nomination.
- The party council(s) should set a date and venue for the Co-operative Party selection meeting. Only eligible members living in the mayoral area, party officers and candidates should be invited to attend the selection meeting.

The Selection Meeting:

- To vote at the selection meeting, members must be up to date with their membership fee, live within the mayoral area and have three months' continuous membership by the date of the selection meeting. A list of eligible members will be provided by Head Office ahead of the meeting. Head Office can also arrange for a member of staff or the NEC to attend.
- Any member who arrives after the first candidate has started speaking will not be eligible to vote in the Selection, and the Chair should stress this fact at the commencement of the meeting.
- During the selection meeting, the candidates must remain in a room apart from the meeting, except during the time when they are being interviewed by the members. A candidate cannot take part in the meeting even if he/she is qualified to do so.

the co-operative party

- The party council(s) should allocate a set time for each candidate to both address the meeting and answer questions. The Chair should ensure all candidates are asked the same questions.
- After all the candidates have been interviewed the Chair must then ask for a motion to be moved from the floor “That this Co-operative Party Selection Meeting resolves to proceed to ballot”.
- Should the meeting carry the motion, the Chair must call on the tellers to issue and collect a ballot paper from every member entitled to vote.
- Unless there is an overall majority for one of the candidates, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes should be declared not selected and the tellers must then issue further ballot papers so that the members can vote upon the remaining candidates on the list. Ballots must continue until one of the candidates has received an overall majority of votes. In the event of there being a tie between the two last remaining candidates, a further vote shall be taken and if this also results in a tie the decision shall be by lot.
- When the meeting has selected one of the candidates by means of these exhaustive ballots the Chair must then ask for a motion from the floor in the following terms: Resolved – “That this Co-operative Party Selection Meeting nominates (name of successful candidate) to the Labour Party Selection Process”. This motion must be voted upon by a show of hands, the figures being recorded in the minutes.
- After this has been done the Chair must call all the candidates into the Meeting Room and without disclosing the actual voting figures should advise them which candidate has been selected by the Co-operative Party Selection Meeting. An opportunity should be given for the successful candidate and representatives to then address the meeting for a few minutes each.

Further information:

- The Regional Labour Party will be able to confirm the exact dates and guidelines by which nominations should be received.
 - For more information on the Co-operative Party's Local Government work please contact Emma Hoddinott: e.hoddinott@party.coop
 - For more information on the Co-operative Party's selection process please contact Shane Brogan: s.brogan@party.coop
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