

Approving nominees for Council candidacies

Appendix A4 deals with the selection of Council Candidates

Current Text

A4 E.iii & E.v read currently read as follows

A4. E.iii. An assessment team, which will be drawn up by the LCF with the agreement of the RD(GS) in line with NEC recommendations, will carry out interviews for applicants where required. At the discretion of the RD(GS), the assessment team may be required to include assessors from outside of the local authority area. Assessment teams are required to include chairs who are Party members from outside of the local authority area. Assessment team members may not interview or assess any candidate who is their own husband, wife, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child, grandchild or other close family member.

...

A4.E.v. The LCF shall not endorse any candidate the assessment team have interviewed and not recommended for endorsement. However, the individual concerned (or the organisation responsible for their nomination) may appeal within 14 days of receiving written notice against the refusal of the assessment team or LCF endorsement to the appeals panel of the appropriate Regional Executive Committee, who where practicable shall hear the appeal within 14 days.

Proposed amendment,

E.iii Delete “drawn up” replace with “appointed”,
delete “with the agreement of the RD(GS)”
Delete “At the discretion of the RD(GS), the”, replace with “The”, delete “required”
replace with “choose to”.
Delete “Assessment teams are required to include chairs who are Party members
from outside of the local authority area.”
Delete “who is their own husband, wife, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother,
sister, child, grandchild or other close family member” replace “with whom they
have family relationship, to whom they are married, have a civil partnership or are
having a long term relationship, with whom they have a business relationship, with
whom they have a supervisory/supervised relationship in employment or with whom
a conflict of interest would reasonably be deemed to exist.”

Insert new E.iv and renumber “The assessment team will take a decision to endorse or not
endorse the applicant. This decision is to be taken on the basis of relevant facts available

and shall exclude any irrelevant facts and opinions. The assessment team may withhold an endorsement on the grounds that a candidate is not eligible to stand, fails to meet the Labour Party's eligibility rules, states that they will not conform to the rules on Group conduct and/or other Labour Party rules or for other good reason; the holding of opinions on policy shall not be a reason for non-endorsement.

- E.v. Delete "shall not", replace with "may"
- Delete "However", replace with "In the case where the LCF does not include an unendorsed candidate,"

Supporting Statement

Candidates for Council Positions should be elected and accountable to the local membership. The powers of the RD/GS and the mandating of external assessment team Chairpeople diminish this accountability and have in the past been used factionally.

The conflict of interest rule needs to be both explicitly about conflict of interest and include unmarried sexual partners, people with whom the assessment team or council have commercial relationships and people who work for the same company/entity within a supervisory/supervised relationship.

Assessment teams should do a due diligence on the reputation of the Labour Party and not deny branches choice of people with legitimate political disagreements with the assessment team. The political choice should be taken by the members not an assessment team. This rule makes it clear.

The current rules mean that a decision by an assessment panel to not endorse, requires a Regional Board appeal. This rule change allows the LCF to overturn such a decision. There is no good reason why an LCF can deny endorsed candidates and not reinstate those that have not been endorsed.