

Amendment Form
NPC Biennial Delegate Conference
21/22 March 2017

Please use the form below to submit amendments to motions for the Biennial Delegate Conference. Each national and regional affiliate is entitled to submit up to ONE amendment on a CONSTITUTIONAL MOTION and up to THREE AMENDMENTS on POLICY MOTIONS. Please indicate clearly which motion you are seeking to amend. This form can be photocopied if necessary. All amendments should be returned to NPC Biennial Delegate Conference, Walkden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ no later than **27 January 2017**.

Policy

Amendment(s)

Motion 1

This Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) notes the decision of the UK electorate, by Referendum, on 23 June 2016 to leave the European Union (EU) and the implications of that Referendum Vote as set out in the NPC Briefing Paper of June 2016.

In the event that the Government does proceed to invoke Article 50 and commence negotiations on the terms of the UK's departure from the EU, this BDC agrees that the Government must ensure that the interests of UK pensioners are properly addressed during the course of and in the outcome of those negotiations.

To that end, the NPC is instructed to write to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, asking that he ensures that, amongst other issues of concern to older people, there is no detriment to pensioners on the following matters, as a consequence of leaving the EU:

- Universal Pensioner Benefits
- The Triple-Lock
- Protection of UK pensioners resident in the EU
- Health protection for UK pensioners holidaying in the EU
- Double Taxation Treaties
- Staffing levels to provide Social & Health Care
- Funding for Housing Associations

This BDC also agrees that the NPC should campaign and work with any other organisation that supports ~~or comprises~~ **and works in the interests** of older people **or** in pursuit of these goals.

Proposed: CSPA

Motion 3

This Conference welcomes the commitment of Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, to establish an Older People's Commission to prepare a programme of reforms required to meet the needs of an aging population.

We also wish and will campaign for all party support for an Older Persons Commissioner established in statute.

We will engage in its considerations, with the priority for a living state pension that takes pensioners out of poverty that ends the daily struggle by millions of older people to afford essential items such as food, gas and electricity.

We will seek a reversal of cuts to adult social care budgets, with the return of this essential service from private corporations to local government, adequately funded out of taxation.

We call for the housing needs of older people to be an integral part of the national plan to build new houses for social rent.

Until the state pension, which is currently the least adequate in the developed world, 32nd lowest out of 34 countries, reaches a living standard, we refuse to undermine the principles of universalism in pensioner benefits. We reject calls for an end to, or the means testing of, the concessionary bus pass, the over 75s free TV licence and winter fuel allowance.

We reject the crude attempts to divide the generations. Inequality in Britain is not determined by age, but by class and wealth. Young and old have shared concerns, of housing, transport and pensions.

In supporting the Older People's Commission we commit ourselves to campaigning alongside all workers, their families, and students to establish a just and equal society.

The NPC each year brings together many hundreds of older people to the Pensioners' Parliament, to discuss the problems facing older persons in an Austerity driven economy. After reviewing the attacks being made on living standards across the country, pensioners return to their localities and conduct campaigns to protest what is happening.

Our task must be to transform protest into change. We believe it is necessary to mobilise the support already shown through the Parliament, linking up with the trade union retired sections, in to national demonstrations and campaigns, on issues focused by our members. Such campaigns would not just be lobbies of protest, but seeking to meet the needs necessary to improve the lives of our supporters and their families.

Unite therefore calls on the NPC to campaign on these issues.

Proposed: UNITE

Motion 6

~~This BDC recognises that the future of the NPC and the Pensioners Parliament is in the balance. There has been no progress in growing the organisation since the last BDC, in fact the organisation is in long term decline. Continuing to do the same things in the same way each year is not an option and only radical transformation of the NPC will achieve the potential of the senior citizens' movement in the UK.~~

The BDC recognises that some of the components of this existential crisis include:

- Fast reducing income (a decline of 25% since 2014), including reduced support from some unions and other major donors
- A continuous deficit-budget policy, leading to diminishing reserves, which if current trends continue will soon reach a point where wind-up liabilities cannot be met
- Diminishing numbers of active local pensioner groups affiliated to the NPC
- Withering of numbers of delegates to the Pensioners Parliament
- Reluctance to embrace the opportunities of new technology and social media
- Antipathy towards empowering individual members
- Bureaucratic and old-fashioned representative structures
- Very low national profile
- **The need to empower individual members**

~~The BDC therefore agrees that transformation of the NPC is required if the organisation is to have a sustainable future and instructs the Executive Committee to conduct a major consultation exercise on the challenges facing the organisation and on radical solutions to the above issues, including:~~

The BDC therefore agrees that transformation of the NPC is required if the organisation is to have a sustainable future including:

- ~~Preparing a sustainable financial strategy after discussion with affiliated organisations and potential donors~~
- ~~Cost reductions, including slimming down the top-heavy officer and national committee structure~~
- ~~Placing individual members at the heart of the organisation with equivalent status to affiliated organisations by setting up and resourcing a national individual members organisation~~
- ~~Conducting a recruitment exercise for individual members, in cooperation with Silver Voices and other affiliated groups, to tap the~~

~~huge potential of millions of senior citizens both inside and outside the trade union movement~~

- ~~• Developing an ambitious communications strategy, maximizing the use of new technology and social media~~
- ~~• Developing and implementing a media and influencing strategy~~
- ~~• Restructuring the Pensioners Parliament to include a decision-making role~~
- ~~• Using organisational targets to measure progress in reaching our goals~~

~~This BDC instructs the Executive Committee to convene a special Delegate Conference within 12 months to agree a Transformation Plan covering the above matters."~~

Review the Blackpool parliament with the objective of it becoming a policy making, delegate based body for part of the parliament at least.

Recruitment

Investigate electronic enrollment of Individual membership with cash cascade to region using *nation builder* or similar as an easy way to build a website to generate followers, capture contact information and cross-matches email addresses to a variety of social media accounts, helping generate targeted lists. It would be a strong membership marketing tool with a wealth of social media-focused tools. Or **investigate** *web collect* or similar to collect direct membership subs. **Investigate the possibility of a large Trade Union** part time seconding a specialist in this field.

Investigate using senior magazines and papers advertising to recruit

Investigate initially a campaign to encourage organisations to encourage individual membership and offer sign up. Investigate how individual members can be fully integrated into the work of the NPC.

Investigate a new name for the NPC reflecting more our campaigning aspirations.

Investigate venues for meetings external to London.

Propose these investigations be undertaken by a working party with full regional representation convened by the General Secretary and reporting within one year to a special delegate conference in early 2018.

Proposed: Silver Voices

Constitution

Motion 2

Item 3 Membership delete existing items 3a and b and replace with the following:

- a. Application for membership of the NPC as a national affiliate shall be open to any national organisation of pensioners, retired and older people, or other organisation which supports the aims and objectives of the Convention ~~with a minimum membership of 5000~~, subject to acceptance by the National **Executive Committee** Council.
- b. Application for membership of the NPC as a national affiliate shall also be open to any NPC regional group or NPC devolved nation group (representing N Ireland, Scotland or Wales), subject to acceptance by the National Council.
- c. Application as a NPC affiliate shall also be open to any other regional or local organisation of pensioners, retired and older people, or other organisation which supports the aims and objectives of the Convention, subject to acceptance by the National Council.
- d. Application for membership of the NPC shall also be open to individuals who support the aims and objectives of the Convention.

Proposed: Executive Committee

Name of Organisation proposing:... West Midlands Pensioners Convention

Amendment(s) agreed at a meeting of the executive with delegation from the Regional Council

held on 12/1/2017