

6 Jan 2012

Dear Member

Happy new year to all members. It's the last of the "12 days of Christmas", the decorations are taken down, seasonal celebrations are over and we all get back to normal.

Shown below is a new year message from LICC Chair, David Mathieson:

"The one safe prediction for 2012 is that it will be a tough year. Yet we also know that the Tory led coalition in London is making it harder than it needs to be for many British people. Reducing the budget deficit is a common goal but how we do that is matter of political choice. And Ed Miliband and Ed Balls have been proved right - the Tory strategy of cutting too far, too fast is actually damaging the growth needed to build long term prosperity. This year we will have to worker harder than ever to get the message across that there is a viable alternative - a Labour Government.

An important goal will be to win back London. Ken Livingstone is challenging Boris Johnson for the mayoralty and we need to regain our majority in the London Assembly. Labour International has already pledged money to support Ken but we will need to do far more. We will soon be suggesting ways in which you can lend a hand in the campaign and I hope that you will be able to help. Winning back London will be big boost for Labour and nothing will send a clearer message this year to David Cameron

David

LI Status

LI is now considered to be a CLP which means we will now be able to send resolutions or rule change proposals to Conference and nominate for positions. The down side is that the reorganisation of funds means that we will receive less income. On a positive note it will mean more money staying within the Party.

LICC Skype Meetings

LICC met on 29 November via Skype and will meet again on 24 January when we shall be discussing, amongst other things, what we can do to help Ken Livingstone's

campaign. If there are issues that you want us to discuss/deal with - please send me an email before 20 Jan. Minutes of meetings can be accessed via the website <http://www.labourinternational.net/members-2/licc-meetings-and-minutes/> (remember the password is expat)



New Politics, Fresh Ideas:

The Joint Policy Committee has decided to publish the four "Fresh Ideas" papers for consultation over the next few months.

You can read these papers and get the discussion guides (for groups and branches) at <http://fresh-ideas.org.uk/annual-conference-2011-documents>

We are keen to receive comments on these papers - especially about what is NOT included - from members/groups/branches.

Partnership into Power: This Consultation has been extended until 31 January see <http://members.labour.org.uk/policymaking>

Members can send comments direct, via their branch or via LICC. If you send comments direct, it would be good if LICC could have a copy. LICC has set it's deadline to receive comments as 20 January and will discuss any submissions at its Skype meeting on 24 January.

Facebook

For those who want to get involved in regular political discussion join our Facebook group:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/141749912553090>

It is a closed group, currently with some 160 members, run by Alex Powell(LICC) and Dalvir Singh (Germany). Apply to join via the link above but allow up to 24 hrs for acceptance.

More news after our meeting on 24 Jan 2012.

Regards

Lorraine

Lorraine Hardy
Secretary LICC
Labour International Coordinating Committee