EAST LOTHIAN CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

Submission to NEC requesting rescinding of MP endorsement

The NEC convened an enquiry on the 6th and 7th December 2008 in East Lothian into problems in Constituency Labour Party. The Chair of the enquiry was Mr Jack Dromey.

Over the 2 days the enquiry panel heard evidence and testimony from Party members from across the Constituency about the difficulties and differing opinions concerning the behaviour, competence and performance of local MP, Anne Moffat.

The conclusions and recommendations of the enquiry were presented by Jack Dromey at a special all members meeting held in Prestonpans Labour Party Social Club on Sunday, 21 December 2008.

No vote was taken at this meeting and while there was dissent the recommendations and conclusions of the enquiry were accepted nem con.

At the request of the CLP Executive Committee Willie Innes (CLP chair) and Pat O'Brien and Noel Foy (Vice-Chairs) met Jack Dromey on the 19 November 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to present evidence of non-compliance by the MP with the requirements of the NEC enquiry and a failure to meet the obligations of the NEC/SEC Agreement for Parliamentary Candidates.

Reports of this meeting and other relevant matters have been given to meetings the Constituency GC and EC and all actions by CLP Officers and Executive Committee have been discussed and approved.

The CLP Executive was instructed by a special meeting of the Constituency General Committee held on Tuesday, 22 December 2009 to prepare a submission to the Party NEC seeking the rescinding of the endorsement of Anne Moffat as the Prospective Party Parliamentary Candidate for East Lothian.

East Lothian Constituency Labour Party submits that it has complied with all of the requirements of the NEC.

The CLP ask the NEC to consider the following –

- In the period since the enquiry the MP has not attended any meetings of the Constituency General Committee.
- Specifically the MP did not attend the Constituency AGM held on the 24 April 2009.
- The MP has not responded to reasonable and relevant correspondence from the Executive Committee.

- In the period in question the MP has failed to work with the Constituency Party to establish an effective and working Campaign Committee.

- In the period in question the MP has failed to work with the Constituency to secure the appointment of a permanent Campaign Co-ordinator.

- In the period in question the MP has not worked with the Constituency Party to fill the position of CLP Fundraising Officer.

- The MP failed to attend a Constituency Policy Forum on Saturday, 19 September 2009.

- In the period in question the MP failed to give a lead in campaigning for the European Elections of May 2009. The Party came second to the SNP in those elections. The worst result on record.

- The MP did not vote in the European Elections.

- The MP ignored a written request to meet the Executive Committee to discuss local presentational aspects of Parliamentary expenses issue.

- The MP has failed to give a lead or involve the Party in local Constituency issues.

- The MP has failed to advise or involve the Constituency of campaigning activities over the Summer Parliamentary recess.

- In the period since the enquiry the MP has made provocative and divisive press statements concerning local Party Members.

The CLP submits that the MP has not complied with the requirements of the NEC enquiry held in December 2008.

We request, in light of the above and as a matter of urgency, that the final section of paragraph 7 of the NEC/SEC Candidate Agreement (rescinding of endorsement) is invoked without delay.

(This submission was agreed at a special meeting of East Lothian CLP EC held on Tuesday, 5 January 2010).