

A Guide to Partnership in Power

Partnership in Power is the overall name that is given to the Labour party's policy-making process. The National Policy Forum is the major part of this process.

National Policy Forum

The National Policy Forum is the Labour party's year round policy-making body that feeds into the party's annual conference.

The process is designed to present broad policy themes in various documents, which can then be discussed in policy forums across the country. The documents are then amended in light of the submissions that are made on that policy area and more detail is put into the policy document. The party's annual conference then has the final say on the document.

There is a rolling cycle of policy documents that conclude with documents that have had practical input from all parts of the Labour movement. The final documents then form the foundation of the Labour party's manifesto for the next election.

This process means that you can have a role in forming the manifesto of the next Government – and Unite hopes that you will take an active part in this.

Policy Making Process

1. Policy Commissions produce draft documents
2. NPF suggests changes to documents
3. Policy Commissions change the drafts following the NPF meeting
4. JPC makes final revisions and agrees documents
5. Policy Forums are held on the revised consultation documents
6. Documents are produced after the Policy Forums. These are then amended and agreed by the NPF.
7. Final documents go to the annual conference and then a vote of Labour party members.

Policy Commissions

– these are made up of members of the NPF, members of the Labour party's NEC and the Ministers from the departments involved. They generate the initial documents and then oversee the submissions and revisions that are made during the process.

There are 6 Policy Commissions:

- Britain in the World (Foreign Policy, Defence and Dfid)
- Creating Sustainable Communities (Transport, Housing and Local Government and the Regions)
- Crime, Justice, Citizenship and Equalities (Justice, Constitutional affairs, Equalities)
- Education (Children, Schools & Families, Innovation, Universities and Skills)
- Health (Health)
- Prosperity and Work (Economic Affairs, employment rights, welfare reform, manufacturing and pensions)

Joint Policy Commission (JPC)

The JPC provides strategic oversight of the NPF with members from the NPF and the Party's NEC. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Unite's View

The policy documents cover areas where Unite members have a direct interest. It is, therefore, important that Unite members have a say in what is in these documents.

The union encourages as many members as possible to be involved in policy forums, either on a workplace or a regional basis. That is why this toolkit is available for you to use in arranging a policy forum for your members.