

Warwick

Key Seat Coordinators Checklist

Trade
Union and
Labour Party Liaison
Organisation

1

Organising a 'TULO Night'

- (i) Establish contact details with full-time officers, branch secretaries and shop stewards in your own union and in other unions in the Key Seat you are covering.
- (ii) Agree dates and activities with the Constituency Labour Party (CLP) for a regular 'TULO Night' – a good tip is to make the first activity a leafleting session followed by a cup of tea or drink at the pub.
- (iii) Approach each contact to seek their commitment to attend your first TULO Night and bring at least one friend from their union.
- (iv) Use the Warwick agreement of what's on offer from a third term Labour Government to persuade people to come (see overleaf). And remember – if 5 people come, that's a really successful start.
- (v) Build direct contact with all attendees at the first TULO Night to get them to come again and perhaps bring others.

2

Organising a 'Meet the MP' event

- (i) Establish contact details with full-time officers, branch secretaries and shop stewards in your own union and in other unions.
- (ii) Agree a date for such an event with the MP and CLP and get the MP's Office to issue formal invitations to your contacts.
- (iii) It may be best to start with inviting full-time officers from various unions but you could invite a wider audience of branch secretaries and shop stewards, especially from your own union.
- (iv) At the meeting, make sure that the trade unionists attending get to air their local concerns but also that the MP talks about Warwick and what's on offer from a third term Labour Government.
- (vi) The event should end with an election ask where attendees are invited to sign up to help the MP's campaign – perhaps by agreeing to attend TULO Nights.

3

Donations in kind

- (i) Ask the CLP's election agent about other resources that they need.
- (ii) Think about how your union could help meet those needs.
- (iii) Examples include providing stationary, franking mailings, allowing CLP activists to use the union office for a phonebank in the evenings, providing drivers and vehicles, and so on.
- (iv) ALWAYS remember to check with the CLP agent over how these donations-in-kind need to be recorded. Also check that they will be recorded as being spent from the union political fund.

4

Taking Warwick to the Workplace

- (i) Encourage shop stewards and branch secretaries to visit their union's website and download leaflets, postal vote applications and off-the-shelf articles for use in union branch mailings and around the workplace.
- (ii) Ask shop stewards to invite the local MP to visit their workplace – remind them to clear it with the employer first. At workplace visits, try to sign up volunteers for TULO Night.
- (iii) Encourage shop stewards to put up their union's posters on the union notice board.

The Warwick Agreement Headlines

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Fairness at Work

- Four weeks paid holiday for all, exclusive of bank holidays
- Legislation on corporate manslaughter in the next parliamentary term
- Using Anti-Social Behaviour Orders to tackle violence and anti-social behaviour in and around front-line workplaces
- Major roll out of childcare schemes including Sure Start & Extended Childcare Scheme for lone parents
- Increased statutory redundancy pay
- To work in Europe for the introduction of employment protection for temporary and agency workers
- Protection for striking workers to be extended from 8 to 12 weeks.
- New 'Sectoral Forums', for example in low wage industries to improve pay, skills, productivity and pensions

Pensions

- Protection for pension funds in company transfers or mergers
- Trade unions will gain the right to bargain on pensions
- Training to be introduced for pension trustees, and members to make up 50 per cent of trustees
- Assistance for those who have already lost out on occupational pensions
- An agreement to engage in effective dialogue over the future of public sector pensions
- Legislation, if necessary, to move beyond the current voluntary system of occupational pensions
- A commitment on pensions for same sex partners

Public Services

- The extension of two-tier workforce protection in local government across the public services
- A review of all NHS cleaning contracts on a test of cleanliness and not just the cost
- Consultation with all stakeholders to monitor PFI including future financial implications
- Steps to develop staff roles, e.g. health care assistants to receive paid training and possible registration
- A commitment not to transfer out the vast majority of NHS employees
- Agreement to tackle unequal pay in local government
- Measures to promote healthy eating in schools and evaluate the possible extension of the free school meals programme

Manufacturing

- Review & enhance investment funds for manufacturing support with a view to having the best support possible
- Promote a public procurement which safeguards jobs and skills, encourages contracts to be given to UK firms for UK workers within EU law, and support a review of EU procurement policy
- The Bank of England to consider regional and employment information when setting interest rates
- A strong skills agenda, including:
 - The expansion of apprenticeships
 - Rolling out Employer Training Pilots, supporting free training up to NVQ2
 - Action in sectors under-performing on skills, including possible training levies
- Union Learning Representatives trebled to 22,000
- Investment in Research and Development to rise to 2.5 per cent of national income
- Improve credit export facilities
- Ensure Regional Development Agencies produce manufacturing strategies through working with employers and trade unions, and assist manufacturers to find new markets.

Other Commitments

- The Royal Mail to stay in public hands, with telecom regulation to focus on service choice and reliability as well as network competition.
- An immediate review of National Insurance Lower Earnings Limit to help lower paid workers get benefits
- The New Deal to provide help to unemployed over 50's
- Action to tackle unethical labour agencies in the health sector
- Further action to tackle domestic violence and support those at risk
- Legal limits to stop rip-off interest rates for credit
- Stronger company disclosure on social, ethical, and environmental issues