

Revitalise the Scottish Labour Party

Conference

Saturday 23 October 2004

11am to 3pm

UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow G2 6RX

This conference is a follow up to the successful fringe meeting at the 2004 Scottish Labour Party Conference. It seeks to build on the contributions from CLPs, trade unions and socialist societies to an earlier discussion paper on how we can strengthen member involvement as part of a package of measures designed to rebuild party membership.

Some of the **key issues** raised include:

Do we want to relegate important Westminster issues like pensions, benefits, employment rights - not to mention war & peace from the conference hall to the dark corners of the conference venue? Do we want to be able to debate clear messages rather than send bundles of flip charts to London?

Do we want an open policy making process that culminates in real alternatives for conference to decide upon? Or do we have to continue to accept or reject policy forum reports en-bloc?

Do we want to complain about coalition agreements after they have been agreed? Or do we want to take responsibility for these matters before they are agreed?

If you have a view on these and related issues – come and have your say.

This conference is open to **all members of the Scottish Labour Party**. The format will include introductory contributions setting out the current position followed by workshops and a plenary session. The aim is to consider what progress has been made with the revitalise agenda set out in “The Next Steps” paper (see over) and what further actions, if any, that may be required to halt membership decline and strengthen Scottish Labour Party democracy.

There is no charge for the conference and lunch will be provided. To assist with catering it would be helpful if delegates could indicate their attendance by completing the registration form overleaf. Please bring your current Labour Party membership card with you to the conference.

Revitalise the Scottish Labour Party.

The story so far.....

In October 2003 a discussion paper was circulated to stimulate debate over ways we could revitalise Scottish Labour Party conference. The feedback from that paper led to "The Next Steps" paper that set out draft constitutional amendments and other actions needed to take forward a measured response to the problems identified - strengthening the party in Scotland to face the electoral challenges ahead. A number of constituency Labour parties, trade unions and socialist societies tabled resolutions to conference and the Scottish Labour Party Executive has established a working party to consider the issues. These issues will come back to the 2005 Scottish Labour Party Conference for decision.

At the 2004 Scottish Labour Party Conference a successful fringe meeting was held to debate these issues. A number of organisations indicated that it would be helpful to organise an event before the 2005 conference to give all party organisations and individual members an opportunity to meet and discuss these issues.

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Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____

E.mail _____

CLP _____ Trade Union _____

Please return to Ann Hulme, UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow G2 6RX or e.mail details to a.hulme@unison.co.uk.