

# Model policy motion for devolution

## **This Constituency / Branch Labour Party notes that:**

- The UK is the one of the most centralised countries, both in Europe and in the wider world, and as a result has some of the severest regional inequalities of any nation.
- Regional economic performance, health outcomes and quality of life outside of national capitals in countries that embrace an equal system of power sharing within their borders.
- After much initial opposition, devolved assemblies in London, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland now enjoy significant support, as voters have appreciated having meaningful power brought closer to home.
- Many of the UK's poorest areas have a deep and growing distrust of government from Westminster, and have already demonstrated their desire to "take back control".

## **This Constituency / Branch Labour Party believes that:**

- As the party of equality, ensuring that all people - regardless of where they live in the UK - have the same control over their lives and those who govern them, should be central to Labour policy.
- The current mish-mash of devolved systems with different levels of power and funding have allowed the Conservatives to play certain parts of the country off against others, whilst using settlements decided at Westminster to disguise yet more austerity.
- Truly radical action is required to save the Union from a rising tide of English, Welsh and Scottish nationalism, the same wave that has swept populists into power worldwide.
- The most serious inequalities that exist in the UK today are those between North and South, rural and urban, and our small towns and metro areas.

- A focus on nationalist identities ignores regional and civic pride, which Labour must embrace if we are to win back those areas that voted Conservative for the first time ever in 2019.

**This Constituency / Branch Labour Party resolves:**

- To call upon the Labour Party, via an all-UK constitutional convention, to adopt a policy of truly radical devolution, handing each nation and region equal powers and fair funding.
- To call upon the Justice and Home Affairs Policy Commission of the National Policy Forum to consult the party membership specifically about their views on one, consistent, nationwide system of devolved and local government in the next cycle of policy documents.
- To call upon the Labour Party to set out how it will establish and maintain one, consistent, nationwide system of devolved and local government, in time to offer it as a concrete alternative to the status quo in our next manifesto.

[Once passed, the CLP should send the motion to the Justice & Home Affairs policy commission of the National Policy Forum.]