

**U DX222 The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy 1973-1991
and Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party**

Historical Background:

The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy started in a very small way in 1973/74, when it had just six affiliated organisations and about 60 individual members. At its height in the late 1970s and early 1980s it had nearly 300 affiliated organisations and some 450 individual members. Key figures included Stephen Boddington (Chairman), Vladimir Derer (Secretary), and MPs such as Joan Maynard (President), and committee members Ernie Roberts, Jo Richardson and Audrey Wise. Other parliamentary members at times included Jeremy Corbyn, Chris Mullin, Harriet Harman, Neil Kinnock and Margaret Beckett.

Major support and membership came from constituency Labour parties and trade unions, and the CLPD was active in increasing the role of such groups within the national Party. The main stated objective of the group was 'To campaign for greater participatory democracy within and between all sections of the Labour Party'. In practice this involved such things as amending the procedure for selection of Labour parliamentary candidates (including the regular re-selection of sitting MPs), as a means of making them more accountable, and calling for a greater role for constituency parties, trade unions and other affiliated groups in the election of the Party leader and other officials.

The group eventually had some success, beginning in 1979 with the adoption of an electoral college for the selection of the party leader. In 1981 CLPD strongly supported Tony Benn in his bid to become Deputy Leader of the Party, and was nearly successful. Later, in the mid 1980s CLPD, whilst continuing to campaign for an increasing role for constituency Labour parties, also supported measures in support of positive discrimination for women and black people, and for Party control of the manifesto. The 1985 CLPD 'slate' at the Labour Party Conference included David Blunkett, Michael Meacher, Dennis Skinner, Dianne Abbott, Margaret Beckett and Clare Short - several of whom later went on to become leading government ministers. Dave Merrett was the CLPD's 'Yorkshire Regional Key Person' for a number of years.

Custodial history:

Deposited by Dave Merrett, York, 26 March 1991

Description:

Material relating to the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy (1973-1991) and Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party (1978-1991) including Conference Papers and Regional Executive Committee

Arrangement:

U DX222/1/1-4 Campaign for Labour Party Democracy
U DX222/2/1-5 Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party
U DX222/3/1-3 Regional Labour Party Conference Papers
U DX222/4/1 Regional Executive Committee

Extent: 23 items

Hull History Centre: The Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and
Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party

Related material:

Hull Labour Party [U DLP and U DX124]

Chris Mullen [U DMU]

Papers relating to the Labour Solidarity Campaign [U DX315]

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX222/1	Campaign for Labour Party Democracy Papers sent to members of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy regarding the national organisation of the party. This includes agendas, minutes and the secretary's annual report for general meetings and executive committee meetings, and treasurer's reports and financial statements. Also included is the constitution of the party and proposed amendments to it, and lists of resolutions to be put forward to the national Labour Party. Additionally, there are letters to key members requesting donations and subscriptions, and reports regarding their local constituencies. All files are arranged chronologically. 6 files	1973- 1991
U DX222/1/1	Campaign for Labour Party Democracy The bulk of this file begins in February 1976. Proposed amendments to the method of re-selection of members of the Labour Party. Reports and nomination requests relating to national and local positions within the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy. 1 file	1973- Dec 1979
U DX222/1/2	Campaign for Labour Party Democracy Papers in support of Tony Benn, including the publication of 'Mobilise for Labour Democracy'. Collected information and reports on the decline of support for the Labour and Conservative Party due to the rise of the Social Democratic Party. 1 file	Mar 1980- Oct 1981
U DX222/1/3	Campaign for Labour Party Democracy Regular editions of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy newsletter and the CLPD Bulletin. Papers relating to voting policies in national politics including the Proportional Representation vs. First Past the Post debate. The personal correspondence of Dave Merritt regarding the organisation of regional meetings in York, and letters from Francis Prideaux of the Trade Union Sub-committee relating to the expansion and promotion of the CLPD. 2 files	1982-1986

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U DX222/1/4	Campaign for Labour Party Democracy Regular editions of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy newsletter and the CLPD Bulletin. Information relating to the Labour Party's annual conference including agendas and proposed topics of discussion. Press releases from the CLPD relating to their views on unemployment and voting policies. 2 files	Nov 1986- Mar 1991
U DX222/2	Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party The documents from Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party contain minutes from the Regional Women's Committee, the Local Government and Policy Sub Committee, the Regional Executive Committee, the Regional Youth Committee and the Organisation Sub Committee. These files cover a combination of both national and local issues, including unemployment, economic strategy, political changes and women's rights. Additionally, there are numerous reports of the proceedings from the Annual meetings for Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party and the Yorkshire Regional Women's Conference. Local election results between 1980 and 1990 are also provided within these files. 11 files	1978- 1991
U DX222/2/1	Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party Minutes and reports from Labour Party Activists, the Labour Party Young Socialists, the Sheffield Women's Council, the Regional Council Youth Advisory, the Local Government and Policy Sub Committee, the Yorkshire Labour Members of European Parliament and the Women's Regional Conference of 1979. Issues covered include women delegates in the Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party, public expenditure cuts, the Steel Debate, education, the Corrie Anti-Abortion Bill (1978) and Labour's Manifesto. Information is also provided on the Regional Local Government Conference of 1978, the district election results of 1979, and Labour Party reports of the proceedings from the 36th, 37th and 38th Annual Regional Meetings. 1 file	1978-1980

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- U DX222/2/2 Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party Mar 1980-
Minutes and reports are offered by the Regional Council Mar 1982
Executive Committee, the Standing Orders Committee,
and the Local Government and Policy Sub Committee
covering issues such as youth unemployment, alternative
economic strategies, political education, Tory failures, and
the NHS in England and Wales. Also included are reports
of the 39th (Mar 1980), 40th (Mar 1981) and 41st (Mar
1982) Yorkshire Regional Council Annual Meetings, and
the Labour Party Young Socialists Annual Regional
Conference (Mar 1981).
3 files
- U DX222/2/3 Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party Mar 1983-
This file contains reports and minutes concerning public Feb 1985
ownership, social services, domestic violence and police
involvement in Yorkshire, economic development, the May
1984 Regional Development Plan, and the Yorkshire and
Humberside regional Economic Strategy. Extracts are also
provided from 'Gay News' and 'Social Work Today'
concerning gay rights, and Labour's 'Women's News' on
the issue of women's involvement and representation in the
Yorkshire region of the Labour Party. Minutes are provided
from the 44th Annual Regional Meetings of the Labour
Party, the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Regional Council
Executive Committee (Mar 1984), the Regional Economic
Strategy Weekend Conference (Dec 1984), and the 22nd
Yorkshire Regional Annual Conference of the Labour Party
Young Socialists. Included in this file is a report titled 'The
West Midlands Can Make It', written by Labour Party
members concerned about the decline of the once
prosperous region.
1 file
- U DX222/2/4 Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party Nov 1984-
Reports and minutes from the Inter Regional Economic Sep 1991
Committee and the Regional Executive Committee
concerning the abolition of the Metropolitan County
Council's Local Government and Policy Sub Committee,
plus reports on economic strategies for Yorkshire and
Humberside, general election strategies and a National
Executive Committee enquiry into a dispute within Kirklees
District Council Labour Group (Jan 1986). There is also
information on the 44th (Mar 1985) and 45th (Mar 1986)
Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Regional Council, and the
14th Regional Conference of Labour Women (Nov 1984).
Results of provided from the 1991 local elections and the
County Council elections of May 1985.
3 files

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- U DX222/2/5 Yorkshire Regional Council of the Labour Party Mar 1986-
Nov 1989
This file contains a draft paper on local government reform by Jack Cunningham MP (Oct 1986), a report from the 16th Labour Women's Conference (Nov 1986), a report concerning Local Government and Policy Sub Committee resolutions, the 1986 and 1989 local government election results, a statement by John Gunnell and Peter McBride titled 'The Case For Regional Government' (Jul 1989) and numerous Labour Party pamphlets. There are also reports of the proceedings from the 45th, 46th and 48th Annual Meeting of the Labour Party.
3 files
- U DX222/3 **Regional Labour Party Conference** **1986-1991**
These files contain information from the 1987, 1989 and 1991 Regional Labour Party Conferences held in Bridlington, all including pamphlets, reports and discussion papers likely to be included in each conference
3 items
- U DX222/3/1 Regional Labour Party Conference Papers Oct 1986-
Mar 1987
This file contains documents concerning the 1987 Regional Labour Party Conference, and includes numerous pamphlets, fliers and booklets on the Labour Party, Trade Unions, democracy, Socialism, British coal, and a nuclear-free Britain. Additionally, there are Labour Party papers on 'Local Government Reform in England and Wales', a discussion document titled 'Back to Work: An Economic and Industrial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humberside' and a draft paper on local government reform by Jack Cunningham MP (Oct 1986).
1 item
- U DX222/3/2 Regional Labour Party Conference Papers Apr 1989
Information on the 1989 Regional Conference, containing various pamphlets and fliers concerning disarmament, Britain after Thatcher, the British Peace Assembly, Trade Union Friends of Palestine, electoral reform, Socialism and maternity benefits. There is also a Committee Report included on the Composite and Emergency Resolutions of 48th Annual Meeting (Apr 1989).
1 item

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U DX222/3/3	Regional Labour Party Conference Papers This file contains information from the 1991 Regional Conference, and includes a report titled 'The Case for Regional Government: A Presentation by the Yorkshire and Humberside Region' (Sept 1990) and discussion document titled 'An Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and Humberside' used at the 1991 Regional Conference. 1 item	Mar 1991
U DX222/4	Regional Executive Committee These files contain information concerning the Regional Executive Committee, their reports, minutes, discussion documents and conferences between the years 1981 to 1983 3 files	1981-1983
U DX222/4/1	Regional Executive Committee This file contains documents concerning the Regional Executive Committee, and includes minutes from the Women's Committee, the Youth Committee and the Rural Areas Sub Committee. Reports are included on the 41st (Mar 1982) and 42nd (Mar 1983) Yorkshire Regional Council Annual Meeting; the 11th (Oct 1981), 12th (Oct 1982) and 13th (Oct 1983) Regional Annual Conference of Labour Women; and the 20th Annual Regional Conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists (Mar 1982). Reports and results are provided on the 1983 General Election. 3 files	Oct 1981- Oct 1983