



The World Transformed

Creating an economy that works for all

This is a guide for setting up a political education series for reading and discussing the Labour party's ideas and strategy for democratising the economy.

Overview

The "Creating an economy that works for all" series aims to develop awareness and discussion among local Labour party members and community groups about the alternative economic ideas proposed by the Labour party in its manifesto. A key feature of Labour's program involves bringing more accountability and democracy into economic policy and public ownership. The series was about stimulating conversations and debate from local community and Labour party members, drawing on the knowledge and experience of ordinary people in thinking of how the Labour can develop a fairer, more people-centred economic program.

How to organise:

1. Location

If possible, try to find an easily accessible room or space with moveable chairs, and a projector or a board to write questions for discussion.

2. Advertising

First, think about how to make the session appealing to as broad a range of people as possible. Even some simple graphics and attractive formats will make the sessions appealing and will attract far more participants. Make sure emails on the sessions are sent out in advance. Give out flyers at LP and other community events. Set up a facebook page, and send specific invites out to local groups— young labour, women's groups, local community organisations etc. Post photos of each event on social media to show who the participants are and how fun they can be!

2. Sign-up

If you can, setting up an online sign-up form is a really good way of creating an email list to keep participants updated on the sessions, getting a sense of what people are



interested in and whether they are able to speak on any topic. Remember to be careful to inform signees about [data protection](#) and respect the rules— people will be really annoyed if you use the list for anything other than information about the sessions. When you send the group email out, use bcc to respect privacy

In the form we set up in the Lewisham Political education series, we asked people the following questions:

- Name
- Email
- Labour party member? Y/N
- Which sessions are you interested in attending?
- Do you have experience or knowledge in any of the proposed areas that you could contribute to a session? If so, please provide details
- Is there any other topic that you would like to see on this course? Are there any speakers you would like to see?

3. Broad reach

It is a great idea to invite local people— activists and members of local groups within, around and outside of the labour party to participate, or act as discussants on each panel. These could include MPs or councillors, housing activists or residents' groups representatives, trade unionists, teachers or community organisations. The discussants can either give short (max 5 minute) responses to the speakers, or if you have no speakers, they can give a short presentation on their response to the labour party policy from their perspective.

4. Choosing the topics

When choosing the topics you want to discuss, think about the issues that are most important for your local area. In Lewisham for example, housing and transport are major issues, and many people work in services, so we held sessions on each of those topics. We also thought about what local knowledge or speakers we had to talk on different ideas. Sessions covered various aspects of Labour's economic policies. You can choose to develop your own, but we hosted events that included:



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A general introduction to the need for more participation, education and debate to push forward transformative policies from within the labour party

Local economic development and governance

A discussion on how to address regional inequalities in wealth and power in the UK

Inequality, employment and wealth redistribution

A discussion on the changing world of work-- from globalization, automation and worker precarity, and the types of policies needed to address this, like strengthening unions and the 4 day week

Public housing for all

What types of policies are needed to address the housing crisis, and what sorts of housing are most appropriate (social, co-op, private)?

Taking back control of public services

A discussion on how renationalization of public services can also come with more accountability and participation

Rebuilding our NHS

The problems the NHS faces and how to revert marketisation

It is useful to have a look at Labours 2017 manifesto to find some key policies or areas that can help you decide what topics you want to address, which can be found here:

<https://labour.org.uk/manifesto/creating-economy-works>

5. Communicating and pre-reading

At least 1-2 weeks before each session, it is useful to send out an email to the people who have signed up to attend the session, with a very brief introduction to the topic and the discussion in the session, and providing some preparatory readings, podcasts or videos to accompany each session. It is also a good idea to set up a facebook event to



promote the event, which includes the introduction and readings for the sessions. Some examples of this have been included below .

6. Inviting a speaker

You don't have to invite a speaker if you have access to videos, or would simply like to discuss a reading. You can invite anything from 1 to 3 speakers, who can be anyone local who is knowledgeable on the topic-- trade unionists, activists, politicians, researchers or academics.

You can also think of inviting discussants to give a short response to the presentations of the main speakers-- local community or union groups, or labour activists interested in the issue.

Facilitators notes for the series:

- For each session, prepare 2-3 questions based on the readings in the topic for the audience to discuss. The questions can be simple, but should aim to get people thinking about what the issues are, how they affect them and their communities, and what they would like to see on the Labour party's agenda. Examples might include: "What are the biggest issues with (eg. housing, public services) today? What do you think of Labour's policy on this? What more is needed?"
- As people arrive, ask them to sit in groups of 4-6 and discuss questions such as those suggested above. It helps to have these written down clearly for everyone to see. This allows for people to arrive for the first 15-20 minutes of the session. Ask the groups to briefly summarise the main ideas and questions that came out of their discussions.
- Briefly introduce the session and the speakers (if there are any)
- After the speakers present, ask the audience to return to their breakout groups to discuss the presentations. You may want to use the same questions you asked at the start, or have some other questions to help guide the group discussion. A good activity is to ask them to say one thing they learned, one thing they agreed with, and one thing they disagreed with. After 10 minutes, feedback from the group discussions and return to the speakers. Finally, go to open questions from the audience.