

NEC Report and Update by Keith Vaz

1. NEC Meeting 23rd June 2007

A Special NEC Meeting took place at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester before the results of Leadership Conference.

Gordon Brown attended as leader elect and tabled on party renewal which was based on the comments of party members. The paper which was unanimously approved by the NEC suggested a strengthening of the NPF to give members a vote on party policy not just a say in discussing it.

I spoke on the upcoming Southall by-election. I have received numerous representations that an all woman shortlist will not be helpful in this seat. I said the NEC should revisit its decision because different considerations applied in a by-election situation. I have raised before the importance of the so called “ethnic seats” and I emailed all BME MPs on this issue.

The Leader stated that the next Deputy Leader would be the Chair of the Party.

The other business concerned arrangements for the Leadership election.

2. Selections

The following are seats of interest to the BME community.

- (a) **Southall** –see above currently all-woman shortlist but need to revisit as it’s a by-election. Strong support from Dennis Skinner MP
- (b) **Walthamstow**-All woman shortlist agreed by Officers of the National Party during the leadership elections. I have received strong reps from the BSS Executive and party members in Walthamstow that this should be a woman/ethnic minority shortlist therefore will pass this on with my support to the Gen Sec.

With the death of **Piara Khabra** and the decision of **Mohammed Sarwar MP** to step down we are now down to only 10 BME MPs. We need more!!!

3. Meetings and Others Issues

I had breakfast with the Chair of the BSS at Manchester and he raised various issues with me in particular:

- (a) Dates of NEC , Org Sub Meetings, Equality Committee Meetings, I have asked **Kiran** at HQ to supply this to all those interested. We also met together **Walter Wolfgang** and **Norman Stephenson** the Chair of the Equality Committee.

(b) I have also spoken to the Vice-Chair of the BSS and the Treasurer who raised various issues.

(c) **Kingsley Abrahams** has prepared a very useful paper on selections which I will bring to the attention of the NEC.

(d) The ethnic minority leaflet with all the BME MPs on it has so far persuaded 50 people to join.

My email is emtaskforce@gmail.com my office number is 0207-219-4605 ask for **Sara**.

24th June 2007