



**Resolution Date: 12/05/2015**

**Resolution Title: A Trade Union Candidate for London Mayor**

---

Our Branch notes that as well as being the year of the General Election, 2015 is also the year in which London will elect a new mayor.

We note that the London and Eastern Regional Committee will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> May to decide which of Labour's chosen mayoral candidates to endorse. This branch concurs with the statement accompanying the meeting notice which stated:

*"The Mayor, as we know, has huge responsibility and control over London and by his/her actions and visions can influence far beyond the capital. This is a vital choice for the whole region, not just for those that live or work in London."*

This is particularly the case in relation to housing. The Mayor now has direct, devolved responsibility for social housing grant, and is highly influential in decisions relating to the demolition of current and former council housing estates and the development of new 'mixed tenure' estates with a much greater number of private rented properties, some at the elite luxury end of the market. Many of these luxury developments are bought by oligarch landlords for renting at levels well beyond the affordability of those on a worker's wage.

This process has contributed greatly to the 'gentrification' of large parts of London, and the social cleansing of our city, as ordinary workers can no longer afford to live within the capital.

For this reason, this branch believes it essential for the mayoral candidate endorsed by Unite to have a background as a worker and trade unionist with a history of service as an elected representative of workers. We cannot simply endorse a candidate from the 'Westminster Village' elite. Further, the candidate must be explicit in aligning their programme to Unite's democratically agreed policies, including opposing all austerity cuts.

This is one way in which we can attempt to ensure our candidate has some connection with, and understanding of, the concerns and struggles that we face, and is able to develop policies which offer real solutions to these struggles.

If agreed, this resolution is to be sent straight to the Regional Committee (RC). Normal procedure dictates that branch motions should be sent to the Regional Industrial Sector Committees (RISCs), and from there, if passed, submitted to the RC. However, members of the RC were informed on the 1<sup>st</sup> May that a special meeting to select our Labour mayoral candidate was to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May. The first RISC is not until the 19<sup>th</sup> May. It would therefore be impossible to pass a resolution through our RISC to give our views on this vitally important selection process.

While recognising that the timetable is externally imposed – as Constituency Labour Parties will begin nominating from the 20<sup>th</sup> May – we nonetheless believe that in the interests of democracy, the RC should accept this motion.