

Dear All,

Please find attached the minutes from last week's Deputy and Vice Chairmen meeting. The next one will be on **Tuesday 11th November at 8.30am** at CCHQ. If you are unable to make it then please let me know.

Kind regards,

Sarah

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Deputy and Vice Chairmen Minutes 28th October

Apologies

Tariq Ahmad, Margot James, Richard Spring

Candidates

Some are struggling with the length of time they have been in post.

The target seats are almost all selected, apart from where there are problems e.g. Watford and Hayes and Harlington.

The selection process should be complete by March.

There does need to be some focus on Conservative-held seats that are not target seats, and support for the 200 that are neither.

Associations can sometimes be the problem rather than candidates – the Board to decide what needs doing on these occasions? **Action: Don Porter**

Care needs to be taken over the candidates that have the potential to embarrass the Party – there will now be a fortnightly meeting to assess the watch-list of candidates, and the reasons they are on the list needs to be taken into consideration.

The public output e.g. blogs, websites, press releases of candidates will now to be monitored by a new member of the CRD team.

Let JM or Stephen Gilbert know if there are any problems with candidates – de-selection should be the last option.

When there are problems with candidates the procedure should be as follows:

- an informal meeting with Gareth and Shireen with a follow-up letter, constituting an informal warning
- a formal meeting with Stephen, Gareth and Shireen, and a follow up letter, constituting a final warning
- Removal from the candidates' list
- Appeal

But there is nothing to deal with the awkward associations – senior volunteers to help?

Most target seats candidates have mentors, but this needs to be approached more assiduously. **Action: AB**

AB wrote a best practice for mentoring note over the summer.

These mentoring relationships should continue in Parliament during the first year of the new MP, and there should be a review of these each month.

The Chief is keen to meet with the candidates so they can get used to being line-managed by the Whips' Office.

The candidates' department should be getting a balanced assessment of the situation from the various sources, including the reports of the regional campaign directors, press officers etc.

Best practice note for candidates to be produced by the new CRD person? **Action: James O'Shaughnessy**

It should include what is expected of a candidate, a budget and business toolkit, help with relationships with the local authorities.

It should be written in such a way that it would not matter if it got out.

It can be put together using the Take Your Seat website – lots of useful information there.

Candidates do not call if there is a problem as they are afraid it will mean a black mark against them.

Of 250 candidates, 70 are women and 10 are of an ethnic minorities – something extra needs to be done to ensure that these ones are not lost.

The weekly conference call on Thursday evenings with candidates to be reinstated.

Action: CS

Any Other Business

Note on Revival of the Real Economy Campaign

Next meeting: 11th November 2008, 8.30am – Focus on Business Relations