

## **Making the National Officers Accountable to You the Voluntary Party**

Too often we have heard the phrase “Your Voice on the Party Board”. Every year and year after year we hear it. Apart from the National Convention Elections, this is the only time you are able to really have your say in who will be representing you on the Board of the Party. I would like to see accountability all year round to you the grass roots. It is so important that you are able to call the National officers to account so that they can represent us in a meaningful way. I would like to see us become.

- 1. Effective Voices on the Party Board**
- 2. Decisive Voices on the Party Board**
- 3. The Grass Roots Voices of the Party Board**

Should I have your trust and support I will pledge to see this become a reality. We talk about accountability in Central and Local Government, it's time we had the same in the Voluntary Party, It is time you had your say with the National Officers by:-

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## **Putting the Party back in Party Conference**

Although I agree we need to take the party to where the fight is. I also believe that we should every three or four years head back to the seaside towns. Conferences have become too expensive, too City centred and too devolved from the Party. It used to be known as the Party Conference, but alas, there is not much Party now at the Party Conference. I would campaign to see us back at the seaside towns and if this is too much to ask to campaign to at least have the Spring Conference at a Seaside Town

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## **MERLIN Training**

There are problems with this operating system which are not all down to the end user or Association. I would campaign for one to one meaningful training and not just group sessions which may leave someone behind or make someone feel inadequate if they should ask any questions. MERLIN is here to stay, so we as a Party need to use it, understand it and have confidence in it. To do this we must make sure that we have properly trained competent operators in our associations. MERLIN is not magic! MERLIN is and should be an Associations best tool to achieve campaign victory's and help in membership drives. Therefore the Party has the obligation to deliver for us, the Voluntary Party, and help us deal with issues quickly and effectively as and when they emerge.

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## **Centralised Funding Letters**

How often do we arrange to send out a Fighting Fund, European Fund or our Summer and Christmas Draw tickets, only to see, just before or after, a Centralised funding letter arrive from CCHQ. We understand that these are important, we understand that these are also essential. However, it needs coordination, it needs planning, it needs controlling. We need funds at Association level to fund campaigns and elections and these centralised funding letters also confuse our members and some think we are only interested in their money. I would wish to see coordinated central funding letters so that we are then able to warn and inform our Associations that this is happening.

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## **Voluntary Party Imprint**

Everything that comes from the National Convention Officers has the CCHQ imprint. I would wish to see our own identity with our own imprint so the volunteers know it has come from the National Convention and can hold them to account. There are legal issues with this which would have to be overcome, but by having a Voluntary party imprint you would know that it has come from your representatives rather than just having their name added to the bottom.