

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR RURAL AFFAIRS OFFICERS IN CONSTITUENCY AND BRANCH LABOUR PARTIES

Labour Rural Affairs deals primarily with farming and food issues and policies, but it also deals with all the many related issues in Rural areas: ownership and use of land, food and plant safety and quality standards, sustainable and environmentally-friendly farming, sustainable and appropriate Rural development and growth, the climate emergency, green energy, protecting and enhancing the natural environment and wild and farmed animal welfare, domestic tourism and leisure, public transport, inappropriate public infrastructure projects, connectivity, personal isolation, healthcare and social care and social welfare.

Rural Affairs is an exciting role in CLPs and BLPS in Rural areas. You will lead or support your CLP or BLP in the policy areas which are the leading issues in Rural areas and nationally and where Labour leads the national debate. Rural Affairs Officers can have a vital role in forming and supporting Labour policies on these issues and campaigning for them to be implemented in Rural areas for the benefit of the whole country.

As Rural Affairs Officer you are the person who **represents** Labour to farming and food and other Rural Affairs businesses within your CLP or BLP area and who represents farming and food interests to the CLP or BLP and is ready to lead or support your CLP or BLP on other Rural Affairs issues

You will work to make your CLP or BLP a strong, vibrant, welcoming and effective campaigning organisation which **promotes** the importance in your CLP or BLP area of:

- Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies, and
- a positive, politically-progressive relationship with farming and food and other businesses and organisations relevant to Labour Rural Affairs

Key Responsibilities and Tasks

- You will promote and progress the important place that Labour Rural Affairs has in elections, campaign organising and your CLP's Constituency Development Plan
- Rural-proof the decision-making and strategy of your CLP or BLP
- Educate and train members of your CLP or BLP in Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies
- Keep members of your CLP or BLP up-to-date on Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies and on Rural Affairs issues in your CLP or BLP area

- Encourage members of your CLP or BLP to participate in and contribute to events and activities and influence development of Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies
- Encourage CLP or BLP members to take a positive, politically-progressive view of farming and food and other businesses and organisations relevant to Labour Rural Affairs in your CLP or BLP area
- Ensure that your CLP or BLP is a safe and politically-progressive place for welcoming people involved in farming and food and other businesses and organisations relevant to Labour Rural Affairs in your CLP or BLP area and for debating and developing Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies
- Organise a wide variety of events and activities involving members and other representatives of the Labour Party, and farming and food and other businesses and organisations relevant to Labour Rural Affairs to ensure that the Labour Party has a strong presence in your CLP or BLP area and an effective voice on Rural Affairs issues
- Publicise Labour's farming, food and Rural Affairs policies in local mainstream and social media
- Work closely with elected representatives, officers and candidates of the Labour Party, neighbouring, regional and national CLPs, and other Labour Party organisations
- Build relationships across the Labour movement including Trade Unions and affiliates
- Build a Labour Party in Rural areas which is for Rural areas, and campaigns to win votes for Labour Party policies in Rural areas and the election of more Labour Party representatives

The Rural Affairs Officer will be aware of the culture wars provoked by opponents of the Labour Party on some issues relating to farming and food businesses, and wild and farmed animal welfare, environmental, food and plant safety standards. The Rural Affairs Officer must use reasoned and lawful advocacy and conduct, advance the accurate and up-to-date Labour Party policies on these issues and not bring the Labour Party, your CLP or BLP into disrepute.

Useful resources:

- Farming Today and The Food Programme on Radio 4
- Country File on BBC 1
- The Farmers Weekly Podcast
- The work of Labour's DEFRA, BEIS and HCLG ministerial teams through direct contact where possible, or following their social media accounts, press releases and policies

- Government, Parliamentary, devolved administration and local government policy, decision-making and debates
- News and commentary in national and local mainstream and other media
- The House of Commons Library
- Taking part in national and local consultations and engagement and encouraging other Labour members to do so
- Attending local farming and food events and contacting local farming and food and other businesses and organisations relevant to Labour Rural Affairs