

Role

Policy Officer

Description

To lead in the preparation of our local manifesto, to co-ordinate responses to consultation, organise local grassroots research and feedback, and link in with GPEW to ensure we follow national policy matters.

The process of policy development is one of the most important means through which the party can build real connections with the local electorate and partner organisations, and demonstrate that it listens and acts on their priorities. Once a local party grows, it will want to develop a strategy and set of policy priorities for local election campaigns under the National party's *Target to Win* guidance. While all the members need to be involved in this, assigning policy leads for specific areas is useful as they can then bring together teams of researchers from across the membership to produce policy documents. Policy leads in particular areas can also act as a link with the National party's policy committee, and can ensure that all local policy, whether it be a specific single issue area or broad inclusivity, is consistent with the National party's.

Developing policy that gains traction with the local electorate is best achieved through engagement of people and communities with the policy development process. Much information regarding the position of the electorate can be gathered through door to door communication with residents, attending meetings with community and voluntary groups, and conducting local surveys. Concerns and priorities identified by residents should then steer the direction of policy development.

To contribute to the formation of the local party strategic plan, and to carry out the role in accordance with the objectives and timeframe captured and agreed by the local party within the strategic plan.

Skills and capabilities

Policy leads and researchers need to have excellent listening skills, they need to integrate information and evidence from a range of different sources, and formulate practical solutions, while understanding and following National party policies and guidance.