

Battersea Labour Party

Statement of Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2019



Introduction

This Statement of Accounts provides a report on the political and financial activities of the Battersea Constituency Labour Party (variously BLP and Battersea CLP) Accounting Unit as defined by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The registered address of this Accounting Unit is: -



For the purposes of the Act, Tony Belton is the current registered Treasurer.

Review of political activities

Overview

The highlight of 2019 from a political perspective was the 12 December General Elections, when Labour retained the Battersea seat, with a swing of 2.5% enabling us to more than double the majority to 5,668. One of our sister parties, Tooting, retained the seat comfortably and the other, Putney, won the seat for the first time since 1997 with the benefit of a magnificent 6.4% swing.

This improvement in our standing, combined with the fact that Labour won a sizable majority of the popular vote (24,749) in the Borough, gives us grounds for optimism in forthcoming elections. Labour continues to run many highly successful social and fund-raising events.

Membership

There has been a recovery in our membership to the levels of 2017. Interestingly 200 members have joined since the General Election, signifying either the feelings in inner southwest London about Brexit and/or the enthusiasm of Labour supporters to have a vote in the coming Leadership election.

The membership of the unit was as follows: -

	2019	2018
Total Members	1328	1228

Branches

The unit has six branches. They are as follows:

- ❑ Balham and Northcote
- ❑ Fairfield
- ❑ Latchmere
- ❑ Queenstown
- ❑ St. Mary Park
- ❑ Shaftesbury

The Trustees of Battersea Labour Party
Labour Party Nominees are the trustees for [REDACTED], which is owned outright by Battersea CLP.

Committees

Once again, the Unit's Executive Committee met monthly during the year (but not April – because of the Borough Election campaigning - August or December). The Committee is responsible for managing the business of the Unit.

Campaigning

The main campaigning activities were, as usual, canvassing, producing and distributing several newsletters, organising street stalls and petitions, etc. The General Election, however, totally eclipsed all other activities, with hundreds of volunteers coming from all over London just as they had done for the 2017 General Election and the 2018 Borough Election campaigns.

As ever, there were many lesser activities, for example, dinners and Jazz nights.

Tony Belton, Aydin Dikerdem, Simon Hogg, Maurice McLeod, Kate Stock, Paula Walker and Emily Wintle continue to represent the party as our Battersea councillors.

Review of financial activities

Overview

2019 expenditure at £89,000 was some £6,000 down on 2018's £95,000. This was because the 2019 “short campaign” was very short, thanks to the circumstances of the Parliamentary dissolution. The late announcement of the General Election meant there that early campaigning was somewhat limited.

The BLP continues to fund its activities, in terms of a four or five-year electoral cycle, but the recent sequence of General Elections has put pressure on this model, with the BLP entering the next electoral cycle with debts of about £5,000.

Income and Expenditure

BLP's main revenue as ever comes from the letting of the three flats at [REDACTED] (£48,000 gross but only £26,000 net of Corporation Tax, repairs and maintenance and professional/agency fees), income from members and affiliated organisations through standing orders, and donations of £25,000.

The bottom line

Our priority had to be to fight the General Election and to use all our resources to enable us to do just that. Now, as a year ago, the priority shifts to paying off the loans and securing a solid base for future campaigning, particularly fighting the 2020 Mayoral and GLA Elections.

The Accounts ¹⁻²

	Notes to Accounts		2019 (£)	2018 (£)
Income				
Rents	7		49,666	44,853
Subscriptions			2,819	3,174
Standing orders			10,385	10,930
Affiliations			36	87
Bank interest			0	0
Donations	5		12,892	4,434
Fundraising			1,173	3,484
Other income			434	3,292
Branch Levies	3		200	1,010
Loans - members Wandsworth Labour Group			11,000	10,500
Total income			88,605	81,764
Expenditure				
Affiliations		HK	20	750
Bank charges & Prof Fees	13	HK	937	908
Bills: Rates		Utils	0	0
Bills: Gas & Electricity		Utils	2,061	1,933
Bills: Telephone		Camp	0	773
Bills: Waste & Water		Utils	396	555
Building: General Works	6	LH	985	1,316
Building: Office, Repair & Maintenance	6	LH	323	101
Building: Rented Repair & Maintenance	6	LH	11,716	5,321
Building: Rented Estate Agent Fees		LH	9,117	7,100
Campaign Expenses (Levies from GLLP & LP)		Camp	0	5,120
Campaign Expenses		Camp	9,763	3,648
Conferences		HK	1,065	252
Constituency Fund raising expenses		HK	0	30
Corporation Tax		LH	5,653	4,725
Employee Salaries, Agent, Admin & Organiser	4	Camp	8,280	19,483
Insurance		HK	437	798
Loan repayment			18,700	22,500
Miscellaneous		HK	722	995
Office Expenses: Consumables, etc.		Camp	3,020	3,260
Office Expenses: Hardware & software.		HK	2,105	300
Office Expenses: Print		Camp	13,086	13,053
Petty Cash		HK	0	0
Post		Camp	559	2,276
Total expenditure	8		88,945	95,197
Excess income over expenditure			-340	-13,433

		Notes to accounts	2019	2018
			(£)	(£)
Fixed assets				
Property	9		1,600,000	1,600,000
Fixtures and Fittings	9		0	0
Information Technology	9		0	160
Folder/enveloper	9		0	0
Reproduction and printing machinery - Riso	9		1,400	1,400
Total fixed assets			<u>1,601,400</u>	<u>1,601,560</u>
Current assets				
Debtors (incl. pre-payments).				
Cash at bank and in hand	11		22	362
Total current assets			<u>22</u>	<u>362</u>
Creditors falling due in less than one year				
Creditors			0	0
Other				
Net current assets/liabilities			<u>22</u>	<u>362</u>
Total assets less current Liabilities			<u>1,601,422</u>	<u>1,601,922</u>
Creditors due in more than one year	10		5,000	33,000
Provisions for liabilities and charges			Nil	Nil
Net assets			<u>1,596,422</u>	<u>1,568,922</u>
Financed by: -				
Accumulated Fund			1,596,422	1,568,922
Excess income over expenditure			-340	-13,433
Adjustment in respect of accumulated				
x unidentifiable errors in the				
accumulated fund	12			0
Revaluation of Fixed Assets & investments				0
Total funds			<u>1,596,082</u>	<u>1,555,479</u>

(1) Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

(2) Change in basis

The layout of this Statement of Accounts is similar to the accounts as agreed at the AGM in February 2018, and in every year since 2010. As in the previous years this return is based on the 2018 report but the comments HK, Utils, Camp, and LH are used as follows:-

- HK refers to Housekeeping and covers such items as Insurance
- Camp refers to Campaigning and is the core activity of a political party and covers such things as leaflet production
- Utils refers to utilities which includes waste and water but not telephones which are largely a campaigning activity
- LH refers to Lavender Hill which is our office address and refers to basic maintenance and handling of the property.

(3) Branch Levies

Battersea Constituency Labour Party asks its constituent branches to raise £250 each, independent of the CLP.

(4) Salaries

The agent's role was taken in 2019 by two self-employed consultants, immediately post the November dissolution of Parliament.

(5) Donations

In accordance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act, donations over £200 have been duly recorded.

(6) Repairs and Renewals to Party Office

In these accounts a distinction is drawn between repairs and renewal to the general fabric of the building, repairs and renewal to the office element and to the residential flats, in order to discount the former against Corporation Tax liabilities.

(7) Rents

The three residential flats are let and managed by a local estate agent, Featherstone Leigh. The Labour related World Transformed organisation rented the office for 2.5 months in mid-summer.

(8) The scale of Battersea CLP's activities

This Accounting Unit is in the middle of the turnover band of £25,000 to £250,000. There are no material accruals or commitments.

(9) Property and Information Technology

██████████ was informally re-valued by property agents, ██████████, at £1,600,000 in December, 2018. There is little purpose and some cost to annual valuations.

The IT equipment and the fixtures and fittings have been written off, except for the Riso printer.

(10) Creditors

BLP's is in the process of redeeming approximately £5,000 credit held by some individuals and the Wandsworth Labour Group, but that debt is accounted for in the 2020 Budget and not held as a separate entry in the Balances.

(11) Cash at bank and in hand

There are two accounts held at the ██████████ and at ██████████, ██████████. The Treasurer also maintains a cash account. On the 31st December the account balances stood as follows:

	2019 £	2018 £
Co-operative bank fundraising account	9	100
Unity Trust bank current account	8	262
Petty cash account	0	0
TOTAL	17	362

(13) Bank Charges and Professional Fees

This has increased considerably because of use of professional accountants thanks to on-line reporting of Corporation Tax returns, etc.

Tony Belton, Treasurer, January, 2019