

HUSTINGS RULES – Leadership Election 2015

1. The host organization will normally choose the Chair of the hustings. The choice of Chair should help balance the platform (including the candidates) to reflect the diversity of the Party. This person should normally be impartial, however a person who has explicitly backed one candidate may still chair the hustings if all the candidates agree. Otherwise a new chair acceptable to all the candidates must be chosen.
2. Any member of the party regardless of the hosting organization must be able to attend any hustings meeting. Venues must be properly accessible in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. No one may be charged for attending a hustings event.
3. The cost of the hustings will be borne by the hosting organization. Any profit raised from the event will also go to the hosting organization.
4. Participation in the hustings is open to any candidate regarded as nominated by the Acting Returning Officer. Candidates who arrive late shall be entitled to take part in those parts of the hustings not yet completed.
5. Candidates who cannot attend can appoint somebody to act as their proxy to make a speech and answers questions on their behalf.
6. Any other part of an event including a hustings must treat all candidates fairly and not give preferential treatment (eg: provision of stalls to candidates)
7. The hustings shall take the format of a speech followed by a 'question time' with questions directed at all candidates equally. No questions shall be allowed that are directed at only one candidate. The Chair must not allow speeches from the floor or questions which are not directed at and answerable by all candidates.
8. The Chair may arrange for questions to be submitted in writing prior to the question time period for them to be randomly ordered and then put to the panel in order to prevent questions that are not directed at everyone or speeches. Questions on the same subject area could be composited together. Supplementary questions shall not be allowed until all written questions have been used.
9. The format for the hustings will be: each candidate shall make a presentation of ten minutes followed by a joint question time. The joint question time period shall take no less than an hour and no more than an hour and a half.
10. Media access should be provided to the candidates speeches but not to the question time. A comfort break should be allowed whilst they clear the room. The venue and backdrop need to be appropriate for the media coverage.
11. Host organisation to promote event to relevant members as they wish but also provide e-mail contact address for members wishing to attend to get more information and Party HQ to publicise details via web and e-mail. Press Office to notify media. Host organisation to appoint someone re: media liaison.

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