

## LI GC Sunday 26th April 2026 minutes

**Attendees:** Imogen Tyreman (Chair), Graham (Secretary), Frankie Ashton (Policy & Campaigns), Beverley Sinton (Treasurer), Mark Lee (Delegate, CENE), Tom Dowling (Brussels Labour), Richard Brinton (Delegate, Southern France), Valerie Swales (Delegate, Southern France), Doreen Henning (Delegate, Southern France), Fiona Urquhart Johnstone (Delegate), Wojciech Kowalewski (Delegate, CENE), Anne Louise Kubiak (Delegate), Steve Holdup (Delegate, Southern Europe), Richard Williams (Political Education), Frank Little (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Lakshmi Jonker (Delegate, Netherlands branch), Balen Najmalddin (Communications), Tracey Scott (Disabilities & carers)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Apologies were minuted.
- The meeting opened with a discussion about how the Executive Committee could act on motions that were not discussed or voted on at a previous General Committee meeting due to lack of quorum or time. It was suggested that the LIEC could ask focused questions to the NEC (e.g., on dual nationals and ETA, and on the Winter Fuel Payment) to get issues on the radar screen before formally passing a motion.

### 2. Apologies

Alan Aitkenhead (Membership), Karen Henderson (Membership), Keshav Dogra (D USA – New York), Mary Cane (D SF, I, IOM), Norman Rimmel (D S. Europe), Hector Muller, Boyd Steven (Vice-chair), Nicki Turk, Nick Clay

### 3. Updates to action Items

(Closed action items will be archived after these minutes are approved.)

	Action	Who	Status
02.1	Communicate the actions from the motions as instructed in the motions.	Secretary	Confirmed as sent.
04.1	Send reminder for the request to PM and AG on the motion ref Winterfuel payments for EU residents	Secretary	New
04.2	Check the Labour rule book to determine who has authority to authorise an extra LIGC.	Secretary	New

### Votes and Motions

Item		For	Abstain	Against	Decision
5.1	Approval of March minutes	14	0	0	Passed

6.1	Changes to the Representation of the People Bill (voting reforms) Amendment: Remove the initial bullet point on PR.	11	2	3	Passed
6.1	Changes to the Representation of the People Bill (voting reforms) Amended motion	18	1	0	Passed
6.2	London transport fare increases Amendment: Change the final paragraph to call for “joining a movement to create free subsidised public transport across the whole of England”	12	0	4	Passed
6.2	London transport fare increases Amended motion	13	1	6	Passed
6.4	Energy security framework	17	1	0	Passed
6.5	Nationalisation of Thames Water Amended motion	15	0	4	Passed
6.6	Approval of the government’s stance not to become involved in the Iran conflict Amended motion	12	2	3	Passed

## 5. Minutes of Previous LIGC & Matters Arising

- The separate document containing the minutes was referenced and accepted. Final minutes will be saved in the DropBox.
- **Winter Fuel Payment motion:** Mark Lee reported that no response had been received from the Prime Minister or the Attorney General to the motion on the unlawfulness of stopping Winter Fuel Payments for withdrawal agreement beneficiaries. An acknowledgement from the AG’s office had promised a response within 20 working days, which had elapsed. Graham noted that civil service responses often take two months and agreed to send a reminder.
- **Correspondence:** Graham reported that a previous motion on the monarchy had received responses from the Treasury and the NEC, both stating no change would be made.
- **Rule clarification:** Graham explained, following the promised discussions with HQ:
  - Once a motion is proposed and seconded at LIGC, it becomes the property of the GC. Any decision to withdraw or refer it back for revision is a GC decision (by vote or chair’s proposal with agreement).
  - The only three-month rule is that a passed motion cannot be reversed within three months. There is no rule preventing a rejected motion from being brought back immediately.

## 6. Motions

### 6.1 Changes to the Representation of the People Bill (voting reforms)

- **Proposer:** Doreen Henning; **Secunder:** Richard Brinton
- **Debate:** Doreen outlined the motion, calling for automatic voter registration, modern voting methods (postal/online), scrapping voter ID, and extending local voting rights to all EU citizens in the UK. It originally included a bullet point on proportional representation (PR).

- **Amendment (Fiona Urquhart Johnstone):** Remove the PR bullet point, to be dealt with in a separate, more detailed motion. **Carried** (11 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions).
- **Motion as amended then carried** (18 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention).

## 6.2 London transport fare increases

- **Proposer:** Richard Brinton; **Seconder:** Doreen Henning
- **Debate:** The motion called for Transport for London to seek additional government funding to reduce fares, referencing the German Deutschland ticket. Wojciech and Richard Williams opposed it as London-centric and potentially subsidising wealthier regions. Frankie and Tim argued that free public transport saves health and infrastructure costs and boosts local economies.
- **Amendment (Valerie Swales):** Change the final paragraph to call for “joining a movement to create free subsidised public transport across the whole of England”. **Carried** (12 in favour, 4 against).
- **Motion as amended then carried** (13 in favour, 6 against, 1 abstention).

## 6.3: Consequences of the Hillsborough inquiry for Norman Bettison

- Postponed to the next meeting at the proposer’s request (Proposer is unable to attend). An amendment from the Netherlands branch is on the website.

## 6.4 Energy security framework

- **Proposer:** Tim Putnam; **Seconder:** Frankie Ashton
- **Debate:** The motion called for the government to decouple UK electricity pricing from marginal gas prices and expand the Contracts for Difference (cost-plus) framework, with priority investments in local heat/power networks, marine turbines, grid modernisation, and free public transport. Richard Williams raised concerns about investor certainty; Tim clarified the motion is about the contracting framework, not a full energy policy. Steve requested more detail but supported the aim.
- **Motion carried** (17 in favour, 1 abstention).

## 6.5 Nationalisation of Thames Water

- **Proposer:** Richard Brinton; **Seconder:** Tim Putnam
- **Debate:** Richard argued for public ownership of Thames Water and other water companies. Tim proposed an amendment to change “nationalisation” to “public ownership” (including compulsory administration as an option). Frankie strongly supported. Steve asked about the cost to the public purse; Richard noted the company’s shares have near-zero value.
- **Amendment (Tim):** replace “renationalise” with “bring into public ownership” – accepted without vote.
- **Motion as amended carried** (15 in favour, 4 against).

## 6.6 Approval of the government’s stance not to become involved in the Iran conflict

- **Proposer:** Tim Putnam; **Seconder:** Doreen Henning
- **Debate:** Motion supported the principle of non-engagement and seeking diplomatic solutions. Doreen noted the cynicism about actual UK involvement but said the motion reflects Starmer’s stated position.
- **Amendment (Lakshmi Jonker):** add “publicly stated” before “stance” to clarify that the motion supports the government’s declared position. Accepted by proposers.
- **Motion as amended carried** (12 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions).

## **7. Follow-up Discussion**

- The meeting time expired and, due to the AGM which was planned to follow directly, the meeting would be adjourned. The LIEC agreed to investigate the options for reducing the time that motion discussions take.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of an extra LIGC to handle motions and also about which group had authority (Chair or LIGC itself) to decide that. The LIEC agreed to investigate the rules and report back.

**The meeting closed.**