

Developing the Voluntary Party

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Background

To succeed this proposal needs to be accompanied by a devolution of power to the most local level possible within the Party to encourage local people to take responsibility. This is what we mean by localism.

[read more background](#)

The Party Board includes representatives from all parts of the Party, including Volunteers, Parliamentarians, Professionals and the Party Leadership, and is the supreme decision making body in the Party.

The Party Board working through headquarters has and should retain primary responsibility for the professional organisation, the party branding, the candidates selection procedures, the research department, Treasurers and all support departments.

All decisions that can be taken locally, should be taken locally, as it is local units that are best placed to take local decisions and because delegating power encourages personal responsibility and the development of leadership skills.

Key responsibilities that should be held locally include:

1. Selecting local election candidates (and most importantly, on occasion, deselecting them)
1. Selecting Parliamentary candidates, off a centrally approved list, and in line with guidelines approved by the Board
1. Party discipline, including recommendations for suspensions, expulsions, and Supported Status applications
1. Party organisation including mergers and groupings

These proposals assume that primary responsibility for performance improvement will be taken by volunteers themselves and that as responsibility is devolved to local people, so volunteer leaders will emerge to provide the impetus for improvement.

Each of the 5 proposals are explained on the following pages.