**Redesign Booklet - Questions**

**Section 1a - Conferences Consultation Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Do you agree that we should move from an annual to biennial General Conference? Please explain your reasons?    Do you believe conference should be about setting long term strategic goals and policies? If so what changes would you like to see?    Is a motion-based conference the best way of developing policy? Please explain your answers. |
| 2 | To what extent can urgent issues which require contemporary decisions be dealt with adequately by policy forums and briefings? How can we ensure that decision making is done in a relevant, democratic and timely fashion? |
| 3 | Should all existing equality conferences be replaced with a single conference and how do we ensure polices on equality issues are debated by the whole union? Please give reasons for your answer. |
| 4 | Should we review the way in which motions are tabled for debate within the conference agenda pad? Please give reasons for your answer.  (Please refer to the paragraph headed “Arrangements for Conference” in the document) |
| 5 | Which bodies of the union should be able to submit motions to conferences? |
| 6 | Are there any changes you feel we should make to General conferences in relation to the format, length and timings? |
| 7 | How can we best ensure that the role of cross constituency conferences in terms of sustaining a consistent one union approach to issues is maintained? |
| 8 | If, for instance we were to move to a biennial conference, how can we best retain the opportunities for representatives to network/socialise and get involved in conferences beyond the formal functions of these events? |
| **General Comments** | |

**Section 2a - Branches Consultation Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Considering the Branch structure as a whole and not just your own Branch, is our current Branch structure fit for purpose in terms of the ability of all Branches to adequately organise and represent our members now and in the future? Please give reasons for your answer. (Please refer to Options 1, 2, 3 and 4) |
| 2 | In line with existing conference policy, please make suggestions for alternative mechanisms for the funding of Branches to replace the current rebate system. These suggestions should aim to address the needs of all Branches both large and small in a more equitable way. (Please refer to Option 10) |
| 3 | Do you agree with the 14 measures of success for an effective Branch set out on pages 16 and 17 of the Branch Section of the document? Please outline any further changes you would make to this list and please give reasons for your answers. (Please refer to Option 9) |
| 4 | Should we encourage Branches to lease rather than purchase premises? Should we encourage Branches and Regions to better share and pool resources such as premises and office facilities? (Please refer to Option 6) |
| 5 | Would there be savings and benefits for Branches in moving to a more centralised purchasing system for some resources and services that we currently purchase, lease and contract. For which services might this be appropriate? If this arrangement was available would your Branch sign up to it? (Please refer to Option 5) |
| 6 | Would a single online system for storing all data relating to case work be beneficial to Branches in terms of consistency and the legal obligations that we have to comply with data protection legislation? (Please refer to Option 7) |
| **General Comments** | |

**Section 3a - Regions Consultation Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Do you support the need for a Regional Structure and if not why not?    Is the current Regional structure fit for purpose?    Are there any changes you would make in terms of numbers of Regions, allocation of Branches to Regions and the overall role and purpose of Regions? (Please refer to Option 1, 2 and 3) |
| 2 | What do you believe should be the role and focus of the Regional Secretary? (Please refer to Option 3) |
| 3 | With regard to the role and status of the Regional Secretary, should it be appointed or elected and should the term of office change from the current two year term? Please give an explanation for your answer. (Please refer to Option 4) |
| 4 | How do you think our Regions could be more effective and more strongly linked and accountable to the NEC and conference policy? (Please refer to Option 5) |
| 5 | The document sets out plans to reduce the number of Regional Sub-Committees. In your view do these plans provide adequate and appropriate structures for the Regions? Are there any changes you would make to this? Please suggest any changes below. (Please refer to Options 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13) |
| 6 | How should we fund and resource the Regional structures? Please provide an explanation for your response. (Please refer to Options 15, 16, 17 and 18) |
| 7 | Is there any benefit to the union that the principle of decisions by consensus continues in the Regions? Please explain your response. (Please refer to Option 19) |
| 8 | Please outline your view on how many meetings and what sort of meetings in the Regions would generate the most tangible and beneficial outcomes for the union and its members. (Please refer to paragraphs 10 and 13) |
| 9 | Should the Regional Secretary be responsible for carrying out a regular health check on Branches to ensure consistency and adherence to rules, and policies? (Please refer to Option 6) |
| **General Comments** | |

**Section 4a - National Structures Consultation Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Do you believe there are any barriers to people standing for National Positions in the CWU?  (By National Positions we mean “Officers to the NEC”, “Executive members of the NEC” and “Members of Advisory Committees”) E.g. Structural, location, work/life balance?    Please explain your response and if you do believe barriers exist, what practical solutions might there be to overcome these? |
| 2 | In line with the union policy on proportionality, do you believe the current structure of the NEC is reflective of our membership?  If your answer is ‘No’, please explain what changes you think could be made to improve this. |
| 3 | Thinking specifically about Young Workers – what can be done to encourage greater participation at National level? |
| 4 | Thinking specifically about Equality Strands – what can be done to encourage greater participation at National level? |
| 5 | Based on Questions 2, 3 and 4 do you have a view on the size and composition of the NEC and its sub-committees? Please explain your answer. |
| 6 | How can we ensure we are adequately represented at National level in those areas of the UK that have devolved Government, Political and Trade Union Structures? |
| 7 | How can we encourage more membership participation in the national electoral process? |
| 8 | What is the ideal term of office for Officers, the NEC and Advisory Committees? Please explain your answer. |
| 9 | Should the CWU now review the roles of the Advisory Committees (including composition, structure and objectives)? Please explain your answer. |
| 10 | How can we ensure the work of the Advisory Committees is reflective of the Political, Industrial, Organising and Campaigning aims of the CWU? Please explain your answer. |
| 11 | How do we ensure that communications and interactions between Branches/Regions and the NEC are optimised? Please explain your answer. |
| 12. | What do you believe are the strengths and weaknesses of the current NEC structure? Please explain your answer. |
| **General Comments** | |