



Board meeting 16 July 2019: key outcomes

In the interest of transparency and accountability we are publishing a summary note of each regular meeting of the Compass Board. If members have any questions or thoughts, please contact [Remco](#).

Meeting held at Compass offices, London. Members attending:

Ruth Lister (chair), Mark Cooke, Neal Lawson, Edward Saperia, Sarah Sultoon, Stephanie Leonard, Andy Martin, Shelagh Wright, Roger Lawson.

Strategy, political work and campaigns

The Board agreed that Compass' unique quality is that of being both a vehicle for deep, long-term intellectual work and an organisation that responds to and participates in immediate political developments. Compass' objective is to realise a good society; the focus is on transforming our political and democratic system to make this possible.

The Board agreed that in the event of an early general election, Compass should seek to unite MPs/candidates behind an agenda of pluralist democratic reform, which it will develop as part of its new 'We the People' initiative. Compass should not endorse the dominant narratives that simply amplify the Brexit-divide. It was also agreed that the conditions are not right for a re-run of the 2017 progressive alliance. We will issue a statement to members and supporters explaining this position.

Inside Compass

Compass needs to raise additional funds to fulfil its ambitions for this year. The Board is closely following the progress of Compass' partnership with Small Axe to grow the organisation's membership and its regular income. Board members commented on proposals for new member recruitment as well as drafts of membership pack materials.

The Board wants to help Compass to better integrate its communications and media work into the partnership activity. Board members will also work with staff to develop Compass' fundraising approach, so that there is more financial space to do long-term work. To support this, the staff will produce a note explaining how the different elements of our work fit together.

The Board has decided to take further advice from experts and potential Council members on the establishment and mission of the Compass Council, which it will further discuss at its next meeting. In the meantime Sue Goss will be asked to chair the Council.

The Board has agreed to appoint Shelagh Wright as its Vice-chair.

Next meeting

The next Compass Board meeting is scheduled for a date (tbc) in October 2019.