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## **Leaked papers reveal hard-left tactics to deselect Labour MP**

By Lucy Fisher

The tactics being deployed by hard-left activists to deselect an MP and seize control of the local Labour party have been revealed by leaked documents that will heighten fears about the targeting of MPs opposed to Jeremy Corbyn.

The documents, seen by The Times, show how a Momentum group in Liverpool has organised recruitment drives and set up secret forums to devise strategies for wresting control from Labour members it feels are hostile.

The main aim of the Riverside Momentum, a branch of the nationwide network of Corbyn supporters, is to take over the executive of the party in the city's Riverside seat, where Louise Ellman, a veteran moderate, is MP.

The group made plans to bolster its numbers in the constituency party before elections for local party officers, expected in the next few weeks, and to try to influence the constituency's MP and councillors.

Remarks on one document make clear that the Momentum branch's objectives centre on "obtaining a new executive committee at the forthcoming AGM, one which will better reflect the political objectives of the membership, and better respect internal party democracy".

The document, "Socialism and Democracy in Riverside CLP: Preparation for the AGM", accuses the executive committee of the local party of being "hostile" to Mr Corbyn and "out of step with the majority of members".

It sets out a two-phase plan to recruit members, looking to bolster its numerical strength in party meetings by focusing on university students and using the Labour leadership contest this summer to create interest in Momentum.

The group, which is understood to have 700 members, described recruitment as "an important pillar of the strategy for the AGM, but will also carry forward into any future selection process for an MP".

Weekly street stalls in each of the seat's seven wards, replete with literature and a petition, are planned until the end of the Labour leadership contest next Saturday.

The documents also reveal the extent to which Momentum Riverside forms caucuses within Labour, exchanging messages on a private online forum and meeting up before party gatherings to devise its stance and conduct in them.

Figures linked to Militant in the Eighties are involved in Momentum Riverside, having addressed rallies, raising concern about entryism among moderate Labour members in the seat.

Momentum said: "In a democratic party, local members have the democratic right to organise to elect their officers. We're not campaigning for the mandatory reselection or deselection of MPs. One member speaking in one local meeting does not determine local or national policy."

"Momentum has a strict code of ethics. We have not received any complaints about any members in Liverpool Riverside. If we do we will investigate in accordance with our procedures."

Liverpool was a heartland of the Militant tendency in the 1980s, when 49 members of the city council took on the government and set an illegal budget.

Labour moderates fear that figures who were part of the farleft faction, which was denounced by the then-leader Neil Kinnock in 1985 and expelled from the party, have established links with Momentum in the area.

Felicity Dowling, who was one of 47 Labour councillors temporarily barred from public office in the 1980s, spoke at a Momentum rally backing Jeremy Corbyn in Liverpool in July. Other former Militant activists are also said to be involved with the group in the city.

Alan Runswick, author of a document about the group's structure, was listed on a slate for Left Unity, a rival political party, in April.

Labour moderates accuse Momentum of being a vehicle for entryism in the party.

Momentum denies the charge. Its rules state that it only allows people who are members of Labour, or no political party but who subscribe to Labour values, to join.