

No: 205/25

22nd September 2025

TO: ALL BRANCHES

Dear Colleague,

CWU NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY- LUCY POWELL

As branches may be aware, the election of the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party is currently accepting nominations from affiliated trade unions and socialist societies. In order to determine our nomination, we sent both candidates- Bridget Phillipson, MP for Houghton and Sunderland South and the Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, and Lucy Powell, MP for Manchester Central- a series of questions regarding their stance on expanding the New Deal for Workers, what they would do to support our members and what plans they had for improving the voice of trade unions within Labour Party democracy. Both candidates responded and these responses were placed before our NEC.

The NEC met today to discuss these responses and our nomination and have concluded that **the CWU will nominate Lucy Powell for Deputy Leader of the Labour Party**. Alongside her previous work with our North West region, Lucy has outlined her commitment to implementing the New Deal for Workers in full, including cracking down on bogus self-employment and sectoral bargaining in multiple sectors, going beyond the current legislation introduced through the Employment Rights Bill. She has also committed to not undertaking a front-bench position if she is elected Deputy Leader so that she can openly advocate for the Labour Party membership and affiliates and be critical regarding areas in which the Government needs to improve. She has also given assurances that she will improve Party democracy and Conference, bringing the demands of the trade unions to the leadership of the Labour Party.

Branches should be aware that though we have previously balloted branches in regards to our endorsement for the senior leadership of the Labour Party, due to the short timeline of this contest, we are unable to do so again and the NEC have therefore decided on our nomination. The difficult time frame and recent changes to nomination rules have meant that this election is not as democratic and open as it could have been. This is something we have raised with Lucy and will be pursuing with the Labour Party going forward, to ensure that the Labour leadership is open to all wings of the Party and debate is not stifled.

This is certainly a difficult time for our movement and for the Labour Government, who have not taken advantage of the significant mandate given to them at the last election to transform our economy in favour of working-class people. It is our view that the Deputy Leadership should be able to challenge the Government where they have made mistakes, to push for a more radical agenda that brings real change to our workplaces and our communities and to campaign for change in direction, led by the membership and the trade unions.

Branches may also be aware that the CWU levy-payers are entitled to vote in this Deputy Leadership election (provided they meet the voter eligibility requirements) as a result of our affiliation to the Labour Party. We will be in touch with levy-paying members in due course to explain more about this process and how to secure a ballot. Branches should encourage all levy-paying members to use their vote if they wish.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please contact dlynch@cwu.org.

Yours Sincerely,



Dave Ward
General Secretary