

Momentum Proposal for Electing the Leader

Principles

The process for electing the party leader should be underpinned by the following principles:

- All significant political trends in the Labour Party should have a fair chance of being represented on the ballot paper.
- All three constituent parts of the Labour Party (members, trade unions, elected representatives) should have an equal opportunity to put candidates onto the ballot.
- None of the constituent parts of the Labour Party should have the ability to wield an effective veto to prevent a candidate representing one of the key political trends from getting on the ballot.
- Leadership elections should be used by the party to engage with members of the public, and to recruit both registered supporters and members.

Specifics

- In the case of a vacancy for leader or deputy leader, each candidate should be supported by either: a) 10 per cent of the combined Commons members of the PLP; b) 10 per cent of the affiliated national trade unions; or c) 10 per cent of Constituency Labour Parties.
- There should be a fixed annual nomination period, during which prospective candidates can gain nominations for the leadership. This period should be fixed so that the leader can be announced at Party conference. Outside of this time, there shall be no leadership campaign unless the NEC decides there are exceptional circumstances.
- The category of registered supporters should be retained, and the cost of becoming a registered supporter should be set at no more than 10 per cent of the cost of membership fees.
- New registered supporters and members should be allowed to vote in future leadership elections provided they join no later than one month before the close of the election.

Supporting Argument

The election of the party leader one of the most important decisions that many party members will ever make. Leadership elections represent an unprecedented opportunity for the party to democratically debate the future direction of the party, and they therefore need to be underpinned by robust commitments to allowing party members, affiliated supporters and registered supporters to have a democratic choice between candidates representing the different political trends that exist in the party. Current rules only allow the Parliamentary Labour Party to decide whether a candidate gets on the ballot, giving them an effective veto over candidates. Under existing arrangements, this veto could be used to keep a candidate with the same political vision as the current Party leader off the ballot. Extending the current threshold of

10% of nominations to CLPs and trade unions, so that any candidate achieving over 10% in either of those categories would get on the ballot, would correct for this. In addition, the category of registered supporters should be maintained, with a cap on its cost, and new members and registered supporters should be allowed to sign up and vote until one month before the end of any future leadership election, in order to engage the public as much as possible and increase recruitment.