

Being a CWU Delegate to your local Labour Party



The CWU affiliates to Labour to give us a strong political voice and to ensure it will stand up for CWU members in parliament and government. At the last election as part of a bold manifesto Labour pledged to: re-nationalise Royal Mail; invest significantly in high-speed broadband infrastructure; stop the Post Office closure programme; set up a Post Bank; close the agency workers loophole; and introduce a wide range of strong new employment rights to improve your rights at work.

To ensure we get a Labour government that delivers these things we need CWU members to get involved in their local Labour Party branches.

Becoming a delegate to your local Labour Party

In particular, you can help advance the CWU's political aims by becoming a delegate to your local Constituency Labour Party (a CLP).

Local Labour parties can operate in one of two ways. They can either hold *all member meetings*, where all of their local members get a vote on any decisions; or they can have *General Committees (GCs)* where decisions are taken by delegates from local trade unions and smaller Labour branches.

Under the GC structure, this smaller committee is extremely important and is responsible for:

- receiving reports from the Labour MP and putting forward views to the MP about issues in Parliament;
- selecting delegates and submitting motions to Labour Conference;
- appointing officers to run the CLP (such as the Chair and the Secretary);
- appointing a campaign committee to organise election campaigning; and
- organising local policy forums to have an input into Labour policy-making.

Where a CWU branch is affiliated to a local CLP which operates on this structure, the union has the right to have five delegates on the Committee, which gives us a say in all of these decisions.

Why is this important

Having delegates at local CLPs is extremely important for advancing our political aims – and it also means individual CWU members get a say in the decision-making process themselves.

By having delegates at a CLP we can: gain support from local parties and MPs for our campaigns; influence the wider Labour policy making process; have a greater say in selecting Labour candidates; support CWU members looking to stand; and build local contacts for campaigns and disputes where we want support.

How do I become a delegate?

Delegates must be levy paying members of the union, members of the Labour Party and they must live in the constituency itself. To find out if your CWU branch is affiliated to a local CLP and if you can become a delegate on the committee, contact your Branch or email politics@cwu.org.

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