



Democracy Review: Explainer to Members

The Democracy Review

Today, the Labour Party has launched the Democracy Review, which will address a broad range of areas of party reform. This review represents an unprecedented opportunity for party members and trade union affiliates to fundamentally remake the party so that it is equipped to provide deep and meaningful representation to millions of people, and to implement a socialist programme to transform the country. It will address the following issues:

- The method of electing the Party Leader, including the role of registered supporters and the issue of nominating thresholds.
- The composition of the NEC and the procedures for elections to it in its various elements.
- Developing democratic policy-making procedures, including strengthening the role of Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) and of Party Conference and the development of local and regional plans
- The role, accountability and transparency of regional structures.
- The democratic functioning of associated bodies like BAME Labour, Young Labour etc
- Strengthening the involvement and participation of our hundreds of thousands of new members in constituency parties and other aspects of the Party's work.
- Recruitment of members to further develop a mass party
- The composition of CLP Executives
- Strengthening the links between the Party and its trade union affiliates locally and nationally, and engaging more of their members in the Party's life.
- Developing the accountability of Labour local authority representatives.

- Gender representation throughout the Party, and the role of Labour women’s conference.
- Harnessing the potential of social media across all aspects of Labour’s democracy and political work.

Timeline

November 1st	Submissions open
January 12th 2018 (Track 1)	Deadline for Bame Labour, YL, and Women’s Conference submissions (Wave 1)
March 23rd 2018 (Track 2)	Deadline for submissions on CLP governance, Strengthening the involvement and participation of members, building mass movement, social media, the role of socialist societies, diversity and gender representation (Wave 2)
June 29th 2018 (Track 3)	Rules for leadership elections, local government, regional structures, NEC composition, freeze dates, policymaking structures, local and national links with trade unions (Wave 3)
September	NEC Meeting where Review may be released
Late September	Party Conference where Review may be voted through

Momentum and the Democracy Review

All members of the Labour Party are entitled to make submissions to the Democracy Review, either as individuals, party units (CLPs), or as affiliated organisations, by submitting proposals online. In addition, the Labour Party will also be

holding at least one consultation event in each region or nation, where members can meet to raise and debate key issues. Party members will be able to make submissions covering any of the themes outlined, and also have the option of submitting rule changes which were passed this year and are currently on the agenda for next year's Conference, as well as rule changes that were remitted at this year's Party Conference provided they are covered by one of the themes of the review. However, while all Labour Party members can submit proposals directly, it is important to debate, decide, and coordinate proposals collectively in order to ensure democratic participation and the maximum contribution to the review possible.

In order to fully empower members to ensure that the Democracy review is as participatory and transformative as possible, Momentum will establish the following forums to allow members to participate, and collectively agree on what the organisation's proposals should be for the Review:

- a) Momentum will launch a digital democracy platform to receive submissions from Momentum individuals and groups for the review. After a period when submitters will have the option of amending their submissions, members will be able to nominate one submission covering each theme of the Democracy Review. Submissions reaching a minimum threshold in each theme will go forward to compositing meetings comprised of representatives from Momentum's National Coordinating Group (NCG) and submitters of the original proposals.
- b) Momentum groups will be able to meet and deliberate on key proposals which they will then be able to submit into the digital democracy platform as groups. Please see guidance notes on managing meetings of local groups to ensure they are as participatory and as meaningful as possible as well as a document outlining proposals which have been made by grassroots activists in recent years;
- c) Momentum's Members' Council of 50 members drawn randomly by lot will be convened in early December, and will work in breakout groups to develop proposals on key areas of the review. The Members' Council will then submit these to the digital democracy platform, and they will be automatically guaranteed to be included in the compositing meetings;
- d) The National Coordinating Group will be able to put its own proposals directly to members;

- e) All finalised, composited proposals, contributed by the individual members and groups through MxV, the Members' Council, and the NCG will be put to a One Member One Vote ballot of members before being adopted by Momentum;

Once the submissions are agreed on, Momentum will circulate them throughout our network of supporters and organisers to pass through their CLPs and into the Democracy Review.

The full details of Momentum's procedures for deciding what to submit will be released in the following weeks. In the meantime, Momentum groups can start preparing by organising meetings to debate key submissions into the review. If you are on a local group steering committee, and would like a Momentum staff member to visit your group in person or by skype to discuss the Review, or have any other questions about the process, please write to Rachel at rachel.godfreywood@peoplesmomentum.com. Please note that only Momentum members will be allowed to participate in Momentum's decision-making processes over the Democracy Review.