

National Executive Committee, 4 June 2024

This replaced the meeting scheduled for 28 May and took us straight from the local elections into the thick of the general election campaign. Rishi Sunak's decision seems to have surprised his own party more than Labour, which has been preparing for months, but better to put them out of their misery than drag on until November.

The NEC endorsed by acclamation a list of candidates for all 632 contested Westminster seats, except for two where outstanding processes had yet to conclude. Since then another vacancy has arisen. Members were pleased that Diane Abbott's situation was now resolved and hoped that lessons had been learned, so that policy announcements were not overshadowed. I highlighted the loyalty and commitment of applicants who were unsuccessful and of local parties unable to choose their preferred candidate. Most have not complained on social media or talked to journalists, but continued working for a Labour government despite their disappointment. Thank you for sharing your experiences, and I will have more to say on improving selection procedures later this year.

Reasonable Adjustments

The deadline for conference delegates, constitutional amendments and NEC and other nominations will be extended beyond 28 June, with the website updated and members notified in the next few days. I also asked that the qualifying membership period for conference visitors should be six months, the same as for delegates, rather than the 12 months adopted recently, and am awaiting a reply.

Farewells

The NEC paid tribute to Margaret Beckett and George Howarth who have stood down as MPs, and will be replaced by elections within the new parliamentary party. Six other NEC members are standing for parliament and, if elected, they will also leave the NEC on 4 July. For the CLP section the runners-up from the 2022 elections will immediately join the NEC, with by-elections for vacancies in the trade union and socialist societies sections.

Final Stages

On Friday 7 June the Clause V committee, comprising the NEC, the shadow cabinet, the parliamentary committee, the Scottish and Welsh leaders, the national policy forum officers and eleven members of the national trade union liaison committee meets to sign off the manifesto, based on the policies agreed by the NPF last July. Attendance is in person only, and phones will be confiscated on arrival, so hopefully there will be no leaks.

It only remains to wish everyone good luck and success, wherever you are campaigning. You're welcome to continue writing about anything, but the priority for candidates, activists and staff is securing a Labour government, and all other business is on hold. See you on the other side!

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