

***Email from Angela Rayner's office to LCER:***

*Firstly, as Deputy Leader I'll start by listening to our members, including organisations like yours and of course the views of the public. The Lib Dems led us into a referendum on electoral reform that was always likely to be a failure because of the unpopularity of their actions in coalition, which makes it a much harder debate now.*

*It's clear that in many ways the system isn't working - we have an unelected chamber where people are still handed power by birth right. We have candidates standing for office who go into debt and give up work just to participate in our democracy. We have a government intent on making voting harder.*

*I'm open to change in how we do business - and I have to say that the Deputy Leader doesn't just get to decide policy, it's down to our members - but personally my top concern is to keep the link between politicians and constituencies. I love the link back to my community, and I think elected politicians should have that accountability back to the people they serve. It also helps to keep you grounded, and means if you really stray from the will of people who elected you, you're out.*

*Without a doubt, the first major constitutional reform should be replacing the House of Lords and I don't think there is any doubt that would need a new electoral system. Until we're in power to do that, we should put our values into action as a Party. During this campaign I've called for us to introduce People's Peerages to end the back room stitch up on who is appointed to the House of Lords, bringing in some democratic accountability within the Party.*

*I also support using STV in internal party elections. If we are serious about democratic reform in the country, we can show it within our own party first.*

*I'm also serious about the need to devolve power within England as well as to the other nations of the UK, local people must have a say over what that looks like too. A serious transformation of power in our country cannot be led by politicians alone, and there is a lot to learn from the constitutional convention that shaped Scottish devolution.*

*All of that first requires Labour to win power, and that will be my top priority every day if I am elected your Deputy Leader.*