

## Shane LEONARD: Supporting Statement for Branch Chair 2026-2027

I am honoured to accept nomination for the position of Branch Chair for the year 2026-27.

I have served UNISON's Avon & Somerset Branch as a Branch steward for over 25 years now; during that time, I have worked directly with members to resolve workplace issues, defend rights, and ensure that our collective agreements are upheld and applied fairly and consistently. This long-standing role has given me a deep understanding of both the day-to-day concerns of our members and the broader challenges facing our union. I have also worked alongside current and former Branch Officers such as Steve Reid on disciplinary & sickness cases and feel that I have the experience necessary to provide appropriate advice, guidance and support to members who find themselves subject to these types of proceedings.

Throughout my years of service, I have believed strongly in listening to members, representing them honestly, and acting with integrity at all times. I have seen firsthand the importance of unity, clear communication, and strong leadership, especially during times of change or difficulty.

If elected to the position of Branch Chair, I will work to strengthen member engagement, promote transparency in decision-making, and advocate firmly for fair working conditions and respect in the workplace. I am committed to collaborative leadership and to ensuring that every member feels informed, supported, and represented.

I am ready to continue serving our Branch with dedication, experience, and respect for our shared values and I would be proud to serve as your Branch Chair."