

A BETTER PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

THE LABOUR PARTY'S CONTRACT WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Labour Party Manifesto

2014/15

Foreword

The Rt Hon. Ariadne Suchet

I fought for the leadership of the Labour Party because I believed passionately that Britain deserved a strong Opposition, fighting hard for the things that ordinary working people up and down this country care about. Better schools, a stronger National Health Service, more and cheaper housing, higher wages, more jobs, safe and strong communities and a fairer democracy.

During the course of this general election campaign, my party is fighting for your vote, so that we can form a new government with a new set of values: forward-thinking, progressive, modern - and committed to the many, not the few.

Over the past four years, the Tories have decimated our economy and our public services. On average they have reduced the deficit by only 0.8% as a share of GDP year-on-year, and have overseen the most prolonged, sluggish recovery from recession in living memory. Conservative priorities have been simply wrong: a 5% tax cut for the richest in society whilst the NHS struggles to keep going through each winter. Tens of thousands of police officers given the sack, even as social deprivation contributes to an increasingly fraught and dangerous life for the many thousands of people who live in struggling communities. Ravaging cuts to social care, essential local services, schools and medicine. The Conservatives trebled tuition fees, pricing the poor out of higher education, and did nothing as thousands of people found themselves trapped in exploitative zero-hours contracts and low-paid, insecure work.

Labour's pledge is to work hard for working Britons. Our vision is not one of the left or the right, but of the future: a future in which we can bring our one nation together rather than tearing it apart. We will cut the deficit and balance the books by 2020, but we will do it in a way that is fair and equitable. We will keep taxes low for the vast majority of families, whilst asking the very richest to pay a larger share until our national debt is falling. We will properly fund our National Health Service, bringing it back from the brink, and we will deliver the much-needed investment in schools, housing and the environment that will safeguard our people against the challenges of the future.

The people of the United Kingdom have a clear choice in this election, and let's be clear about what it means. Under the Tories, Britain has reached breaking point. Four more years of unstable and ineffective Tory rule, racked by continued division over Europe, will not deliver the equitable prosperity that our people deserve. The scandal-ridden party of Mary Cabel and Harold Saxon cannot deliver a fairer, freer, more democratic society. A Conservative Party that is ideologically committed to protecting the interests of the few at the expense of the many cannot protect your families and your livelihoods; and a government which is ready to blame our country's problems on immigration and the international community cannot be expected to do good in the world.

Whether you left Labour in 2010 or you have never voted Labour before, I hope that our agenda for opportunity, as expressed herein, will convince you that we are a party worthy of your trust once again. This manifesto is not about spin - it is about solutions. Government can set out the framework for a brighter future, but it will be the British people who, through their everyday hard work, generosity of spirit, strength and faith, truly deliver it. This manifesto, then, is a contract with every voter in the land. It bears my signature and I will be live and die by its commitments to you. I believe that people deserve better than they are getting under the Tories. If you agree with me, read on - and let us set out what we will do to free the lion from its shackles so it can roar once again.

Yours faithfully,

Ari

The Economy

Dylan Macmillan has made a lot of the state of the economy four years ago. He criticises Labour's management of fiscal policy, despite the fact that his own party over 13 years called for less - not more - regulation of the banks. Failing to foresee the biggest financial crisis in a century was a failure that the Labour Party must admit to, and it is one for which we are sorry. However, the facts are clear: the recession affected every developed economy around the globe. The deficit under 13 years of Labour government was consistently smaller than it had been throughout the Tory misrule of the 1990s, and its rapid expansion after 2008 was a consequence of our decision to bail out the banks and ensure that millions of people, who could have lost everything, had their deposits protected. What the Tories have never told you is what they would have done differently; instead, they have played political games for four long years. In reality, Britain in 2010 had a smaller national debt than the United States, Germany or France.

The fact is that four years have passed since the Conservatives came into office. In that time, the deficit has shrunk by an average of only 0.8% year-on-year. The first priority of the Tories has been to cut taxes for the richest and decimate our public services, causing the slowest and most sluggish economic recovery in living memory and trapping millions in a cost of living crisis. It's time to do things differently.

Labour will raise the personal allowance up to £10,000 immediately upon taking office, lifting tens of thousands of low earners out of tax altogether; and we will raise the minimum wage to £8 an hour this year, giving a real terms pay boost to the many families who simply cannot afford to get by under the Tories. And where the Tories have imposed a regressive pay cap on public sector workers, delivering a real-terms pay cut over four years, we will guarantee an above-inflation pay rise for the public sector this year and double the provision of free childcare for parents with children aged 2-3.

The Conservatives raised VAT immediately upon taking power, raising prices in the supermarkets for everyone. Labour will freeze VAT for five years, ensuring that hardworking people do not have to fork out more for the things they need.

We will freeze the standard rate of corporation tax, and cut the rate applied to small businesses to just 15%, helping our shopkeepers and startups to thrive. We will abolish the discriminatory and unfair 'bedroom tax' and fund a new Coastal and Inland Flooding Agency with the largest dedicated flood prevention budget in British history, protecting our vulnerable communities from the effects of global climate change.

We recognise that it will be necessary to make savings over the next five years, and to find ways of raising money in order to pay for our funding commitments - which include an extra £7 billion this year for the National Health Service, 20,000 extra police officers, and a £50 increase to the per-pupil funding paid to schools across the country.

So, as a temporary emergency measure, we will impose a 60% top rate of income tax for those earning more than £100,000 a year. Income tax at this level was in place for nine of the eleven years in which Margaret Thatcher occupied 10 Downing Street; so Tory claims that such a policy is somehow 'hard-left' or dangerous for our economy are errant nonsense. **94 percent of the people in Britain will not pay a penny more in income tax**; that is an absolute guarantee. And once the deficit has been cleared and the national debt is falling, we will repeal the 60p emergency top rate and restore the previous level.

Our changes to income tax will raise in excess of £20 billion, on top of which we will increase the bank levy by 0.25% in order to raise a further £6.4 billion. Cuts to the Whitehall bureaucracy and centralised administration, which are long overdue, will save £136,000,000 this year alone, and a restructuring of our armed forces - which maintains a total deployable strength of 400,000 officers and non-commissioned ranks, but which recognises the declining need for a large full-time standing army, will save billions over the course of our first term in office.

Our projection is that our policies will allow us to cut the deficit by 1.2% in 2014/15, and with a steady programme which partners responsible savings with a stronger, growing economy, we will eliminate the deficit completely by 2019/20. We are completely transparent about the fact that our target for deficit reduction is less radical than that of the Tories - but an examination of the Conservative record thus far suggests that the chances of Dylan Macmillan meeting his own targets are relatively low in any case.

Labour will invest in a National Infrastructure Fund over 10 years, which will urgently review options to improve service standards and reduce prices in key infrastructure areas - most prominently Britain's railways and energy distribution networks. Re-nationalisation of these areas will be considered carefully, but is our preferred solution to the lack of accountability and investment in core industry areas.

The National Infrastructure Fund will invest in regional and municipal energy suppliers where such suppliers are committed to investment in sustainable energy, and will include a solid commitment to provide much-needed capital investment for areas of the economy (and affected

communities) where there has been a significant loss of employment as a result of the effects of structural de-industrialisation.

Education

Primary Schools

Education for the Labour Party has remained one of its greatest priorities. Class sizes have steadily risen under this Conservative government negatively affecting the quality and standard our children receive. Under a Labour Government we would cut class sizes, not teacher numbers to ensure that children under the age of ten are taught in classes no greater than 20 pupils to each teacher. In addition, the great British educational experience we believe is enhanced by the opportunities to visit and learn hands on. To improve this, a Labour Government would introduce a relief fund enabling all children, regardless of income to access school trips should they require help to meet payments. We do not believe that pennies of savings should be made at the expense of the education of our children.

Children can only learn if they are able to approach tasks with a dedication and focus that defines Britons; the focus of the child should be based in learning, not in hunger. The Labour Government would introduce free school meals for children under the age of 10 and families that earn under £22,500 per annum. This raises the standard of our great British system by ensuring that your child can focus on their futures not food.

In a modern world we must adapt to fit the demands of our society, Climate Change may not affect us now, but there is no doubt that our children will face the great damages it will cause. As part of this, all schools will actively aim towards the ‘Green Flag Award’ enabling school children to get involved in our planet, enjoy nature and work together. The important lessons that our children must learn about nature and wildlife will be the primary feature of the new ‘*Green Hour*’ we would introduce. Every fortnight, teachers and specialist will lead classes in cultivating school gardens, crops or working in wildlife zones to improve the environment. This is an opportunity for our children become involved in the great outdoors, explore and learn about healthy foods which they can grow and taste in their own school meals.

Secondary Schools

The challenges that face the younger generation are growing and ensuring that they succeed in their interests, passions and life goals are the aims of any Labour Government. The life lessons we all take for granted aren’t taught in schools but learnt through experience; Labour’s ‘*Life*

Skills' classes will be once a week which will inform pupils the life lessons they need such as: how to get a mortgage, pay taxes and register to vote. The Secondary School experience is often tarred with stress and struggle for many pupils; We want to act to combat this. Introducing new Mental Health training programme for teachers is the first step we believe in ensuring that our teenagers can cope with the exams and life choices they must make. To ensure a high quality and availability of trusted Mental Health teachers we aim to train 50% of the workforce over the next five years. We recognise that Mental Health isn't the only area in which the current government fails our children which is precisely why a Labour Government would introduce free sanitary products for girls and contraception for boys over the age of 16. These services would be available as part of a confidential health clinic opened exclusively for school-aged children. A resident social worker, who would be a trusted and responsible adult will be assigned to to each school in a step forward in breaking down the adult-pupil divide that makes seeking help so difficult for many pupils. Guidance will be introduced so that children may seek religious advice for their faith or help them explore new religions respectfully and safely should they wish to convert. Many parents are concerned about the rise of youth violence and crime which this Conservative Government has watched, idly, rise. The Labour party is committed to mandating schools actively seek referrals all pupils involved in substance abuse to rehabilitation and the authorities. Learning about global issues and the histories of nations, tragedies and successes are an important part of living in the modern world. Through the lense of history we can learn about the future which is way a Labour Government will mandate that schools provide a comprehensive teaching of History at GCSE level in all British schools.

Under this Conservative Government school funding has fallen to intolerable levels, naively both the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have claimed that this does not affect the access to new materials and opportunities in the classroom. The Labour party rejects this. The Labour Government shall invest £3.6 in updated facilities across the country to ensure that pupils learn with the best possible equipment. In addition, to ensure that children receive the best education in the classroom and on a one-to-one basis we aim to reduce class sizes for children under the age of 16 to just 25 pupils per teacher.

The next steps after school are often the most important and the current conservative government has made little effort to protect and further opportunities available to school leavers. Under a Labour Government we shall lead negotiations for 100,000 new open skills work placements to ensure wider and greater employment for school leavers. In addition, we believe that the irresponsible practise of allowing pupils to drop out of school before the age of 18, without having guaranteed work, an apprenticeship or further education and skills development must end. All pupils, 18 or under, must remain in our secondary schools unless they are guaranteed other advancements to avoid mounting youth unemployment and idleness.

Britain is a nation obsessed with sports and Labour is no different. The friendly competition, healthy attitude and health benefits it embodies are values that are vital for our children. The next Labour Government is committed wholly to creating a '*Sports and Schools*' initiative where state schools compete within each council district to improve and empower more children to become involved. £1 billion is committed towards these programmes which will aim to introduce schools to an olympic style competition showcasing talents and engaging pupils in fun activities. To support this also, a Labour Government would guarantee all school students receive 'leisure cards' giving free access to councils and participating private sporting facilities.

Higher Education

The extra skills acquired by Britons at our great institutions, whether they be universities, colleges or apprenticeships are vital to the future of our economy. As such Labour is directly focused on ensuring those that want to, can. Upon the first months of a Labour Government Student loans shall be capped at the rate of inflation. Education enables careers, and Labour is not going to allow those careers be mired in debt and finance struggles. All educational institutions shall be issued with '*emergency relief funds*' of food vouchers for students who find themselves unable to afford food. This will ensure that hunger isn't holding back advancement. To also help students cover the costs of education Labour shall eliminate tuition fees across the next 3 years.

Medical professionals are often most negatively affected by debts due to the length and cost of training. To address the growing problems that the Coalition and Conservatives have ignored Labour shall introduce a cap of medical student debt after 10 years of service in the NHS. In addition, 1% interest '*Medical protection loans*' shall be introduced for those studying to work as a nurse, carer or social worker. In addition, Labour shall introduce a '*Professional Improvement Scheme*' to encourage paid further training for for parents returning from maternal or paternal leave.

Health

The NHS is the greatest institution in Great Britain. It's foundation in 1948 was the pinnacle of Labour Government working hard for working Britons. The Labour Party is immensely proud of the NHS and has always stood up against callous Conservative cuts or those Liberal Democrats who enable them. The Labour party was founded on the practical belief that regardless of an

individual's background, ability or ability to pay they deserve the best healthcare society can offer. We have never let this belief stray from us.

Under this Conservative cuts, we have seen vast rises in waiting times, then shrinkages, and rises, fluctuating endlessly. The instability of the Conservatives and their badly created policy affects negatively on our waiting lists. A Labour Government is committed always to shortening waiting lists, and by 100,000 with the next 5 years. In addition, we aim to end waiting lists at all for cancer treatments and surgery which have risen without a care under this Conservative Government. Labour is committed to the war on waiting.

Conservative cuts have hit frontline services and overcrowded our A&E departments across the country. Under a Labour Government tough targets would be met with new crisis protocols and 3,000 extra frontline emergency staff. In conjunction, a rise at double the rate of inflation is for government spending is firm promise from the Labour party.

Overcrowding has risen consistently under the Conservatives and without action soon, hospitals will go beyond breaking point. Labour is guaranteeing 15,000 extra NHS nurses 12,500 extra beds to ensure that trolleys aren't backed up in corridors and people are treated quickly and with dignity.

Britain must face up to its aging population. Under a Labour Government not only have we committed to protection pensions but shall recruit a further 5,000 NHS carers to ensure that as many Elderly people can stay in their homes as long as is safe. In an additional commitment to keep elderly people in their own homes, the Labour party shall introduce a community partnership scheme to get long term reducing stress on carer services and wards by integrating care and the community including the rebuild and repurchase of 1,000 NHS care homes free at the point of use.

The Labour Party has been a proud investor in our public services will continue to do so in office. We shall double research funding over 3 years to ensure that innovative techniques are maximised to ensure the best treatment and care. To ensure that the best treatment is available and more funding is available for it, Labour shall introduce funding direct to medical personnel, equipment and treatments rather than bureaucracy.

Crime, National Security & Defence

The most fundamental responsibility of any government is to ensure the safety and security of its people. Over the past four years, the Tories have cut tens of thousands of police positions, imposed the largest defence cuts since the end of the cold war, and done little to strengthen and reform our security and intelligence apparatus. The government has wasted millions on ineffective and expensive Police & Crime Commissioners, fiddling whilst Rome burns. Under three successive Prime Ministers in the space of just four years, the Tories have failed to respond proactively to a changing threat picture in terms of international terrorism and a resurgent Russia.

The Labour Party would reverse Tory cuts to frontline policing, restoring the number of police officers to its peak level, and going beyond that if necessary. We have pledged to hire an additional 20,000 police officers in our first year, whilst strengthening the role of community support officers to give them a more credible role in maintaining order and preventing crime. We would scrap the expensive and ineffective Police and Crime Commissioners, and replace them with police governing boards made up of existing elected councillors from within the relevant police force area.

The police are spending significant amounts of time, and wasting significant resources, on dealing with low-level offences and mental health crises. Labour will resolve both of these issues. When a person is suffering from a breakdown and is on the verge of self-harm or suicide, it is often the police that are the first responders and the last men standing on the brink. Under a Labour government, that will change. We will allocate new resources to the National Health Service at a local level in order to facilitate the creation of Psychological Emergency Teams, or PETs, which will offer 24-hour support and potentially life-saving intervention. Another thing that we will do to reduce the burden on police officers is to allow, for the first time, volunteers to become part-time police community support officers. These 'special' PCSOs would have the same powers as full-time PCSOs, and would share a relationship to their paid equivalents as do special constables to full-time police officers. Local authorities, in particular town and parish councils, would have a pre-eminent role in spearheading recruitment to these roles, supporting the establishment of local police community support branches and dramatically increasing the number of uniformed police employees on the beat in our communities. The costs of such a measure will be negligible, and the results considerable.

The Labour Party has committed to a pervasive review of the ‘war on drugs,’ which all too often burdens the criminal justice system with dealing with casual users of cannabis, whilst criminalising those suffering from serious addictions.

We are therefore proposing to turn drugs policy over to the Department for Health, with a further extensive consultation to be undertaken into the decriminalisation and regulation of cannabis. Legalising cannabis achieves a number of positive outcomes. It saves an enormous amount of police time. It ensures that there are quality controls in place to ensure that users of cannabis - many of whom are young people - are not placed in danger. It eliminates the role of cannabis as a ‘gateway drug’ to harder substances by eliminating the need for contact with criminal drug dealers in order to procure it. It substantially deprives drug dealers of profits. And our research suggests that it could raise over £3 billion in tax revenues, to be spent on rehabilitation and detoxification centres in the hardest-hit communities.

Labour in government will give victims of crime a right to review what progress police have made to investigate the crime committed against them, including cases where the police have declined to investigate. We will also give victims a right to meet with the offenders who have acted against them, and to choose to request that restorative justice principles be applied in punishing the guilty. Restorative justice and rehabilitation are often seen as dirty words by the authoritarian establishment. But a large prison population is a sign of our failure to turn criminals around and cut reoffending rates; not a sign of success. The criminal justice system can do more to turn people away from a life of crime. Today, far too many people are simply warehoused in prison, instead of learning skills that will enable them to earn an honest living when they are released. Labour’s aim will be to significantly reduce the prison population by using more effective alternative punishments and correcting offending behaviour. We will prioritise prison for dangerous offenders and those who commit the most serious offences, whilst increasing the use of tough non-custodial punishments including weekend or evening custody, curfews, unpaid work in the community and GPS tagging. This will enable us to introduce a presumption against short-term sentences that will help reduce the prison population and cut crime. We will reform prisons so they become places of work, rehabilitation and learning, with offenders receiving an education and skills assessment within one week, starting a relevant course and programme of support within one month and able to complete courses on release.

Just as Labour stands against privatisation in the National Health Service, we oppose the outsourcing of our justice system. Labour in government will adopt the default position that public servants rather than commercial organisations should provide detention, prison, immigration enforcement and secure unit services. A component of the Tory and Lib Dem process of outsourcing our justice system and taking justice out of the hands of the many has

been the systematic butchering of the Legal Aid budget. Labour's position is clear: we will launch an urgent independent review of Legal Aid and reverse any cuts which are identified as having been harmful to the principle of fair and equal treatment before the law.

On immigration, we acknowledge that some are concerned that the pace of change in some communities has been too fast - and that rapid immigration at a high level has caused pressure on public services, particularly in immigration hotspots, which tend to be those heavily urbanised areas where the challenges of poverty and crime are already at their peak. But we must equally be utterly relentless in putting the argument very clearly that immigration is beneficial to our country. Without migrant workers, our NHS could not function; our classrooms would be understaffed; and seasonal industries, particularly in the agricultural sector, would be left close to collapse. To that end, Labour will end the arbitrary and unnecessary 'tens of thousands' target imposed by the Conservatives. It is frankly not reasonable to expect that the movement of people in 2014 can be the same as it was in 1994, when one considers the considerable advances in global communication and travel that have been made over past decades, and of course the increasingly interdependent and globalised nature of the international economy.

Labour will complete the restoration of full entry and exit checks at our borders, to rebuild confidence in immigration control, and allow targeting of resources at those who overstay their visas. We will double the number of inspections on employers to ensure all statutory employment legislation is being respected. We will present to Parliament an annual assessment of skill and labour market shortfalls and surpluses and their impact on the economy, public services and local communities, together with an audit report on the migration control system, allowing full Parliamentary oversight of Britain's migration policies. We will continue requirements for all new claimants for Jobseekers' Allowance to have their English language skills assessed, with JSA then being conditional on attending English language courses for those whose English is poor; and we will mandate schools with high numbers of children with English as a second language to host English lessons for parents. And, if and when new countries join the European Union, a Labour government would fully implement the legal transitional controls to ensure that our borders are being managed in a sustainable way.

Heavy investment in our cyber, technological and information warfare capabilities is a must - both from a defensive and from a deterrent standpoint. A Labour government will seek to make Britain the global superpower in these fields, and will support critical infrastructure sites, public services and large businesses in the development of comprehensive counter-espionage measures, and to ensure widespread access to basic security essentials such as effective encryption and virtual private networks. This will be a project managed jointly by the Home Office and the Ministry of Defence, with a view to establishing a fifth branch of Her Majesty's armed forces -

the Royal Information, Cyber & Technology force. That project will fall within the scope of a new Centre for National Security, based in London but with offices across Britain and around the globe, which will be the product of the amalgamation of MI5, MI6, GCHQ, Defence Intelligence and the National Crime Agency. This unified agency will have access to unparalleled resources, shared strategic leadership, and direct ministerial accountability to Cabinet and Parliament for the first time. Increasingly, we will seek to identify the intelligence officers of the future - be they Arabic, Russian or Mandarin speakers, computer hackers or fitness fanatics - at a young age, by launching a broader and more open recruitment process for the intelligence community than has ever before been implemented. Labour will launch an urgent review of all counter-terrorism legislation and all counter-radicalisation strategies, presenting to Parliament an annual update on progress and identifying clearly the top threats to our security - sharing this information with those in the private sector who may well be the first to know of a fresh attack. Of course, it's not all about brute force. Labour will ensure efforts to tackle terrorism do not stigmatise or alienate Muslims or any other ethnic or faith group, and that the government supports communities to help prevent those at risk of radicalisation from being drawn into illegal activity. We will review the process of assessing threats against different ethnic and religious communities to ensure all groups in the UK are properly protected.

For our brave armed forces personnel, we will implement a Salary Triple-Lock, which guarantees an annual pay increase of one percent above either the highest figure out of:

- the rate of inflation
- the average pay increase across the public sector
- 2%

This guarantees the bravest of the brave a real terms pay rise every year for the next five years.

We will structure a new naval strategy around the development of a Carrier Strike Force to enable the development of a vastly more powerful power projection capability. We will improve air defence capabilities, and air superiority capabilities to protect our shores.

The total number of armed forces personnel presently stands at approximately 400,000. Labour will guarantee that the total number of soldiers, sailors and airmen who can be called upon to defend our island does not fall below this number.

But, acknowledging the changing geopolitical circumstances of our world and the diminished need to maintain a large full-time standing army, we will seek to rebalance the roles of the regulars and reserves, by cutting the former and boosting the latter by an equivalent proportion.

The renewal of the Trident nuclear deterrent will be subject to a comprehensive review, with the burden of proof resting upon those advocating for the project to be scrapped.

The Tories have presided over the largest defence cuts since the end of the cold war. Under Labour, our national security will be a constant priority.

The Environment

The Labour Party is committed to an upfront investment of £700 million in flood prevention, creating a new Coastal and Inland Flooding Agency which will, for the first time, have a statutory obligation to manage flood risk. The new CIFA will have the largest dedicated flood management budget in British history; a necessary and effective step as the effects of global climate change continue to raise the risks facing vulnerable communities.

Labour will phase out single use plastic bags over 5 years and ban plastic microbeads by the end of 2016. We will incentivise capital investment in fast electric charging ports for motor vehicles, and enhance the powers afforded to the Mayor of London and other devolved metropolitan authorities to manage pollution and congestion.

We will amend the Land Compensation Act 1961 in accordance with proposals raised by the Shadow Home Secretary, strengthening the rights and entitlements of individuals subject to compulsory purchase orders and increasing the financial compensation made available to those who are asked to sacrifice their private property in order to enable the development of critical national infrastructure projects.

Housing and Community

The Labour is committed build 45,000 new council home in 3 years. These housing will be affordable to everyone not just affordable to the Tory donor base. Labour will also ensure these housing units will be up to the best environmental, safety standards. Labour believes that houses should be built to last for a long time and with local environmental conditions in mind. Housing must be built in a way that creates a living space for the occupant and the neighbourhood itself.

Under Labour Housing will not just be about a place for people to sleep. Housing is more than just having a place to sleep, it is also about the neighbourhoods and communities, our

neighbourhoods and communities are dying, we need a holistic approach to revive our communities across the country. That includes housing that will have a purpose, building neighbourhoods and communities organically with some help from the government such as investing in culture, sports and local media. Labour is committed to invest in a fund to revive communities that has been affected by globalisation and de-industrialisation, this fund will seek to revive grassroots sports, art and local media. We will work with local municipalities to ensure how to achieve this purpose the best, how to use such a fund and seek their advice.

As Labour we will enact a Land Value Tax to replace Council taxation, this will ensure much better taxation of land and property and ensure unused and underused land will be utilised at its full potential leading to more housing projects.

Foreign, European & Commonwealth Affairs

Labour will commit to maintaining foreign aid provision, whilst seeking to introduce a new strategy for direct investment in developing economies. Labour believes firmly that trade is one of the most effective vehicles for international development, and as such will partner the government's international development function with the functions of the former Department for Business, Energy & Climate Change, which possess responsibility for international trade.

The Labour Party will oppose unequivocally a referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union until and unless an explicit white paper setting out a clear and comprehensive proposal for negotiations on the terms of a prospective withdrawal from the EU, and on the terms of a prospective future relationship, is published and verified as representing a realistic and achievable set of outcomes by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the European Union, Ivan Rogers.

In any referendum scenario, the Labour Party's official position would be one of supporting continued membership of the European Union, but individual party members and representatives would not be instructed in respect of how they should campaign.

We do, however, believe that reform is required in order to make the European Union fit for the modern age, and in order to ensure that it serves the people of the United Kingdom and its partner countries across the continent. To that end, we would seek to forge agreement as to a rebalancing of powers between the EU's key institutions, with the European Parliament given power to propose legislation and that same power revoked from the European Commission. We would seek to propose a streamlined hierarchy of accountability within the European Union, with a single President of the Commission, the Council and the Parliament to be elected for a single

four-year term either by the Parliament or through a direct election across the member states of the European Union.

In the longer term, the Labour Party envisages an increasing consolidation of powers at the European Parliament level, with unelected bureaucrats in the Commission relegated to an implementation and advisory role. We would consider proposals such as the establishment of the Parliament as a bicameral legislature, with the lower chamber directly elected by the peoples of Europe according to the proportional size of each member state's population, and the upper chamber elected on the basis of equal representation for each member state - a model similar to that of the US Congress, but one of which the elected President is a part (and where far-reaching executive powers do not exist.)

We would seek further ambitious reform of the common fisheries policy to ensure a fair deal for British fishermen, and would refuse under any circumstances to negotiate on the future of the UK rebate - which must and will be fully maintained under Labour.

Labour would also launch a new project aimed at forming the foundation for a free-trade agreement between the European Union and the Commonwealth realms, in line with established best practice. This would, inevitably, be a very long-term project - but one which could deliver unprecedented trade and investment benefits for Europe and the Commonwealth family.

Finally, let us be clear: Labour will implement a 'referendum lock' to ensure that any future European treaties which involve, in the agreed objective legal opinion of the Attorney and Solicitors General, a transfer of sovereign powers to the European level will be subject to approval by a public referendum.

Constitution

Labour will abolish the House of Lords and implement a fully-elected Senate based broadly upon the principles agreed during the last Parliament by the cross-party 'doughnut club,' of which the present Prime Minister was a member.

Any constitutional change beyond that to which we have committed in our manifesto (which is therefore subject to the Salisbury convention) would be approved by a public referendum, in which a plurality of voters in each of the United Kingdom's four constituent countries would need to signal approval.

Pensioners

As Labour will protect the pension triple lock. We can not allow to have pensioners relying on government's good graces to have their pensions, pensioners deserve every single bit of their pensions and they deserve stability in their livelihoods after paying for their pensions for all of their work life.

Labour pledges to not to increase retirement age. We have given a promise to our workers a long time ago and they have worked decades according to it, it would be deeply unfair to change conditions of that deal, that promise along the way because some politicians wants the easy way out or want to appease their donors with tax breaks.

Labour believes in equality and fairness, that is why we pledge that Winter Fuel Payments and free bus passes will be guaranteed as universal benefits. When we start to withdraw benefits that we offer to everyone to some parts of the society, that creates social incohesion. Labour believes protecting social cohesion and keeping our promises is more important that cheap promises.

Culture, Media and Sport

A Labour government will eliminate political interference in the governance and funding of the BBC by placing the corporation on a permanent statutory footing, with a constitutional document serving as an inalienable guarantee of the duty of impartiality; we will consult on requiring BBC employees to be subject to the same duties of impartiality, objectivity, honesty and integrity as civil servants, and will require the organisation to double its coverage of women's sport within the next five years.

We are committed to ensuring that the press has the resources and legal mechanisms necessary to fulfill its solemn obligation of holding the powerful to account. As such, in government we will close the loophole that prevents freedom of information laws from applying to third party companies that provide services to the government.

Labour will require broadcast media to monitor and publish data on the air time given to women and men in each programme and across their schedule.

Labour recognizes the importance of grassroots football in fostering a sense of community and developing the next generation of footballers and will seek to ensure that the Premier League invests a portion of their profit into developing it.

Too many football fans have been left high and dry due to exorbitant pricing in the secondary market. When in government, Labour will commission an independent review to investigate the issue of price gouging in the football ticket secondary market and issue suggestions on how to curb the practice of profiteering.

Our cultural institutions such as museums represent the pride of Britain and have helped educate, inform, entertain, and inspire so many. Labour understands their importance and will create a fund to modernise and improve our cultural institutions so that they can continue to inspire future generations just as they have the past.

We will investigate potential measures to restrict access to online pornography for minors, and publish a comprehensive Digital Strategy making clear the government's commitment to the principles of net neutrality and online freedom of speech.

Equality and Rights

As Labour we are committed to introduce an LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum in all Secondary Schools. This will include history of the LGBTQ+ movement and LGBTQ+ individuals in all parts of the education system and that LGBTQ+ people are included in what has been taught, whether in short examples or as the focus for a lesson or piece of work. Discussing LGBTQ+ issues will prevent LGBTQ+ pupils from feeling isolated, reduce homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying, and prepare all pupils for life in modern Britain. This is not about teaching children everything there is about the LGBTQ+, this is about highlighting relevant things as they come up and ensure LGBTQ+ individuals, community and movement is included in the curriculum

Labour will ban the practice and promotion of “conversion therapy”. “Conversion therapy” refers to any form of treatment or psychotherapy which aims to change a person's sexual orientation or to suppress a person's gender identity. In the UK, all major counselling and psychotherapy bodies, as well as the NHS, have concluded that conversion therapy is dangerous.

Labour is committed to women's rights which includes tackling the existing issues and close the gender pay gap. Right now women earn 20 percent than men and that is simply unacceptable,

Labour will enforce section 78 of the Equality Act of 2010 and make regulations about it something that has been ignored by the Coalition government.

Labour will introduce legislation to protect victims of non-consensual nude image publishing and a ban on non-consensual photography of genitals or revealing positions. In the age of internet and point of no return when something is online, we need to ensure victims of such heinous acts have protections and regulations related to these heinous acts. Labour is committed to enact these legislations immediately.

Labour will set out Female Genital Mutilation as a form of child abuse and torture by the guardians of the child. Female Genital Mutilation is a form of child abuse and torture, we will simply place it in the laws and ensure minors have protections against it.

Labour believes that to ensure equality and fairness we need equality in parenting and parental leave. Parenting is not just the duty of the mother and we will replace our archaic laws that pretends like it is. This change will benefit both partners and send a message that women are not the only part who has a duty in parenting. That is why we will introduce legislation protecting and extending equality in parental leave.

Labour will provide specialist counselling and support for abused partners and expand services to ensure we can provide a stable place to live for all women and children fleeing domestic abuse, starting with crisis and refuge services and moving into more permanent housing. Labour will also ensure LGBTQ youth who are in danger of abuse and violence have a place to seek shelter.

Labour will provide legal right for trafficked people to remain in the UK. Human trafficking is the modern slavery and we will combat it with our full vigilance but one of the main reasons why people who have been trafficked can not go to the law enforcement is because they know they will be deported and that is a fear so big for them that they are forced hide in the shadows. We will ensure those who are trafficked have a right to remain in the UK. We will also start a comprehensive review on decriminalisation of sex work in the UK, right now our system is broken and is not working for anyone, not for the sex workers and not for the victims of trafficking.

Labour will offer incentives to companies that employ more than 250 people to have more women, working class backgrounds and BAME executives. Our corporate governance is broken and we will fix it with incentives to companies to diversify their executive branches. We will also ensure employee representatives are on boards of companies. We cannot afford to have

unrepresentative company boards anymore, we have to ensure these companies and their boards will be representative of their employees and representative of Britain.

Devolution

Labour will give the Scottish Parliament the power to raise around £2 billion more in revenues beyond the recent Scotland Act, so that it raises about 40 percent of its budget from its own resources.

- We will do this by widening the variation in income tax in the Scotland Act by half from 10p to 15p.
- This will mean that three-quarters of basic rate income tax in Scotland will be under the control of the Scottish Parliament.
- The Scotland Act enables the Scottish Parliament to increase or decrease income tax rates in Scotland. In addition to extending this power, we will also introduce new Scottish Progressive Rates of Income Tax, so that the Scottish Parliament can increase the rates of tax in the higher and additional bands.

For the first time, the Scottish Parliament will be able to alter both the level of tax and the progressivity of the tax system, but without the risk that a Scottish Government could force tax competition within the UK by cutting only the top rates, to the detriment of public services. Labour in the Scottish Parliament would be able to use these powers if a UK Government did not set fair taxes at these levels.

It is right that powers should be assumed as devolved to Wales unless specifically reserved to UK government. That is why the next Labour government will introduce the Reserved Powers model for Wales. As the National Assembly for Wales has taken on greater powers and responsibility for law making, it is no longer right that Westminster holds total control over the ways in which Welsh elections are conducted.

So the next Labour government will again move power closer to people by devolving powers over Welsh Assembly and local government elections, including when these elections are called and the age at which people can vote. Under a future Labour government, it will be for the National Assembly to determine how many members it should have and what its title should be.

Under Labour, Welsh Ministers would have the power to draw up an All Wales Policing Plan, setting the priorities for Welsh policing, including governance structures, in consultation with the

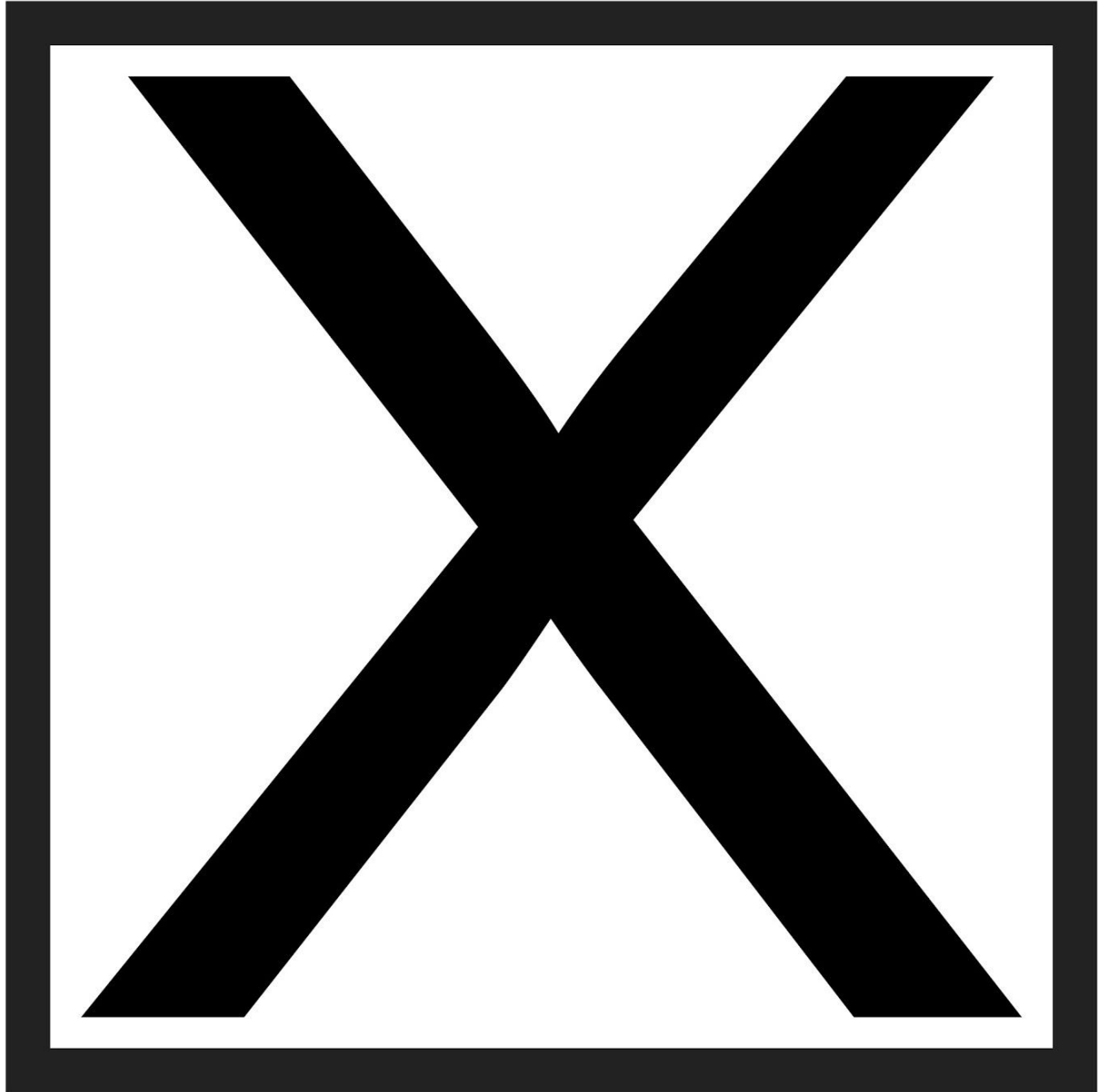
Home Secretary. This will ensure alignment between all of the emergency services in Wales, while maintaining vital, crossborder collaboration and co-ordination.

Under Labour, the City of London police, the Royal Parks Police and British Transport Police (in London), will be absorbed into the structures of the Metropolitan police service, to have a single police force coterminous with the London boundaries, which is able to deliver both on local policing and policing a capital city.

Labour will devolve further powers to metropolitan areas across the country, areas that have a population above 1.5 million will have the same powers as London has right now if they wish to have it, we will have consultations with the metropolitan area councils, NGOs and parts that are interested in and depending on the consultations, we will hold referendums to devolve furthermore powers.

Labour will also have consultations with Cornish Council and interested parts in Cornwall on how to devolve more powers to Cornwall. The result of the consultations of both in-favour and opposed local groups shall determine the next steps of a Labour Government in regards to a referendum on further Cornish powers

READY TO GOVERN



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Labour Party candidates stand in every constituency in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland, we advocate a vote for the Social Democratic & Labour Party (SDLP)

WORKING HARD FOR WORKING BRITONS

