

Manifesto Summary

Labour Party

25/11/2019



This document is a summary of manifesto pledges divided into London First's four strands of focus – Connectivity, People, Place and Competitiveness – as well as sections on Brexit and devolution

Brexit

- Renegotiate a deal within three months and then hold a referendum within six months, putting that deal to the people alongside an option to remain a member of the EU
- The deal will include: a UK-wide customs union; close alignment with the single market; dynamic alignment on workers' rights; continued participation in EU agencies and funding programmes; and clear commitments on future security arrangements

Regional/Devolution

- Replace the House of Lords with an elected Senate of Nations and Regions
- Bring about a “radical decentralisation of power” in Britain through a **Local Transformation Fund in each English region along with the Nations.**
- **Regional Development Banks** governed by boards made up of key local stakeholders such as local chambers of commerce, trade unions and councillors
- Place the National Transformation Fund Unit, part of the Treasury, in the North of England and re-establish **the regional offices of government in each of the nine English regions** to co-ordinate government policies and ensure a regional voice in Whitehall.

Connectivity

- Labour will ensure that councils can improve bus services by regulating and **taking public ownership of bus networks.**
- **Bring the railways back into public ownership**, using options including franchise expiry
- End driver-only operated trains
- Implement a fully rolling programme of electrification. Labour would also deliver rail electrification and expansion across the whole of the UK, including Wales
- **Deliver Crossrail for the North** (aka Northern Powerhouse Rail) and **deliver HS2 in full** to Scotland
- Invest in ultra-low emission vehicles and will support their sale. **Invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure** and in electric community car clubs
- **Reform taxi and private hire services**, including a review of licensing authority jurisdictions, setting national minimum standards of safety and accessibility and updating regulations to keep pace with technological changes

- **Any expansion of airports must pass Labour's tests** on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countrywide benefits
- Reinststate 3,000 bus routes that have been cut, particularly in rural communities
- Introduce a new Clean Air Act, with a vehicle scrappage scheme and **clean air zones**
- Deliver **free full-fibre broadband for all** by 2030 by **bringing the broadband-relevant parts of BT into public ownership**, paid for by taxation of multinational companies

People

- Make it **easier for employers to spend the apprenticeship levy** by allowing it to be used for a wider range of accredited training, in line with guidelines set by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education
- Launch a Climate Apprenticeship programme. Employers will be expected to allocate 25% of the funds in their Apprenticeship Levy accounts to training Climate Apprentices and create an online matching service to help levy-paying businesses find smaller businesses to transfer their funds to
- Introduce lifelong learning up to Level 3 with six years training at Level 4-6 with **additional entitlements for workers affected by industrial transition, new technologies etc**
- **Give employers a role in co-design and co-production of qualifications** to ensure skills needs are met
- Abolish tuition fees and bring back maintenance grants. Fundamentally rethink the assessment of research and teaching quality, and develop a new funding formula for higher education
- Roll out **sectoral collective bargaining** across the economy, bringing workers and employers together to agree legal minimum standards
- **Create a single status of 'worker' for everyone** apart from those genuinely self-employed in business on their own account, so that employers cannot evade workers' rights; and **ban overseas-only recruitment practices**
- **Ban zero-hour contracts** and strengthening the law so that those who work regular hours for more than 12 weeks will have a right to a regular contract, reflecting those hours
- Other measures for workers include: **giving all workers the right to flexible working**; extending **maternity pay to 12 months** and paternity leave to four weeks; **requiring employers to devise and implement plans to eradicate gender or race pay gaps** – or face fines; and increasing protection against redundancy
- A large expansion of the rights and roles of unions, including: **removing restrictions on industrial action**; strengthen unions' right of entry to workplaces; ban union-busting and **repeal the Trade Union Act 2016**
- Restore public sector pay to at least pre-financial crisis levels (in real terms), by delivering **year-on-year above-inflation pay rises**, starting with a 5% increase

- **If the UK remains in the EU, freedom of movement would continue.** If the UK leaves the EU, freedom of movement will be subject to negotiations, but **Labour would recognise the social and economic benefits that free movement has brought** both in terms of EU citizens here and UK citizens abroad
- **Scrap the 2014 Immigration Act and move away from two-tier systems and migration targets; scrap minimum income requirements**
- Grant refugees the right to work on arrival

Place

- Revive high streets by stopping bank branch closures, banning ATM charges and giving local government new powers to put empty shops to good use. Develop a retail sector industrial strategy
- **Create a new Department for Housing**, make Homes England a more accountable national housing agency and “put councils in the driving seat”
- Set up a **new English Sovereign Land Trust**, with powers to buy land more cheaply for low-cost housing
- At least **150,000 council and social homes will be built each year** by the end of the next parliament, with 100,000 of these built by councils for social rent
- **Scrap the current definition of ‘affordable’** and replace it with a definition linked to local incomes
- **Reform Help to Buy** to focus it on first-time buyers on ordinary incomes. **Introduce a levy on overseas companies buying housing**, while giving local people ‘first dibs’ on new homes built in their area
- Protect private renters through **rent controls** (capped at inflation), open-ended tenancies, and new, binding minimum standards. Give councils **new powers to regulate short-term lets through companies such as Airbnb**
- List pubs as Assets of Community Value so community groups have the first chance to buy them when they are under threat
- Give local government **greater freedom to set planning fees** and require them to **factor the climate and environmental emergency into all planning decisions**

Competitiveness

- Set a target for **3% of GDP to be spent on research and development** by 2030.
- Launch a National Transformation Fund of £400 billion and rewrite the Treasury’s investment rules to guarantee that every penny spent is compatible with the UK’s climate and environmental targets
- Create a National Investment Bank, backed up by a network of Regional Development Banks, to provide **£250 billion of lending for enterprise, infrastructure and innovation** over 10 years.

Regional Development Banks will be governed by boards made up of key local stakeholders.
Smaller loans will be available through a new Post Bank based in Post Office branches

- Change the criteria a company must meet to be listed on the London Stock Exchange so that any company that fails to contribute to tackling the climate and environmental emergency is delisted
- Require all companies bidding for public contracts to recognise trade unions, pay suppliers on time and demonstrate equalities best practice
- **Introduce a Real Living Wage of at least £10 per hour** for all workers aged 16 or over. Small businesses will be supported to meet the additional costs
- **Give workers a stake in the companies that they work for, and a share of the profits they help to create**, by requiring large companies to set up Inclusive Ownership Funds. Up to 10% of a company will be collectively owned
- **Raise the top rate of income tax for those earning over £80k**
- **Raise the rates of corporation tax** to a level lower than in 2010
- Guarantee no increases in VAT
- **Ensure income from wealth is taxed at the same or higher rates as income from work**
- Enforce a maximum pay ratio of 20:1
- Review the option of a **land value tax on commercial landlords as an alternative to business rates** and develop a retail sector industrial strategy
- A Business Development Agency will be based in the Post Bank, providing free support and advice on how to launch, manage and grow a business
- **Bring the supply arms of the Big Six energy companies into public ownership.**
- **Bring energy and water systems into public ownership**

Decarbonisation

- Kick-start a Green Industrial Revolution that will **create one million jobs in the UK** to transform industry, energy, transport, agriculture and buildings
- **Implement a Green New Deal**, which aims to achieve the substantial majority of UK emissions reductions by 2030
- £250 billion from the National Transformation Fund to fund the transition through a Green Transformation Fund dedicated to renewable and low-carbon energy and transport, biodiversity and environmental restoration
- Deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030 by building 7,000 new offshore wind turbines and 2,000 new onshore wind turbines,

enough solar panels to cover 22,000 football pitches and new nuclear power needed for energy security

- Upgrade almost all of the UK's 27 million homes to the highest energy-efficiency standards
- **Introduce a zero-carbon homes standard for all new homes**
- **Expand power storage and invest in grid enhancements** and interconnectors
- **Introduce a windfall tax on oil companies**
- Create a new UK National Energy Agency, which will **own and maintain the national grid infrastructure** and oversee the delivery of decarbonisation targets.