

# Labour's Manifesto 2019

What's in it? A short guide.

**IT'S TIME FOR  
REAL CHANGE**  
THE LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO 2019

## class Briefing

### Introduction

There are just three weeks to go to the polls for the most important election in a generation, which will determine much of our future as our society. Just look at the multitude of challenges we face - the extent of inequality; the flat-lining economy; our ageing population which increasingly relies on the public services that have been crippled through cuts; and the planet facing a climate crisis.

This briefing looks at the key pledges in the Labour Party manifesto. We have also produced a comparison of the Labour and Tory manifestos showing where the two major parties stand on different issues.

Labour's 105-page manifesto provides an array of policy tools to transform our economy towards investment and innovation in a green and socially just direction, ensuring that everyone has the right to a good life. Although many of the policy ideas are not dissimilar to those within Denmark, Sweden, New

Zealand, this is certainly a radical and ambitious plan by UK standards. The key policies include:

- **A Green Industrial Revolution**
- **An end to austerity and privatisation of public services**
- **Addressing inequality**
- **A new National Education Service**
- **Giving people the final say on Brexit**

### Contents:

1. Investment
2. Public services
3. NHS
4. Education
5. Housing
6. Green Industrial Revolution
7. Work
8. Immigration & Equality
9. Brexit

Find more CLASS materials: [www.classonline.org.uk](http://www.classonline.org.uk)

# Labour's Manifesto 2019

## Investment in the Economy

Labour pledges to end austerity and bring about the biggest levels of public investment in generations. A new £400bn National Transformation Fund, financed through borrowing, would invest in infrastructure and low-carbon technology.

The railways, broadband infrastructure, postal services, energy and water utilities would be put in public ownership. Labour plan to end Whitehall's dominance over economic decisions with significant spending power devolved to the major cities and regions, involving key stakeholders like trade unions.

Only the top 5 per cent will pay more tax, those earning more than £80,000. Extra revenue from this and a rise in corporation tax (returning Britain to the 2010 level) will pay for all Labour's pledges, which are fully costed and listed in the 'grey book' published alongside the main manifesto.

### Further policies:

- A windfall tax on oil and gas companies raising £11bn, based on their contribution to climate change since 1996.
- Corporation tax cuts made since 2010 would be reversed, from 19 per cent to 26 per cent.
- Capital gains and dividends tax would be brought into line with income tax rates.
- Inheritance tax cuts introduced by George Osborne would be reversed.

## Public Services

Labour proposes to end austerity, which has caused so much damage in the last 9 years. Labour proposes to provide genuine universal public services, free at the point of use for all. Crucially, they pledge to increase 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 per cent increase.

This will be paid for by a fair taxation system and a crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion. Further, Labour will also end the tendency towards outsourcing public services and introduce a presumption in favour of insourcing, and stop the public from getting ripped off by taking back all PFI contracts over time.

### Transport:

- Support local Councils to improve bus services by regulating and taking public ownership of bus networks.
- Free bus travel for under-25s.
- Reinstating the 3,000 routes that have been cut.
- Railways will be brought into public ownership.
- Deliver Crossrail for the North and complete HS2 route to Scotland.

## Public Services (continued)

### Community:

- Free fibre broadband to everyone by 2030, boosting small businesses in the regions.
- £1bn Cultural Capital Fund will be made available to transform libraries, museums and galleries across the country.
- A publicly owned Post Bank run through the post office network to ensure every community has easy access to face-to-face, trusted and affordable banking.
- A Business Development Agency will be based in the Post Bank, to support the growth of small businesses.

### On Fire & Rescue:

- Labour promises to halt the cuts and recruit at least 5,000 new firefighters.
- Set up a Fire and Rescue College for training, research and planning.
- Establish in law a standards body for fire prevention, protection and intervention.

### On Local Government:

- Bring services back in-house, from bin collections to the management of local leisure centres.
- Make council funding more reactive to establish a fund to meet changing circumstances.
- Introduce rural-proofing measures to ensure everyone is included.
- Build a National Youth Service, that guarantees access to local, high-quality youth work to all.
- Rebuild early intervention services and instate a Stronger Families Programme.
- Give local govt new powers to put empty shops to good use.
- £150 billion Social Transformation Fund to replace, upgrade and expand our schools, hospitals, care homes and council houses.

### On Crime & Justice:

- Labour would recruit 2,000 more police officers than the Conservative Party.
- Invest in proven alternatives to custody, including women's centres, expand problem-solving courts and plug the funding gap in the female offender strategy.
- End the privatisation of probation services and prisons .
- Restore prison officer numbers to 2010 levels.
- Halt cuts to court closures and cuts to staff.
- Build on the Lammy Review to tackle the disproportionate levels of BAME children in custody.
- Restore legal aid advice and recruit hundreds of new community lawyers, promote public legal education and build an expanded network of law centres.
- Appoint a Commissioner for Violence against Women and Girls.

## Public Services (continued)

### On Social Security:

- Scrap Universal Credit and replace it with a system that will end poverty by guaranteeing a minimum standard of living.
- End the 5-week wait by introducing an interim payment.
- Increase Employment & Support Allowance by £30 a week.
- Raise the basic rate of support for children with disabilities to the level of Child Tax Credits.
- Increase the Carers allowance to be equal to the Jobseekers allowance.
- Suspend the sanction regime.
- Scrap the benefit cap, the 2 child limit, PIP assessments, and the bedroom tax.
- Pay the housing element directly to landlords.

## NHS and Social Care

Britain's much-loved NHS is on its' knees as a result of being starved of cash and subjected to part privatisation. Meanwhile, the social care crisis worsens as the population ages. Labour's manifesto aims to tackle both issues. Labour pledge to increase spending across the health sector by an average 4.3 per cent a year and remove all traces of privatisation of NHS. £4.4bn has been allocated to improve mental health services. Labour will recruit 3,500 counsellors to guarantee that every child is looked after at school.

Currently, 1.5 million older people go without the care they need. To deal with the social care crisis Labour will introduce a free National Care Service. Labour plans to develop a model of joined-up community care, to provide free personal care, and enable people to live longer lives in better health in their own homes. Labour will ensure that care workers are paid decent wages, and paid-for travel time to put an end to 15-minute care visits. For those who care for their loved ones unpaid but full-time, Labour pledges to increase the Carer's Allowance.

### Further policies:

- Ensure 24/7 availability of crisis services.
- Free annual NHS dental check-ups.
- 27 million more GP appointments each year.
- Reintroduce training bursary for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals.
- Establish a generic drug company to reduce costs and increase the availability of drugs.
- Abolish prescription charges in England.

# Labour's Manifesto 2019

## Education

A National Education Service will be at the heart of Labour's plans to transform education. Free education will be provided for everyone throughout their lives. Labour also want to abolish tuition fees and bring back maintenance grants. Local authorities will manage admissions and school places, including the power to open schools. Free schools and academies will be brought back in-house. Labour will reverse cuts to Sure Start and create a new service, Sure Start Plus, which will provide a universal service for infant's under-2. Within five years, all 2, 3 and 4-year olds will be entitled to 30 hours of free pre-school education per week.

### Further policies:

- Scrapping Key Stage 1 & 2 SATs.
- Art Pupil Premium fund education for every primary school child.
- Scrap and replace Ofsted.
- Free school meals for all primary school children.
- Close tax loopholes that benefit private schools.

## Housing

Labour plan to deliver one million new low-carbon social homes over a decade. By the end of the parliament, the annual rate of the building will be at least 150,000 homes, including 100,000 councils houses. A £1bn Fire Safety Fund will fit sprinklers and other fire safety measures in all high-rise council and housing association tower blocks and enforce the replacement of dangerous Grenfell-style cladding. In Britain today, when more than 320,000 people are homeless, Labour promises to end rough sleeping within five years. 8,000 homes will be made available for people with a history of rough sleeping and £1 bn will be earmarked a year for councils' homelessness services.

### Further policies:

- The definition of affordable will be linked to local incomes.
- Help-to-Buy will focus on first-time buyers and ordinary incomes.
- Introduce a levy on overseas companies buying houses and tax properties that are empty for over a year.
- Cap rent increase with inflation and new open-ended tenancies to stop unfair 'no-fault' evictions.
- Introduce a new nationwide licencing for landlords and enforce minimum standards.

# Labour's Manifesto 2019

## Green Industrial Revolution

Labour pledge to eliminate the vast majority of our carbon emissions by 2030; including nearly 90 per cent of electricity and 50 per cent of heat to come from renewable and low-carbon sources. They will create one million, well-paid and secure green jobs to transform the economy. Labour plans to put sustainability at the heart of our economic decisions. Climate and environmental impacts will be factored into every spending decision.

### Summary:

- 7,000 new offshore and 2,000 new onshore wind turbines, and solar panels equivalent to 22,000 football pitches.
- Introduce a windfall tax on oil companies and create 320,000 green apprenticeships.
- Upgrade 27 million homes to be energy efficient
- Immediately and permanently ban fracking. Plant 1 million trees to offset the carbon footprint.
- End new sales of combustion engine vehicles by 2030.
- Extra £5.6 bn to defend and respond to the increased risk of flooding

## Work

Labour pledge to set a real living minimum wage of £10 per hour (including for 16-year-olds); create a 32-hour working week; put workers on boards; and have stronger trade union law in order to create thousands of well-paid jobs in every city, town and village. The priority would be to shift power from bosses with a new Ministry of Labour, and give everyone full rights from day one on the job. They also pledge to eradicate in-work poverty by banning zero-hours contracts. They would also help small businesses manage the extra cost.

### Further policies:

- Large companies would set aside 10% of their shares, over 10 years, to be owned collectively by employees, as part of inclusive ownership funds. This would mean staff get dividends of up to £500 a year.
- Pay would be raised by the introduction of sectoral collective bargaining to stop bad employers undercutting wages.
- There would be a workers-on-boards policy that would reserve one-third of board seats for elected worker-directors.
- Firms that failed to reduce their carbon emissions could be forcibly delisted from the London Stock Exchange and a "public interest" test would be required for hostile takeovers.

# Labour's Manifesto 2019

## Immigration

Labour will end the hostile environment that brought us the Windrush scandal and replace this with a humane immigration system. The system will bring families together by ending the extreme thresholds on income. The party will scrap the 2014 Immigration Act and close two detention centres as well as ending indefinite detention. There will be justice for migrant domestic workers with the restoration of overseas domestic workers' visa, and an end deportation of family members.

## Equalities

Labour will create a new Department for Women and Equalities, with a full-time Secretary of State. They will end disability discrimination and eliminate race inequality from the economy. Labour will close the gender pay gap by 2030 and extend pay-gap reporting to disabilities and BAME groups. BAME and women business owners will have access to bid for government contracts. All employers with more than 250 staff will be required to obtain a certification on gender equality or face further auditing and fines. The State Pension age will stay at 66. There will be 10 days of paid leave for survivors of domestic abuse and paid disability leave. Misogyny and violence against women and girls will become hate crimes, and attacks on places of worship will be a specific aggravated offence. There will be funding for schools to deliver mandatory LGBT+ inclusive relationships and sex education, and fully-funded sexual health services. They will create an Emancipation Educational Trust to educate around migration and colonialism, and to address the legacy of slavery.

## Brexit

Labour would ditch Boris Johnson's Brexit deal, which took workers' rights out of the Withdrawal Agreement and threatened massive deregulation. Instead Labour would negotiate a new deal with the EU within three months that protects workers' rights, environment and consumer protections, and a customs arrangement with the EU and put it to the people within six months alongside a Remain option. The referendum would be legally binding. Labour's deal would involve "dynamic alignment" on workers' rights and the environment which guarantees keeping pace with any future EU protections as a minimum and avoid a hard border in Northern Ireland, protecting the Good Friday Agreement and give EU nationals would have the automatic right to continue living and working in the UK.