**“A green and digital future”**

**Public ownership of energy**

*p6, line 21, and p8, line 28*

In line with policy passed at Labour conference in 2019 and 2021, the party must commit to: “public ownership of energy, including energy companies, creating an integrated, democratic system”, including “public ownership of the Big Six”.

**Net zero**

*p9, line 22*

What does “accelerated” mean? Faced by looming climate disaster, we need net zero by 2030.

**Public ownership of water**

*p12, line 23*

In line with conference policy passed in 2019, Labour commit to public ownership of the water industry.

**Agricultural workers’ rights**

*p13, line 3*

Labour must take action to tackle the scandalous super-exploitation and oppression of workers in UK agriculture, particularly migrant workers.

**Public ownership of Royal Mail**

*p16, line 1*

In line with repeated conference policy and the longstanding demand of the Communication Workers’ Union, Labour must commit to public ownership of Royal Mail.

**“Better jobs and better work”**

**Insourcing**

*p23, line 17*

“The biggest wave of insourcing of public services for a generation” sounds good – but given there has been very little insourcing or anything like it for many decades, it could mean virtually anything. We need a serious and concrete commitment on how much insourcing a Labour government will seek to bring about.

**Repealing anti-union/anti-strike laws**

*p26, line 23*

This is not good enough. In line with the policy passed repeatedly at party conference, and at TUC Congress, all anti-union laws back to the first Thatcherite one must be repealed and replaced with strong legal rights for workers and unions, including to strike and picket. Workers need the right to strike at a time, by a process and for demands of our own choosing, including in solidarity with any workers and for broader political as well as industrial and economic demands.

**Collective bargaining**

*p27, line 4*

This seems to involve an awful lot of equivocation and vagueness on expanding collective bargaining. At the height UK collective bargaining coverage was over 80%; the EU has recently agreed a directive to push collective bargaining coverage in each member state to at least 80%; and the existing EU average is 60%. Given that existing UK coverage is less than 25% we need clear goals and a clear plan to drive it up.

Moreover Labour should oppose public-sector “Pay Review Bodies” and commit to replacing them with genuine collective bargaining arrangements.

**Sick pay**

*p27, line 27*

The only reference to sick pay is about ensuring all workers have it. There is nothing about the UK’s absurd low level of sick pay.

**Minimum wage**

*p28, line 33*

Too vague. We need a figure, £15 for all workers, or preferably a formula to meeting this figure but uprate it automatically.

**Local government powers and funding**

*p29, line 5, and p30, line 4*

If Labour is serious about devolution of power, it must commit to a) restoring the many powers that local government has lost since the 1980s and b) a clear timetable to restore local government to at least the real-terms level of 2010 and then above that.

**Free movement and migrants’ rights**

*p33, line 34*

The document rejects restoring UK-EU free movement, yet Labour conference has voted to do that and indeed to expand it further. Doing so would be a benefit, both economically and socially, not a cost. The party should abandon the right-wing “points-based” policy and commit to the clear demands for expanding migrants’ rights passed by conference in 2019.

**“Safe and secure communities”**

**Policing**

*p36, line 22*

More police is not a good answer to social problems.

As a bare minimum, police powers need curbing and the police subjected to the maximum degree of democratic control and accountability – by serious measures, not the vague ones outlined here.

*p38, line 11*

“Respect orders” seem like reheated ASBOs – we should drop this authoritarian nonsense.

Attempts to continue, let alone deepen, the criminalisation of drugs will be disastrous. Labour should change course and commit to decriminalising drugs and treating drug as a medical and not a criminal issue.

*p39, line 1*

Peculiarly the document says “Labour has opposed the Public Order Bill” but then refuses to commit to repealing it. Labour must commit to repealing both the Public Order Act and the 2022 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act.

**Prisons**

*p43, line 4*

“Making prison work” is absurd. At a minimum we need to dramatically reduce the use of prison and the prison population.

**Fire and rescue service**

*p37, line 22*

We need a commitment to restore the 11,500 lost firefighter jobs and all money cut from fire and rescue service budgets, and restore a statutory body for the development of national policy and standards, including a voice for the Fire Brigades Union.

**Voting system**

*p47, line 15*

In line with conference policy, the party should commit to proportional representation.

It should also commit to votes not just for 16 and 17 year olds under the existing rules, but for all over-16 residents of the UK.

**“Public services that work from the start”**

 **Stopping and reversing cuts and privatisation**

*p50, line 1*

We need a clear commitment to stopping and reversing privatisation and stopping and reversing cuts in public services.

**Public sector recruitment and pay**

*p52, line 7*

It is absurd as well as wrong to suggest the recruitment crisis in the NHS (and in other public services) can be resolved without majorly increasing public-sector pay, now cut in real-terms over many years. Labour should commit to a plan for “pay restoration” in the NHS and across the public sector.

**Rebuilding the NHS**

*p53, line 1*

Without clear commitments to substantially increase NHS funding and to reversing privatisation, marketisation and fragmentation, “change and modernisation” is at best vague and at worst rings alarm bells. We need such commitments.

**Social care**

*p56, line 21*

In line with conference policy, Labour must commit to public ownership, funding and provision of social care services.

 **Schools**

*p59, line 24*

We need commitments to reverse real-terms cuts in school funding and to reverse academisation, making every state school a community school within the local authority.

**Higher and further education**

*p60, line 28*

Labour should commit to reverse funding cuts, abolishing tuition fees, replacing loans with living grants and bringing institutions under local democratic control.

**“A future where families come first”**

 **Childcare**

*p64, line 21, and p65, line 17*

We need free, publicly owned, funded and run childcare provision available to all.

**Council housing**

*p67, line 26*

Rather than “seek[ing] to decrease the number of social homes being rapidly sold off through right to buy without like-for-like new social housing being built to replace them”, the party should commit to abolishing right to buy.

Re-establishing and expanding council housing requires clear targets – the Labour conference demand of at least 150,000 affordable homes a year, including at least 100,000 social rent council homes seems sensible – and a commitment to substantial funding to help councils get the ball rolling.

**The benefits system**

*P69, line 13*

Incredibly vague – does not even commit to reversing the Tories’ £20 a week cut in Universal Credit. We need clear and radical proposals to transform the benefit system to end the harassment and coercion of claimants and ensure a decent standard of living, including by substantially increasing benefits.

**Food banks**

*p69, line 28*

Does “put an end to the soaring use of food banks” mean measures that will put an end to the soaring of use, ones that put an end to any increase in use, or ones that will put an end to the need for food banks full stop? It should be the last. How fast? How, for instance without substantially increasing benefits?

**The Equality Act and caste discrimination**

*p72, line 22*

The Equality Act 2010 empowered the government to amend it to make caste an aspect of race and caste discrimination therefore banned. In 2013, under pressure from the House of Lords and Labour, the government accepted a law which changed this clause in the Equality Act to say it *must* amend it to ban caste discrimination. Since then, however, the Tories, in alliance with right-wing Hindu chauvinists and as part of their wider assault on equalities legislation, have declared they will repeal this duty. Labour must commit to finally outlaw caste discrimination.

**Trans rights**

*p73, line 14*“Modernis[ing] the process of gender recognition to remove indignities for trans people” requires a system of self-identification.

**“Britain in the world”**

**Military policy and spending**

*p76, line 16*

We should oppose increases in military spending.

*p77, line 16*

How can Labour both maintain an “absolute” “commitment to nuclear deterrence” and support “multilateral disarmament”. We want the UK’s, and all countries’, nuclear weapons abolished. Those who advocate “multilateral disarmament” need to demonstrate it is more than just a code for keeping nuclear weapons.

**Europe**

*p76, line 7*

Advocating close cooperation with the EU and stronger economic growth while opposing rejoining the EU and single market and customs union simply makes no sense. Labour should advocate rejoining.

**Ukraine**

*p78, line 25*

Labour should also commit to supporting Ukraine’s labour movement in its struggle to defend workers’ and democratic rights during the war, and for a more just and democratic post-war reconstruction. That is true of foreign policy broadly – the UK labour movement must support other labour movements around the world.

**Asylum rights**

*p83, line 7*At a minimum, Labour should commit to a) a clear policy of establishing safe legal routes for asylum-seekers; b) an end to detention and force dispersal of asylum-seekers; c) the right for asylum-seekers to work and access benefits and services.