



National Policy Forum 2023

Final year policy documents

Draft for discussion and amendment

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2

3 **As Labour prepares for the next general election, the National Policy Forum is**
4 **laying the groundwork for a bold, practical and winning manifesto.**

5 This is a critical moment for the Labour Party to show the Britain that Labour can build:
6 a country run in the interests of everyone based on a set of national missions, where
7 politics is once again a force for good. The National Policy Forum (NPF) plays a crucial
8 role helping to set out Labour’s bold, reforming policy platform.

9 These six policy documents draw on the vast experience from across the labour
10 movement and beyond – from local parties and trade unions to the many businesses,
11 charities and civil society groups who lent us their expertise.

12 The result of the hard work of our party members, elected representatives and affiliated
13 trade unions and socialist societies over the last three years, these documents will
14 inform Labour’s policy proposals ahead of the next general election.

15 The work of the NPF will support the delivery of Keir Starmer’s five national missions.
16 Established on the strong foundations of economic stability, national security and
17 secure borders, his missions will:

- 18 **1. Secure the highest sustained growth in the G7**
- 19 **2. Make Britain’s streets safe**
- 20 **3. Build an NHS fit for the future**
- 21 **4. Break down the barriers to opportunity at every stage**
- 22 **5. Make Britain a clean energy superpower**

23 Labour will end the Conservatives’ short term, sticking plaster politics which has left the
24 UK lurching from crisis to crisis. Keir’s five missions will form long-term plans for
25 government with clear, measurable objectives, so that everyone in every part of the
26 country feels they are moving forward, and life is getting better.

27 To support this ambition, the NPF has considered a wide range of policy issues as set
28 out in each of the six policy documents that follow: a green and digital future, better
29 jobs and better work, safe and secure communities, public services that work from the
30 start, a future where families come first and Britain in the world.

31 Unlike the Conservatives, Labour knows the importance of stable public finances and
32 prudent government spending. While working people are still paying the price of the
33 Conservatives’ unfunded, disastrous autumn 2022 mini-budget, Labour will tax fairly
34 and spend wisely.

1 Labour’s fiscal rules, as set out by Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves, are non-
2 negotiable. They will apply to every decision taken by a Labour government, with no
3 exceptions. That means that Labour will not borrow to fund day-to-day spending, and
4 we will reduce national debt as a share of the economy.

5 The Conservatives forced our economy into a doom loop, and introduced austerity into
6 our public services, alongside a series of disastrous reforms. As a result we have ended
7 up with low growth, which has led to higher taxes, lower investment and squeezed
8 wages. Labour will break free from this vicious cycle of stagnation, with a proper plan
9 for fair economic growth in all parts of the country.

10 Labour is offering change for the whole United Kingdom, and we will deliver a new
11 status and louder, prouder voices for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ensure
12 that the regions of England have the right powers and resources to drive growth and
13 champion their areas, in a reformed and modern United Kingdom.

14 That is why the NPF has produced a series of important policies for the whole country,
15 alongside proposals in devolved areas that apply only in England, or in England and
16 Wales. Any Barnett consequential arising from these policies would generate funds for
17 the devolved governments to allocate.

18 We are clear that the best route to improving people’s lives in every nation of the UK is a
19 Labour government in Westminster, working with and delivering for communities right
20 across the country. Where we can, a UK Labour government will always seek to work in
21 partnership with devolved governments and the leaders of devolved regions because
22 we know that working in cooperation is always better than conflict. While the specific
23 policy solutions may vary across the regions and nations of our country, Labour’s
24 underlying vision of building a better Britain remains the same.

25 Labour is the party of equality. We are proud of our record of championing equality in
26 government, including Labour’s Equality Act and the protections it contains against
27 discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil
28 partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual
29 orientation. The last Labour Government did more to advance equality than any other
30 in British history. The next will match this record and break new ground across these six
31 documents and in our manifesto by confronting today’s challenges, tackling structural
32 inequality and working every day to build a fairer, more equal Britain for all.

33 These policy documents are now subject to approval at Annual Conference 2023, in the
34 next stage of our democratic policymaking process. As detailed in the Labour Party
35 Rulebook, Annual Conference will decide which specific proposals of legislative, financial
36 or administrative reform shall be included in the Party programme, based on the rolling
37 programme of work of the National Policy Forum, culminating in these six final policy
38 documents.

INITIAL DRAFT – SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

- 1 Ahead of a general election, representatives from across our movement will then attend
- 2 the Clause V meeting to decide which items from the Party programme shall be
- 3 included in the manifesto.
- 4 Following the vital work of the NPF, that manifesto will set out our offer to the country
- 5 and show how, together, Labour will build a better Britain.

CHAPTER ONE:

A green and digital future

1 **CHAPTER ONE: A GREEN AND DIGITAL FUTURE**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 The next Labour government will build a fairer, greener, more dynamic economy that
5 delivers better jobs and living standards for working people. Labour believes that the
6 best way to grow our economy is using the power of active government to win the
7 global race for the industries and jobs of tomorrow, many of which will be in the green
8 and digital economies.

9 Our ambitions are primarily encapsulated in two of our five national missions. First, to
10 secure the highest sustained growth in the G7 with good jobs and productivity growth in
11 every part of the country, making everyone, not just a few, better off. Second, to make
12 Britain a clean energy superpower, creating jobs, cutting bills and boosting energy
13 security with clean electricity by 2030.

14 Key to delivering these ambitions is Labour’s Green Prosperity Plan, which will seize the
15 opportunities of accelerating the just transition to net zero through an active industrial
16 strategy and investment in British industry. In doing so, we will lower bills, provide
17 energy security, deliver good jobs and economic growth, and tackle climate change.

18 We know that clean British energy is up to nine times cheaper than imported fossil
19 fuels, meaning a just transition to home-grown renewables and nuclear power benefits
20 British consumers and workers while allowing us to secure energy independence from
21 tyrants like Vladimir Putin. That is why the Green Prosperity Plan includes the
22 establishment of GB Energy, a publicly-owned national champion in clean energy
23 generation, and a National Wealth Fund to invest in the green technologies of the future
24 and ensure they benefit all communities and parts of our country.

25 Our ambition for a green future means ensuring that we invest in and decarbonise our
26 public transport network and put in place the infrastructure we need to roll out electric
27 vehicles across the country. It means making our homes energy efficient through a
28 nationwide retrofit and insulation programme. And it means protecting our beautiful
29 natural environment – from cleaning up the water industry to backing British farmers.

30 Just as the green transition provides opportunities for our country and economy if we
31 are well-positioned to seize them, so too does digital and technological innovation. The
32 UK has the potential to be a global player in developing technologies and their uses -
33 from advances in AI and quantum computing to building on our existing global
34 reputation in fields such as video games and semiconductor design – but only if we
35 have a government that can lead the way in setting a policy framework that encourages
36 innovation while providing vital safeguards. In a fast-moving technological landscape,

1 government has a crucial role in enabling the rollout of – and opening up access to –
2 the telecoms, data and computing infrastructure of the digital revolution.

3 To harness Britain’s potential in the green and digital future, Labour will pioneer a
4 different way of working. We will deliver this through partnership between government,
5 businesses, unions and communities across the country.

6
7

8 **Green Prosperity Plan**

9 Labour’s Green Prosperity Plan will ensure the UK wins the global race for the green
10 industries of the future. We will support the creation of over a million jobs across our
11 cities, towns and villages. We will cut energy bills for good, saving each UK household
12 hundreds of pounds a year.

13 The Green Prosperity Plan will transform our economy by investing £28 billion of public
14 capital a year into the green economy, alongside an active industrial strategy, with
15 strategic public investment attracting private sector investment, bringing high-quality,
16 unionised, sustainable jobs to all parts of the country and protecting existing jobs as
17 industries evolve and decarbonise.

18 It means investing in both mitigating the climate crisis but also in adapting to the effects
19 of a warming world, for example by rapidly improving flood defences, the resilience of
20 our national infrastructure to extreme weather, and other measures. Labour recognises
21 the essential role of the fire and rescue service in achieving resilience.

22

23 *A clean energy superpower*

24 As part of this plan, the next Labour government will launch an urgent mission to
25 deliver clean electricity by 2030. This ambitious and achievable target would make the
26 UK the world’s first major economy to do so, slashing energy bills for good, creating
27 well-paid jobs, and making the UK energy independent. This will help unlock growth by
28 driving down energy costs for all businesses, including energy-intensive manufacturing
29 firms, the hospitality and leisure sector and high-tech computing services.

30 Achieving this will rely on partnership between an active state, businesses and workers.
31 It will mean new jobs in clean energy industries across all four nations of the UK and
32 spillover benefits for those working in the supply chain and related high-value services.

33 A Labour government will more than double onshore wind capacity, triple solar capacity
34 and quadruple offshore wind capacity. Labour will also have ambitious targets on
35 delivering hydrogen and nuclear power.

1 Labour will end a decade of drift and ducking difficult decisions on nuclear. We will
2 ensure the long-term security of nuclear power, extending the lifetime of existing plants
3 and backing new nuclear plants and Small Modular Reactors. Labour will also support
4 the development of new energy technologies such as floating offshore wind, carbon
5 capture and storage, marine power and hydrogen.

6 To help deliver this, Labour will tackle planning barriers to renewable energy projects,
7 getting planning decision timelines down from years to just months, and remove the
8 obstacles that are currently preventing businesses from investing in the UK.

9 Labour has committed to stopping the issue of new licences for oil and gas, while
10 managing existing oil and gas wells sustainably over the coming decades as we deliver a
11 just transition to net zero.

12 Labour will also make sure that there are clean energy alternatives to coal, which is not
13 the right long-term solution to our energy needs. We will do the right thing and return
14 what is due back to miners after the Conservative government's appalling refusal to act
15 on its own promise and right an historic wrong on the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme.

16 Labour opposes fracking, which would do nothing to cut energy bills, costs far more
17 than renewables and is proven to be unsafe. The Labour government in Wales has
18 already banned fracking, and Labour has committed to do the same in England.

19

20 *Energy market*

21 Our fragmented energy supply system has been appallingly regulated and does not
22 serve the public or deliver the good jobs and skills the just transition needs. Labour will
23 fundamentally reform our system of supply, generation and transmission and
24 distribution so that it delivers cheaper bills for consumers and businesses, clean energy,
25 and energy security. Building a resilient, green energy system is a national mission,
26 which needs to be properly co-ordinated with a clear plan, and to provide a dividend to
27 the British people.

28 For too long, Conservative governments have been ideologically committed to
29 privatisation regardless of the consequences for consumers, workers and taxpayers,
30 while others have argued for renationalisation of the energy market at any cost, with no
31 regard for value for taxpayers' money or the outcome for consumers. Labour rejects the
32 ideological arguments of the past and is focused on the future. Every penny of
33 taxpayers' money we spend will focus on lowering bills, delivering energy security and
34 tackling climate change. These are our priorities, not compensating shareholders.

35 Therefore Labour will create GB Energy: a new home-grown, publicly-owned national
36 champion in clean power generation. Of the ten countries in the world leading the clean
37 energy transition, only the UK does not have a public generation company. GB Energy

1 will harness the power of Britain’s sun, wind, and waves – to cut energy bills and deliver
2 energy independence for our country. By investing in cheap offshore wind, onshore
3 wind, nuclear, solar, hydrogen and tidal power, we can cut energy bills for British
4 families and allow the British people to profit from making the UK a clean energy
5 superpower.

6 A publicly-owned company is the best way to ensure that the British people can derive
7 the benefits from the power that we create on our own shores – delivering cheaper bills,
8 good local jobs, and bringing money back into the public purse.

9 As part of our mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower, the private sector will
10 build a significant amount of new clean energy infrastructure. Learning the lessons
11 from other countries, GB Energy will exist alongside this investment to provide
12 additional capacity, so that we can harness the benefits of public investment, such as
13 speed of deployment and lower cost of capital, to rapidly deliver the increase in power
14 production that our country needs.

15 GB Energy will be able to invest in its own projects, but will also be able to partner with
16 leading businesses to crowd in private investment on projects that require long-term,
17 patient public finance. Through this strategic partnership with the private sector, GB
18 Energy will de-risk private investment in developing production markets as we deliver
19 the plan for clean power. GB Energy will also work with unions to deliver good, secure,
20 high quality jobs and resilient UK supply chains in the energy sector.

21

22 *An accelerated transition to net zero*

23 With our plan for clean power by 2030, and our wider Green Prosperity Plan, a Labour
24 government will accelerate the just transition to net zero. By doing this, we can unleash
25 the benefits of the transition sooner – from lower bills, to energy security, and jobs and
26 economic growth – while limiting the worst effects of climate change.

27 Labour will support the creation of over a million good jobs for people of all regions,
28 ages, genders and socioeconomic groups. The next Labour government will set out a
29 clear roadmap for decarbonisation so businesses and workers can plan ahead to play
30 their part in the just transition.

31 Labour will ensure a just transition that addresses regional imbalances and ensures that
32 no workers or communities are left behind. We will learn from the success of the Welsh
33 Labour government in convening unions, businesses and local communities to achieve
34 this.

35 Labour will examine the best way to prevent environmental harms and human rights
36 abuses in supply chains, including looking at ways to mitigate the risk of carbon leakage.

1 We will focus on reducing the emissions we are responsible for and not just outsourcing
2 them.

3

4 *National Wealth Fund*

5 Labour will create a National Wealth Fund to build British industry and ensure the
6 British people will benefit from the long-term return that investments produce. This will
7 invest alongside the private sector in gigafactories, clean steel plants, renewable-ready
8 ports, green hydrogen and carbon capture along with supporting our world-leading
9 service industries. It will ensure that the whole country benefits from the wealth and
10 talent in our nation, so that with every investment, wealth and jobs flow into our
11 communities, and the British people benefit from the returns on those investments.
12 Labour's National Wealth Fund will invest in the projects we need that will help Britain
13 win the global race for modern industries.

14 Labour's National Wealth Fund will help finance new gigafactories, boosting UK
15 competitiveness in electric vehicle production and bringing good jobs back to Britain's
16 industrial heartlands.

17 Thirteen years of Conservative neglect and inaction mean that the UK's steel sector is
18 falling further behind its global competitors. Labour's National Wealth Fund will also
19 invest in clean steel plants. Labour wants British hospitals, schools, wind turbines and
20 railways to be built with clean British steel. A Labour government would deliver a
21 strategic long-term Plan for Green Steel – to achieve near zero emission steel
22 production by 2035. A Labour government will also match funding for both full and
23 pilot-scale innovation activity and follow-up demonstration projects for the
24 development of clean steelmaking, led by the UK's world-class industry research and
25 development experts.

26 Labour's National Wealth Fund would invest in at least four industrial clusters in
27 Scotland, Wales and England, ensuring an industrial future for every part of Britain. We
28 would also invest in offshore wind clusters across the country, capitalising on the
29 unique natural resources of the North and Celtic Seas, developing the next generation
30 of jobs in offshore wind and the supply chain here in the UK.

31

32 *Warm homes*

33 A Labour government will deliver a national Warm Homes Plan, upgrading every home
34 that needs it to EPC standard C within a decade by installing energy-saving measures
35 such as loft insulation, going street by street in locally-delivered programmes. Labour
36 will give devolved governments and local authorities the power and the resources to
37 bring every home in their area up to standard within a decade.

1 Labour’s Warm Homes Plan will cut household bills by up to £1,000, reduce gas imports,
2 provide opportunities for British businesses of all sizes, and create thousands of good
3 jobs for builders, electricians, plumbers, carpenters and architects.

4

5 *Green transport*

6 Our vision for the green and digital future includes an efficient, integrated and
7 affordable transport system that reduces carbon emissions and drives economic
8 growth across our country.

9 To deliver net zero, it is essential to decarbonise transport. We will work with devolved
10 governments and local authorities to deliver good public transport in every city, town
11 and village to cut travel costs and emissions. We want a world-class green public
12 transport network, playing its part to help meet our net zero ambitions. Labour will
13 ensure a rolling programme of electrification to improve services and decarbonise our
14 transport system. We also recognise the vital role rail freight plays in lowering carbon
15 emissions as it produces 76 per cent less CO2 than the equivalent road journey.

16 Labour will also support motorists by turbocharging the just transition to cheaper
17 electric vehicles, making them affordable and accessible by helping families manage the
18 higher up-front cost. Labour will also accelerate the roll-out of charging points in areas
19 currently being left behind.

20 Labour will work in partnership with devolved nations on shared objectives as they take
21 forward transport plans across our nations.

22

23

24 **Protecting the environment**

25 Labour will protect our natural environment and support our rural communities to
26 thrive. Labour will breathe life back into our countryside and coastal communities and
27 break down the barriers to opportunity that they face.

28 The next Labour government will improve people’s access to both urban and rural
29 green space. The Welsh Labour government is already creating a new national park in
30 North Wales as well as planting a national forest. As a UK government, Labour will build
31 on this. We will consider expanding national parks and creating new ones and ensure
32 the public have the right to experience, enjoy and explore nature. Labour will also
33 ensure that there are sufficient responsibilities and protections to manage and
34 conserve our natural environment for all.

35

36

1 *Clean air and water*

2 Governments have a central role to play in improving and protecting the cleanliness of
3 the air we breathe and the water that runs through our rivers and taps, which are vitally
4 important for public health and biodiversity.

5 For too long, poor air quality has contributed to childhood asthma and dangerous
6 respiratory diseases in adults, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Labour will
7 treat air pollution as the serious public health threat that it is. We will pass a Clean Air
8 Act – building on the pioneering work of Labour in Wales – establishing a legal right to
9 breathe clean air and placing tough new duties on Ministers to ensure air quality
10 guidelines are met. We will write standards for safe air developed by the World Health
11 Organization into UK law and will ensure that devolved and local government has the
12 powers it needs to design and implement schemes that improve local air quality, so that
13 people across the country are no longer forced to breathe air that could harm their
14 health.

15 Under the Conservatives, our vital national water infrastructure has deteriorated. They
16 have knowingly allowed water companies to build up huge debts, which have been used
17 to pay billions in shareholder dividends rather than investing to improve the resilience
18 of our water supply and tackling the environmental and health impacts of wastewater
19 systems. Not only this, but Conservative governments have consistently failed to
20 empower regulators to make companies act on water leaks or to ensure that those
21 companies face meaningful consequences for the millions of tonnes of sewage dumped
22 into our rivers and seas.

23 To address this, Labour will toughen the regulatory framework so that the water
24 industry delivers for consumers and the natural environment. We have assessed how to
25 improve the water system in England and concluded the best value for money option is
26 to use regulatory powers to keep consumer bills down, and ensure that water
27 companies – rather than the public – pay for their failures. This includes setting
28 mandatory targets to halve water leaks, which would reduce supply pressures which
29 can lead to water shortages and drought orders.

30 Labour will hold those running water companies to account to ensure they work in the
31 public interest. For those who routinely and systematically break the rules, we will strike
32 off company directors who continually breach and ignore their responsibilities, ensure
33 illegal activity is punished and ensure payments of dividends are linked to key
34 performance metrics.

35 A Labour government will introduce mandatory monitoring of sewage outlets. We will
36 introduce automatic fines for sewage discharges, with a penalty for outlets that do not
37 have monitoring in place, ending costly and inefficient prosecutions. Labour will set

1 ambitious targets to cut sewage outflows and clean up our rivers, streams, and seas
2 once and for all.

3 *Backing British farmers*

4 The next Labour government will support the British farming sector. We will deliver a
5 land-use framework in England that supports sustainable farming, enables the country
6 to reach our climate goals, and improves our national biodiversity. Farming and
7 environmental protection are complementary priorities and Labour will ensure both are
8 supported. The best farmers are good employers, custodians of animal welfare and
9 custodians of nature, and Labour will embrace, support and encourage more farming
10 businesses to play this role.

11 A Labour government will ensure more home-grown sustainable food is bought, made
12 and sold, supporting farmers across the country through public procurement targets.
13 Labour will ensure that 50 per cent of all food purchased by the public sector is locally
14 produced or certified to higher environmental production standards. Labour will also
15 back our farmers by protecting British standards in trade deals, rather than watering
16 them down.

17

18 *Animal welfare*

19 Labour will close loopholes in the fox hunting ban, outlaw trophy hunting (including
20 imports from overseas) and ensure animals are treated with respect.

21

22

23 **The digital economy**

24 Labour is committed to harnessing digital technology to transform our economy and
25 society for the better. Digital technology has the potential to accelerate growth in our
26 economy, build brilliant public services and transform lives, if properly deployed and
27 nurtured by an active government. Labour will use new technologies and innovations to
28 benefit as many people as possible, unleashing Britain’s innovative talents and
29 supporting people to live connected lives.

30 *Economic growth*

31 A Labour government will enable world-class digital technology companies, creating
32 good jobs in the sector and improving our productivity through digital transformation
33 across the economy.

1 Labour will modernise and build the capacity of the state to be a more active, capable
2 and reliable partner. A Labour government will work with businesses, workers, and
3 universities to grow the high-tech, competitive industries of the future.

4 We will work with emerging businesses and start-ups to nurture their talents. Fast-
5 growing digital businesses struggle to access the finance they need to scale, with the UK
6 lagging behind our competitors in supply of patient capital for technology-intensive,
7 early stage businesses. Following Lord Jim O’Neill’s review into start-up and scale-up
8 finance, we will unlock the supply of patient capital for fast growing digital businesses.

9 We will reform the British Business Bank, and give it a more ambitious remit, as well as
10 the ability to attract additional external funds to amplify investments.

11 We will ensure the UK capitalises on its world-leading universities and research base to
12 grow the number of spinouts that make the very most of our ground-breaking research.

13 Labour will build the reliable infrastructure on which the digital economy depends. The
14 last Labour government delivered on digital infrastructure, securing first-generation
15 broadband. But under the Conservatives the UK’s telecommunications infrastructure
16 has been neglected for over a decade. The next Labour government will turbocharge
17 gigabit broadband and develop UK supply chains in 5G technology. We will also ensure
18 our world-class researchers and businesses have the data and computing infrastructure
19 they need to compete internationally.

20 Labour will ensure our intellectual property system is fit for the digital age and strikes
21 the right balance between the interests of creators, businesses and consumers.

22 As part of our industrial strategy, Labour will harness data for the public good and will
23 introduce robust regulation that opens up data while enshrining consumer rights, and
24 unleashes the growth of small businesses.

25 Labour will maintain Britain’s data adequacy status meaning our data protection rules
26 are deemed equivalent to those in the EU, enabling UK digital services companies to
27 compete across Europe and the world.

28

29 *Digital public services*

30 Not only should government support a flourishing digital economy, but it should also
31 look to learn from the best technological advancements elsewhere and see how they
32 can improve the delivery of our public services. A Labour government will make it easier
33 for public services to adopt innovative technologies by removing barriers to data-
34 sharing and smart procurement.

35 Allowing public services to procure new innovative technologies to improve their
36 efficiency, capacity and quality will transform how citizens are able to access them.

1 Labour believes that with innovation public services can be made more personalised,
2 responsive and accessible.

3 There is great value in publicly-held data that can be used for population-level
4 innovations both in the public and private sectors, such as the pioneering UK BioBank
5 and Citymapper.

6 The next Labour government will use new capabilities in data analysis and AI to deliver
7 better public services and improve people’s quality of life, and ensure society is fairly
8 rewarded for the data it generates. This must be built on frameworks and institutions
9 that build public trust and uphold the privacy and security rights of UK citizens,
10 including in the workplace.

11 Labour will also ensure we have cyber resilience and security against rogue states and
12 other hostile actors.

13

14 *Changing lives*

15 The digital revolution has provided millions of people with access to information at a
16 scale never seen before. People are now better connected, access to content is
17 democratised and millions of lives are better for it. But too many people are unable to
18 take full advantage of the benefits and opportunities it presents. Some are digitally
19 excluded because of their age, location, socioeconomic status or disability. Others feel
20 apprehensive because of security concerns or the risks of online harm.

21 To ensure everyone can participate in the digital economy, Labour will look at ways to
22 close the digital divide. We will improve digital education in schools and upskill the
23 workforce to ensure we are all more technologically-literate citizens, consumers and
24 workers.

25 Broadband is the newest utility – essential for everyday life and not a luxury. Labour
26 will direct Ofcom to strengthen consumer protections in the broadband market, and
27 ensure there is an industry-wide social tariff for low-income families.

28 Labour will make sure people are safe online by ensuring there is robust regulation that
29 protects people from online harms – including algorithms that promote legal but
30 harmful content – and holding social media and technology companies accountable for
31 them.

32 Labour will harness the potential of AI for public good, ensuring the UK is the best place
33 in the world for safe and responsible AI, building the world’s most competent regulatory
34 environment for AI, and supporting a thriving and effective AI assurance ecosystem.

35 Labour will ensure that workers have new rights, protections and access to training to
36 keep pace with the changing nature of work and technological advancements.

1 *Royal Mail*

2 Labour believes that Royal Mail provides a vital service to the public and Royal Mail staff
3 are essential workers. Labour is committed to the Universal Service Obligation (USO) as
4 the company's central mission. The next Labour Government will guarantee that the
5 USO is secure for the future and will continue to be provided by Royal Mail in a way that
6 is affordable and accessible to all users and financially sustainable for the long term.

7 Labour stands against the break-up of Royal Mail and will oppose any attempt through
8 a takeover to turn this vital service to the public into a “gig economy” employer. Labour
9 will work with Royal Mail and unions to explore the expansion of the role of postal
10 workers, adding social value to our communities and innovative products and services
11 that will support the growth of local and regional economies. A Labour government
12 supporting the partnership between management, workers and their trade unions is
13 the best way to achieve lasting success for our postal services.

CHAPTER TWO:

Better jobs and better work

1 **CHAPTER TWO: BETTER JOBS AND BETTER WORK**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 Britain has immense economic potential and the scope to lead the world in the new and
5 growing industries of the future. The opportunities are there for the taking.

6 But the Conservatives have put our economy on a path of managed decline, with 13
7 years of ‘trickle-down’ economics failing to deliver a better future or stronger economy.

8 This has been compounded by the chaos of the past year, with the Conservatives
9 crashing the economy, sending mortgage rates spiralling and leaving working people
10 paying the price.

11 Wealth and power are held by too few people in too few parts of the country, with the
12 contribution of working people undervalued, and their skills and effort underutilised.

13 That is why Labour’s first mission in government will be to secure the highest sustained
14 growth in the G7 – with good jobs and productivity growth in every part of the country
15 making everyone, not just a few, better off. We must restore growth if we are to drive
16 sustainable improvements in people’s wages and living standards, to lower inequality
17 and drive prosperity in all areas of the country.

18 A Labour government will end the failed trickle-down ideology and sticking plaster
19 approach, instead building our economy from the bottom up and middle out.

20 That begins with the foundation of economic stability, treating every penny of taxpayers’
21 money with respect. On that foundation the next Labour government will implement a
22 modern industrial strategy based on a partnership with businesses, workers and
23 unions. And we will use the economic power of an active state to deliver for people right
24 across the country.

25 Our New Deal for Working People is a comprehensive plan to bring the world of work
26 into the 21st century, upgrading rights and regulations so they are fit for the modern
27 economy. As the party of working people, Labour will ensure that people have greater
28 certainty and security, and the ability to plan for the future. Labour’s New Deal will help
29 to end the Conservative cycle of low pay, low investment and low productivity.

30 A Labour government will provide the stability and certainty businesses need to invest
31 in the long term, in skills and in working conditions – all vital to growth and productivity.
32 We will make Britain the best place in the world to start and grow a business by making
33 the economy work for our entrepreneurs and small businesses.

34 Labour will transfer economic power from Westminster to the British people so that the
35 right powers are in the right places. Our Take Back Control Act will devolve new powers

1 over employment support, housing, childcare provision and transport – giving
2 communities the ability to develop their own effective local growth plans.

3 We will ensure businesses have the skilled employees they need to get Britain growing,
4 and people have training when they need it, through a modern skills system. Alongside
5 that, Labour will reform the points-based immigration system so that it works for all of
6 Britain: supporting our economy and properly respecting the skills, talent and
7 contributions of both UK workers and those coming to work here from abroad.

8 And a Labour government will get Britain back to work. Because we believe that the
9 Conservatives' failure to capture people's potential is a monumental waste of talent, not
10 to mention a huge cost to society and the economy. Our reforms to employment
11 support will get more people back to work, grow the economy and help tackle the cost
12 of living crisis.

13

14

15 **Good jobs and growth in every part of the country**

16 Britain can and should lead the world in the new and growing industries of the future
17 and the decent jobs they create – supported by our geography, our advantage in high-
18 tech sectors and our world-leading universities.

19 But after 13 years of Conservative rule, Britain is on a path of managed decline and we
20 are falling behind our international competitors. British workers and businesses are
21 being held back by the lack of a long-term plan for our country.

22 The Conservatives have failed to provide stable policy frameworks to guide long-term
23 investment decisions, and they have undermined the credibility of independent
24 economic institutions like the Bank of England and the Office for Budget Responsibility
25 (OBR). It is little surprise that the UK has the lowest level of business investment in the
26 G7.

27 Businesses are crying out for certainty and stability so they can invest for the long term,
28 spurring on economic growth and creating the jobs we need for everyone to prosper. A
29 Labour government will provide a clear and consistent policy framework that
30 businesses can trust and within which they can prosper.

31

32 *Strong foundations of economic stability*

33 A flourishing economy can only be built on the bedrock of economic stability. That is
34 why a Labour government will have iron-clad fiscal rules that treat every pound of
35 taxpayers' money with the respect it deserves and allow for key investments in
36 industries of the future which will create good jobs across the country, tackle the

1 climate crisis and support our public services. We will reaffirm the role of independent
2 institutions like the OBR and Bank of England and establish an Office for Value for
3 Money to improve how money is spent and help put an end to the obscene waste
4 overseen by the Conservatives.

5 We believe sustainable growth relies on an active government taking on a strategic role.
6 This means expanding the capacity and the resilience of our economy and creating the
7 solid foundations for a strong private sector to build on.

8 A Labour government will also always make fair choices, such as closing unfair and
9 inefficient tax loopholes for private schools and private equity fund managers, and
10 ending the non-domiciled tax loophole.

11

12 *Prosperity through partnership: Labour's industrial strategy*

13 A Labour government will introduce an industrial strategy based on a genuine
14 partnership with businesses, workers, unions and universities to tackle key challenges
15 and grow the industries of the future.

16 Our industrial strategy has four central goals: delivering clean power by 2030, caring for
17 the future, harnessing data for the public good and building a resilient economy.

18 To inform this strategy and give businesses the certainty they need to invest for the
19 long term, we will establish a new Industrial Strategy Council and place it on a statutory
20 footing, bringing together industry, unions and other experts to inform policymaking.

21 Whilst we will ensure a stable and dynamic policy environment for all businesses to
22 thrive, we are clear our industrial strategy must make choices. We cannot target all
23 sectors with our industrial policy and will focus on areas where we have clear evidence
24 of existing or potential comparative advantage.

25 Our approach mirrors the move towards more active industrial policy across other
26 developed economies, with the state proactively expanding the productive capacity of
27 the economy via a modern supply side approach. Labour's industrial strategy
28 recognises the state must use different levers in different parts of the economy and
29 differentiates between four types of sector: sovereign capabilities, global champions,
30 future successes, and the everyday economy like retail.

31 Sovereign capabilities are the foundational sectors critical to national economic
32 resilience in the face of future shocks. They include certain defence, energy, security
33 and manufacturing supply chains and the services that enable critical infrastructure.
34 Our industrial strategy recognises the importance of maintaining a strong industrial
35 base in sectors like steel for responding to shocks, from pandemics to wars.

1 Our global champions are the highly productive, export intensive sectors where we lead
2 the world. The UK is the second largest exporter of services in the world, but our
3 strength in ‘intangible’ knowledge intensive services like design and analytics combine
4 with and complement our strengths in manufacturing.

5 Alongside our ambitions for existing global champions, we want to cultivate new
6 clusters of highly productive, high-paying, export-intensive businesses. Nurturing these
7 new clusters requires an active role for the state to lay the groundwork for innovation
8 and exploration.

9 The everyday economy consists of the sectors people interact with most in their daily
10 lives and those that employ most people in the UK, including care, retail and hospitality.
11 These sectors are often characterised by endemic low pay, insecurity and lack of
12 progression.

13

14 *Science and technology*

15 Labour will build on the UK’s strengths in science and technology to support growth in
16 all regions and nations. A Labour government will aim for at least three per cent of GDP
17 across the public and private sectors to be invested in research and development.
18 Labour will ensure the funding system can act with the agility, speed and predictability
19 required to win the race for the industries of the future. And Labour will ensure our
20 science and technology investment delivers good jobs and growth across the country.

21

22 *The best place to start and grow a business*

23 As part of our ambitions for growth we will make Britain the best place to start and
24 grow a business by increasing access to start-up and scale-up finance. We will reform
25 the British Business Bank, and give it a more ambitious remit, as well as the ability to
26 attract additional external funds to amplify investments and make even more
27 difference.

28 We will ensure the UK capitalises on its world-leading universities and research base to
29 grow the number of spinouts that make the very most of our ground-breaking research.
30 We will leverage more institutional and patient capital into the high-growth enterprises
31 and scale-ups which will provide new opportunities and high-quality jobs in emerging
32 sectors ahead of global competitors.

33 Small businesses are the backbone of the economy, investing in our country and
34 people, providing vital services for communities and enriching all our lives. We will
35 legislate to tighten the rules on late payments and tackle the late payments crisis which
36 is particularly acute for small businesses.

1 *Competition and corporate governance*

2 Labour will ensure our competition regime remains robust and fit for the modern
3 economy, promoting innovation while protecting consumers. This requires a pro-
4 competition regulatory regime that addresses the novel challenges posed in digital
5 markets.

6 Labour will ensure corporate governance frameworks embed long-termism, enable
7 investment and ensure businesses act in the interests of their workers, customers and
8 the environment.

9 Co-operatives are a great example of how businesses can work for the benefit of the
10 company, workers and the community. Labour will aim to double the size of the co-
11 operative sector in the UK. This will not happen overnight, but Labour will work with the
12 sector to ensure that co-operatives can reach their full potential in our country,
13 removing barriers as we stand up to challenges and embracing opportunities in new
14 ways.

15

16 *Financial services*

17 Labour will boost investment in the economy by unlocking the full potential of the
18 financial services sector to drive growth in every region and every industry of the UK.

19 Labour will give financial services the certainty they need to invest in the jobs and
20 businesses of the future through our Green Prosperity Plan and our pledge to make the
21 UK the post-Brexit, home-grown start-up hub of the world.

22 Labour will protect the UK's competitiveness and status as a global financial centre,
23 through a commitment to high standards not a race to the bottom and will bring
24 forward long overdue consumer protection regulation in areas like Buy-Now-Pay-Later.

25 Labour would consolidate the UK's position as the green finance capital of the world,
26 accelerating the transition to net zero by encouraging private finance to align its
27 investments with the goals of the Paris agreement.

28

29 *A fairer system of taxation*

30 For 13 years the Conservatives have delivered low growth and loaded the tax burden
31 onto working people. Labour believes the tax system must be fairer in its treatment of
32 different forms of income, including by ending tax breaks for private equity bosses and
33 removing the non-domiciled tax loophole, putting in place a system for genuinely
34 temporary residents. We will also remove the tax loopholes that private schools enjoy.
35 Labour will crack down on tax evasion and tax avoidance, ensuring people can no
36 longer avoid paying their fair share.

1 Labour wants to shift the burden of business tax away from high streets, SMEs and
2 investment towards online tech giants and multinationals. The next Labour government
3 will scrap and replace the current system of business rates in England and Wales with a
4 fully costed and funded system of business property taxation that is fit for the 21st
5 century.

6

7

8 **An economy that works for everyone**

9 The next Labour government will recognise the role of an active state: one that
10 catalyses investment, breaks down barriers and acts in partnership with businesses and
11 trade unions. An active state can also direct economic growth towards the public good,
12 and ensure everyone – workers and employers, businesses large and small, local and
13 national – feels the benefits of growth. That means ensuring that the considerable
14 purchasing power of government is used wisely, and that we set a framework that
15 encourages long-term, responsible behaviour from business.

16

17 *The biggest wave of insourcing of public services in a generation*

18 Labour will learn the lessons from the collapse of Carillion and bring about the biggest
19 wave of insourcing of public services in a generation. A Labour government will end the
20 Tories' ideological drive to privatise our public services, and ensure all outsourced
21 services are transparent, accountable for delivery and subject to the Freedom of
22 Information Act, however they are delivered.

23 The next Labour government will also examine public services that have been
24 outsourced as part of our drive to improve quality, design better services to meet
25 changing needs, ensure greater stability and longer-term investment in the workforce,
26 and deliver better value for money. In most cases, the best time to achieve value for
27 money for publicly-run provision will be when existing contracts expire or are broken
28 through a failure to deliver. We will also reinstate and strengthen the last Labour
29 government's two-tier code to end unfair two-tiered workforces.

30

31 *Procurement for the public good*

32 A Labour government will use government procurement to support local businesses,
33 cutting red tape and streamlining the bidding process to level the playing field for small
34 businesses.

35 Labour's plan to plan to buy, make and sell more in Britain is a commitment to use
36 strategic procurement for industrial strategy. Labour has set out plans to help British

1 businesses win more government contracts, using stretching social, environmental and
2 labour clauses in contract design to ensure British businesses are recognised for the
3 high standards they meet. A Labour government will also ensure that the economic and
4 security benefits of British ownership are adequately reflected by regulatory structures,
5 starting with our commitment to strengthen the public interest test for takeovers, built
6 on clear and credible principles.

7 Labour will set up a supply chain taskforce to review potential supply chain needs
8 across critical sectors, which may include defence, energy, construction, medicines, food
9 and critical manufacturing. The taskforce will assess the ability of supply chains to
10 respond to shocks: both risks and opportunities.

11 Through our new National Procurement Plan, Labour will ensure social value is
12 mandatory in contract design. Mandating consideration of social value will ensure a
13 Labour government does business with companies and enterprises that create local
14 jobs, skills and wealth, treat their workers well and equally and respect collective
15 bargaining rights, adhere to high environmental standards and pay their taxes
16 responsibly. This will drive up employment standards across the economy and
17 strengthen supply chains so these standards are upheld throughout the whole chain of
18 the contract. Our new Fair Work Standard will ensure the best employers get the
19 recognition they deserve when contracts are awarded.

20 We will also ensure the UK Infrastructure Bank operates to new criteria so that
21 recipients of public money through the Bank must be committed to creating good jobs
22 with decent and enforceable conditions. Labour will ensure the Bank includes workers'
23 representatives on its board, publishes an annual report on the geographical spread
24 and impact of its investments, and is given an additional objective to support supply
25 chain resilience and our industrial strategy.

26 Labour will ensure that government contracts support our national ambition to boost
27 Britain's skills and create new apprenticeship and learning opportunities. Labour would
28 lead a culture change with a focus on how we can help industries grow locally and
29 nationally and will ensure our Green Prosperity Plan supports good jobs and the supply
30 chain here in the UK.

31

32

33 **A New Deal for Working People**

34 Our New Deal for Working People, as set out in Labour's Employment Rights Green
35 Paper and these NPF documents, is an important part of Labour's comprehensive plan
36 to make Britain work for working people.

1 That is why we will introduce a range of measures to help improve the world of work
2 and tackle job insecurity, stagnant pay and the growth of in-work poverty and we will
3 bring forward legislation to implement it, including an Employment Rights Bill, within
4 100 days of entering office. Labour is committed to strengthening and updating the
5 rights of working people and empowering workers to organise collectively through
6 trade unions.

7 The Conservatives have no answer to the challenges raised by the changing world of
8 work.

9 Post-pandemic, more people are able to work from home, others are choosing self-
10 employment to start a business with more flexibility, while others are experiencing the
11 positives and the negatives of technology.

12 21st century trends and technologies are fast outrunning our outdated frameworks for
13 rights and regulations at work which need to be modernised to meet the challenges
14 working people face.

15 We have experienced 13 years where ‘trickle-down’ growth strategies failed to deliver a
16 better future or stronger economy.

17 Labour will move away from the failed trickle-down ideology to a new model, building
18 our economy from the bottom up and middle out.

19 Growth does not just come from a few at the top, but from the talents and efforts of
20 millions of working people and businesses in every part of the country.

21 A secure, well-paid and motivated workforce is good for business and good for the
22 bottom line, and most employers respect, value and fairly reward their workforce.
23 However, practices such as those deployed by P&O are not an isolated example and
24 remind us that modern employment rights must keep up with experiences in the world
25 of work to prevent the undercutting of standards.

26 Our New Deal for Working People will be a key part of our plan to grow our economy,
27 moving from an economy based on insecure, low paid jobs, to prosperity from good
28 work, strong employment rights, and higher productivity.

29 It is our plan to deliver a stronger, fairer and more aspirational future of work for
30 Britain, upgrading rights and regulations so they are fit for the 21st century economy.

31 The New Deal will be a cornerstone of our legislative programme, and we will bring
32 forward legislation to implement it, including an Employment Rights Bill within 100 days
33 of entering office.

34 Labour believes strong collective bargaining rights and institutions are key to tackling
35 problems of insecurity, inequality, discrimination, enforcement and low pay. When
36 workers are empowered to act as a collective, they can secure better pay and

1 conditions. Labour is committed to strengthening the rights of working people by
2 empowering workers to organise collectively through trade unions.

3 Our existing framework for industrial relations and collective bargaining is rife with
4 inefficiencies and anachronisms that work against cooperation, compromise and
5 negotiation. It places unnecessary red tape on trade union activity that work against
6 their core role of negotiation and dispute resolution.

7 Over the past 13 years, the Conservatives have consistently attacked rights at work,
8 including through the Trade Union Act 2016, the Minimum Service Levels (Strikes) Bill
9 and the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment)
10 Regulations 2022 – all of which Labour will repeal to give trade unions the freedom to
11 organise, represent and negotiate on behalf of their workers.

12 Labour will update trade union legislation, so it is fit for a modern economy, removing
13 unnecessary restrictions on trade union activity and ensuring industrial relations are
14 based around good faith negotiation and bargaining. This will end the Conservatives’
15 scorched-earth approach to industrial relations, ushering in a new partnership of
16 cooperation between trade unions, employers and Government and putting us in line
17 with high-growth economies that benefit from more cooperation and less disruption.

18 As the recent period of disruption has shown, arcane bureaucratic hurdles do not
19 prevent strikes and make it harder for unions to engage in the bargaining and
20 negotiation that does settle disputes. The rules around agency workers in breaking
21 strikes were condemned by industry and put the safety of the public and workers at
22 risk.

23 The law governing trade union statutory ballots is antiquated and fails to recognise the
24 huge steps trade unions have made to engage and communicate with members. The
25 current system of only allowing statutory trade union ballots via the post significantly
26 impacts turnout and hampers democratic engagement with members. Labour will allow
27 modern, secure, electronic balloting, as political parties and listed companies use, while
28 ensuring we maintain high standards of engagement and participation.

29 Labour will simplify the process of union recognition and ensure reasonable access
30 within workplaces and will strengthen rights for trade unions to organise, represent and
31 negotiate. We will ensure workers in precarious and gig-economy sectors have a
32 realistic and meaningful right to organise through trade unions, modernising rules to
33 ensure they are fit for an economy with growing platform sectors and a rise in remote
34 working.

35 Labour will create new rights and protections for trade unions reps to undertake their
36 work, strengthening protections for trade union representatives against unfair dismissal
37 and union members from intimidation, harassment, threats and blacklisting.

1 Labour will ensure there is sufficient facilities time for all trade union reps so that they
2 have capacity to represent and defend workers, negotiate with employers and train as
3 well as create fairer workplaces and tackle gender pay gaps.

4 Sector wide bargaining agreements on conditions, training, pay and other key issues
5 can raise standards in key industries, and provide tailored policy solutions to tackle
6 chronic labour market challenges, like insecurity, low pay, poor progression and
7 recruitment and retention pressures. Fair Pay Agreements will be one such tool for
8 lifting standards in the face of those challenges.

9 We will start by establishing a new Fair Pay Agreement in the adult social care sector,
10 empowering workers and the trade unions that represent them to negotiate fair pay
11 and conditions, including in-work benefits, terms and training. This will help us tackle
12 the serious recruitment and retention crisis facing the sector, deliver higher standards
13 for those receiving care and help us to tackle NHS waiting lists.

14 Labour will consult widely on the design of this Fair Pay Agreement, learning from those
15 economies where they already operate successfully, ensuring the highest standards of
16 representation and accountability. We will monitor the implementation, ensuring it
17 delivers for workers and employers in the sector.

18 We will publish a full and transparent review of the agreement, assessing how and to
19 what extent FPAs could benefit other sectors and tackle labour market challenges. A
20 Fair Pay Agreement will not be the best solution for many parts of our economy, where
21 labour markets are operating effectively or where existing collective arrangements at
22 employer or sector level are already working well. We will look to support and build on
23 these existing arrangements, with other forms of collective bargaining being most
24 appropriate in many areas.

25 Our New Deal will also include basic individual rights from day one for all workers,
26 ending the current arbitrary system that leaves workers waiting up to two years to
27 access basic rights of protection against unfair dismissal, parental leave and sick pay.

28 This will not prevent fair dismissal, which includes dismissal for reasons of capability,
29 conduct or redundancy, or probationary periods with fair and transparent rules and
30 processes. However, the changes will help to ensure that newly hired workers are not
31 fired without reason or cause and will help drive up standards in workplaces.

32 Labour believes the exploitation of our three-tier system of employment status has
33 contributed to the rise of bogus self-employment, with some employers exploiting the
34 complexity of the UK's framework to deny people their legal rights. The complexity has
35 meant businesses and workers are reliant on lengthy legal processes to resolve issues.
36 Therefore, we will move towards a single status of worker and transition towards a
37 simpler two-part framework for employment status.

1 We will consult in detail on how a simpler framework that differentiates between
2 workers and the genuinely self-employed, could properly capture the breadth of
3 employment relationships in the UK, adapt to changing forms of employment and
4 guard against a minority of employers using novel contractual forms to avoid legal
5 obligations, while ensuring that workers can benefit from flexible working where they
6 choose to do so. We will also evaluate the way flexibility of ‘worker’ status is used and
7 understood across the workforce and the way it interacts with and is incorporated into
8 collective agreements.

9 We will also consider measures to provide accessible and authoritative information for
10 people on their employment status and what rights they are owed, tackling instances
11 where some employers can use complexity to avoid legal obligations.

12 Labour will end ‘one sided’ flexibility and ensure all jobs provide a baseline level of
13 security and predictability, banning exploitative zero hours contracts and ensuring
14 anyone working regular hours for twelve weeks or more has the right to a regular
15 contract to reflect those hours. We will ensure all workers get reasonable notice of any
16 change in shifts or working time, with compensation for any shifts cancelled without
17 appropriate notice. This will not affect normal working practices such as paid overtime.
18 We will strengthen the law to ensure hospitality workers receive their tips in full and
19 workers decide how tips are allocated.

20 Five decades after Barbara Castle’s Equal Pay Act, Labour is committed to tackling the
21 gender pay gap which is narrowing too slowly. Large firms will be required to develop
22 and publish action plans, as well as plans detailing how they are supporting their female
23 workers experiencing menopausal symptoms and we will introduce rules to permit
24 equal pay comparisons across employers. Labour will also tackle discrimination in the
25 workplace, introducing ethnicity and disability pay gap reporting for large employers.

26 More widely, we will embrace technological advancements in the workplace, making
27 sure both workers and our economy benefit. We will make flexible working the default
28 from day one for all workers, except where it is not reasonably feasible.

29 Labour will end the scourges of ‘fire and rehire’ and ‘fire and replace’, establish a single
30 enforcement body and strengthen the law to enforce workplace rights. We will improve
31 and strengthen enforcement via employment tribunals to provide quicker and more
32 effective resolutions.

33 The creation of the National Minimum Wage was one of the greatest achievements of
34 the last Labour government and lifted many working people out of poverty. The next
35 Labour government would go further and make sure the minimum wage is a real living
36 wage that people can live on. To achieve this, we would change the Low Pay
37 Commission’s remit so that alongside median wages and economic conditions, the

1 minimum wage will for the first time reflect the need for pay to take into account the
2 cost of living.

3

4

5 **Taking back control: devolving economic power**

6 The UK is simultaneously one of the most politically and economically centralised
7 countries in Europe. That leaves us stuck with significant inequality and an economy
8 that is less competitive.

9 By the end of our first term, a Labour government will have overseen a significant
10 expansion of economic devolution in England, with local leaders using a range of
11 powers to drive growth and prosperity in communities across the country.

12 Labour’s vision of prosperity based on partnership will mean a government that is
13 determined to enable, not frustrate, the potential of our regions and nations. This ability
14 to act also creates the space for a long-term focus on priorities that cannot realistically
15 get the attention needed in Whitehall. This is a natural fit for major businesses used to
16 working with powerful regional governments in other nations, linking their investment
17 to regional clusters of strength.

18

19 *Take Back Control Act*

20 A future Labour government will empower communities by introducing a Take Back
21 Control Act in its first King’s Speech.

22 Following the final report of the Commission on the UK’s Future, chaired by former
23 Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the Act will provide the framework and process for
24 economic devolution and contribute to Labour’s mission to deliver the highest
25 sustained growth in the G7.

26 It will give English towns and cities the tools they need to develop credible, long-term
27 growth plans, with bespoke packages of powers to support new internationally
28 competitive economic clusters in high-value industries, creating high-skilled jobs in their
29 areas.

30 It will establish clear frameworks for local leaders to request and take on powers over
31 economic policymaking, establishing a presumption towards moving power out of
32 Westminster and ensuring local areas can bid for any powers that have already been
33 devolved elsewhere.

34 The Act will also force central government to respond to requests, with an inbuilt
35 assumption that local areas know what powers they need from those that are available.

1 If ministers are unable to agree the devolution of some powers, they will have to set out
2 the conditions that would need to be met to do so.

3

4 *Better economic governance*

5 Labour will work with leaders to build up local analytic and operational capacity in areas
6 covered by the Take Back Control Act, exploring the potential to move existing civil
7 service capacity outside of Whitehall to where powers and funding have been
8 transferred.

9 The Act will also establish new structures for decision-making, accountability, evaluation
10 and implementation, with a phased handover of powers after initial periods of intensive
11 oversight and support.

12 Labour will bring an end to competitive pots of funding, in which local areas are forced
13 into a Hunger Games style contest, fighting for small sums of their own money back
14 after 13 years of resources being stripped out of communities. Instead, Labour will
15 ensure long-term stability in funding settlements for local government, looking to give
16 local leaders clarity and certainty over central government grants so they can properly
17 plan local services.

18 Over the medium term, local leaders that can demonstrate consistent and exemplary
19 capacities and accountability frameworks for managing public money will be able to bid
20 for longer-term, integrated departmental-style funding settlements from central
21 government.

22

23

24 **A modern skills system**

25 As part of our mission to deliver the highest sustained growth in the G7, the UK needs
26 highly skilled workers. Businesses want skills which match their needs. People want
27 skills training when they need it, and which sets them up for progression. But our
28 broken skills system has left the country ill-prepared for the challenges we face over the
29 next decade, including the just transition to net zero, and rapid technological change.

30 That is why Labour will prepare people for the future and ensure the businesses that
31 drive this country's growth have the skilled, diverse, confident employees they need –
32 through a modern skills system.

33 Following the final report of the Council of Skills Advisers, chaired by former Education
34 Secretary Lord David Blunkett, Labour will deliver a landmark shift in skills provision.
35 Labour's skills system will give people the tools they need in the workplaces of the
36 future, ensuring new technologies like automation and AI are an opportunity and not a

1 threat for workers: helping to maintain good working conditions and high living
2 standards.

3

4 *Greater flexibility for businesses, workers and local leaders*

5 A Labour government will devolve adult education and skills budgets to Metro Mayors
6 and combined authorities, with local areas in England able to bid for greater control of
7 policy levers and funding as part of our Take Back Control Act. Decisions about training
8 and skills opportunities should be made by people who understand the local area.

9 Labour will also give businesses the flexibility they need to train their workforce and
10 deliver growth, by reforming the Conservatives’ failed Apprenticeships Levy into a
11 ‘Growth and Skills Levy’ that works across all nations and regions. This will allow
12 businesses to spend up to half their levy contributions on a greater range of approved
13 and quality assured training courses, including modular learning and skills bootcamps,
14 addressing staff and skills shortages that are holding too many British firms back. It will
15 provide more training opportunities to give people of all ages the skills they need to
16 secure good jobs.

17 The skills system is also an important tool of our industrial strategy, ensuring our plans
18 for growth create good, well-paid jobs and tackle skills shortages in key sectors.

19 We will explore lessons learned from Welsh Labour’s responsive skills and employability
20 initiatives that include more support for young people, extra help for those facing
21 redundancy and free, flexible courses linking those on low pay to new opportunities in
22 areas hit by labour market shortages.

23

24 *Skills England*

25 Labour will establish a new expert body – Skills England – to oversee the English
26 national skills effort of the coming decade, ensuring we have the skills we need for the
27 challenges of the future, monitoring skills trends and approving the new training
28 schemes the levy can be spent on.

29 Skills England will pull together the expertise of trade associations, employers from
30 large and small companies, representatives of trade unions, central and local
31 government, and further and higher education to develop and deliver on this national
32 challenge, putting partnership and collaboration at the forefront of the plan for change.

33 Skills England will be responsible for the list of accredited non-apprenticeship courses
34 businesses can spend Growth and Skills Levy money on, to ensure they meet the wider
35 ambitions set out in the Industrial Strategy and the Green Prosperity Plan.

1 It will also provide strategic oversight over devolved budgets. This will coordinate the
2 framework within which combined authorities deliver skills funding, to make sure local
3 outcomes and priorities are aligned with our Industrial Strategy and help meet the
4 challenges the country will face over the coming decade.

5

6

7 **Getting Britain back to work**

8 A strong economy can only be achieved with high employment.

9 The failure of successive Conservative governments to get a grip on economic inactivity
10 is holding the country back. Under the Conservatives too many people are trapped out
11 of work with no meaningful way to get them help and support.

12 Labour has a plan to get Britain back to work, providing a path to good, secure and well-
13 paid work that matches the skills and experience of workers, opening opportunity and
14 spreading prosperity fairly.

15 We will reform job centres to ensure effective help to find work, make work pay via
16 reform to social security and deliver specialist help for people with health conditions,
17 disabled people and the over 50s. Labour will also treat people who are unable to work
18 with respect and dignity.

19

20 *Reforming employment support*

21 A Labour government will reform employment support, including by devolving powers
22 down to local leaders. We will boost locally delivered partnerships, giving them the
23 freedom to decide how best to design schemes so that they are targeted to the needs
24 of the local area. Labour will allow self-referrals to employment services and enable
25 GPs, housing associations and community groups in England to direct people more
26 easily to employment support.

27 Labour will reform Jobcentre Plus to ensure it becomes more responsive to local
28 economic needs and more actively engaged with the needs of people looking for work
29 where rights to financial support are balanced by responsibilities to look for work and
30 tailored help.

31

32 *Targeted support for those who need it*

33 The number of people out of work for reasons of long-term sickness is now at a record
34 high, but with the right support many will be able to find fulfilling work that suits their
35 needs and skillset.

1 We commit to providing tailored support in every local area for harder to help groups,
2 such as people with mental ill health or addiction. We will build on targeted
3 programmes, including those that join up with the NHS, to provide better specialist
4 support and break the link between inactivity and ill health.

5 To address the disincentives to moving into work that are contained in the current
6 system, Labour will fix the Access to Work scheme, with improved targets for
7 assessment waiting times and by giving people who are looking for work ‘in principle’
8 indicative awards.

9 A Labour government would work in cross-departmental collaboration to provide
10 targeted help for the over 50s and offer all those who have previously worked but
11 recently left the labour market back-to-work support and guidance.

12 We will ensure people nearing retirement are better able to make informed decisions
13 for themselves about work, savings and retirement through access to quality mid-life
14 MOTs.

15 Labour will introduce further reform of employment support, devolving it to local areas,
16 with a commitment to provide tailored support in every local area for harder to help
17 groups.

18 We will provide a reliable safety net for people who lose their jobs or who cannot work
19 due to ill health or disability and help people on their journey back into work by allowing
20 people to try paid work without reassessments if it does not work out. We will replace
21 the current system of work capability assessments with a system that supports people
22 to live with security.

23

24 **The people and talent our economy needs**

25 Alongside our focus on raising the skills, productivity and working conditions of people
26 here in the UK, a Labour government would reform our immigration system to ensure
27 we get the skills and people our economy need. The immigration system and any
28 decisions to change it need to be determined by what is in the interest of the UK, its
29 businesses and workers.

30 Our economy and our communities have long benefited from people coming here from
31 all over the world to work, from building our biggest businesses, to sustaining our public
32 services to leading our scientific research and innovation to caring for our loved ones.

33

34 *A points-based immigration system that works for our economy*

35 Labour’s immigration system will be fair, firm and properly managed. There will be no
36 return to freedom of movement.

1 A Labour government will sort out the points-based immigration system so that it
2 ensures the economy has the skills it needs and that prolonged vacancies do not hold
3 back growth in key sectors.

4 But immigration cannot be the only means of addressing labour shortages. For too long
5 there has been no coordination between the immigration system and other labour
6 market policies – including on training, employment standards and tackling economic
7 inactivity. As a result, under the Conservatives there is no long-term or systematic
8 approach to ensuring that our economy has the skills and the workforce it needs.

9 Labour will deliver a new, more integrated approach. We will reform and strengthen the
10 Migration Advisory Committee so that it can review shortages more often and inform
11 training decisions as well as work with the new Skills England body to project the
12 workforce needs of the future. Any movement in our points-based migration system will
13 come alongside new conditions to boost skills and more training, provide better pay
14 and conditions and invest in new technology to reduce the physical demands of work.
15 When a sector is already heavily reliant on immigration, a Labour government will
16 require that sector to develop these plans through dialogue and negotiation involving
17 employers and trade unions. We will ensure that all employers able to sponsor visas are
18 meeting decent standards of pay and conditions.

19

20 *Windrush*

21 The Windrush scandal revealed the huge injustices that exist within our current
22 citizenship and nationality system. The Windrush generation have been failed twice –
23 first by Conservative Home Office policies which denied British citizens their rights, and
24 second by shameful delays in delivering compensation to victims of the scandal.

25 If it continues to fail, the next Labour government will be willing to overhaul the
26 Windrush Compensation Scheme and put it outside of Home Office control to make
27 sure it is delivering justice for victims. Labour will restart and improve community
28 engagement and outreach work to encourage applications to the scheme and speed up
29 compensation payments, to ensure that every victim gets every penny of compensation
30 they deserve.

CHAPTER THREE:

Safe and secure communities

1 **CHAPTER THREE: SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 Labour believes that feeling safe and secure is the bedrock on which opportunities are
5 built, communities can thrive, and local economies can prosper.

6 That sense of security has slowly eroded over the past 13 years. Too often people fear
7 that when things go wrong, no one will come, and nothing will be done. And even if
8 criminals are caught, victims fear that justice will be delayed or not delivered at all. At
9 the same time, the connections within and between communities have been eroded,
10 exacerbated by crumbling transport infrastructure. Our social fabric has been stretched
11 to breaking point thanks to divisive and corrupt Conservative governments that have
12 left people feeling like politics is broken and they have no voice.

13 Communities should be able to live free from fear and insecurity, and people should
14 feel safe whether it is around the local high street, walking home at night, using the
15 internet or at home. But this can only happen if the public feel confident that the police
16 and criminal justice system will be there for them – to protect them, to support them
17 and deliver justice for them.

18 The next Labour government will make our streets safe by preventing crime, punishing
19 criminals and protecting the public. Within the decade we will halve the level of violence
20 against women and girls, halve incidents of knife crime, raise confidence in every police
21 force to its highest levels and reverse the collapse in the proportion of crimes solved.

22 To do that we will rebuild neighbourhood policing. We will recruit more police officers
23 and police community support officers (PCSOs) and embed them in communities.
24 Labour will raise standards in policing by overhauling training, misconduct and vetting
25 procedures and introduce mandatory national standards. We will work tirelessly to
26 restore public faith in our criminal justice system, including breaking the cycle of
27 reoffending. And we will take a whole-society approach, working with local leaders, to
28 tackle violence against women and girls, looking beyond just reform of policing and
29 criminal justice, to our education system, our online regulation, our media and our
30 community services.

31 To reconnect our communities, a Labour government will also call time on 13 years of
32 decline in transport and upgrade our infrastructure so it is fit for the 21st century. We
33 will deliver transformational projects to unlock growth and investment across the
34 country.

35 Rebuilding our country also involves restoring faith in our politics. Labour will bring new
36 life into our democracy, empowering our communities to transform our society for the
37 better.

1 The next Labour government will transfer power out of Westminster to local
2 communities and build a better, deeper devolution settlement. And we will clean up
3 politics and restore standards in public life. Our country deserves a government which
4 matches the ambition of the British people.

5

6

7 **Safer homes, safer streets and safer communities**

8 Over the last 13 years, neighbourhood policing has been hollowed out and our criminal
9 justice system has been broken. As a result, confidence and trust in our police and our
10 courts have plummeted and it is the sad reality that in 21st century Britain many people
11 have given up reporting crime, as they believe nothing will come of it.

12 Our enforcement agencies find it difficult to respond quickly to crimes, investigate them
13 thoroughly and hold those responsible to account. Under the Conservatives, far fewer
14 criminals are arrested, cautioned or prosecuted. The percentage of crimes recorded
15 that lead to someone being charged has dropped by two thirds since 2015, meaning
16 that in 2022 over two million crimes went completely unsolved.

17 In government, Labour will make it a national mission to make Britain's streets safe. We
18 will halve serious violent crime, drive down anti-social behaviour, and raise confidence
19 in the police and criminal justice system to its highest level. We will do this by putting
20 more police in local areas, preventing young people getting drawn into crime and
21 criminal gangs, and empowering victims. Our communities deserve a stronger and
22 brighter future, and a Labour government means safer homes, safer streets and safer
23 communities.

24

25 *Neighbourhood policing*

26 At the heart of Labour's plan will be rebuilding and renewing the neighbourhood police
27 who are at the centre of our communities and the fight against crime. Labour will put
28 13,000 more neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs back on Britain's streets – paid
29 for with the clear and tangible savings that can be delivered from a shared procurement
30 and efficiencies plan for all police forces.

31

32 *Fire and rescue service*

33 Conservative cuts have hollowed out our fire and rescue service, cutting jobs and
34 closing stations, leading to slower response times and putting lives at risk. The next
35 Labour government will equip the fire and rescue services to keep people safe.

1 Police and fire services are very different and distinct services which each have vital,
2 separate responsibilities to the public. Labour will ensure that governance
3 arrangements respect those different and distinct roles and responsibilities.

4

5 *Tackling anti-social behaviour and serious violent crime, and their causes*

6 Labour will be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. This means taking a
7 prevention-first approach, including access to mental health support workers in schools
8 and providing mentors for children who are excluded or sent to Pupil Referral Units to
9 help them get back on track. Labour will also put youth workers into A&Es and custody
10 suites to reach young people already involved in gangs.

11 Levels of anti-social behaviour remain persistently high and affect deprived areas the
12 most. To tackle this, Labour will introduce Respect Orders: a new criminal offence to
13 target persistent adult repeat offenders who are ruining lives with their anti-social
14 behaviour. Labour will also take tough action against drug dealing with powers for
15 police to shut down premises used by drug dealers, and data-driven hotspot policing
16 targeted at common drug dealing sites, complemented by local neighbourhood police
17 patrols of town centres.

18 We will continue our strong track record of keeping people safe in their work, building
19 on the labour movement's ongoing campaign to protect shop workers from violence at
20 work. This will include continuing our support for, and ensuring that all retail workers
21 are protected by, the measures outlined in the draft Assaults on Retail Workers
22 (Offences) Bill and the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and
23 Services) (Scotland) Act 2021.

24 We also support the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act which provides
25 protection for our emergency service staff and will ensure it is properly enforced.

26 Labour has a clear plan to tackle forms of serious violence that are on the rise, such as
27 knife crime. A Labour government will tackle websites selling knives through tougher
28 online regulation. Labour will also introduce a new child exploitation register, for those
29 convicted of modern slavery offences linked to county lines drug dealing. We will place
30 youth workers in accident and emergency departments and custody suites to reach
31 young people who are becoming involved in gangs.

32 This is an important part of ensuring we tackle the root causes of the problems that our
33 communities face by introducing stronger preventative action involving local
34 government, schools and community organisations, charities and frontline providers.

35

36

1 *Rebuilding confidence and trust in the police*

2 Policing by consent depends on trust, and when that breaks down, policing becomes
3 harder and crime thrives. That trust has broken down. The first and most important
4 means of restoring confidence and trust in the police is to ensure that they are there to
5 tackle crime.

6 Restoring trust is also about ensuring the highest standards are upheld. Baroness
7 Casey's independent review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the
8 Metropolitan Police Service revealed the extent of this challenge, and a Labour
9 government will accept its findings in full.

10 Labour will raise standards in every police force in England and Wales. We will introduce
11 mandatory national vetting, training and misconduct standards. We will automatically
12 ban any potential applicants to the police service who have a history of domestic abuse,
13 indecent exposure or sexual assault, and mandate specialist training for every officer on
14 countering racial bias and tackling violence against women and girls.

15 Following the Wendy Williams review into the disproportionate use of police powers,
16 Labour will establish a requirement for stop and search data to be recorded. Labour will
17 work with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to ensure confidence data is
18 gathered and regularly published, including breakdowns by gender and ethnicity. With
19 Labour, it will also be a mandatory requirement for all police forces to implement the
20 National Police Chiefs' Council Race Action Plan, which involves improving the
21 recruitment, retention and progression of Black people within policing and identifying
22 and tackling racial disparities in the use of powers.

23 Labour will look closely at the conclusions and recommendations of Sir John Mittings'
24 undercover policing inquiry and consider the best ways to ensure vulnerable people
25 involved in undercover police operations are protected.

26 Labour has opposed the Public Order Bill and its measures which we believe will
27 significantly undermine trust and confidence in the police. Labour will safeguard the
28 right to peaceful protest and the right to picket in industrial disputes, which have won
29 so many of our historic freedoms. We believe that the police already have the powers
30 they need to deal with dangerous and disruptive protests. The next Labour government
31 would give the police better training, guidance, and resources to deal with dangerous
32 and disruptive protests.

33

34 *Violence against women and girls*

35 In Britain, violence against women and girls is endemic. In 2019-20 alone – the latest
36 year for which we have figures – 1.6 million women aged between 16 and 74 in England
37 and Wales experienced domestic abuse and over 600,000 were sexually assaulted.

1 These figures have remained unchanged for years, with successive Conservative
2 governments having taken little action taken to break down the patterns that lead to
3 this violence.

4 Labour will use every lever available to tackle the epidemic of violence against women
5 and girls, from education to policing, from community services to online regulation and
6 more. Tackling violence against women and girls must be a coordinated effort across
7 the whole of government.

8 The next Labour government will put domestic abuse specialists in the control rooms of
9 every police force, responding to 999 calls and supporting victims of abuse. We will
10 ensure there is a specialist rape unit in every police force, to make sure every victim has
11 access to appropriate support and to investigators who are rigorously trained to solve
12 these complex crimes.

13 Labour will also seek to tackle misogyny as one of the root causes of violence against
14 women and girls by preventing algorithms from promoting harmful content online and
15 making tackling misogyny a key part of school accountability. Furthermore, Labour will
16 make misogyny a hate crime to make sure all police forces record the violence and
17 harassment suffered by women.

18

19 *Fraud*

20 The next Labour government will also get tough on fraud by making it easier to convict
21 corporate fraudsters and overhauling Companies House.

22 Labour fully recognises the impact that online scams and fraud is having on people in
23 their day-to-day lives and remains deeply concerned at the scale of the fraud crisis
24 facing the UK and the rate at which it has increased in recent years. A Labour
25 government will treat fraud in our country with the seriousness it deserves.

26 That will mean delivering root and branch reform of the current approach to tackling
27 fraud, from turning the tide on corporate fraud to taking stronger action to protect
28 individuals against scammers. In this and other areas, a Labour government will ensure
29 the UK is ahead of the curve when it comes to tackling new criminal threats, and seek to
30 make emerging technologies part of the solution in the fight against crime, not an
31 increasing part of the problem.

32

33 *Counter-extremism*

34 Labour supports the need for the Prevent programme, which is an important tool for
35 early intervention to prevent radicalisation and extremism, and ultimately to prevent

1 terror threats from all manner of extremist ideologies. But we want to see trust in the
2 programme much higher and its work improved, updated and scrutinised.

3 A Labour government will update the Counter-Extremism Strategy which has not been
4 updated since 2015 and is therefore unable to deal with the emerging and growing
5 threat of online radicalisation.

6

7

8 **Ensuring justice is delivered**

9 Every victim of crime deserves justice, yet under this Conservative government, justice is
10 denied. Our criminal justice system has been left broken by 13 years of Conservative
11 government and is failing to support the victims it was designed to protect. Last year
12 saw the largest crown court backlog on record, with rape victims having to wait on
13 average over three years for their case to reach completion in court.

14 A Labour government will ensure that justice is delivered once again.

15

16 *Accelerating access to justice*

17 It took the Conservatives eight years to bring forward a Victims' Bill and when they did
18 what they proposed was far too weak.

19 Labour is committed to improving enforcement, ensuring victims' rights are fully
20 enshrined and that there are appropriate duties in place for agencies to work together
21 and signpost victims to the service they need. Victims should not be treated as an
22 afterthought. The next Labour government will work with frontline organisations to
23 ensure that victims are given the best possible protection.

24 Labour will speed up the justice system, tackling the courts backlog. We will significantly
25 increase the number of staff employed by the government to serve as Crown
26 Prosecutors by lifting restrictions to allow more legal specialists to serve as Crown
27 Prosecutors.

28 A Labour government will also introduce specialist rape courts to fast-track cases and
29 ensure rape victims get the justice they deserve. Using existing, unused space at every
30 crown court in England and Wales, cases would be fast-tracked by changes to priority
31 listings.

32

33

34

1 *Sentencing that reflects the nature of the crime*

2 It is not just the speed of justice that matters to the victims of crime, but the
3 appropriateness of the punishment. Sentencing should properly reflect the nature of
4 the crime, and the harm that it has inflicted.

5 A Labour government will bring in tougher sentences by introducing a minimum seven-
6 year custodial sentence for rape and whole-life orders for any adult offender found
7 guilty of rape, abduction and murder of a stranger.

8 In addition, we will commission a review into the effectiveness of current legislation and
9 sentencing policy, focused particularly on increasing sentences for domestic homicide
10 and abuse, but also examining other areas where there is concern about the current
11 framework, including sexual violence and other violent crime, and offences against
12 children.

13 Labour will also ensure that anti-social behaviour is prevented and punished by setting
14 up Community and Victim Payback Boards to strengthen community sentences, with
15 victims able to choose the unpaid work to be done by the perpetrator and to ensure
16 that the work is carried out.

17 We will introduce tougher penalties for fly-tippers, establishing clean-up squads so that
18 offenders have to clear up litter and fly-tipped rubbish, and clean up vandalism. They
19 will be given Fixed Penalty Cleaning Notices that will be managed by the Local Authority.

20 We will give domestic abusers no place to hide by introducing a new Domestic Abuse
21 Register to track offenders and help protect victims.

22 For parents whose children repeatedly engage in anti-social behaviour, Labour will
23 extend the use of Parenting Orders, requiring parents to attend parental classes.

24 Delivered through the courts, and overseen by Community Payback Boards and Local
25 Authorities, it will mean that parents are required to take responsibility for their child's
26 antisocial behaviour while also being given the support they need to help curb it.

27

28 *Breaking the cycle of offending and reoffending*

29 Under the Conservatives, 8 out of 10 crimes are committed by someone who has
30 received at least one previous conviction or caution before. Even where criminals are
31 coming into contact with the criminal justice system, in too many cases this is not
32 stopping them from offending again.

33 Labour will consider a trauma-informed approach within the criminal justice system to
34 strengthen diversionary practices and end the cycle of reoffending. Under this
35 approach, we will support families, local authorities and schools, intervening to tackle
36 trauma at source where children are most at risk of offending. By working with the

1 courts, youth offending institutions, prisons and probation to cut reoffending, Labour
2 will tackle the deep-rooted trauma that often lies behind it.

3

4 *Prisons and probation*

5 Labour will make prisons work and ensure ex-offenders are supported post-release to
6 help reduce offending and keep the public safe. We will drive down reoffending by
7 cutting drug use and violence on the prison estate and rehabilitating prisoners through
8 reforming education and employment opportunities.

9 We will ensure that all those working in the justice system are safe at work including
10 prison officers, who have been the subject of increasing numbers of assaults by
11 inmates.

12 Probation services play a crucial role in reducing reoffending and protecting
13 communities from harm. We will ensure that the probation service is run effectively so
14 that probation officers can focus on rehabilitating offenders in their communities.

15

16 *Tackling historic injustices*

17 Labour will not just seek to tackle the current injustices that we see, but historic ones
18 too.

19 The next Labour government will put a Hillsborough Law onto the statute book to help
20 prevent future injustices where there is state involvement. As part of the legislation,
21 Labour will introduce a duty of candour to ensure that public authorities and officials
22 proactively cooperate with official investigations as well as providing non-means tested
23 legal aid for victims of disasters or state-related deaths. We will also establish an
24 independent public advocate to act as a representative for bereaved families and to
25 support those that have lost ones in a disaster.

26 Labour supports a full investigation into the events at Orgreave and the next Labour
27 government will release documents held by government relating to the historic
28 Cammell Laird prosecutions and carry out a review into the jailing of striking workers.

29 A Labour government will ensure that unlawful blacklisting of trade unionists is a
30 practice never seen again in Britain with the law properly enforced, and that anti-
31 blacklisting laws and protections keep pace with the changing nature of work and
32 technological advancements.

33 And in government Labour will do right by the survivors of the Grenfell fire and give
34 them the support they need, bring those culpable to justice, and end the deregulation
35 of building and fire safety to prevent a fire like Grenfell ever happening again.

36

1 *Equality and human rights at the heart of our justice system*

2 Our criminal justice system remains deeply un-diverse, with the UK significantly worse
3 in terms of diversity than other European and common law jurisdictions, with lower
4 proportions of women and ethnic minorities in our judiciary. Labour will work with the
5 relevant trade unions and employers to address the barriers the workforce face.

6 Following the Lammy Review into the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and
7 Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system, Labour will ensure that our
8 judiciary and prison service reflects the diversity of our nation and that fair outcomes
9 are delivered for everyone in our criminal justice system.

10 We will also strengthen and equalise the law on hate crime and extend the aggravated
11 offences regime to all five protected characteristics recognised in law. This will ensure
12 that all hate crime victims are treated equally and that the perpetrators of anti-LGBT+
13 and disability hate can no longer be let off lightly.

14 Labour will also protect and promote the Human Rights Act. The Human Rights Act was
15 introduced by the last Labour government to help people better defend the rights they
16 are guaranteed under the European Convention of Human Rights, which was
17 introduced in the wake of the atrocities that took place during and running up to the
18 Second World War.

19

20

21 **A 21st century transport system connecting our communities**

22 The Conservatives' broken rail system is failing passengers. Record cancellations, delays
23 and chronic overcrowding are holding the country back. And the Conservatives' failure
24 to invest has choked off growth, and left the North with second-rate infrastructure, and
25 crumbling services. Communities are being let down.

26 The next Labour government will build transport infrastructure fit for the century
27 ahead. We will call time on 13 years of decline and upgrade our infrastructure, drawing
28 on the strengths of UK manufacturers, so it is fit for the 21st century, reconnecting
29 communities while unlocking growth and investment across the country.

30

31 *Modern rail infrastructure*

32 Labour will put the interests of rail passengers first, providing better value for the
33 travelling public and taxpayer alike. The next Labour government will bring our railways
34 into public ownership as contracts with existing operators expire, consistent with our
35 fiscal rules, putting passengers at the heart of our railways and investing in a world-
36 class network to help cut travel costs and meet our net zero ambitions.

1 We will also keep the promises made to the North and Midlands and deliver Northern
2 Powerhouse Rail and High Speed 2 in full, unlocking billions in economic growth,
3 slashing journey times and increasing capacity.

4 Labour will deliver a long-term strategy for rail, creating a stable foundation for long-
5 term delivery of rail infrastructure across the country. Through our Take Back Control
6 Act Labour will also give communities a greater say in local rail services.

7 We will learn the lesson from the exploding costs of Conservative governments' failing
8 projects and ensure we have the capacity and regulatory framework to build
9 infrastructure faster, cheaper and greener.

10

11 *Greater power over local buses*

12 Labour will reform our broken bus system and hand power and control over services to
13 local communities. Britain is one of the only countries in the developed world where
14 local communities are completely cut out of the process of setting routes and fares.
15 With bus services in crisis, the Conservatives are standing in the way of much-needed
16 reform. Complex rules and bureaucracy leave communities powerless to stop routes
17 and services disappearing.

18 Labour will end this broken system and hand power and control to local communities
19 through our Take Back Control Act. We will give communities the ability to take on
20 powers to franchise local bus services. This would represent the biggest reform to the
21 bus sector in a generation and put communities firmly back in control of the public
22 transport they depend on. Labour will also lift the ban on municipal bus ownership,
23 building on the success of Labour-run councils like Nottingham and Reading.

24 Labour leaders in power are already delivering this with a simple, transformative vision
25 to make buses cheaper, greener, faster and more reliable. Labour Mayors are using
26 their devolved powers and funding to put more money in people's pockets. They are
27 making local public transport and buses better and more affordable.

28

29 *Transport for a healthier environment*

30 Labour supports the principle of Clean Air Zones and recognises the huge damage to
31 human health caused by air pollution and the damage to our climate caused by carbon
32 emissions from polluting vehicles. However, they must be phased in carefully, mindful
33 of the impacts on small businesses and low-paid workers, and should be accompanied
34 with a just transition plan to enable people to switch affordably to low-emission
35 vehicles.

1 Labour will encourage more people to walk and cycle wherever possible by supporting
2 local authorities to provide safe, accessible walking routes and cycling infrastructure,
3 making active travel an attractive choice for all. Labour recognises the huge benefits of
4 active travel for reducing carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion in towns and
5 cities, and improving physical health.

6

7

8 **A new politics for a new Britain**

9 The UK is the most centralised country in Europe and has some of the worst regional
10 inequalities. This is not a coincidence. It is clear too much power is hoarded in
11 Westminster, and that this is holding our country back.

12 The Conservatives have continued with short-term, centralising, sticking plaster politics;
13 and despite all their promises, have failed to deliver on ‘levelling up’.

14 Labour will deliver a new politics. Building on the recommendations of the Commission
15 on the UK’s Future, we will oversee a power shift out of Westminster to ensure the right
16 powers are in the right places to transform our economy, our politics and our
17 democracy.

18 We will give our communities control over their own destiny – by unlocking the pride
19 and purpose of our towns and cities, devolving decision-making away from Westminster
20 to those with the experience, knowledge and expertise, and putting power directly in
21 the hands of the people of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Labour will
22 work towards long-term, integrated funding settlements for local leaders to provide
23 greater financial certainty for local areas, where they have the capacity and
24 accountability to manage it.

25 With Labour, people will get the change they deserve.

26

27 *A new approach to politics*

28 Under the Conservatives, trust in politics and our democratic institutions is at an all-
29 time low. Labour will clean up our politics and restore trust in our democracy, undoing
30 the damage the Tories have caused through sleaze and scandal. Labour’s new approach
31 will restore confidence in politics.

32 We will establish a new independent Integrity and Ethics Commission, with the power to
33 investigate misconduct and breaches of the ministerial code, including access to any
34 evidence it needs.

35 The next Labour government will also ban second jobs for MPs, with only very limited
36 exemptions for public service roles or to maintain professional qualifications. We will

1 ban former ministers from lobbying, consultancy or any paid work related to their
2 former job for at least five years, closing the revolving door between ministerial office
3 and lobbying for companies they used to regulate. Labour will make it mandatory for
4 former ministers to apply to the Integrity and Ethics Commission before accepting any
5 job.

6 The next Labour government will reform the political system and its institutions so that
7 it works for everyone and re-engages people in the political process.

8 Labour is committed to abolishing the House of Lords. In its place, we will establish a
9 second chamber that is smaller, offers the taxpayer better value for money, and is
10 reflective of the regions and nations with elected representatives rather than political
11 appointees. This chamber will remain a revising chamber with the House of Commons
12 retaining its exclusive powers over the formation of government and the approval of
13 government spending. The second chamber will have a role in protecting the
14 constitution and devolution settlement.

15 The flaws in the current voting system are contributing to the distrust and alienation we
16 see in politics, but there is no consensus for a new system. Any proposed change to our
17 voting system must be carefully thought-through – it cannot be dictated by political
18 leaders or forced upon the country from the top down. However, there are some urgent
19 steps that can be taken to restore faith in our democracy. Labour will introduce votes
20 for 16- and 17-year-olds, in line with Scotland and Wales, so that young people feel
21 empowered and can fully engage in our democratic processes. Those who contribute to
22 our society should have a say in how it is governed. A Labour government will also stop
23 Conservative plans to allow foreign money to pour into British politics and will create
24 strict rules about donations from shell companies.

25

26 *Restoring stability and security to our United Kingdom*

27 Labour believes in the strength of our United Kingdom, and of all its constituent
28 nations. Labour will deliver real change across our nations, harnessing their individual
29 strengths and moving us on from the divisions of the past.

30 After 13 years of Conservative government, the union between our nations is less stable
31 and less secure than ever before. In Scotland, the SNP's narrow constitutional obsession
32 with a new referendum is completely the wrong priority, ignoring the growing cost of
33 living crisis and letting Scottish people down. In Northern Ireland, Conservative chaos
34 and neglect has led to repeated political stand-offs while the people of Northern Ireland
35 are the ones left to suffer.

36 In contrast, the Welsh Labour government is making a real difference to people's lives in
37 Wales, taking decisive steps to help people deal with the cost of living crisis. The next

1 national Labour government will support this by returning power over its economic
2 destiny to Wales, restoring the decision-making role for the Welsh Government on
3 structural funds. We will extend this to the devolved governments in Scotland and
4 Northern Ireland, spreading power and opportunity out of Westminster.

5 Decentralising power in this way will be at the heart of Labour’s approach. The Take
6 Back Control Act will hand powers to local leaders to deliver the improvements they
7 want to see, and let local people make the big calls about what affects them, rather than
8 leaving everything to decision-makers in Whitehall. Following the final report of the
9 Commission on the UK’s Future, the next Labour government will ensure that devolved
10 authorities and towns, cities and regions across England are given the right powers and
11 resources to drive growth and champion their areas. Labour will ensure that new
12 structures and institutions of shared government drive better cooperation, giving each
13 part of the UK an equal and respected voice in decision-making, and giving those
14 responsible for delivery the freedom to innovate.

15 Labour will preserve our union by delivering a better, deeper devolution settlement for
16 our devolved parliaments to spread power and opportunity more equally throughout
17 the UK. Labour will not support a new referendum on Scottish independence. Instead
18 our focus will be on a new vision for a new politics, constitutional reform and delivering
19 for the people of Scotland.

20 The Good Friday Agreement and the peace and prosperity it has brought to Northern
21 Ireland are among the proudest achievements of the last Labour government. Labour
22 will always be an honest broker for Northern Ireland, and work with all parties in
23 Northern Ireland to make the Windsor Framework work effectively, ease tensions and
24 find an agreed way forward.

CHAPTER FOUR:

Public services that work from the start

1 **CHAPTER FOUR: PUBLIC SERVICES THAT WORK FROM THE START**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 Strong public services are the bedrock upon which fair societies and successful
5 economies are built, and they should be a source of national pride.

6 When they are working well, schools, colleges and universities create opportunity for
7 individuals and drive our economic prosperity. Children’s social care steps in to provide
8 the love and stability that every child deserves. The NHS gives everyone the security of
9 knowing medical help is at hand, should they or a loved one need it. Adult social care
10 empowers older and disabled people – and their families – to live the life they choose.

11 But now, after 13 years of Conservative mismanagement and neglect, the people who
12 rely on public services and those who provide them are being let down – as was brutally
13 exposed by the pandemic.

14 There is now no guarantee an ambulance will arrive on time, and millions wait weeks to
15 see a GP. Adult social care is in crisis and children’s social care is at breaking point –
16 leaving thousands of people without support, care, or dignity. Schools no longer have
17 the capacity to provide excellence across the board, further education colleges have
18 been neglected, and our world-renowned university sector is being treated as a political
19 battleground, not a public good.

20 The decline of these vital public services is leading to worse and more unequal
21 outcomes. Economic growth is only possible when working people have good health,
22 where children and young people are fully nurtured and have the skills and confidence
23 they need to get on, and when people who need social care can live in comfort, without
24 their loved ones having to give up work to look after them.

25 The next Labour government will invest in the people and infrastructure that make up
26 our public services, recognising that when these services are in good shape everywhere,
27 they benefit us all. We will strengthen our public sector workforce: training, valuing, and
28 motivating our brilliant workers in social care, the health service and across the
29 education sector. Because great public services are nothing without the dedicated
30 people who work in them.

31 That is why Labour will act to improve public service workers’ living standards
32 throughout the Parliament. We will consider the case for looking more broadly at how
33 public sector pay is set, without undermining existing collective bargaining
34 arrangements that are supported by unions, and by looking at revising the remit of the
35 public sector Pay Review Bodies to make sure our public services can recruit and retain
36 the workers they need.

1 Investment alone is not enough. Labour recognises the essential need for reform as
2 well, and will work alongside the people who provide and use our public services to
3 change and modernise them to make them fit for the future. Under Labour, reform will
4 not mean needless, expensive, disruptive reorganisations. It will mean ending the
5 Conservatives’ sticking plaster approach to our once-great public services and instead
6 making the necessary long-term changes to get them working for everyone.

7 So, in reforming our public services Labour will get the best technology in the hands of
8 public sector employees, harnessing data to make services work around people’s lives,
9 fostering and scaling innovation, and prioritising digital access. We will also ensure that
10 we use cutting-edge technology to radically improve communication both with users,
11 and between public service organisations, so that the different services are more joined
12 up. In doing so, we will end the current approach which is often ineffective and siloed,
13 and move towards an integrated system of easily navigable public services that meet
14 the needs of the people who use and work within them.

15 Labour stands for equality and social justice, so in reforming public services we will
16 uphold national standards in each public service that reduce inequalities and improve
17 people’s experiences of these services and ultimately, their lives. Above all, we will shift
18 services toward a ‘prevention first’ approach, which is weighted towards early
19 intervention, because catching problems before they get bigger gives young people the
20 best chance of a successful future, is better for the public purse and ultimately saves
21 lives.

22

23

24 **An NHS fit for the future**

25 A Labour government will build an NHS fit for the future by reforming health and care
26 services to speed up treatment, harnessing life sciences and technology to reduce
27 preventable illness, and cutting health inequalities.

28 Labour will always protect our NHS as a publicly-funded service, free at the point of use,
29 and will secure healthcare for all. Direct public provision embeds a public service ethos,
30 efficiency, resilience and democratic accountability into the heart of the NHS. Right now,
31 one of the major challenges in the health system is that people cannot access
32 healthcare quickly enough. A Labour government will end the two-tier system that
33 currently sees patients paying to go private or waiting for years in pain for planned NHS
34 treatment. Labour will always put patients first. That is why, in the short term, to fix the
35 Conservative mess we inherit, we will use spare capacity in the independent sector to
36 treat NHS patients and bring waiting lists down as we reform and strengthen NHS-
37 delivered services and capacity for the future. Our ambition is to make the NHS so good

1 that no one ever feels forced to go private and to make sure that the NHS is never put in
2 this position again.

3 Labour governments have fixed the Conservatives’ mess in our NHS before – and we
4 will do it again, pulling every available lever to get patients treated sooner and give
5 people the high quality healthcare they deserve.

6

7 *Workforce planning*

8 Workforce shortages in the NHS are the root cause of many of the challenges that our
9 health service faces. That is why a Labour government will oversee one of the most
10 ambitious expansions of the health workforce in history. We will close the non-domicile
11 tax status loophole and use the money to double the number of medical school places
12 to 15,000 per year, create 10,000 more nursing and midwifery clinical placements a
13 year, double the number of district nurses qualifying every year, and train 5,000 new
14 health visitors.

15 Solving the NHS’s workforce problems is not just about recruiting new staff. It also
16 means improving retention of the existing, highly skilled and committed people who
17 already work there, including not only medical staff, but all allied health professionals
18 and those who keep the service running in non-clinical roles. In recognition of this,
19 Labour is committed to establishing comprehensive long-term workforce planning for
20 the NHS that focuses on retention as well as recruitment.

21 This planning will include independent projections of the numbers of staff needed to
22 ensure our NHS is fit for a future that will bring new health challenges and
23 opportunities. We will focus on ensuring we have the roles, trainees, and senior
24 professionals needed to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities – drawing on
25 a diverse range of skills and inspiring people around the country to pursue an NHS
26 career. We will also work with health staff and their trade unions to review existing
27 training pathways and explore new entry routes to a career in the NHS. Labour will also
28 work with staff and their unions to ensure that there are high quality training and
29 continuing professional development opportunities for everyone who dedicates
30 themselves to a career in our health service.

31 Labour recognises that the tax treatment of doctors’ pensions has discouraged some
32 senior clinicians from continuing in the workforce. While Labour is committed to
33 reversing the sweeping changes made by the government to pension allowances at the
34 March Budget 2023, Labour will introduce a targeted scheme for senior doctors across
35 the UK to address retention issues.

36

37

1 *Change and modernisation of the NHS*

2 Investment alone will not tackle the problems facing our NHS; it must go hand in hand
3 with reform. That is why a Labour government will introduce a 10-year plan for change
4 and modernisation of the NHS. We are committed to innovation and modernisation in
5 the design of our public services, using the best of humanity's advancements to make
6 them work at their best.

7 We know that top-down reorganisations of the NHS waste time and money when our
8 priority should be ensuring that patients get treated on time. So Labour will build on the
9 existing integrated care system structure in England as we build an NHS fit for the
10 future. This will mean delivering more joined-up services for patients and reducing
11 avoidable and unjust variations in the quality of care.

12 As part of our 10-year plan, Labour will improve data sharing and portability in health
13 and care to join up services, deliver more personalised health and care and assist with
14 collaborative NHS planning and research. In doing so, Labour will guarantee that
15 people's health data is safeguarded and always used ethically and to ensure taxpayer
16 value for money, improving services and outcomes for patients.

17 Alongside harnessing the opportunities of data and life sciences, Labour will ensure that
18 the NHS has the accessible buildings, modern equipment, and cutting-edge technology
19 needed to reduce preventable illness, bring down waiting times, and provide high
20 quality healthcare that works for patients and puts them at the centre of the health
21 system.

22

23

24 **A focus on community healthcare**

25 As part of our overall plan, Labour will shift the focus of healthcare from the acute
26 sector into the community to boost prevention, diagnose conditions earlier, and provide
27 treatment closer to people's homes.

28

29 *Primary care and public health*

30 Good hospitals are not the only, or even the most important, factor in promoting and
31 protecting people's health and ensuring great outcomes for patients. We also need to
32 ensure that primary care and public health are fit for the future. Right now, primary
33 care is often not working for patients or for the professionals who provide it.

34 Labour will support effective and sustainable delivery of general practice to improve
35 access and continuity of care, and to cut health inequalities. In government, Labour will
36 bring back the family doctor by providing incentives for GP practices to improve their

1 continuity of care offer for people who want and need this. Under Labour, patients will
2 be able to easily book appointments to see the doctor they want, in the manner they
3 choose. We will also introduce improved routes for referral to specialist services in the
4 community, such as allowing opticians to refer into hospitals and greater self-referral in
5 areas where it is clinically appropriate such as physiotherapy.

6 If we are to tackle the health challenges of the coming decades, we will need to focus on
7 the social, economic and environmental determinants of health: the root causes of why
8 people end up in hospital in the first place, and not just how we treat them when they
9 get there. That means a greater focus on, recognition of, and support for the incredible
10 work done by health professionals who work within communities, like local public
11 health teams, social prescribing link workers, health visitors and school nurses.

12 Our focus must be on prevention as much as cure: on tackling modifiable risks so that
13 we reduce levels of preventable illness in the first place. So, as well as protecting and
14 enhancing primary care, which is the front door of the NHS, Labour will ensure strong
15 local public health services and national public health initiatives to make the most of the
16 opportunities offered by a prevention-first approach.

17 The potential benefits of a prevention-first approach are not only that it reduces
18 pressure on health services, but also on other public services. For example, effective
19 drug treatment programmes can lead to reductions in crime and criminal behaviour,
20 such as shoplifting and theft. Providing accessible extracurricular opportunities for
21 young people can give them wider opportunities and protect them from exploitation.
22 These services have longer term benefits for the police service and criminal justice
23 system, as well as for the individuals whose lives are affected by crime.

24 NHS dentistry is also in a parlous state, with dentists leaving the public sector in droves
25 and huge areas of the country left without NHS services at all. Labour will address years
26 of Conservative neglect of NHS dentistry, prioritising prevention of oral health issues
27 and cutting oral health inequalities.

28

29 *Tackling inequalities in health and access to care*

30 The fragmented nature of our healthcare services is resulting in dramatic inequalities in
31 access to care, as well as failures in healthcare for women across their life course.

32 Labour’s national health mission will tackle health inequalities, including those
33 experienced by women at each different stage of their lives, ensuring that any approach
34 is intersectional and recognising the particular experiences of disabled women and
35 women from ethnic minority groups.

36 We will have a strategy to ensure that women and girls around the country have access
37 to safe, high-quality healthcare that supports their wellbeing and will address ongoing

1 systemic failures to meet their health and care needs. This particularly applies to
2 women’s sexual and reproductive healthcare, which is fragmented and understaffed,
3 meaning women do not always get the high-quality care that they deserve and
4 outcomes are unequal. To address a particularly shocking inequality in sexual and
5 reproductive health, Labour will act to end the Black maternal mortality gap.

6 We will ensure government and the public sector focus on delivering better outcomes
7 for those on lower incomes and make narrowing and eliminating inequality through the
8 health system – and all our public services – a priority.

9

10

11 **Ending the crisis in mental healthcare**

12 Everyone should be able to access the mental health services they need, and not be
13 made to wait months or even years to receive support. Labour will treat mental health
14 as seriously as physical health and ensure genuine parity of esteem.

15 In government, Labour will publish the first ever long-term, whole-government plan to
16 improve mental health outcomes.

17 As with physical health services, a Labour government will shift the focus of mental
18 healthcare to prevention as well as cure. Labour will ensure that the NHS plays an active
19 role in the prevention of avoidable mental illness, to ensure swift treatment to prevent
20 conditions worsening, and ensuring a better quality of life.

21

22 *Increasing access to services*

23 Using some of the revenue raised through our commitment to end tax exemptions for
24 private schools, as well as the revenue from our policy to scrap the carried interest tax
25 loophole enjoyed by a small number of private equity fund managers, Labour will
26 transform mental health services.

27 We will provide treatment within a month of referral by recruiting thousands of new
28 mental health professionals. Labour will also work with the NHS to develop and
29 implement new NHS targets for mental health services in England and will ensure
30 reporting standards improve.

31

32 *Raising standards*

33 Labour will ensure high standards in mental healthcare in every part of England, with
34 clear national and local accountability for the quality, safety, and availability of care.
35 Where the Conservatives have failed to incorporate into safety reviews the perspective

1 of those who actually use mental health services, Labour will ensure patients’ and
2 families’ voices are central to any national assessment of the safety of mental health
3 services.

4

5 *Children’s mental health*

6 Labour has put children at the heart of our mental health plan, again recognising the
7 importance of early intervention. Young people’s mental health has been declining in
8 recent years, with older teenagers most affected, and the disruption of the pandemic
9 had a particularly detrimental impact. One in four young people aged 17 to 19 have a
10 mental health problem, up from one in ten in 2017.

11 We cannot continue to allow the early, formative years of our children and young
12 people to be blighted by poor mental health and months-long struggles to access
13 inadequate support services. Young people’s mental health matters for their education,
14 as well as for their wellbeing. With Labour, every young person will have access to a
15 specialist mental health professional at school, supporting them right from the start
16 and, where possible, resolving problems before they escalate. Every community will
17 have an open access mental health hub for children and young people, providing early
18 intervention through drop-in services.

19

20

21 **A new system of social care**

22 The next Labour government will transform social care for older people, children and
23 disabled people so that those in need never go without.

24

25 *Adult social care*

26 Alongside our 10-year plan for change and modernisation of the NHS, Labour will
27 deliver a long-term plan for reform of adult social care that will lead to a world-class
28 National Care Service that makes people as proud as the NHS does. This will be
29 underpinned by the principle of ‘home first’, delivered through the use of early help and
30 technology, and defined through a set of national standards, enforced by a
31 strengthened regulator, to end the postcode lottery for care.

32 Labour recognises the preventative impact of high-quality social care, which can keep
33 people well and supports independent living for longer. As such, the National Care
34 Service will be a needs-based, locally delivered system, where people are helped to stay
35 in their homes for as long as possible and where disabled adults have choice and
36 control over their support. The social care system is currently fragmented and confusing

1 for people who rely on it. To tackle this, Labour will ensure consistent standards and
2 transparent information.

3

4 *A fair deal for carers*

5 Labour will ensure that both paid and unpaid carers – who are often overworked and
6 overlooked – are valued and supported. As a first step, as set out in our New Deal for
7 Working People, our priority will be that care workers receive the pay, the conditions,
8 and the training they need to provide great care and to stay working in the sector.

9 Labour will also establish a new partnership with families who care for their loved ones,
10 to ensure they do not put themselves at risk simply by looking after people they love.

11 Labour will back national partnership working in social care, bringing together
12 employers, unions, and government to replicate the benefits this model has brought to
13 other services. Labour will establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care to
14 negotiate fair pay and conditions, terms and training.

15 Social care workers are currently hugely undervalued. Labour will move towards
16 professionalising the social care workforce, to give this vital group the recognition and
17 professional standing that they so clearly deserve.

18 Labour will ensure high standards in the adult social care sector. In government, Labour
19 will require all care providers to demonstrate financial sustainability and responsible tax
20 practices, to value their staff, and to deliver high quality care for service users.

21

22 *Children’s social care*

23 Severe issues in the children’s social care workforce mean many children are cared for
24 by a revolving door of professionals. Too many children are uprooted and moved
25 around the country because of issues in the provision of adequate homes, and young
26 people face a “care cliff” when they leave the system at 18.

27 Labour recognises the importance of continuity of care for children in the system and,
28 in government, will address issues in the social care workforce as well as supporting the
29 vital contribution of kinship carers. Labour will ensure that there are the right kind of
30 care homes in the right places, including through strengthened regulation of standards,
31 and will coordinate continued support for care leavers and care-experienced people.

32 There is also a clearly disproportionate representation of children from ethnic minority
33 groups and disabled children in care, and the system is not set up to meet their needs.
34 Labour will ensure the children’s social care system is inclusive and culturally sensitive,
35 and will tackle the structural inequalities that mean children from these groups are
36 more likely to be in care.

1 **Reforming education to break down barriers to opportunity**

2 Labour’s vision is of an education system where schools deliver excellence for every
3 child and which enables lifelong learning in every corner of our country: transforming
4 opportunities, raising standards, supporting a growing economy and providing
5 everyone with the foundations for a rewarding life. Our mission is to break down the
6 barriers to opportunity at every stage, by reforming the childcare and education
7 systems, raising standards everywhere, and preparing people for work and life. Labour
8 is determined that every child has access to an excellent education to open up
9 opportunities and help them thrive.

10

11 *Driving up school standards*

12 Every parent, no matter where they live, should be able to send their child to a high-
13 quality local state school with excellent teaching and a broad curriculum that prepares
14 them for the future. To secure that vision, Labour is committed to rolling out an
15 ambitious school improvement plan that would see investment in a high-quality
16 teaching and support staff workforce to deliver an excellent education for all.

17 Labour’s National Excellence Programme will be paid for by ending tax exemptions for
18 private schools and will recruit thousands of new teachers to fill vacancies and skills
19 gaps. These new teachers, as well as the new mental health professionals and careers
20 advisors Labour will recruit to support our schools, will ensure that teachers are no
21 longer asked to deliver unmanageable workloads. Recognising that the quality of
22 teaching is the most important in-school factor for improving outcomes, Labour will
23 focus on ensuring the highest standards across the profession. Labour will deliver
24 ongoing teacher training, so each teacher has the skills to support every child to thrive,
25 and will equip all school leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to lead
26 outstanding schools.

27 Labour will ensure schools can use these new teachers to provide every child with a
28 broad curriculum. Labour will launch an expert review of the current school curriculum
29 for England and will make it compulsory for all state schools, to ensure we are
30 equipping young people for their futures. Alongside the core knowledge and skills
31 children need, a broad curriculum must include music, art, sport, digital skills and
32 drama, and it must prepare children for the modern world of work and changing world
33 by embedding digital skills across the curriculum.

34 Labour will ensure young people are ready for the move from secondary education into
35 work, further, and higher education, ensuring a smooth transition for students. Labour
36 will reform citizenship education to include practical life skills such as managing
37 personal finances, introduce two weeks’ worth of compulsory work experience for every
38 young person, and provide professional careers advice in schools and colleges.

1 All families should feel confident about the education their children receive and so
2 Labour will focus on ensuring high and rising standards everywhere. Labour will ensure
3 all teachers have qualified status. We will reform inspections to ensure Ofsted provides
4 true quality assurance for the government and the public and supports positive,
5 proactive school improvement. Under Labour, Ofsted will become the critical friend
6 every good leader and good teacher needs, moving beyond the current adversarial
7 approach to one that supports, improves, and celebrates our schools and colleges.

8 We will end the system of headline grades, which creates unnecessarily high stress for
9 staff and little helpful information for parents. Instead, Labour will consult parents,
10 education staff and experts to introduce a report card that tells people, simply and
11 clearly, how well their school or college community is performing. To ensure these
12 inspections are thorough, Labour will require Ofsted inspectors to be experts in the
13 phase of education they are inspecting. Labour will consult on creating a new annual
14 review of safeguarding, health and safety, attendance, and off-rolling – ongoing issues
15 that affect every school. Under Labour, multi-academy trusts will become subject to
16 Ofsted inspections.

17 Labour recognises the combined impact of 13 years of public service neglect, growing
18 child poverty, and the Covid-19 pandemic on the attainment gap between children
19 experiencing deprivation and their peers, and the influence this has on children’s life
20 chances. To address this, Labour will implement a national strategy with clear targets to
21 close the attainment gap, as part of our national mission to break down the barriers to
22 opportunity at every life stage.

23

24 *Schools rooted in their local communities*

25 Labour believes that place is crucial and that all schools should be working together for
26 the benefit of the local communities they serve. Under the Conservatives, too often
27 schools are incentivised to compete against one another, including through admissions
28 and exclusions policies that are not always in the best interests of all children.

29 Labour’s priority is the same priority as parents’: for every child, a good local school
30 where children are happy and get the first-class education they all deserve. Labour’s
31 focus will be on ensuring that academies, multi-academy trusts, maintained schools and
32 local authorities deliver high and rising standards for every child. Labour will require all
33 schools to cooperate with their local authority on admissions, SEND inclusion and place
34 planning. Rather than focus on imposing top-down structures, Labour will demand
35 collaboration and cooperation in the best interests of our children.

36

37

1 *SEND education*

2 A properly inclusive education system should meet the needs of all children and young
3 people, in particular addressing the disadvantages faced by children with special
4 educational needs and children who are disabled (SEND).

5 Labour will put inclusion at the heart of our education system by working with all
6 parents, carers and children with additional needs to deliver the system they have
7 rightly been calling for over so many years, and to enable every child and every young
8 person to achieve and thrive. By joining up services and improving data use, Labour will
9 identify children’s needs earlier so that intervention supports child development from a
10 young age, which is better for individuals, their families, and wider society.

11 Labour will work towards more children with SEND having their needs met and being
12 educated in mainstream schools, including by ensuring teachers and support staff have
13 the training they need and recognition they deserve, and providing better consistency in
14 conditions for staff and support for students. Labour will work with families to end the
15 battle for SEND support that so many families face and ensure mainstream settings are
16 better equipped and designed to enable these children to thrive, alongside their peers.

17

18 *Breakfast clubs*

19 As part of Labour’s new modern childcare system to support families from the end of
20 parental leave to the end of primary school, we will introduce fully-funded free
21 breakfast clubs in every primary school. This could save parents up to £50 a week on
22 before-school childcare and ensure that every child is getting the best start to the day,
23 boosting school attendance and performance. Breakfast clubs are a well-evidenced
24 intervention that supports learning and development, through the club as well as the
25 breakfast, and that effectively extends the working day for working parents.

26

27

28 **First class further and higher education**

29 Further and higher education are hugely important for individuals, who should have
30 access to lifelong learning opportunities and the personal enrichment they provide, and
31 for our society, as an educated and skilled population can drive economic growth,
32 raising living standards for all. Labour will therefore ensure all learners have a genuine
33 choice of first class further and higher education, with brilliant vocational and academic
34 courses.

35 In further education, a Labour government will encourage a thriving college and
36 independent training sector that can provide high quality vocational courses, including

1 apprenticeships, fosters a love of learning, links students with exciting job opportunities
2 through excellent careers advice, and works with businesses to meet local skills needs.
3 There are brilliant further education colleges around the country, yet years of
4 government neglect have led to limited training courses and even college closures,
5 denying people access to learning and upskilling opportunities. Labour will champion
6 further education as part of a thriving skills system that improves opportunity for all
7 and meets the workforce needs of our changing economy.

8 In higher education, Labour will ensure the university system provides excellent
9 teaching, fosters cutting-edge research and supports researchers, prepares graduates
10 for successful careers, and is genuinely accessible to people of all backgrounds. It will
11 also encourage these world-class academic institutions to play a role in their local
12 communities, linking with local business to create thriving and dynamic regional
13 economies.

14 Britain has some of the best higher education institutions in the world. Our
15 internationally recognised universities and research bases provide ground-breaking
16 research year on year and need a government willing to support their contributions.
17 Labour will work to grow the number of spinouts from universities and help to bring
18 more of their research to market.

19 To ensure universities have the resources they need to invest in staff, teaching and
20 research, to maintain their world-class status, and improve student access, participation
21 and success, our university sector needs a sustainable funding model. Yet the
22 Conservatives' broken tuition fees system is holding people back, failing to provide the
23 stable funding universities need, and does not even deliver what was promised to
24 taxpayers. For new students taking out loans from September 2023, this will get worse.
25 Low and middle earning graduates will see their payments rise while the highest
26 earners will see their repayments fall. Labour will reform this broken system, ensuring
27 that people from every background and all parts of our country have the opportunity to
28 study at Britain's world-class universities.

CHAPTER FIVE:

A future where families come first

1 **CHAPTER FIVE: A FUTURE WHERE FAMILIES COME FIRST**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 Labour is the party of family. Labour knows that it is the people and families of Britain,
5 in all their wonderful diversity, that make this country great. Britain is an amazing
6 country, where all our families can succeed, but that will only happen when every family
7 has a secure foundation to build upon, when parents are not forced to leave their jobs
8 because childcare is too expensive and wages are too low, when decent homes are
9 genuinely affordable and when social security properly protects and supports those
10 who rely on it.

11 A Labour government will bring security for people at home, at work and across society.
12 Unlike the Conservatives, we will not offer short term, sticking plaster policies but
13 instead we will deliver a decade of national renewal with support for families at its
14 heart. We will raise living standards across all parts of the country and reverse the path
15 of managed decline that the country is on after 13 years of Conservative governments.

16 Labour will help every family to give every child the best start in life. We will treat
17 childcare as a vital part of our social and economic infrastructure that supports children
18 and enables parents to work the jobs and hours they choose. We will make childcare
19 more flexible for families, increase its availability and raise standards so that we break
20 down the barriers to opportunity for every child, everywhere. We want a broad and rich
21 set of opportunities for every child in their early years and around the school day,
22 supported by a childcare system that runs from the end of parental leave to the end of
23 primary school.

24 A decent and affordable home is the bedrock of family life. But under the Conservatives
25 the dream of home ownership is drifting out of reach for a generation of young people,
26 and the building of new council homes in England is at a record low, leaving more and
27 more families stuck in expensive, insecure and poor-quality rented housing. A Labour
28 government will support more families into home ownership, build more high-quality,
29 genuinely affordable homes, including council homes, and make renting fairer and
30 more secure.

31 Families have faced an unprecedented squeeze on their finances under the
32 Conservatives. Real wages are lower now than they were 13 years ago and living
33 standards are falling sharply. The costs of childcare, housing, food and fuel have all
34 soared while people’s incomes have failed to keep pace. Food banks have proliferated
35 and in-work poverty has risen substantially. There are now more than four million
36 children living in poverty, an increase of 600,000 since 2010, and more than two million
37 pensioners living in poverty, a rise of over 400,000 since 2010.

1 A Labour government will fundamentally reform the current unfair and punitive social
2 security system that leaves families struggling with housing costs and childcare costs,
3 and instead we will treat all people with dignity, care and respect.

4 Our beloved cultural and sporting institutions also play a crucial role in happy family life,
5 as well as making an enormous contribution to our economy. Tourism, libraries,
6 galleries, museums, nightclubs and leisure centres are crucial to the revival of our high
7 streets and town centres. And charities are at the heart of a society that works for
8 everyone. Sport and culture also have a deeper value. They give us identity, belonging,
9 shared experiences and joy, and are at the heart of our communities.

10 Families of all different kinds deserve to be treated equally, fairly and with respect.
11 Labour is the party of equality and social justice, and a Labour government will make
12 Britain an even more inclusive, tolerant and accessible society. The next Labour
13 government will build on the proud legacy of previous Labour governments to make
14 Britain a more equal place for everyone.

15 In everything we do to build a more equal Britain, we will be guided in government by
16 our experience that greater progress and equality comes from bringing people
17 together, treating each other with respect, and understanding that we have more in
18 common than that which divides us.

19

20

21 **A modern childcare system that supports families**

22 Under the Conservatives, parents are paying more for childcare and getting less.
23 Millions of families face a postcode lottery as they navigate an overly complicated
24 system trying to secure the childcare they need. Our childcare system is defined by
25 spiralling costs and unmanageable complexities and is in urgent need of reform.

26 The next Labour government will reform childcare from the end of parental leave to the
27 end of primary school as part of our mission to break down barriers to opportunity for
28 every child.

29 Labour’s ambition for families is pivotal to our ambition for Britain as a whole: getting it
30 right means boosting education, health, wellbeing and jobs and our economy too. It
31 also means delivering better outcomes for children, for parents, and for families as a
32 whole.

33 Labour is determined that childcare offers more flexibility, better availability, and high
34 standards for children and families, to break down the barriers to opportunity for every
35 child, everywhere.

1 Delivering on this ambition will mean that children can thrive and parents – especially
2 women – can work the jobs and hours they choose, boosting family finances and
3 growing our economy.

4

5 *Flexible support from the end of parental leave to the end of primary school*

6 A Labour government will give children the best start in life by building a modern
7 childcare system that supports families from the end of parental leave to the end of
8 primary school.

9 As a first step, we will deliver free breakfast clubs in every primary school in England,
10 boosting children’s learning and improving reading, writing and maths. These breakfast
11 clubs will be funded through the ending of the non-domiciled tax status.

12 Childcare cannot be delivered through a rigid, inflexible system but must recognise the
13 reality of families’ lives and working patterns today, which often also includes the vital
14 childcare responsibilities taken on by extended families across the country, Labour will
15 bring that flexibility to a modern system of childcare.

16

17 *High quality childcare provision everywhere*

18 Under the Conservatives, millions of families face a postcode lottery, unable to find the
19 childcare they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Nurseries do not have
20 enough places or staff to cater for all the children who need them, leaving many
21 families without provision. Under the Tories, there are two children for every early years
22 childcare place in England.

23 A Labour government will remove the barriers that prevent local councils from opening
24 more nurseries and childcare provision where parents need it. Parents cannot be faced
25 with ‘deserts’ when it comes to access to childcare.

26 We know too that to have quality childcare available to every family, early years and
27 childcare professionals must be better recognised, provided with opportunities for
28 training and rewarded for the skilled work they are doing.

29

30

31 **Securing a decent home for everyone**

32 Britain is in the midst of a housing crisis of the Conservatives’ making. Average house
33 prices across England are now over eight times average earnings, locking millions of
34 families out of home ownership. Homelessness and rough sleeping have risen sharply

1 over the last 13 years whilst soaring rents and insecurity are rife in the private rented
2 sector.

3 A home should be a place where people build a life and raise a family, but too often
4 they are treated as a speculative financial asset. Labour’s approach will ensure a decent,
5 secure and affordable home for everyone regardless of tenure.

6 Our plans will bring the dream of homeownership to millions more families, rebalancing
7 the market towards working families. We will build more houses, reforming planning
8 and spurring a new generation of locally led development corporations and we will
9 build more genuinely affordable houses, including council houses.

10 Labour will retrofit the UK’s draughtiest homes, making them warmer and cheaper to
11 heat. The next Labour government will bring security and safety to renters and tackle
12 the scourge of homelessness and rough sleeping.

13

14 *Helping families get on the housing ladder*

15 Labour is the party of homeownership, and the next Labour government will set the
16 ambitious target of a homeownership rate of 70 per cent.

17 A Labour government will help first-time buyers onto the ladder with a new,
18 comprehensive mortgage guarantee scheme.

19 Under this scheme, the state will act as guarantor for prospective homeowners who can
20 afford mortgage repayments but struggle to save for a large deposit. Too often these
21 families find themselves locked out of homeownership and stuck in expensive rented
22 accommodation. We will also give first-time buyers first dibs on new developments in
23 their area, ensuring investors can’t buy up new developments ‘off-plan’ before they are
24 even advertised to local families.

25 Our plan to build more high-quality homes across the country will create decent jobs,
26 stimulate investment and will also help working families get on the ladder, tackling
27 affordability pressures in areas of high housing need. Our plan to ensure more of these
28 are genuinely affordable will allow more families to save towards the dream of
29 homeownership in affordable rented housing.

30 Labour is also committed to bringing the present leasehold system to an end through
31 fundamental reform of the tenure and we are committed to enacting legislation to that
32 end as soon as possible. Leaseholders should be protected from the costs of
33 remediating cladding, irrespective of circumstance.

34 Unlike the Conservatives, we know it will not help to stoke demand across the board, so
35 we will accompany support for first-time buyers with measures to redistribute demand
36 away from those looking to purely speculate on house prices. Labour will raise stamp

1 duty paid by foreign individuals, trusts and companies when they buy UK residential
2 property, helping to reduce speculative pressures in places like London and
3 Manchester.

4

5 *Building the homes we need*

6 The Conservatives have failed to build enough houses in the right places during their 13
7 years in power. Rates of affordable housebuilding have been woeful while the supply of
8 new council houses has fallen off a cliff. The result is a worsening housing crisis, and
9 endemic challenges of affordability, insecurity and poor quality.

10 The situation is set to get much worse. The government caved in to its own
11 backbenchers and snuck out planning reforms last year that are set to cut
12 housebuilding to its lowest level in decades.

13 Labour will build more homes and spur a new wave of high quality, diverse
14 communities with infrastructure, green spaces and amenities, creating decent local jobs
15 and apprenticeships.

16 We will reform planning and arcane land purchase rules to get Britain building, while
17 fixing our broken development model that is overly reactive, adversarial and drives
18 down quality to the detriment of local communities.

19 We will spur the creation of a new generation of development corporations,
20 spearheaded by and accountable to communities. These new bodies will allow local
21 leaders, working with trade unions, to play a more active role in development in their
22 areas.

23 We will allow local authorities, Metro Mayors, combined authorities or groups of local
24 authorities to pioneer new models of strategic development for larger sites, alongside
25 our wider plans for greater economic devolution.

26 Labour will also put genuinely affordable housing, and in particular council housing, at
27 the heart of our plan to increase housing supply, ensuring a safe, warm and secure
28 home for all people. Labour will seek to decrease the number of social homes being
29 rapidly sold off through right to buy without like-for-like new social housing being built
30 to replace them.

31

32 *Planning for housing, growth and net zero*

33 After a decade of piecemeal and largely inept tinkering, the planning system is failing to
34 meet the housing and infrastructure needs of most local areas. We cannot deliver on
35 our housing ambitions – nor our net zero ambitions – without updating the planning
36 system.

1 We will revise national planning policy and guidance, and reform the planning system in
2 England to provide the clarity and certainty that industry and local government need to
3 get Britain building more houses, to create new sources of green energy and to get the
4 economy growing.

5 A Labour government will reform arcane purchasing rules to rebalance power between
6 speculators and communities. Labour will enable local authorities to acquire land at
7 closer to existing use value, rebalancing the market against speculators and helping to
8 drive development and regeneration. Reformed compulsory purchase rules will also
9 support strategic development on large sites, allowing local leaders and development
10 corporations to play a more active role in land assembly.

11 Labour in government will actively work with local areas looking to spur development
12 and will seek to repurpose and reform Homes England to better meet our emerging
13 priorities around housing supply, mixed use placemaking, and strategic regeneration
14 and to ensure it provides local authorities and others with greater support in terms of
15 capacity and expertise.

16 In many cases, a new generation of development corporations will help communities
17 manage delivery of large sites, assemble the land, engage local people and build
18 supporting infrastructure, with developers and housebuilders eventually able to bid for
19 and buy serviced plots as part of these schemes. As part of this process, Labour
20 believes that meaningful public participation in the planning system is essential and
21 helps to drive outcomes, particularly when it comes to upstream engagement in the
22 preparation of local plans and positive visions for local areas. Conservative government
23 policies have often undermined the legitimacy of the system in the eyes of
24 communities.

25

26 *A high-quality, secure private rented sector*

27 Labour knows the private rented sector will remain the tenure of choice for many
28 families across the country. We will fundamentally reform the sector, giving tenants
29 greater security through a powerful new renters' charter, based on the trailblazing
30 efforts of Labour in power in Wales.

31 The charter will include longer-term tenancies as standard, the right to reasonable
32 alterations, ending Section 21 'no fault' evictions and introducing a national register of
33 landlords. Our charter will both improve the experience of renting and crack down on
34 rogue landlords.

35 A Labour government will also introduce a legally binding 'Decent Homes Standard 2'
36 updated for the next decade that will apply to all buildings in the private rented sector,

1 and we will consult on how best to ensure tenancies are affordable and the effective
2 implementation of no-fault evictions.

3

4

5 **Social security delivering social justice and opportunity for all**

6 Labour will tackle poverty, break the cycle of deprivation throughout people’s lives and
7 build a society where no one is held back by disadvantage or lack of opportunity.

8 We will reform our social security system to guarantee every child the best possible
9 start in life, and we will help people move into quality work and progress at work while
10 guaranteeing security for those who cannot work.

11 Labour will always support retirees to live with dignity, security and comfort.

12

13 *A plan to reform social security*

14 Over the last 13 years, successive Conservative governments have sought to undermine
15 social security in this country. Cuts to support, divisive rhetoric from government
16 ministers and a punitive culture have altered the landscape completely.

17 As a result, our threadbare social security system is failing – deepening poverty,
18 magnifying existing inequalities and undermining our economic security. Social security
19 under the Tories no longer rescues people when they fall, offers real security nor
20 provides a platform of opportunity.

21 Labour will provide a reliable safety net for people who lose their jobs, including
22 through large scale redundancies and insolvency, or who cannot work due to ill health
23 or disability.

24 The last Labour government lifted two million children and pensioners out of poverty
25 through a comprehensive child poverty strategy and through the introduction of
26 measures such as Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments.

27 The next Labour government will ensure that respect and dignity are once more at the
28 heart of our social security system and that it works to tackle poverty and put an end to
29 the soaring use of food banks.

30

31 *Fundamental reform of social security*

32 Labour will reform the social security system. That starts with making Universal Credit
33 work for all families who rely on it.

1 A Labour government will deliver this much-needed, fundamental reform of Universal
2 Credit to ensure that it makes work pay, supports people back to work, allows people to
3 live their lives in dignity, tackles child poverty and offers a proper safety net. We will
4 ensure every child has the best possible start in life and the opportunity to thrive.

5 With Labour, every stage of the social security system will be supportive and accessible,
6 and we will always treat everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve.

7

8 *Security in retirement*

9 People deserve security and dignity at the end of their working lives, and a pension
10 should provide this. In recent years too many people have had to contend with the
11 instability and insecurity caused by the Conservatives repeatedly wavering over their
12 commitment to the triple lock for the state pension.

13 A Labour government will ensure that older people have security in retirement. We will
14 implement a strategy for ageing well, including covering those approaching pension
15 age.

16 We also want further partnership between employers and workers, based on shared
17 responsibilities to make pensions contributions and plan for retirement, so that people
18 can build up meaningful pension pots to provide financial security in retirement,
19 including low earners who do not currently qualify, younger workers and the self-
20 employed. The next Labour government will build on the success of the auto-enrolment
21 scheme brought in by the last Labour government, so that more people are able to save
22 for their retirement, and we will protect pensioners from the cost of living crisis.

23

24

25 **Enriching family life**

26 A decent home and support in childhood, adulthood and in retirement are essential
27 foundations. But family life is enriched through our shared experiences of culture,
28 media and sport bringing us all together and creating a shared sense of community.

29

30 *Great British cultural institutions*

31 Labour believes in the importance and power of culture to build places that people can
32 be proud of. Our great British cultural institutions are known and loved everywhere,
33 from the BBC to Channel 4, from the British Museum to the Edinburgh Festival, from
34 Glastonbury to the Eisteddfod.

1 Our iconic film, TV, music and culture thrives because of our public service
2 broadcasters. The BBC has a vital role to play bringing the nation together, serving all
3 sectors of UK society and delivering a world-leading service that is respected across the
4 globe.

5 Labour will support the BBC to change with the times and adapt. We will bolster the
6 BBC's independence and ensure that it can continue to be a universal, publicly-owned,
7 publicly-funded public service broadcaster. We have set up an independent review
8 panel ahead of the next charter period, to inform how we will ensure the long-term
9 security of the BBC and a fair deal for licence fee payers.

10 We will protect and promote British broadcasting and UK radio in the streaming age, to
11 ensure British made and produced content is easily available and accessible for
12 audiences.

13

14 *Sport that brings people together*

15 Sport sits at the heart of family life, from the communal experience of watching the
16 Premier League or EFL, the FA Cup or Wimbledon to the bonds made and healthier lives
17 led through participation in community sport. A Labour government will preserve the
18 place of sport in our country's social fabric.

19 Labour has consistently backed fans and footballs club' calls for independent regulation
20 and for a fair settlement across the leagues, while the Conservatives have flip flopped
21 and delayed. A Labour government will introduce a statutory regulator for English
22 football, with a strong voice for fans, financial regulation to prevent more clubs going
23 bust, and distribution down the pyramid to support lower league clubs and
24 communities.

25 For too long, the Conservatives have failed to update analogue gambling laws that are
26 not designed for the digital age. Labour wants to see updated regulation for the 21st
27 century; if the Conservatives continue to fail to act, the next Labour government will.

28

29 *World-leading creative industries*

30 The UK's world-renowned creative industries are a huge asset to the UK's economy.

31 Labour will offer a 'creative compact' to deliver our mission on economic growth, while
32 maintaining and enhancing the UK's world-leading position as a global hub of creativity.
33 Labour will work with the Welsh Government to build on the success of Creative Wales.
34 This compact will make the creative industries a leading light of the economy, delivering
35 sustainable growth in creative clusters across the country. Labour will maintain and
36 build on our creative exports and global reputation. We will ensure the creative

1 economy is open to everyone by breaking down barriers to opportunity and unlocking
2 talent through offering flexible skills and training opportunities, with a commitment
3 from industry to improve access and social mobility.

4

5

6 **Equality at the heart of all we do**

7 Women, disabled people, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, LGBT+ people and
8 working class people have borne the brunt of many of the Conservative government's
9 failures over the last 13 years, leading to a less equal and less fair society. Inequality has
10 risen under the Conservatives and the impact of the pandemic and the cost of living
11 crisis has exposed deep underlying inequalities, which have been felt disproportionately
12 by people who have already faced discrimination throughout their lives.

13 The next Labour government will ensure that equality is at the heart of all our
14 policymaking as we look to build a more inclusive, more tolerant and more accessible
15 society for all. Specific commitments to this effect are made throughout these final NPF
16 policy documents: from implementing better ethnicity data and monitoring into the
17 criminal justice system, to introducing mandatory ethnicity and disability pay gap
18 reporting, and from our commitment to ensuring international development policy
19 tackles deep-rooted gender inequality to equalising the treatment of all protected
20 groups under hate crime legislation.

21

22 *Building on our legacy*

23 Labour is proud to be the party of the Equality Act 2010 and we will protect and uphold
24 it, including the Public Sector Equality Duty. We will also seek to build on that
25 achievement for all groups with protected characteristics in the next Labour
26 government. We will enact the socioeconomic duty under section 1 of the Equality Act
27 and a Labour government will take its responsibility to conduct equality impact
28 assessments of major announcements seriously.

29 The Conservatives have spent 13 years neglecting women's equality: they have turned
30 back the clock on women's workplace equality while violence against women and girls
31 has sky-rocketed and women's healthcare has been deprioritised. The next Labour
32 government will introduce a New Deal for Working People containing a raft of reforms
33 to transform women's working lives including requiring large employers with more than
34 250 employees to produce Menopause Action Plans, setting out how they will support
35 employees through the menopause, much like gender pay gap reporting. Our Violence
36 Against Women and Girls green paper sets out ambitions for a cross-government plan

1 to end VAWG, and our NHS workforce pledge will train more doctors, nurses and
2 midwives to bring down women’s health waiting lists.

3 We will tackle structural racial inequality by introducing a Race Equality Act to deliver a
4 better Britain for everyone. Labour recognises that structural racism harms our society
5 in many ways, and that in areas from housing and employment to criminal justice and
6 health, many Black, Asian and minority ethnic people continue to experience structural
7 racial inequalities which inhibit progress. Labour will focus on ending these disparities
8 in government, with our landmark Race Equality Act to tackle them at source.

9 As the party of equality, Labour will always treat all LGBT+ people fairly, with dignity and
10 respect. The next Labour Government will build on the positive legacy of the last by
11 breaking new ground for LGBT+ rights. We will ensure employers act to prevent sexual
12 harassment, including of LGBT+ people, and we will introduce a full, trans-inclusive ban
13 on conversion practices while protecting legitimate talking therapies, closing any
14 consent loopholes that remain on the statute book. Labour will build consensus and
15 modernise the process of gender recognition to remove indignities for trans people,
16 while upholding the Equality Act, its protected characteristics and its provision for
17 single-sex exemptions.

18 Labour will treat disabled people with respect and dignity. Labour will work with
19 disabled people to create policies which remove barriers to equality and focus on their
20 representation at all levels of government. The Labour Party is committed to using the
21 language of the social model of disability, not the medical model, and would continue
22 that commitment in government.

CHAPTER SIX:

Britain in the world

1 **CHAPTER SIX: BRITAIN IN THE WORLD**

2

3 **Introduction**

4 Britain has huge potential to be a force for good in the world. Labour is and has always
5 been an internationalist party and under a Labour government, Britain will once again
6 be a trusted partner in world affairs: promoting our values and interests while
7 delivering prosperity and security at home.

8 Global challenges are growing, and the world is ever more interconnected, meaning
9 that the effects of geopolitical frictions are felt right here in the UK. Russia’s illegal
10 invasion of Ukraine has brought war to Europe and driven up food and energy bills
11 across the continent. The global pandemic sent shockwaves through the international
12 system, with widespread disruption to supply chains. The climate emergency is
13 prompting extreme weather, destroying crops and causing growing food shortages.

14 Yet in other ways, the world is becoming more divided. The global economy is splitting
15 into competing blocs, with competition between the United States and an increasingly
16 assertive China set to dominate the years ahead – but in a more fragmented and
17 multipolar manner than the bipolar world of the Cold War. Regional powers, including
18 the collective bloc of the EU, are asserting their own influence.

19 Over the last 13 years, successive Conservative governments have undermined British
20 influence and strained relationships with key allies. Foreign policy has been misguided,
21 misjudged and lacked purpose.

22 Britain needs a fresh start on the world stage.

23 Multilateral cooperation has never been so vital. Labour has stood firmly with NATO
24 allies in support of Ukraine, as the world focuses increasingly again on the importance
25 of coordination in defence and security. Labour’s commitment to NATO remains
26 unshakeable.

27 A Labour government will reconnect Britain with our international partners, including
28 through the UN, G7 and the Commonwealth, to ensure that as a country we fulfil our
29 potential.

30 Through an active and engaged foreign policy, Labour will put our internationalist
31 values into action, rebuilding neglected alliances by promoting solidarity and
32 cooperation with our key partners. Labour will build and amplify Britain’s influence in
33 order to protect the British people, stand up for our values and defend our national
34 interests.

35 For Labour, national security is the first priority of government. Our armed forces play a
36 vital role in defending our country but have been let down by the Conservative

1 government. Labour will stand up for armed forces personnel and their families, while
2 ensuring veterans are treated with the respect they deserve.

3 The next Labour government will pursue a clear and coherent trade strategy that
4 delivers economic growth at home, builds security and resilience into global supply
5 chains and drives progress on fundamental issues such as climate change, anti-
6 trafficking and workers' rights.

7 Labour will not return to the single market or customs union, but this does not mean
8 we will turn away from Europe. Closer cooperation with our largest trading partner on a
9 wide range of issues will be a core part of Labour's approach, as an essential pillar in
10 delivering prosperity and security at home.

11 Labour is committed to re-establishing Britain's leading role in development. A Labour
12 government will modernise our approach to international development in order to
13 tackle poverty, conflict, inequality, displacement of people and global health insecurity.

14

15

16 **National security as our first priority**

17 A Labour government will fulfil its first duty: to keep Britain safe and protect our
18 citizens. In an increasingly unstable world, Labour will make Britain strong abroad and
19 secure at home.

20 Labour's commitment to NATO is unshakeable. A Labour government will defend Article
21 V as the cornerstone of our commitment to Britain's security and ensure that the UK is
22 the leading European nation in the alliance.

23 To ensure that the UK meets its NATO obligations, a Labour government will apply a
24 'NATO test' to major defence programmes in Government to ensure our NATO
25 commitments are fulfilled in full. In government, Labour will never allow defence
26 spending to fall below our NATO commitments.

27

28 *Modernising our armed forces and backing British business*

29 The UK needs modern armed forces combined with coordinated and integrated security
30 services to counter emerging and interconnected threats around the world while
31 identifying and preparing for future challenges. In government, Labour will conduct a
32 Strategic Defence and Security Review to ensure that we fully understand the nature of
33 these threats and align defence and security spending accordingly. Labour will ensure
34 our armed forces and security services always have the capabilities necessary to defend
35 the UK.

1 As the party of working people, Labour understands that defence procurement plays a
2 key part in strengthening the UK’s economy and its sovereignty. Since 2010, the
3 Conservatives have wasted billions of pounds of taxpayers’ money through
4 mismanagement of the defence procurement system. For this reason, military strategic
5 leadership and defence procurement reform will be a priority for a Labour Government
6 to ensure our troops have the kit they need to fight and fulfil our NATO obligations.
7 Labour will also commission a comprehensive audit of departmental waste at the
8 Ministry of Defence.

9 The defence sector plays a vital role in supporting UK jobs and growth, a key part of
10 Labour’s wider commitment to buy, make and sell more in Britain. Labour sees our steel
11 sector, shipyards, aerospace and materials industries as national assets and will ensure
12 as much of our equipment as possible is designed and built here in the UK. In
13 government, Labour will make it fundamental to direct British defence investment first
14 to British business, with a higher bar set for any decisions to buy abroad.

15

16 *Working in partnership with allies*

17 In response to Vladimir Putin’s illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine, Labour guarantees
18 continued long-term UK support for Ukraine and will work with allies to provide the
19 assistance it needs to defend itself.

20 Indeed, increased cooperation with our closest allies will be fundamental to Labour’s
21 approach to defence. This will include a new EU-UK security pact to strengthen our
22 resilience to new threats and developing the new AUKUS partnership with Australia and
23 the United States, which has the potential to deliver long-term jobs for British industry.

24 Labour’s support for nuclear deterrence is absolute. It provides vital protection for the
25 UK and our NATO allies. As one of the five recognised nuclear powers in the non-
26 proliferation treaty and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council,
27 we also want to see Britain doing more to lead efforts to secure strategic arms
28 limitation and multilateral disarmament and reduce nuclear risk.

29

30 *Supporting our veterans and armed forces personnel*

31 Labour will ensure there is a strong voice – in parliament and outside Westminster – for
32 our forces, veterans and their families. With the Conservatives in power, veterans’
33 services are currently a postcode lottery – a betrayal of the men and women who have
34 selflessly served their country and put themselves at risk to protect us all, undertaking
35 the ultimate public service. A future Labour government will tackle this head on, with
36 better support as troops transition into civilian life, improved mental health services for
37 veterans, and fairer access to justice for personnel.

1 Labour will fully incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law, fulfilling the moral
2 contract our society makes with those who serve. This starts with tackling the poor
3 state of service accommodation to ensure homes fit for heroes, and scrapping visa fees
4 for non-UK veterans and their dependents if they have served four years or more in
5 British forces.

6

7

8 **Britain reconnected: foreign policy**

9 Reconnecting Britain on the world stage will play a crucial role in driving prosperity and
10 security at home. Labour will use Britain’s many strengths to deliver for the British
11 people here at home. We will once again be a confident country, a reliable partner, a
12 dependable ally and a good neighbour.

13 In government, Labour will face the task of repairing Britain’s damaged reputation and
14 rebuilding fractured relationships with our key partners. This begins by championing
15 international law and universal human rights at home and abroad, as well as the
16 multilateral treaties that uphold them.

17 Britain has grown increasingly isolated and has lost influence in the world over the
18 course of 13 years of Conservative government. This has sent a clear and highly
19 damaging message to the rest of the world: that Britain can no longer be relied upon to
20 uphold the international rule of law.

21 A Labour government will repair that damage and reconnect Britain with the world. We
22 will unite like-minded nations behind a new outward-looking, forward-thinking foreign
23 policy.

24

25 *Ukraine*

26 Labour will continue to support the people of Ukraine in their efforts to defend their
27 sovereign territory. This includes providing Ukrainian forces with the equipment and
28 training they need to protect their homeland.

29 In government, Labour will push for the international community to hold Vladimir Putin
30 and his cronies to account. This includes the dictatorship in Belarus, where Labour will
31 continue to support brave opposition leaders.

32 Putin and his cronies must face justice for their crimes. Labour supports the
33 International Criminal Court’s issuing of an arrest warrant for Putin and his associates,
34 and will push for the creation of a special tribunal to hold Russia to account for the
35 crime of aggression. We will pursue legal mechanisms in the UK to seize and repurpose
36 frozen Russian assets so they can be used to pay for a fair reconstruction of Ukraine.

1 *An improved relationship with Europe*

2 To deliver prosperity at home, it is vital to re-establish the UK as a trusted and reliable
3 partner. As part of our mission for the UK to achieve the highest sustained economic
4 growth in the G7, Labour will seek to improve the UK’s trade and investment
5 relationship with Europe while maintaining its new role outside of the single market and
6 customs union.

7 As part of the review of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in 2025, a
8 future Labour government will seek to reduce trade barriers for British business and
9 ensure better access for professionals providing services in EU markets. Labour will aim
10 to fix the problems with the current deal by strengthening mutual recognition of
11 professional standards and qualifications to unlock trade in services, as well as
12 unblocking participation in the Horizon scheme to unleash research and development.
13 We will also improve links between our students and universities.

14 Labour will also begin to develop long-term structures to ensure cooperation between
15 the UK and EU in key areas such as the green just transition, energy and food security,
16 protecting supply chains and tackling cross border crime.

17

18 *Building multilateral alliances to tackle growing threats*

19 To help tackle the climate emergency, Labour’s foreign policy will include a strong green
20 agenda. At the heart of this will be a new Clean Power Alliance, a coalition of nations
21 committed to achieving 100 per cent clean power by 2030. By working as an ‘inverse
22 OPEC’, this alliance will share the explicit goal of reducing energy prices at home and
23 abroad, while helping free countries around the world from dependency on dictators
24 like Putin. At the United Nations, Labour will also push for climate action as a fourth
25 pillar.

26 Just as it helped create structures like NATO to protect western democracies against
27 external threats, Labour will drive forward cooperation to protect democracies from
28 hostile entities, tackle tax avoidance and ensure key infrastructure is resilient to outside
29 threats.

30

31 *A holistic approach in a multipolar world*

32 Beyond Europe and the US, Labour will seek the benefits of wider cooperation. In an
33 increasingly multipolar world, it will be vital to build our relations with a rising India and
34 rapidly growing African nations. We will deepen our relationship with countries in the
35 Global South, building modern partnerships based on mutual respect. We will make
36 best use of the unique framework of the Commonwealth to address shared challenges
37 like climate change. Labour’s holistic approach will connect development, trade and

1 foreign policy into a new coherent strategy that aims to tackle the root causes of
2 poverty and inequality, delivering both at home and abroad.

3 A future Labour government will take a strong, clear-eyed and consistent approach to
4 China, standing firm in defence of national security, international law and human rights,
5 while engaging on key areas of cooperation like climate change, trade and global health.
6 Labour will carry out a complete audit of UK-China relations to ensure the relationship
7 reflects Britain’s long-term interests and values. The Labour Party has consistently
8 raised the plight of the Uyghur people and the dismantling of democracy in Hong Kong.

9 The Labour Party has also expressed clear and serious concern about China’s
10 increasingly aggressive actions towards Taiwan and the attempts to intimidate its
11 democratic leaders, alongside broader aggression in the region. In government, we will
12 support dialogue and peaceful moves to address issues across the region.

13 In Kashmir, Labour supports and recognises UN resolutions on the rights of the
14 Kashmiri people but maintains that a lasting settlement to end this conflict can only be
15 achieved by India and Pakistan working together with the people of Kashmir. Labour
16 will call for thorough and transparent investigations of allegations of human rights
17 violations.

18 There must also be a negotiated, diplomatic agreement to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian
19 conflict based on two states: a safe and secure Israel, alongside a viable and sovereign
20 Palestinian state. There will not be a just, lasting peace until the occupation is brought
21 to a permanent end, and both Palestinians and Israelis enjoy security, dignity and
22 human rights. Labour condemns the use of violence against civilians in this conflict.

23 The Labour Party supports the recognition of the state of Palestine alongside the state
24 of Israel, as part of efforts to contribute to securing a negotiated two state solution.

25 Labour’s comprehensive approach will also maximise the role of Britain’s great
26 strengths, from world-class universities and cutting-edge technologies, to our vibrant
27 cultural industries. Protecting the role of the BBC World Service and the British Council
28 will form a key part of Labour’s plans to restore Britain’s soft power, giving us a stronger
29 voice on the world stage.

30

31

32 **Trade policy that delivers for every part of the country**

33 The Labour Party is proudly pro-trade, pro-worker and pro-business. International trade
34 has a key role to play in Labour’s mission to sustain the highest economic growth in the
35 G7.

1 In government, Labour will seek to boost exports from, and investment into, every
2 region and nation of the UK. Export-led growth plays a vital role in creating regional jobs
3 and supporting communities here in the UK. To ensure the benefits are distributed
4 across the country, Labour will work closely with devolved governments, trade unions,
5 and local authorities, and introduce new binding responsibilities for trade negotiators to
6 deliver for the whole of the UK.

7

8 *Scrutiny and engagement in trade negotiations*

9 Too often under the Conservatives, trade negotiations are conducted with a worrying
10 lack of scrutiny and consultation, with no voice for trade unions or business at the
11 negotiating stage and minimal parliamentary debate. As a result, existing trade deals
12 have sold British workers short and overlooked key issues like climate change, equality
13 and community impacts.

14 The Conservative government’s failure to engage effectively with workers’
15 representatives in the negotiations process is unacceptable, as trade union members
16 are among those best placed to outline tangible impacts of trade policy. A Labour
17 government will establish structures that give business and trade unions guaranteed
18 engagement with the government to inform our approach to future trade deals.

19 As part of ensuring trade works for the whole of the UK, Labour will ensure that trade
20 negotiators work meaningfully with devolved governments to help promote their
21 visions for economic growth.

22 Labour will also reform the Trade Remedies Authority, to safeguard industry from trade
23 dumping practices and better take account of the UK regional impact of trade injuries
24 and the impact on nationally important industries.

25

26 *A stronger trading relationship with Europe*

27 Outside the single market and customs union, the UK must work closely with our
28 friends and allies in the European Union. Improving trade and investment relationships
29 with the EU and tearing down trade barriers will be vital to Labour’s mission to boost
30 economic growth.

31 For this reason, we will seek to secure a veterinary agreement with the EU and mutual
32 recognition of professional qualifications, as well as improving scientific collaboration
33 through Horizon. We will also push for an EU visa waiver for UK touring artists.

34 We will also work to address the lack of regard the Conservative government has given
35 to our services sector and the barriers it now faces in trading with our nearest
36 neighbours.

1 Labour will not seek to initiate a race to the bottom with EU neighbours. Instead, a
2 Labour government will maintain high standards in areas such as workers’ rights,
3 environmental protections and production standards. Together, these will work to
4 significantly improve export opportunities for British businesses.

5

6 *Trade as a tool in tackling the climate crisis*

7 A future Labour government will use international trade to boost our mission to make
8 Britain a clean energy superpower, working with international partners to coordinate
9 our approach to green investment and ensure international trade can facilitate a global
10 green transition.

11 Labour will ensure outside green investment will benefit all parts of our country. A
12 Labour government will establish Climate Export Hubs in each nation and region of the
13 UK, to take the innovation driven by our Green Prosperity Plan and export it to the
14 world. These hubs will work with businesses, universities and other innovators in every
15 nation and region of the country to export UK climate science innovations to the world,
16 creating skilled jobs and opportunities nationwide.

17 Labour has a plan to buy, make and sell more in Britain, bringing jobs and supply chains
18 back home.

19

20 *A values-based approach to trade*

21 In contrast to the Conservatives’ reckless approach to international rules, Labour will
22 restore our global reputation by abiding by international law and our treaty obligations
23 including free trade agreements.

24 In government, Labour will aim to strike trade deals that prioritise jobs, businesses and
25 livelihoods while promoting Labour values around the world, including human rights,
26 workers’ rights, trade union freedom, equality, protecting our environment and
27 ensuring the highest standards for consumers. Labour’s progressive trade policy will
28 deliver for all.

29 For Labour, protecting and embedding workers’ rights in trade deals will always be
30 essential. This includes the use of human rights protection clauses to tackle the use of
31 modern slavery in supply chains.

32 The Conservatives have an appalling record on enforcing human rights clauses in
33 existing trade agreements, with clear action needed to tackle modern slavery. Labour’s
34 trade strategy will champion human rights, promoting equality for people at home and
35 abroad.

1 Labour has repeatedly highlighted the weaknesses in the UK’s arms export regime that
2 the government has failed to address. In government, Labour would establish a new
3 arms export regime that is truly transparent, free from arbitrary judgements and
4 committed to upholding international law.

5

6

7 **A strong, humane asylum policy**

8 Over the last 13 years, successive Conservative governments have overwhelmingly
9 failed to maintain a functional asylum system, relying on dangerous rhetoric and
10 prioritising short-term gimmicks over long-term solutions. Criminal gangs continue to
11 profit as Conservative ministers stagger from one failed plan to the next.

12 Labour will take strong action to tackle channel crossings, reduce the asylum backlog
13 and make sure Britain plays its part internationally through a fair and transparent
14 asylum policy that does not discriminate.

15

16 *Ending the backlog*

17 We need proactive measures to speed up asylum decisions. The current backlog is
18 leaving huge numbers of people in limbo, placing costs on the taxpayer and leaving
19 vulnerable people housed in unsuitable hotels.

20 Labour will make processing more efficient, restore casework targets and introduce
21 fast-track processing for safe countries where people can be returned.

22

23 *Legal routes and safe returns*

24 Labour will also redesign existing resettlement schemes to provide a clearer process for
25 refugees with family connections in the UK to be considered for resettlement,
26 preventing them being exploited by criminal gangs or making dangerous journeys.

27 Following the UK’s exit from the European Union, Labour will also negotiate a
28 replacement for the Dublin Agreement that includes safe returns of those who arrive in
29 the UK and safe family reunions.

30

31 *Tackling small boat crossings*

32 A Labour government will crack down on the criminal gangs that are fuelling and
33 facilitating small boat crossings. By redirecting spending away from the Conservatives’
34 unworkable and unethical Rwanda deportation scheme, Labour will invest in the

1 National Crime Agency, establishing a new cross-border police unit with officers based
2 throughout Europe to tackle the gangs upstream.

3 Collaboration with international allies will be key to this approach, and Labour will
4 work with partners in the EU, Northern Africa, Europol and elsewhere to address crises
5 leading people to flee their homes and provide the leadership needed to tackle criminal
6 gangs and prevent boat crossings.

7

8

9 **A new model for international development**

10 Labour will restore Britain's leadership in international development. This will ensure
11 that we are ready to play our part in tackling the converging global crises of poverty,
12 famine, inequality, health insecurity and climate change, and get the UN Sustainable
13 Development Goals back on track.

14 This is rooted in the knowledge that an effective development strategy also works in
15 Britain's national interest, making people here safer and more secure.

16

17 *British aid strategy*

18 The Conservatives' cuts to the development budget have caused immense damage, with
19 billions stripped from vital lifesaving programmes. This includes cutting support for
20 vulnerable women and girls in Afghanistan and malnourished children in some of the
21 world's poorest countries.

22 Labour is committed to spending 0.7 per cent of GNI on development as soon as the
23 fiscal situation allows. This will be implemented alongside the restoration of
24 transparency and accountability to British aid spending, ensuring that taxpayer money
25 is always treated with the respect it deserves.

26

27 *Improved international development policymaking*

28 The Conservatives' mismanaged merger of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
29 and the Department of International Development (DfID) has deprioritised development
30 and led to a concerning loss of expertise, tarnishing the UK's reputation as an
31 international development superpower.

32 Labour has a proud record on international development, establishing DfID in the first
33 place and in doing so helping to make Britain a world leader in development expertise.

1 A future Labour government will therefore put in place a new model for international
2 development, with the independence needed to meet the challenges of the 21st
3 century.

4 Labour understands that development policy must look beyond the provision of aid. It
5 is investment in long-term development that can better equip us to face global
6 challenges, and must be built around partnerships and cooperation. To this end, Labour
7 has outlined its commitment to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as a
8 framework for rebuilding partnerships around the core principle of leaving no-one
9 behind.

10

11 *Tackling 21st century challenges and inequalities*

12 The pandemic exposed widespread inequalities in Britain and abroad. In the global
13 south, clear gender disparities were exacerbated by poor access to health, education
14 and basic supplies. In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of poverty on women
15 and girls, the next Labour government will ensure international development policy
16 tackles deep-rooted gender inequality and violence and harassment against women
17 and girls globally.

18 As the world continues to recover from the outbreak of Covid-19, a new Labour
19 government will help prepare for future pandemics by strengthening global health
20 systems. This will focus on establishing a new international mechanism to rapidly
21 produce and distribute vaccines, share technology, knowledge and skills, and build the
22 infrastructure needed to deliver it.

23 A Labour government will ensure climate is considered in every aspect of UK
24 development policy and we will finally meet the UK's existing international climate
25 finance commitments.

