

MANIFESTO FOR **Labour Growth** **END AUSTERITY AND THE** **COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Labour Assembly Against Austerity
Amendments to the National Policy Forum Final Year Policy Consultation Documents

STABILITY AND PROSPERITY

Amendments: **EMERGENCY BUDGET TO REPLACE TORY AUSTERITY WITH LABOUR GROWTH**
INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE
TOP RATE OF INCOME TAX

WORK AND BUSINESS

Amendments: **ABOLISHING EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL FEES**
LEGISLATING FOR A LIVING WAGE
ENDING THE PUBLIC SECTOR PAY FREEZE
BAN ZERO-HOURS CONTRACTS
IMPROVING TRADE UNION RIGHTS
REJECT SOCIAL SECURITY CAPS
REPEAL THE WELFARE REFORM ACT - ABOLISH BEDROOM TAX
SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY UP-RATING
STATE ANNUITIES
STATE PENSION RETIREMENT AGE

LIVING STANDARDS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Amendments: **PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RAIL**
MAKING RAIL TRAVEL AFFORDABLE
PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY AND MAKING ENERGY AFFORDABLE
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CUTTING CARBON EMISSIONS

STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITIES

Amendments: **BUILDING NEW COUNCIL HOUSING**
MAKING PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING SECURE AND AFFORDABLE

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN

Amendments: **RE-ESTABLISHING LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO SCHOOLS**
INTRODUCING UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS
CUTTING TUITION FEES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
INTRODUCING UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE

HEALTH AND CARE

Amendment: **ENDING THE PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE**

BRITAIN'S GLOBAL ROLE

Amendment: **SCRAPPING TRIDENT AND BACKING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

Make your Submission to the Manifesto Process

The Labour Party has published its final year policy consultation documents for the election manifesto and now is the time for members and local parties to submit amendments that set out the policies they wish to see Labour campaign on.

The cost of living crisis is inextricably linked to the government's austerity agenda and spending cuts being imposed on vital public services.

There is a growing mood across the country and within the party for a rejection of austerity and for radical pledges in the manifesto that champion intervention into the market to improve living standards.

Labour Assembly Against Austerity is therefore suggesting a number of amendments to the policy commission papers to ensure Labour's manifesto makes the difference on pay, on contracts, on workers' rights, on energy bills and rail fares, and to ensure confidence in education and health.

You are encouraged to consider tabling these, or similar amendments, at your CLP.

Remember

- Constituency parties and affiliates can submit up to ten amendments each (but a maximum of four per Commission document) and must do so by 13th June.
- Don't miss the deadline. If you don't have a meeting scheduled due to elections, ask for a special NPF policy discussion to be arranged before 13th June.
- Amendments will be considered by National Policy Forum (NPF) members and discussed in July at the final meeting of the NPF before Annual Conference.
- CLP secretaries or nominated officials can submit amendments at: www.yourbritain.org.uk
- NPF representatives are listed at: www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/npf-presentatives

Stability and Prosperity

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/stability-and-prosperity-policy-commission/stability-and-prosperity-policy-consultation-1>

EMERGENCY BUDGET TO REPLACE TORY AUSTERITY WITH LABOUR GROWTH

Amendment to page 3

From lines 21-22 delete text:

That is how the next Labour government will turn Britain around even in an era when there is less money around.

And replace with:

We recognise that the cost of living crisis is inextricably linked to Government's self-defeating austerity agenda. That is why we will introduce an Emergency Budget in 2015 to reject Tory spending plans for 2015-16 and beyond and set out how we will pursue a policy of investment for jobs and growth.

Amendment to page 9

From lines 40-45 delete text:

The next Labour Government will have to govern with much less money around. In 1997, we were able to plan our manifesto on the basis of rising departmental spending. In 2015 we will have to plan on the basis of falling departmental spending. The current day-to-day spending totals for 2015-16 will have to remain our starting point. But, while there will be no additional borrowing for day-to-day spending, a One Nation Labour Government will make different, and fairer, choices.

And replace with:

The next Labour Government will reject the projected year-on-year cuts to public spending proposed by the Coalition and introduce an Emergency Budget to end self-defeating austerity so as to solve the cost-of-living crisis.

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Amendment to page 5

After line 7, insert new text:

The current crisis is a crisis of investment. The fall in investment is now 3 times greater than the decline in GDP since the recession began. So Labour will increase public investment to ensure a sufficient recovery to restore living standards. The next Labour Government will establish a national investment bank and also direct the publicly owned banks to fund infrastructure such as improved rail links and house building.

TOP RATE OF INCOME TAX

Amendment to page 9

From lines 31-32 delete text:

For the next Parliament, we will restore the 50p top rate of tax for those earning over £150,000.

And replace with:

Labour will establish a 50p rate of tax for those earning over £100,000 and 60p rate for those earning over £200,000.

Work and Business

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/work-and-business-policy-commission/work-and-business-policy-consultation>

ABOLISHING EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL FEES

Amendment to page 7

In line 44, insert after 'freedom of association.'

This will include the abolition of fees for employment tribunals and decrease the period of service an employee must serve before they can take their employer to tribunal from 2 years to six months.

LEGISLATING FOR A LIVING WAGE

Amendment to page 6 and 7

From lines 27-33 and 44-46 on page 6 and lines 1-3 on page 7 delete text:

Labour will protect working people from their wages and conditions being undermined by strengthening the National Minimum Wage. The minimum wage should rise in real terms to at least catch up the ground it has lost under this Government, and Labour will investigate whether certain sectors can afford to pay more without risking jobs. We will increase maximum fines for those who deliberately pay below the minimum wage and give local authorities as well as HM Revenue and Customs a role in enforcement. Labour has asked Alan Buckle to consider ways in which the minimum wage could be strengthened and submissions to his review can be made via the Your Britain website.

But we need to go further to ensure more workers are paid a decent wage. Labour will require listed companies to report on whether or not they pay the Living Wage, and we would follow the lead of Labour Councils in taking the Living Wage into account when awarding procurement contracts. We will also establish 'make work pay' contracts in the first year of the next Parliament. Firms that sign up will be eligible for a tax rebate, paid for from the actual exchequer savings from higher tax receipts and lower social security payments.

And replace with:

Labour will protect working people from their wages and conditions being undermined by strengthening the National Minimum Wage. We believe that no-one should be allowed to earn less than that needed to cover the basic cost of living. Over five million people in the UK live on less than the living wage yet evidence shows it is good for business as well as the individual and society as a whole. The next Labour will therefore immediately increase the National Minimum Wage by £1.50 an hour and legislate for the National Minimum Wage to become the National Living Wage.

ENDING THE PUBLIC SECTOR PAY-FREEZE

Amendment to page 7

Before line 7, insert text:

Labour also recognises that after years of freezes, real terms pay cuts mean public sector workers now earn less than equivalent staff in the private sector. Public sector pay has fallen by up to 16% in real terms under the Coalition. Under our commitment to protecting working people from their wages and conditions being undermined, we commit to ending the public sector pay freeze.

BAN ZERO-HOURS CONTRACTS

Amendment to page 8

From lines 20-23 delete text:

Labour will also increase security in the workplace by acting to end the unfair practices and abuses associated with zero-hours contracts. We will ban employers from being able to require zero-hours workers to be available on the off-chance that they will be needed, stop employees from being required to work exclusively for one firm if they are on a zero-hour contract, and ban the use of zero-hours contracts when employees are in practise working regular hours.

And replace with:

Labour will also increase security in the workplace by banning zero-hours contracts.

IMPROVING TRADE UNION RIGHTS

Amendment to page 8

Before line 30, insert new para:

Labour understands the need to strengthen workers' rights to representation in the workplace and will introduce a right to organise, including the right of access to an employer's premises. We will introduce a right to bargain collectively, including the negotiation of binding sectoral agreements. And we will introduce a right to strike.

REJECT SOCIAL SECURITY CAPS

Amendment to page 10 and 11

Amendment to page 10

From lines 47-50 delete text:

While it is right that people should have proper incentives to work, we need a cap that works and which does not have perverse effects like increasing homelessness. So Labour would establish an independent commission to set the cap at the right level for different areas.

And replace with:

Labour rejects arbitrary benefit caps and will abolish both the national social security cap and household cap.

REPEAL THE WELFARE REFORM ACT -ABOLISH BEDROOM TAX

Amendment to page 11

From lines 3-6 delete text:

The next Labour Government will repeal the Bedroom Tax. We will fund this by a range of measures, including scrapping the shares for rights scheme. The Bedroom Tax is a cruel measure that disproportionately affects disabled people. For the majority of those affected, there are no smaller properties available to move into, hitting vulnerable people through no fault of their own.

And replace with:

The next Labour Government will repeal the Welfare Reform Act, abolishing with it the Bedroom Tax, Employment and Support Allowance time limit and household benefit caps.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Amendment to page 11

Before line 45 insert text:

Labour will ensure that disability benefits are based on need rather than any arbitrary cap. This will include ensuring Personal Independence Payment is funded at least to the level of Disability Living Allowance prior to its abolition and the re-opening of the Independent Living Fund for the most severely disabled people.

PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY UP-RATING

Amendment to page 12

Before line 20, insert text:

Labour will ensure that pensioners are always better off from one year to the next. The switch to the Consumer Price Index as the indexation used to up-rate the state and public sector pensions have left pensioners hundreds of pounds worse off. Labour will retain the triple lock guarantee for the basic state pension but will replace the Consumer Price Index with the Retail Price Index as the measure of inflation used for up-rating. The Retail Price Index will also be used as the indexation for up-rating public sector pensions as well as for all other social security payments.

STATE ANNUITIES

Amendment to page 12

In line 35, after 'savers', insert text:

This will include the provision of state annuities.

STATE PENSION RETIREMENT AGE

Amendment to page 12

Before line 36, insert text:

Labour do not believe it is fair that pensioners should work beyond the age of 65. Labour will rule out any further rise in the qualifying age for the Basic State Pension and will look to reduce the qualifying age to 65 at the earliest opportunity.

Living Standards and Sustainability

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/living-standards-and-sustainability-policy-commission/living-standards-and-sustainability-policy-consultation>

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF RAIL

Amendment to page 5

From lines 15-16 delete text:

Labour believes that the East Coast Mainline should remain as a not for dividend comparator to the TOCs.

And replace with:

Labour believes that the East Coast Mainline should remain as a not for dividend operator.

From lines 23-25 delete text:

This could include exploring opportunities for other types of operators to deliver services such as not for profit companies, co-operative, mutual providers and Directly Operated Railways

And replace with:

We recognise the from the experience of twenty years of privatised rail, that service levels have decreased while public subsidies have mounted, to generate wasteful profit for train operating companies. Labour will therefore return each rail franchise to public ownership as it expires.

MAKING RAIL TRAVEL AFFORDABLE

Amendment to page 6

From lines 1-4 delete text:

Labour will tackle the increasing cost of train travel by removing this 'flex' on fare rises. Instead, we will introduce a strict cap on annual fare increases across all routes. We will also introduce a new right for passengers always to be offered the cheapest ticket for their journey. Furthermore Labour will take steps to ensure that the costs of single fares are lower than the cost of return fares.

And replace with:

Labour will tackle the increasing cost of train travel by introducing a two year freeze on rail fares before introducing a strict cap on annual fare increases matched to the rate of inflation. We will also introduce a new right for passengers to be offered the cheapest ticket for their journey and ensure that the costs of single fares are lower than the cost of return fares.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY AND MAKING ENERGY AFFORDABLE

Amendment to page 7

From lines 21-30 delete text:

Labour will break the stranglehold of the 'Big Six' energy companies by ring-fencing their generation and supply businesses, and forcing them to buy and sell their energy through an open exchange. We will also require energy companies to open up their books and provide information on their trading activities and their retail and generation businesses. This will make the market more transparent and competitive, and open it up to alternative forms of ownership and generation, such as community energy. To make it easier for consumers to switch and exercise their market power, we will also introduce new, simpler tariff structures, making it easier for consumers to compare prices. And we will create a new, tougher regulator to protect the interests of consumers and ensure they get a fair deal from the energy market

And replace with:

In recognition of the benefits to consumers and for industry investment of a single public sector supplier, Labour will end the stranglehold of the 'Big Six' energy companies and return both electricity and gas generation and supply to public ownership.

From lines 42-43 delete text:

Together, these changes will create a genuinely competitive market that works for Britain's families and businesses. They will also

And replace with:

These changes will

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CUTTING CARBON EMISSIONS

Amendment to page 8

From lines 17-22 delete text:

A Labour government will ensure that every scheme and intervention that is funded by either the consumer or taxpayer is as cost-effective as possible. We will radically reform the ECO and the Green Deal and change the way they are delivered, by using area-based programmes led by local authorities in partnership with business. This will bring down costs, deliver better value for money, and reduce the pressure on household energy bills. In addition, an area-based approach, led by local organisations, will open up access to delivery contracts to small and medium sized energy efficiency installers.

And replace with:

A Labour government will kick start a nationwide home insulation scheme, cutting energy costs for one million households a year by 2020, particularly for the most vulnerable, and creating 130,000 jobs across the country. We will set in law our commitment to make the electricity sector almost entirely carbon pollution free by 2030 and support ambitious 2030 renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in Europe to help drive markets for our low carbon industries. We will restore our successful active industrial strategy to drive investment into Britain's renewable manufacturing, construction and service industries.'

Amendment to page 9

From lines 30-33 delete text:

The next Labour Government will set and stick to legally binding and ambitious targets - including the de-carbonisation of the power sector by 2030. We are also committed to the current Fourth Carbon Budget, which covers the period 2023-27, and commits the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent in 2025 on 2012 levels (50 per cent on 1990 levels).

And replace with:

We will set in law our commitment to make the electricity sector almost entirely carbon pollution free by 2030 and support ambitious 2030 renewable energy and energy efficiency targets in Europe to help drive markets for our low carbon industries.

Stronger, Safer Communities

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/stronger-safer-communities-policy-commission/stronger-safer-communities-policy-consultation>

BUILDING NEW COUNCIL HOUSING

Amendment to page 4

From lines 20-21 delete text:

The next Labour government will build at least 200,000 homes a year by 2020, initially focusing on developing brownfield sites.

And replace with:

The next Labour government will build at least 200,000 homes a year by 2020, of which half will be local authority housing, through direct public investment and by lifting the local authority borrowing cap, and will initially focus on developing brownfield sites.

MAKING PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING SECURE AND AFFORDABLE

Amendment to page 5

From lines 35-37 delete text:

So the next Labour Government will take steps to tackle unpredictable and rapid increases in rental costs, by encouraging landlords to offer longer-term lets with predictable, indexed rent increases over the period of the rental contract

And replace with:

Labour will legislate for limits on private rent rises including through linking rent rises to inflation and median wage changes. Labour will introduce rights for tenants to have longer tenancies. This should be enacted urgently in private rent hotspots such as London.

Labour will end the Coalition's 'Affordable Rent' programme that links new rents in social housing to a percentage of market rent and return to social rent. Labour will legislate to ensure a 50% share of all new developments as affordable housing and within which 70% must be social housing.

Education and Children

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/education-and-children-policy-commission/education-and-children-policy-consultation>

RE-ESTABLISHING LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO SCHOOLS

Amendment to page 6

From lines 37-38 delete text:

Existing Free Schools and those in the pipeline will be allowed to continue, but will be held to the same high standard as other schools.

And replace with:

Labour will reassert its support for local accountability through Local Education Authorities and school governor boards accountable to local communities and local authorities and will return Free Schools and Academies to LEA oversight.

INTRODUCING UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Amendment to page 7

From lines 39-42 delete text:

Labour also believes that all pupils should have access to healthy and nutritious food, and we want healthy food standards to apply to all schools. Supporting and protecting children's health is discussed further in the Health and Care section of the Final Year Policy Consultation.

And replace with:

Building on the success of a number of Labour Councils initiatives in Hull, Islington and Southwark, the next Labour Government will introduce universal free school meals at primary school level.

CUTTING TUITION FEES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Amendment to page 9

From lines 10-11 delete text:

Labour believes we need to reduce the burden on students, while ensuring that repayments are related more closely to ability to pay

And replace with:

Labour will reduce the burden on students by reversing the privatisation of the student loan book. Labour will establish a review into the funding mechanism of higher education, with the aim of restoring free higher education, starting by reversing the increase to £9,000 a year by the Coalition.

INTRODUCING UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE

Amendment to page 9

From lines 25-26 delete text:

The next Labour Government will expand free childcare from 15 to 25 hours per week for working parents of three and four year-olds.

And replace with:

Labour will provide free universal childcare for all pre-school children

Health and Care

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/health-and-care-policycommission/health-and-care-policy-consultation>

ENDING THE PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE

Amendment to page 4

After line 25, insert new paragraph:

We recognise the growing problems caused by NHS Trusts having to service mounting Private Finance Initiative debts, which has resulted in forced hospital mergers and reduction of services. Labour in Government will rule out further such contracts and renegotiate existing PFI contracts to prevent further waste of public funds contributing to private contractor profits that should be spent on patient care.

Britain's Global Role

<http://www.yourbritain.org.uk/agenda-2015/policy-commissions/britain-s-global-role-policycommission/britain-s-global-role-policy-consultation>

SCRAPPING TRIDENT AND BACKING NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Amendment to page 5

From lines 41-48, delete text:

With other nations possessing nuclear weapons, and nuclear proliferation remaining a deep concern, we can never be absolutely certain as to what the future security landscape will look like. In July 2013 the current Government published its Trident Alternatives Review which examined alternative defence systems and postures for the UK's deterrent. Labour has said that we are committed to a minimum, credible independent nuclear deterrent, which we believe is best delivered through a Continuous At-Sea Deterrent. It would require a substantial body of evidence for us to change this belief, which the Government's Trident Alternatives Review does not appear to offer. Labour will rightly continue to scrutinise sources of evidence to ensure the deterrent is delivered in the most cost-effective and strategic way.

And replace with:

Labour is committed to achieving global nuclear disarmament and welcomes growing discussion of the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons by fellow states.

We recognise the success of past international bands in de-legitimising weapons of mass destruction such as landmines, cluster munitions and chemical and biological weapons and support a similar process to ban nuclear weapons, as a complementary and necessary mechanism to our disarmament commitment under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Labour will decommission rather than replace Trident. Labour will re-direct Trident spending to where it best serves our Society. Labour will develop an industrial plan to make use of the skills of those workers in the sector.