



The Business Services Association
130 Fleet Street,
London.
EC4A 2BH

BSA Summary - Labour Party Manifesto 2024

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Background

The Labour Party have launched their Manifesto entitled '[Change](#)'.

Many of the announcements have already been announced either prior to or during the campaign such as the [Plan to Make Work Pay](#). The Manifesto re-emphasises Keir Starmer's [Five Missions](#) for a Labour government and builds on the [six first steps](#):

1. Deliver economic stability
2. Cut NHS waiting times
3. Launch a new Border Security Command
4. Set up Great British Energy
5. Crack down on antisocial behaviour
6. Recruit 6,500 new teachers

Key policy announcements are included below.

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Public Procurement and Infrastructure

Procurement

- The Manifesto does not include a pledge to deliver the biggest wave of insourcing in a generation however it does commit to implementing the Plan to Make Work Pay which does include this pledge.
- Implement the proposals in the [Plan for Small Business](#) including a new law forcing large firms to report in their annual accounts if they're paying small businesses late and requiring at least one SME to be shortlisted when small "suitable" public contracts go out to tender.
- Change procurement rules to make the MOD prioritise buying British equipment.
- Establish a fixed-term Covid Corruption Commissioner and use every "means possible to recoup public money lost in pandemic related fraud and from contracts which have not delivered".
- "We will not tolerate fraud or waste anywhere, whether in social security or the excessive use of consultants".
- "Procurement and trade policy will also be aligned with our industrial strategy priorities".
- A commitment to "simplify the procurement process to support innovation and reduce micromanagement with a mission-driven approach".
- A new Police Efficiency and Collaboration programme for England and Wales which will set nation-wide standards for procurement and establish shared services and specialist functions to drive down costs.
- An NHS innovation and adoption strategy in England which will "include a plan for procurement".
- Set a target for half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced or certified to higher environmental standards.

Infrastructure

- Establish a National Wealth Fund, capitalised with £7.3 billion over the course of the next Parliament, to support Labour's growth and clean energy missions with a target of attracting three pounds of private investment for every one pound of public investment.
- This includes:
 - £1.8 billion to upgrade ports and build supply chains across the UK
 - £1.5 billion to new gigafactories so our automotive industry leads the world
 - £2.5 billion to rebuild our steel industry
 - £1 billion to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture
 - £500 million to support the manufacturing of green hydrogen.
- Strategically use public investment "where it can unlock additional private sector investment, create jobs, and provide a return for taxpayers".
- A ten-year infrastructure strategy, aligned with the industrial strategy and regional development priorities.
- a new National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority, bringing together existing bodies, to set strategic infrastructure priorities and oversee the design, scope, and delivery of projects.
- Set out new national policy statements, make major projects faster and cheaper by slashing red tape, and build support for developments by ensuring communities directly benefit.
- Update national planning policy to "ensure the planning system meets the needs of a modern economy".



Business, Economy, and Taxation

Fiscal Rules, Events and Inflation

Labour's fiscal rules are that:

1. The current budget moves into balance, so that day-to-day costs are met by revenues.
2. Debt must be falling as a share of the economy by the fifth year of the forecast.

Labour will also maintain the Bank of England's Independence.

A commitment to hold only one major fiscal event a year, and to publish a roadmap for business taxation for the next parliament which will allow businesses to plan investments with confidence.

Taxation

- Labour will not increase "National Insurance, the basic higher or additional rates of Income Tax, or VAT".
- Abolish non-dom status replacing it with "a modern scheme for people genuinely in the country for a short period".
- End the use of offshore trusts to avoid inheritance tax
- Consult on closing the loophole for Private Equity in relation to Capital Gains Tax.
- Modernise HMRC and increase registration and reporting requirements, strengthen HMRC's powers, invest in new technology and build capacity within HMRC.
- Labour will cap corporation tax at the current level of 25 per cent for the entire parliament, and will "act if tax changes in other countries pose a risk to UK competitiveness".
- Replace the business rates system.
- Scrap short funding cycles for key R&D institutions in favour of ten-year budgets

Business and Industry

- Implement the proposals in the [Plan for Small Business](#) including a new law forcing large firms to report in their annual accounts if they're paying small businesses late and requiring at least one SME to be shortlisted when small "suitable" public contracts go out to tender.
- Work in partnership with industry to seize opportunities and remove barriers to growth.
- Establish an Industrial Strategy Council on a statutory footing.

Crime and Justice

Prisons

- Ministers, not local councils, to make the final decision on where to build new prisons by designating them of "[national importance](#)" in the planning system. Aimed at delivering "the 20,000 promised jail places".
- Bring together prison governors and local employers to create Employment Councils to drive down reoffending, linking offenders to training and jobs, and reducing the burden on capacity in the long term.

Policing

- 13,000 neighbourhood police and community support offices (PCSOs) back on the beat" by the end of a five-year parliament.
- Of which 7,000 would be newly-recruited PCs or PCSOs, 3,000 would be volunteer special constables and 3,000 officers would have been recruited under existing plans.



Probation

- Labour will conduct a strategic review of probation governance, including considering the benefits of devolved models.

Defence

Spending and Strategy

- Labour will conduct a Strategic Defence Review within its first year in government, and set out the path to spending 2.5 per cent of GDP on defence.
- Labour will bring forward a defence industrial strategy aligning security and economic priorities. As part of this, it will ensure a strong defence sector and resilient supply chains, establish long-term partnerships between business and government, promote innovation, improve resilience, and support the defence industry to benefit from export opportunities.
- In government, Labour would prioritise UK businesses for defence investment and reform defence procurement to reduce waste.
- Labour will establish a fully functioning military strategic headquarters and a national armaments director to create a strong defence centre.

Armed Forces and Nuclear

- Labour will strengthen support for our Armed Forces communities by putting the Armed Forces Covenant fully into law and establishing an independent Armed Forces Commissioner to improve service life.
- Labour's commitment to the UK's nuclear deterrent is "absolute" and it will continue the Trident programme as part of the [Nuclear Triple Lock](#).

Foreign Policy

- The commitment to NATO is "unshakeable" and a Labour government would apply a NATO test to major defence programmes to ensure obligations are met.
- Labour will seek an ambitious new UK-EU security pact to strengthen co-operation.
- Labour is fully committed to AUKUS and will ensure it delivers its full economic as well as security potential.

Democracy, Constitutional Affairs and Whitehall Reform

Constitution

- 16 and 17 years olds will be given the vote in all elections.
- Introduce legislation to remove the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords. Labour will also introduce a mandatory retirement age so that at the end of the Parliament in which a peer reaches 80 years of age, they will be required to retire.
- There will also be a new participation requirement.
- "Labour is committed to replacing the House of Lords with an alternative second chamber that is more representative of the regions and nations" and will consult on proposals.

Whitehall Reform

- Create a National Data Library to bring together existing research programmes and help deliver data-driven public services.



- A new independent Ethics and Integrity Commission and give the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Interests the powers to start investigations into misconduct.
- A new Modernisation Committee tasked with reforming House of Commons procedures, driving up standards, and improving working practices.
- Ban MPs from taking up paid advisory or consultancy roles.

Devolution and Local Government

(See also the specific sections on Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland below)

Devolution

- Deepen devolution settlements for existing Combined Authorities and a pledge to “widen devolution to more areas”.
- Greater flexibility with integrated settlements for Mayoral Combined Authorities “that can show exemplary management of public money”.
- Local areas will be able to “gain new powers over transport, adult education and skills, housing and planning, and employment support”.
- A new statutory requirement for Local Growth Plans
- Ensure that members of devolved legislatures have the same free speech protections enjoyed by MPs at Westminster.
- Strengthen the Sewel Convention by setting out “a new memorandum of understanding outlining how the nations will work together for the common good” and establish a new Council of the Nations and Regions.

Local Government

- Give mayors the power to create unified and integrated transport systems.
- New local plans for work, health and skills support to get more people with health conditions and disabilities into work, with devolved funding and leadership from Mayors and local areas.
- Require all Combined and Mayoral Authorities to strategically plan for housing growth in their areas.
- Give councils multi-year funding settlements and “end wasteful competitive bidding”.

Education and Skills

Schools and School Food

- Pledge to have free breakfast clubs in every primary school.
- Convert 3,334 classrooms to nursery settings, adding 100,000 childcare places, in schools where there is spare capacity due to falling birth rates. The estimated £140 million cost would be paid for by part of the money raised by putting VAT on private school fees.
- Bring Multi-Academy Trusts into the inspection system and introduce a new annual review of safeguarding, attendance, and off-rolling.

Skills and Apprenticeships

- Establish Skills England to bring together business, training providers and unions with national and local government.
- A new Growth and Skills Levy replacing the Apprenticeship Levy. Employers will be able to spend up to 50% of their funds to train existing staff in “high-level technical skills” such as retrofitting or engineering.



- Under the plans, employers could also offer "pre-apprenticeship training" courses to prepare people for full apprenticeships or jobs.
- A minimum of 50% of the money would still be reserved for apprenticeships.
- Courses will need to be from an approved list of essential skills (managed by Skills England) and that employers will not be able to use it on internal training such as HR or health and safety.
- Establish a youth guarantee of access to training, an apprenticeship, or support to find work for all 18- to 21-year-olds.
- Guarantee two weeks' worth of work experience for every young person, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges.
- Transform Further Education colleges into specialist Technical Excellence Colleges.

Energy and Environment

Great British Energy

- A new publicly owned company, headquartered in Scotland, which will partner with industry and trade unions to deliver clean power by co-investing in leading technologies; will help support capital-intensive projects; and will deploy local energy production to benefit communities across the country.
- This is the cornerstone of the Green Prosperity Plan.
- Labour will capitalise Great British Energy with £8.3 billion, over the next parliament.
- Deploy more distributed production capacity through our Local Power Plan.

Net Zero and Taxation

- Clean Power by 2030.
- A new Energy Independence Act to establish the framework for Labour's energy and climate policies.
- "Get Hinkley Point C over the line" and a recognition that "nuclear power stations, such as Sizewell C, and Small Modular Reactors, will play an important role in helping the UK achieve energy security".
- Maintain a strategic reserve of gas power stations to guarantee security of supply.
- Labour will not revoke existing licences and will "partner with business and workers to manage our existing fields for the entirety of their lifespan".
- Not issue new licences to explore new fields, not grant new coal licences and ban fracking for good.
- Extend the sunset clause in the Energy Profits Levy until the end of the next parliament, increase the rate of the levy by three percentage points, and remove current investment allowances.
- Retain the Energy Security Investment Mechanism.
- Reward clean energy developers with a British Jobs Bonus, allocating up to £500 million per year from 2026, to "incentivise firms who offer good jobs, terms and conditions and build their manufacturing supply chains in our industrial heartlands, coastal areas, and energy communities".
- Make the UK the green finance capital of the world, mandating UK-regulated financial institutions - including banks, asset managers, pension funds, and insurers - and FTSE 100 companies to develop and implement credible transition plans that align with the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.



Investment and Planning

- Work with the private sector to double onshore wind, triple solar power, and quadruple offshore wind by 2030.
- Work with industry to upgrade our national transmission infrastructure and “rewire Britain”.
- Invest in carbon capture and storage, hydrogen and marine energy, and ensure we have the long-term energy storage our country needs.
- Invest an extra £6.6 billion over the next parliament as part of the Warm Home Plan to upgrade five million homes to cut bills for families.
- Work with the private sector, including banks and building societies, to provide further private finance to accelerate home upgrades and low carbon heating.

EVs

- Support the transition to electric vehicles by accelerating the roll out of charge points.
- Restore the phase-out date of 2030 for new cars with internal combustion engines.

Food, Flooding and Farming

- A flood and resilience taskforce to “speed up” flood defence building.
- Set a target for half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced or certified to higher environmental standards.

Europe and EU Exit

- “With Labour, Britain will stay outside of the EU” and it will “work to improve the UK’s trade and investment relationship with the EU, by tearing down unnecessary barriers to trade”.
- This does not include Free Movement or entry into the Single Market.

Health and Social Care

Healthcare and Dentistry

- Raise the number of NHS appointments by 2 million a year (40,000 per week) in the first year.
- Treat at least 92% of NHS patients within 18 weeks of referral by the end of the first five years.
- Deliver the NHS long-term workforce plan and the New Hospitals Programme.
- A new ‘Fit For the Future’ fund to double the number of CT and MRI scanners.
- A ban on online and retail sales of energy drinks containing over 150mg per litre to under-16s.
- An extra 100,000 urgent and emergency dental appointments for children” per year and other measures set out in the [Child Health Action Plan](#).
- An NHS innovation and adoption strategy in England including a plan for procurement, reformed incentive structures to drive innovation, and faster regulatory approval for new technology and medicines

Social Care

- Create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards.
- Enhance partnership working across employers, workers, trade unions and government and establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care.



Housing and Planning

- Build 1.5 million houses over five years.
- Make the Government's existing [mortgage guarantee scheme](#) (which expires in 2025) permanent, with the state acting as guarantor for a portion of 95 percent mortgages (allowing a 5 percent deposit).
- Identify a number of sites for new towns and update the law around compulsory purchase orders to prevent landowners trying to inflate the price of land.
- Impose binding local house building targets on councils and a new “zero tolerance” approach to those areas that do not identify enough land for development.
- Prioritise ‘grey belt’ and will introduce ‘golden rules’ to ensure development benefits communities and nature.

Migration and Asylum

Migration

- “Labour will reduce net migration”.
- Reform the points-based immigration system “so that it is fair and properly managed” with restrictions on visas and linking immigration and skills policy.
- Employers who breach “the rules will be barred from hiring workers from abroad”.
- Strengthen the Migration Advisory Committee, and establish a framework for joint working with skills bodies across the UK, the Industrial Strategy Council and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Borders and Asylum

- Create a new Border Security Command, with hundreds of new investigators, intelligence officers, and cross-border police officers.
- Hire additional caseworkers to clear the backlog and end “asylum hotels”.
- This will be funded by ending “the wasteful Migration and Economic Development partnership with Rwanda”.
- Set up a new returns and enforcement unit, with an additional 1,000 staff, to fast-track removals to safe countries for people who do not have the right to stay here.

Pensions

- Keep the [Triple Lock](#).
- Not bring back the lifetime pensions allowance.
- Give the Pensions Regulator new powers to intervene where schemes fail to offer sufficient value for their members.
- Review of the pensions landscape to consider what further steps are needed to improve pension outcomes and increase investment in UK markets.

Technology, AI and Digital

- A renewed push to fulfil the ambition of full gigabit and national 5G coverage by 2030.
- The Industrial Strategy will support the development of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, and remove planning barriers to new datacentres.
- Introduce binding regulation on the handful of companies developing the most powerful AI models.
- Create a National Data Library to bring together existing research programmes and help deliver data-driven public services.



- Create a new Regulatory Innovation Office.

Transport and Infrastructure

- Develop a long-term strategy for transport

Road

- £320 million spread across five years to fix potholes, on top of £8.3 billion already committed by the government over 11 years. Paid for by shelving the planned A27 bypass in West Sussex.

Rail

- Establish Great British Railways
- Bring Railways into public ownership as contracts with existing operators expire or are broken through a failure to deliver.

Buses

- New powers for local leaders to franchise local bus services, and we will lift the ban on municipal ownership.

Welfare, Workers' Rights and Employment

The Plan to Make Work Pay

- Implement the proposals in the [Plan to Make Work Pay](#) (BSA Summary [here](#)).
- This includes reforms to Sick Pay, Zero hours contracts, fire and rehire amongst other policies.
- Introduce legislation within 100 days and “consult fully with businesses, workers, and civil society on how to put our plans into practice before legislation is passed”.

Employment

- Target an increase in the employment rate from 75% to 80%.
- A new combined national jobs and careers service - bringing together jobcentreplus and the careers service.
- New local plans for work.

Welfare

- “The Work Capability Assessment is not working and needs to be reformed or replaced”.
- Labour is committed to reviewing Universal Credit so that it makes work pay and tackles poverty.

Scotland

- Labour does not support independence or another referendum.
- It will “protect and respect devolution and reset relations between governments” and “ensure the devolution settlement for Scotland enables collaboration on Labour’s national missions for government”.



Wales

- Labour will “strengthen the relationship between the governments in Westminster and Cardiff Bay”.
- Labour recognises that the Welsh Fiscal Framework is out of date” and will work in partnership with the Welsh Government to ensure the framework delivers value for money with two Labour governments committed to fiscal responsibility.
- Labour will explore the devolution of probation service and youth justice.
- It will devolve employment support funding to the Welsh Government.

Northern Ireland

- Labour is committed to implementing the Windsor Framework in good faith and protecting the UK internal market.