

# KICKSTART ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Fixing the foundations to deliver higher  
living standards and 1.5 million new homes**

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Our Labour government was elected on the promise of change – to deliver a decade of national renewal and put the country back in the service of working people.

The hard work of the National Policy Forum in the years before the 2024 election set us on the path to an election-winning manifesto, a manifesto at the heart of our historic election win.

Security and renewal are our twin tasks, and now, we are getting on and delivering that change for working people.

We've fulfilled our pledge to deliver over two million extra NHS appointments – seven months early. We've delivered pay rises for 3.5 million people through a rise in the minimum wage, and average wages are growing at their fastest rate in three years.

We have launched Great British Energy to provide clean, secure, homegrown power. We've established a National Wealth Fund to fuel growth, we've overhauled planning laws to make the dream of home ownership a reality and we've delivered a £1 billion boost to police funding to keep our streets safe. Thanks to Labour, free breakfast clubs are being rolled-out in every primary school, starting with the first 750 from this April, saving parents up to £450 a year.

But the work has just begun. Our Plan for Change sets six clear, measurable milestones that the British people can expect to see delivered by the end of this Parliament: higher living standards; 1.5 million homes built; hospital backlogs ended; police back on the streets in every community; a record proportion of children starting school ready to learn; and secure, home-grown energy.

This can only be delivered with the strong foundations of economic stability, national security, and border security.

The National Policy Forum is a vital part of Labour's democratic policy-making process. We look forward to hearing from you and invite you to get involved in the NPF, to support the Party's policy priorities and build towards the next General Election.

**Keir Starmer**  
**Leader of the Labour Party**  
**Prime Minister**



Having spent 19 years on the National Policy Forum in a number of different roles, I am delighted to return to the NPF as Party Chair and to have been elected as NPF Chair. It is an absolute privilege now to take up this position to guide our first NPF in Government in more than 14 years.



The strength of our Labour movement produced our brilliant general election victory. But the work doesn't stop there.

Our Labour Government inherited unprecedented challenges, with crumbling public services and crippled public finances. This Government will not shy away from tough decisions: we will always put service before politics.

In this context, the NPF's Annual Consultation 2025 will focus on fixing the foundations to deliver change.

The consultation documents reflect some of the vital areas we must fix if we are to deliver Labour's decade of national renewal and make working people feel more secure. We are getting our economy back on track, boosting living standards, tackling the housing crisis and modernising our public services. We are building a more secure country at home while building our strength abroad.

We all have a role to play in responding to the challenges the country faces. As Party members, supporters and stakeholders your voice plays a vital role in these debates, from sharing your lived experiences, to expertise, knowledge and insight. We are stronger together and it is vital we maintain a strong link between the Party in government and the Party in the country. We encourage you to get involved and play your part in supporting the new Labour Government.

Please consider submitting your views either individually or as part of your CLP or organisation. We also invite you to attend one of the online members' events to hear from my Cabinet colleagues.

Together, our long-term work will deliver a decade of national renewal and a more secure and prosperous Britain.

**Ellie Reeves**  
**Party Chair and NPF Chair**  
**Cabinet Office Minister**

**Thank you to everyone who got involved in the previous cycle of the National Policy Forum (NPF) and helped us produce an election-winning manifesto.**

The new cycle of the NPF was launched in January 2025. We were delighted to welcome NPF reps from across the Labour movement to the first online meeting of the full NPF where we heard from the Prime Minister and Cabinet members.

The NPF is made up of the following six policy commissions:

- **Kickstart economic growth**
- **Build an NHS fit for the future**
- **Make Britain a clean energy superpower**
- **Safer streets**
- **Break down barriers to opportunity**
- **Britain reconnected**

This year's consultation runs from 31 March to 8 June.

The theme for this first-year consultation is **'fixing the foundations to deliver change'**. During the consultation, each commission will consult on fixing the foundations to enable the Labour Government to deliver the milestones set out in the Plan for Change and identify future challenges on the path to delivering the decade of national renewal that Labour promised in the 2024 Manifesto.

Each commission has produced a set of questions to guide discussions, as well as details on the policy context, our inheritance from the previous Conservative Government, and what the new Labour Government is already doing to deliver security and renewal for working people.

You don't need to answer every question in the document, nor answer them in a specific way. These questions are intended as a guide to stimulate discussions on the main issues in each policy area. When considering these questions, it may be helpful to consider examples of best practice in the policy areas, perhaps from your own experience and your local area, or the blockages to policy implementation which need to be overcome.

We welcome submissions from members of the public, Constituency and Branch Labour Parties, trade unions and socialist societies, as well as contributions from expert organisations such as think tanks, businesses and civil society.

Please submit your responses on our new website here:

**<https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk/>**

This website also provides further information about this year's consultation and other ways to get involved, including our programme of members' events.

Finally, we recommend looking at our FAQs here

**<https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk/about/>** if you have any questions.

Thank you again for getting involved with the NPF. It is through our collective work that we will deliver a decade of national renewal for working people.

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TO KNOW  
MORE?**

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explore our  
new website:



And follow us on  
Twitter/X here:  
**@labpolicyforum**

The Labour Party is an inclusive, member-based organisation that prides itself on being accessible to all. If you would like an accessible version of these documents, please email us at **[policydevelopment@labour.org.uk](mailto:policydevelopment@labour.org.uk)** to discuss how we can best accommodate your requirements.

1. What are the key challenges in delivering higher living standards across the UK?
2. How could Labour reduce regional economic inequalities to improve living standards?
3. What steps could Labour take – including in the industrial strategy – to increase private investment and create good jobs across the country, boosting living standards?
4. What are the key challenges in delivering 1.5 million homes across this Parliament, and how could they be tackled?
5. What steps should the Government take to ensure that major infrastructure is approved and developed quickly, in line with Labour's commitment to approve 150 major infrastructure projects this Parliament?
6. What are the specific implications of policy proposals in this area for (a) women, (b) Black, Asian and minority ethnic people (c) LGBT+ people, (d) disabled people and (e) all those with other protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations, combined authorities and other local governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

**Securing economic growth to boost living standards is Labour's primary goal in the Plan for Change, and it's our core mission for government. Through economic growth we will be able to boost funding for our public services, secure the jobs of the future, and most importantly put more money into the pockets of working people.**

This National Policy Forum consultation recognises that economic growth is intrinsically linked to another Plan for Change milestone – to get Britain building 1.5 million homes by the end of this Parliament. Through delivering on this milestone, we can tackle the housing crisis and restore the dream of home ownership whilst delivering vital investment and hundreds of thousands of good jobs.

There is no single lever that can kickstart economic growth. Through our growth mission, Labour will aim for the highest sustained growth in the G7, which requires a whole-government approach and a relentless focus on economic prosperity across Whitehall.

Our winning manifesto promised a mission-driven government that delivers by working in partnership with business, trade unions, civil society, faith groups, and communities. In his Plan for Change, Keir Starmer was clear that growth can only be achieved when we work in partnership across the whole country. That change in approach has already started across government and this commission will work on how we can further develop this partnership and identify key opportunities for closer collaboration.

Labour was elected by the British people to deliver a decade of national renewal, and to consign the Conservative sticking-plaster approach to the history books. This commission will therefore be broad in its approach, considering immediate policy priorities alongside longer-term reform and development to drive economic growth.

This commission seeks to work alongside the Labour Government in developing policy that spreads economic growth – and the opportunity that follows it – in every nation and region of the United Kingdom. Through regional growth, devolution and investment, we can ensure that every community feels the benefit of Labour's Plan for Change.



# THE INHERITANCE

## **In July of last year, Labour inherited the most challenging set of economic circumstances in living memory.**

Under the Conservatives, the previous Parliament was the first in modern history where living standards fell. By the time the 2024 General Election was called, the average worker in England was close to £700 worse off than they were in 2010.

The Conservatives pitted workers against businesses, leading to the worst strike disruption in decades and an economy in dire straits. This approach was bad for workers, bad for businesses, and bad for the economy.

This came alongside a reckless approach to the public finances – encapsulated by the disastrous mini-Budget of 2022 – which sent average monthly mortgages skyrocketing by more than £200 and working people once again footing the bill for Conservative incompetence.

When Labour came into government, a litany of unfunded promises were uncovered – promises that the Tories had no intention of keeping. Paper thin infrastructure programmes, fantasy departmental budgets and half-baked plans all merging into a £22 billion black hole in the public finances.

A combination of political chaos and the lack of a coherent and long-term industrial strategy left Britain languishing behind comparable nations for business investment. Since 2019, the UK has been in last place for business investment in the G7, holding back economic growth and costing jobs in communities right across Britain.

This lack of investment has been compounded by a failure to build the infrastructure necessary to turbocharge economic growth. The Tories missed every single one of their housing targets, supporting the blockers and not the builders. Labour therefore not only faces an acute housing crisis, but also a planning system that has hamstrung development and prevented Britain from growing its economy.

Labour is therefore operating in a unique context from previous governments – a fact recognised by its Plan for Change, and Labour's wider mission-led government. By economic necessity Labour will need to ensure that investment is impactful, that our public institutions are operating as effectively as possible, that regulation is facilitating rather than restricting innovation, that workers are treated with respect and supported to thrive, and that business is incentivised to invest and back Labour's growth agenda.

This is also the context that will influence the policy development of this commission. Any one of these problems in isolation would present a challenge to an incoming government. Together, they require nothing less than a fundamental rewiring of how government operates and a relentless focus on delivering long-lasting change to improve the lives of working people.

**As set out above, the challenge this Labour Government faces is great, but so too is the opportunity. Britain has the fundamentals it needs to thrive in the form of incredible talent and entrepreneurs, world-leading technology, fantastic universities and growth sectors with strong foundations.**

As the Labour Government has already demonstrated, what Britain has been lacking is political will and mission-led government. In less than a year, this Labour Government has already achieved more than the previous government managed in fourteen years, but we know that there is much more to do.

The Chancellor's Autumn Budget took the tough but necessary decisions to put the economy back on a sustainable footing, while prioritising vital investment in our public services and infrastructure.

Labour has already delivered a pay rise worth £1,400 on average to more than three million of the lowest-paid workers by raising the minimum wage, and wages across the economy are growing at their fastest rate in three years.

Labour's Employment Rights Bill will ban exploitative zero-hour contracts, end fire and rehire practises, and provide several day-one rights whilst also strengthening collective redundancy rights. This bill recognises that fairness, equality and well-being are fundamental to a modern and thriving economy.

Labour's first Business Investment Summit sent a clear message that Britain is open for business, securing more than £63 billion of private investment and creating more than 38,000 jobs, and in January of this year the Chancellor made it clear that no stone would remain unturned in the pursuit of growth.

Labour has acted where the Tories failed by launching a modern industrial strategy to power a range of high growth sectors from advanced manufacturing to digital industries and expanded opportunities for small and medium-sized businesses. We have also launched Skills England to provide businesses with the skills they need to thrive.

As part of Labour's commitment to build 1.5 million homes by the end of this Parliament, planning guidance has been overhauled and more than £5 billion allocated for housebuilding in this year's budget.

This is alongside long-overdue reforms to Right to Buy to protect social housing stock, and the launch of the independent New Towns Taskforce to create large-scale communities of at least 10,000 homes each.

This is the difference that Labour in government makes.

For the first time in more than 14 years, we are operating this NPF cycle with the Labour Party in government, and our work must reflect the ambitions of this mission-led government. That means developing policy that builds on the work that Labour has already done while looking to the future in our ambition for a decade of national renewal.

