

Labour's National Policy Forum

ANNUAL CONSULTATION 2026

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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.

In the face of the toxic division being peddled by other parties, we need to work together to stand up for unity so we can continue delivering the change our country needs. Labour chooses renewal over grievance, and every day we are getting on with the job of turning our country around.

Already with Labour, NHS waiting lists are down by more than 330,000. Inflation is falling, and interest rates have been cut six times, meaning new mortgages are almost £1500 cheaper a year on average. This is because we made the tough but fair decisions to invest in public services, help people with the cost of living, and restore our public finances.

2026 is the year that Britain turns a corner and that people will start to feel that change. After years of decline and drift under the Tories, 2026 is the year renewal becomes real:

- ✓ Thousands more free breakfast clubs will open giving children a better start to the day and saving parents £450 a year;
- ✓ 3,000 more neighbourhood police officers are on our streets from March making our communities safer;
- ✓ Almost 120 community diagnostic centres will be open 7 days a week across the country by April – as we bring down waiting lists and fix our NHS for the future;
- ✓ New rights for renters and workers will deliver greater security for millions;
- ✓ And inflation, interest rates and mortgage costs are forecast to keep on falling helping to keep costs down .

Many of the policies that are going to make a real difference to people's lives this year came from the work of the National Policy Forum– so thank you.

This year, the National Policy Forum is continuing this important work, supporting our Labour Government and looking ahead to the next General Election. We look forward to hearing from you and invite you to get involved and play your part in our country's renewal.

Keir Starmer
Leader of the Labour Party
Prime Minister

After two decades on the National Policy Forum, I am delighted to continue my work as NPF Chair as we enter the second year of the cycle. It is a privilege to lead the NPF as we shape the next stage of Labour's work in Government.

Since the Labour movement's historic General Election victory, this Government has delivered major action across all six missions.

We are tackling the cost of living and delivering major planning reforms to kickstart economic growth and build 1.5 million homes. We are speeding ahead with our mission to secure home-grown energy and deliver clean energy jobs. We are restoring neighbourhood policing and making communities safer. Our Child Poverty Strategy, including scrapping the two-child benefit limit, will lift around 550,000 children out of poverty and break down barriers to opportunity. We promised 2 million extra NHS appointments and delivered 5.2 million in our first year as part of our work to build an NHS fit for the future. Our VAWG Strategy will put into action our plan to halve violence against women and girls in a decade. The Employment Rights Act represents the biggest transformation of workers' rights in a generation, and we have reset our relationship with the EU.

Last year's consultation focused on 'Fixing the Foundations to Deliver Change', looking at how the Labour Government can deliver the milestones set out in the Plan for Change, on the path to delivering the decade of national renewal that we promised in the 2024 Manifesto.

This year, our focus moves firmly to the delivery of national renewal.

The 2026 consultation will look at some of the vital areas we must continue to focus on if we are to deliver Labour's decade of national renewal, making working people feel more secure.

This means bringing back pride in our communities, restoring our natural world, supporting young people to get on in life, bringing health services closer to people, securing our borders and restoring Britain as a respected partner in the world.

As Party members, supporters and stakeholders, your voice is imperative to this work. Your lived experience, expertise and insight help ensure a strong link between the Party in Government and the Party across the country.

I encourage you to take part in this consultation, submit your views individually or through your CLP or organisation, and join one of our online members' events to hear directly from Cabinet colleagues.

Together, our long-term work will get Britain back on track to deliver the change and national renewal we promised, as well as looking ahead to future challenges.

Ellie Reeves
NPF Chair and Solicitor General



Thank you to everyone who got involved in the previous cycle of the National Policy Forum (NPF). The new cycle of the NPF was launched in January 2025 following the 2024 General Election. We are now in the second year of the policy development cycle.

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

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

This year's consultation runs from 5 March to 11 June 2026.

The theme of this year's consultation is national renewal. Over the spring, each commission will consult on renewing Britain to support the Labour government in delivering the change we promised, while also looking ahead to future challenges. Through this consultation, commissions will consider evidence, review submissions, and develop policy recommendations as part of the ongoing policy development cycle.

Each commission has produced a set of questions to guide discussions, as well as details on the policy context, and some steps Labour has already taken to deliver on our promise of change and get Britain back on track.

You don't need to answer every one of the questions in the document, nor answer them in a specific way. These questions are intended as a guide to stimulate discussions on what you think the main issues are in each policy area.

We welcome submissions from members of the public, Constituency and Branch Labour Parties, affiliated 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 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 coming soon.

Finally, we recommend looking at our FAQs here

<https://nationalpolicyforum.labour.org.uk/about/> and we will be sending a 'How to guide' out to roleholders 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.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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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** to discuss how we can best accommodate your requirements.

KICKSTART ECONOMIC GROWTH

Bringing back pride in our communities

1. How can Labour best ensure that communities which saw underinvestment under the last Conservative Government are now supported to become engines of economic growth, reduce economic inequalities, and deliver higher living standards?
2. How can we enable local high streets to thrive?
3. What are the key challenges in delivering meaningful devolution to strategic and local authorities in England, and how can these challenges be overcome?
4. What should the Government consider in implementing and taking forward its Make Work Pay plan?
5. How can Labour build on its pro-business, pro-worker approach to delivering security and dignity for people in work, at the same time as boosting employment and skills and supporting people to start businesses?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

Boosting economic growth to cut the cost of living is the number one mission of this Labour Government. A stable and productive economy is needed to create good jobs and increase wages, delivering higher living standards for families.

Growth is the prerequisite to many of Labour's other aims too. A strong economy drives higher tax revenues to pay for better public services, and enables investment in housebuilding, transport and clean energy infrastructure – so that Labour can deliver the national renewal it promised at the 2024 general election.

It also means more money for communities across Britain. Many areas saw decay and decline over the Conservatives' 14-year period in office. Communities have been struggling, and more deprived areas have gone for too long without the investment they need. The UK faces large regional and local economic inequalities, with big gaps in productivity and family incomes. These gaps drive unfair variation in opportunity between people living in different parts of our country.

Last year, the Kickstart Economic Growth Policy Commission consulted on how Labour can deliver higher living standards and 1.5 million new homes. It concluded that all regions and nations must benefit from economic growth, in line with the Government's Plan for Change – and that Labour's local investment and devolution plans would be vital to achieving that. The Commission also concluded that achieving higher living standards depends on Labour maintaining a strong grip on the public finances, and that those with the broadest shoulders should contribute properly to Britain's renewal.

On employment rights, the Commission found strong support for Labour's Make Work Pay agenda. Implementation and enforcement of new rights will be key, as will a continuing focus on ensuring workers are not left behind by technological change. The Commission heard about the need for regulatory reform to spur business activity. It also supported Labour's intention to continue to identify barriers to development which act as a brake on building homes and infrastructure – and therefore on economic growth and living standards.

The Commission will this year build on these emerging findings. Labour is investing in places that were neglected by the Tories, putting police back on our streets, fixing local transport and rolling out new community-based services. We know that people feel proud of their local communities, but the Conservatives failed to back their ambition. This Commission will look at how Labour can go further, giving power back to local people who know their communities best. In addition, the Commission will look at the implementation of the Employment Rights Act, exploring how the landmark legislation and the Government's wider agenda can boost security at work, increase living standards, and support productivity growth.

Labour has set off down the path of national renewal, taking measures to grow our economy in a way that is felt by local communities across the country. In aiming for the highest sustained growth in the G7, the result will be more people in good jobs, higher living standards, and productivity growth in every part of the United Kingdom.

We have already seen significant progress towards these ends. The UK is the fastest growing G7 economy in Europe. By the end of the year, there were almost 270,000 more people in employment than at the start of the year. And real wages grew more in Labour's first year in office than they did in the first ten years of the Conservatives.

Labour has wasted no time in pursuing measures necessary to boost growth and expand opportunities for working people. This includes ensuring that people are equipped with the skills they and employers need in a changing economy. The 2025 Spending Review allocated an extra £1.2 billion a year to the skills system, and £625 million to train up to 60,000 skilled construction workers. Our Youth Guarantee is delivering £820 million to upskill our young people with training or placements in sectors including construction, health and social care and hospitality. And our £725 million apprenticeships package will mean 50,000 more young people benefit, and SMEs will be supported by the Government covering the full cost of apprenticeships.

These measures complement Labour's Modern Industrial Strategy. The Strategy sets out how this Government is backing the UK's highest-potential sectors to generate economic growth, and – crucially – how they can spread prosperity to communities throughout the country.

The Government has also taken bold action to power growth over the long term by getting Britain building. The Planning and Infrastructure Act will speed up and streamline the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure. A record £39 billion investment has been committed to build social and affordable housing, on top of measures to boost all forms of housebuilding for example by making it easier to approve homes near existing public transport. And in its first year, the Government approved 21 major infrastructure projects, the most ever in the first year of a Parliament. Projects that this Government is supporting – like the Lower Thames Crossing and a third runway at Heathrow – will make substantial contributions to economic growth. According to the Office for Budget Responsibility, Labour's planning reforms are set to lead to the biggest increase in growth that they have ever forecast from a zero-cost policy.

Delivering for communities has been at the heart of Labour's record so far. The Pride in Place programme is handing £5 billion to local areas across the UK to revive high streets, parks and public spaces – with local people in the driving seat to decide how the funding is spent. This builds on Labour's Growth Mission Fund, which is providing capital funding for projects that enable local job creation and regeneration.

The Government is also acting to clean up our high streets. New measures have been introduced to clamp down on illegal high street activity in places like barbershops, vape shops and car washes – through a new taskforce to tackle money laundering, as well as more funding for trading standards enforcement against organised crime. In addition, Labour is developing a High Streets Strategy to address the long-term challenges that our retail, leisure and hospitality businesses have faced.

Local government is a key part of Labour's efforts to restore pride to our communities. We are taking action to rebuild council finances, with a 23% boost to core spending power. And we have reformed the way local government is funded, so that money is redistributed to places with the greatest need and highest deprivation. This will be transformational in allowing local authorities to bring back the libraries, youth services, clean streets, and community hubs that help neighbourhoods to thrive.

We are empowering communities to be the drivers – as well as the beneficiaries – of growth, with new powers to boost their economies. The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill will ensure there are strategic authorities for every area in England, making it quicker and easier to devolve powers away from Westminster to local government. Mayoral strategic authorities will produce Local Growth Plans that set out how and where they can support economic growth in their regions. And the Government is pursuing reorganisation of local councils, ending the two-tier system which slows down decision making and delivery, leads to fragmented public services, sees money wasted on duplication and makes it unclear where accountability lies.

Labour's mission to boost living standards will also be advanced by the huge strides we have made on workers' rights. The landmark Employment Rights Act is now law. That means that much of the Tories' regressive trade union legislation from the last decade has already been repealed, restoring the ability of workers to take industrial action without excessive legal barriers. And further improvements will come into force in April, including day one rights to statutory sick pay and paternity leave, as well as the launch of the Fair Work Agency.

Renewing Britain, kickstarting growth and improving living standards takes time, but Labour has made significant inroads – and has set in motion the fundamental reform needed to bring back pride in our communities.

The last Conservative Government oversaw the worst Parliament on record for living standards. Economic growth and family incomes both stagnated, while inflation skyrocketed to a 40-year-high. The Tories lost control of the cost of living, and working people and our communities are still feeling the pain caused by their failure.

But Britain is turning a corner with Labour. Average wages have been rising in real terms, meaning families are better off than they were before the general election, even after inflation. And, crucially, Labour has created the stable economic conditions for the Bank of England to cut interest rates six times, resulting in average mortgage costs falling by almost £1,500 a year.

It is not just the Tories who cannot be trusted on the economy and living standards. Reform poses a grave threat to Britain's prosperity. In Parliament they continually vote against the progressive changes we are making to boost growth, and they are fast becoming a retirement home for the same Tory politicians who crashed the economy under the last government. Reform have indicated that, in government, they would slash the state just like the Tories did – returning Britain to austerity, with the declining public services and crumbling infrastructure that follow.

Labour is also showing how Government can provide real support to communities, in stark contrast to the Tories' neglect and underinvestment. As well as improving local authorities' funding across the board, Labour's Fair Funding Review has redesigned the way that councils are allocated money – so that places with higher levels of deprivation and social need get a better deal.

The Tories and Reform have made clear that they would wind back the clock on workers' rights. Both parties opposed the Employment Rights Act at every step, and both have pledged to scrap Labour's legislation. That would mean millions of working people losing out on protections which include the end of exploitative zero-hours contracts, day one rights for paternity, parental and bereavement leave, and stronger statutory sick pay.

Labour is the only party capable of delivering not only national renewal, but renewal of our local communities – all with a view to boosting the living standards of working people across our nations and regions.

MAKE BRITAIN A CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER

Restoring our natural environment

1. How can we restore Britain's natural environment?
2. What steps can the Labour Government take to improve access to nature and green spaces while delivering on the Plan for Change?
3. What further measures are needed to ensure water companies are held accountable?
4. How does the restoration of nature support families and businesses with the cost of living during the transition to clean energy?
5. What additional steps can be taken by the Labour Government to build on the work already done in reducing carbon emissions, supporting the clean energy economy, securing Britain's energy independence and delivering green jobs across the country?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

The Clean Energy Policy Commission covers policy areas that fall under the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Commission supports the 'Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower' Mission, a key plank of the Labour Government's Plan for Change.

Families and businesses were left high and dry by successive Conservative Governments, whose failure to invest in our nation's energy infrastructure and failure to secure home-grown energy added billions of pounds to energy bills over the last decade.

That's why the Labour Government's Clean Energy Mission is so important. It is helping to deliver national renewal through lower cost, home-grown, clean energy – protecting billpayers, creating good jobs across the country and putting the UK on track to at least 95% clean power by 2030.

During last year's policy cycle, the Clean Energy Policy Commission looked at how the Labour Government was fixing the foundations to secure home-grown energy. This included the action taken by Labour to invest in clean energy, launch Great British Energy, lift the de-facto ban on onshore wind, help drive down energy bills and build domestic energy resilience.

The Commission consulted on the importance of securing a diverse domestic energy mix in order to meet our country's climate obligations, including wind, solar, new nuclear and hydroelectric. This sits alongside the Government's commitment to a strategic reserve of gas-fired power stations.

The Commission also took evidence on how the Labour Government can deliver a just transition to net zero and we heard how turning back the clock on clean power, as suggested by the Conservatives and Reform UK, would lead to higher energy bills and the loss of almost a million jobs across the country.

Over the course of this year's consultation, our Commission will build on this work and look more forensically at how the Labour Government can address the key environmental and energy challenges facing Britain today, while boosting living standards, tackling the cost of living and supporting economic growth.

Crucially, that means examining how Labour can restore our natural world, improve access to nature and green spaces, cut pollution, deliver more green jobs, support families with their energy costs and clean up our nation's rivers, lakes and seas.

While families were left exposed to soaring bills under the Conservatives, the Labour Government is protecting billpayers: expanding the Warm Home Discount so six million households saw £150 cut from their energy bills, upgrading millions of homes to make them warmer and cheaper to run, and taking decisive action to bring the energy price cap down by £117.

Through the Plan for Change, Labour is also putting Britain's natural environment on the road to recovery. After years of Conservative neglect, the Labour Government is taking the action that's needed to create a better future for England's habitats, waterways, green spaces and clean air – so everyone has the chance to benefit from nature.

Labour's ambitious Environmental Improvement Plan sets out how the Government will restore or create a quarter of a million hectares of wildlife-rich habitats by 2030, backed by £500 million of funding for landscape recovery. Labour is already planting trees at the highest rate in over 20 years and investing over a billion pounds in tree planting this Parliament. The Government has also announced the creation of three new national forests, delivering on Labour's manifesto commitment.

Labour will improve access to nature with a Green Paper to be published during this Parliament, and the Government will cut waste by ensuring that local authorities invest in recycling and crack down on fly-tipping.

This follows the action already taken by Labour to lower energy bills, secure home-grown energy and improve our natural environment: launching Great British Energy, securing a record-breaking number of new clean energy projects, and approving more solar in the first year of government than the previous Government managed in 14 years. Labour has consented enough wind and solar to power the equivalent of 8.5 million homes.

In addition, the Labour Government has overturned the ban on new onshore wind in England, committed to build Sizewell C and confirmed that Wylfa in North Wales will host first of a kind Small Modular Reactors as part of a 'golden age' of nuclear energy.

Labour inherited a broken water system, with record levels of sewage being pumped into our waterways, bosses being paid millions in bonuses, and families being left with massive bill hikes. But, already, the Government has taken huge steps towards restoring public trust and cleaning up the nation's rivers, lakes and seas.

The Labour Government has put in place the most ambitious target on water pollution in history – to halve sewage pollution by 2030. And the landmark Water (Special Measures) Act is ushering in a new era of accountability. These tough new laws mean the Government can block unfair bonuses and polluting water bosses now face up to two years in prison.

Labour has also launched the largest criminal action against sewage dumping in history, with a record number of criminal investigations launched. We are rebuilding the water network to slash pollution levels, with over £104 billion of private investment being spent to upgrade crumbling pipes.

This comes alongside root and branch reform so that the water sector works for the British people: a new single water regulator with tough new powers, abolishing Ofwat, giving the Environment Agency teeth and bringing together the functions of four different regulators into one. Already, the number of bathing sites meeting standards for swimming has improved with Labour.

Every family and business in Britain has paid the price for Conservative failures on energy and on the environment.

Families have faced the worst cost of living crisis in generations because of Britain's exposure to international fossil fuel markets, while the Conservatives' failure to invest in clean energy resulted in a legacy of high energy bills, energy insecurity and a lack of clean energy jobs.

On the Conservatives' watch, weakly-regulated water companies were effectively allowed to mark their own homework while the amount of illegal sewage dumped in our rivers, lakes and seas soared to record levels – and families faced ever-higher bills.

Through the Plan for Change and the 'Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower' Mission, the Labour Government is taking back control of Britain's energy system and restoring the environment – delivering energy security, supporting economic growth and creating good jobs across the country.

Thanks to the policy certainty and ambition provided by the Labour Government, the clean energy economy is booming, with tens of billions of pounds of private investment in clean energy announced since Labour came to office.

The Labour Government has announced a £15 billion Warm Homes Plan, the biggest ever investment in home upgrades, to create jobs, slash energy costs and lift up to a million people out of fuel poverty.

Labour's Clean Energy Jobs Plan will deliver over 400,000 new jobs in clean energy industries between now and 2030 – meaning a generation of young people across the UK will benefit from good jobs at decent wages with strong rights at work.

The Clean Energy Jobs Plan also calls time on the historic decline in union membership in the energy sector, detailing how trade unions must be an essential part of the new jobs that the Government is creating.

Reform would put this progress at risk. They want to abolish DESNZ entirely and repeal the Climate Change Act; their plans for the water industry are unfunded and their opposition to vital energy infrastructure could see energy bills soar by £850 and thousands of miles of countryside dug up.

Along with the Conservatives, Reform would wage an ideological war on clean energy. As well as undermining Britain's energy independence, that would mean putting at risk almost a million good jobs in thriving clean energy industries across the country.

In contrast, Labour's clean energy superpower mission is securing home-grown energy, supporting economic growth, creating jobs and helping to protect the British people now and for generations to come.

SAFER STREETS

1. How can safe and legal entry routes be improved to reduce the incentive for dangerous journeys and criminal smuggling?
2. How can the immigration system, working in close cooperation with international partners, strengthen border security and tackle criminal smuggling networks who are exploiting vulnerable people?
3. What action can the Home Office take to speed up asylum decision-making and reduce the backlog?
4. How do we best support community cohesion?
5. How do we improve the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of the UK's criminal courts and legal system to provide swifter justice for victims?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when being implemented in Wales, and in supporting devolved arrangements in Scotland and Northern Ireland?

The Safer Streets Commission examines Home Office and Justice matters, covering policy relating to victims, policing, courts, and prisons, as well as immigration and border security.

In 2025, the Commission focused on neighbourhood policing and Labour's plan to get more officers on our streets. It examined challenges including antisocial behaviour, shoplifting, knife crime, and public confidence in policing. The consultation underlined the importance of visible policing, early intervention, stronger local partnerships, and effective coordination across public services. Respondents emphasised that confidence depends on delivering results people can see and feel in their communities.

Building on this, the 2026 consultation turns to another pressing policy challenge facing the country: restoring order in our immigration system and building a system that is firm and fair. Longstanding weaknesses in the immigration system are contributing to declining public trust and have created an environment in which the politics of grievance and division have been allowed to grow.

Britain is a tolerant and compassionate country. We have a proud tradition of welcoming people fleeing persecution and abuse. Schemes like Homes for Ukraine, Hong Kong humanitarian visas, and the Syrian resettlement programme have provided important routes for refugees seeking sanctuary. But the number of people arriving by small boat is totally unacceptable – it is driven by dangerous criminal smuggling gangs who put lives at risk, exploit those fleeing persecution, and undermine our borders and confidence in the system. The rules must be respected and enforced. Without the foundations of a stable economy, secure borders and national security, we will not be able to deliver our decade of national renewal.

This Commission therefore plays a central role in supporting Labour's manifesto commitment to fix the immigration system, by considering plans to restore order and control and reform routes to settlement.

Turning to justice, the consultation will look at criminal court reform. The Commission will consider how changes to court processes and sentencing frameworks can reduce delays, improve outcomes, and strengthen confidence in the justice system. This includes examining how more efficient courts support faster, fairer decision-making, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that enforcement and protection operate credibly and consistently, ultimately delivering swifter justice for victims.

Since the last consultation, the Government has also taken significant steps on its mission to halve violence against women and girls (VAWG). Labour's comprehensive VAWG strategy is backed by investment in safe accommodation and support services for victims, a stronger focus on identifying and managing perpetrators, and new measures to improve prevention and early intervention, alongside better coordination across policing, the courts and wider public services.

As part of this consultation, the Commission will invite a range of stakeholders to share their views including hearing directly from migrants and migrant workers.

Securing our borders is a core foundation of our *Plan for Change*, and Labour is committing to delivering a fair and properly managed immigration system. This matters not despite our values, but because of them. Insecure borders and a system that is slow and easily exploited by criminal gangs is not humane, fair, or sustainable. It leaves vulnerable people in limbo, undermines public trust, and weakens support for the safe and legal migration Britain needs.

On our first day in government, we scrapped the Conservatives' failed Rwanda scheme and are now focusing on reducing arrivals, reducing the incentives to come here and increasing the number of people returned. The only credible way to stop dangerous Channel crossings is to reduce the incentive to undertake them. Refugee protection will now be reviewed every 30 months to deliver a fairer asylum system. We will also create a clear framework for safe and legal entry, and ensure settlement is linked to contribution.

Border security is about confronting the criminal networks that profit from human misery. Labour has established our Border Security Command to lead this effort, strengthening cooperation with international partners and law enforcement agencies to disrupt smuggling operations upstream. Through the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act, authorities now have stronger powers to target organised immigration crime, seizing equipment and prosecuting those facilitating exploitation. This approach recognises that effective enforcement is a prerequisite for a fair system.

A progressive immigration system is based on fairness and secure borders. It cannot tolerate endless delays. Slow decision-making traps people in uncertainty, increases costs, and erodes confidence. Labour has already reversed key provisions of the Tories' previous Illegal Migration Act, resuming the processing of asylum claims for those arriving irregularly, enabling faster decisions and quicker removals where claims are unsuccessful. By restoring lawful processing, Labour has increased productivity across the system and significantly reduced the backlog.

Labour's approach to settlement and legal migration is rooted in contribution and skills. We want people who come to the UK to be able to work, and to contribute to their communities in order to benefit from settled status. We want the system to recognise and reward that contribution. A new contribution-based migration framework is being designed to link visas, settlement and long-term rights more closely to work, skills, English-language ability, and community cohesion.

Since taking office, Labour has seen an 80% reduction in net migration from its peak under the last government. This shows that control can be restored through competence and serious policy, not divisive rhetoric and extreme policies.

This consultation is part of that work, examining how Labour can have an asylum system that provides refuge for those genuinely fleeing danger, reduces arrivals and increases the return of failed asylum seekers. This system must also improve safe and legal routes, restore border security, streamline legal and court processes, and ensure that migration policy supports our economy, and community cohesion. By fixing the immigration system, Labour can restore trust in progressive politics to deliver lasting change.

The Conservatives' approach at the Home Office allowed the small boat crisis to spiral out of control. Annual crossings rose from just 299 in 2018 to nearly 46,000 in 2022, the highest on record. They left behind an asylum system in chaos: a backlog of over 134,000 cases by 2023 and more than 56,000 people housed in over 400 asylum hotels across the country at enormous cost to the British taxpayer.

In government, Labour is fixing the mess we inherited. We are getting on with the job of processing and reviewing people's claims properly. With Labour, the Conservative asylum backlog is already down 47%. Nearly 60,000 people have been removed, and illegal working arrests are at a record high.

By contrast, the Conservatives and Reform UK are in a race to the bottom over who can treat genuine asylum seekers and migrants most harshly.

Reform UK have said they would scrap indefinite leave to remain altogether, stripping security even from people who have followed the rules, worked, paid taxes and built lives here, often raising families and putting down deep roots in their communities. The Conservatives have flirted with the same idea before, only to retreat when confronted with the damage it would do.

Reform UK's plans would deport genuine refugees back to their country to be tortured and killed. Their policy to abolish indefinite leave to remain would see those that have settled legally in Britain for decades to be rounded up and deported. These policies would rip up families, cause havoc on our streets and divide Britain's communities.

Neither the Conservatives nor Reform UK have committed to expanding lawful pathways or using contribution skills-based criteria to manage migration and settlement like Labour has. Instead, both support leaving the European Convention on Human Rights and repealing the Human Rights Act, risking international agreements, trade and security obligations, and undermining the Good Friday Agreement. By contrast, Labour is reforming the UK's interpretation of the ECHR to close loopholes and end exploitation, while upholding our international commitments and protecting human rights.

Labour's approach is rooted in control, fairness and contribution, and it is already delivering real change. By securing our borders, reducing incentives, speeding up decisions, increasing removals and reforming legal routes, Labour can rebuild public confidence. By restoring order without abandoning human decency, we can stop the spread of Reform UK's poisonous politics that exploit grievance and sow division.

BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

Supporting our young people to get on in life

1. What are the reasons for the increase in the number of young people not in education, employment or training since 2021, and how can Labour best support young people to earn or learn?
2. What reforms are needed to break down barriers to opportunity for disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, including young disabled people?
3. What role can youth services play in supporting our young people and equipping them with guidance and support to step into the world of work?
4. How can Labour make progress towards its new target of two-thirds of young people participating in higher-level learning – academic, technical or apprenticeships – by age 25?
5. How can schools and colleges be best equipped to support young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), so that all our children can achieve and thrive?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

Every child and young person deserves a fair chance to succeed. Britain should be a country where anyone from any background can thrive if they work hard. But the reality today is that someone's background has all too significant an impact on their future success. One of the defining goals of the Labour Government is to break that link.

That's why, in 2025, the Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Policy Commission focused on how to give children the best start in life. The Commission found support from stakeholders and members for the Government's approach to prioritise school-readiness, particularly by broadening access to the high-quality early education and childcare that is so crucial to a child's development. The Commission also considered social security and family policy, in particular how upgrades to workers' rights, parental leave rights and, crucially, measures to tackle child poverty are supporting families more broadly. The third strand focused on breaking the unfair link between family background and future success, supporting people into good jobs and boosting life chances for young people across the country.

This year's consultation builds on the final strand of this work by asking how Labour can support young people to get on in life. At Annual Conference 2025, the Prime Minister outlined Labour's new target for two-thirds of young people to participate in higher-level learning – academic, technical or apprenticeship – by age 25. The National Policy Forum will examine how to make this ambition a reality, and how young people can best be supported to then go on to succeed in the world of work.

Nearly a million young people in the UK are currently not in education, employment or training. Most of the rise in the number of 'NEETs' took place under the Conservatives, but it remains too high. Labour will never be content to leave so many young people without the chance to earn or learn. Our action to tackle child poverty is an important tool to address this problem over the long term, as research shows that growing up in a low-income family diminishes employment prospects when children reach adulthood. And it is why the Government has commissioned a report from former Labour Health Secretary Alan Milburn examining the NEET issue, due to be published later in 2026. The Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Commission will this year explore what is driving high numbers of inactive young people, and what the most effective policy solutions are to restore opportunity for this group.

This will include examining how best to support disabled people and those with health conditions. We will also look at young people who are increasingly likely to be out of work because of a mental health condition.

The Commission will additionally look at how schools, colleges and wider youth services can support all our young people to achieve and thrive, following the ambitious Schools White Paper and SEND Consultation which the Secretary of State for Education announced in February. Children and young people with SEND will be a particular focus for this part of the consultation, as the Labour Government looks to improve the quality of support.

Whoever you are, wherever you come from, our country should be a place where hard work means you can get on life. But far too often young people are being held back from progressing to college, apprenticeships or university – and ultimately, into good employment.

The Labour Government has worked to spread opportunity far and wide, so every young person has the very best life chances. Starting from the earliest years, Labour has introduced 30 hours of free childcare for working parents, created and expanded school-based nurseries, and is revitalising family support to build on the legacy of Sure Start with a Best Start Family Hub in every local authority area from April 2026.

More and more Best Start free breakfast clubs are giving children the best start to their day, schools will be free of RAAC by the end of the Parliament, and Mental Health Support Teams are being rolled out in schools across the country. Over the school holidays, the future of Best Start Holiday Activities and Food clubs have been secured so they can continue to support families. Crucially, Labour's Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, is working to turn the SEND system around so that every child and young person can succeed and thrive in education. The Department for Education has put tackling the inherited crisis of the SEND system at its heart, investing £1 billion to support children with the most severe learning needs, along with £740 million to create more specialist places in mainstream schools. Labour has unveiled an ambitious plan for training staff across every stage of education on SEND and inclusion, so that teachers and support staff feel equipped and confident to support all students with SEND.

The Government is taking action on children's relationship with mobile phones and social media. As well as launching a national conversation, Labour is taking immediate action by offering parents of under-fives guidance on screen time, and will update guidance to make it clear that schools should be phone free by default.

Labour is also investing in post-16 skills. Last year, the Government committed to spending an extra £1.2 billion a year on skills by 2028/29. This funding will help fuel the drive to meet the new target of two-thirds of young people participating in higher level learning. It builds on the creation of Skills England, a new body which is working with employers to identify skills gaps, and is helping develop occupational standards, apprenticeship pathways and technical qualifications, so that both young people and adults are supported to get on in a changing economy.

As well as commissioning the Milburn report to investigate the NEET crisis, Labour has already taken bold initial steps. The new Jobs Guarantee will provide six months of paid work for every 18-21-year-old who has been on Universal Credit and searching for work for 18 months. This is a part of the wider Youth Guarantee for 16-24-year-olds, which comes with £820 million of additional funding to provide extra work coach support, 350,000 more training

and work placements, and Youth Hubs – centres where young people can access CV advice, skills training, mental health support, housing advice, and careers guidance – in every corner of Britain. Youth Hubs are just one strand of a broader, cross-government National Youth Strategy, co-produced with young people, which will rebuild youth services over the next decade. £500 million of new funding will revitalise youth centres, launch a network of 50 Young Futures Hubs, and recruit and train youth workers, ensuring every young person has something to do, somewhere to go, and someone who cares.

The Labour Government is acting to provide opportunity for disabled people and people with long-term health conditions, including for young people who face the risk of a lifetime excluded from the labour market. For example, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Pat McFadden has expanded Connect to Work, a supported employment programme which is set to help around 100,000 disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to work through integrating employment, health and skills support across local areas. The 'Keep Britain Working' review, commissioned by the Government and undertaken by Sir Charlie Mayfield, highlighted that disabled people and people with health conditions need robust support – including access to meaningful reasonable adjustments – to stay in and return to work. The Government is also looking at how disability benefits can best help disabled people and those with long-term conditions. The Timms Review is doing this by co-producing recommendations for reform with disabled people, the organisations that represent them, carers, clinicians, and other experts.

Poverty too often holds back children and young people: taking away the chances they deserve, narrowing their horizons, constraining their futures. That is why Labour has taken bold action to tackle child poverty. By lifting the two-child limit and expanding free school meals to all children in families receiving Universal Credit, the Government is set to reduce the number of children in poverty by 550,000 by the next election – the largest ever fall in child poverty in a single parliament, thanks to measures opposed by both the Conservatives and Reform UK.

Ultimately, Labour is working to invest in the next generation so that every young person has the chance to see their talents take them where they want to go.

Over a decade of Conservative rule left behind a trail of devastation, from early years to employment. A childcare pledge without a plan, an absence epidemic in our schools, buildings crumbling, and teachers leaving in droves – and, for young people who should have been taking their first steps in the world of work, a steep rise in inactivity.

The Tories left our labour market in decline. Economic inactivity – those neither in work nor looking for work – crept up in their final years in power, and the number of people inactive due to long-term sickness reached a record high.

The NEET rate was rising when Labour came into office. Where the Tories wrote people off without support, Labour is taking action. This Government is boosting investment in employment support and reforming social security, for example with a new 'right to try' guarantee so that people can try work without fear of losing health-related benefits if a job doesn't work out. In contrast, the Conservatives offer only vague promises to slash the state, threatening a return to the austerity from which many of Britain's challenges stem.

Shockingly – and in their own words – the Tories left behind a “lose, lose, lose” SEND system in crisis. Meanwhile, Reform UK has admitted that SEND is an area for cuts, claiming that provision is being “hijacked by parents who are abusing the system”. With Labour, the Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding confidence in the system. After years of frustration, rebuilding trust will take time – but Labour is committed to deliver our vision of a truly inclusive education system.

Labour inherited child poverty levels at a record high. Under the Tories, 900,000 children were plunged into poverty. Now, almost three in four children growing up in poverty today are in a working family. That's why Labour is delivering on our long-standing moral mission to tackle child poverty. The last Labour Government achieved historic reductions in child poverty, and this Labour Government will do the same by scrapping the two-child limit, boosting childcare support, and expanding free school meals – while both Reform and the Tories have pledged to reinstate the two-child limit, pushing 450,000 children into poverty.

Labour is demonstrating what real change looks like – rebuilding our schools, providing better services for children and families, lifting hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty, and supporting people into work. Our plans to deliver 1.5 million new homes, boost security at work through our Employment Rights Act, and create 400,000 new clean energy jobs will provide a wealth of opportunities for our young people. This Commission will support the Government's ambition to help young people to get on in life, as part of the programme for national renewal.

BUILD AN NHS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Bringing care closer to you

1. How can we continue to strengthen community and primary care, such as general practice, so that care can be delivered closer to and in the home?
2. How can neighbourhood health services deliver more personalised and preventive care in active partnership with patients?
3. How can we most effectively utilise digital and AI-enabled tools, like the NHS App, to deliver more productive and higher-quality care in our communities?
4. What might integrated neighbourhood teams look like, what care might they deliver, and where?
5. How can we best support healthcare workers, and other professionals like social care workers, to operate in these neighbourhood settings?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

One of the greatest challenges for our generation is how to reform our public services so they deliver for everyone. Nowhere is this renewal more important than in our NHS. Over a decade of decline saw waiting lists soaring, and a health service lurching from crisis to crisis. With Labour, we have a plan to fix our NHS – a plan that is both ambitious and realistic, and that is already working.

The 10 Year Health Plan is at the heart of this revival. The three shifts in the plan will create a new model of care that will transform the way our NHS runs, and bring it into the twenty-first century. That's why the Build an NHS Fit for the Future Policy Commission centred its discussion around this plan during last year's consultation looking at how these three shifts can be used to tackle hospital backlogs.

The Commission found broad support for this approach to ease pressure on NHS services and modernise it for the future. The shift from analogue to digital will help make care across the health and social care system faster and more efficient, bringing the NHS into the digital age. Moving from sickness to prevention will help people stay healthier for longer, not just protecting the NHS but also building a healthy society. And shifting the focus of healthcare from hospital to community will forge the way for a thriving neighbourhood health service, where care can be delivered on your doorstep.

It's this final shift that the Build an NHS Fit for the Future Policy Commission will look at in more detail this year – in particular, how to bring care closer to you. Neighbourhood health services will deliver care faster, relieve pressure on overstretched hospitals, free up capacity to focus on prevention, and ultimately build a modern service that is organised around patients' needs, rather than the other way around.

While there are encouraging signs of improvement in our NHS, there is much more to do. By making the 10 Year Health Plan a reality, Labour will not just get the NHS back on its feet, but make it fit for the future.

The NHS is on the road to recovery. After reaching a record high under the Tories, waiting lists are falling with Labour, down by more than 300,000 since we came into office. We set a target of two million extra appointments in our first year – and this Labour Government delivered over five million, smashing that target. Ambulances are arriving more quickly, and waits in A&E are shorter. This is change that people can actually feel – faster care, less anxiety for families, and people back on their feet and back into work.

There are encouraging signs in our social care system, too. With GMB and Unison's support, the first ever Fair Pay Agreements for adult social care workers are set to be delivered, securing better pay, terms and conditions. Backed by £500 million in funding, this is a critical step in Labour's plan to undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service. Labour is also supporting people to live at home independently, for longer, through an additional £50 million for the Disabled Facilities Grant for this year.

We have also turned a corner in general practice, which we will be looking at in more detail in this year's consultation. Not only has this Labour Government hired an extra 3,000 new GPs, but patient satisfaction with GPs has shot up from 60% to 75%. The Government has made it easier to access practices, with almost all GP surgeries in England now offering online access during working hours, freeing up phone lines for those who need them most.

Labour is standing by NHS staff through these reforms, halving the number of targets GPs are held to so they spend less time box ticking, and more time seeing patients. And we've invested in bricks and mortar upgrades to over 1,000 surgeries to modernise practices, creating over 8.3 million more appointments each year.

We are also working to get NHS dentistry back on its feet and fit for the future. The Government is broadening the scope of 'urgent' appointments to increase access to NHS dentistry. Alongside a pioneering supervised toothbrushing scheme for 3 to 5 year olds, and reforms to the dental contract to boost dentist numbers, Labour will ensure that children and those in need are benefitting most.

The Government has taken significant steps to improve NHS mental health services, too. Labour has passed the Mental Health Act to ensure people with the most severe mental health conditions get better, more personalised care, all while ensuring patient and public safety. We have hired over 7,000 extra mental health workers since taking office, making good progress towards our target of 8,500. This Government has also harnessed technology, giving patients better access to 24/7 support through the NHS App, including self-referral for talking therapies.

But for all of this progress, we know there is much more to do to fix the front door to the NHS. Through the 10 Year Health Plan, Labour will create new Neighbourhood Health Centres in every community, so you can see a GP, nurse, physio, care worker, dietician, or therapist, all under one roof. Crucially,

these centres will also help tackle this nation's shameful health inequalities, with the first set to be delivered in areas with the lowest life expectancy and the longest waits. This will help achieve the Government's goal to halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest regions. Cross-societal work on prevention will raise the healthiest generation of children ever, end the obesity epidemic, and ultimately, create a healthier country.

This year, the Build an NHS Fit for the Future Policy Commission will focus on how to deliver care closer to home through these neighbourhood health services, ending the 8am scramble and offering personalised care for patients where and when they need it.

The Conservatives spent their time in office wrecking the golden inheritance left by the last Labour government, including a disastrous top-down NHS reorganisation that wasted billions. They left behind a trail of destruction, including a record 7.6 million people stuck on NHS waiting lists – unable to work, care for loved ones, or simply enjoy everyday life because treatment felt so far out of reach.

In the year since Labour's Elective Reform Plan was published, NHS staff have worked tirelessly to turn things around and get waiting lists down, despite record demand for NHS services in 2025. The ambition was high, but the NHS has risen to the challenge – with more than five million additional tests, procedures and operations delivered in Labour's first year in Government alone. Now, waiting lists are falling for the first time in 15 years.

That is the result of the combination of investment and modernisation that Labour has delivered so far. Yet the Tories, Reform and the Liberal Democrats all failed to back a record extra £26 billion investment in health and care spending at the 2024 Budget. Waiting lists won't fall with rhetoric alone – only Labour has taken the credible steps necessary to tackle the hospital backlog.

Unless we continue on this path to change the NHS, the argument that the NHS is unsustainable will grow more compelling. This would only serve to feed Nigel Farage's argument that the NHS shouldn't be publicly funded, and should instead be replaced with an insurance-based system. Working people could be forced to pay thousands of pounds when they get sick under Reform's plans. While Reform seeks to abandon our NHS, Labour is choosing to renew it – making sure that the NHS is financially sustainable for the long term, fixing the fundamentals, and making it fit for the future.

When you need the NHS, only Labour will make sure that it will be there to care for you on your doorstep, and that it will not keep you waiting.

BRITAIN RECONNECTED

Global partnerships for a new era

1. How has our international engagement already strengthened our national security in the changing global security situation?
2. How can we build on our improved relationship with the EU, while upholding the commitments set out in our manifesto?
3. How is Labour's new approach to the Global South, moving the UK from donor to a genuine partner, helping develop more resilient economies?
4. How do our plans to boost defence spending benefit our standing among global partners?
5. How can the UK use digital innovation to help boost our engagement with international partners?
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? What are the implications of these proposals on reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage?
7. What consideration would need to be given to policy proposals in this area when collaborating with devolved administrations and local government in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?

This consultation document was drafted before the recent escalation in the Middle East, but this conflict is important context within which this consultation is taking place.

Since the last Britain Reconnected consultation, the global security situation has continued to evolve at pace.

In 2025, Russia intensified its campaign in Ukraine, with Europe taking on an increased military and financial role. In Gaza, the US-brokered ceasefire secured the release of the remaining hostages and a peace plan but the humanitarian situation remains dire.

In the wider Middle East, tensions spilled out into open conflict between Israel and Iran, while Syria navigated the aftermath of the Assad regime and an end to 13 years of civil war. In Sudan, the ongoing war is having a devastating impact on civilians, causing widespread famine and mass displacement.

International trade faced growing threats from protectionism, causing huge uncertainty and volatility across global markets and supply chains, while international institutions came under increasing pressure.

Globally, the evolution and widespread adoption of AI is impacting our broader security environment, giving malicious actors new and increasingly sophisticated means of threatening our interests and heightening calls for international cooperation.

These global events are not detached from us. They are having a real impact on the security and prosperity of all of us across Britain.

In the first year of this NPF cycle, the Britain Reconnected Policy Commission's work closely reflected these priorities. With a remit covering foreign affairs and defence, the Commission led a timely consultation on fixing the foundation of national security.

Through a range of roundtables and evidence sessions, the Commission heard how threats to our national security had diversified significantly since Labour was last in government. New challenges included threats to our energy supply and increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. Members heard how the whole-of-society approach, as outlined in the Strategic Defence Review, was essential to building our national resilience.

This year, the Commission is building on these findings by looking in depth at the global partnerships that will support Labour's plans for national renewal.

Drawing on the broad remit of the Commission, this year we will also consider our work to modernise and streamline public access to government services, to consider how innovation can support our ambitions to break down barriers for British people and support deeper cooperation.

With the leadership of our Prime Minister, the UK has found a new voice on the world stage, and our allies and partners are warmly welcoming us back. Across government, Labour ministers are working to make Britain secure at home and strong abroad.

Our internationalist approach underpins our commitment to deliver economic growth, improved public services and a decade of national renewal, and we are already seeing the results.

In 2025, the Labour Government secured three new major trade deals with India, the United States and the European Union, driving economic growth and boosting jobs right across the country.

We have fundamentally reset our relationship with Europe. In the last year, this has continued to grow through deeper cooperation on defence and national security, on tackling immigration and on removing trade barriers for UK business. At the end of 2025, the Labour Government announced that the UK would rejoin Erasmus, giving young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to live and work abroad.

Our relationship with the United States has remained strong in response to global events. The Prime Minister has stood firm on our principles reiterating the importance of the special relationship and the huge benefit it brings to UK business, jobs and growth.

On China, we have set a clear and consistent direction after years of upheaval. As the Prime Minister demonstrated during his recent visit to Beijing, we have raised concerns over areas of disagreement while also maximising the opportunities that our relationship with the world's second largest economy presents. Labour is clear that pragmatic cooperation is in our national interest, and is vital for British business, jobs and growth.

In response to the appalling situation in Gaza, we have taken concrete steps to alleviate the suffering and tackle the ongoing humanitarian crisis, including the restoration of funding to UNRWA. We have taken tough measures against the Israeli government, including suspending negotiations on a new trade deal, banning export licenses for arms that could be used in Gaza, and sanctioning far-right members of the Israeli cabinet.

In step with our closest allies, the Labour government has taken the historic step of recognising the state of Palestine, fulfilling one of our key manifesto pledges. This is an essential means of safeguarding the two-state solution, the only path to justice for Palestinians and enduring security for Israelis.

We have subsequently welcomed the progress made towards a ceasefire and the UN Security Council's resolution to endorse the Peace Plan for Gaza, key steps in securing a lasting peace for both Palestinians and Israelis. We are working closely with partners in the region to drive progress, and we have pushed consistently for the unrestricted flow of aid into Gaza.

Labour has been clear that the defence and security of the British people is the first duty of any government. In 2025, we announced the biggest increase in defence spending since the end of the Cold War and stepped up Britain's support for Ukraine. As well as signing an historic 100-year partnership with Kyiv, we established the Coalition of the Willing to support Ukraine's security and led the world in new sanctions to tackle the Kremlin's war machine and target Putin's shadow fleet.

Our unshakeable commitment to NATO remains at the heart of our approach. We are taking a leading role in the alliance through increasingly uncertain times, including securing a commitment for members to spend 5% of GDP on defence and national security, a major uplift that will help secure the foundations of the alliance in years to come.

This uplift is bringing huge benefit to jobs and security in Britain. The new Defence Industrial Strategy set out how the defence dividend will boost economic growth across the country, while the boost in support we have given our Armed Forces and their families is helping to keep us safe from increasingly diverse threats to our national security.

Meanwhile, our work around digital and technological transformation is helping improve and simplify the British public's interactions with government services. As our closest allies pull ahead with their own initiatives, including the European Digital Identity being developed in the EU, we can work together and learn from our international partners. The opportunities for the British public are potentially huge, as we consider best practice and how these systems could work together in the future.

Since the election, the difference that Labour can make in government has been evident across the globe.

With Keir Starmer's leadership, the UK has made significant progress in rebuilding its global reputation. Our voice is once again heard and respected on the world stage, and British interests are better served as a result.

The difference with the previous 14 years is stark. The Conservatives' reckless approach to our long-standing global partnerships, most notably with our close partners in the European Union, left us increasingly isolated and alone, with our voice unheard. Our reputation as a reliable partner was tarnished and our influence weakened.

By hollowing out and underfunding our Armed Forces, the Conservatives left us vulnerable and exposed as new global threats began to emerge. Defence spending fell below 2% of GDP by 2018, and they left office with no credible plan to step up. Our historic role as a leading member of NATO was under threat.

Meanwhile, Reform threaten to reverse the huge progress we have made on the world stage. Their hostile approach to the EU threatens to undermine the huge benefits we have made through our reset, including the removal of trade barriers for British exporters and the progress on Erasmus.

On national security, they pose an even more significant threat. The alarming conviction of a former Reform politician for taking bribes to spread pro-Kremlin propaganda, and Nigel Farage's self-proclaimed admiration for Putin, prompts major concerns around the extent of foreign influence. Reform's refusal to conduct an independent investigation across the party into the matter only leads to more questions.

Just as the world becomes more dangerous, we have seen the Green Party calling for American allies to be expelled from UK military bases and the leader suggesting the UK should pull out of NATO completely, positions that play directly into our enemies' hands.

It is clear the opposition parties cannot be trusted to stand up for British interests or protect our interests abroad. It is Labour in government that is delivering for the British people.

Labour recognises that our global standing is at the heart of our Plan for Change, providing a catalyst for economic growth and for our mission-led government. In this way, our global partnerships are key to our plans to get Britain back on track.

The Britain Reconnected Policy Commission invites submissions on the questions outlined in this document, and looks forward to working with a range of stakeholders on this year's consultation.

