

SAFER STREETS

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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:

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.

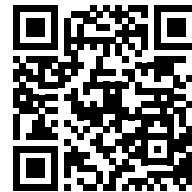
Finally, we recommend looking at our FAQs here

<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.

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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.

