

Labour's National Policy Forum

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

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This report was drafted following the close of the 2026 NPF consultation on 11 June, and the text reflects ministerial positions held at the time, some of which have subsequently changed. We would like to thank Keir Starmer for his work as Leader of our Party and Prime Minister, and we look forward to working with Andy Burnham as we move into the third year of this NPF cycle.

Labour's 2026 National Policy Forum Annual Report is the result of deep engagement from across our Labour movement. I am proud to lead this work as Chair of the National Policy Forum and I am grateful to all of those who contributed. This report sets out the work that this Labour Government has done in changing our country for the better.



Over the last two years, this Government has delivered record investment in key public services. The economy is now growing after 14 years of stagnation under the Conservatives, NHS waiting lists are falling and we have taken big steps in tackling child poverty.

The policy discussion set out in this report is down to the dedication of our National Policy Forum representatives, members, trade unions, affiliates, elected representatives, CLPs and many more. Each has played a crucial role in shaping our ideas through consultation, evidence, and real-world experience.

The summary of activity included shows the level of engagement across our movement to support this Labour Government. This report also looks ahead to future challenges we must tackle.

This report is the result of the energy, commitment, and enthusiasm of all our members, affiliates, and stakeholders. It will now form a vital part of the Labour Party's policy programme as we move into the next stage of the policy development cycle.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Annual Report, from individuals, businesses, community groups, charities, and voices from across society who took the time to contribute to this year's consultation. Thank you also to all our NPF representatives who worked with such dedication over their two year term.

I would also like to thank Keir Starmer for his leadership of our Party and our country over the past two years. I am now very pleased to welcome Andy Burnham as our new Labour Prime Minister and look forward to continuing the work of the National Policy Forum alongside him.

Ellie Reeves
NPF Chair

This is the second year of the new NPF cycle following our 2024 general election victory. On 5 March 2026, we launched our annual NPF consultation, inviting members, affiliates, stakeholders, experts, and the wider public to have their say on how Labour can deliver national renewal. The consultation ran for 14 weeks and closed on 11 June.

This year's consultation focused on how Labour can continue to deliver national renewal in Government and look ahead to future challenges on the road to the next general election. The six Commissions invited submissions on bringing back pride in our communities, restoring our natural world, supporting young people to get on in life, bringing care closer to home, immigration and community cohesion, and restoring Britain as a respected partner in the world.

Each Commission held stakeholder roundtables, expert evidence sessions and meetings throughout the consultation period. In total, the six Commissions held over 40 meetings, roundtables and evidence sessions, hearing directly from more than 50 organisations, including think tanks, charities, businesses and trade unions, as well as from people with lived experience of the issues being discussed.

We received almost 1,600 submissions to this year's consultation from members, CLPs, branches, affiliates, businesses, civil society organisations, charities, think tanks and members of the public. These submissions covered a wide range of issues, from workers' rights and backing local communities to clean energy, opportunity for young people, the future of our NHS and Britain's place in the world.

Almost 300 members also joined our seven online members' events, with one event held for each Commission alongside a dedicated women's event. Members were able to hear directly from Labour Ministers including Mike Tapp MP, Lucy Rigby MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Michael Shanks MP, Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, Baroness Smith of Malvern and Sharon Hodgson MP, before taking part in discussions on the consultation questions.

CLPs and branches also held events up and down the country, with strong engagement from members and NPF representatives. Local parties discussed the consultation themes, considered the questions set by each Commission and submitted their ideas to the NPF for consideration.

Thank you to everyone who made submissions, hosted local events, joined national events, attended roundtables, or contributed to the work of the Commissions. This year's consultation once again showed the strength of the Labour Party's democratic policymaking process and the breadth of experience, knowledge and expertise across our movement. The evidence gathered through this process has shaped the NPF Annual Report 2026, which will go before Annual Conference as the second policy document of the current cycle.

Labour Policy Development Team

KICKSTART ECONOMIC GROWTH

PLP

Rachel Reeves *

Steve Yemm

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Rory Palmer – East Midlands Region

Adam Fox – Eastern Region

Jacob Cousens – Northern Region

Ben Procter – Scottish Labour Party

Parmjit Dhanda – South East Region

Niamh Iliff – West Midlands Region

Karen Whitefield – Scottish Policy Forum

Affiliates

Joanne Cairns – Usdaw

Joanne Thomas – Usdaw

Hannah Reed – Unite

Ash Silverstone – UNISON

Dave Ward – CWU

Dean Gilligan – GMB

Gary Smith – GMB

Helen Avis – Community

Val Hampshire – Fire Brigades Union

Xenia Horne – Musicians' Union

Marc Harris – Socialist Societies

Sagal Abdi Wali – National Women's Committee

Joe Fortune – Co-operative Party

Elected representatives and peers

Nathan Yeowell

Glenys Thornton

NEC

Peter Mason

Claire Holland

Gurinder Singh Josan

Anu Prashar

Keiran O'Neill

Karen Rose *

Aimy Saunders

Mary Williams

Cerys Way

**Co-convenor*

Labour has prioritised restoring stability to Britain's economy in our first two years in government after 14 years of the Conservatives. We have ended austerity and invested in our public services, at the same time as sticking to strict spending rules. Our economic plan is working: the UK was the fastest growing G7 economy in the first quarter of 2026, inflation has been kept down, and interest rates have been cut six times. This is all in the face of significant international pressures.

This year, the Kickstart Economic Growth Policy Commission has consulted on the specific question of how our economic approach will help restore pride in local communities. The previous Government presided over sluggish growth for 14 years and at the same time failed to match the ambition of our towns, villages and cities. In contrast, Labour recognises that economic growth and rising living standards must benefit all corners of the country – and sustained growth is only possible if all corners of the country are supported to maximise their potential.

The landmark Pride in Place programme is rolling out grants of £20 million over 10 years to over 250 neighbourhoods – with local communities having control over how this money is spent. Devolution of a range of policy areas to strategic authorities across England will bring power closer to people, giving Mayors the levers to boost jobs and connect workers with them.

And, recognising that the workers and businesses that drive growth forward need employment legislation that is fit for the 21st century, the Commission has also examined the ongoing implementation of the Employment Rights Act. We have engaged with trade unions, employer representatives, think tanks and charities to determine how best the Act can support higher living standards, and have asked what the next steps could be to deliver a stronger and fairer economy for the 2020s and 2030s.

Local investment and devolution

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Steve Reed MP updated the Commission on the Labour Government's approach to restoring pride in local areas.

His opening remarks were followed by an evidence session, where we heard from the Local Government Association, Local Trust and the Local Government Information Unit on how investment in communities – especially through local and strategic authorities – can power economic growth and higher living standards.

Stakeholders raised points about the previous Government's damaging legacy of austerity, which eroded the capacity for local authorities to provide growth-enhancing services, like local business support. The discussion emphasised the importance of multi-year funding settlements to ensure flexibility and certainty for local authorities.

The Commission also held a stakeholder roundtable on the topic of local investment and devolution, chaired by Tom Hayes MP. Participants agreed that devolution and local-level policymaking must reflect different types of places – including cities, towns, rural areas, and coastal communities. Some participants argued that devolution should include meaningful powers over levers that matter for growth, including transport and skills, with options to raise and retain funding locally. Discussion also looked at the many policy areas that must be addressed, including housing, public services, culture, retail, leisure and community uses, in order to renew our high streets so that they are places we can be proud of once again.

Making work pay

Kate Dearden MP, Minister for Employment Rights and Consumer Protection, joined a Commission meeting to share an update on Labour's landmark Employment Rights Act and the work that will follow to implement the new legislation. Members welcomed the Act and noted the importance of strong workplace access rights for trade unions, effective enforcement of the Act's measures, the challenges posed by AI in workplaces, and young people's access to the labour market.

We held a stakeholder roundtable focusing on Labour's Make Work Pay agenda, chaired by Jeevun Sandher MP and featuring participants from organisations including the Trades Union Congress, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and Pregnant Then Screwed. Stakeholders agreed with the principles of the Employment Rights Act, and with measures such as new rights to guaranteed hours reflecting the hours employees regularly work over a reference period. Strong themes coming out of the discussion included the importance of adequate resourcing for enforcement mechanisms like the Fair Work Agency, working to ensure employers and workers have clear guidance on the new rights, and continuing to build on these measures as the labour market changes.

Boosting growth to cut the cost of living

The Commission also looked at wider issues around economic growth and living standards. This work was kicked off by Rachel Reeves MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who in February set out to the Commission what the Government had done to bear down on the cost of living, with action on energy bills. She also outlined the Treasury's efforts to unlock growth through her reform of the fiscal rules enabling £120 billion of additional capital investment; the creation of the National Wealth Fund; sustained investment in major infrastructure including Northern Powerhouse Rail; and reforming the Treasury's Green Book rules on investment so that all areas of the country get a fair hearing.

Steve Yemm MP chaired a stakeholder roundtable hosted jointly with the Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Commission on how to boost employment, improve skills, and meet the labour market challenges and opportunities arising from AI. Attendees discussed the importance of apprenticeships in helping employers to upskill workers as AI changes jobs, as well as support for SMEs to adopt new technologies and make effective use of AI.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Lucy Rigby gave an update at the Commission's members' event, particularly looking at Labour's Great British Summer Savings scheme so that families can enjoy more fun for less this summer. Members discussed the necessity of the Government's planning reforms to stimulate economic growth, as well as how the Pride in Place programme is empowering local communities.

Local investment and devolution

The Commission welcomes Labour's £5.8 billion Pride in Place programme, which is providing funding for the renewal of hundreds of neighbourhoods across the country. We have heard through contributions to the consultation that councils and communities must be supported to make the most of this investment. Labour recognises the need to protect the financial stability of councils and sees fairer local authority funding, awarded in multi-year settlements, as one critical part of this.

The Commission recognises the importance of integrated, accessible, well-run local and regional public transport systems for spurring economic growth and higher living standards. Better transport connectivity between cities and towns is also needed to bring people within reach of jobs and opportunities – especially in the North, which has seen historic underinvestment. Labour is delivering a £3 billion boost for bus funding, the landmark Northern Powerhouse Rail, and ambitious measures to give Mayors new powers over transport, planning and economic regeneration to join up networks in the way communities need.

Labour's English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act will help realise our ambition for cities and regions to lead the development of their local economies, with a framework for new strategic authorities with enhanced powers – and ensuring that all mayoral authorities develop a 10-year Local Growth Plan.

Contributions to the Commission's work highlighted the role fiscal devolution could play in empowering communities to drive growth. The Government has consulted on enabling English strategic authorities to introduce overnight visitor levies to raise revenue.

Labour has placed local high streets at the heart of its plans to kickstart economic growth. The Commission shares the view that restoring pride in our town centres is crucial after 14 years of neglect under the Conservatives. This has informed action to root organised crime out of high streets with a crackdown on dodgy barber shops, vape stores and sweet shops, and a new High Street Organised Crime Unit. This sits alongside a wider plan to invest in communities, good jobs and infrastructure with a view to ending regional inequality. The Government has also established a Community Right to Buy Fund, which will provide people in deprived areas the money they need to step in and take over community assets at risk of closure.

The Government's prioritisation of housing will also help bring back pride in our communities. The Conservatives' failure to build the homes that Britain needs has fuelled inequality between different parts of the country, and has meant many working people cannot afford to buy or rent in the communities they grew up in. The Commission welcomes Labour's radical reform of planning laws to drive forward housebuilding – in addition to the record

£39 billion for building new social and affordable homes, including council homes, and new investment to accelerate the remediation of existing social housing.

Making work pay

The Commission strongly supports the improvements in workers' rights in Labour's Employment Rights Act. The new legislation has already repealed regressive Conservative restrictions on the activity of trade unions, and has introduced new rights to improved statutory sick pay, day one paternity leave and unpaid parental leave, and strengthened protections for workers who 'blow the whistle' on sexual harassment.

Discussion during the consultation made clear the importance of rigorous enforcement of the Act's measures. A new enforcement body, the Fair Work Agency, has now been established and it is important it is provided with sufficient resourcing to enact its duties. It is also important that employment tribunals and the Central Arbitration Committee have sufficient resource to enforce new and existing rights.

The Commission reiterates the importance of the Government implementing the manifesto commitment to implement the New Deal for Working People in full. There are additional measures due to come into effect this year and next, such as the strengthening of trade union rights of access, new duties to prevent third-party harassment at work, protection against detriment for union activity, measures to kickstart a new Fair Pay Agreement for adult social care workers, enhanced rights to flexible working, and a new bereavement leave entitlement. It is important that work is ongoing to ensure the new rights deliver in practice.

The Commission also welcomes that Labour is acting to improve workers' rights beyond the scope of the Employment Rights Act. Reviews of both parental leave and pay, and rights for unpaid carers, are ongoing – there will also be a health and safety review, and Labour will consult on reforming employment status rules, to better differentiate between workers and the genuinely self-employed. The world of work is changing fast, and it is important that worker protections evolve and are strengthened to keep pace.

Boosting growth to cut the cost of living

The Commission believes the Labour Government is right to prioritise cutting the cost of living, especially in the context of pressures imposed by conflict in the Middle East and Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine.

Labour has taken £150 off the average energy bill by removing levies, and has frozen rail fares, prescription charges and fuel duty to lighten the load on consumers. In addition, the Government has given the Competition and

Markets Authority stronger, more targeted powers to tackle profiteering – so regulators can act quickly to rein in firms trying to rip customers off in a crisis with excessive and unfair price rises.

Labour is determined to power ahead with major infrastructure projects that will create good jobs, generate new opportunities for British firms and strengthen our economy in all parts of the UK. For example, the Government has made clear that proposals for projects like Heathrow Airport expansion need to demonstrate they will contribute to economic growth benefitting the whole country.

The Commission received hundreds of submissions to this year's consultation, from individuals, Labour Party members, CLPs, third sector organisations, unions and business groups.

Public investment and taxation

Several respondents highlighted the changes to the Government's fiscal rules to enable more ambitious investment in capital projects that develop the country's infrastructure and, ultimately, enable growth. They also recognised that strong fiscal rules are the basis for a resilient economy.

"We strongly support the approach of the Labour Government to rewrite the fiscal rules to support borrowing where it is financing long-term capital investment in our infrastructure and to significantly increase such spending." – South Shropshire CLP

"Labour should therefore prioritise investment to rebuild critical infrastructure and foundation industries. This includes energy systems, transport and communication networks, steel and other foundation materials, alongside health and care systems that sustain healthy and productive communities. These are the foundations on which economic growth and improved living standards depend." – Unite

"Stable policy environments and infrastructure investment will be key to unlocking private sector confidence." – Toby, North West

The submissions involved significant discussion of tax policy. Some highlighted a preference for a 'wealth tax' and suggested ways this could be implemented, including through changes to capital gains tax, while others expressed scepticism. Submissions supported the Labour Government's tax changes such as abolishing non-dom status, levying VAT on private schools, and introducing the high-value council tax surcharge.

"Income from any source [should be] taxed at the same, fair level e.g., income tax compared to capital gains tax."

– Joan, Yorkshire and the Humber

"Look at wealth taxes. These have generally failed elsewhere and I'm not sure they're a good idea." – James, South West

Housebuilding and social housing

Consultation responses welcomed Labour's commitment to building 1.5 million new homes this Parliament, and highlighted the critical role of social housing as part of this ambition.

"Aldermore welcomes Labour's commitment to deliver 1.5 million homes over this Parliament and its focus on housing as a central part of the UK's growth mission." – Aldermore Bank

"A lack of affordable housing affects young people significantly, often forcing them to move away from areas of the UK where housing prices are inflated and thus seriously affecting the economy of those areas."

– Mid Buckinghamshire CLP

"There needs to be a programme of council house building for working people and families, to give people fair rents and security and a settled life for children."

– Lorna, South West

Several responses also referenced changes to Right to Buy, with the Government's Social Housing Bill ensuring newly built social homes cannot be sold for 35 years. A number of submissions also raised the idea of rent controls. Labour's Renters' Rights Act restricts landlords from raising rents more than once per year, and guarantees that increases must be no higher than the open market rent. The Act provides greater security for more than 11 million private renters – with the abolition of 'no-fault' evictions; the end of fixed contracts to give renters flexibility; and no more bidding wars, with landlords only able to charge the advertised rent price.

High streets and local economies

Respondents expressed support for Labour's approach to funding local and regional authorities – and in particular for providing more powers and certainty over policy areas which impact local economic growth.

"Local authorities and combined authorities should be provided with long-term funding settlements that allow them to plan strategically for growth."

– GMB

"Businesses across the Chamber network consistently rank transport connectivity among the most significant barriers to growth, whether that is moving goods, reaching suppliers and customers or ensuring staff can get work reliably and affordably. Decisions on local transport are therefore best taken by leaders who understand these day-to-day realities. The BCC welcomes the move towards consolidated, multi-year transport settlements which allow local leaders to plan strategically rather than compete for short-term, fragmented pots of money."

– British Chambers of Commerce

More broadly, submissions welcomed the Government's plan to push power out to strategic authorities in England.

"Devolution is critical for spreading wealth and opportunity more evenly around the country. Greater earned autonomy and fiscal devolution for strategic authorities will allow Mayors more freedom to curate clusters and invest in the physical and social infrastructure to support them."

– Labour Business

Responses to the consultation recognised that Britain's high streets need to see change. Labour's High Streets Strategy will set out how the Government will bring about their renewal as thriving centres of economic and social activity.

"High streets should be led by local traders and communities. Need a strategic plan to attract to high streets, learn from those that are bucking the trend and doing this well." – Chorley CLP

"For Nottingham, there are opportunities to promote and develop economic growth, particularly on local high streets, through the Government's Pride in Place initiatives." – Nottingham South CLP

The cost of living and employment rights

Many of those responding to this year's consultation raised the pressures on the cost of living in their submissions, with energy bills in particular highlighted as affecting both households and businesses.

"With members predominantly working in lower-paying sectors, often on insecure hours, the cost of living is consistently raised by our members as their overriding concern." – Usdaw

"The price of electricity has adversely impacted everyone in Britain: from individual householders, renters, retailers, entertainment, transport, industry." – Roy, South West

As well as pursuing electricity market reforms that will create a fairer, cheaper and more secure system for all, Labour is introducing the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme to reduce business electricity costs by up to £40 per megawatt/hour from 2027, benefitting over 7,000 businesses.

Respondents expressed support for some of the Government's measures to keep prices down.

"Continue to support the fare cap to promote travel by buses and Metro in the North East." – City of Durham CLP

Some submissions suggested capping prices of various goods and services. Labour has pursued a targeted approach to reduce costs for consumers, for example by cutting tariffs on over 100 everyday food essentials.

A number of submissions point to the impact of AI on employment and living standards, and include discussion of policy ideas such as a universal basic income to meet the challenges of a changing world of work.

Respondents supported Labour's mission to improve employment rights for working people, both within the remit of the Employment Rights Act – for example, with action to ban exploitative zero-hours contracts and strengthen enforcement with the Fair Work Agency – and with additional measures to

build on it – such as with mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting.

“BAME Labour asks the Labour government to: Make ethnic pay gap reporting mandatory for large employers; Give greater protections for those in zero-hours, low-paid and precarious roles.” – BAME Labour

“Enforcement must be strengthened so that wage theft, unpaid overtime, and breaches of minimum wage rules are properly investigated and penalised.” – Newbury CLP

MAKE BRITAIN A CLEAN ENERGY SUPERPOWER

PLP

Ed Miliband *

Laurence Turner

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Rezina Chowdhury – Greater London Region

Hollie Wright – Greater London Region

Sam Corcoran – North West Region

Connor Dwyer – North West Region

Michelle McGinty – Scottish Labour Party

Duncan Enright – South East Region

Ashley Smith – South West Region

Chris Carter – Welsh Labour Party

Heather Doran – Scottish Policy Forum

Jenny Ann Rathbone – Welsh Policy Forum

Affiliates

Andy Green – Unite

Oliver Richardson – Unite

Simon Cox – Unite

Karen Atkinson – UNISON

Collette Gibson – ASLEF

Finbar Bowie – GMB

Michelle Gordon – GMB

Chris Kitchen – National Union of Mineworkers

Andi Fox – TSSA

Melanie Smallman – Socialist Societies

Lucy Naylor – Co-operative Party

Elected representatives and peers

Sharon Thompson

Peter Marland

Rosie Winterton

NEC

Cat Arnold

Melanie Onn *

Jane Jones

*Co-convenor

During last year's policy consultation, the Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Policy Commission discussed policies to support the Labour Government's commitment to fix the foundations and secure home-grown energy.

This year, we have built on that evidence base and examined the key environmental challenges facing Britain, consulting on how the Labour Government can deliver on its commitment to restore our natural environment.

We have looked closely at reforms to the water sector and improvements in access to nature and green spaces, as well as continuing to focus on policies to bring down energy bills, support the clean energy economy and deliver energy security.

The Commission welcomes the progress the Labour Government has already made to put Britain back on track and deliver these priorities, including overhauling Britain's water sector, investing in nature recovery and supporting the transition to clean energy.

While Reform would risk destroying the clean energy economy and rolling back on this progress, our Commission supports the Labour Government's steadfast commitment to delivering energy security and towards building a cleaner, greener Britain.

Annual Conference 2025

At Annual Conference 2025, the Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Policy Commission held a policy seminar where delegates questioned Ministers from both the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Delegates raised issues ranging from tariffs on energy bills, to planning applications, retrofitting, and the Government's clean power targets.

Consultation launch

In February, the Commission agreed this year's consultation and discussed the submissions received from members, including the need to reduce food waste and on the damage caused by microplastics.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband MP gave a policy update to Commissioners, setting out the action being taken by the Labour Government to invest in clean British power and protect families from volatile fossil fuel prices.

Ed spoke of the progress the Government has made in securing record-breaking amounts of offshore wind – enough to power the equivalent of twelve million homes – as well as investment in new nuclear and outlined the Government's ambitious £15 billion Warm Homes Plan.

Access to nature

In March, the Commission held an evidence session and expert roundtable on access to nature. Melanie Onn MP chaired the evidence session with Mary Creagh MP, Minister for Nature.

Mary reiterated the Government's commitment to improving public access to nature and highlighted recent progress the Government had made through the creation of nine new national river walks and completion of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

Commissioners also discussed new submissions, including on the right to roam and a worker-led transition that protects existing jobs, skills and communities.

Across our evidence session and roundtable, we heard from expert organisations, including Wildlife and Countryside Link, the RSPB, Paddle UK, the Ramblers, Walk Wheel Cycle and the Open Spaces Society.

Participants emphasised that access to nature is a core public good, closely linked to physical and mental health outcomes, and that improving access to nature requires a joined-up strategy that is embedded across government departments.

Britain's water sector

In May, the Commission held an evidence session and expert roundtable on reforming Britain's water sector.

Attendees – including The Wildlife Trusts, Surfers Against Sewage and River Action – discussed the impact of water pollution on public health and measures that could be included in the forthcoming Clean Water Bill to hold water companies to account.

Much of the discussion centred around the need for tougher, independent regulation, as set out in the Government's White Paper – as well as ownership and control models, and ways to restore public confidence in the sector and improve accountability.

Emma Hardy MP, Minister for Water and Flooding, set out the work that was ongoing to reform Britain's water sector, including the abolition of Ofwat and the creation of a new single regulator. The Commission also heard from the TUC about current challenges facing workers in the water sector.

Members' event on clean energy

Energy Minister Michael Shanks updated members about how the Government has stepped in to support low-income families since the start of the conflict in the Middle East.

In breakout rooms, members discussed how to lower household energy bills, ways to accelerate the use of solar panels, the role of North Sea oil and gas in a just transition, community energy projects and investment in nuclear.

Joint roundtable on clean energy jobs

Laurence Turner MP chaired a joint roundtable with the Kickstart Economic Growth and Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Policy Commissions. It focused on ensuring the right training and skills are in place to support young people into the clean energy jobs of the future, and that the jobs created are secure, well-paid, unionised jobs.

Participants – including Green Alliance, Energy UK and RenewableUK – welcomed the Government's Clean Energy Jobs Plan and its link to the wider industrial strategy and emphasised the need to provide regulatory certainty and to support local domestic supply chains.

It was also emphasised that there should be a focus on building the UK's manufacturing and industrial capability across the energy sector, as well as on domestic energy production. That includes building capacity for heat pumps, solar panels and related technologies, protecting and retraining existing skilled workers and ensuring the transition creates high-quality jobs in the UK.

Final Policy Commission meeting

In June, Commissioners discussed submissions that had been received in the final few weeks of the consultation, including on grid capacity and the use of heat pumps.

Martin McCluskey MP, Minister for Energy Consumers, gave a policy update. Martin emphasised that energy affordability remained the top priority of DESNZ, particularly in light of renewed global fossil fuel pressures.

Martin also spoke about the 2030 clean power target and the forthcoming Energy Independence Bill, which will help embed the Government's clean power work and introduce consumer protection measures.

Overview

The Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Policy Commission has received a large amount of evidence during the consultation period. The submissions reflect the growing importance of energy independence in a volatile world, particularly with the conflict in the Middle East, and greater public awareness of the impact of environmental policy failures from the last Conservative Government.

Across each policy area, the submissions have shown widespread support for the action taken by Labour and have called for the Government to go further and faster, transferring power to communities and devolved administrations where possible and spreading the economic and environmental benefits across every postcode of the UK.

Whether doubling down on clean energy, restoring nature, or holding water companies to account, clear themes emerged from the evidence around the importance of devolving power and decision-making, the need for joined-up strategies that are embedded across government departments, and the interconnectedness of economic, environmental and energy security.

Natural world

The Commission has heard how the Conservative Government left Britain as one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. We believe that access to our natural world, to green and blue spaces and walking and cycling paths is vital for people's physical and mental wellbeing, and we welcome Labour's plans to create three new national forests, nine new national River Walks and the launch of the King Charles III England Coast Path, which will be the longest maintained coastal walking route in the world.

We also welcome Labour's commitment to an Access to Nature Green Paper, the UK Government's increased investment in tree planting – which is now at its highest rate in over 20 years – and the publication of the first-ever Government Estate for Nature Plan, which will take a whole-estate approach to restoring nature across public land.

Along with the Government's ambitious Environmental Improvement Plan, these commitments will bring nature closer to families and communities, tackle inequalities in access to nature, including more inclusive facilities for disabled people, so that everyone, regardless of where they live, can enjoy the benefits of nature.

Our Commission has also heard how the last Conservative Government left flood defences in the worst condition on record, putting lives and livelihoods at risk. We support the steps the Government has taken to turn this around, investing record amounts in building flood resilience and protecting communities across the country.

We also welcome the Government's new Farming Roadmap, which sets out a

clear long-term plan for farming – giving farmers the stability and confidence they need to plan ahead, helping farms to stay resilient in the face of rising costs, and strengthen food security.

Britain's water sector

The Commission has heard how customers of water companies, including those of Thames Water, have been let down for far too long. While record amounts of sewage have been pumped into Britain's waterways, bills have soared and the bosses of polluting water companies have been paid millions in bonuses.

Britain's water sector epitomises the failure of the last Conservative Government: underinvestment, underperformance and an industry that was not working in the public interest and which had lost public confidence. Labour has taken decisive action to begin restoring Britain's water sector. Already, Labour's crackdown on water companies has delivered record funding to improve water quality and repair the harm done to waterways.

The Commission welcomes the Government's steps to overhaul the water industry and rebuild trust in the sector – including new targets for cutting water pollution and blocking unfair bonuses – and we support the Government's Clean Water Bill, which will abolish Ofwat and create a new single regulator. The legislation is an opportunity to build on the progress already made in cleaning up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas.

Clean energy

Just as reforming the water industry has taken on greater political salience, so too has the Government's drive to net zero. There is a clear political divide between Labour, who want to lower energy bills, secure energy independence, invest in clean energy, tackle the climate crisis and create good jobs, and Reform, who want to leave Britain exposed to fossil fuel price shocks, bring back fracking, and put good clean energy jobs at risk.

Our Commission has heard widespread support for the Government's clean energy mission – securing homegrown power and investing in the grid, taking money off energy bills, launching Great British Energy, unlocking £100 billion of private investment in renewables, and ushering in a new golden era of nuclear power. We also heard that oil and gas will be a part of our energy mix for decades to come with support for the Government's policy of maintaining existing fields, including in the North Sea, throughout their lifespan.

We welcome the Government-led increase in demand for heat pumps, electric vehicles and solar power, including the rollout of solar panels on schools and hospitals through GB Energy. The Commission discussed how the use of solar power can be accelerated further and the urgent need to help communities generate more energy independently, including Energy Boxes and plug-in solar panels.

We heard widespread support for the Government's Local Power Plan to give communities the chance to take control of their energy and a stake in the places they live, helping to build pride, wealth and power across the country.

The Commission believes the Government is right to double-down on clean energy, including by delivering the Warm Homes Plan, the largest ever investment in home upgrades that will take a million families out of fuel poverty, and the Clean Energy Jobs Plan, which will support young people into the next generation of good, clean energy jobs.

Taken together, these measures show that only Labour has the ambition to capitalise on this economic opportunity: greater energy security, a cleaner, healthier environment and the benefits of a clean energy transition that are shared across every postcode of the UK.

Access to nature

The Commission received a large number of submissions answering the key questions of our consultation on restoring Britain's natural environment, improving access to nature and green spaces, and securing a more sustainable future. Respondents highlighted the health and wider societal benefits from nature and emphasised that nature should be there for all to enjoy.

"Everyone should be able to enjoy high-quality green spaces close to where they live. Labour should expand parks, community woodlands and public access to nature, while ensuring new developments include meaningful green infrastructure." – Paul, Labour Party member

"SERA believes the health of our natural and social capital is the lynchpin of our prosperity as a nation. As one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, it is vital that all parts of the Labour Government put the restoration of nature at the heart of its purpose." – Labour's Environment Campaign – the Socialist Environment and Resources Association (SERA)

"Community green spaces also support social connection – a key building block of health. Designing and maintaining spaces that bring people together, particularly in areas of low social cohesion, should be an explicit goal of any access improvement programme." – Health Equals

A number of themes emerged from the submissions around tougher regulation, greater public investment and the benefits of a more devolved and tailored approach that connects nature with the jobs and transport that local communities need to thrive.

"Labour should adopt a long-term programme of environmental restoration that combines stronger regulation with sustained public investment. This should include increased funding for flood defences, coastal protection, water infrastructure, biodiversity recovery and environmental enforcement agencies." – GMB

"Link green space creation with skills, jobs and community wellbeing – Brighton and Hove's work shows that integrated local approaches connecting nature, retrofit, transport and participation can deliver multiple Plan for Change objectives simultaneously." – Kemptown and Peacehaven Constituency Labour Party

"A great way to improve access to nature and green spaces is through devolving power and resources to local communities, such as through the Greater Manchester Environment Trust, whose Green Spaces Fund provides grants to community groups across Greater Manchester who want to increase the amount of nature-rich spaces which are accessible to local people." – Urdaw

Britain's water sector

On restoring Britain's water sector, submissions welcomed the steps already taken by the Labour Government as an important foundation to build from. Many submissions noted the progress that has already been made towards cleaning up Britain's lakes, rivers and seas.

"The Government's recent adoption of key reforms is welcome, including a single, powerful regulator responsible for the entire water sector, a new statutory ombudsman to protect customers; the end of operator self-monitoring to support transparency; and devolved planning powers to nine regional water authorities. These are solid foundations towards cleaning up our waterways and rebuilding public trust."

– North Devon CLP

There were discussions around how best to build on these foundations, for example on the effectiveness of tougher regulation within the water industry. Different perspectives were offered around ownership and control models.

"Policy must therefore focus on improving regulation to deliver better performance for customers and the natural environment whilst continuing to strike an appropriate balance between service and cost to the customer." – John, Labour Party member

"Set clear targets and timescales for sustained and targeted improvement, and capital investment, in sewage, water supply and water treatment plants. Revise franchise agreements so they can be terminated in a structured way, similar to rail franchises."

– Salisbury CLP

A number of respondents referred to the Channel 4 documentary 'Dirty Business', which exposed the extent of sewage and pollution in Britain's seas and rivers, suggesting that it was evidence for the need for tighter controls on water companies.

"Make sure polluters are made to pay for the damage they've caused, instead of the public footing the bill, and suffering the consequences which have included poisoning and death as demonstrated in the recent Channel 4 documentary 'Dirty Business'."

– Burnley CLP, Towneley, Trinity & Coal Clough branch

"Larger fines for water bosses and more power to the regulator."

– Amber Valley CLP

"Water companies must be subject to far stricter controls regarding the discharge of sewage and other waste into rivers, lakes and coastal waters. The frequency and scale of sewage discharges have damaged ecosystems, harmed wildlife and restricted public use of waterways."

– Toby, Labour Party member

Clean energy

There was widespread support for the Government's clean energy mission across submissions. Respondents welcomed the progress already made and focused on how Labour can accelerate delivery of the mission, going further and faster to maximise the benefits of net zero and ensure tangible improvements to people's lives.

There was recognition that energy affordability is the number one issue facing families. Respondents also concentrated on the Government's expansion of community-owned energy through the Local Power Plan, highlighting how community energy can help to lower bills.

"Putney CLP support this initiative to scale-up community energy – which is already starting to develop locally in the Borough of Wandsworth. The Government should operate an awareness raising programme nationally so that people and communities are aware of the significant benefits of community energy to their energy bills, renewable energy generation and decarbonisation." – Putney CLP

"Community Energy Schemes have great potential to democratise clean, green home-grown energy for everyone. Greater incentives for co-operation between businesses and neighbours could support greater uptake." – North Northumberland Labour

"Achieving the net zero ambition to transform the whole of the economy will require support from across society. In a period of rising energy prices and political polarisation this is difficult – which is why demonstrating the benefits of the clean energy transition to all communities is essential. Community owned energy is the best opportunity to achieve this cross-societal support." – Co-operative Party

Respondents also considered how to maximise the economic benefits of the Government's clean energy mission across the regions and nations of the UK – through boosting job creation and ensuring young people can be supported with the right skills and training for the green jobs of the future. The equalities impact of lowering energy bills was also highlighted.

"If Britain is investing in industries to create green energy, by creating places to build solar panels and wind turbines, these factories should be put in as part of the regeneration of former mining towns, meaning the areas that were historically at the forefront of energy creation can continue to be, driving and jobs and opportunities in these left-behind areas." – Stafford CLP

"The development of emerging sectors like low-carbon hydrogen and carbon capture adds another layer of economic resilience. By decarbonising existing industries rather than shutting them down, these

technologies protect jobs and industrial capacity while opening up new markets.” – Unite

“The Government needs to work in a joined-up way, bringing together schools, colleges, universities and business to support young people into the green jobs that will be created.” – Leeds North East CLP

“Britain’s energy future should be based on a balanced mix of technologies including traditional sources of energy, renewable energy, nuclear power, energy storage, hydrogen and emerging low-carbon technologies. Energy security requires reducing dependence on volatile international energy markets while maintaining reliability and affordability.” – GMB

“Lower energy bills, warmer homes and improved public transport particularly benefit people on lower incomes, disabled people and older people who are often most affected by poor housing and high energy costs.” – Oxford and District Labour Party

SAFER STREETS

PLP

Shabana Mahmood *

Jess Asato

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Kelly Duddridge – East Midlands Region

Nathan Oswin – East Midlands Region

Sara Conway – Greater London Region

Heather Brannan-McVey – Scottish Labour Party

Stuart MacLennan – Scottish Labour Party

Ada Gravatt – South West Region

Salma Arif – Yorkshire and Humber Region

Lisa Banes – Yorkshire and Humber Region

Affiliates

Chris Morris – Usdaw

Siobhan Endean – Unite

Susan Mathews – Unite

Denise Thomas – UNISON

Tracey Fussey – CWU

Jo Pitchford – GMB

Thomas Carr-Pollock – GMB

Steve Wright – Fire Brigades Union

Chris Wongsosaputro – Socialist Societies

Miriam Mirwitch – LGBT+ Labour

Jamie McMahon – Co-operative Party

Elected representatives and peers

Bella Sankey

NEC

Jessica Barnard

Peter Wheeler

Ellie Reeves

Shabana Mahmood

Tom Williams *

Nicola Jukes

**Co-convenor*

The Safer Streets Policy Commission covers home affairs and justice. Last year's consultation looked at neighbourhood policing, and this year the focus was on a different Home Office topic – immigration and community cohesion – and the Commission has also discussed criminal courts reform and wider justice issues.

The Labour Government is committed to restoring order to the immigration and asylum system, and rebuilding public confidence in it, through an approach that is both firm and fair.

The Labour Government inherited significant challenges from the Conservatives, including record levels of migration, growing asylum backlogs, the increasing use of asylum hotels and criminal smuggling gangs exploiting vulnerable people for profit. These pressures placed significant strain on the system and undermined public confidence in its operation.

In this context, the Commission identified several key lines of enquiry to help support the Government's objective of restoring confidence in the immigration system. This included expanding safe and legal routes, reducing incentives, tackling organised immigration crime, strengthening international cooperation, reducing asylum backlogs, defining contribution, supporting migrants to settle safely and legally in communities and workplaces, strengthening community cohesion, and examining the role of settlement and citizenship.

Alongside this, the Commission considered the significant pressures facing the criminal justice system, including growing court backlogs, workforce shortages, legal aid sustainability and the increasing complexity of criminal cases. The Commission explored how proposed reforms could protect access to justice and reduce delays for victims.

The Commission began its programme in April with a two-part policy update from Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood MP, reflecting on her Restoring Order and Control and Earned Settlement speeches to Parliament and her plans to restore fairness to the asylum system. This was followed by an evidence session on border security, safe and legal routes, and public perceptions on immigration with representatives from SOAS University of London, the Migration Observatory and More in Common. They examined the drivers of global displacement and migration, the operation of criminal smuggling networks facilitating irregular migration across the Channel, and public attitudes towards immigration, asylum and settlement policy.

We then held a roundtable on asylum decision-making chaired by Sarah Coombes MP and taking evidence from the Migration Observatory, IPPR, Home Affairs Select Committee member, Chris Murray MP, and a parliamentary caseworker. Contributors discussed the Government's success in speeding up initial asylum decision-making, as well as how this needed to be matched by further work to improve the appeals and tribunals stage. Discussion also explored the experiences of those navigating the asylum system, including asylum accommodation, barriers to case resolution and the returns process for those with no right to remain in the UK.

In May, the Commission convened a two-part session on contribution. In the first half, we heard from Home Office Minister Mike Tapp MP, UNISON representatives and migrant care workers on proposed earned settlement reforms and the impact of immigration uncertainty. This session recognised the contribution that migrants make to British society and discussed the proposed reforms' potential impact on public services and the wider economy.

We were then joined by an academic from LSE and a representative from the Migration Observatory to discuss economic migration and labour market trends. Discussion focused on measuring contribution, including through employment, earnings and English language proficiency. Contributors also examined the wider economic effects of low-paid migrant labour and its long-term impact on productivity, wages and growth.

The Commission held a roundtable examining community cohesion in May. The event was attended by the Women's Faith Forum, Nisa Nashim, COMPAS, Belong, British Future, the Woolf Institute, and Home Affairs Select Committee member Jo White MP. Participants considered the vital role of local organisations, faith groups and community leaders. The session also explored how misinformation, online tensions and declining trust in institutions can deepen divisions.

In April, the Commission held an expert evidence session on criminal court reform and pressures facing the justice system. Sir Brian Leveson described a criminal courts system under significant strain, with a backlog of around 80,000 cases and some trials now being listed as far ahead as 2029 and 2030. The

review highlighted the consequences these delays have on victims, witnesses and defendants. It also concluded that the backlog is symptomatic of wider challenges affecting legal aid, sentencing, workforce capacity and the long-term sustainability of the courts system. He outlined the recommendations made in his Government-commissioned Independent Review of the Criminal Courts, including proposals to reform the use of jury trials and improve the efficiency of the courts system, with the aim of reducing delays and delivering swifter justice for victims.

Finally, in June the Safer Streets Members Event brought together party members from across the country to discuss key home affairs and justice issues. Following a policy update from Home Office Minister Mike Tapp MP, members moved into breakout sessions to share their views and experiences.

In addition to broad discussions around this year's consultation, members also reflected on wider safer street topics, including the importance of maintaining public trust in the institutions responsible for policing, justice and the rule of law. Discussions explored how pressures facing the criminal justice system, including sentencing frameworks and prison capacity concerns can undermine confidence in public institutions. Related to this, participants also discussed recent civil unrest and the right to protest, with growing social polarisation and rampant online misinformation driving division. Members looked to the need for better community cohesion. Emphasis was placed on tackling antisemitism and Islamophobia, recognising that strong public institutions and cohesive communities are mutually reinforcing and fundamental to a resilient democracy.

Throughout this year's consultation, the Commission considered the key challenges facing the UK's immigration and asylum system, from border security and asylum decision-making to contribution, settlement and community cohesion. The Commission notes the Immigration and Asylum Bill 2026, which provides the legislative framework for many of the reforms discussed throughout this year's programme. The evidence heard by the Commission recognises that securing our borders, fixing the asylum system, and restoring public trust requires a system that is both firm and fair. This sits alongside our commitment to employment rights and to ending the exploitation of vulnerable people in communities and the workplace.

Border security

The evidence from this year's consultation shows that the public have lost confidence in the immigration system and that there is broad concern across the political spectrum. The Commission agrees that restoring public trust depends on people from across the political divides believing that the immigration system is fair, properly managed and working effectively. Public dissatisfaction is driven primarily by irregular migration and dangerous Channel crossings, while broad support remains for controlled legal migration and providing protection to refugees through safe and managed routes.

The Commission welcomes the Government's progress in strengthening border security. This includes expanding cross-border cooperation to prevent 44,000 attempted Channel crossings and returning almost 70,000 people with no right to remain in the UK. The Commission also welcomes action against employers breaking immigration law to undercut wages, efforts to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery and strengthened international partnerships to tackle exploitative people smuggling networks, including through initiatives such as the UK-France Returns Agreement.

The Commission acknowledges that global conflict and instability is driving increased displacement which organised criminal gangs are exploiting by driving vulnerable people through dangerous migration routes. Contributors emphasised the importance of international cooperation to tackle organised criminal networks and the wider drivers of displacement, alongside effective border enforcement and domestic asylum arrangements, including accommodation, community support and timely decision-making.

The Commission believes that consent to offer refugees protection has to be underpinned by confidence that our borders are secure, action is being taken against smuggling networks, and the wider immigration system is working effectively. The Commission therefore welcomes the Government's commitment to expand safe and legal routes for refugees through new university, occupation and community sponsorship pathways. Participants also discussed a range of options for how future safe and legal routes could operate, including more flexible sector- or occupation-based approaches.

Participants agreed that providing controlled routes for those in genuine need of protection complements stronger border security. Providing credible alternatives to dangerous irregular journeys, well-managed safe and legal routes can undermine the business model of people smugglers and reduce dangerous small boat crossing.

Asylum decision-making and system efficiency

The Commission agrees that the Home Office has made significant progress in reducing the backlog of initial asylum decisions, with the number of people waiting for an initial decision falling by 55% in the last year. This has helped to reduce the prolonged uncertainty and anxiety experienced by people awaiting decisions on their future. The Commission notes the importance of the quality of decision-making alongside timeliness and also recognises the need to support victims of trafficking and modern slavery. However, contributors noted that the appeals and tribunal system is now emerging as the principal bottleneck within the asylum process, despite significant improvements in initial decision-making.

The Commission heard concerns about the impact prolonged waits can have on those living in asylum accommodation, and agrees that asylum accommodation must be safe, suitable and humane, with appropriate access to support for those who need it while claims are being processed.

The Commission rejects Reform UK's approach to asylum and migration, including their proposals, shared with the Conservatives, to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. Instead, contributors argued that the UK should work with international partners to make the existing framework operate more effectively and strengthen cooperation on returns. A rules-based system that is both effective and humane is essential to maintaining public confidence and upholding the UK's international obligations.

The Commission welcomes proposals to improve early triage, strengthen the quality and consistency of initial decision-making, and introduce greater use of pre-appeal reconsideration to reduce unnecessary appeals entering the tribunal system. Contributors argued that operational improvements to resolve cases more quickly, while maintaining fairness and access to justice, could significantly reduce the time people spend in the asylum system.

Contribution

A recurring theme throughout the consultation was that voters do not view all forms of migration in the same way, and that concerns about irregular migration do not necessarily translate into opposition to legal migration, with attitudes often more positive towards those who come to the UK to work, contribute to society and build their lives here.

Migration and labour market experts discussed employment and income as an objective way of defining contribution, alongside other markers such as English

language. The Commission also notes the enormous contribution migrant workers make, particularly in the care sector, where they provide vital support to vulnerable people and help sustain services that communities rely on every day. The Commission agrees that earned settlement should recognise those working in public services and other sectors that make a significant contribution to British society.

The Commission also heard how migrant workers can be vulnerable to exploitation and insecurity. UNISON representatives and migrant care workers highlighted how existing visa sponsorship arrangements can leave workers reluctant to challenge poor treatment, report exploitation or change employer because of concerns about their immigration status and future settlement prospects.

Community cohesion

The Commission agreed that successful community cohesion is essential to ensuring that migration works for people settling in the UK and the communities they join. More broadly, the Commission recognised that community cohesion is a vital objective in its own right and can be affected by a range of social, economic and local factors. Participants highlighted that tensions emerge where communities feel change is happening too quickly or without sufficient support, leaving some migrants isolated from British society. Where people feel excluded from decisions affecting their area, misinformation and online polarisation can take hold, undermining trust and making integration more difficult.

The Commission also recognised that racism and hate incidents continue to affect many communities, including Black Britons and migrant workers, undermining both individual safety and community cohesion. Recent attacks, including the arson attack targeting migrant care workers and their children in Belfast, demonstrate the continued need for robust action to tackle all forms of hate and support communities affected by prejudice and violence.

The Commission concluded that strong community cohesion is fundamental to a successful migration system. It welcomed the Government's National Social Cohesion Action Plan as an important step towards empowering communities with the resources and support they need to manage change effectively. The Commission welcomed the Action Plan's commitment to tackling antisemitism and anti-Muslim hostility, recognising this as an integral step to strengthening community cohesion. The Government's package of measures will improve community security, counter extremism, and strengthen institutional responses to religious hatred, including enhanced protection for Jewish communities and new measures to improve understanding and responses to anti-Muslim hostility.

The Commission also recognises the broader work underway to strengthen community cohesion, including the Local Government Association's Social Cohesion Toolkit, support from the Belong Network and Local Government Association on countering extremism, the Together Commission's national

conversation, the Woolf Institute's Commission on Interfaith Relations, and the Government's Pride in Place and Common Ground funding programmes.

The Commission agrees that properly resourced locally led initiatives can strengthen cohesion by empowering residents to shape local integration solutions. Initiatives like Barnet's Connecting Communities programme, developed in co-production with local community organisations and residents, following the disorder in summer 2024, and the Clear, Hold, Build model in Grahame Park illustrate the value of sustained partnership between government, local authorities, police and local communities in building trust, increasing resilience and connecting neighbours.

Criminal justice reform

The Commission concluded that the criminal justice system requires reform to deliver swifter justice for victims and restore public confidence. It agreed that delays in the criminal courts have become symptomatic of wider pressures across the justice system and that reducing the backlog required sustained reform across the whole system, including action on legal aid, sentencing, prisons, policing and workforce capacity.

Border security

Respondents expressed a range of views on border security, with many highlighting the importance of working closely with international partners to manage migration effectively, strengthen border security and disrupt the criminal smuggling networks that facilitate irregular migration and exploit vulnerable people. Submissions also reflected public concern about migration and small boat crossings, emphasising the importance of maintaining confidence in the integrity of the UK's borders.

"Labour should prioritise intelligence-led policing, international law enforcement cooperation and joint investigations with partner countries. Enhanced information sharing, improved surveillance capabilities and coordinated enforcement operations can help disrupt criminal networks operating across borders." – **GMB**

"Everyone I speak to raises the same concerns: 'Illegal immigration', 'Boats crossing the Channel', and so on." – **Martin, Labour member**

"Portsmouth Labour Party recognises that it is a government's fundamental duty to control its borders and we very much welcome the measures our government has taken to collaborate with other European countries to develop a pan-European approach to managing the ever-increasing number of people seeking refuge from war, persecution, famine and a wide range of natural disasters." – **Portsmouth Labour Party**

"Britain should negotiate more return agreements in regard to failed asylum seekers, and engage more cooperatively with other States in the general management of irregular migration." – **Rother Valley CLP**

Safe and legal routes

Many respondents argued that safe and legal routes play an important role in the UK's approach to asylum and migration. Submissions emphasised the importance of ensuring that refugees fleeing persecution have clear and accessible ways to engage with the asylum system, ultimately reducing the need for dangerous journeys.

"People seeking protection should not be forced into dangerous journeys to access asylum... Restore accessible legal routes and ensure that those with legitimate protection needs can access the system safely and fairly." – **Labour International**

"Have more routes for migrants to arrive safely, and make the system more transparent." – **Stockton North CLP**

"Refugee protection should offer safety, stability, and a clear, humane route to rebuilding one's life." – **High Peak CLP**

"We support the creation of more legitimate, accessible routes for people to claim asylum safely. This should include the ability to apply through UK embassies and consulates, reducing the incentive for dangerous journeys and weakening the business model of criminal gangs." – Wallasey CLP

Asylum system

Respondents also commented on the operation of the asylum system, with many calling for faster and more effective decision-making to reduce delays and backlogs. Submissions highlighted the importance of improving the efficiency of the system to reduce uncertainty for applicants, ease pressure on asylum accommodation and ensure that those in need of protection receive decisions more quickly, while enabling the prompt return of those with no right to remain in the UK.

"The Government should improve asylum and vetting throughout by investment in modern IT/workflow systems to speed decision-making and reduce backlog." – Scarborough & Whitby Branch

"Our research finds that asylum accommodation can have significant implications for community cohesion. Local engagement, transparency and investment in local services are critical to ensuring communities feel supported and that tensions do not escalate." – Marley Morris, IPPR

"We noted that 46 European countries have issued a revised interpretation of the European Convention on Human Rights which confirms that national governments retain powers to deport undesirable immigrants even if this disturbs family life." – Newcastle-under-Lyme CLP

"Reduce the number of appeals and ensuring that a new backlog doesn't grow, with an aim to return to a six month service standard for the initial decision making process" – Stroud CLP

Contribution

Several submissions focused on how immigration policy can better recognise and support the contribution migrants make to the UK. Respondents explored how the immigration system can enable people to establish stable lives, participate fully in their communities and contribute to the economy, while also reflecting on the particular experiences and challenges faced by migrants, including earned settlement proposals, English language provision and opportunities for integration and civic participation. Submissions also noted those seeking to exploit migrant workers should face the consequences of doing so.

"Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation through wage theft, unsafe working conditions and a failure to uphold basic employment rights. The fear of referral to immigration enforcement can prevent workers from raising complaints when their employment rights are breached,

allowing unscrupulous employers to profit from their insecurity. Usdaw is calling for clear protocols to be agreed between the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) and the Fair Work Agency (FWA), so that workers feel confident to report employment rights breaches to the FWA. The approach must be to centre workers' wellbeing and prevent exploitative employers from undermining employment rights and undercutting.” – Usdaw

“A longer and more difficult path to settlement may bring a trade-off between short-run benefits to public finances and longer-term effects on the integration of migrants.” – Mihnea Cuibus, Migration Observatory

“Everything possible should be done to reach immigrant women who cannot read/speak/understand English. They cannot engage with their local community... English language classes should be available everywhere and particularly in areas with a high immigrant population.” – Susan, Labour member

Community cohesion

Community cohesion emerged as one of the most frequently discussed themes across submissions. Respondents highlighted the importance of creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to meet, participate in community life and develop a shared sense of belonging. Many contributors emphasised the role of local authorities, the police, schools, community organisations, local services, and even the creative arts, in supporting social cohesion, while others stressed the importance of investing in community spaces, youth provision and English language learning to strengthen relationships and reduce barriers between communities.

“Community cohesion in the UK is under strain... Opportunities to combat this, such as through interacting and socialising with people from other backgrounds, have been stunted by the continuing closure of shops and community centres... BAME Labour calls on the Labour government to invest in community centres, support local organisations and promote more ESOL classes to enable those whose first language is not English to better integrate into society using our shared language.” – BAME Labour

“The Government should continue to invest in communities – particularly supporting community-owned and community-led initiatives which can bring diverse communities together in shared spaces. This investment in community-owned assets and projects should be an important part in the delivery of the Governments communities' strategy – reflecting their role in creating and maintaining shared spaces. It is in these shared spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can come together and build connection, helping to create a country where difference is respected” – The Co-operative Party

"Better funding for education and integration ... Open days at different religious institutions to show their religious practices ... Arts projects in communities regarding different cultures." – **Amber Valley CLP**

"Investment in housing, public services, English-language education, youth services and community organisations helps create stronger and more confident communities. Division flourishes where people feel abandoned; cohesion grows where people see visible improvements in their daily lives" – **Paul, Labour member**

"Community cohesion and integration have often been treated as peripheral issues in UK policymaking. Yet they are fundamental to ensuring that diverse communities thrive together and that migration is managed successfully... Local authorities play a critical role in supporting integration outcomes and building cohesive communities."
– **Jacqueline Broadhead, COMPAS**

BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

PLP

Bridget Phillipson *

Neil Coyle

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Louise Chinnery – Eastern Region

Rosie Jackson – Eastern Region

Abdi Mohamed – Greater London Region

Pavitar Mann – South East Region

Lundy MacKenzie – South East Region

Judy Wilson – South West Region

Jess Moultrie – Welsh Labour Party

Sian Taylor – Welsh Labour Party

Charlotte Davies – Welsh Labour Party

Trudie McGuinness – West Midlands Region

Kalwinder Sandhu – West Midlands Region

Julia Rockett – Yorkshire and Humber Region

Lucy Hulme – Yorkshire and Humber Region

Margaret Cowie – Scottish Policy Forum

Affiliates

Emma Woodfine – Usdaw

Ruth Cross – Usdaw

Angela Duerden – Unite

Maggie Ryan – Unite

Helen Firman – UNISON

Michelle Bailey – CWU

Barbara Plant – GMB

Stacey Booth – GMB

Dominic Armstrong – Community

Andi Hopgood – Musicians' Union

Liz Hind – Socialist Societies

Jonathan Farr – Disability Labour

Sonya Davis – National Women's Committee

Elected representatives and peers

Eamonn O'Brien

Bev Craig

NEC

Ann Black

Gemma Bolton

Jane Thomas

Sonya Davis

Ann Jones

Elsie Greenwood *

Ellen Morrison-Smith

*Co-convenor

Labour believes that a person's background should not determine their life chances. That is why this Government has been focused on giving every child the best start in life, and supporting people to access work no matter the barriers they face.

The Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Policy Commission this year considered how Labour can achieve those aims. Our consultation centred on the urgent issue of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), asking how we might reverse the rise and get more young people earning or learning. We also considered how barriers can be broken down for sick and disabled people, and how children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can be better supported to achieve and thrive.

The Labour Government is acting to confront these challenges. Because of our decisions, including scrapping the Tories' cruel two-child limit, half a million fewer children will be in poverty in 2029. Former Labour Health Secretary Alan Milburn is conducting an important review into how to support young people who are struggling to step into the world of work. And we are turning around provision for children with SEND with transformational reforms to the system.

We have engaged with academic experts, charities, think tanks, Labour affiliates, party members and elected representatives to understand the work done so far during Labour's time in office, and to help develop the next steps to break down the barriers to opportunity.

Policy seminars

The Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Commission held two policy seminars at Labour's 2025 Annual Conference. The first seminar was on the topic of families, attended by Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities, Stephen Timms MP, Minister for Social Security and Disability, and members of the Commission. Conference delegates raised several topics including employment support, Carer's Allowance, school funding, the school workforce, school attendance and behaviour, and children's social care.

A second policy seminar was held to discuss the Break Down Barriers to Opportunity mission more broadly, with Olivia Bailey MP, Minister for Early Education and Equalities, and Stephen Timms MP, alongside Commission members. Delegates asked questions on wide ranging subjects including phones in schools, Connect to Work, SEND provision, the Pathways to Work programme, AI skills, and the curriculum.

Opportunity for young people and disabled people

During the consultation, the Commission heard from Work and Pensions Secretary Pat McFadden MP. He set out what the Government is doing to support young people searching for work, help people who are economically inactive due to long-term health conditions or disabilities participate more fully in society, and reform the social security system.

The Commission held a stakeholder roundtable on the topic of welfare reform for disabled people, people with ill health, and young people. Stephen Timms MP chaired the event and organisations including Scope, Mencap, Centre for Young Lives, and Citizens Advice took part.

The discussion covered the role of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), the relationship between poverty and labour market engagement, reforming employment support to make it more personalised, and how to help young people who are out of work but who are not offered support because they are not claiming benefits.

We held a roundtable jointly with the Kickstart Economic Growth Commission on jobs, skills and AI. The conversation between stakeholders and Commission members centred on the challenges and opportunities presented by AI, including for young people at the start of their careers. Points were raised about AI's capacity to change people's jobs rather than just displace them, the design of apprenticeships, and supporting SMEs to adopt new technologies.

This Commission, alongside the Kickstart Economic Growth Commission and the Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Commission, brought together stakeholders including the TUC and Energy UK for a roundtable on clean energy jobs. Participants welcomed Labour's focus on clean energy and skills, including support for young people and investment in training.

Giving all children the best start in life

Bridget Phillipson MP attended the Commission's first meeting of the year, updating members on Labour's work on child poverty reduction, the Schools White Paper, technical excellence colleges, and the reintroduction of targeted maintenance grants for higher education.

At the launch of the NPF consultation, Bridget Phillipson MP gave an update on the publication of the Schools White Paper. She outlined proposed SEND reforms, including strengthening local provision, better training for teachers, and the new Experts at Hand service.

The Commission had the opportunity to discuss SEND reform in more detail with a dedicated evidence session on the topic. Attended by speakers from the National Children's Bureau, UNISON, and a member of the Department for Education's Expert Advisory Group, the Commission heard evidence on inclusion, the role of teachers and school support staff in implementing reforms, and strengthening accountability.

A joint stakeholder roundtable was held on mental health with the Build an NHS Fit for the Future Commission. Chaired by Lewis Atkinson MP, speakers included the Centre for Mental Health, the Mental Health Foundation, YoungMinds, the Centre for Young Lives, Mind, and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The session focused on children and young people, discussing topics including open access provision, early intervention, and wider societal drivers including poverty and social media.

Kanishka Narayan MP, Minister for AI and Online Safety, joined a Commission meeting to share an update on Labour's work on children's relationship with the online world – including on social media restrictions.

EHRC guidance

Following the publication of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Code of Practice, a full NPF meeting was convened to discuss the guidance with Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister for Women and Equalities. Representatives raised a number of questions on the Gender Recognition Act, single-sex spaces, and how to ensure protection of trans people from harassment and discrimination. Jacqui Smith also reiterated the Government's commitment to upholding and protecting the Equality Act, which Reform UK have promised to scrap, and to a draft law to ban conversion practices in England and Wales, delivering Labour's manifesto promise on a trans-inclusive ban. During the consultation, stakeholders raised the importance of ensuring that workers are supported where the EHRC guidance is set to impact their workplaces.

Members' event

We held an online event with Labour members in June where we were joined by Baroness Smith and members of the Commission to discuss topics including youth centres, NEETs, apprenticeships, employment support for disabled people, PIP, young people's mental health, SEND, AI and work, and tuition fees.

Getting young people earning or learning

The Commission recognises that more than a million young people in the UK are NEET.

The Conservatives' inaction saw the number of young people who are NEET rise by 250,000 before the 2024 general election. This is a crisis of opportunity that risks failing a generation – with diminished lifetime earnings, lower living standards, and career ambitions unfulfilled.

Labour has already acted to get young people earning or learning. During this year's consultation, Alan Milburn published his interim report as part of the 'young people and work' review. It found that 84 per cent of young people who are NEET want a job or training but are not getting the support they need. If nothing changes, the number of young people affected is on course to hit 1.25 million within five years.

The Commission welcomes Mr Milburn's comprehensive analysis and supports his ongoing work to develop recommendations for bold reform to give opportunity back to this generation.

The Commission supports the measures that make up the Youth Guarantee. Together, they will result in the creation of half a million work and training opportunities for young people, backed by £2.5 billion of new investment. They include the Youth Jobs Grant, which will provide £3,000 to businesses for every 18–24-year-old they hire who has been on Universal Credit and looking for work for six months; and the Jobs Guarantee, through which young people who have been claiming Universal Credit and looking for work for 18 months will be guaranteed a six month job, with 100% of the employment costs paid by Government.

Apprenticeships are a key part of Labour's plan to support young people into good jobs. The Commission welcomes that the Government will fully fund apprenticeships training for eligible 16–24-year-olds for employers who do not pay the Growth and Skills Levy. Labour is also expanding foundation apprenticeships and introducing short courses to help businesses develop the skills they need.

This forms a key plank of the Labour Government's ambitious target for two-thirds of young people to go to university or further education or take on a gold standard apprenticeship. The Commission supports establishing parity of esteem between technical and academic study, and raising the status and quality of further education. A renewed skills system will align with the future jobs market, with new Technical Excellence Colleges in digital, advanced manufacturing and clean energy specialisms equipping young people with the skills our country needs.

For young people who choose university, the Commission recognises the cost-of-living pressures that students are facing. The Government is stepping

in to help, capping the interest on Plan 2 and Plan 3 student loans from this September. While this is not a silver bullet to fix the Tories' broken system, this short-term protective measure will provide some peace of mind for those working hard to pay off their loans. The Commission welcomes the reintroduction of maintenance grants to ensure those from the poorest families receive more support, without increasing their debt.

Labour also understands the importance of giving every young person something to do, somewhere to go and someone who cares – the principles which underpin Youth Matters, the first Government youth strategy in more than two decades.

The Commission recognises the need for strengthened support for care leavers entering the world of work, and welcomes the national Staying Close offer which will help care leavers with employment support, as well as accommodation and healthcare, up to the age of 25.

Breaking down barriers for disabled people and people with health conditions

The Commission supports Labour's ambition to help disabled people achieve better health including mental health, higher living standards and greater independence, including through employment and a more secure attachment to the labour market.

Under the last Conservative Government, the number of people outside the labour market due to long-term health conditions reached a record high of 2.9 million, with too many sick or disabled people wanting to work but held back by a lack of support.

Labour is turning things around. The Government has invested £950 million in the Connect to Work programme, which provides voluntary, specialist employment support for disabled people and those with health conditions – including for people not receiving benefits. It also involves embedding specialist employment advisors in GP surgeries and mental health services, to reach people with complex barriers to work more effectively.

The Commission welcomes the Government's action to give people the confidence and security to move into work with the new Right to Try. This enables sick and disabled claimants to try out a job without fear of triggering an immediate benefit reassessment. The Commission also supports Labour's view that the social security system must always be there for people who will never be able to work.

The consultation period has involved discussion of the ongoing Timms Review, the first ever full review of PIP. The Commission supports the Timms Review's approach of co-production, ensuring that the voices of disabled people and the organisations that represent them are at the centre of the process. Its interim report has found that PIP is no longer fit for purpose – with the

assessment process described as dehumanising and stressful. The next stage of the Review will seek to make sure the disability benefits system is fair and fit for the future.

Children and schools

The Commission heard powerful testimony on the failures in the SEND system and the barriers that many children face in receiving the support they need. We therefore strongly support the Government's plan to transform the system so that support comes earlier, is easier to access, and works around children and families, rather than forcing them to fight for help.

Respondents were clear that teachers and school support staff play a vital role in supporting children with SEND in the classroom. The Commission welcomes national SEND training for staff in every school, college and nursery, backed by over £200 million, to support staff to develop skills and create inclusive learning environments to meet the needs of their students.

Labour is also increasing access to professionals like speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and educational psychologists through the new Experts at Hand service. This will ensure children can get support easily in school without having to go through lengthy assessment processes.

The Commission recognises that some parents will be worried about the proposed changes, and believes there should always be legal rights and support for children with SEND. Labour's reforms to the system include groundbreaking new legal entitlements to an Individual Support Plan (ISP), with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) to be retained and improved so that all SEND support will be on a legal footing.

The Milburn Interim Report was clear that mental ill health is among the biggest forces pulling young people out of work and learning. It also highlights a damaging cycle where poor mental health drives disengagement, and disengagement in turn worsens mental health. Labour is breaking that cycle early, with Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) now reaching nearly six million children in schools and colleges across the country. Now, nearly 80% of secondary schools have access to a MHST, providing timely, practical help as pressures on young people continue to grow.

Labour is also working to improve and transform children and young people's gender services, so that high-quality, evidence-based care is at the heart. This includes the PATHWAYS trial to build evidence of the benefits and risks of puberty suppressing hormones.

The Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Commission received hundreds of submissions as part of this year's consultation. This section provides a brief overview of contributions from Labour Party members, CLPs, trade unions, socialist societies and expert stakeholders.

Opportunity at each stage of life

Respondents to the consultation welcomed Labour's action to tackle child poverty. The Government has scrapped the two-child limit which, alongside the expansion of free school meals, is set to bring about the largest ever fall in child poverty in a single parliament.

"We welcome scrapping the current [two-child] cap as the evidence shows it will massively reduce child poverty. Reducing child poverty will actually save money in the long run because it will improve educational achievement and reduce teenage involvement in crime." – Sutton and Cheam CLP

Submissions also expressed support for the action Labour has taken so far to reduce the number of young people who are NEET, and for pursuing further reforms to turn around the life chances of this generation.

"Usdaw welcomes the Government's plans to support young workers into the labour market through the Youth Guarantee and apprenticeship reform measures." – Usdaw

"The Milburn [interim] report rightly highlighted the significant proportion of the NEET population driven by long-term ill-health, with mental health conditions a particularly acute factor among young people. We welcome the government's roll-out of mental health professionals in schools and the Expert at Hand programme, which places specialists where they are most needed." – South East Young Labour

Respondents agreed that rebuilding youth services can play a vital role in equipping young people with skills and guidance to step into work, and lamented cuts to youth centres under the previous Government.

"Unite welcomed the Labour commitment to ending the cuts to youth services and to place youth services on a statutory footing to ensure all young people have the opportunity to be involved in youth work. Youth services are also crucial to supporting young people to become adult citizens, helping them to achieve better education and health outcomes and reducing levels of risky behaviour on the part of young people. These services are more vital and needed than ever following the pandemic and its impact on so many children and young people's lives." – Unite the Union

"Effective youth services can support progression by offering career guidance, mentoring and access to local employment networks." – Alina, South East

"Kent County Council has closed Whitstable Youth Club, removing one of the few remaining dedicated spaces for young people in the town. This follows a wider pattern of cuts to youth provision that has left young people with nowhere to go, no trusted adult to turn to, and no structured activities to develop skills and interests." – Whitstable Branch Labour Party

Some submissions focused on provision of support later in life, through the pensions system. Topics raised included the gender pension gap, the triple lock on the State Pension, and the communication of changes to the State Pension age for women born in the 1950s.

Fairness in the world of work

Respondents noted the importance of the minimum wage for boosting opportunity for those in work – in particular, by raising the National Minimum Wage rate for 18-20-year-olds, making progress towards establishing a fairer single adult rate.

"There are also barriers to young people entering work and taking apprenticeships so the minimum wage for 18-year-olds needs to be uplifted." – Scarborough and Whitby CLP

The submissions also reflected a desire to see a strong employment support offer for disabled people and those with health conditions, to help people into work and prevent people from falling out of the labour market.

"We know what works: the most common pathway into work for people with a learning disability is through a structured employment or training programme, one that combines training, pastoral support and work experience. In one survey, Mencap found that 37.5% of people with a learning disability in paid work had moved into that role through a structured employment and training programme. The Connect to Work programme, specifically the Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) model, has the potential to provide that tailored support to people with a learning disability and autistic people. But the rollout of Connect to Work across the country must be done in a way that ensures that people with a learning disability can benefit." – Mencap

Written submissions echoed oral evidence at the mental health roundtable that mental health and work are closely interrelated.

"Unite has repeatedly highlighted that precarious employment is particularly damaging for workers with long-term health conditions, including mental ill-health and neurodevelopmental conditions." – Unite the Union

"There is evidence of a vicious cycle between poor mental health and unemployment. While poor mental health and low wellbeing and confidence is a key barrier to entering or progressing in employment – in turn being unemployed contributes to worsening mental health." – Centre for Young Lives

Several submissions raised the rapidly developing role of AI in the labour market, and in various sectors of the economy. One point raised was the concern that people working in creative industries face potential unfairness. The Government decided earlier this year not to proceed with enabling AI developers to train on copyright works, and to take more time to consider this issue.

“Actors, performers, media workers, musicians should be protected. Strengthen copyright laws and ensure workers are paid correctly if their work is used for training, or copied to make money. Ensure the AI owners cannot use workers’ images, work, audio work without the artists’ permission.” – Linda, North West

Submissions also noted a number of additional barriers for young people to earn or learn, including public transport provision, caring responsibilities, and workplace accessibility.

A number of submissions highlighted the continuing centrality of the Equality Act, as a ‘quiet guardian’ protecting people from discrimination, both in and out of the workplace.

Children, education and schools

Submissions supported the Government’s efforts to award technical qualifications the same respect as university degrees, and to align this renewed skills system with the future jobs market.

“There is growing international consensus for revitalising technical and vocational education as an equally-valued path for young people to get the best start in life. At the heart of this consensus is that skills and vocational training must be better aligned with the demand for skilled jobs in the labour market and the government’s industrial strategy.” – GMB

“Setting a new target that two thirds of school leavers should go on to university or an apprenticeship is an astute recognition of the need for more vocational training.” – Lewisham West and East Dulwich CLP

Respondents specifically highlighted apprenticeships as a key way to support young people to build their skills and get a crucial first step on the career ladder.

“Apprenticeships have always been an integral part of creating opportunities for young people to ‘earn and learn’. The Government has laid out important plans to boost the number and availability of apprenticeships across the country – including a new wave of entry level apprenticeships – which the co-operative movement strongly support. Promoting foundation and entry level apprenticeships is vital as they are the most accessible to those with low or no qualifications – which will be essential in reducing the number of young people in NEET status.” – The Co-operative Party

A number of respondents also mentioned tuition fees, including freezing the Plan 2 repayment threshold. Cost of living pressures for students were also

mentioned, as well as the reintroduction of maintenance grants to support the most disadvantaged students.

"All students must have access to the support they need to succeed in their education. However, cost of living pressures mean the maintenance support that students are currently receiving is not adequate, and in many cases, falls far short of covering essential costs. Under the current system in England, the lowest-income students taken on the highest level of debt. The Labour government announced it will bring back maintenance grants for certain subjects from 2028/29. This is a positive and important step towards improving access and participation."

– *University of the Arts London (UAL)*

Submissions were clear that the SEND system inherited from the Tories has lost the confidence of families. Respondents supported Labour's approach to fund more specialist places in mainstream schools alongside clear expectations for inclusivity, so that all children get a brilliant school experience close to home, without a fight.

"Reforms to the education system must increase inclusion in mainstream settings, whilst also ensuring that placements and settings are available for children who have needs which are best met in specialist provision."

– *Child Poverty Action Group*

"Families should be able to access support without having to fight for it."

– *Paul, North West*

"A successful SEND system should strengthen support and accountability, and enable children to participate, achieve and prepare for adulthood. It should provide support when it is needed, without families having to fight for it."

– *Sense*

As well as SEND reform, respondents raised broader measures in the Schools White Paper, including a move towards a more collaborative system by placing all schools into high-quality school trusts, rooted in their communities.

Written submissions also raised the reinstatement of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB). Support staff make a huge contribution to children's education and the smooth running of our schools, which is why the body will make sure they are properly valued and respected as professionals.

BUILD AN NHS FIT FOR THE FUTURE

PLP

James Murray *

Lewis Atkinson

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Alexander Kyriacou – Eastern Region

Nathalie Nicholas – North West Region

Claire Reid – North West Region

Georgia Jamieson – Northern Region

Melanie Morley – Northern Region

Brooke Ritchie – Scottish Labour Party

Sharon Mintoff – South East Region

David Smith – Welsh Labour Party

Cathy Parry – West Midlands Region

Carolyn Harris – Welsh Policy Forum

Affiliates

Rab Donnelly – Usdaw

Alison Spencer-Scragg – Unite

Dominic Hook – Unite

John Earls – Unite

Wendy Walker – UNISON

Rhianna Patel – GMB

Rachel Harrison – GMB

Sara Hyde – Socialist Societies

Kevin Brady – LGBT+ Labour

Elected representatives and peers

Vince Maple

Amanda Serjeant

NEC

Angie Davies

Jackie Baillie

Carol Sewell

Linda Hobson *

**Co-convenor*

Two years into a Labour Government, the NHS is turning a corner. We've invested an extra £26 billion in the NHS, there are green shoots of improvement in NHS performance measures, and recent survey data shows the biggest drop in patient dissatisfaction in the NHS since 1998, from its recent peak.

But there is still a long road ahead. The 10 Year Health Plan, produced alongside staff and patients, sets out how we will rebuild our NHS to make it financially sustainable for the long-term, fix the fundamentals, and ultimately, make the NHS fit for the future.

The Plan is built around three big shifts – from analogue to digital, from sickness to prevention, and from hospital to community. It's this third shift that was the focus of the Build an NHS Fit for the Future Policy Commission this year. Central to this shift is turning our national health service into a neighbourhood health service, so care can happen as close to home as possible. The Commission gathered a wealth of evidence on how Labour can realise our vision to put neighbourhood health centres in every community, so that people can access cutting-edge, personalised care on their doorstep.

For this year's consultation, the Commission considered how Labour can deliver care closer to, and within, the home, through new neighbourhood health services. The Commission heard how dentistry and mental health care can be embedded in these new services, as well as how new digital tools and the NHS and social care workforce can fulfil this ambition in every community.

Policy seminar

The Commission kicked off its activity for the year by holding a policy seminar at 2025 Labour Conference, attended by Health and Social Care Secretary Wes Streeting MP and Health Minister Karin Smyth MP. Conference delegates raised a variety of topics including AI and tech in healthcare, NHS subsidiary companies, the NHS workforce, maternity care, prevention, reforms to NHS England, mental health, and dentistry.

Dentistry

The Commission began work on this year's consultation topic by holding an evidence session on NHS dentistry joined by Care Minister Stephen Kinnock MP. Expert speakers from the NHS Alliance and the Nuffield Trust gave evidence on how to get NHS dentistry back on its feet and build a service fit for the future. The Commission discussed the NHS dental contract, the workforce, regulation, and widening access to dental care. The Commission supports Labour's supervised toothbrushing programme for children to prevent tooth decay, that will reach up to 600,000 children in the most deprived areas.

Mental health

A joint stakeholder roundtable on mental health was held between the Commission and the Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Policy Commission. Chaired by Lewis Atkinson MP the session focused on children and young people, and was attended by the Mental Health Foundation, YoungMinds, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Centre for Young Lives, Mind, and the Centre for Mental Health. Topics included early intervention, the rising demand for services, and wider determinants of mental health including poverty, housing, and food policy.

Digital and AI-enabled tools

The Commission held an evidence session on how digital and AI-enabled tools can support more productive, higher-quality care in communities. Expert speakers from the King's Fund, Unite the Union, and the Association of British HealthTech Industries gave evidence covering prevention, digital inclusion, information governance, and a single patient record, as well as the upskilling of and impact on the NHS and social care workforce to make use of these new technologies.

Workforce

A dedicated roundtable was held on the NHS and social care workforce. Chaired by Laura Kyrke-Smith MP, speakers from the Institute of Health Visiting, the Queen's Institute of Community Nursing, the Royal College of General

Practitioners and the Nuffield Trust attended, alongside two care workers to speak to their lived experience working within the social care system. The session focused on how multidisciplinary teams can work together in neighbourhood settings to deliver high-quality, joined-up care. Topics discussed included care worker pay and progression, workforce planning, the use of digital tools and AI, and continuity of care.

Members' event

An online members' event was held in June where Labour members, including members of the Commission, were joined by Health Minister Sharon Hodgson MP. Members raised topics including social care reform, digital tools like the NHS App, workforce recruitment and retention, integration between services, mental health care, and wider determinants of health.

Commission meeting

The Commission was happy to be joined by the new Health and Social Care Secretary James Murray MP who spoke about work to build a neighbourhood health service, rebuild NHS dentistry, and improve patient safety and experience through the NHS Modernisation Bill.

Hospital to community

The Commission welcomes Labour's ambition to shift healthcare from hospital into the community so that more care is available closer to home. A new neighbourhood health service will be central to this vision, providing easier, more convenient access to a range of healthcare services right on people's doorsteps, and even in their own homes.

The consultation identified huge benefits to this approach, including dramatically improving access to NHS services, freeing up strained hospital capacity, and enabling delivery of cutting-edge and personalised care. A neighbourhood health service will also support prevention, as care in communities can help spot problems earlier, and support people to stay healthier and maintain their independence for longer.

GPs will sit at the heart of this new neighbourhood health service. The Commission heard evidence of Labour's improvements to general practice including recruiting over 2,000 more GPs, and delivering millions more appointments nationwide. Since October last year, patients have been able to request appointments, ask questions and describe symptoms online throughout the day, rather than having to call or visit their surgery in person. As a result, nearly three quarters of patients say it is now easy to contact their GP, and satisfaction is improving after a decade of decline.

Respondents were overwhelmingly clear that the NHS should remain a publicly funded service, free at the point of use, planned, provided and delivered in the public interest, so that patients can access care without worrying about the bill.

Social care

A consistent theme across submissions was that the NHS cannot be fixed without also fixing the broken social care system. The Commission feels strongly that long-term reform is needed, particularly given our aging society – by 2050, there will be 4 million more people aged 65+ in England.

The Commission welcomes Baroness Casey's work on a long-term plan for reform of adult social care and looks forward to the first recommendations due later this year. This independent review is a vital first step in delivering a national care service that is rooted in quality, fairness and dignity for all who use it.

Alongside these reforms, Labour is taking immediate action: the Labour Government is bringing in a £2,000 uplift in carer's allowance, and delivering an increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant to provide thousands more home adaptations so that people can live at home independently, for longer.

The Commission heard powerful testimony from workers in the social care sector that staff have been undervalued and underpaid for far too long. The need for more action on pay and conditions came through strongly in the

evidence. Respondents welcomed the first ever Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care, backed by £500 million, to bolster the recruitment and retention of care workers and recognise the critical work they do.

Workforce

The Commission heard evidence on how the NHS and social care workforce is central to Labour's plans for neighbourhood health. Respondents were clear that a wide range of staff including nurses, doctors, social care workers, pharmacists, health visitors and palliative care staff can work together to deliver joined-up care in local communities. The upcoming workforce plan was seen as key to realising this ambition by ensuring that the NHS has the right people, with the right skills, working in the right places, while considering patient safety.

The pay and working conditions of NHS staff was raised consistently. Years of pay erosion have failed to reflect the value of the skilled professionals on whom the NHS depends. The Labour Government is working constructively with the NHS workforce and unions to improve their working lives, such as the recent deal with resident doctors which will see a new pay structure and better career progression opportunities. Labour remains committed to reforming the Agenda for Change pay structure.

Analogue to digital

The Commission acknowledges the real potential of digital and AI-enabled tools to support NHS staff and empower patients. The Government inherited an analogue NHS out of step with modern technology, and we support plans to bring it into the digital age.

Evidence was taken on a range of new tools which can support the workforce, including the use of AI scribes to end the need for clinical notetaking, while recognising that technology should not replace human care.

While being mindful of those at risk of digital exclusion, the Commission found that technological change can give more power to patients. Thanks to the Labour Government's improvements to the NHS App, 330 million messages were sent from GPs, hospitals, and screening services to patients in 2025 – twice as many as the year before. And next year, patients will be able to see a specialist online for conditions including prostate cancer, cataracts and endometriosis through NHS Online.

Patients will also be given real control over a single, secure and authoritative account of their own data. Meaningful control over that data should be supported by high levels of information governance, clear accountability for how data is managed and used, and privacy protections built in by design. The Commission heard that the single patient record will not just improve patient experience, but also boost patient safety. Patients will no longer have to repeat their story time and time again when receiving care, and joined-up records mean the NHS will be better placed to spot problems and intervene earlier.

Mental health

The Commission heard compelling evidence on the increase in mental health distress and rising waiting lists for treatment inherited from the previous Conservative government, which can only be tackled by investment and reform. The Commission therefore welcomes the £140 million real terms rise in funding this year, alongside capital investment of £473 million over 4 years to deliver new care models and digital transformation. This investment will deliver much-needed improvements across services, expand NHS Talking Therapies and Individual Placement Support, and fund Community-Based Mental Health Centres so that patients can access treatment closer to home.

The Commission believes that cross-governmental working is necessary to tackle the root causes of mental illness and create an environment that promotes good mental health, prevents people from developing mental health problems, and improves the lives of people living with chronic conditions.

This builds on positive steps the Labour Government is already taking, including hiring 8,500 extra mental health workers since July 2024 – meeting our manifesto target three years early. Labour is also improving access to 24/7 support directly through the NHS App, including self-referral for talking therapies. For those in crisis, around 85 new dedicated mental health emergency departments will be built as part of the 10 Year Health Plan to reduce pressure on busy A&E services and ensure people get effective care in a calm, supportive environment.

Dentistry

The Commission heard clearly the scale of the challenge facing NHS dentistry. Shockingly, around 13 million people in England have unmet need for dentistry after 14 years of Tory Government, and rotting teeth are the most common reason for children aged five to nine being admitted to hospital.

Respondents agreed that the NHS dental contract needs significant reform to tackle this, with a renewed contract rewarding dentists more fairly and prioritising the highest-need patients. The Commission supports the move to make urgent dental care a core provision of NHS dental practices from April 2026, and welcomes recent figures that show 1.8 million additional courses of NHS dental treatment in the first half of last year.

Respondents were clear that dental care professionals can play a vital role as part of neighbourhood teams, including dental therapists and dental nurses. The Commission supports the 50 new dental school places at the University of Portsmouth and the University of East Anglia to strengthen local workforce supply in their regions.

End of life care

Written submissions relayed that palliative and end of life care services can play a big role in the shift from hospital to community, and that staff working within these services will perform an integral role in neighbourhood teams.

The Labour Government's biggest investment in hospices and end of life care in a generation is warmly welcomed to ensure that hospices can continue to deliver quality end of life care for patients, families, and loved ones. A £125 million capital funding boost will help support hospices with refurbishments, overhauling IT systems and improving facilities for patients and visitors. Labour is also providing £80 million for children's and young people's hospices over the next three years so that these services can continue to support families during the most challenging times.

The Commission recognises that significant pressures remain in the sector, including the impact of changes to employer national insurance contributions.

Hospital to community

Submissions were overwhelmingly positive about the shift in the 10 Year Health Plan from hospital to community. Respondents largely focused on the role of new neighbourhood health services to realise this vision, arguing that they can improve access, facilitate joined-up care, and reduce pressure on hospitals:

"In providing access to a range of services under one roof including GPs, pharmacists and urgent treatment, these centres will help to overcome the fragmentation of healthcare services and promote their local accessibility." – Elaine, East Midlands

"With over 554,000 women in England waiting for gynaecology care, expanding timely access to services closer to home is important in reducing pressure on secondary care and improving patient experience." – The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Labour's expansion of community diagnostic centres (CDCs) and the use of virtual wards were raised as ways to deliver more healthcare in local settings:

"Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) are designed to provide diagnostic tests such as echocardiograms closer to home, offering more convenient care and the potential to reduce long waiting times." – British Heart Foundation

"Virtual wards are a good innovation and should be promoted to enable people to recover in their community." – Stafford CLP

Submissions discussed the use of private investment to deliver new neighbourhood health centres through the NHS Neighbourhood Rebuild programme.

Workforce

Respondents were clear that neighbourhood teams need to comprise a wide range of health and social care professionals to deliver joined-up care for patients:

"The Government should also recognise the important role played by social care, community pharmacy, mental health services and voluntary sector organisations in supporting people to remain healthy and independent within their communities." – GMB

"For integrated neighbourhood teams to work, it will be important to ensure all relevant services are brought together. That of course means Local Authorities and primary care, but it must include pharmacy and dentistry too as well as community services, acute, social care, and the voluntary sector." – Haleon

There were several submissions on physician associates in the NHS and their role in enhancing capacity and providing continuity of care, while maintaining patient safety across different health systems.

Submissions were clear that reinvigorated general practice should be at the heart of new neighbourhood health services:

"GPs bring a unique understanding of how the NHS functions across organisational boundaries because they work at the interface between patients, hospitals, community services, mental health services and social care. Embedded into their local communities, GPs see first-hand where fragmentation, delays and inefficiencies create poor patient experiences and additional pressure across the system. This perspective will be essential if the Government is to successfully redesign services, improve efficiency, and safely shift more care out of hospitals and into the community." – [Royal College of General Practitioners](#)

"General practice is the clinical foundation of community-based healthcare. GPs are highly trained specialists in primary care, with many years of postgraduate training, rigorous examinations and extensive experience managing complex, undifferentiated illness. Their expertise in continuity, risk management and whole-person care makes them central to delivering care closer to home." – [Sabina, South East](#)

"People want to see the same doctor – having an individual relationship is better." – [Great Ayton and Stokesley Branch](#)

NHS dentistry

A number of submissions highlighted the need to embed dental care into new neighbourhood health services to widen access, as well as supporting reforms to the dental contract:

"An issue that has been regularly raised by Usdaw members is the lack of access to NHS dentistry. Poor oral health disproportionately affects low-paid workers, many of whom have been forced to suffer pain and irreparable damage as they cannot afford private alternatives or payment plans. The steps taken by increasing dental school places and ringfencing emergency care in NHS contracts are important signals that the Government is taking this seriously. However, there is need for a more fundamental reform of the whole dental contract to ensure that everyone can get the dental care that they need." – [Usdaw](#)

"We note that the current NHS dental contract does not sufficiently incentivise dentists to remain in the NHS, contributing to reduced access for patients." – [Camborne, Redruth and Hayle CLP](#)

Patient-centred care

Submissions were strongly supportive of a new neighbourhood health service being organised around patients, and argued that patients should not just be passive recipients of care, but active partners in the delivery of their care:

"Patients should be treated as active partners in their own care. This means providing clear information, involving people in decision-making and supporting self-management where appropriate." – GMB

"By bringing care closer to home, patients will get to experience a more holistic and personalised approach. Personalised care means patients are active participants in decisions about their health, not passive recipients of services designed without them. However, to do this it is critical that neighbourhood health services are designed and delivered in partnership with patients and communities." – Patients Association

"Healthcare should be a partnership between professionals and patients. Neighbourhood services should involve local people in decision-making and focus on prevention as much as treatment." – Paul, North West

Analogue to digital

Respondents discussed the risks and benefits of digital and AI enabled tools in neighbourhood healthcare settings and were generally positive about their use. It was recognised that both patients and staff can benefit from the advantages and efficiencies available from new technology:

"Digital and AI-enabled tools, including the NHS App, have the potential to improve productivity and access to care, particularly by streamlining outpatient services and creating a more accessible 'digital front door'. Used effectively, these tools can reduce administrative burdens, improve communication between patients and providers, and support earlier intervention through better data use." – Unite the Union

"Digital and AI tools could help coordinate care better, improve communication with patients, help patients' understanding of the processes around their treatment, and reduce duplication between services." – Oxford and District Labour Party

Development of the NHS App and Single Patient Record were consistently raised as two particular tools which can help bring the NHS into the digital age:

"We strongly support the further development of the NHS App, which is already making accessing local health services much easier. We also believe that rapid progress to deliver a single, integrated individual health record shared between primary, community and secondary health care services is necessary." – South Shropshire CLP

While data integration was broadly seen as a positive step, some respondents raised Palantir's contract with the NHS to deliver the Federated Data Platform, including concerns around ethics, data sharing and sovereignty.

Submissions also raised the UK-US pharmaceuticals arrangement deal, the first and only deal with the US that secures 0% tariffs on UK pharmaceutical and medtech exports to the US. This deal is set to boost innovation and investment in the UK's life and medtech sectors, but submissions were clear that it must protect NHS investment and frontline NHS services.

A National Care Service

Respondents were clear that there is a crisis in social care, and reiterated support for a National Care Service:

"The social care sector faces even greater crises – chronic staff shortages, inadequate access, poor quality care and rising demand. Britain's aging population and rising number of people with care needs means urgent reform is necessary to create a sustainable and effective care system which delivers for workers, care recipients and their families."

– **Co-operative Party**

"We support calls for the Government to deliver a National Care Service that would provide consistent quality and availability of care for everyone."

– **Usdaw**

"There needs to be a national care service where care workers have adequate wages for their demanding work and ongoing training."

– **Mike, South East**

"UNISON is a strong supporter of the government's move to bring in the first Fair Pay Agreement (FPA) for adult social care, and the Party is to be congratulated for its work in this area to date. The FPA has the potential to be a gamechanger for the sector – not just helping to stabilise the workforce and providing greater continuity of care for those in need but also raising the profile and status of an often-overlooked sector."

– **UNISON**

BRITAIN RECONNECTED

PLP

Yvette Cooper *

Tracy Gilbert

CLPs, regions and devolved nations

Neghat Khan – East Midlands Region

Ruby Simpson – East Midlands Region

Richard Howitt – Eastern Region

Bora Kwon – Greater London Region

Luke Henman – Northern Region

Michael Mordey – Northern Region

Christopher Cuddihee – South West Region

Luke John Davies – West Midlands Region

Alice Smart – Yorkshire and Humber Region

Katherine Sangster – Scottish Policy Forum

Boyd Black – Northern Ireland Labour Party

Richard Williams – Labour International

Affiliates

Emily Rowles – Usdaw

Susan Donaldson – Usdaw

Sarah Carpenter – Unite

Sharon Graham – Unite

Liz Snape – UNISON

Marz Colombini – ASLEF

Martin Walsh – CWU

Ross Holden – GMB

Roulin Khondoker – Socialist Societies

Ruby Herbert – National Committee of Labour Students

Elected representatives and peers

Mary Ann Brockelsby

Gurpreet Singh Johal

NEC

Yasmine Dar

Luke Akehurst

Mike Payne

David Agbley *

Ian Murray

Isabelle Gutierrez

**Co-convenor*

In 2026, the Britain Reconnected Policy Commission met against a backdrop of escalating global instability, from conflict in the Middle East to continued Russian aggression in Ukraine.

In response, the Labour Government has continued to put national security and British interests at the heart of its foreign policy, strengthening our defences, taking a principled approach to the conflict in Iran, and setting out a modern approach to international development.

As the Government focuses on ensuring foreign policy delivers for the British people, the Commission examined how stronger global partnerships can support our mission of national renewal.

At Annual Conference 2025, the Commission invited Ministers to join delegates for two policy seminars on global events. FCDO Minister Hamish Falconer MP updated members following Labour's historic decision to recognise Palestine and answered questions on arms exports, access for aid and recent sanctions on members of the Israeli Cabinet.

Defence Minister Luke Pollard MP and FCDO Minister Stephen Doughty MP discussed recent developments in the Red Sea, our unwavering support for Ukraine, and the Defence Housing Strategy. Responding to questions, they reiterated the importance of our vital and longstanding relationship with the US, highlighting our deep economic and security cooperation and shared cultural ties.

During this year's consultation, the Commission were pleased to receive regular updates on the Labour Government's work. At the first meeting, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper MP reported on her visit to meet refugees fleeing violence on the Sudan-Chad border, and the UK's work to galvanise global attention on the major humanitarian crisis. The Commission welcomed the Government's focus on protecting women and girls in conflict zones, alongside the continued humanitarian support it was providing in Sudan, Gaza and Ukraine.

Stephen Doughty MP updated on developments in the Strait of Hormuz, the ongoing situation in Lebanon, and the Government's recent sanctions on West Bank settlers. The Commission agreed that the level of settler violence was unacceptable, threatening the 20-point peace plan and the chances of a two state solution, and they welcomed further steps to respond to the expansion of illegal settlements.

Ministers from the Foreign Office, Cabinet Office and Ministry of Defence provided additional updates on a broad range of issues including the UK's response to the war in Iran, improved support for military personnel and their families in the Armed Forces Bill, and new defence procurement contracts that supported British manufacturing and jobs.

At the first evidence session, experts from the European Council on Foreign Relations and the Royal United Services Institute presented on the changing global security environment, leading a discussion on geopolitical competition, strategic alliances, and the growing impact of AI and emerging technologies on security and defence.

The second evidence session focused on our partnerships with countries in the Global South. Experts from the International Crisis Group, Chatham House and the Labour Campaign for International Development discussed how the UK can build credible, mutually beneficial partnerships that support development, economic resilience and international stability.

At the final evidence session, experts from the International Rescue Committee and ODI Europe discussed migration partnerships and legal pathways, highlighting how conflict was a major driver of forced displacement across the world.

At this year's online session for members, Cabinet Office Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds MP provided an update on the latest developments in the UK-EU reset, including the Youth Experience Programme and our renewed participation in Erasmus Plus scheme. Members discussed a broad range of issues in the breakout rooms, from foreign interference in our politics to opportunities in the Commonwealth.

This year's first policy roundtable convened experts from leading policy institutes and international affairs organisations for an in-depth look at the future of our international alliances, with a particular focus on next steps in the UK-EU relationship, UK-US cooperation and opportunities for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

A second roundtable with participants from the defence sector in Plymouth, including a number of local SMEs and trade unions, considered how Labour's defence partnerships were impacting defence procurement, supply chain resilience, skills provision and regional economic growth.

The Commission were grateful to all those that took part in this year's activities, including all those that made submissions to the consultation.

In this year's consultation, the Britain Reconnected Commission agreed that Labour's internationalist values directly support our national renewal. Our work to reset the UK's global relations since the general election was widely welcomed, with participants noting it was already delivering a better deal for British people.

Defence partnerships are an engine for growth

There was broad support for Labour's work to strengthen sovereign industrial capability and ensure that our increased defence investment supports British manufacturing, jobs and regional growth, delivered as an integral part of our wider industrial strategy.

At the regional roundtable, participants reiterated the importance of our defence partnerships to both national security and economic growth. They explained how lessons from Ukraine are reshaping defence procurement, highlighting a need for faster innovation, stronger supply chains and greater support for smaller suppliers.

Since then, the Defence Investment Plan (DIP) echoed many of these themes, with its focus on autonomous vessels and drone transformation through an additional £15bn in defence funding. The DIP's focus on balancing new technology with traditional shipbuilding and aerospace was broadly welcomed, and it was noted that new international orders and more domestic civilian orders would help support more jobs in the long term.

Skills shortages in the defence sector were raised as a barrier to growth. There were calls for a stronger national defence skills pipeline, including defence technology colleges, routes into good quality apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds, STEM engagement from primary school and closer links between industry and education providers.

The Commission found that practical procurement reforms, including faster payments for SMEs, mutual recognition of security clearances and earlier engagement with industry, trade unions and academia, would help maximise the potential that defence partnerships were providing.

Future facing partnerships

Throughout the consultation, the Commission heard how the effects of global events were being felt in the UK. The cyberattack on Jaguar Land Rover in 2025 left thousands of British workers on reduced pay, while others lost their jobs entirely. The wars in Ukraine and Iran had not only resulted in energy price spikes and inflation, but caused widespread supply chain disruption and the repeated lay-off of workers across the UK. Proactive industrial policy was key to protecting workers from future external shocks.

At the first evidence session this year, the Commission heard that artificial intelligence and emerging technologies were changing the nature of national security. Evidence highlighted how hostile states are already using AI and digital

tools to spread misinformation, conduct cyber operations and undermine public trust.

There was support for Labour's work to strengthen the UK's defensive capabilities, improve coordination between Government and industry, and focus investment on areas where the UK showed genuine strength, rather than attempting to compete across every technological field. There was agreement that the UK should continue to deepen integration with Five Eyes allies in defence and space.

The Coalition of the Willing was highlighted as an example of the Labour Government's ability to convene likeminded powers around issues of global significance. The Commission reiterated its continued support for Ukraine in the war against Russia and noted how the nature of conflict is rapidly changing, bringing issues such as drone technology, artificial intelligence and misinformation to the fore.

There was also scope to work with partners to build our digital resilience. The Commission discussed the need for the UK to work with global technology companies to tackle the spread of misinformation and foreign interference in our politics, while making sure the UK remains able to act independently and public institutions retain oversight and accountability.

Closer relationship with Europe

Security and defence was identified as a core pillar of our reset with the European Union. The changing global context was driving a renewed focus on national security throughout the EU, and the UK was increasingly viewed as part of the wider European strategic network. In response, the Commission agreed with the UK taking an active role in flexible formats such as the European Security Council and the European Political Community.

The Commission noted that cooperation with the EU was not limited to defence, and keeping pace with Europe on wider industrial policy, such as the EU's Industrial Accelerator Act, was considered vital.

Evidence to the Commission showed that the UK-German bilateral relationship, which began with defence cooperation before expanding into broader cooperation frameworks across multiple sectors, provided a model for future deeper co-operation with the EU. Labour had begun this work with an ambitious new Security and Defence Partnership, and the Commission heard how UK-EU relations could evolve similarly.

Future UK-EU summits were identified as major opportunities to deliver practical cooperation and signal longer-term cooperation on a broad range of areas, including further reducing trade frictions, building resilience cooperation on pandemics, emergencies and climate risks, and collaboration on sanctions and use of Russian assets. The Commission noted that this was possible within our existing manifesto commitments.

The Commission recognised the importance of the UK's ongoing special relationship with the US, while also noting the Labour Government's principled response to the conflict in Iran. Labour was encouraged to avoid framing UK strategy as a binary choice between the US and the EU, and instead adopt a long-term strategic approach to UK-US relations that balanced interdependence with strategic autonomy.

Opportunities in the Indo-Pacific

The Commission discussed the importance of engaging a broader group of like-minded partners to build coalitions around key issues. Evidence to the Commission showed the Indo-Pacific region represents a huge opportunity for the UK, as trade with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries grew by around 15% in 2025. Targeted agreements with Indo-Pacific countries such as Japan had focussed on sectors of specific interest, providing a strong basis for future cooperation.

Labour was encouraged to maximise the potential of its trading relationships in the region, including the UK's membership of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), while continuing to promote our values. This partnership is boosting opportunities for British business and industry, while offering a potential platform for new and deeper economic partnerships in Southeast Asia.

The Commission heard that Existing Free Trade Agreements in the region could also be enhanced through strategic and proactive ministerial engagement. This could follow the recent example of the Foreign Secretary's visit to India and China, where crucial issues for the UK national interest, such as navigation of the Strait of Hormuz and the war in Ukraine, were discussed alongside new commercial opportunities for British business.

During the consultation, the Commission were encouraged to consider the opportunities around a new grouping of powers including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and South Korea, to coordinate our response to shared challenges and economic security.

New approach to the Global South

Labour's new approach to the Global South was a key focus of this year's consultation. As set out in the new International Development Strategy, our ambition is to push beyond the traditional donor-recipient model towards genuine partnerships of equals.

During the consultation, the Commission heard that countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Gulf are increasingly less likely to see the UK, or other Western countries, as their natural allies, with growing influence from other actors in these regions.

In response, the UK must offer consistency, respect and long-term partnerships. The Commission noted concerns that partnerships can lose credibility if it

is not matched by clear policy detail, and so welcomed the International Development Strategy as a key step forward.

Across the consultation, there was widespread support for moving beyond a donor-recipient model. Evidence to the Commission highlighted the shared challenges for the UK and Global South partners, including increased pressure around migration, cost of living, climate, and public services. As a result, Labour was encouraged to frame its approach around mutual interest, with development policy aiming to support both partner countries and UK interests.

The Commission agreed that trade should not be presented as a substitute for development, but should play a distinct role alongside development, humanitarian support and climate finance. Labour's modern partnerships should be built on a combination of investment, science, technology, jobs and long-term economic resilience.

Humanitarian support

At the evidence session on global migration, the Commission were concerned to hear that 90% of the world's forcibly displaced people are driven from their homes by conflict and violence. They noted that development, migration and conflict prevention policy were closely linked and remained vital to Britain's international role, and highlighted Britain's proud tradition of offering sanctuary to refugees fleeing war and persecution.

The Commission heard how legal migration routes could form part of effective migration partnerships, including supporting development in countries of origin. Speakers focused on possible improvements to legal pathways through reduced bureaucracy and better support for applicants using existing routes. Recommendations that the UK use its diplomatic influence to defend refugee protections and support stronger global cooperation were supported.

Labour's commitment to continue providing lifesaving humanitarian aid in conflict areas, including Ukraine, Sudan and Gaza, was strongly endorsed. Recent announcements, including an additional £23 million for Palestinian refugees in Gaza through UNRWA, highlighted Labour's commitment to alleviate the suffering of civilians facing catastrophe.

Evidence highlighted that this support was both a moral necessity and an important contribution to the UK's own national security. The Labour Campaign for International Development noted that aid and development played a vital role in helping countries emerge more stable, resilient, and less vulnerable to fragmentation.

In light of constrained budgets, the Commission heard that the UK has significant influence as a global financial centre and should use this to support action on debt restructuring, tackling illicit financial flows, and reform of international institutions. Labour was encouraged to use the upcoming UK Presidency of the G20 to discuss reforms to the global finance system, and to showcase and strengthen the UK's global partnerships across a variety of sectors.

During this year's consultation, the Britain Reconnected Commission received a substantial number of submissions that reflected a wide range of views on Britain's role in an increasingly uncertain world, while demonstrating broad support for Labour's outward-looking approach to foreign policy.

Resetting Britain's global partnerships

Submissions overwhelmingly welcomed Labour's efforts to rebuild Britain's international relationships. Many acknowledged this was already strengthening our influence overseas and our ability to deliver economic growth and security at home.

A broad range of options were proposed in submissions to the Commission for our future relationship with the EU, from deeper cooperation to stronger customs union alignment. The prospect of long-term membership was discussed, although most submissions favoured pragmatic developments within our existing red lines.

"Labour should continue to pursue practical improvements to UK-EU relations while respecting the commitments made in its manifesto. This should include strengthening cooperation in areas such as trade facilitation, scientific research, energy security, higher education, skills development and law enforcement." – **GMB**

"The priority for Labour in building a closer relationship with the EU must be to boost jobs, bring down prices and protect workers' rights." – **Usdaw**

"Members welcomed the reset in relations with our European neighbours... Europe is our closest and most important partner, and deeper engagement is essential for economic growth, scientific collaboration and cultural exchange." – **Wallasey CLP**

Submissions increasingly acknowledged the impact that the Conservatives' botched Brexit deal was having on our economy.

"Brexit caused deep economic damage, and rebuilding relations with the EU will bolster security and should also help alleviate the cost of living crisis." – **Camborne, Redruth and Hayle CLP**

In response to global instability, some submissions pushed for further cooperation between European powers on security and defence.

"The evolving global security environment, marked by geopolitical instability, hybrid warfare, cyber threats, and conventional military risks, requires stronger coordination between European democracies" – **Newbury CLP**

Submissions highlighted the UK's historical role in multilateral institutions, noting that they remain essential for managing conflict, addressing climate change, supporting development, and setting international norms.

"The UK has historically played a significant role in shaping global governance, but must now reassert that influence through consistent leadership, credible diplomacy, and active engagement." – **Newbury CLP**

National security, defence and resilience

The rapidly changing international security environment featured strongly throughout the submissions. Trade unions, affiliates and CLPs broadly agreed that Labour was right to strengthen Britain's defence capabilities, while emphasising that national security also depends upon resilient supply chains, industrial capability and strong international partnerships.

"International engagement has driven a more realistic understanding of national security, one that prioritises resilience, supply chain security, sovereign industrial capacity, and workforce capability alongside alliances." – **Unite**

"International engagement also strengthens economic security... national security and economic security are increasingly interconnected." – **GMB**

"We want a strong defence sector which not only deters aggression but also creates economic growth and prosperity." – **Labour Friends of NATO**

"Defence investment seen as economically important... Strategic investment can strengthen both national security and economic growth." – **Chorley CLP**

Submissions noted how the UK's increased defence spending strengthened Britain's reputation as a reliable ally, demonstrating that the UK was prepared to play a serious role in maintaining international security. Labour was encouraged to continue its work with both European and NATO partners.

"The global situation requires that UK shows solidarity with European partners and NATO." – **Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge CLP**

Others highlighted the need for defence procurement to keep pace with rapidly changing technology, while also emphasising the importance of cyber security and responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Partnerships with the Global South

Although some submissions highlighted disagreements over cuts to the aid budget and noted the importance of development to Britain's security, there was broad support for Labour's ambition to move beyond traditional donor-recipient relationships.

"We encourage the government to adopt a broader understanding of security that gives greater weight to development, diplomacy, and conflict prevention" – Labour Campaign for International Development

"Development is our first line of defence... It creates opportunity, forms part of our defence strategy, and is vital to growth." – Labour Campaign for International Development

"Foreign aid remains vital, both morally and strategically. Supporting development, humanitarian relief and climate resilience helps build stable, prosperous societies and strengthens the UK's long-term security." – Wallasey CLP

"Stronger and more resilient economies abroad create greater stability and opportunity for everyone" – Paul, North-West

Several submissions emphasised the need to pursue economic partnerships and sustainable economic development. Some pointed to the role human rights, labour standards and collective bargaining play in proactively raising living standards, while others highlighted how development could help tackle gender inequality and support marginalised groups.

"This approach should prioritise investment partnerships that build local manufacturing capacity, support workforce development, and enable countries to move up the value chain." – Unite

"Labour's approach should support sustainable economic development, skills development, infrastructure investment and climate resilience. Partnerships should focus on helping countries build long-term economic capacity rather than relying solely on traditional aid models" – GMB

"Women continue to face significant barriers in many parts of the world, including unequal access to education, employment and political participation. Britain's international engagement should support gender equality and women's empowerment." – GMB

"The UK should continue to champion women's rights, LGBT+ rights and equal opportunities internationally, while supporting access to education, employment and leadership opportunities." – Oxford and District Labour Party

"At a time of rising global conflict, the UK's international development and conflict resolution work should recognise and support the role of co-operatives as one of the most effective organisational models for building peace and achieving inclusive development." – **Co-operative Party**

Technology and digital innovation

Many submissions referenced digital innovation, resilience and technological cooperation. Building on the findings of the Strategic Defence Review and lessons from the war in Ukraine, submissions acknowledged how defence manufacturing needed to modernise.

"We need to re-orientate defence much more towards combating drones."
– **Bracknell CLP**

Other submissions argued that artificial intelligence and social media presented new challenges for democratic resilience, cyber security and public trust. The UK was encouraged to work with international partners to develop common standards for AI and digital rights.

"We would also highlight trade digitalisation as a practical opportunity to deepen economic integration with the EU. Greater interoperability between UK and EU digital systems offers a clear route to reducing barriers without reopening complex market access negotiations."
– **Lloyds Banking Group**

"Digital innovation can strengthen the UK's ability to cooperate internationally, but only when it is part of a wider strategy centred on resilience, sovereign capability, and workforce participation" – **Unite**

"International cooperation can help close the digital divide and expand opportunities worldwide." – **Paul, North-West**

"Digital cooperation can become a cornerstone of the UK's bridge-building approach " – **Labour Campaign for International Development**

Electoral reform

The Commission received a substantial number of submissions on democratic and electoral reform, which sat beyond the core scope of this year's consultation.

Many individual members, CLPs and organisations called for the establishment of a National Commission on Electoral Reform and the introduction of a more proportional voting system. A number of submissions argued that electoral reform would strengthen public trust and democratic resilience, while others outlined their continued support for the existing First Past the Post system.

Throughout the consultation, the Britain Reconnected Commission discussed the number of submissions on this issue and reflected on the broad range of proposals put forward. They discussed the possibility of hearing from expert speakers at future commission meetings, including those with experience of campaigning and governing under alternative electoral systems.

ANNEX

(CLP) East Midlands Region – Kelly Duddridge
(CLP) East Midlands Region – Neghat Khan
(CLP) East Midlands Region – Nathan Oswin
(CLP) East Midlands Region – Rory Palmer
(CLP) East Midlands Region – Ruby Simpson
(CLP) Eastern Region – Louise Chinnery
(CLP) Eastern Region – Adam Fox
(CLP) Eastern Region – Richard Howitt
(CLP) Eastern Region – Rosie Jackson
(CLP) Eastern Region – Alexander Kyriacou
(CLP) Greater London Region – Rezina Chowdhury
(CLP) Greater London Region – Sara Conway
(CLP) Greater London Region – Bora Kwon
(CLP) Greater London Region – Abdi Mohamed
(CLP) Greater London Region – Hollie Wright
(CLP) North West Region – Sam Corcoran
(CLP) North West Region – Connor Dwyer
(CLP) North West Region – Nathalie Nicholas
(CLP) North West Region – Claire Reid
(CLP) Northern Region – Luke Henman
(CLP) Northern Region – Georgia Jamieson
(CLP) Northern Region – Michael Mordey
(CLP) Northern Region – Melanie Morley
(CLP) Northern Region – Jacob Cousens
(CLP) Scottish Labour Party – Heather Brannan-McVey
(CLP) Scottish Labour Party – Stuart MacLennan
(CLP) Scottish Labour Party – Michelle McGinty
(CLP) Scottish Labour Party – Ben Procter
(CLP) Scottish Labour Party – Brooke Ritchie
(CLP) South East Region – Parmjit Dhanda
(CLP) South East Region – Duncan Enright
(CLP) South East Region – Pavitar Mann
(CLP) South East Region – Sharon Mintoff
(CLP) South East Region – Lundy MacKenzie
(CLP) South West Region – Christopher Cuddihee
(CLP) South West Region – Ashley Smith
(CLP) South West Region – Judy Wilson
(CLP) South West Region – Ada Gravatt
(CLP) Welsh Labour Party – Chris Carter
(CLP) Welsh Labour Party – Jess Moultrie
(CLP) Welsh Labour Party – David Smith
(CLP) Welsh Labour Party – Sian Taylor
(CLP) Welsh Labour Party – Charlotte Davies
(CLP) West Midlands Region – Luke John Davies
(CLP) West Midlands Region – Trudie McGuinness

(CLP) West Midlands Region – Cathy Parry
(CLP) West Midlands Region – Kalwinder Sandhu
(CLP) West Midlands Region – Niamh Iliff
(CLP) Yorkshire and Humber Region – Salma Arif
(CLP) Yorkshire and Humber Region – Lisa Banes
(CLP) Yorkshire and Humber Region – Julia Rockett
(CLP) Yorkshire and Humber Region – Alice Smart
(CLP) Yorkshire and Humber Region – Lucy Hulme
(TU) Usdaw – Chris Morris
(TU) Usdaw – Rab Donnelly
(TU) Usdaw – Emily Rowles
(TU) Usdaw – Emma Woodfine
(TU) Usdaw – Joanne Cairns
(TU) Usdaw – Joanne Thomas
(TU) Usdaw – Ruth Cross
(TU) Usdaw – Susan Donaldson
(TU) Unite – Alison Spencer-Scragg
(TU) Unite – Andy Green
(TU) Unite – Angela Duerden
(TU) Unite – Dominic Hook
(TU) Unite – Hannah Reed
(TU) Unite – John Earls
(TU) Unite – Maggie Ryan
(TU) Unite – Oliver Richardson
(TU) Unite – Sarah Carpenter
(TU) Unite – Sharon Graham
(TU) Unite – Simon Cox
(TU) Unite – Siobhan Endean
(TU) Unite – Susan Mathews
(TU) UNISON – Denise Thomas
(TU) UNISON – Ash Silverstone
(TU) UNISON – Helen Firman
(TU) UNISON – Karen Atkinson
(TU) UNISON – Wendy Walker
(TU) UNISON – Liz Snape
(TU) ASLEF – Collette Gibson
(TU) ASLEF – Marz Colombini
(TU) CWU – Dave Ward
(TU) CWU – Martin Walsh
(TU) CWU – Michelle Bailey
(TU) CWU – Tracey Fussey
(TU) GMB – Barbara Plant
(TU) GMB – Dean Gilligan
(TU) GMB – Finbar Bowie
(TU) GMB – Gary Smith

(TU) GMB – Rhianna Patel
(TU) GMB – Jo Pitchford
(TU) GMB – Michelle Gordon
(TU) GMB – Rachel Harrison
(TU) GMB – Ross Holden
(TU) GMB – Stacey Booth
(TU) GMB – Thomas Carr-Pollock
(TU) Community – Helen Avis
(TU) Community – Dominic Armstrong
(TU) Fire Brigades Union – Steve Wright
(TU) Fire Brigades Union – Val Hampshire
(TU) Musicians' Union – Andi Hopgood
(TU) Musicians' Union – Xenia Horne
(TU) National Union of Mineworkers – Chris Kitchen
(TU) TSSA – Andi Fox
Scottish Policy Forum – Karen Whitefield
Scottish Policy Forum – Katherine Sangster
Scottish Policy Forum – Heather Doran
Scottish Policy Forum – Margaret Cowie
Welsh Policy Forum – Jenny Ann Rathbone
Welsh Policy Forum – Carolyn Harris MP
(LG) Association of Labour Councillors – Vince Maple
(LG) Association of Labour Councillors – Sharon Thompson
(LG) Association of Labour Councillors – Eamonn O'Brien
(LG) Association of Labour Councillors – Mary Ann Brockelsby
(LG) Local Government Association – Bev Craig
(LG) Local Government Association – Bella Sankey
(LG) Local Government Association – Amanda Serjeant
(LG) Local Government Association – Peter Marland
(LG) Convention of Scottish Local Authorities – Gurpreet Singh Johal
(LG) Welsh Local Government Association – Nathan Yeowell
Socialist Societies – Chris Wongsosaputro
Socialist Societies – Marc Harris
Socialist Societies – Liz Hind
Socialist Societies – Melanie Smallman
Socialist Societies – Roulin Khondoker
Socialist Societies – Sara Hyde
Disability Labour – Jonathan Farr
LGBT+ Labour – Kevin Brady
LGBT+ Labour – Miriam Mirwitch
National Women's Committee – Sagal Abdi Wali
National Women's Committee – Sonya Davis
National Committee of Labour Students – Ruby Herbert
Northern Ireland Labour Party – Boyd Black
Labour International – Richard Williams

Parliamentary Labour Party – Jess Asato
Parliamentary Labour Party – Lewis Atkinson
Parliamentary Labour Party – Laurence Turner
Parliamentary Labour Party – Neil Coyle
Parliamentary Labour Party – Tracy Gilbert
Parliamentary Labour Party – Steve Yemm
House of Lords – Baroness Glenys Thornton
House of Lords – Baroness Rosie Winterton
Cabinet – Ed Miliband
Cabinet – Rachel Reeves
Cabinet – Shabana Mahmood
Cabinet – James Murray
Cabinet – Bridget Phillipson
Cabinet – Yvette Cooper
Co-operative Party – Lucy Naylor
Co-operative Party – Jamie McMahon
Co-operative Party – Joe Fortune
National Executive Committee – Abdi Duale
National Executive Committee – Angie Davies
National Executive Committee – Ann Black
National Executive Committee – Cat Arnold
National Executive Committee – Gemma Bolton
National Executive Committee – Jane Thomas
National Executive Committee – Jessica Barnard
National Executive Committee – Peter Mason
National Executive Committee – Yasmine Dar
National Executive Committee – Lucy Powell
National Executive Committee – Jonathan Reynolds
National Executive Committee – Claire Holland
National Executive Committee – Peter Wheeler
National Executive Committee – Keir Starmer
National Executive Committee – Jessica Morden
National Executive Committee – Gurinder Singh Josan
National Executive Committee – Luke Akehurst
National Executive Committee – Melanie Onn
National Executive Committee – Jackie Baillie
National Executive Committee – Ellie Reeves
National Executive Committee – Shabana Mahmood
National Executive Committee – Carol Sewell
National Executive Committee – Anu Prashar
National Executive Committee – Hollie Ridley
National Executive Committee – Mike Payne
National Executive Committee – David Agleby
National Executive Committee – Keiran O'Neill
National Executive Committee – Ian Murray

National Executive Committee – Isabelle Gutierrez
National Executive Committee – Jane Jones
National Executive Committee – Tom Williams
National Executive Committee – Karen Rose
National Executive Committee – Sonya Davis
National Executive Committee – Aimy Saunders
National Executive Committee – Mary Williams
National Executive Committee – Cerys Way
National Executive Committee – Nicola Jukes
National Executive Committee – Linda Hobson
National Executive Committee – Ann Jones
National Executive Committee – Elsie Greenwood
National Executive Committee – Ellen Morrison-Smith

Action on Smoking and Health
Aldermore Bank Public Limited Company
All Together Money, formerly the Association of British Credit Unions Limited
Another Europe is Possible
ASLEF
Association for Consultancy and Engineering Group
The Association for Decentralised Energy
Best for Britain
bet365
Better Society Capital
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Labour
British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People
British Chambers of Commerce
British Heart Foundation
The British Land Company Public Limited Company
British Pest Control Association
British Standards Institution
Building Societies Association
Campaign for State Education
Capital.com
Centre for Young Lives
Chartered Institute of Housing
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development
Chartered Management Institute
Child Poverty Action Group
The Circle
Citizens Advice
Climate Jobs United Kingdom and GMB Union
The Co-operative Group
Co-operative Party
Co-operatives and Mutuals Wales
Community Union Self-Employed Section
Compassion in World Farming
Corporate Justice Coalition
Crisis
Deliveroo
The Disability Policy Centre
Doctors in Unite
Doyle and Tratt Products Limited

Durham University
Electrical Safety First
Emfris Limited
Employee Ownership Association
End Furniture Poverty
Energy UK
The Exponential Academy
Fabian Education Policy Group
Fair4All Finance
Focus on Labour Exploitation
Free Home Care Campaign in Memory of Iain Coleman MP
GMB
Gingerbread
Green Gas Taskforce
Grimsby and District Fabian Society
Hacked Off
Haleon
Health Equals
Heineken UK
Herstory Writing and Interpretation
Independent Networks Association
Innovate Finance
International Synergies Limited
Jones Lang LaSalle
Kaiserberg Independent Policy Design Initiative
Kalayaan
Kinship
Labour Animal Welfare Society
Labour Business
Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform
Labour for a New Democracy
Labour for a Republic
Labour for Trans Rights
Labour Friends of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Labour Women's Declaration
The Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce
Lloyds Banking Group
The Loafer Sandwich House
London School of Economics and Political Science
Make Votes Matter Oxfordshire

Malaria No More UK
McDonald's UK and Ireland
Meet the Leader Limited
Methodist Homes
The Migraine Trust
National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)
Nationwide Foundation
NCC Group
Oil Firing Technical Association and United Kingdom and Ireland Fuel
Distributors Association
Openreach Limited
Patients Association
Proprietary Association of Great Britain, the Consumer Healthcare Association
The Ramblers
Real Estate UK
Regeneras Group Limited
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Royal Mencap Society
Royal National Institute of Blind People
Sense
Socialist Environment and Resources Association
Socialist Health Association
Socialist Health Association London Branch
Society of Pension Professionals
Solar Energy UK
South East Wales Co-operative Party
Starlight Children's Foundation
Transform Trade
Trusted Land
UK Cinema Association
UKHospitality
Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw)
UNISON
Unite the Union
United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy
United Kingdom Private Capital
University of the Arts London
Western Sahara Campaign
Youth Futures Foundation

Altrincham and Sale West CLP
Amber Valley CLP
Arundel and South Downs CLP
Astley Bridge / Bromley Cross Branch — Bolton North East CLP
Banbury CLP
Bath CLP
Beverley and Holderness CLP
Bexleyheath and Crayford CLP
Bolton North East CLP
Bournemouth West CLP
Bracknell CLP
Brampton and Wetheral Branch — Carlisle CLP
Bransbury Branch — Portsmouth CLP
Bretton and West Branch — Peterborough CLP
Brighton Pavilion CLP
Bristol Central CLP
Bristol North West CLP
Broadland and Fakenham CLP
Bromsgrove CLP
Broxbourne CLP
Buckingham & Bletchley CLP
Buxton Branch Labour Party — High Peak CLP
Camborne, Redruth and Hayle CLP
Cambridge CLP
Central Devon CLP
Cheadle CLP
Chichester CLP
Chippenham CLP
Chorley CLP
City of Durham CLP
Clwyd East CLP
Colne Valley CLP
Croydon East CLP
Croydon South CLP
Deal and Walmer Branch Labour Party — Dover and Deal CLP
Dene & South Gosforth Branch — Newcastle North CLP
Dulwich & West Norwood CLP
Ealing Central and Acton CLP
East Dartmoor Branch — Central Devon CLP
Eastbourne CLP

Ellesmere Port and Bromborough CLP
Esher and Walton CLP
Evesham Branch — Droitwich & Evesham CLP
Folkestone and Hythe CLP
Great Ayton and Stokesley Labour Branch — Richmond and Northallerton CLP
Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes CLP
Greenwich & Woolwich CLP
Hackney South and Shoreditch CLP
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse CLP
Henley and Thame CLP
Hertford and Stortford CLP
Hertford and Ware Branch — Hertford and Stortford CLP
Heswall Branch Labour Party — Wirral West CLP
Hexham CLP
High Peak CLP
Hinksey Park Branch — Oxford CLP
Hove & Portslade CLP
Huntingdon CLP
Inverness & Nairn CLP
Isle of Wight CLP (West and East)
Kemptown and Peacehaven CLP
Labour International CLP
Lancaster Branch Labour Party — Lancaster and Wyre CLP
Leeds Central and Headingley CLP
Leeds North East CLP
Leeds West and Pudsey CLP
Leicester South CLP
Lewisham North CLP
Lewisham West and East Dulwich CLP
Luton South and South Bedfordshire CLP
Mid Bedfordshire CLP
Mid Buckinghamshire CLP
Moray CLP
Morecambe and Lunesdale CLP
Newbury CLP
Newcastle-under-Lyme CLP
Newton Abbot CLP
North Devon CLP
North East Cambridgeshire CLP
North Northumberland CLP

North Somerset CLP
North West Norfolk CLP
Northampton North CLP
Norwich CLP
Nottingham South CLP
Oldham East and Saddleworth CLP
Orpington CLP
Oxford and District Labour Party
Penrith and Solway CLP
Pontefract, Castleford and Knottingley CLP
Pontypridd CLP
Portsmouth North CLP — Portsmouth North CLP
Portsmouth CLP
Portsmouth North CLP and Portsmouth South CLP
Putney CLP
Reading West and Mid Berkshire CLP
Richmondshire Branch Labour Party — Richmond and Northallerton CLP
Rother Valley CLP
Rugby CLP
Salisbury CLP
Scarborough & Whitby CLP
Sheffield Hallam CLP
Shipley CLP
South Devon CLP
South East Cornwall CLP
South Northamptonshire CLP
South Ribble CLP
South Shropshire CLP
South Suffolk CLP
Southern France, Ireland and Isle of Man Branch — Labour International CLP
Stafford CLP
Stockton North CLP
Stoke-on-Trent South CLP
Stone Branch — Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge CLP
Streatham and Croydon North CLP
Stroud CLP
Sussex Weald CLP
Sutton and Cheam CLP
Swanage and Rural Purbeck CLP
Taunton and Wellington CLP

Thirsk and Malton CLP
Torridge and Tavistock CLP
Towneley, Trinity & Coal Clough Branch — Burnley CLP
Truro & Falmouth CLP
Twickenham CLP
Wallasey CLP
Waveney Valley East CLP
Welwyn Hatfield CLP
West Branch — Liverpool Garston CLP
West Derby CLP
West Suffolk CLP
Westbury on Trym and Henleaze Branch — Bristol North West CLP
Westmorland and Lonsdale CLP
Wharfedale Branch Labour Party — Shipley CLP
Whitstable Branch Labour Party — Canterbury CLP
Witham CLP
Wirral West CLP
Wolverhampton West CLP
Women's Branch — High Peak CLP
Women's Branch — Isle of Wight CLP
Women's Forum — Mid-Derbyshire CLP
Wycombe CLP
Wyre Branch — Lancaster and Wyre CLP
Wythenshawe and Sale East CLP

ACUA Ocean
Asia House
Association of British HealthTech Industries
Association of Colleges
Babcock Devonport
Belong Network
Blueprint for Water
British Chambers of Commerce
British Future
British Mountaineering Council
Canal & River Trust
Care workers, with experience of the social care sponsorship system / UNISON
Centre for Cities
Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics
Centre for European Reform
Centre for Mental Health
Centre for Young Lives
Chartered Management Institute
Chatham House
Cheshire East Council
Citizens Advice
COMPAS / Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, University of Oxford
County Councils Network
Energy UK
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
European Council on Foreign Relations
Fabian Society
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
GMB
Green Alliance
Imperial College London
Institute for Public Policy Research
Institute of Health Visiting
International Crisis Group
International Rescue Committee UK
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
The King's Fund
Labour Campaign for International Development

STAKEHOLDERS WHO GAVE EVIDENCE

Local Government Association
Local Government Information Unit
Local Trust
Make UK Defence
Mencap
Mental Health Foundation
Migration Observatory, University of Oxford
Mind
More in Common
Mott MacDonald
Multiverse
National Children's Bureau
New Local
NHS Alliance
Nuffield Foundation
Nuffield Trust
ODI Europe
Open Spaces Society
Ormiston Academy Trust
Oxford University Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance
Paddle UK
Pearson
Power to Change
Pregnant Then Screwed
Progressive Policy Institute
Queen's Institute of Community Nursing
The Ramblers
RenewableUK
River Action
Rowse
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Psychiatrists
RSPB
RUSI
The Russell Group
Save the Children UK
Scientists for Labour
Scope

STAKEHOLDERS WHO GAVE EVIDENCE

Secure Innovation
Silicon Sensing
Sir Brian Leveson, expert witness on criminal courts
SOAS University of London
Surfers Against Sewage
Teddington Electronics Ltd
Timewise
Too Good To Go
TUC
UK in a Changing Europe
UNISON
Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
Wildlife and Countryside Link
The Wildlife Trusts
Women's Faith Forum
Woolf Institute
Work Foundation
Working Families
The Young Foundation
YoungMinds
Youth Futures Foundation

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Labour's National Policy Forum