



Winning the fight for Britain's future

Vote 2009

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Foreword by Gordon Brown

I believe we can be confident about the prospects for recovery in the next year for Britain and the world

We are putting in place now the building blocks for future recovery by investing in families, jobs and in the key sectors of the economy.

So, we are giving real support to all when it is most needed - not tax cuts for a privileged few. We are bringing forward investment - not cutting services in the

middle of a recession. And we will stand by those who are worried that they could lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by.

To help families get through this year, we are giving a £145 tax cut to 22 million basic rate taxpayers from April, boosting child benefit, helping pensioners with an extra £60, and increasing pensions, savings and child tax

credits all above inflation.

We are determined to help people keep their jobs and their homes. We will not walk on by as the Conservatives did in the last recession. That is why we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs. Plus we are delivering extra investment in skills and a new package of support for homeowners to help them hold onto their homes, even if they lose their jobs.

Despite the downturn, we are continuing to raise standards in schools and hospitals and police. But now more than ever we have to get value for money for the taxpayer in our public services so that we can continue to improve them to world class levels.

We know that this global crisis needs a global solution - more trade abroad means more jobs at home. That's why, alongside President Obama and other world leaders, we agreed the Global Plan for Recovery. Like our national plan, the aims of this global plan are clear: to rescue the savers from the banks; get lending going again; stimulate our economies; and provide real support to families and business.

I know that Britain faces other challenges too - in our communities, not just in our economy. But I believe there is nothing wrong in Britain today that cannot be put right by what is good about our country. We need to support the millions of British people who make Britain work - like the three-quarters of the people in this country who regularly volunteer - so instead of talking Britain down, we should be proud of our talent and nurture their potential. You don't help communities that are under pressure by saying you want to hug them one day and then cutting their support the next.

Any attempt to cut our way out of this recession not only devastates our public services but will simply lead to the recession being deeper and longer. That is why we must grow our way out of this recession while setting out sensible and fair ways of paying our way once the economy is back in shape again. We win our future not by retreating from Europe but by engaging with it; by tapping into the talents of our people, not by writing them off.

“We are giving real support to all - not tax cuts for a privileged few. We are bringing forward investment - not cutting services. And we will stand by those who are worried that they could lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by”

This is what I believe in - helping the many, not just the few, and never walking on by when people need you to stand by them.

So, if you share these values too, then vote Labour on June 4 and help us win the fight for Britain's future.

Gordon Brown

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP,
Leader of the Labour Party

Introduction from Glenis Willmott

As the leader of Labour's MEPs, I am proud to represent a party which works with European colleagues to improve the lives of British people

Labour MEPs have a strong record of achieving practical results which make our lives more prosperous, safer and better. Labour has fought hard so that workers in Britain have the right to guaranteed holidays, mums and dads have more time to spend at home with their kids and we pay less for air travel or phone calls when we are on holiday.



On 4 June voters in Britain face a clear choice in the European elections - between an outward-looking Labour Party that has influence and alliances in Europe to secure new action in the interests of British people, or a Conservative Party which would put British prosperity and stability at risk by choosing isolation. Whether securing our prosperity, making the goods we buy safer and cheaper or looking after our environment, Labour knows that we achieve more by working with our European allies than going it alone.

Our priority at home and in Europe is to help people through the financial crisis by taking the decisive action needed to create jobs and build a stronger, fairer and safer Britain. In the face of difficult circumstances there is much to do and we can do more working with European colleagues than thinking we could do better on our own.

By voting Labour on 4 June you make the choice for Labour MEPs to continue the battle for a more prosperous, fairer Britain. By acting decisively and determinedly at all levels - local, national and European - together we will win the fight for Britain's future.

Glenis Willmott

Glenis Willmott MEP,
Leader of the European
Parliamentary Labour Party

Winning the fight for Britain's future

In an age of change, where globalisation has transformed the world, we are faced with new opportunities as well as new risks and insecurities

Labour stands resolutely for the hard working majority of the British people. Our approach is not just to help people now but to plan for recovery, renew our society and ensure Britain can thrive in the future. Only that way will we win the fight for Britain's future.

We will not walk on by while people need help.

In recent months we have taken the radical action necessary to support the British economy. We are acting on a national and international level to ensure recovery both at home and abroad. Our approach is to build a stronger and fairer Britain by offering security and opportunity for the many, not the few. Security to see us through difficult times; opportunity to make the most of the chances available.

We are not just acting to see Britain through present difficulties. We have a progressive agenda to create a stronger nation for the future: a plan for building a strong economy of the future; tough action to tackle irresponsibility at all levels in society - from the classroom to the boardroom; and a modern government that responds to people's needs and empowers them to take control of their lives, with a continued commitment to improving public services to world class levels. While we need to act now to ensure the recession is over as quickly as possible, we have also set out clear plans for bringing

the deficit down once the economy is strong again, and doing so in a way that is fair and does not threaten our frontline public services.

To achieve our goals, Britain must be fully engaged with the rest of the world. The world's problems must be met by multilateral solutions - Labour believes in working with our international partners, in Europe and across the globe. We firmly reject isolationism and we are committed to fighting extremism in all its forms.

Labour is taking action to help families and businesses now and for the future.

Labour stands resolutely for the hard working majority of the British people. Our approach is not just to help people now but to plan for recovery, renew our society, and ensure Britain can thrive in the future

By opposing the action we have taken, the Conservatives have set themselves against providing real help now for families and businesses. They are committed not just to spending less in a time of need but also to spend less in the future. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery, just as they did in the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s. They would make Britain weaker not stronger for the future.

Labour has always believed in a fair future for all. And fairness matters even more at a time of profound change such as this:

- **fair chances for all**, so that everyone can share in the new benefits that progress brings
- **fair rules for all**, so that no-one feels unprotected
- **a fair say for all**, so that people have more power over their local communities and services
- and **a fair deal for all**, so that no-one is let down or left behind.

Labour stands for the many, not the few. Guided by our values we will create a stronger and fairer future for Britain.



A fair future for all

We are living in an age of unprecedented change. Globalisation has brought many benefits and opportunities for people in Britain and around the world

However, the global economic downturn has also seen new risks and insecurities emerge.

The decisive action that we are taking at home, in Europe and beyond will get us through the downturn. By working together, marshalling all the resources at our disposal and uniting as a nation, we will move forward to better times.

Labour will take the action necessary to come through these difficult times stronger so that we are prepared for the future. Our immediate priority is to do whatever it takes to give real help to people. Labour believes the government must step in to support people rather than stand idly by and do nothing. Labour will not look back in years to come and say we failed to act and therefore delayed the recovery. Acting now will mean that the recession will be shorter and shallower than it would otherwise be. And we have set out a sensible and fair strategy for paying back what we borrow when the economy is strong enough, one that protects our frontline public services.

Our work in Europe is essential for building a fairer future. We will continue using our influence in the European Union to ensure it delivers on the things that matter to people in Britain - from creating jobs and prosperity to fighting climate change and tackling global poverty.

We are investing now so that we are best placed to take advantage of the upturn. We will prepare the British economy for the opportunities that will come with new emerging sectors. Whether it is the advent of a low carbon economy, advanced manufacturing or the creative industries Britain will be ready to share in this prosperity so that every person in Britain benefits.



Building the economy of the future



Labour is working to secure a fair future for Britain. We stand resolutely for the hard working majority of the British

people. In this global economic downturn our approach is not just to help people now but to plan for recovery.

Labour is taking decisive action at a local, national and global level to help people through these tough times.

We are providing real help by investing in families, jobs and in the key sectors of the economy. Due to the global nature of this downturn it is more important than ever that we work with our European partners to provide a co-ordinated response to make the recession here at home as short as possible. So, we are giving real support to all - not tax cuts for the few. We are bringing forward investment - not cutting services. And we will stand by those who are worried that they could lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by.

At a time of recession David Cameron's priority is to give an average inheritance tax cut of £200,000 to just 3,000 millionaires.

Labour believes that when times are tough the government has a duty to step in and support people. This is why we have boosted demand in the economy, putting more money in people's pockets by cutting taxes and bringing forward government spending plus extra, targeted support to those hit hardest by the current crisis.

To support families we brought forward an increase in child benefit and child tax credit. We helped pensioners

during the winter months with an extra £60 bonus on top of the increase in the Winter Fuel payment. To put more money into the economy Labour has cut income tax by £145 for basic rate taxpayers and cut VAT to save households an average of £275 off their household bills.

Supporting businesses so they come through the downturn stronger is integral to our future economic success. Working with banks, Labour has guaranteed loans to businesses so that they get the credit they need. And to ease pressure on businesses up and down the country, we have allowed them to defer their tax payments on a timetable that they can afford instead of going bust.

We are acting to help ensure that losing your job does not have to mean losing your home. To make paying the bills a little easier Labour has introduced mortgage schemes which provide extra protection to help families stay in their homes if they suffer a temporary fall in income. In contrast, at a time of recession David Cameron's priority is to give an average inheritance tax cut of £200,000 to just 3,000 millionaires.

We have boosted demand in the economy, putting more money in people's pockets by cutting taxes and bringing forward government spending

While the Conservatives have opposed the new investment in Job Centre Plus, we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs. We are guaranteeing a job, training or work place to all 18-24 year olds who are unemployed for 12 months. We are increasing statutory redundancy pay.

Employers are being given a "Golden Hello" worth up to £2,500 to recruit and train people. We will not repeat the mistakes of the Tory home-grown recessions of the past where short-term unemployment became long-term unemployment. Providing real help now is

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Labour is providing extra mortgage protection so that losing your job does not have to mean losing your home.

Labour is stepping up support to get people back into work with new skills and training - we are investing £5 billion in measures to support people who lose their jobs.

necessary to tackle the problems we face today, but Labour is committed to preparing Britain to seize the opportunities of tomorrow. We are investing now so we are best placed to take advantage of the upturn.

The UK will need to strive harder than ever to accelerate its transformation into a low-carbon economy because the benefits to business and the wider economy will be great. We will not shy away from key questions of the future, such as how we transport ourselves, how we heat our homes and workplaces and how we produce our goods. We will embrace these opportunities positively in order to meet our aim of creating thousands of new jobs in green technology and advanced manufacturing. So we need a strategy to ensure that the UK thrives in the key sectors of the future – creating wealth and jobs in environmental technologies, digital industries, the creative sector, advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, health-care and education. To do that, we will need to forge a new industrial activism. Most of all, we will need to continue to invest smartly in our world-class science base, our education sector and our infrastructure.

Labour is committed to preparing Britain to seize the opportunities of tomorrow. We're investing now so we are best placed to take advantage of the upturn

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

By opposing Labour's boost to the economy, the Conservatives have set themselves against extra money to support families and businesses, as well as investment in communities throughout the country.

The Tories are committed not just to spending less in a time of need but also to spend less in the future. By committing his party to cuts David Cameron's policies would threaten key local services like transport, police and schools. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery.

David Cameron's do nothing approach to the global recession puts him at odds with governments of right and left across Europe. He would isolate Britain in Europe, putting Tory ideology ahead of the needs of the British economy and British people.





A greener Britain

Building a low carbon society presents opportunities as well as challenges. Labour aims to make Britain a leader in green technology, manufacturing and services – the growth of a low carbon economy that uses resources efficiently will be central to Britain's future economic success. Key to this will be

David Cameron has failed to back the measures needed to provide a secure and stable energy supply for Britain in the future. He flip-flopped on nuclear, opposed Labour's Planning Act which is paving the way for new low carbon energy, while across the country the Conservatives routinely campaign against wind farms.

the development of a low carbon energy mix – including energy supplies from renewable sources like wind, solar and tidal power as well as cleaner fossil fuels and nuclear power.

While the shift to low carbon will mean change, it has huge benefits for the economy

and business, individuals and communities. Labour action to support this transition and the growth of new technologies and skills, will ensure Britain is ready to seize the opportunities that will come with change – such as a £400 million package to help Britain make the shift to low carbon vehicles, a new obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to deliver energy efficiency measures, and support for a massive expansion of renewable electricity and the development of carbon capture and storage technology for clean fossil fuel use.

Labour is offering real help for people wanting to cut their energy bills and reduce their carbon footprint by making their homes more energy efficient, for example through financial support towards the cost of insulation and modern boilers.

But preparing for the long-term – and a low carbon future – requires a radical shift in the energy efficiency of our homes and buildings, and decarbonising our heat supply. Over the next three years, thanks to Labour action, 5 million more households will be helped with insulation and 100

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Over the past six years, Labour action has meant that 5 million households have been helped with insulation.

Labour brought in the historic Climate Change Act, with a target of an 80 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

million low energy light bulbs will be given out. We aim for 7 million homes to receive a whole house refurbishment by 2020 putting in measures such as solid wall insulation and low carbon heating technology to make these houses more energy efficient and cost efficient. By 2016, all new homes will be zero-carbon.

With Labour in government, Britain has played a world leading role in seeking international agreement on climate change. Central to this is our work in the EU to agree a new package of laws to deliver real cuts in CO₂ across the union by 2020. And at home, our groundbreaking Climate Change Act has put in place a long-term legal framework for reducing emissions - making Britain the first country in the world to put carbon reduction targets into law.

Labour also believes that it is

vital to protect and enhance the natural environment of Britain's countryside for future generations. It is thanks to Labour that we have the system of National Parks. We are proud to have created the New Forest National Park and we are now going further, having announced the creation of a South Downs National Park. We are fulfilling our promise to legislate for a Marine Bill which will better protect our seas and the wonders that lie beneath them. Meanwhile, to support British agriculture, we will press in Europe for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

Labour action has meant that households up and down the country are being helped to reduce both their energy bills and their carbon emissions with insulation and other energy efficiency measures. But the Tories have announced they would cut the Department of Energy and Climate Change's budget by £80 million this year - which could mean up to 32,000 of the most vulnerable households would miss out on this help at the worst possible time.

A fair world for all



Working internationally to tackle global problems

The current financial downturn has demonstrated more vividly than ever before the interconnected nature of the world in which we live. In today's world isolation is not an option. We can only tackle the financial crisis and other new global challenges we face – from climate change to nuclear proliferation – by fully

David Cameron's policy of disengagement from Europe leaves the Tories completely unable to tackle the global challenges that Britain faces including the current economic downturn .

engaging with our partners in Europe and across the world.

Whilst globalisation has presented us with new challenges it has also opened

up a wealth of opportunity. Today more people than ever before live free from oppression and disease. More people have the chance to go to school and see a doctor and more people live in peace. But we know there is more to be done. By working with leaders around the world to find global solutions to global problems we can build on these opportunities and

create a fairer world for all.

Since 1997 fighting world poverty and increasing peace and security have been priorities for Labour. In the current economic climate we will not waiver in our commitment to helping the world's poorest people but will build on our global leadership to help developing countries work their way out of poverty. In order to do so, we must look beyond governments and build relationships with a wide range of groups, creating a truly global society where the concerns of the poorest are the concerns of us all.

International engagement is vital for securing peace, freedom and democracy. By helping to build stability in insecure areas of the world, such as the Middle East and Afghanistan, we will not only improve the lives of thousands of people but will also make Britain's streets safer.

To achieve our goals of greater security and prosperity worldwide we need new and renewed international institutions. We will continue to call for organisations, including the United Nations and the World Bank, to be reformed so they

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Labour has tripled Britain's international aid budget helping to lift 3 million people permanently out of poverty each year.

Labour's engagement in Europe has won a better deal for British families including securing cheaper phone calls and air travel in the EU and improving consumer rights.

Labour action in Europe has also led to greater rights for workers and parents, including the right to guaranteed holiday and extra parental leave.

better reflect the world we live in and are able to tackle the global challenges we face.

The Tories would choose isolation, but this can never be a real solution. Labour knows that by reaching out beyond our borders and ensuring our role in the world is guided by our values and Britain's national interest we can create a fairer society for all.

Making the EU work for Britain

The current economic downturn means that our active membership of the European Union is more important than ever for Britain's prosperity. More than half of all our trade is with the rest of Europe and

millions of jobs depend on it. That is why we will continue working hard in Europe to ensure that the EU delivers in the areas that matter to British people including jobs and prosperity, climate change and fighting crime.

As well as ensuring the EU contributes to stability and peace worldwide, Labour uses its strong voice to ensure that the EU is delivering for people in Britain. By playing an active, leading role in Europe we have helped to ensure a better deal for people across Britain securing measures which include cheaper travel and phone calls to increased holiday leave and cleaner beaches.

The choice: Tory isolationism vs. Labour engagement

Whilst Labour remains fully engaged in Europe, using our influence to achieve change in the interests of British people, David Cameron would sacrifice Britain's influence in Europe by retreating to the sidelines. Tory isolationism would lead to years of instability- putting jobs, prosperity and British business at risk.



Fair chances for all

Labour is committed to fair opportunities for all, in tough economic times as well as in times of prosperity

Strong, universal public services are at the heart of Labour's programme for Britain. We will make sure everyone has a fair chance to achieve their potential by continuing to invest in good schools, skills training, support for families and a high quality NHS. So Labour is continuing to open Sure Start Children's Centres and GP-led health centres in every community, building schools and hospitals and expanding apprenticeships.

Our help for families is not just about better public services – it's about the money in your pocket too. That's why we have increased child benefit and child tax credit, cut VAT and given more back to basic rate taxpayers. Labour wants to see a fair society, free from

discrimination. We have made great progress over the last decade towards securing equality for all, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, religion or belief, and we will take this further with our new Equality Bill. Labour MEPs will work to tackle discrimination across Europe.

Our membership of the European Union has had real benefits for British families. The EU has given new rights and benefits for British workers, along with lower prices, greater choice and better quality products for British consumers. Labour will stay engaged at the heart of Europe, leading efforts to create a fairer world for hard-working British people.





Education for all

Labour believes in fair chances for all – we want to ensure that everyone can share in the new benefits that progress brings. There are few more important ways to build for Britain's future than through investment in the talents of the British people. As we come out of the global downturn opportunities for all – and the

The Conservatives would cut £4.5 billion from the school building programme, the equivalent of nearly one in five centres from the Sure Start budget, and £610 million from the skills budget which could effectively wipe out apprenticeships for over-18s.

investment in education and skills that make them possible – must remain at the heart of our programme for a stronger, fairer Britain.

The best start in life

In difficult times parents need to give every child the best start in life. The Labour government has delivered nearly 3,000 Sure Start Children's Centres, reaching two million children and their families and has given all parents of children up to the age of 16 the right to request flexible working.

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Every three and four year old has the right to a free nursery place, rising from 12.5 hours a week to 15 hours by next year.

There are now over 40,000 more teachers and 116,000 more teaching assistants than in 1997.

Labour is giving every 18 year old a right to training and education, at university or college, in work or an apprenticeship.

And far from cutting back at the worst possible time, by next year there will be 3,500 Children's Centres, one in every community in England.

We are committed to building on our record of enhancing excellence in schools through continued investment and reform so that we can achieve truly world class standards of education. Every parent should be confident that their child can go to a good school, with high standards of teaching, a rich and full curriculum, and proper discipline in classrooms. Our investment has achieved real results, enabling 100,000 more 11 year olds to master literacy and 93,000 more to master numeracy since 1997. Today, 81 per cent of 11-year-olds reach the expected level in English and 78 per cent in Maths.

But we want to go further.

In our schools, Labour will provide one-to-one tuition in English and Maths to 300,000 pupils who are falling behind their peers. Over 1,100 new schools have been rebuilt or newly built. Labour is committed to rebuilding or refurbishing every secondary school and half of all primary schools in the coming years.

The opportunities of the future

In changing economic times young people must continue – in contrast to previous recessions – to have access to all the opportunity and skills they need to get on in life. Labour will guarantee every 16 and 17 year old who wants to stay in education a paid-for place at school or college, an apprenticeship or training. This is our 'September guarantee'. By 2015 every young person up to 18 will be in education or training, either in the workplace or at school or college. More people are benefiting from higher education than ever before, and we are spending 23 per cent more on higher education now than in 1997. Around two thirds of full-time students who apply and are eligible for support will receive a full or partial grant of up to £2,835 in 2008/09,

helping to widen participation in higher education.

We want one in five young people to take up apprenticeship places within the next ten years. In order to fulfil our ambition for young people, we are increasing the number of apprenticeships for under 18s and are legislating to ensure every suitably qualified young person who wants to do an apprenticeship can do so. This year for the first time, we plan over a quarter of a million new apprenticeships.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

The Tories would put at risk Labour's investment in young people and skills. They are pledged to cut over £600 million from the skills, universities and science budget from this year which could effectively wipe out most apprenticeships for over-18s. They have announced they would cut £200 million from Sure Start Children's Centres which could close one in five centres across country. And they would cut £4.5 billion from our school building programme, putting at risk hundreds of projects in communities across England.

Labour is offering real investment in young people's futures. The Tories would cut back when people and businesses need it most.

Real help for families



Labour believes in giving real help to support families through these tough times. The government has a role to play in making life a little easier for parents whether it is by putting extra money in people's pockets or helping them achieve a better work-life balance.

The Conservatives have not supported the action Labour is taking to give extra mortgage protection to help families stay in their homes.

During the downturn we have responded to the concerns of people who worry that losing their job could mean losing

their home. We have worked with banks to introduce new rules so that repossession is always a last resort. We have introduced mortgage schemes giving extra protection to help families stay in their homes if they suffer a temporary fall in income. Without this extra

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Labour has extended the right to request flexible working to parents with children aged 16, benefiting an extra 4.5 million people.

Labour has extended paid holiday meaning an employee working a five day week will now enjoy 20 days paid holiday on top of the eight public holidays - an increase of four days.

help with mortgage payments, thousands more families would face losing their homes.

And because we know times are tough we are giving people a little extra in their pockets. We have increased child benefit and child tax credit. This year, basic rate taxpayers - that's

22 million people - will receive a £145 tax cut. And to make goods cheaper in shops we have cut VAT saving families on average £275 off household bills this year.

Labour has always stood up for hard working families. We championed parental leave, flexible working for parents and greater childcare provision and we will go further as we work to make life easier for Britain's parents. We are on track to open a Children's Centre in every community by 2010 and we have introduced a Health in Pregnancy grant to give all mums-to-be a £1.90 tax free payment from the 26th week of pregnancy.

We must continue to respond to the pressures that parents face in bringing up their families. Labour has taken steps to help families have a better work-life balance, including longer paid maternity leave, paid paternity leave and new rights for parents to request flexible working, benefiting 4.5 million people. We have also extended holiday entitlement by four days to reflect the number of permanent bank and public holidays. A full-time employee, working a five day week, will now enjoy 20 days paid holiday on top of the eight public holidays.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

The Conservatives opposed Labour's boost to the economy which is putting extra money into families' pockets. At a time when families need help the most the Tories would do nothing. They have not supported the action Labour is taking to give extra mortgage protection to help families stay in their homes.

The Tories are committed not just to spending less in a time of need but also to spend less in the future. By committing his party to cuts David Cameron's policies would threaten key local services like transport, police and schools. By doing nothing, they would deepen the downturn and delay the recovery.





A world class health service

The NHS is now in better shape than ever before, thanks to Labour's investment and the hard work of its dedicated staff. We understand the importance of the NHS and we will always give it the resources it needs to deliver world-class care. That means empowering patients so that they have more control

The Tories say they would scrap Labour's guarantee that if your GP suspects you have cancer, you will be seen by a specialist within two weeks.

over the services they use, and liberating frontline staff to innovate in the services they provide.

Labour's tough targets have worked. NHS waits are now the shortest since records began and the long waiting lists which grew under the Tories are a thing of the past. MRSA infections are down by more than half since 2003. For the first time, all patients can expect universal standards

Winning the fight for Britain's future

The average waiting time for inpatient NHS treatment in England is now just 4.2 weeks.

Labour has opened over 100 new hospital schemes since 1997.

Labour has abolished prescription charges for everyone being treated for cancer.

across the NHS.

- You will be seen by a specialist within two weeks of referral by your GP if you have suspected cancer
- You will not need to wait more than 18 weeks for hospital treatment – in fact, most waits are already much shorter than this
- You will not wait more than four hours in Accident and Emergency.

These new guarantees mean that you and your family can be sure of quality NHS treatment, fast, when you need it. The NHS belongs to you and its focus must always be on patients. We know that you need to be able to see your GP at a convenient time. Thanks to our deal with doctors last year, over 70% of GP practices now offer extended opening hours, compared to just 12% last April. And new GP-led health centres are opening all over the country, open from 8am-8pm, seven days a week for anyone

to use for pre-booked or walk-in appointments.

As well as making the NHS more accessible, Labour is ensuring it offers high quality prevention so that people are

NHS waits are now the shortest since records began, and the long waiting lists which grew under the Tories are a thing of the past

able to stay active and healthy from childhood to old age. Labour is introducing universal health checks for the over 40s

to prevent thousands of heart attacks and strokes a year, and we are extending the age ranges for cancer screening to detect and prevent cancer earlier. We have introduced a new cervical cancer vaccine for teenage girls. And we are taking action on obesity through Change4Life, a new movement to support everyone to eat more healthily and exercise more.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

The Conservatives have pledged to scrap minimum standards in the NHS - meaning an end to the maximum two week wait for suspected cancer patients, an end to the maximum 18 week wait for your operation and an end to MRSA reduction targets. They have promised to overturn Labour's deal with GPs for extended evening and weekend opening hours. And they say they will allow NHS hospitals to take on unlimited amounts of debt, secured against their own assets - putting hospitals at risk of repossession.



Stronger communities

Labour believes in delivering social justice to all wherever they live. That means that we insist on high standards in key service areas and that we fund local authorities fairly to help deliver them. But we are also clear that the best way to

Labour councils cost you less - in Labour top-tier council areas this year, residents will pay on average £204 less than those living in Tory areas and £134 less than those in Lib Dem areas.

govern and to deliver excellent services is in most cases

through handing power to local communities.

We want to see power spread through our society. Wherever possible, we will pass influence, power and control from the centre to local communities, to



Winning the fight for Britain's future

We have put in place a £1 billion package of support for homeowners and first time buyers.

This year, households in top-tier Labour council areas will pay on average £204 less this year than those living in Tory council areas and £134 less than those in Lib Dem areas.

councils and frontline staff, to local institutions and groups.

Labour councillors across the country work hard to deliver the highest quality services, while ensuring that local taxpayers get value for money. On average, those who live in areas where the unitary or county council is run by Labour pay lower council tax than those who live under Tory or Lib Dem councils.

We believe that everyone should have access to a decent home, at an affordable price, in the area where they want to live. We have made real progress since 1997 in tackling Britain's housing challenges. There are over a million more homeowners; we have delivered major improvements in social housing conditions; and we have taken action to cut homelessness by two thirds.

During these difficult economic

times, we are committed to doing everything possible to provide support for homeowners facing difficulties and to promote the long-term stability of the housing market. We are providing extra mortgage protection to help families stay in their homes and to prevent repossessions. We have worked with banks to introduce new rules so that repossession is always a last resort and we have introduced mortgage schemes which provide extra protection to help families if they suffer a temporary fall in income. Meanwhile, we have put in place new arrangements to make it easier for councils and housing associations to deliver a new generation of affordable housing, while working to support the house building industry.

Labour is developing a modern, efficient, sustainable transport network in Britain, which balances the needs of the economy, the environment and individuals. This is backed by long-term planning, sustained long-term funding and improved transport management.

Building on record passenger growth and infrastructure investment delivered by Labour and to further enhance rail capacity, we will provide £15

billion in support to the railways between 2009 and 2014. We are giving councils more powers to ensure that local transport meets the needs of local people, ensuring quality bus services and tackling congestion. And, since April 2008, 11 million older and eligible disabled people have been entitled to free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

While Labour has provided local government with a 39 per cent real terms increase in funding in our first ten years in office, and an extra £8.9 billion over the three years of the current funding settlement, David Cameron's commitment to cuts to local government funding would mean an extra one per cent increase on all council tax bills. The Conservatives' 'council tax freeze' is a con - in reality few councils would qualify for the freeze and in many cases only if they agree to make cuts to local services.



Fair rules for all

Labour is guided by a belief in fair rules applied to all as we work to create stronger and fairer communities

In this new world, it is not just crime that can make people feel insecure. In times of rapid and profound change, people need to feel order in their world and that the rules which underpin it are fair. We are taking the tough and necessary measures on our streets and at our borders to tackle crime, illegal immigration and the threat of terrorism. And welfare rules need to be fair to taxpayers, hence our new welfare reforms designed to ensure that those who can work, do work.

We know that providing opportunity for all requires security for all. From people trafficking to drug smuggling, crime cuts

across borders, which is why we must continue to work with our partners in the EU to protect Britain's borders and help fight international crime. By working locally, nationally and internationally we can tackle extremism at home and abroad.

We have a stronger police service, with police numbers at a historic high – 15,000 more police officers than in 1997 alongside more than 15,500 police community support officers. And we are also introducing stronger borders with a single border force and ID cards; the new Australian-style Points-Based System for immigration; and new tougher, but fairer, rules for citizenship.



Our ambitions for people are higher than abandoning them to a life on benefits with no support. We believe in fair rules for all in a responsible society so we are offering a simple deal: more support in return for greater responsibility. Labour believes that there is no right to a life on benefits; that paid work is the best route out of poverty and that each of us has a role to play in contributing to the society we live in.

Labour is proud of Britain and we believe our communities are getting stronger. We believe in fair rules for all in a responsible society. By taking the tough action needed at home and in Europe we can make our streets safer and build a safer environment for our children to grow up in.

Safer neighbourhoods

Labour is making our country and our communities stronger and safer. We have made real progress in the fight against crime – since 1997 crime has fallen by over a third and you are now less likely to be a victim of crime than at any time in the last 25 years. But we recognise there is more to do.

Under the Tories, crime doubled, burglary doubled, the chance of being a victim of violent crime trebled and convictions fell by a third.

Labour is taking the tough and necessary measures to combat crime. To help keep our streets safe we have introduced a policing team in every one of our neighbourhoods, easily contactable by local people. And we are giving police and communities new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. Every force now has the Policing Pledge in place setting out the clear minimum standards you can expect from them. Local communities now have more say over how their areas are policed, so that the issues that matter to them are addressed. Meetings with neighbourhood police teams are helping to agree these priorities and online crime maps show what is happening

Winning the fight for Britain's future

Since 1997 overall crime is down 39 per cent - over 6 million fewer crimes.

Thanks to Labour we now have a neighbourhood police team in every area in England and Wales.

to crime in your area and what is being done about it. We are strengthening police accountability and slashing red tape to help the police focus on fighting crime and keeping people safe.

Labour is committed to fair rules for all, with tough measures to punish and prevent crime. This means clear penalties for breaking the rules with a tough new system of community payback where people do hard work on local

priorities - action visible to local people. We believe that victims' interests must be placed right at the heart of the criminal justice system and have appointed a Victims' Champion to advocate changes on their behalf. We will not tolerate a situation where some people break the rules and others pay the price.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

Whilst Labour is investing in safer neighbourhoods David Cameron's public spending plans mean the Home Offices budget could face £160 million worth of cuts. A sudden cut on this scale would be equivalent to losing more than 3,500 police officers, hitting forces and communities right across the country.



Strong borders

Labour knows that we all want strong borders and a fair deal. That is why we are continuing to deliver the biggest changes to our immigration, citizenship and border security system for decades.

Labour is committed to building on the progress we have made

The Tories claim they will set a limit on immigration but they can't, or won't, say at what level their limit will be. They say they want a cap on immigration that only applies to economic migrants from outside the EU - only one in five of the people who come to Britain.

to create a system in which people can have confidence, which protects the security of the United Kingdom and prevents abuse of our laws. In this new world, people need to know that the rules for immigration are fair and that coming to Britain is a privilege, not a right.

Labour is strengthening our borders with a single border force to guard our ports and airports. We are introducing ID cards for foreign nationals and we are reinstating electronic border controls to count people in and out of the country.

Winning the fight for Britain's future

A single border force to guard our ports and airports, with police-like powers for frontline staff.

A new Australian-style points based system to ensure only those economic migrants who have the skills our economy needs can come to work in the UK.

We have introduced the Australian-style points based system which will make sure we only attract people with the skills our country needs. In response to the economic situation, we have used the flexibility of the points based system to make our criteria more selective, and expect overall numbers of migrants to fall as a result. We have introduced a new fund, paid for by contributions from migrants, to help those local areas which have faced rapid population change. And our Earned Citizenship proposals

make clear that we expect newcomers to support themselves, learn English, pay taxes and obey the law.

Labour is steadfast in our determination to tackle people-trafficking and we will continue to work both at home and with our European partners to end this horrific crime that trades on human misery.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

The Tories talk tough on asylum and immigration but vote soft - repeatedly voting against the measures Labour has taken to control Britain's borders, including tougher penalties for those who attempt to smuggle people into the country. And Tory claims to be tough on border security have no credibility while they continue to oppose ID cards which will help control our borders and stop fraudulent access to benefits and public services.



Supporting people in work

In tough times Labour is giving people real help. In this global downturn it is vital we don't repeat the mistakes of the Tory home-grown recessions of the past. Our ambitions for people are higher than abandoning them to a life on benefits with no support.

Labour is investing to guarantee more support to every person from the moment they face redundancy. While the Conservatives have opposed the new investment

The Tories oppose Labour's investment to help people who lose their jobs through the downturn.

in Job Centre Plus, we have put £2 billion into measures to help people get back into work by improving their skills with training. We are guaranteeing a job, training or work placement to all 18-24 year olds who are unemployed for 12 months. We are increasing statutory redundancy pay. Employers are being given a "Golden Hello" worth up to £2,500 to recruit

and train people. And we are providing more money and support for the unemployed to set up their own businesses.

We are reforming the benefits system because we want it to help people overcome problems. We are creating a fairer system - where no-one is left behind and everyone is given the personalised support they need to get back to work. These reforms point the way to a fairer society where children don't grow



Winning the fight for Britain's future

Labour has invested £5 billion to help people back into work who have lost their job during the downturn.

Heroin and crack addicts on benefits will be expected to get drug treatment in return for their benefits.

up in poverty, where disabled people enjoy real equality and everyone is given real help to overcome the barriers to achieving their full potential.

We are offering a simple deal: more support in return for greater responsibility

We are offering a simple deal: more support in return for greater responsibility. Labour believes that there is no right to a life on benefits; that paid work is the best route out of poverty and that each of us has a role to play in contributing to the society we live in. We will help people on incapacity benefits to get well and get back to work.

We are giving real help to disabled people with more benefits; more funding to help



with back to work adaptations; and greater choice and control over the public money spent on their behalf. We will support parental responsibility so more children are lifted out of poverty. Out of work parents will be expected to prepare for the day their children are older and they are ready to work. The Tories oppose Labour's plans and would leave people on benefits without the help they need to get back to work and to take responsibility for their family.

For those who have been unemployed the longest, we will introduce Work for your Benefit so that people do not lose the work habit and so that it is impossible to claim benefit and work on the side.

Under our plans a life on benefits is not an option and getting benefits will mean being expected to do something in return. Heroin and crack addicts on benefits will be expected to get drug treatment in return for their benefits.

The choice: Tory cuts vs. Labour investment

We have a choice: we can invest millions in people's future now or pay billions in a future where people are stuck on benefits. We will stand by those who stand to lose their homes or jobs - not walk on by. Labour has invested nearly £2 billion more to help people who are losing their jobs. The Tories oppose this investment. This would mean cutting back on the support available to people during the downturn and risk creating a new generation of long-term unemployed.

Vote Labour - Harriet Harman

This June, voters in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland vote to choose their MEPs

In some areas people can vote too for their local councillors as well as for their town's mayor.

However many votes you have, wherever you vote, and whether you vote in your polling



station or by post, you are choosing the team to face the challenge of working to take our country out of recession.

Gordon Brown has explained earlier in this document some of the things our Labour government has been doing to help many and not just a few people.

The workings of the global economy are complex, yet one thing remains simple: the choice at this election is between Labour's plans to grow our way out of global recession by investment to protect people now and to build for the future, or making cuts, as David Cameron's 'do nothing' Tories would have us do.

And Gordon Brown is leading Labour's team of MEPs, MPs, Mayors and local councillors, to work to ensure a fair and prosperous future for you and your family.

Please do use your vote. If you don't, you not only lose your right to have a say in who represents you, you also make it easier for the British National Party to get elected.

That is why I urge you to vote Labour on 4 June 2009.

Harriet Harman

Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP,
Deputy Leader of the Labour Party

In these tough economic times, Labour is working to ensure Britain remains prosperous and secure for the many not the few.

Each and every day we are taking action to give real help to families and local businesses. We will not abandon people in these tough times - unlike the Tories who would turn their backs on families and businesses at the time they need it most.

This is the choice facing Britain - strong, substantial leadership and a fair deal with Labour versus shallow salesmanship and inexperience from the Tories who are out of touch, and offering no help, for hard-working people.

Help us win the fight for Britain's future. Help us make a difference.

Join Labour today at labour.org.uk/join or call 08705 900 200 and don't forget to **vote Labour on Thursday 4 June.**

You can also sign up to our Vote Alert service

Tell us what time you intend to vote and we'll send you a reminder text.

Text **VOTE + voting time** to **60022*** or go to labour.org.uk/votealert