

Labour's manifesto *A Fair Future for All* has been published today as the party tries to reclaim the initiative in the second week of the General Election campaign.

 **Labour** A future fair for all

The manifesto, written by Ed Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and Patrick Diamond, sets out Labour's plans to reduce the deficit and targets middle income voters, which all parties believe are the key battleground at this election.

The manifesto focuses on an interventionist approach to the economy and securing the recovery, there are no new major spending programmes announced or rises in VAT or income tax.

Labour has announced plans to create a UK Finance for Growth programme which will bring together £4 billion to help growing businesses, keeping VAT at current levels on food, children's clothes, books and public transport and commitments to apprenticeships and jobs in the high-tech economy, particularly high speed rail and other low carbon industries.

Proposals announced on the housing, education and environment/energy sectors are summarised below.

[Read the Labour Manifesto in full here.](#)

Proposals affecting the housing market include:

- In order to find £15 billion efficiency savings in 2010-11, regeneration funding is one of the areas deemed a lower priority spending area and there are no new programmes announced.
- This cut to regeneration conforms to proposals in the Budget to cut the Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and the final allocation of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant which John Healey announced last week. With these programmes abolished, worklessness will be tackled through the Future Jobs Fund which they hope will help 200,000 people out of work for ten months find training or employment.
- As announced in the Budget there will be no stamp duty for first-time buyers on all house purchases below £250,000 until 2012 which will be paid for by a five per cent rate on homes worth more than £1 million. Also announced in the Budget, the CLG growth fund will invest £7.5 billion to build 11,000 new homes.

- Home Buy Direct will continue and they have announced a proposal to work with housing associations to develop a new form of affordable housing targeted at working families on incomes which prevent them from renting in the private rented sector.
- To improve housing standards, a national register of landlords will be established similar to that implemented by the Labour Party when in Government in Scotland.
- The council house financing system will be reformed enabling local authorities to maintain properties at the Decent Home standard and allowing councils at all tiers to build up to 10,000 council houses each year by the end of the next Parliament.
- Finally, to create more energy efficient homes, a new Warm Home Standard will be introduced for all social homes. Under this plan, home insulation will be paid for by the major energy companies with repayment through cheaper energy bills by 2020.

Proposals affecting the education sector include:

- Increased spending on frontline Sure Start, childcare, schools and 16-19 learning with additional 41,000 teachers and 120,000 teaching assistants.
- To further attract more teachers and retain talent, Teach First will be extended and will also include teaching in primary schools, new Teacher Training Academies to be introduced and £10,000 to encourage teachers to teach in the most challenging schools.
- Labour announced up to 1,000 schools could be part of an accredited school group by 2015 through mergers and take-overs which is part of a new generation of non-profit chains of schools. Labour plans to pioneer the co-operative trust school model, based on the Finnish example, which will bring together teachers, parents and local communities to run schools. Local authorities will be required to act on parents' dissatisfaction with choices of secondary schools by either securing a take-over, expanding good schools or creating new provision.
- Labour has also promised to raise the leaving age for education or training to 18, which will include the retention of the Education Maintenance Allowance, and they will also be entitled to an apprenticeship place. Advanced apprenticeships are to be expanded to 70,000 places a year. For higher education, Labour will provide funding for an additional 20,000 places this year.
- On "No Child Left Behind", Labour promises one-on-one tuition or small group catch-up to be provided to every pupil who falls behind in primary and early on in secondary school. Free school meals will also be extended to an additional 500,000 primary school children, as well as, piloting in certain areas free school meals for every primary pupil.
- Alternative curriculum will have more flexibility in school provision. Primary teachers will be encouraged to offer a broader, more challenging and engaging curriculum including

introducing sports, arts, culture, music and language to pupils. New alternative curriculum providers will also be encouraged to take over Pupil Referral Units that offer new approaches to help young people get back on track.

Proposals affecting the environment sector include:

- On clean energy, Labour plans to secure 40% of electricity usage from low carbon sources such as renewable, nuclear and clean coal by 2020 and 15% of our energy demand from renewables also by 2020. Including increases of offshore wind energy by a factor of 40, there are also plans for new nuclear power stations and four new clean coal plants with carbon capture and storage technology. To help finance reform, Labour promises a Green Investment Bank to help with energy transition, which they estimate to be a £150 billion investment in the next decade, and the creation of 400,000 new green jobs.
- With sustainable use of resources, Labour plans to introduce water metering in water stress areas and to ban recyclable and biodegradable materials from landfills.
- Smart metering is to be introduced in every home by 2020 and Labour plans to introduce the 'Pay As You Save' scheme that will offset energy home improvements by the energy savings they generate on energy bills.
- Local councils will have the power to hold energy companies to account for community energy efficiency programmes and to develop local energy plans, such as district heating. More allotments are to be provided for the Grow Your Own schemes for schools. Joint community action with local council and community groups will be encouraged to provide local environmental benefits.
- Labour has promised a reform on the Common Agricultural Policy to create a function market that brings in a reasonable profit for production at lower costs to consumers, to create a Supermarket Ombudsman and provide greater transparency on food labelling particularly in relation to country of origin.
- Internationally, Labour has announced they will continue for a legally-binding climate change agreement and to push for increasing Europe's global emission reduction targets to 30% up from 20% by 2020. For the UK this means our target would increase to 34% emission reduction. Labour has also called for a secondary Kyoto commitment that will provide a clear legal framework for all countries.
- Campaign for an EU-wide ban on illegally logged timber and domestic bans. Promise for increased areas of forest and woodlands.

- Other proposals announced include maintaining the 60% target of new developments on brownfield land, introducing more protected green corridors and wildlife networks and bringing forward further legislation for flood and water management.