



# **LABOUR'S MANIFESTO FOR THE SOUTH WEST**

# FOREWORD

**Britain needs a government that works for the whole country. When Labour says we stand for the many not the few, we mean we will build a fairer country, where no one is held back and every community has its fair share of wealth and power.**

The harmful inequality that scars our society is not an act of God or a law of physics. It is the result of deliberate Conservative government policy that has made us one of the most unequal countries in Europe – both between the billionaires at the very top and everybody else, and between the different parts of the UK.

It's time to bring a divided country together so we can get on with delivering the real change Britain needs. To drive that change we will unleash a record investment blitz, getting the economy moving in every corner of our country.

This is about the jobs at the end of your road. It's about breathing new life into your area; reviving your high street; restoring the pride to your community.

Our investment blitz will upgrade our infrastructure in every town, city and region, and rebuild our schools, hospitals, care homes and housing. This is investment on a scale our country has never known.

Margaret Thatcher's Conservatives tried to wipe out British industry in the 1980s. This Conservative government is continuing that legacy. Over the last decade almost half a million manufacturing jobs have been lost.

The wealthy and powerful who have the system rigged in their favour will tell you that real change isn't possible. They'll say it's unrealistic. They'll say we cannot afford decent housing, free education, or well-paid, secure jobs.


But we know change is not only possible, but necessary. This election is our last chance to tackle the climate and environmental emergency and a once in a generation chance to transform our country, take on the vested interests and ensure that no community is left behind

So the next Labour government will rebuild our economy and bring our country back together by kick-starting a Green Industrial Revolution that will make every region a world-leader in green industries – the cutting edge industries of the future.

Labour will put wealth and power in the hands of the many. Boris Johnson's Conservatives, who think they're born to rule, will only look after the privileged few.

So we're going after the tax dodgers. We're going after the dodgy landlords. We're going after the bad bosses. We're going after the big polluters. Because we know whose side we're on – your side.

And when Labour wins, the nurse wins, the pensioner wins, the student wins, the office worker wins, the engineer wins. Every region wins. We all win.



**Jeremy Corbyn,**  
**Leader of the Labour Party**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Labour will unlock the potential of everyone by building a fairer Britain. A Britain in which we care for each other, in which wealth and power are shared, and in which every part of the country gets its fair share of investment and its say in shaping our future.

Years of under-investment and neglect by Westminster have left too many parts of the South West stuck with underpaid jobs, low productivity and slow growth.

Under the Tories, too many people in the South West are struggling to make ends meet or finding that work is no longer a way out of poverty. Across the UK pay has stagnated while insecurity and inequality have risen. Wages are still lower than before the financial crisis, while across the country dividends paid to shareholders are up 85%.

A decade of Tory cuts has pushed public services in the South West to breaking point.

Labour has a plan to deliver real change for the South West.

We will kick start a Green Industrial Revolution that will tackle the climate crisis while creating 80,000 good jobs in the South West and expanding the automotive, offshore wind, tidal and other renewable energy industries.

We will make sure everyone has enough to live on and eradicate in-work poverty in our first term by tackling the causes of poverty and inequality, such as low pay and high living costs, while raising the floor provided by our social safety net.

We will rebuild our public services and make them the best and most extensive in the world, paid for by creating a fairer taxation system in which those with the broadest shoulders pay a little more and everyone pays what they owe.

**Labour is on the South West's side.**

## **2. Top commitments for the South West**

- £14 billion new investment from Labour's Green Transformation Fund including a gigafactory in Swindon, expanding Falmouth docks and Great Western Rail electrification**
- Connect 1.3 million households and businesses to full-fibre Broadband**
- 20,000 new council and social homes a year by the end of the parliament**
- 80,000 new well-paid green jobs**
- An immediate pay rise for 694,000 workers aged 16 and over**

# 3. Transforming the South West

## 3.1 Labour's Green Industrial Revolution

**Labour's Green Industrial Revolution will make the South West wealthier and healthier, putting our economy and climate on a stable footing to thrive in the 21st century.**

The South West has a long history of engineering and innovation, from the steam engines developed by Newcomen and Trevithick, to today's pioneering research in renewable energy led out of the University of Exeter. The South West is naturally rich in solar, wind, marine and geothermal energy and has the potential to lead the world in these technologies. But with some of the poorest regions in the UK, the South West has suffered from lack of investment, a decade of Tory austerity, and now the threat of a Tory no-deal Brexit that threatens its agricultural sector.

Labour will revive the fortunes of the South West through a Green Industrial Revolution, investing £14 billion from Labour's Green Transformation Fund. This includes:

- Investment in onshore and offshore wind, creating over 2,000 jobs.
- Upgrading the housing of almost all of the 2.4 million households across the

South West, reducing bills, eliminating the vast majority of fuel poverty, and making our homes healthier and more comfortable.

- A 'Gigafactory' in Swindon, match funded by the private sector, to produce batteries for electric vehicles, creating over 5,000 jobs across the South West.
- Investment in manufacturing electric vehicles and in the electric vehicle charging network, protecting 9,600 workers directly employed in the automotive sector in the South West, while reducing emissions and improving air quality.
- Investment in the emerging tidal stream energy, generating predictable, low carbon electricity and creating 1,500 jobs.
- Investment in small-scale, community-level and large-scale solar power.
- Expanding Falmouth Docks, match funded by the private sector, so that the South West – which has some of the windiest and deepest waters in the UK – can become a world leader in floating offshore wind technology.

- Plastic recycling facilities, match funded by the private sector, so that the UK no longer relies on exporting its plastic waste to the rest of world.
- Upgrading the internet connection of 1.3 million households and businesses to Full-Fibre Broadband – the highest possible standard of connectivity.
- Planting more than 83 million new trees across the South West by 2024, creating 27,800 hectares of new forest in areas such as Wessex.

If you live, work or do business in the South West you will benefit from Labour's Green Industrial Revolution.

It will mean 80,000 new skilled, well-paid jobs in the South West that will last long into the future. Labour's new climate apprenticeships will ensure local people can access these jobs and become the engineers, technicians and construction workers of tomorrow.

It will mean new opportunities for businesses working across the region, such as those specialising in renovation and home maintenance and a growing local economy, with new wealth rippling out across all sectors.

And because Labour will take a public stake in new projects, we will improve towns and cities across the South West by reinvesting profits in our public spaces.

### 3.2 Local transport

**For these new green industries to flourish and grow, and for the hundreds of thousands of new green jobs to be accessible to communities across the South West, they must be connected to the wider economy. This requires decent public transport.**

The South West has seen years of underfunding in all forms of transport. Spending per person was £727 lower than in London last year.

If the Tories win the General Election, transport funding to the South West will continue to be £2,985 per head lower than in London over the years ahead.

Labour will end this unfairness by investing to improve public transport across the South West, including electrification of the Great Western Rail Bristol line and creating a South West Rail Fund to fund investment in the Penzance-Plymouth-London line.

### 3.3 Devolving Spending

**Labour will make sure that investment is spread evenly across the whole country by giving powers and funding to the South West. We will bring about a radical shift of power in Britain away from Westminster so that local people and communities have more control over their own lives and prospects.**

We will create an Office of Government in the South West to co-ordinate policies at the regional level, and ensure the South West has a voice in Whitehall. A Local Transformation Fund will be used exclusively to fund infrastructure projects decided at a local level by people in the South West.

Labour will create a South West Development Bank to make sure the South West gets its share of investment for small businesses, infrastructure projects and funding for new growth industries. Priorities for lending will be set by boards made up of key local stakeholders such as local chambers of commerce, trade unions and councillors giving the South West a new and powerful lever to rebuild its economy on its own terms.

Under the Tories, bank branches are closing, small businesses are struggling to access finance, and high streets are being decimated by store closures and job losses.

Labour's new publicly owned Post Bank, run through the Post Office network, will provide loans for small businesses, coops and social enterprises. 313 Post Office branches across the South West will host the Post Bank, providing the people of the South West with face-to-face, trusted and affordable banking and free support and advice on how to launch, manage and grow a business.



## 4. Work and social security

**Work should provide a decent life for all, guaranteeing not just dignity and respect in the workplace, but also the income and leisure time to allow for a fulfilling life outside it.**

Labours will rapidly introduce a Real Living Wage of £10 an hour giving a pay rise to approximately 694,000 workers aged 16 and over, across the South West, and use the savings to the public finances to help small businesses manage the extra cost.

We will end insecure and precarious work for approximately 83,000 people in the South West by banning zero-hour

contracts and giving workers a right to a contract that reflects the hours they regularly work.

The Tories' flagship social security programme, Universal Credit (UC) has been a catastrophe. It has pushed thousands of people into poverty, caused families to lose their homes and forced parents to visit food banks in order to feed their children.

Labour will scrap UC and replace it with a system dedicated to dignity, universalism and ending poverty. We will spare 445,000 people in the South West set to be on UC by immediately



stopping people moving onto it and designing an alternative system that treats people with dignity and respect.

Over the course of three years we will end people's dependence on food banks. In 2018/19, Trussell Trust food banks handed out 133,00 three-day emergency food parcels to people in crisis across the South West. That included 49,000 parcels to children.

We will also bring justice to 349,000 women born in the 1950s across the South West whose State Pension age has been unfairly changed by the Tories. We have a historic debt of honour to them and Labour will offer pay-outs of up to £31,000, with an average of £15,000, to compensate them.

We will maintain the Triple Lock on state pensions, protecting the incomes of 1.2 million pensioners across the South West.

The Tory decision to u-turn on their manifesto pledge and end the free TV license for over-75s is set to affect over 415,000 households across the South West, costing pensioners a total of £62 million. Labour will reverse this cruel and unnecessary cut, and restore free TV licences for over-75s.



## 5. Public Services

### 5.1 National Education Service

**Education makes our economy stronger, our society richer and our people more fulfilled. Whether it is businesses finding people with the right skills, a tech start-up making our economy more dynamic or more people in better paid work and able to contribute to public services, we all benefit from an educated society.**

The Conservatives have starved our education system of funding, transferring costs onto students, staff and communities and those in need have lost out most.

That's why our National Education Service will be at the heart of Labour's plan for real change

We will reverse cuts to Sure Start so that all communities across the South West have access to a Sure Start centre in their area.

We will give all 2, 3 and 4-year olds 30 hours of free preschool education per week and access to additional hours at affordable, subsidised rates staggered with incomes. In the South West this will provide free childcare to almost 159,000 children, saving families between £393 and £5,769 a year.

As a result of Tory underfunding there are now 1,275 unqualified teachers across the South West and over 44,000 primary school children in over-sized classes.

Labour will make sure schools are properly funded to guarantee that every school in the South West has a qualified teacher in front of every class and is open a full five days a week, and to cap primary school class sizes at 30.

As a result of Tory failure there are now an extra 36,000 children in working households living in poverty in the South West. To tackle this crisis, Labour will 'poverty-proof' schools, providing a free school meal to over 423,000 primary school children in the South West, encouraging breakfast clubs, and tackling the cost of school uniforms.

## 5.2 NHS and Social Care

**The National Health Service is one of Labour's proudest achievements. The right to free-at-the-point-of-use healthcare, universal and comprehensive in scope, is socialism in action.**

A decade of Tory health cuts and privatisations has pushed our greatest institution to the brink. Our hospitals are crumbling, we have a shortage of 43,000 nurses, and patients are left waiting far too long.

Since 2010, the number of people waiting longer than 4 hours in A&E has

soared. In the first 6 months of 2019/20, almost 130,000 people waited more than 4 hours in A&E in the South West.

A Labour government will invest in the NHS to give patients the modern, well-resourced services they need. We will increase expenditure across the health sector by an average 4.3% a year.

We will end the social care crisis that has left 1.5 million elderly people across the country without the care they need. A Labour government will build a comprehensive National Care Service for England.

We will start by providing free personal care to all older people who need it, and seek to extend this to all working-age adults.

## 5.3 Police and crime

**Government has a duty to keep people safe. Our communities were endangered when the Conservatives took 1,869 police officers off the streets of the South West.**

Government funding to police services has been cut by £237 million across forces in the South West. As a result there are 1,869 fewer officers and 353 fewer police community support officers.

In the last year, recorded crime across the South West increased by 2%, including violence which is up 11% and robbery which has increased 10%. Over

the past five years, knife crime in the South West has risen by 82%.

Last year the police recorded over 6 million offences, but the proportion leading to a charge or summons fell to its lowest level on record – thanks to Tory cuts, less than one in ten crimes now lead to a suspect being charged.

A Labour government will invest in policing to prevent crime and make our communities safer.

We will rebuild the whole police workforce across the UK, recruiting more police officers, police community support officers and other staff. We will re-establish neighbourhood policing and recruit 2,000 more frontline officers than the Conservatives.

In addition to our commitment to recruit more frontline officers, we will guarantee a nationwide network of youth clubs and other services for young people as a way of tackling problems such as mental ill-health and school exclusions, as well as involvement in knife and drug crime.



## 6. Communities, Local Government and Housing

**Tory cuts, which have been deliberately targeted at the poorest areas of the country, have plunged our councils into crisis and pushed many services to breaking point. The South West has seen 17% of funding stripped from council budgets by consecutive Tory governments.**

Labour will reverse the Tory decade of austerity for local government and aim to restore council spending powers to 2010 levels over the lifetime of the Parliament, meaning more money for key local services such as libraries and bin collections.

The country is facing a housing crisis. The number of socially rented homes built has fallen over the past decade by 3,886 to 963 last year in the South West, while private rent has gone up by an average of £768 over the last 10 years. Labour will be building approximately 20,000 new council and social homes a year in the South West by the end of the parliament.

Labour will also deliver new discounted homes for first-time buyers and a new charter of rights for private renters.

No one should sleep without a roof over their head in one of the richest countries in the world. But under the Tories, the number of people sleeping rough has more than doubled.

In the South West, at least 458 people slept rough last year. Labour will end rough sleeping within five years, with a national plan driven by a Prime Minister-led taskforce.

We will tackle the wider causes of homelessness, raising the Local Housing Allowance in line with the 30th percentile of local rents, and earmarking an additional £1 billion a year for councils' homelessness services.





## 7. Environment

**Nearly a decade of Tory neglect has led to more litter on our streets, with reported incidences of fly-tipping rising by 25% across the South West since 2012.**

In government, Labour will implement a comprehensive Waste and Recycling Strategy, investing £200 million in new plastics recycling facilities for the South West and introducing new measures such as bottle recycling schemes.

More than 2.2 million people across the South West live in areas where air quality is illegally poor, with Bristol and Exeter among the most polluted parts

of the country. The Tories have lost in court three times over their failure to reduce air pollution, but Labour will introduce a new Clean Air Act to tackle the problem head-on.

We will create 10 new National Parks in areas such as Wessex and Coastal Dorset, and will increase funding for existing National Parks including Dartmoor and Exmoor.

