

PARTY CHAIR'S REPORT

February 2025



In December, the Prime Minister set out his Plan for Change – a plan that will boost living standards, tackle NHS waiting lists, make our streets safer, give children the best start to life, secure home-grown energy and rebuild Britain with 1.5 million homes.

These are ambitious goals, but in just 7 months, this Labour government has done more than the Conservatives managed in 14 years and set us on a clear path to national renewal.



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

Our Plan for Change is built on the strong foundations of a stable economy, secure borders, and national security.

Here's how we're securing our borders:

- ▶ We've established a Border Security Command to tackle criminal gangs, backed with £150 million of funding.
- ▶ Boosted enforced returns by 24% from last year, returning 16,400 people with no right to be in the UK.
- ▶ Increased illegal working raids and arrests by more than a third, cracking down on rulebreakers and immigration abuses.
- ▶ Introduced the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill to create new powers and offences to improve UK border security and to strengthen the asylum and immigration system.

We understand that no policy commitment matters unless we uphold the first duty of any government: to keep the country safe. This Labour Government is already delivering on national security by:

- ▶ Increasing defence spending to 2.5% of GDP from April 2027. This is an £13.4 billion increase in cash terms from what we spend today and the biggest sustained increase in defence spending since the Cold War. We will also set an ambition to reach 3% in the next parliament, as economic and fiscal conditions allow.
- ▶ Launching a first of its kind Strategic Defence Review.
- ▶ Signing the landmark Trinity House Agreement with Germany
- ▶ Continuing Britain's proud tradition of leadership in NATO and demonstrating this government's unshakeable commitment to the Alliance.



HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS

The core mission of this Labour government is to grow the economy to ensure that working people have more money in their pocket, as we aim to deliver the fastest growth in the G7. So far, this Labour government has:

- Delivered a budget to fix the foundations and protect working people's payslips.
- Increased the minimum wage for over 3 million workers, worth up £1,400 a year.
- Protected the triple lock on pensions, with the state pension increasing by up to £1,900 over this parliament.
- Secured more than £63 billion of private investment, creating more than 38,000 jobs.
- Unveiled our plan to Make Work Pay to abolish fire and rehire, boost statutory sick pay, and deliver vital protections in the workplace.
- Announced small business support worth £2.4 billion as we set out a pathway to permanently lower tax rates on the high street.
- Established a National Wealth Fund to mobilise private investment and turbocharge economic growth, which has already created nearly 9,000 jobs.
- Made Britain the second-best place in the world to invest.



ENDING HOSPITAL BACKLOGS

This Labour government inherited a broken NHS, with waiting lists spiralling and patients waiting in agony for treatment.

That's why our Plan for Change has set the ambitious but achievable target of cutting waiting lists from 18 months to 18 weeks. While our NHS cannot be fixed with the flick of a switch, Labour has already taken strong steps to get it back on its feet, including:

- Met our pledge to deliver two million extra NHS appointments, seven months early.
- Funding 40,000 additional NHS appointments, scans, and operations weekly.
- Providing an additional £25.6 billion over two years across revenue and capital budgets for the Department for Health and Social Care, including the NHS.
- Taking immediate action to agree a deal with junior doctors to end their strikes.
- Bringing forward legislation to modernise the Mental Health Act and to recruit 8,500 mental health workers, including specialist mental health professionals in every school.
- Started working with staff and patients to develop a ten-year plan to shift the NHS from analogue to digital, from hospital to community, and from sickness to prevention.
- Taking our first steps to fix the front door of the NHS with a landmark agreement with GPs to slash red tape and end the 8am scramble for appointments.
- Announcing the rollout of 700,000 extra urgent dental appointments, delivering on Labour's manifesto commitment

This is already paying off, with waiting lists falling by almost 160,000 between July and December, and more than half a million extra diagnostic tests delivered.



REBUILDING BRITAIN, WITH 1.5 MILLION HOMES AND PLANNING DECISIONS MADE ON AT LEAST 150 MAJOR ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

Britain is currently facing an acute housing crisis, with the dream of home ownership becoming a distant dream for too many working people. The failure to build has also left Britain lagging when it comes to key infrastructure.

In just 7 months, Labour has:

- Overhauled the planning system to get Britain building, publishing a new National Planning Policy Framework within weeks of entering government to make local housing targets mandatory.
- Announced new measures to back the builders, not the blockers, and prevent spurious legal claims from preventing the construction of vital infrastructure.
- Unveiled a new Planning and Infrastructure Bill to streamline and accelerate delivery of new homes and infrastructure.
- Created planning passports, meaning that any proposals that meet high standards and design quality will be sped through the planning process.
- Introduced long-overdue reforms to Right to Buy to protect and boost social housing stock.
- Committed to more than £5 billion to housing supply, including funding to transform neglected land into new homes.



POLICE BACK ON THE BEAT

Labour is determined to rebuild neighbourhood policing, to improve performance across police forces, and to ensure that the highest standards are being upheld across the service. So far, Labour has:

- Kickstarted recruitment of 13,000 more neighbourhood police and PCSOs with £200 million of funding, as part of a £1 billion boost to police funding.
- Announced new Respect Orders to give police and councils the powers they need to crack down on repeated anti-social behaviour.
- Banned zombie knives and machetes.
- Launched a new coalition to tackle knife crime and stop young people being dragged into gangs.
- Introduced new measures to tackle violence against women and girls.



A BEST START TO LIFE FOR CHILDREN

We've set a clear target for 75% of five-year-olds starting school ready to learn, so that every child is given the opportunity to succeed and thrive. So far, Labour has:

- Announced £1.4 billion of investment to rebuild crumbling schools, and £1.8 billion to support the expansion of government funded childcare.
- Began the rollout of free breakfast clubs for all primary school children, with the first 750 primary schools to offer a new free breakfast club from April, saving working families up to £450 a year.
- Launched the first round of funding for up to 300 school-based nurseries, on the way to delivering 3,000 new nurseries.
- Set out an ambitious plan to fix the broken children's social care market and ensure that the system is working effectively for vulnerable children and their families.
- Launched a cross-departmental Child Poverty Taskforce to give all children the best start in life.



SECURE, HOME-GROWN ENERGY, WITH BILL PAYERS PROTECTED AS WE DELIVER CLEAN POWER 2030

Under the previous Conservative government, Britain was left exposed to volatile energy market shocks and the whims of dictators abroad. Under Labour's Plan for Change, Britain will be a world-leader for Clean Power, creating good jobs, lowering bills for good and boosting economic growth.

So far, Labour has:

- Ended the nine-year onshore wind ban within the first 72 hours of government and secured a record-breaking 131 renewable energy projects through the latest auction.
- Set up the new independent National Energy System Operator, to ensure power supply meets demand.
- Launched Great British Energy and announced investment worth £22 billion to make the UK an early leader in carbon capture.
- Set out a plan to unblock the electricity grid and build vital infrastructure.
- Announced new reforms to fire up nuclear power and deliver cleaner energy.
- Signed the first major partnership between Great British Energy and the Crown Estate, unleashing billions of pounds worth of investment in clean energy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ellie Reeves'.

**Ellie Reeves MP,
Labour Party Chair**