

If Labour stands together we can turn back the Tory tide – Jeremy Corbyn

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, writing in the Sunday Mirror, said:

Theresa May talks about delivering an economy that works for working people. But in practice, she's doing the opposite.

In next month's Budget, the Tories are set to press on with their endless austerity: still deeper cuts to health and social care, education and local services.

They're now trying to take away more money from people with disabilities – while they're handing out multi-billion pound tax breaks to the wealthiest. It's the nasty party all over again.

Labour is campaigning for an investment-led economy that restores pride to every community. And we are determined to end to a tax system rigged for the richest. We think everyone should pay their fair share.

On Thursday, the people of Stoke rejected Ukip's politics of hate and division – and its sham claim to represent the working class. They voted instead for the NHS, decent jobs and homes, investment and fairness.

But the result in Copeland was deeply disappointing. Labour's share of the vote in Copeland has been falling for 20 years and of course I take my share of responsibility.

Both these areas, like many others in Britain, have been left behind by globalisation and lost out from a rigged economy.

So it's no surprise that they rejected the status quo by voting to leave in the EU referendum. That's why it was important for Labour to respect the result and vote for Article 50.

The task now is to fight for a positive future for Britain after Brexit – not the kind of bargain basement tax haven the Tories want to engineer.

And we must take our message of

economic renewal and fairness to every part of Britain – and show that Labour has changed under my leadership.

The Conservatives have neglected working people by cutting investment and letting wages stagnate or fall year after year. Six million people now earn less than the living wage.

Labour will be campaigning for investment in decent jobs and homes, education for all, support for the NHS and social care, and fair taxation.

Last year Labour forced the Government to U-turn on £4bn cuts to personal independence payments for people with disabilities. If we stand together we can stop the latest attack too.

We haven't done enough yet to rebuild trust with people who have been ripped off and sold out for decades and don't feel Labour represents them.

But if we stand together, I am confident we can do that and turn back the Tory tide.

I was re-elected Labour leader five months ago with a bigger majority and I am determined to finish that job: to reconnect Labour with our working class voters and values – so we can win power to rebuild and transform Britain, for the many, not just the few.

[Jonathan Reynolds comment on RBS results](#)

Jonathan Reynolds MP, Labour's Shadow City Minister, commenting on RBS's reported £7bn annual loss today, said:

"Today's results show RBS still has much to do to overcome the legacy of the financial crisis.

"Whilst the core banking business of RBS is improving, the financial burden caused by

the errors of the past has generated a significant loss.

"British

taxpayers have had to stump up huge support for RBS – they need to know that there has been a significant change in the regulation and culture of banking to prevent this happening again.

"The

scale of the taxpayers' support also means there needs to be a conversation about what the long-term future of RBS should look like, to best protect the public's money."

[To win power to rebuild and transform Britain, Labour will go further to reconnect with voters, and break with the failed political consensus – Corbyn](#)

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party,

commenting on the Stoke-on-Trent Central and Copeland by-elections, said:

"Labour's victory in Stoke is a decisive rejection of UKIP's politics of division and dishonesty. But our message was not enough to win through in Copeland.

"In both campaigns, Labour listened to thousands of voters on the doorstep. Both constituencies, like so many in Britain, have been let down by the political establishment.

"To win power to rebuild and transform Britain, Labour will go further to reconnect with voters, and break with the failed political consensus."

[Gareth Snell speech at Stoke-on-Trent](#)

Central by-election

"I'd like to begin by saying thank you to the returning officer and their staff for all their work in making sure this election runs smoothly.

"I also must thank my wife, Sophia, and our beautiful daughter, Hannah. Both are a constant source of strength, love and inspiration to me. Without their support, this campaign would not have been possible.

"Can I also thank the police for all that they have done today and throughout the campaign.

"For democracy to work it needs the support of dedicated public servants and here in Stoke-on-Trent we can be proud to have some of the most dedicated in the country.

"I'd also like to thank my agent George Sinnott, and the incredible team of Labour Party workers and volunteers who have sustained this campaign throughout. To see the energy and commitment that all of you have shown these last few weeks is a reminder of the incredible strength and passion of our movement.

"I feel profoundly humble to have been chosen by the people of Stoke-on-Trent Central to represent them in Parliament.

"My wife Sophia and I chose to make our life here and it was the best decision we ever made. I'm proud to call the Potteries my home, and I'm prouder still to have been given the opportunity to represent our city as your next MP.

"In recent weeks Stoke-on-Trent has found itself in the national spotlight. Our city has been the focus of a media which all too often prefers to dwell on our problems instead of highlighting our achievements.

"But over these last few weeks a city lazily dubbed by some as the capital of Brexit has once again proven to the world that we are so much more than that.

"We are a city of innovators and educators, artists and entrepreneurs. We pioneered the first industrial revolution and I believe

that
we have the potential to lead the next one.

“This city will not allow ourselves to be defined by last year’s referendum. And we will not allow ourselves to be divided by the result.

“Nor will we be divided by race, or faith, or creed. We will move forward together to tackle the problems that we face and secure a brighter, more prosperous future for one another.

“So for those who have come to Stoke-on-Trent to sow hatred and division, and to try to turn us away from our friends and neighbours, I have one message – you have failed.

“Tonight the people of Stoke-on-Trent have chosen the politics of hope over the politics of fear. We have said with one voice that hatred and bigotry are not welcome here. This is a proud city and we stand together.

“This election is a victory for British values of tolerance and respect. But it is also a victory for the proud Labour values that are the hallmark of our city and its people.

“It is a message that the people of Stoke-on-Trent won’t just sit back while this Tory government cuts our National Health Service to the bone and puts the future of our public services at risk.

“It is a warning that we will not stand idly by while politicians in Westminster pour ever-money into London and the South East while the rest of the country is simply left to fend for itself.

“And it is a demand that the contribution our people have made to this country is respected and rewarded with the support and investment we deserve.

“Politics can be passionate – and there have been moments in this campaign that have polarised people.

“My job – and it is the job of all of us here – will be to put this campaign behind us – and work together.

“For those who voted for me in this election, thank you very much. But for those who did not, or who did not vote at all, I want you to know that I will be your representative as well.

“I will work every day to repay the trust that the people of Stoke-on-Trent have placed in me.

“I will be a strong, local voice that our city needs and I

will always put the people of Stoke-on-Trent first. I have a plan for the Potteries, and that plan begins today.”

Reports that the Government is considering a concession on parliamentary engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome – Smith

Baroness

(Angela) Smith of Basildon, Labour’s Leader in the House of Lords, in response

to reports of potential government concessions on the Article 50 Bill, said:

“Reports that the Government is considering a serious concession on parliamentary engagement and a vote on the negotiations are welcome.

“What happens next is a pivotal moment and will determine the tone and trust in the weeks, months and years to come on this issue.

“Ministers have rightly conceded the need for a vote before the deal is concluded and we welcome that.

“Our amendment on a vote on the outcome of negotiations has been drafted by taking note of what happened in the Commons, including ministerial comments, as well as expert advice from peers in the Lords debates. The Government will have heard the senior cross bench peer and former Supreme Court judge Lord Hope’s speech about the need for further legislation should this Bill not be amended.

“We believe we would win that vote. The Government of course could try to overturn it in the Commons.

“But rather than Ministers just holding to the line that they won’t amend the bill but will make a statement on the record, it would be a positive and mature signal for future progress of legislation if having accepted the principle they write this into the bill.”

Ends