

Unprecedented cuts Conservatives have made to defence since 2010 – Nia Griffith

Nia Griffith MP, Labour's Shadow Defence Secretary, responding to the Defence Select Committee's report '*Shifting the Goalposts? Defence Expenditure and the 2% Pledge: An Update*', which shows that MoD spending has been cut by 25% since 2010, said:

"It is hypocrisy of the highest order for both candidates for the Conservative leadership to talk of boosting defence spending when they have consistently voted for budgets, which have slashed the MoD's funds to what they are today.

"This report highlights the severe and unprecedented cuts that the Conservatives have made to defence since 2010. Instead of considering what is necessary for our defence and security needs, Conservative Ministers have delivered crippling austerity which has put unprecedented strain on the men and women of our Armed Forces.

"You cannot do security on the cheap. The next Labour government will ensure that our armed forces are properly equipped and resourced to respond to wide-ranging security challenges."

Tory failure to deliver affordable childcare has left many families out of pocket and out of work

Commenting on the Coram Holiday Childcare Survey, showing that working parents face an £800 bill for summer holiday childcare, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary said:

“This report shows that holiday childcare costs continue to rise year after year under this Tory government. It is clear that they have failed to deliver affordable care for families across the country.

“This failure to provide free or affordable childcare to those who need it has left many parents not just out of pocket but often out of work, as employment just won’t pay after the cost of care.

“The next Labour Government will invest in expanded and improved high-quality, affordable childcare, as part of our National Education Service.”

[Naz Shah responds to Boris Johnson essay on Islam](#)

Naz Shah MP, Labour’s Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, responding to Guardian reports of an essay by Boris Johnson arguing Islam had caused Muslim countries to be ‘literally centuries behind’, said:

“This is as historically inaccurate as it is Islamophobic. Boris Johnson must fully apologise for his record of racist remarks.

“After his previous comments describing women wearing the burqa as ‘letterboxes’ and ‘bankrobbers’, which has been linked to a rise in hate crime targeting Muslim women, Johnson’s disgraceful views make him unfit to be an MP, let alone Prime Minister.

“His words will embolden the Islamophobes who, according to recent polling, make up over half of Conservative Party members, who are about to choose the next Prime Minister of our country.”

Corbyn calls for UK to stop passing the buck on climate change to poorer countries

Corbyn says UK contribution to climate crisis “even greater than we think” as he calls for UK to stop “passing the buck to poorer countries”

Speaking at Labour’s International Social Forum today (Sunday), Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn will announce that the next Labour government will act to stop the UK government hiding the country’s “true impact on our climate” by measuring the emissions created through our consumption as well as production.

Corbyn will explain that the way the UK only measures the emissions created through the production of goods and services in the UK, “hides our true impact on our climate” because “we don’t only contribute to climate breakdown with what we produce, we contribute with what we consume too.”

Over the past three decades, the UK has off-shored the production of manufactured and agricultural goods it consumes, along with the associated greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2016, emissions associated with imported goods made up 45 per cent of the UK’s overall consumption emissions. While the UK’s territorial emissions are falling, the UK’s consumption emissions have barely changed in the past two decades.

Corbyn will announce that the next Labour government will “show true international leadership” by making Britain the first major economy in the world to measure the emissions we import, as well as those we produce.

Labour will amend the Climate Change Act to instruct the Committee on Climate Change to include an assessment of our “total footprint emissions” in their annual report to Parliament, measuring our progress

against them and recommending policies to reduce them.

Announcing the policy, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, will say:

“The next Labour government will show true international leadership in tackling the climate crisis. We will face up to the climate emergency by recognising our real carbon footprint.

“Currently, when we measure a country’s emissions, we are talking about the greenhouse gasses generated as goods and services are produced in that country. But for a country like Britain, that measurement hides the country’s true impact on our climate because we don’t only contribute to climate breakdown with what we produce, we contribute with what we consume too.

“Over the last two decades the UK has reduced emissions – but it has done so in part by off-shoring those emissions. “That isn’t tackling global emissions – it is passing the buck to poorer countries.

“It’s time we were honest about our contribution to the climate crisis: it is even greater than we think. So under Labour, Britain will become the first major economy in the world to measure these consumption emissions and take action to reduce them.

“We shouldn’t see this as a burden. Offshoring our emissions isn’t just bad for the climate, it’s bad for UK industry.

“When we measure the emissions from goods produced in the UK but not those produced overseas, it puts industry here, especially energy-intensive industries like steel, at a disadvantage. So we will remove the perverse incentive to damage our own economy with no benefit to the climate.

“And we will send financial and technical support to the developing world, helping them adopt greener methods of production and reducing the carbon content of the goods we import.”

Corbyn promises billions in investments to Power Up The North at Durham Miners Gala

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn today promises billions of pounds of investment and resources to Power Up The North as part of Labour's Green Industrial Revolution.

In an article for the Northern Echo to mark his speech to the Durham Miners Gala, he writes:

"Labour will superpower a new industrial revolution for the north with a record investment blitz.

"Where the mines fuelled the first Industrial Revolution, renewable energy will deliver Labour's Green Industrial Revolution and 400,000 new jobs.

"As the miners were given shovels and axes to dig for coal, Labour will give the North the tools and support it needs so you can deliver your future."

Mr Corbyn highlights Labour commitment to building Crossrail for the North from Liverpool to Hull and up to the North East, creating Regional Development Banks to support small and medium sized businesses, a National Education Service and more housing.

Mr Corbyn will also confirm Labour's proposal to base its new National Transformation Fund unit in the North.

He writes: "As our Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell, a proud northerner, revealed last week, Labour's £250billion National Transformation Fund to improve our transport, energy and digital

infrastructure won't be based in London and managed by Westminster mandarins.

"It'll be based in the North, working with Mayors and local representatives so it can be more receptive and responsive to the needs of northerners."

Using new Labour research, Mr Corbyn blames the widening gap between the North and South on successive Conservative Governments and the Liberal Democrats, adding:

"Since George Osborne launched his Northern Powerhouse in 2014, transport spending per person has gone up twice as much in London as in the North.

"Schools have faced cuts across the country. But more than one in five primary pupils in the North West, and one in eight in the North East, are in classes larger than 31. In London, only 7% are.

"The Conservatives have slashed council funding by up to 50%, forcing many northern authorities to axe crucial services.

"But the North is now set to see council spending cuts of over three times that of the South.

"And average household wealth is higher in all of the southern regions than the North, and more than twice as high in the South East compared to the North East.

"The Tories and Lib Dems didn't devolve power to the North. They devolved austerity – and super powered it to northern communities."

Mr Corbyn also warns that if elected as Conservative leader, Boris Johnson will widen the gap between the North and South.

He writes: "This week with his shameful refusal to support our

ambassador to the US, Johnson has shown that he won't stand up to Trump and he won't stand up for Britain.

"So how can he stand up for the North? Especially when he's promising tax cuts for the richest that will increase still further the wealth gap with the South?

"And how can he deliver the infrastructure projects the North needs when his big ideas as London Mayor – the 'Boris Island' airport and the Garden Bridge – ran up huge debts and were scrapped before a single brick was laid."

Mr Corbyn tells people in the North: " The choice at the next General Election will be stark.

"A Johnson-led Tory Government that will slash taxes for the richest and pursue a reckless no-deal Brexit that will hammer jobs and economic prospects in the North.

"Or a Labour Government that will deliver the real change you need, and provide billions of pounds of investment so you can genuinely Power Up The North – for the many not the few."

The article in the Northern Echo reiterates Labour's support for the Power Up The North campaign, led by 33 northern newspapers and websites calling for action to narrow the north-south divide.