

Manifesto a 'radical vision for the many, not the few' – Kez

16 May 2017

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Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has today hailed the UK Labour manifesto as a 'radical vision for the many, not the few.'

Labour's manifesto was launched by Jeremy Corbyn in Bradford, and includes a raft of commitments that will transform lives across the UK, including:

- A £10 minimum wage.
- Public ownership of utilities, including our railways.
- Fairer taxes on big corporations to invest in public services

You can read Labour's manifesto [here](#).

A Labour government will also pledge to:

- Oppose an unwanted and unnecessary second independence referendum.
- Establish a People's Constitutional Convention that will consider the option of a more federal UK.
- Abolish the abhorrent rape clause.
- Safeguard the future of the vital North Sea oil industry.
- Complete the HS2 high-speed rail line from London through Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester and then into Scotland.
- Establish a Scottish Investment Bank, with £20 billion of funds available to local projects and Scotland's small businesses.
- Urge the Scottish Government to hold an inquiry into the actions of Scottish police during the miners' strike.

Speaking at the manifesto launch in Bradford, Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:

"This manifesto is a radical vision for a country that works for the many, not just a privileged few.

"A Labour government will redistribute wealth and power across the UK. Under the Tories, working families are set to be on average over £1,400 a year worse off while those at the top have been given tax breaks worth tens of billions of pounds.

"The SNP has done nothing to stop this austerity – it has simply passed it on with £1.5 billion worth of cuts to local services since 2011.

"A Labour vision for our country is one where the rich and the powerful pay their fair share.

"Labour's manifesto gives voters a real choice: a fairer Scotland for the many, not the few; or a Scotland caught between the two extremes of Tory and SNP nationalism.

"Scottish Labour believes that together we're stronger. A vote for Labour on June 8 is a vote to end Tory austerity and tell Nicola Sturgeon that Scotland doesn't want a divisive second independence referendum."

Greens respond to Labour manifesto



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***Manifesto is a 'step in the right direction' but 'fails to address some of the biggest issues of the day'**

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: 'Labour is trying to be all things to all people and failing'**

The Green Party has responded to the Labour Party's manifesto, which was launched in Bradford this morning [1], calling on the party to go further and commit to a full vision for a fair and sustainable future.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"This has been called the boldest Labour manifesto in a generation, and that's no surprise since much of it appears to be based on the Green Party's 2015 manifesto. Where the Greens have led, Labour has followed – but they still have a long way to travel on the road to a truly sustainable future and a fair, open society. It's said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but they have to be consistent.

"Labour is trying to be all things to all people and failing. You can't pour money into Hinkley and create a renewable energy revolution. You can't solve the air pollution crisis while expanding airports and roads. You can't be a peacebuilder while renewing Trident. You can't transition to a new economic model while hanging onto 20th century ideas where growth is the only answer. It's time Labour embraced our full vision for the future instead of cherry picking a few good Green policies, then contradicting them.

"To see the Labour Party give up on freedom of movement and fail to offer a ratification referendum on a final deal with the EU is disappointing. Only the Green Party is committed to keeping Britain close to our European neighbours, building a truly fair economy and protecting our environment. Labour's economics have shifted in a positive way – but they still don't offer a complete package to transform this country for the better."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39930865>

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Labour's plan to tackle the decline of pubs is anything but

UKIP Leader and long time advocate of UKIP's "Save the Pub Campaign" Paul Nuttall said, "Labour has announced plans that are intended to tackle the decline of pubs however, they will do anything but that."



"Their plans demonstrate a complete lack of joined up thinking. Whilst guaranteeing to list all pubs as "assets of community value" to help stop them being sold off to supermarket chains and the like is laudable, when combined with an refusal to rule out a rise in beer duty it is nothing but an empty gesture. Protecting pubs from becoming supermarkets, while at the same time reinforcing the supermarkets ability to undercut pub prices is fantasy economics, and a cruel fantasy at that."

"Ever rising beer duty is driving pubs out of business. Labour's "plan" would kill pubs through tax, while thumping a few extra nails in their coffins as pub cos and publicans would be condemned to penury by ever rising beer duty and unable to offload failed assets due to a universal listing of pubs as assets of community value. On a case by case basis it is good that pubs can be listed, but it is not always the best solution."

Launch of the Labour Party Manifesto

2017

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, speaking at the launch of The Labour Party Manifesto 2017 in Bradford, said:

*****CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY*****

It's a pleasure to be in Bradford today
to launch Labour's manifesto, "For the many not the few".

I'm pleased to be here in Bradford
University where that great Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson was the first
Chancellor. Harold Wilson had a vision for Britain and created the
institutions
to match, like the Open University.

Today we set out vision to transform
Britain for the 21st century.

This manifesto is the first draft of a
better future for the people of our country. A blueprint of what Britain
could
be and a pledge of the difference a Labour government can make.

Like thousands of other Labour party
members, I've been making that case to people across the country over the
last
few weeks. As this campaign has continued, for an election called by a
Prime Minister with scant regard for her own solemn pledges, opinion has
started to move towards Labour.

There is no great secret as to the
reason.

People want a country run for the many
not the few.

That is because for the last seven years
our people have lived through the opposite; a Britain run for the rich, the
elite and the vested interest

They have benefitted from tax cuts and
bumper salaries while millions have struggled.

Whatever your age or situation, people
are under pressure, struggling to make ends meet.

Our manifesto is for you.

Parents worrying about the prospects for

their children and anxious about the growing needs of their own elderly parents.

Young people struggling to find a secure job and despairing of ever getting a home of their own.

Children growing up in poverty.

Students leaving college burdened with debt.

Workers who have gone years without a real pay rise coping with stretched family budgets.

Labour's mission, over the next five years, is to change all that.

Our manifesto spells out how. With a programme that is radical and responsible.

A programme that will reverse our national priorities to put the interests of the many first.

Will change our country while managing within our means.

And will lead us through Brexit while putting the preservation of jobs first.

Let me highlight just a few of our key pledges, and believe it or not, you haven't read them all already.

We are ruling out rises on VAT and National Insurance and on income tax for all but the richest 5% of high earners.

Labour will boost the wages of 5.7 million people earning less than the living wage to £10 an hour by 2020.

Labour will end the cuts in the National Health Service to deliver safe staffing levels and reduce waiting lists.

Labour will scrap tuition fees, lifting the debt cloud from hundreds of thousands of young people.

Labour will move towards universal childcare expanding free provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in the next Parliament.

Labour is guaranteeing the triple lock to protect pensioners' incomes.

And we will build over a million new homes, at least half for social rent.

Labour makes no apology for offering new protections to people at work, including ending the scandal of zero-hour contracts.

Or for finding the resources to hire 10,000 new police officers and 3,000 new firefighters.

And we will do the smaller things that still make a real difference – like ending hospital car parking charges or introducing four extra bank holidays a year.

But we in Labour recognise that solving these problems requires a thriving economy. One that gets our economy working again, and rises to the challenges of Brexit for jobs and investment.

For seven years the Conservatives have been holding Britain back.

Low investment,
low wages, low growth.

Labour will move Britain forward with ambitious plans to unlock the country's potential.

Labour will set up a National Investment Bank and regional development banks to finance growth and good jobs in all parts of the UK through major capital projects.

Labour will invest in our young people through a National Education Service focussed on childcare, schools and skills, giving them the capacity to make a productive contribution to tomorrow's economy.

Labour will take our railways back into public ownership, to put the passenger first.

We will take back control of our country's water by bringing it into regional public ownership.

And we will take a public stake in the energy sector to help keep fuel prices down and ensure a balanced and green energy policy for the future.

The Tories now want to scare us into accepting more of the same.

Only Labour has a plan ambitious enough to unleash the country's potential.

And only Labour has a plan to make Brexit work for ordinary people. We are clear: The choice is now a Labour Brexit that puts jobs first, or a Tory Brexit that will be geared to the interests of the City, and will risk making Britain a low-wage tax haven.

As we leave the European Union, because that is what the people have voted for, only Labour will negotiate a deal that preserves jobs and access to the single market, preserves rights and does not plunge our country into a race to the bottom.

All this is costed, as the documents accompanying our manifesto make clear. Our revenue-raising plans ensure we can embark on this ambitious programme without jeopardising our national finances.

We are asking the better-off and the big corporations to pay a little bit more – and, of course, to stop dodging their tax obligations in the first place.

And in the longer term we look to a faster rate of growth, driven by increased private and public investment, to keep our accounts in shape.

This is a programme of hope.

The Tory campaign, by contrast, is built on one word: Fear

What would another 5 years of Conservative government mean for Britain?

Just look back at the last seven:

More children in poverty.

Fewer young couples able to buy their first home.

More people queuing at food banks.

Fewer police on the beat ... fewer firefighters too.

More people are in work but they're not getting the pay or the hours to make ends meet.

More young people are in debt.

Will the Tories change their spots?
Don't bank on it.

Their record says they wont.

Theresa May will disagree of course.

So I say to her today: Prime Minister, come out of hiding and let's have that debate on television so millions can make up their minds.

What are you afraid of? It's not too late

Let's debate our two manifestos

Have the argument

I am confident that once the British people get the chance to study the issues

Look at the promises

They will decide that Britain has been held back by the Tories.

That the few have prevailed over the many for too long.

And that they will decide it is now time for Labour.

Our country will only work for the many not the few if opportunity is in the hands of the many. So our manifesto is a plan for everyone to have a fair chance to get on in life, because our country will only succeed when everyone succeeds.

Thank you.

[View the Labour Party manifesto here>](#)

[Download Funding Britain's Future here>](#)

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A vote for Labour would be a vote for chaos and division, the Scottish Conservatives have warned, after a damning analysis showed Kezia Dugdale's party is split down the middle over support for Jeremy Corbyn.

A dossier released today by the Scottish Conservatives – entitled 'The Division of Labour' – has revealed that four in ten Scottish candidates have condemned Mr Corbyn's leadership on social media or in other public statements.

Scottish Labour candidates have said of Mr Corbyn: "He is utterly unfit to lead," "he is destroying the party," "Corbyn is no leader," and "Corbyn must go."

Yet their views are contradicted by the hard-left majority in the Scottish party who stand by Mr Corbyn's plan to tax and spend billions more.

One supportive candidate has said: "Kezia Dugdale needs to develop as an authentic leader and learn from Jeremy."

Scottish Conservative MSP Adam Tomkins said:

"Labour are the most divided party ever to face the electorate in Scotland.

"A vote for Labour would be a vote for chaos as the party tears itself apart and descends deeper into division.

"Even for people who have been sympathetic to Labour in the past, that is a disastrous prospect.

"We know Jeremy Corbyn is "absolutely fine" with a second independence referendum and would strike a deal with the SNP in an instant if that's what he had to do to form a government.

"More than half of Scottish Labour's candidates are ardent Corbynistas who would happily go along with anything he says.

"Only the Scottish Conservatives are strong enough to stand up to the SNP and say No to a second independence referendum.

"We are absolutely united in our staunch opposition to Nicola Sturgeon's demand for a damaging and divisive vote on breaking away from the UK."

The Scottish Conservative analysis, The Division of Labour, is here ([link](#)).