

Jeremy Corbyn speech to launch Labour's Local Election campaign

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, will today launch Labour's Local Election campaign and say:

Thank

you for that introduction Bethany and for all that you do in mobilising our student members in Nottinghamshire.

Labour

depends on all its members to deliver our message of investment and social justice in every community across Britain.

Over

a quarter of a million more people joined Labour over the past eighteen months

they saw Labour has broken with the failed politics of the past and that they could be part of a new project for real change: bold, confident and, yes, angry too.

Because

who wouldn't be angry?

When

they see people lying on trolleys in hospital corridors?

When

they see more and more people homeless on the streets?

When

they hear about a high street chain trying to pay young people in leftover food?

When

huge numbers of Sure Start centres have closed under the Tories?

Or

when class sizes are rising – as the Tories divert funds to grammar schools for a privileged few?

And

when social care for the elderly and disabled is in crisis – while the super-rich and big business get tax giveaways worth £73 billion?

How can you not be angry and demand major change when life expectancy projections have fallen in Britain for pensioners? We are a rich country, the sixth richest in the world. We are not at war, there is no epidemic sweeping our land.

But, whether the Conservative Party chair can face the facts or not, life expectancy has actually fallen – by a year for 65-year-old women and 6 months for 65-year-old men – since 2013.

The truth is that the Tories are running our country down.

Home ownership, opportunities for our children, wages and conditions at work, the NHS, care for our elderly, and now, life expectancy: they're all going backwards, run down by a Conservative government that looks after those at the top and manages decline for the rest of us.

Britain is a wealthy country but you wouldn't know it from the way people are held back in their everyday lives – from making a home for themselves and their families, building a career, pursuing their interests and ambitions.

Local councils have made a huge difference to people's lives – providing libraries and leisure centres, schools, building houses, making sure the elderly have the support they need.

But since 2010 councils have seen their funding cut by 40%.

Over ninety percent of councils are putting up council tax this year to try to compensate for the huge cuts in the grant they get from government.

Meanwhile police budgets are cut, social care budgets are cut, schools budgets are cut, Sure Start centres are closed, libraries are closed, houses aren't built.

Whole communities are being held back and jobs, services and hope destroyed. But it doesn't have to be like this.

Labour is standing up for you. In Westminster and in every community across the country.

Labour

councils are making a difference across the country. Stepping up where the Government fails to act.

Faced

with the growing housing crisis, Birmingham Council is delivering 30% of all new homes in the city. And Lancashire County Council has formed a joint venture

to buy 800 affordable homes for sale and social rent.

Faced

with the crisis in social care 15 Labour councils have signed up to the Ethical

Care Charter for minimum standards of safety, quality and dignity of care and improve pay and training for care workers. I signed it myself last week in Blyth.

Faced

with so many people struggling to make ends meet Liverpool council is setting up a not-for-profit energy company – “the Liverpool LECCy” – to sell gas and electricity at a lower cost, building on what’s been done down the road in Nottingham with Robin Hood Energy. And just west of here in Derbyshire the Labour Council’s Welfare Rights Service has helped local people claim £18 million in benefits they otherwise would have lost.

Faced

with the Government’s failure to invest in our economy the ‘Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund’ has lent £3.5 million to help more than 30 businesses secure good jobs in Nottinghamshire. And in Northumberland, the council-owned Arch property business generates jobs and homes, as well as a return of nearly £5m a year that supports council services like schools, roads

and social care. I was really pleased to visit their Blyth Workspace site last

week which offer huge opportunities.

Faced

with an epidemic of low pay 89 Labour councils have delivered the real Living Wage for council employees and contractors to ensure better wages for local people. I’m particularly proud that my own borough led the way on that.

These

are just a few examples of how Labour councils are standing up for you and why

you need Labour to be in power in towns, counties and city regions as well as Westminster.

The

Conservatives justify tax cuts for the richest and big business by saying they

will lead to an increase in investment. But in fact investment has fallen, leaving us with antiquated infrastructure and uncompetitive industries.

The
future of our country cannot be left to the free market and the whims of the
wealthy.

That
is why Labour will set up a national investment bank and regional development
banks – including our ‘Bank of the North’ – to help unlock £500 billion to
fund
major capital projects and finance growth.

Our
plan will use public investment to build up new investment by the private
sector. It means creating hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs in
manufacturing and in green and other cutting-edge industries of the future.

As
every successful business knows, there’s nothing reckless about borrowing to
invest quite the opposite.

Investment
in infrastructure, skills, broadband and high speed rail generates growth and
tax revenues. It more than pays for itself. This is just what the Welsh
Government
is doing with the launch of the Welsh Development Bank, which draws on 20
years
of Labour experience in power.

At
this crucial time we need to look to the future and ask ourselves what sort
of
country we want Britain to be.

Theresa
May’s Government is trying to use Brexit to turn Britain into a low-wage tax
haven for big business.

We
are offering a real alternative that reflects the priorities of the majority
of
our people to rebuild and transform Britain so that no one and no community
is
left behind.

Instead
of a country run for the rich, we want to see one in which all of us can lead
richer lives.

A
Labour Government will end the rip-off on the railways and bring them into
public ownership.

Labour
will overturn the Government’s ban on council-owned bus companies as part of

a
plan to put the public back into buses.

We'll
stop the corporate tax cuts and make sure the tax dodgers pay their fair share.

We'll
invest in our children's education and skills for our workers.

We'll
give six million people a pay rise by introducing a real living wage of at least £10 an hour.

We'll
reinstate nurses' bursaries and give more people the chance to train to be nurses, so that the sick get the care they need.

We'll
invest in housing, building the homes our country needs, creating thousands of
good construction jobs and apprenticeships and allowing councils to borrow to build council housing.

Together
we can create a Britain where each of us can lead richer lives investing in a better Britain, creating educational opportunity for all, guaranteeing the health and social care services you need, providing safer neighbourhoods and building homes people can afford.

In
the coming weeks of this campaign Labour will be setting out more of our policies to show how Labour will stand up for you.

This
election is your chance to send a message to the Tories: that you won't accept
our NHS in crisis, your children's future betrayed, a deepening housing crisis,
damaging cuts to the police and insecure jobs that don't make ends meet.

It
doesn't have to be like this. Things can and they will change.

So
use your vote for Labour on 4th May.

Ends

Press release: New charity investigation: Kids 'N' Cancer UK

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [Kids 'N' Cancer UK, registered charity number 1138702](#), and frozen its bank accounts. The inquiry was opened on 15 March 2017.

The charity has objects to provide assistance and financial support to children seeking cancer treatment, and to assist with the overseas costs of Proton Beam Therapy which is not yet available in the UK.

The Commission has established that there are clear and on-going regulatory issues relating to the administration and financial controls of the charity following the arrests of a trustee and an employee of the charity.

The inquiry will examine the:

- charity's governance, particularly since only one trustee remains active
- trustee's management of the charity's financial affairs including its financial controls, fundraising activities associated with specific beneficiaries, the application of funds, and the risk to charity property
- extent to which trustees have properly authorised benefits and remuneration to a trustee and employee at the charity

In order to protect the assets of the charity, the Commission has taken steps to freeze the charity's bank accounts under section 76(3)(d) of the Charities Act 2011.

It remains in contact with the Derbyshire Police and will cooperate with the police investigation as necessary.

The Commission had historic engagement with the charity. In 2014, it identified weaknesses in the charity's administration and issued an action plan to address concerns in areas such as accounting, financial controls and governance.

It was satisfied at the time that the trustees took appropriate action to comply with its plan, but further concerns about the charity's management and financial controls have now arisen.

The Commission stresses that opening an inquiry is not in itself a finding of wrong doing. The purpose of an inquiry is to examine issues in detail and investigate and establish the facts so that the regulator can ascertain whether there has been misconduct and mismanagement; establish the extent of the risk to the charity's property, beneficiaries or work; decide what action needs to be taken to resolve the serious concerns, if necessary using its investigative, protective and remedial powers to do so.

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. [Reports of previous inquiries](#) by the Commission are available on GOV.UK.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 27/17

Notes to editors

1. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
 2. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
 3. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
 4. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.
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[News story: Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia and Jordan: April 2017](#)

Prime Minister Theresa May visits Jordan and Saudi Arabia from 3 to 5 April to further strengthen the UK's relationships in the Middle East.

Jordan

On her first visit to Jordan as Prime Minister, Theresa May will visit Amman today, 3 April. The Prime Minister will announce a new UK-Jordan initiative to tackle the terror threat and develop new capabilities to strike at the heart of Daesh, with new support for the Jordanian Air Force. She will confirm a plan to improve co-operation on countering violent extremism in the region.

The Prime Minister will also discuss how the UK can build on our co-operation

with Jordan to manage the fallout from the Syrian conflict.

Saudi Arabia

The Prime Minister will visit Saudi Arabia Tuesday 4 April and Wednesday 5 April. She will make clear that they are a close and important ally and that we will continue to work closely in a range of areas, particularly on counter-terrorism where UK-Saudi co-operation is vital.

The Prime Minister is also expected to explore ways of boosting our already very strong trade ties. Saudi Arabia is currently the UK's largest trading partner in the Middle East, with exports of British goods standing at £4.67 billion and services at £1.9 billion in 2015.

Announcements

[News story: Small, local charities set to benefit from fundraising skills training](#)

The Foundation for Social Improvement ([the FSI](#)) has been awarded a grant worth £199,580 to run a two year training programme, helping small, local charities and community groups develop their fundraising skills.

The programme run by the FSI in partnership with [LocalGiving](#), the [Small Charities Coalition](#) and [Charity Finance Group](#), will provide over 5,000 fundraising training opportunities. It will include face-to-face events across the country, webinars and online learning resources, one-to-one advice and consultancy appointments, fundraising campaign planning support, and intensive mentoring matches. Training will be subsidised, helping organisations to take part who may not normally have the resources to attend.

The training will be for small, local charities and community groups with an annual income of up to £1 million, which have a local focus within England.

Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson said:

Small, local charities and community groups provide essential support for local people and are the backbone of our communities helping to build a fairer society that benefits everyone, not just the privileged few.

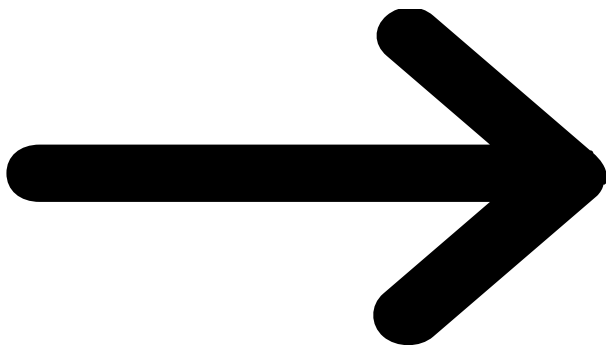
I want to help them be more resilient and sustainable, and this training programme will give them valuable skills so they can continue their vital work helping to support people up and down the country.

Details of the training events will be added to the FSI's website as they become available, with online resources for those who might not be able to attend the training. You can also follow the [FSI on Twitter](#) for latest news and information about the training.

[SNP set to finally give go ahead on Pentland Studio](#)

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4 Apr 2017



The Scottish Conservatives have welcomed the news that a major new film studio looks set to receive planning permission after ministers said they were minded to approve it.

The decision about whether to give the go ahead on the proposed £55 million Pentland Studio on the outskirts of Edinburgh had been with the Scottish Government for months, despite all funding being in place.

But developers received notice from the Scottish Government's chief planner that ministers were intending to approve the application, subject to conditions and the completion of a planning obligation.

One of these conditions related to improving infrastructure on the Edinburgh city by-pass, but if completed it would provide Scotland with a world class 96-acre site with a water stage and six sound stages.

The latest instalment of the Avengers franchise recently began filming in Edinburgh, but not all of the filming can take place in Scotland due to the lack of a world leading film studio.

It is hoped that once completed, the new facilities could attract more programmes to be shot in Scotland, and help retain industry expertise.

Scottish Conservative culture spokesman Jackson Carlaw, who recently raised the matter of studio capacity at FMQs, said:

“Having dragged their feet for months I’m delighted that the Scottish Government has seen sense and decided to give this project the go ahead.

“Provided that the conditions of the approval are met, this should provide Scotland with an international, world leading film studio complex.

“I have no doubt that this will help attract major film and television productions to Scotland, and finally allow us to match and exceed facilities elsewhere in the UK.

“It will also give us a real opportunity to develop and nurture creative arts skills in Scotland, and give us the ability to retain talent rather than see it go elsewhere.

“Once finished, this new development will see us have a capacity and talent base to match the unrivalled variety of our natural landscape locations.”

The Scottish Conservatives urged the SNP to approve the application back in January:

<http://www.scottishconservatives.com/2017/01/ministers-must-reveal-fate-of-55m-film-studio/>