

Prosperity and Work

Q: How can we get our economy growing again and create more jobs?

1. Massive investment in house-building (including council housing), infrastructure and the de-carbonisation of the economy – public investment financed through long-term borrowing.
2. A proactive regional and industrial policy, to rebalance the economy, boosting manufacturing and reducing the dependency on finance.
3. Turn bailed-out banks into smaller, regionally-based public or mutualised banks with clear objectives for their communities and for the regeneration of manufacturing.

Q: What are your priorities for fairness when there is less money available overall?

4. An index-linked living wage for the low paid.
5. A 35-hour working week for all and an end to excessive overtime.
6. Employee representatives on Company remuneration committees

Q: What can Labour do to make a difference to people who are struggling?

7. Introduce rent controls, and controls on the prices of essential goods and services like utilities and transport fares.
8. Restore trade union rights – unions must be able to defend their members' interests through lawful industrial action without threat of victimisation.
9. Protect national collective bargaining.

Q: What changes, if any, are needed to make the tax system fairer?

10. Introduce more tax bands – 10% for the poorest taxpayers and 60% for the richest.
11. Ensure Capital Gains Tax will be paid at the same marginal rate as income tax.
12. Consider the introduction of a wealth tax and/or a land tax.
13. Enact a 'general anti-avoidance principle' to taxation that treats all tax avoidance as unacceptable and therefore open to challenge.
14. Apply a 10% income tax surcharge to all investment income (on which no national insurance is paid) and end the ceiling on national insurance contributions for the higher paid.
15. Require multinational companies to account and disclose tax payments by country, and seek international agreement to introduce trade embargos on and travel bans to/from tax havens.

Q: How can we help young people and prevent record youth unemployment leading to another lost generation?

16. Restore EMAs
17. Make all public contracts conditional on the contractor operating a suitable apprenticeship scheme, paying the national minimum wage and providing high quality training.
18. The freezing of the retirement age at 65 pending the achievement of 'full employment'.

Q: How can government work with business and trade unions to create jobs and deliver for our economy?

19. Create new Regional Enterprise Agencies involving local government, regional industry and commerce, trade unions and regional investment banks