23 August 2016

LAS Labour link news

Hi Everyone,

Hope you all are enjoying summer and holiday time.

Well things are becoming a little clearer and we will be having a Labour leadership contest to choose our candidate for the next Prime Minister of Great Britain. You will receive your voting papers from 22nd August by post or email. All members will have a vote provided you joined the Labour Party before January 12th 2016 or you went online and paid £25. Members of affiliated trade unions who joined their union before January 12th and who pay the political levy and who state that they support the aims and values of the Labour party and are not a supporter of any other political party also get a vote but they must apply to their union to become an affiliated supporter before 8th August. Each person only has one vote.

News from GLA

Joanne McCartney AM

GLA election results

The New Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan won 1,310,143 votes to Zac Goldsmith’s 994,614 providing City Hall with a Labour administration again. Out of the 25 London Assembly seats, Labour retained 12, the Conservatives were reduced to 8, the Green Party held two, UKIP gained 2 and the Liberal Democrats were reduced to 1. It was good news to win Merton and Wandsworth from the Conservative’s for the first time.
Deputy Mayors

I was delighted to accept the position of Deputy Mayor and being a key advisor to the Mayor of London. In addition to this, I represent the Mayor at events across London and assume responsibility for the role of Mayor of London if required.

Other Deputy Mayor announcements include Val Shawcross as Deputy Mayor for Transport, Sophie Linden as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, James Murray as Deputy Mayor for Housing, Fiona Twycross as Chair, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), Rajesh Agrawal as Deputy Mayor for Business, Justine Simmons as Deputy Mayor for Culture and Jules Pipe as Deputy Mayor for Planning, Regeneration and Skills.

Brexit

It was disappointing to see the UK voted to leave the European Union last month, particularly given how close the referendum result was. The Mayor has used the opportunity to demand more autonomy from the Government, asking for the devolution of fiscal responsibility including tax raising powers, as well as more control over business and skills, housing and planning, transport, health and policing and criminal justice. More autonomy for London government is essential to protecting Londoners' jobs, wealth and prosperity.

The Mayor has importantly reassured EU nationals that they will always be welcome in London and has called on the new Prime Minister Teresa May to say very clearly that she will guarantee that EU citizens can remain.

Hate Crime

Following the outcome of the referendum in June, it is appalling to see that incidents of hate crime have risen.

The Mayor has been very clear that hate crime is unacceptable and addressing this issue will be a priority for the Met. London is a fantastically diverse city and we will have a zero-tolerance approach to any attempt to hurt and divide our communities.

The Mayor is working with the British Transport Police on the #WeStandTogether campaign which has been adopted by police forces in London and around the country to co-ordinate awareness of hate crimes and efforts to tackle them. It makes it clear that any behaviour where someone is targeted or made to feel uncomfortable on their journey because they are different will not be tolerated.
Air Pollution

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has launched plans for the toughest crackdown on the most polluting vehicles by any major city around the world. A £10 charge for the most polluting vehicles and an extended Ultra-Low Emission Zone will be part of a major public consultation launched on the 60th anniversary of the Clean Air Act.

With around 9,500 Londoners dying from long-term exposure to air pollution every year and latest research revealing over 443 schools in the capital are in areas exceeding safe legal pollution levels, the Mayor wants to take urgent action to help end London’s ‘public health emergency’ and clean up the capital’s filthy air.

Key proposals include:

- Implementing a £10 Emissions Surcharge (dubbed the ‘T-charge’) on the most polluting vehicles entering central London from 2017. The charge would apply to all vehicles with pre-Euro 4 emission standards (broadly speaking those registered before 2005) and will cost an extra £10 per day on top of the existing Congestion Charge.

- Introducing the central London Ultra-Low Emission Zone one year earlier in 2019

- Extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (‘ULEZ’) beyond central London from 2020: for motorcycles, cars and vans, to the North and South Circular; and for lorries, buses and coaches London-wide

- Developing a detailed proposal for a national diesel scrappage scheme for Government to implement

- Bringing forward the requirement for all double–deck buses to be ULEZ-compliant in central London from 2020 to 2019

- Implementing clean bus corridors – tackling the worst pollution hotspots by delivering cleaner buses on the dirtiest routes

The Emissions Surcharge in 2017, followed by an expanded ULEZ in 2020, would be the toughest crackdown on the most polluting vehicles by any major city around the world.

This is the first stage of the Mayor’s Clean Air consultation with later stages focusing on more detailed assessment around the £10 Emissions Surcharge (‘T-Charge’) and ULEZ. The next stage is due in the autumn.
Gender pay gap

The Mayor has called on employers to close the pay gap for women and has launched a major action plan to ensure full pay equality across the Greater London Authority and its functional bodies, with City Hall publishing a full gender pay audit of its entire staff. To view details of the City Hall gender pay gap audit visit www.london.gov.uk/gender-pay-audit

The audit reveals that, at the end of March 2016, women employed at City Hall on a full time contract are paid an average of £21.40 per hour, while their male counterparts earn on average £22.44. This equates to a pay gap of 4.6 per cent. The pay gap for all full-time London workers is 11.9 per cent. 52 per cent of City Hall staff are women and 41 per cent of senior staff earning £60,000 or more are women. 29 per cent of staff earning over £100K are female.

Jason Anderson
Unison Labour Link Officer