03 October 2016

**LAS Labour link news**

Hi to you all,

The leadership challenge is over and Jeremy Corbyn remains the elected leader of the Labour Party.

Now let’s get on with the challenges ahead.

Over the past six years, we’ve watched this Tory government turning back the clock. But in the last twelve months, we’ve seen that process accelerate in a way that should worry us all.

An underfunded NHS on its knees, with almost 4 million people on waiting lists. A plan to use Brexit to reduce workers’ rights, taking us backwards on issues like fair pay and job security. And the reintroduction of grammar schools, entrenching social and economic divisions on our society.

As a Labour movement, we have a duty to oppose the Tories on these issues. Not just to protest from the side-lines, but to take the fight to them in Parliament and stand up for what we believe in.

(Jason Anderson)
Conference is upon us!

Annual Conference 2016 is taking place from Sunday 25 September to Wednesday 28 September 2016.

This year we submitted the following Contemporary motion to Conference. Contemporary motions have to be something which has happened recently and is not already Party policy:

Tackling the UK’s Housing Crisis

Conference notes that the Office for National Statistics House Price Index, published on 16th August, confirmed that UK House prices rose by 8.7% between June 2015 and June 2016, to an average of £214,000, and that in London the average house price rose to £472,204. Conference further notes the Resolution Foundation research, published on 2nd August, which showed that: a) home ownership in England has fallen to its lowest level for 30 years and; b) 19% of households were in private rental accommodation in 2015, compared to 11% in 2003. Conference recognises that growth in the housing benefit bill has gone hand in hand with the growth of people living in private rented accommodation and the move from “social” to “affordable” rents in council and housing associations. Conference believes that the way to tackle the rising housing benefits bill is not to cut benefits, but instead to invest in more homes. Conference therefore calls for Labour to commit to free Councils to build houses, and to reverse Tory plans for the forced sale of council homes to fund an extension of the “right to buy” to housing associations. Conference also calls Labour to campaign for 300,000 houses to be built each year, with half of these genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy, including homes for social rent.
Labour must be electable to protect public services and win for working people, says UNISON

Labour can only win for working people and protect public services by being in government — and putting an end to the infighting that has plagued the party in recent months, says UNISON general secretary Dave Prentis today (26/09/16).

Speaking in the public services debate at the annual Labour Party conference in Liverpool today (26/09/16), Dave Prentis said:

“The proud public service workers who belong to UNISON do so much for so little. They know the best public services are those delivered by them, direct to their communities.

“Privatisation has been an unmitigated disaster for service users, public sector workers and taxpayers. Outsourcing has doubled over the past five years and now stands at a record £128bn.

“Meanwhile the size of the state will shrink to levels not seen since the 1930s. Everything we stand for is at stake.

“We need a Labour party committed to a programme of stopping and reversing the failed experiment of privatisation.

“That’s something that matters to firefighters as much as it does to nurses, police staff, teaching assistants and postal workers.

“But the only way we can achieve this is by winning the next election and beating the Conservatives.

“The NHS, the minimum wage and maternity pay were all achieved, not by shouting loudly, but by winning elections. That’s vital if we’re to get the best public services.

“The last year has been a wasted one in many ways and we cannot afford another. If Labour is back here next year, obsessing about rule changes and internal rows, then it will have failed the British people.

“Let’s stop the running commentaries and briefings against each other, MPs and staff. And let’s stop talking about deselections and leadership elections.

“The next election is not lost — but Labour has a mountain to climb.

“Labour must work to win so it can change our country for the better. That’s why the unions founded the Labour Party — to win power for working people. There can be no greater task.”
Dear Members,

I am honoured to have won the votes of thousands of members and supporters who have given me the second mandate in a year to lead our party.

I will do everything I can to repay that trust and support to bring our party together — to make it an engine of progress for our country and the people who depend on Labour.

Always remember that in our party, we have much more in common than that which divides us.

We are now the largest political party in Western Europe. Our new members are now part of a nationwide movement who can now take our message into every community in the country to win support for the election of a Labour government.

Now is the time for all of us to focus every ounce of our energy on exposing and defeating the Tories and the damage they are doing to our country. Theresa May's Government isn't a new government — it's David Cameron's Government repackaged but threatening to take the country backwards and dithering as we face the historic challenges of Brexit.

Together, arguing for the real change this country needs, I have no doubt that Labour can win the next election whenever Theresa May decides to call it — and form the next government.

My responsibility as Labour leader is to unite this party. And it's also the responsibility of the whole party to work together and respect the democratic choice that has been made.

Labour is a party brimming full of ideas — of talent and creativity — and so is Britain. Unleashing that potential is the job of all of us.

Let's work together for real change.

Jeremy Corbyn MP

Leader of the Labour Party
Dear Members,

I was proud to announce Labour's major campaign, 'Education not Segregation', opposing the Tories' plans to open new grammar schools.

The Tories would segregate our children by opening new grammar schools: a privileged education for a few, a second class education for the rest. And they are extending their plans into higher education, by hiking student fees and scrapping student grants, cutting opportunities for the many.

The Tories' education policies are failing children and parents. While they obsess about school structures and new grammar schools, school budgets are falling, there are chronic teacher shortages and not enough good school places.

A good education should not be a privilege - it is every child's right. Labour will ensure that all children receive the high-quality education they deserve. Sign our petition against new grammar schools.

Yours

Angela Rayner Shadow Education Secretary

Join the Labour Party

Help us campaign for a fairer Britain

Unison Trade Union members that are affiliated to the Labour Party:

Membership cost £1.96 a month.

Jason Anderson

Unison Labour Link Officer