On 7th May we are going to be voting in an election that is the most important that we have faced for many years. Local government has faced the brunt of central government cuts. Overall local authorities have faced cuts of about 40% between 2010-11 and 2015-16. With poorer areas receiving far higher cuts overall. Unite continues to campaign to end and reverse the cuts that are decimating our communities.

This will have a huge impact on local government workers and their families

Mark Wood, Convenor at Southampton City Council:

“We have faced enormous cuts and this is hitting many of us very hard. This election is a straight choice. If the Tories get back in the cuts will get much worse!”

Dick Banks, Unite EC member, Leeds City Council:

“The cost of living crisis has hit local government workers badly. Labour’s promises about the living wage, agency workers and ending the housing crisis have got my vote.”

Because Labour will:

1. Save our health service – Stop the wholesale privatisation of the NHS, repeal the disastrous Tories’ Health and Social Care Act and recruit 20,000 more nurses and 8,000 more GPs

2. Integrate health and social care – to help those with the greatest need and tackle the exploitation of care workers

3. Have an economy for all of us – strengthen the minimum wage, ban zero hours, create thousands more apprenticeships.

4. Launch an inquiry into blacklisting in the construction industry

5. Build more houses – Build 200,000 homes a year by 2020, prioritise capital investment in affordable housing, stop private landlords and agents ripping us off

6. Abolish the Bedroom Tax

7. Freeze energy bills until 2017 – and improve the energy efficiency of at least five million homes over 10 years

8. Tackle crime – protect frontline police numbers – and bring in Britain’s first Victims’ Law to put victims at the heart of the justice system

9. Abolish the loophole that lets firms pay agency workers less than permanent staff

10. Extend free childcare – to 25 hours for working parents with three and four year olds and reinvigorate Sure Start

11. Devolve regional transport decisions – bringing together trains, buses, ferries and trams into a single network, have a strict cap on annual rail fares and legislate so a public sector operator can take on lines

12. Restore access to justice for all workers by abolishing fees for employment tribunals

Local Authorities Sector

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Vote Labour on 7 May

VOTE for change
VOTE for hope
VOTE for LABOUR

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Building an economy that works for the many not the few
Since the last election public sector workers are earning around £2,000 less a year in real terms.
Over five million people are in low paid jobs – one in five workers, including up to 1 million delivering public services, many of whom work for local government. At the same time the number of billionaires in the UK has reached record levels. In-work poverty has exploded with the majority of children in poverty now growing up in working households rather than workless ones. Around 12% of local government workers receive in-work benefits.

Labour is committed to tackling this crisis by:
- Increasing the National Minimum Wage to £8 an hour
- Creating incentives to pay the living wage
- Supporting flexible working for parents and increasing free childcare for three to four year olds from 15 to 25 hours.

Public procurement
Many Unite members work for outsourced companies delivering local government services.
Labour has committed to use public procurement to:
- Promote the living wage
- Increase the numbers of apprentices, with firms winning government contracts being obliged to provide quality apprenticeships.
- Defend and create UK based jobs
- Launching an inquiry into blacklisting in the construction industry

Susan Matthew – Lambeth Branch Secretary
“The majority of women are the primary carers in a family and Labour is offering them hope. Introducing greater maternity rights, increasing the amount of free child care from 15 to 25 hours a week and integrating health and social care will make a huge difference.”

Health and Social Care
The Coalition Government’s massive top down reorganisation of the NHS has been a disaster. The NHS is now in grave peril with privatisation and cuts putting huge strain on the system. Worse still this has put huge further strains on Local Government and the social care system.
It is predicted that 60p in every £1 of council tax collected by councils will be spent on caring for the elderly, vulnerable adults, and vulnerable children. In such a vital and sensitive area it can’t be right that over 300,000 care workers are on ‘zero hours’ and 220,000 are paid less than the National Minimum Wage.

Labour has committed to helping care workers under the same agreement by:
- Increasing the National Minimum Wage to £8 an hour
- Creating incentives to pay the living wage
- Supporting flexible working for parents and increasing free childcare for three to four year olds from 15 to 25 hours.

Labour's promises on Health and Social Care will change lives by:
- Reverse Tory plans to force competition and privatisation in the NHS by scrapping the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- Integrating the health and social care services into a system of ‘whole-person care’
- Ending time-limited 15 minute visits to ensure that people get the care they need
- Tackling the exploitation of care workers, so that travel between appointments is not an excuse for paying below the minimum wage
- Training, recruiting and paying new staff through a “Time to Care” fund including 20,000 new nurses, 8,000 new GPs and 5,000 new homecare workers in the NHS to support people to stay in their homes
- Commit to the NHS Agenda for Change pay system with the longer term goal of bringing care workers under the same agreement

Housing
Britain’s housing crisis is having a devastating effect on our communities. Housing costs have risen far higher than salaries for years now and millions of people are being priced out of a decent home, particularly those with families and young people. than the National Minimum Wage

Labour's promises on housing will make a difference:
- Build 200,000 homes a year by 2020,
- Prioritise capital investment in affordable housing,
- Stop private landlords and agents ripping us off
- Abolish the Bedroom Tax

Rights at work
The UK economy is not working for far too many people. Low pay jobs with few employment rights are becoming a rapidly increasing feature of the UK labour market.
The Government has been making this worse through a series of attacks on workers’ rights that make it easier to sack workers and prevent them from accessing help and justice against unscrupulous employers.

Labour has promised to help tackle this by:
- Banning zero hour contracts and abolishing legal loopholes that allows firms to pay agency workers less than permanent staff
- Abolishing employment tribunal fees and increasing enforcement of employment rights including health and safety.
- Launching an inquiry into blacklisting in the construction industry
- Strengthening the law against gender and maternity discrimination
- Increasing workers voices by putting employee representatives on remuneration committees

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