3

A modern welfare state

As society changes, so the welfare state must change. We have a ten-year vision for an active welfare state: to promote work for those who can, security for those who cannot, and rewards for those who save, volunteer, learn or train.

Since 1997, we have cut the costs of unemployment, saving £4 billion last year. As a result, we have been able to spend more on tackling poverty and raising family supports within a social security budget that has grown, in Labour’s first term, at the lowest rate since 1948.

Employment is not just the foundation of affordable welfare, it is the best anti-poverty, anti-crime and pro-family policy yet invented. After years of mass unemployment, full employment is now on the agenda. Our ten-year goal is to sustain a higher percentage of people in work than ever before. With more than one million more people in work than in 1997, and a million vacancies in the economy, we need to extend the New Deal, not abolish it as the Conservatives propose.

We judge our society by how we treat the young and the old. In this Parliament, over one million children have been taken out of poverty; our ten-year goal is to halve child poverty, ending it in a generation. We will transform support for children to achieve it.

For those in retirement, security depends on partnership between state and funded provision. We promise that, within two years, no pensioner need live on less than £100 per week, increased annually in line with earnings growth. On top of that, we will reward pensioners who save.

Government cannot achieve social inclusion for people, but it can help them achieve it for themselves, by transferring power and opportunity to local communities. That is our promise.

Our ten-year goals
Sustain a higher percentage of people in work than ever before, as we seek full employment in every region.

Child poverty halved and pensioner poverty tackled, as we extend opportunity for all children and security for all pensioners.

Our next steps
• An ‘Employment First’ interview for everyone coming on to benefits

• Expanded support for children through tax and benefit reform

• Extend and increase paid maternity leave and introduce paid paternity leave

• New pension credit for lower- and middle-income pensioners, and the Winter Fuel Payment retained

• £900 million Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for jobs, education and crime prevention
A modern welfare state

Labour’s goal

We will offer the greatest flexibility to personal advisers, and encourage greater engagement of employers, with all New Deal Jobs. Employment Zones include funding geared to results and public-private partnerships. On the basis of the evidence we will consider their extension to new areas and new groups. We will build on the Action Teams for Jobs model, which is targeting 10 of the most severely disadvantaged areas, to tackle the employment gap for ethnic minorities, and devote £45 million to provide stepping stones into employment for the hardest to employ.

The New Deal for Disabled People pioneers new ways of helping people with disabilities into jobs. The opportunity to work is vital to civil rights, an essential step to offer help with rehabilitation and job retention. We will invest an additional £40 million to help people with disabilities into work, ensure that it is worthwhile to try and stay at work if they have high costs, and improve assessment for equipment and services as people move in and out of work.

We will not use disability benefits to disguise unemployment. The approach we are taking builds on the successes of the 1980s. The number of people getting incapacity benefit (I/B) has fallen by 11 per cent since 1997. The number of people getting severe disablement allowance has halved. New and severe disablement allowance is not the same as universal disability benefit. We will work with disability groups to ensure that the criteria for this benefit are fair and effective.

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need and we will consult on whether to develop and extend the director’s role. The Criminal Records Bureau will help to stop paedophiles and others who are a danger to children from working with children. For every year that a city centre, a town or a village contracts, and that tough action is taken against parents who do not comply.

Pensions and pensions

In 1997 Labour made a clear commitment to ensure pensioners share fairly in the rising prosperity of the nation. At this election, we re-endorse the commitment to pensioners – we honour your lifetime’s work by bumping up that you have built in the nation’s living prosperity, and we are committed to building pensioner poverty. We will build a secure system for the basic state pension. As a result of Labour’s policies, in this Parliament pensioners will receive £4.5 billion a year more in real terms than in 1997. Of this, £2.5 billion is going to the poorest third of pensioners. Our third priority was to help those on lowest incomes. We have lifted incomes of the 1.7 million pensioners on less than £60 a week, and for home couples by up to £1,495.

One million children lifted out of poverty

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Single pensioners will have an income below £100 a week and no pension couple an income below £154 a week. Labour will introduce the Winter Fuel Payment. Its aim is to ensure that this winter over 2000 Labour will also dump on to new pensioners who have saved. Pensioners who work and save will find, for the first time, the government rewarding their savings. Pensioner couples with an income up to £200 a week and single pensioners with income up to £35 a week will be rewarded for saving - the government will add up to £49 for each of saving up to a maximum of £23. In the process, we will abolish the weekly means test for pensioners, along with removing unfair tests of savings, which pensioners who have modest savings and who save through direct debits should be able to.

It is also able to have a higher lifetime pension. We support a fair balance of public and private provision. Occupational and personal pensions, properly regulated, will continue to offer security for middle and higher earners. We will continue discussions on annuity reforms to ensure tax rules do not unnecessarily restrict the development of annuity products and markets. For low to middle income earners, stakeholder pensions cap cost, guarantee value for money, offer flexibility and draw down fees across the board. And for the lowest paid and carers, full-time carers and people with disabilities, the second state pension will top up their personal contribution to raise income to pensioners to 16 million people.

Today’s pensioners have much to gain to society. Labour’s NHS Plan Pensions £1.4 billion of investment for older people to promote better health and support independence. Pensioners also need simple, accessible services that treat them with dignity and promote independence. We will build on Care Direct to provide a better integration of health, housing, benefits and social care for older people. This will be an integrated ‘third age service’ to help pensioners who require care.

Cores

Not only are the large majority of people who require care for the elderly, but also the majority of carers are older people. Labour has tackled the problems facing families in preventing health care and the problems of carers themselves.

The national care strategy is the first step, with information, support and care for families: Labour will spend £100 million over the next three years providing 300,000 core users through the benefit system, to help fund families to engage the local community. More is being done for carers through income support, care will be better able to combine work and care; and 75,000 more care employers are now able to take a break from their caring responsibilities. We are proud that, with Labour, care by qualified nurses will be made paid for all, whatever it is received. One hundred and fifty thousand more older people will receive rehabilitation and consolations, even through growing investment in the NHS and social care we show that the Tories refuse to match. We want to see care given access to the cash and services, adaptable to their service to their relatives, and the community. The Carers and Disabled Children’s Act gives carers a right to an independent assessment of their needs. We will examine the development of a fund to help local authorities purchase tailored care packages to back up the results of these assessments.

Social inclusion

Social exclusion, affecting around one in five of the population, is by far the largest of the most deprived wards in Britain, damages lives and wrecks communities. Before 1997, social exclusion was ignored. Now we have a new approach – improving the quality of mainstream services, preventing people falling between the cracks, and reinserting them into society if they so choose. We have targeted five priorities:

1. Neighbourhood renewal

2. Carers

3. Child Support Agency

4. Security in retirement… state pensions to rise with Labour

5. Teenage pregnancy rates are falling

A modern welfare state

Labour’s objective is to get the right benefit to the right people at the right time. We want those entitled to benefits to take up their rights to claim them. Fraud undermines confidence in the welfare system, so we are committed to reducing it.

We have been prepared to be tough – preventing fraud by tightening gateways, sharpening sanctions on fraudsters, and now with ‘two-strikes-and-you’re-out’. We have saved £1 billion in fraud and error over the course of the Parliament balancing up the way we administer income support. The introduction of Automated Credit Transfer will save a further £100 million per year.

Labour is committed to clear targets for fraud and error reduction for each benefit, including the commitment to have the rate of fraud and error in income support and Job Seeker’s Allowance by 2006, as an integral fraud prevention into the design of new policies on benefits and tax credits. We are also committed to data sharing between government agencies and action to reduce in a minimum the number of ‘spare’ national insurance numbers that are a gateway to fraud.

Our welfare state is underpinned by clear values – we help you to help yourself, we invest in children, we support our pensioners, we insist that no community be written off, and we minimise fraud and error. Our reforms will build a strong and inclusive society.
4 Strong and safe communities

We all know the sort of Britain we want to live in – a Britain where we can walk the streets safely and know our children are safe. We have a ten-year vision: a new social contract where everyone has a stake based on equal rights, where they pay their dues by exercising responsibility in return, and where local communities shape their own futures.

Overall crime is down ten per cent in Labour Britain, recorded crime down seven per cent, and police numbers are now rising. Our strategy is clear and consistent – tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

Our ten-year goal of reducing crime depends on reform of the criminal justice system at every level, from police to courts to prison – to put crime reduction centre stage. And, because crime is changing, crime fighting has to change too – to tackle repeat offending, drug related crime and organised crime. We are investing to raise police numbers to their highest level ever. Offenders must know they will be supervised in or out of prison until they can prove they have gone straight.

Safe communities reclaim their streets; then they can shape their own affairs. In the 19th century local politics was the motor for economic and social change. Our purpose is simple: to create a Britain that is democratic, decentralised and diverse, with decisions always taken as close to the people as is consistent with efficiency and equity. Our ten-year goal is a new settlement with local government – over finance, structures and services.
The current system, split between magistrates and crown courts, needs reform. A unified system, including lower or magistrates courts, would greatly assist with the present problems. Judges, as well as magistrates, would be able to try those who breach the conditions of their sentence will get extra community service, more intensive supervision or custody. Those who break their bail can expect to go straight into custody for the remainder of their remand period.

Despite an increase of 25 per cent since 1997, we have too few prosecutors. By 2004, Labour pledges 300 new prosecutors, to assist magistrates and to speed up criminal proceedings. Law reform is necessary to make provisions against corporate manslaughter.

We also need to create a more effective police force. Police numbers started falling in 1993. Our investment in 2000-01 increased the number of police by 8 per cent over the previous year. Next Labour pledges a further 6,000 extra recruits. Labour’s pledge is that over the next three years annual funding for the police will rise by £1.6 billion, to £9.3 billion.

- Persistent offending should lead to increased sentence. We will support an approach which sees more people in police in our community. We will discuss with the police how those on the frontline might be...
Labour will build on its Compact with the voluntary sector, as we develop more far- reaching partnerships for the delivery of services and the renewal of our communities. We will also boost our financial incentives for volunteering, by developing effective infrastructure to support voluntary work in every community in Britain. We welcome the contribution of churches and other faith-based organisations as partners of local and central government in community renewal. We will see a successor to the Lintott Group look at government’s interface with faith communities.

Immigration

People from abroad make a positive contribution to British society. As our economy changes and expands, so our rules on immigration need to reflect the need to meet skills shortages. The primary purpose rule, which family rights and did nothing to stop abuse, has been ended. A right of appeal for family visitors has been introduced. Immigration rules will remain clear, firm and fair, and we will ensure that those who come and seek help will continue to make a major contribution to our economic and social life.

Accountability

It is right that people feeling persecution are able to make a new life as hard-working citizens in a new country. Britain will be a welcoming country to those fleeing persecution, but asylum should not be an alternative route to immigration.

How Labour is tackling crime:

• by increasing police funding by 20 per cent over the next three years, and taking police numbers to record levels
• by targeting investment on fighting crime in the highest risk areas and tough targets to reduce crime rates, including drugs and violence
• by cascading down on local disorder and anti-social behaviour through local partnerships and measures to deal with the ‘yob culture’
• by implementing our ten-year strategy to tackle drugs, including tough sentences for repeat drug offenders
• by bringing about the key reforms in the civil and criminal justice system which secure the respect and trust of both traditions

Enabling safer, stronger communities

The Home of Commons is now more representative than ever before, yet only one in five Members of Parliament have faced a contest. The last 20 years, governments have failed to respect this basic truth. Local authorities are responsible for the effective delivery of over £40 billion of public services a year. The staff and councillors who work for the community often have the hardest jobs and their expertise is a real resource when it comes to achieving reforms. The best way local government is an inspiring example of what government can achieve.

Parliament

Labour’s ambition is a partnership of mutual respect and mutual responsibility. We want to increase the strength and quality of the elected House of Commons, to make it more representative and better able to perform its legislative and scrutiny function. We propose to achieve this through measures like the New Deal and action on truancy.

The Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly have put power in the hands of local people. In Scotland the Parliament has power over primary legislation. In Wales we will build on the already successful regional partnership with the Assembly and continue to enact specific legislation for Wales, where appropriate.

Whitehall

The UK is ninth per head of population among the G7 nations, for whom the civil service is world-renowned for its independence. Labour is committed to maintaining the political impartiality of the civil service, including the independent lead of the political appointees, that has made the civil service such an inspiring example of what government can achieve.
Britain needs a government ready to stand up for our interests and values. We have a ten-year vision for British foreign policy: a leading player in Europe, our alliance with the USA strengthened, using our global connections to help Britain and tackle global problems.

Unlike the Conservatives, we see Europe as an opportunity not a threat. Because we participate fully, we are able to work with our partners to shape an EU agenda that advances our national interests. We will put democratically elected national governments in the driving seat of EU policy. Our ten-year goal is to work with our partners for Europe to have the most competitive knowledge-based economies in the world. We hold to our promise: no membership of the single currency without the consent of the British people in a referendum.

Britain has some of the best armed forces in the world. With Labour, they are being developed to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War world.

Labour is committed to lead the development of a comprehensive agenda for poverty reduction and sustainable development. We want to mobilise the international community to deliver the International Development Targets, generate growth and equity in developing countries, and help them benefit from global economic integration.

We are convinced of the science of global warming. We pledge to meet tough national targets for environmental protection, and we will work at international level to halt and reverse climate change.

We face a choice between an inward-looking chauvinism that leads to isolation and a modern patriotism where the British national interest is pursued through international engagement.
Refurbishing the UK economy

Europe is changing. Economic reforms are under way in the European Union, with over two million new jobs created last year. Many new member countries are joining the EU. Co-operation in being extended in defence and security policy. A new way of conducting EU business has been likened to- comparing the practice to share the benefits of partnership in order to reduce over-reliance on centralised control.

We face a very simple question. Do we want to be part of the change, influencing its direction? Or do we want to opt out? We have spent 50 years on the margins; it is time to make the most of our membership.

We have seen the alternative. By 1997 Britain had retreated into itself. Business was global, people travelled and worked around the world, our culture was open to new ideas, and our universities were world class. But because of their weakness in Europe, Britain lost influence around the world. We lost our say over decisions that affected our lives.

In the last four years we have seen the benefits of engagement. Our rebate has been protected and our contributions are falling to similar levels as France and Italy. Economic reforms mean that the UK economy is a bigger and more competitive market; membership helps to guarantee the freedom of the new democracies in central and eastern Europe. Labour is a leading light in the EU and can now do the things only it could do. Britain is a major force in the world. We are a global player in the world of tomorrow.

A Europe of prosperity

Europe is a crucial market, accounting for more than half of our trade. Britain has secured a shift in economic policy in Europe – away from harmonisation of rules and toward a system based on dynamic competences, adapted to competition and promotion of best practice.

The key priorities are to deliver more choice and lower prices through liberalisation of financial services and utilities, to promote business development with a common EU patent and cut in red tape; to develop our common research effort in frontier technologies like biotech; to cut delays and fees by establishing an Integrated Traffic Control System for Europe; and to develop effective labour market policy to tackle unemployment in dialogue with the social partners.

We support efforts being made across the EU to reform welfare states, modernise social partnership and advance social inclusion. EU state aid policy should be based on a system that distorts the single market while supporting economic modernisation. We will keep the veto on vital matters of national sovereignty, such as tax and border controls.

Trade has been a vital source of prosperity for Europe’s citizens. Our vision is of an open European economy. That requires a genuine single market, in an open world trading system.

A Europe of values

New countries joining the EU will give Britain a bigger market and a Europe a bigger voice. Membership helps to guarantee the freedom of the new democracies in central and eastern Europe. Labour is a leading light in the EU and can now do the things only it could do. Britain is a major force in the world. We are a global player in the world of tomorrow.

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A Europe of defence

The main sources of popular legitimacy in Europe remain national governments and parliaments. So national governments should be seen to be setting the agenda of the EU, with the European Council setting the EU’s priorities, a strong, independent Commission ensuring that the European interest is heard and enforced, and an effective European Parliament improving draft legislation and holding the Commission to account.

Labour wants the next Intergovernmental Conference in 2004 to address public concerns about the way the EU works, spelling out in a clear statement of principles what should and should not be done at European level. Labour supports a stronger role for national parliamentarians in European affairs, for example in a second chamber of the European Parliament, with a particular remit to oversee the division of competences. We will also insist that the Commission completes its internal reform programme.

We shall remain the UK’s first ally and friend, but we are not going to turn our backs on our own people. The US-NATO partnership can be a major force for good – for our own members and in the wider world.

We want to take Europe forward, to meet British needs.

A Europe of the future

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Labour for a world of prosperity

Labour belongs to a unique range of influential global organisations, generous responsibilities and opportunities. Labour will stand up for Britain.

At the EU, where we support a more modern and representative Security Council, with more effective peacekeeping.

We will aim to take a strong role in bringing war criminals, notability from former Yugoslavia, to justice, and in establishing a permanent court to try war crimes. We will work to make the International Criminal Court a reality, with Britain as one of its first members.

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The modern world

A Europe of the future

A Europe of prosperity

A Europe of defence
The environmental challenge
The poor make the smallest per capita contribution to climate change, but are often most affected when it happens. We are convinced by the scientific evidence of climate change – and convinced that now is the time to act. We need action at all. Local, national and international level. We are going to ensure that the international regime is built on the principle of mutual responsibility that governs our approach to social problems also applies to environmental issues. We are proposing to cut greenhouse gases by 60 per cent before 2050, so we need to press ahead with a radical agenda for the development of low carbon economic growth, embodied in our £700 million commitment to renewable energy.

The future of our environment is one of the world’s great challenges. We must continue to make substantial changes. In the way we work and live. To safeguard not only the future of the UK, but the future of the world. The international community must play its part in making a reality of sustainable development. We are determined to play a constructive role in the Rio plus 10 meeting in South Africa next year. We are one of the few countries to have met our 1992 obligations to hold greenhouse gases in 2000 below the 1990 levels. In 1997 we set a global target of reducing CO2 emissions by 20 per cent by 2010. We will meet our obligations arising from the Kyoto protocol and have set out our strategy to achieve more – 23 per cent cut in greenhouse gases by 2010. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution has said the UK needs to cut CO2 production by 50 per cent by 2050. We will need to press ahead with a radical agenda for the development of low-carbon economic growth, embodied in our £700 million commitment to renewable energy.

In addition to our proposals for environmental technology and renewable energy described in ‘Prosperity for all’, we must also make progress in the following areas:

- We must make the market work for the environment. Britain is developing the first national carbon trading system in the world. It will help companies find the most efficient way of reducing emissions – and reward them for doing so. Once the system is established here we will seek to extend it around the world.
- We will support hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, which already offer a halving of fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, with cheaper technology to match – and for cleaner fuels and electricity. By increasing demand for new technologies we can boost innovation and the stability of the UK car industry.
- It is imperative that we use natural resources more efficiently and recycle more. We will continue to tax pollution and reward clean production. We will develop an environmental productivity indicator. We have set a target for the recycling of 35 per cent of household waste by 2015, and will work with local authorities to introduce kerbside recycling schemes whenever appropriate.
- Water management is a vital challenge for the future – for the environment and for the growing world population. We will continue to make our contribution at home: leakage is down by almost 30 per cent since 1997, bills have been cut by 12 per cent and disconnections have been ended.
- We will support the creation of an effective climate change fund to provide help for security sector reform, demilitarisation programmes and tighter controls over small arms.
- We will work with reforming governments, international institutions, the private sector and civil society in support of government and environmental technology and renewable energy described in ‘Prosperity for all’, we must also make progress in the following areas:

- We must make the market work for the environment. Britain is developing the first national carbon trading system in the world. It will help companies find the most efficient way of reducing emissions – and reward them for doing so. Once the system is established here we will seek to extend it around the world.
- We will support hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, which already offer a halving of fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, with cheaper technology to match – and for cleaner fuels and electricity. By increasing demand for new technologies we can boost innovation and the stability of the UK car industry.
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The choices for Britain

These are our ambitions for Britain – and how they can be achieved. Clear in our values, confident in our policies, we seek a new mandate from the British people.

We are proud of our record in government. But we are not yet satisfied. Labour is the party of reform and we fight this election as agents of change in Britain.

Change to our economy, so more people share the benefits of growth. Change in our public services, so that they better advance equality of opportunity. Change in our welfare system, so that we extend security, responsibility and independence. Change to tackle crime and its causes. Change to deepen our democracy. Change to Britain’s role in the world.

The Conservatives were rejected in 1997 because they had failed. The national debt had doubled; crime had doubled; we were 42nd in the world education league; one in five households was on benefit; and we were marginalised in Europe.

Yet instead of learning, the Conservatives have become more dogmatic, more extreme, more divided. They are worse than ever.

The British people now face a choice. New Labour stands in the political mainstream, rooted in the best values of the British people. The Conservatives have veered to extreme positions. This election will decide whether we continue the policies that have brought us economic stability, steady growth, investment in public services and targeted tax cuts for children and families, or whether we put our schools, hospitals and police officers first, or put them second after unaffordable tax cuts. It will decide whether we modernise the criminal justice system. It will decide whether we stand for a positive engagement with Europe and the wider world, or retreat to the sidelines.

We want everyone to vote in this election. But before you do, think of your job; think of your mortgage; think of your school and hospital; think of your children and your parents; think of police and crime prevention; think of the choice of leadership.

Think of who you want to succeed in Britain – the many or the few. There is still much to do with new Labour – and a lot for you to lose under the Conservatives.

The choice is clear: for an ambitious and confident Britain, the choice is Labour.

25 steps to a better Britain

1 Basic skills for 750,000 people
2 Venture capital funds in every region
3 £180 billion investment in transport, with 25 local rail and tram schemes
4 Raise the minimum wage to £4.20
5 £1,000 tax cut – the Children’s Tax Credit – for parents of newborn children
6 Every secondary school with a distinct ethos, mission or centre of excellence
7 Recruit an extra 10,000 teachers
8 More power to frontline staff
9 More health service workers – 20,000 more nurses, and at least 10,000 more doctors
10 Free access to national museums and galleries
11 An ‘Employment First’ interview for everyone coming on to benefits
12 Expanded support for children through tax and benefit reform
13 Extend and increase paid maternity leave and introduce paid paternity leave
14 New pension credit for lower- and middle-income pensioners and the Winter Fuel Payment retained
15 £1,000 million Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for jobs, education and crime prevention
16 An extra 6,000 police recruits raising police numbers to their highest-ever level
17 Double the amount of assets seized from drug traffickers and other major criminals
18 Increased sentences plus education and drug treatment for persistent offenders
19 A bill of rights for victims
20 New freedoms with new targets for local government
21 Lead economic reform in Europe
22 Work for the re-start of world trade talks
23 Strong, effective and responsive armed forces
24 Raise international aid towards the UN target
25 Be the first country to introduce greenhouse gas leading to cut pollution
1. Education will be our number one priority and we will increase the share of national income spent on education as we decrease it on the bills of economic and social failure. The record: Key Stage 2 results for literacy and numeracy reached 70 per cent (up 12 per cent since 1997) and 73 per cent (up 10 per cent since 1997) in 2001. GCSE and A-level results have also improved. This September there will be no five, six and seven-year-olds in class sizes over 30. We have cut the costs of debt and unemployment by nearly £9 billion per year. Education spending has risen from 4.7 per cent of national income to 5 per cent this year.

2. There will be no increase in the basic or top rates of income tax. The record: We cut the basic rate of income tax to 22p in April 2000 and introduced the 10p band in April 1999. There has been no increase in the top rate of income tax. The direct tax burden on a single earner family on average earnings with two children is the lowest since 1972.

3. We will provide stable economic growth with low inflation and promote dynamic and competitive business and industry at home and abroad. The record: Net borrowing in every year from 1997 to 2003/04 is forecast to be lower than in any Tory year from 1992-93 to 1996-97. Inflation has been consistently under control and on target. Economic growth has been steady, averaging 2.75 per cent a year since 1997. Living standards are on average about 10 per cent higher in real terms than in 1997.

4. We will get 250,000 young unemployed off benefit and into work. The record: Over 280,000 unemployed young people have been helped into work by Labour’s New Deal. There are over one million more jobs in the economy than in 1997. Youth unemployment now stands at its lowest level since 1975; long-term unemployment among under-25s is down 75 per cent. Unemployment is at its lowest level for 25 years.

5. We will rebuild the NHS, reducing spending on administration and increasing spending on patient care. The record: The next four years will see the biggest ever sustained increase in NHS spending. Over £1 billion will have been released from administration by next year. The NHS is treating 260,000 more inpatients and seeing over 650,000 more outpatients than in 1994-97. There are 17,250 more nurses and 6,700 more doctors than in 1997. There are 124,000 fewer people on waiting lists.

6. We will be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime, and halve the time it takes persistent juvenile offenders to come to court. The record: The British Crime Survey shows that overall crime fell by 10 per cent from 1997 to 1999. Investment is now rising. The time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders is down from 142 days to 89 days – on track to halve the time within the five years promised in 1997.

7. We will help build strong families and strong communities, and lay the foundations of a modern welfare state in pensions and community care. The record: Child benefit has been raised by over 25 per cent for the first child. The Children’s Tax Credit is worth up to £520 a year. We have introduced parental leave and rights to holidays. We have extended maternity leave. £4.5 billion extra in real terms is being spent this year on pensions. The basic state pension will rise to £75.50 for single pensioners and £120.70 for pensioner couples next year, while the minimum income guarantee is helping over 1.6 million of the poorest pensioners. The Pensioner Freedom Weeks have been abolished for the over-75s, with free access to national museums and galleries for children and pensioners.

8. We will safeguard our environment, and develop an integrated transport policy to fight congestion and pollution. The record: The private sector will invest a record £180 billion in transport infrastructure over the next ten years. We will achieve a 23 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions. We have negotiated to promote protection and access to the countryside. A £1.6 billion strategy for farming and rural enterprise will redirect subsidies to promote growth and the environment.

9. We will clean up politics, decentralise political power throughout the United Kingdom and put the funding of political parties on a proper and accountable basis. The record: The funding of political parties, campaign expenditure and conduct of referendums is now regulated. For the first time the UK has a Freedom of Information Act. The Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Assembly are now up and running, while local democracy has been returned to the people of London. The first stage of reform of the House of Lords has reduced the number of hereditary peers to fewer than 100.

10. We will give Britain the leadership in Europe which Britain and Europe need. The record: Labour has negotiated successfully for Britain in Europe. Our rebate is protected, enlargement is being taken forward. We have led the debate on European economic reform and on the development of a European defence capacity rooted in NATO structures. In Kosovo, our armed forces played a leading role in standing up against ethnic cleansing.
Ambitions for Britain
Labour's manifesto 2001

Prosperity for all
Strong and safe communities
World-class education
Fast, high-quality healthcare
A modern welfare state
Britain strong in the world

Jobs, Interest rates, Education, Health, Crime. The choice at this election is clear: to make more progress or to dismantle the foundations laid since 1997. This manifesto sets out Labour's ambitions for Britain—and how they will be achieved.

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