

The economy - we need a plan B

Inflation up, Unemployment up

Britain's fragile economic recovery is at risk because Conservative chancellor George Osborne is cutting spending too fast and by too much. As unemployment rises and economic growth has stalled, hard pressed families in Leeds are facing higher bills and rising living costs. Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton said "The Conservatives and their Libdem allies are making a bad situation worse by following an ideologically driven agenda to cut back on essential public services.

Economic growth down

Before the election David Cameron told us he would cut the deficit through efficiency saving, not cuts in public services. He wasn't telling us the truth. And you can't cut the deficit without economic growth, we need a plan for growth and we need it now. The coalition must change direction."

Unfair cuts start to bite in Leeds

Despite massive and unprecedented cuts in council spending imposed by the Tories and Libdems in London, Labour in Leeds is standing up for the vulnerable in our city, increasing council spending on adult social care and children's services.

Alwoodley Labour candidate Katy Sian told "Labour News", "Labour in Leeds are making massive savings by reducing bureaucracy and waste and they also have cut right back on press and communications and councillors pay too, but this isn't enough to satisfy the Tories and Libdems in London."



Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton and Alwoodley Labour candidate Katy Sian - concerned about impact of Tory Libdem cuts on Leeds people

This means Labour are having to cut some frontline services where costs are high and demand for services relatively low. Katy commented, "while Labour in Leeds are doing all we can to minimise the effects, some of these cuts are going to cause real hardship for service users, but David Cameron and Nick Clegg have left them with little choice. Tory cuts are damaging economic growth, harming plans to reduce the deficit and hurting people here in Leeds, and the Lib Dems are just going along with it.

We're not all in this together.

The millionaires in the cabinet are alright, while people here in Leeds suffer. Make sure you use your vote in May to tell the Libdems and Tories that we need to change direction."



Fabian speaks out in Parliament

Fabian speaks out for Leeds flood defences

In its latest review of spending on vital Flood Defence Schemes, The Tory LibDem Government has failed Leeds once again said Leeds North East Labour MP Fabian Hamilton. Leeds City Centre was almost totally overwhelmed in 2007 and since then a comprehensive Flood Alleviation Scheme has been designed. In a speech Fabian gave in Parliament on 9th February, he pointed out to the Tory Environment Minister that £190 million spent now on flood prevention could save hundreds of millions of pounds, if not more, should Leeds City Centre be flooded the next time there's a torrential downpour. "This is a false saving", Fabian said. "At a time when we need our economy to grow, it is vital that the engine of the Yorkshire economy - Leeds - is not prone to the danger of flooding. Money spent now could save a lot of pain later should the worst happen".

Introducing Labour's Katy

Dr. Katy Sian is Labour's candidate for the Alwoodley ward in the Leeds City Council elections this May. Katy has lived in Alwoodley all her life, she attended Alwoodley Primary School followed by Rossett High in Harrogate. Katy went on to study her BA, MA and Ph.d at the University of Leeds and currently works at the university in the school of sociology and social policy as a post-doctoral research fellow exploring the semantics of tolerance across the UK and Europe.

Katy said "I was born, schooled and went to University in Leeds, I know the city and I know its people, it would be an honour to represent them and work for them. I would fight to protect services from Coalition cuts, I would fight to prevent extremists from dividing our society and I would fight to restore a Labour government. I will put in all my effort to ensure a Labour victory, now is the time to re-energise the people and bring politics to the forefront of the public consciousness, old or young, male or female, black or white, I believe together we can make the changes and transformations possible. I have come to learn that Labour is a way of defending the area that I love from the looming Tory/Libdem cuts and subsequent social fragmentation. I believe Labour can make an important change, a change which I want to be part of".



Katy Sian Labour candidate for Alwoodley on May 5th

How to Contact Fabian Hamilton MP:

Write to Fabian at: The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

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Come to an Advice Surgery held at:
First Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon
Reginald Centre, Chapeltown Road
Second Friday each month, 12.30-2pm
Moor Allerton Library
Second Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon
New Testament Church of God Upland Road
Fourth Friday each month, 12.30-1.30pm
Reginald Centre, Chapeltown Road
Fourth Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon
Technorth, Harrogate Road

iContact virtual surgeries: Fabian also holds iContact virtual surgeries by appointment while he is in London. Please phone for further details.

New schemes benefit Alwoodley residents

The Council has recently approved funding of £49,944.25 from "Green Space" funds to enable supply and installation of new children's play equipment to refurbish the play area at King Lane, improved access controls at Osprey POS and an additional access control at Alwoodley Recreation Area.

Said Labour candidate Katy Sian, "this is really good news particular in difficult financial times. I was particularly pleased to hear that Labour in Leeds was able to fund the improvements in the play area which will benefit Alwoodley children."



Fabian tables questions on Tory/Libdem NHS plans

The Government's proposed plans for the NHS have raised a huge number of concerns from doctors, patients and the public. The proposals to bring private health companies into many parts of the Health Service are very worrying says Leeds NE Labour MP Fabian Hamilton. Following the issues raised in the last edition of "Labour News", Fabian has tabled a number of Parliamentary Questions (PQs) to try and get answers to some of the many questions which constituents have posed.

Protected status of NHS

For example, Fabian has asked whether the NHS will still remain a 'protected state service' under EU law? If not, then will the government be able to continue using taxpayers' money to subsidise the service, or will it be forced to become commercial - ultimately charging patients to use the service? The Government has not said that this is its intention, but could it be the consequence of its reforms?

Money wasted on reorganisation

Every time the NHS is reorganised money is wasted which should be spent on treating patients, so Fabian asked whether the proposed GP Consortia will be any less expensive to run and won't the extra NHS cash simply be swallowed up by restructuring?

"Cherry picking" by private companies

But Fabian's main worry is that private companies will cherry-pick the most lucrative parts of the the NHS, leaving the more expensive procedures to be paid for by the taxpayer.