

Labour News

November 2010

Coalition Cuts Are Unfair

Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton says Osborne's cuts are wrong.

We all accept the need for spending cuts to reduce the deficit. But Tory chancellor George Osborne and his Liberal Democrat supporters are putting the economic recovery at risk by cutting too much too fast. According to accountancy firm PwC, the cuts will mean a million people lose their jobs.

UNFAIR ON PENSIONERS

Even worse, many cuts are deeply unfair. Sneaky cuts they hope no one will notice e.g. changing the measure of inflation used to calculate increases in pension payments. Because of this change, a pensioner who currently receives a pension of £10,000 a year is likely to be £600 a year worse off by 2016. And this is on top of having to pay more for everyday essentials because of increased VAT.

WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HIT HARD

Women, children and families will also be hit hard by the cuts. New school buildings are being cancelled. Spending per pupil is set to fall. Many families are having working family tax credits and child benefit taken away. University Tuition fees are set to double. There will be fewer police on the beat. Why aren't the bankers being asked to pay more? After all, it was them who caused this mess in the first place.



Fabian Hamilton MP for Leeds North East

Labour reselects Mohammed Rafique

Mohammed Rafique has been re-selected unopposed as Labour's candidate for Chapel Allerton Ward in the local elections in May 2011. Mohammed has been Councillor for Chapel Allerton since 2004. He has a particular interest in crime and policing and was previously Labour spokesperson for community safety. Mohammed currently chairs the North East Inner Area Committee.



Councillor Mohammed Rafique

Joint Services Centre opens

Fabian Hamilton MP and Councillor Mohammed Rafique visited the new Reginald Centre which opened on Monday 18th October. The MP, who is to hold his advice surgeries in the new multi-purpose building, said: "I'm looking forward to meeting constituents in this wonderful new facility". Said Cllr Rafique: "As well as making vital neighbourhood services easier for residents to access it will give a welcome boost to the local economy and add to Chapel town's growing reputation".

The Reginald Centre

Labour in Leeds: Standing Up For the Vulnerable

Chapel Allerton Labour Councillors told "Labour News" how they and their Labour colleagues in the Council will respond to Coalition spending cuts.

One of the most important things Leeds City Council does is provide social care for the elderly and disabled. This care allows pensioners to grow old with dignity, giving them the

support they need to remain independent in their own homes, saving us all money by freeing up hospital beds and reducing the need for care homes. But the coalition are cutting the money Leeds gets to pay for these vital services - taking £150 million from the city. It is deeply disappointing that the Lib Dems in the coalition haven't done more to stand up for Leeds and for the needs of the elderly and vulnerable in our society. They and their Labour colleagues will do our utmost to protect these care services against the cuts.



Councillors Mohammed Rafique, Jane Dowson and Eileen Taylor, pictured above with Fabian Hamilton MP, explain how your Labour Councillors will respond to the spending cuts.

What is Labour doing for you?

➤ Councillors support local residents

Labour Councillors Jane Dowson, Eileen Taylor and Mohammed Rafique supported residents in opposing a controversial residential development in Miles Hill.

➤ Making bankers pay their fair share

Bankers in the City of London are set to receive £7 billion in bonuses this year. Fabian Hamilton is campaigning to reintroduce Alistair Darling's tax on bankers' bonus - after the bailouts, it's only right that the bankers pay their share.

➤ Improving the local environment

The centre of Chapel Allerton has been treated to brand new flower boxes and litter bins thanks to sponsorship from local Councillors Jane Dowson, Mohammed Rafique and Eileen Taylor.

➤ Fighting to improve cancer care

The number of cancer patients waiting more than 6 weeks for diagnostic tests before they can begin treatment has nearly doubled under the coalition (source: Sunday Telegraph). Fabian is campaigning to restore the Labour guarantee that waiting times should be no more than two weeks.

➤ Bringing faiths together

Chapel Allerton Labour Councillor Mohammed Rafique is a member of Faith Action, a group bringing together people of different faiths to tackle problems in the community.

Contact your Labour MP and Councillors

Fabian Hamilton MP

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

Email: hamiltonf@parliament.uk

Telephone: 0113 249 6600

Advice surgeries:

First Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon

Reginald Centre, Chapeltown Road

Fourth Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon

Technorth, Harrogate Road

Please phone for an appointment on 0113 249 6600.

Councillors

Write to: Leeds City Council, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 1UR.

Councillor Jane Dowson:

Email: jane.dowson@leeds.gov.uk

Tel: 07901 711111

Councillor Eileen Taylor:

Email eileen.taylor@leeds.gov.uk

Tel: 07891 273 493

Councillor Mohammed Rafique:

Email: cllr.mohammed.rafiq@leeds.gov.uk

Tel: 07976 841392

Advice Surgeries: 1st Saturday of the month:

Prince Phillip Centre 10.15 - 11.00am; Chapel

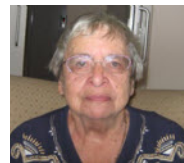
Allerton Library 11.15 - 12.00 pm; Chapeltown

Library 12.15 - 1.00pm. Except Bank Holiday

weekends and in August. No appointment is needed - just turn up.

Coalition cuts hit local people

Cuts hit the elderly



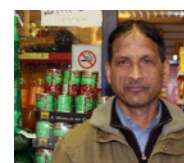
"Older people like me are worried about how we are going to pay for everyday essentials after the increase in VAT in January. Why are the Lib Dems supporting the VAT rise when they campaigned against it in the election?" Lorna Cohen, pensioner

Cuts hit families



"The Coalition cuts are bad for families like us. They're cutting schools, working families tax credit and Sure Start centres. Before the election Nick Clegg said cuts would be fair but now they're cutting the services children need" The Gleissner family

Cuts hit business



"Because of the cuts, customers in my shop are having to be much more careful about what they spend, and this is really beginning to affect my business." Abdul Rehman, Leeds North East shop owner