

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.

Chapel Allerton Labour Councillor Mohammed Rafique told "Labour News", "Labour in Leeds are making massive savings by reducing bureaucracy and waste and we 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."



Chapel Allerton Labour Councillors Jane Dowson Mohammed Rafique and Eileen Taylor. Despite Lib Dem/Tory cuts from London, Labour in Leeds are increasing council spending on children's services and adult social care

This means Labour are having to cut some frontline services where costs are high and demand for services relatively low. Councillor Rafique commented, "while we 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 us 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".

Mohammed Rafique stands for Chapel Allerton

Mohammed Rafique is standing again for election as Councillor for Chapel Allerton in the local elections on May 5th.

Mohammed has been Labour councillor for Chapel Allerton since 2004. He currently chairs the Leeds City Council inner east area committee of the council, working to ensure that the council works in the interest of our local communities.

Mohammed is married with four children and currently works as mentoring manager for Education Leeds. Mohammed said "the achievements I am most proud of during the 7 years that I have represented the people of Chapeltown, Meanwood and Chapel Allerton are the work I have done, in partnership with the police, PCSOs and council officers to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and to clean up our ward. If you re-elect me I will continue to work hard to listen to and represent your views."



Labour Councillor Mohammed Rafique, standing again for Chapel Allerton on May 5th

Contact your local Labour team

Fabia 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:

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Advice Surgeries: 1st Saturday of the month: Prince Phillip Centre 10.15 - 11.00am; Chapel Allerton Library 11.15 - 12.00pm; Chapeltown Library 12.15 - 1.00pm. Except Bank Holiday weekends and in August. No appointment is needed - just turn up.

New transport corridor completed

Work has finally been completed on a major transport corridor linking North Leeds to the city centre. The major project which has been supported by local councillors, has been completed after months work which started around Easter last year on the Chapeltown Road Integrated Transport Corridor which will result in bus, pedestrian and cycling improvements along Chapeltown Road and the Sheepscar Interchange close to the city centre. The improvements have included an extension to the bus lane leading into the Interchange and new cycle lane facilities leading to and from the Interchange. There are also two new pedestrian crossings at the St Mary's Road junction and outside Chapel Allerton Hospital, as well as improvements to three existing crossings along Chapeltown Road.

Local Councillors Jane Dowson, Mohammed Rafique and Eileen Taylor have supported the scheme from the outset and are delighted to see the completion of the scheme.



Chapel Allerton Labour Councillors Jane Dowson, Mohammed Rafique and Eileen Taylor

Fabian tables questions on Tory/Libdem NHS plans

Following the issues raised in the last edition of "Labour News", Fabian has tabled a number of Parliamentary Questions 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 NHS, leaving the more expensive procedures to be paid for by the taxpayer.

