

## 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.

Moortown and Meanwood Labour Councillor Sharon Hamilton said "we 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."



Fabian Hamilton MP, Councillor Sharon Hamilton and Labour Candidate Rebecca Charlwood at Carr Manor Children's Centre. Despite Lib Dem/Tory cuts from London, Labour in Leeds are increasing council spending on children's services

This means Labour are having to cut some frontline services where costs are high and demand for services relatively low. Cllr Hamilton 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." Moortown Labour candidate, Rebecca Charlwood commented "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 Rebecca

Rebecca Charlwood is Labour's candidate for Moortown and Meanwood ward in the Leeds City Council elections this May. Rebecca, originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, has lived in Leeds since coming to study at the University in 1998.

Rebecca started out her working life over in Crossgates as a support worker in a hostel for people recovering from mental illness. She now works as an operations manager for Leonard Cheshire Disability, working across the whole of the UK to ensure that Leonard Cheshire's services for disabled people comply with tough quality standards. She lives on Stainbeck Lane in Meanwood with her husband Andy and she is a governor at Moortown Primary School.

Rebecca said "I'm delighted and honoured to have been chosen as Labour candidate for the ward in which I live. If you elect me, I'll work hard to ensure that the views of local people are listened to by the council, and I'll use my professional expertise in service improvement to work to make council services better and more responsive to your needs."



Rebecca Charlwood, Labour candidate for Moortown on May 5th

## Contact your local Labour team

Fabian Hamilton MP

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

Email: [hamiltonf@parliament.uk](mailto:hamiltonf@parliament.uk)

Telephone: 0113 249 6600

Advice Surgeries

Second Friday each month, 12.30-2pm Moor Allerton Library.

Please phone for an appointment on 0113 249 6600.

Councillor Sharon Hamilton

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

Email: [sharon.hamilton@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.hamilton@leeds.gov.uk)

Telephone Sharon on: 07950 057 877.

Advice Surgeries: fourth Thursday of each month, 6.30pm - 8pm, (term time only), Moortown Baptist Church, 204 King Lane LS17 6AA. Fourth Saturday, 10.30am - 12.00, Meanwood Community Centre, Stainbeck Avenue Leeds LS8 2QU.

Moortown Labour candidate Rebecca Charlwood

Write to Rebecca at: 184 Stainbeck Lane, Leeds, LS7 2EA

Tel: 07833 917107

Email: [rebeccacharlwood@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccacharlwood@gmail.com)

## New cycle lane will benefit local residents

Cllr Sharton Hamilton told "Labour News" about plans for a new cycle lane to provide a route between Tongue Lane and King Alfred's Drive that will result in the gates to the path over Cardinal Heenan being opened for public use. Cllr Hamilton said that negotiations are still ongoing with Cardinal Heenan's PFI contractors as to how this proposal can be effected, but that she is expecting a decision in the coming week. The route is intended to form an improved route for cyclists but it is likely that the greatest benefit will be for residents in the King Alfred's Drive area who wish to walk to the bus stops on Tongue Lane.



Moortown Councillor Sharon Hamilton



## 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.