



## A message from Ed – winning together

**I am very proud of what we achieved together.** Labour's legacy is every child who is sitting in a brand new school, the winter fuel payment, our new hospitals, our Sure Start children's centres, tax credits, civil partnerships, the national minimum wage and devolution to Scotland and Wales.

But the Budget shows that the Tories and Lib Dems want to tear all this up with savage cuts to vital public services and unfair tax rises, which will put jobs, growth and our economic recovery at risk.

**So this is my pledge to you:** I will work with party members, MPs, MEPs, trade unionists and councillors across the country to make sure our legacy is not destroyed.

I am already leading national campaigns to **stop the VAT bombshell** announced in the Budget and to **save free school meals** from Tory-Lib Dem cuts. All candidates and the whole Labour Party must unite to fight these unfair cuts.

I want to rebuild party membership, strengthen our links with the trade unions and the Co-op Party and give more support to councillors and party activists across the UK so we can win again – for the whole country.

Labour needs a leader who can make tough calls under pressure, as I did on the Euro and in the aftermath of the tragic death of Baby Peter in Haringey. And we need a leader who gets it and understands why too many people thought they couldn't support us at the general election.

Leadership is about taking tough decisions. But it is also about building a consensus for change, about listening and hearing before you act. **That's why I'm visiting every region and nation of Britain in the next few months to hear from you.**

My father, from a widowed family in a working-class community in Norwich, was able to go to university only because of the welfare state the Labour government created in 1945. I want that same chance for every child in every community. That's why I'm standing for Labour leader.

*Ed Balls*

**P.S. Please join my campaigns to stop the unfair VAT bombshell and the Tory-Lib Dem cuts to free school meals at [www.edballs4labour.org](http://www.edballs4labour.org)**



## Get in touch with Ed Balls

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**"We need a leader who is rooted in the values of the Labour, co-op and trade union movements - who understands that to win again we must be a tough opposition, develop a credible and radical programme for government and root our politics in the communities we serve."**

## Why we're backing Ed Balls:

"Labour needs a leader completely committed to the trade union link and protecting public services. Ed Balls has shown by his actions - including his active support for school support staff - that he's what we need." - **Norma Stephenson, Labour & Unison activist**



"Ed is a determined and principled politician. He is also a loyal and honest friend of the co-operative movement - his record as a Minister promoting the co-operative agenda is unparalleled. Co-operative members should seize this opportunity to support Ed." - **Peter Hunt, Co-op Party General Secretary, 98-08**



"Ed has shown a commitment to local and regional government. His leadership on improving schools and children's services, has made a massive difference. I'm backing Ed Balls." - **Cllr Darren Cooper, Leader of Sandwell Council**



"I know Ed will stand up for ordinary people, the young and the vulnerable. He shares my values of fairness and equality, that's why I've just joined Labour and why I'm backing Ed." - **Jane Morgan, new member Salisbury CLP**



**Defending our values. Fighting for fairness.**

## Stop the VAT bombshell



Nick Clegg and the Lib Dems campaigned against a VAT bombshell during the election. But now they've helped to deliver it. They betrayed their principles for power – and have done so on the backs of the poorest in society. We know that VAT is the unfair tax rise of all. It hits the poorest hardest and is the only tax that all the unemployed and pensioners have to pay. **We must lead the fight for fairness against this VAT bombshell** – so please back my campaign at [www.edballs4labour.org](http://www.edballs4labour.org)

## Why we're backing Ed Balls:

"I was impressed that, more than any other Minister, Ed was in command of his civil servants and was able to drive through the sort of infrastructure projects that we need to avoid a double dip recession." – **Ken Livingstone, former Mayor of London**



"Ed doesn't just talk about his values – he does so with real passion and he fights for them too. Whether it's getting more funding to tackle child poverty or being the first and only cabinet minister to pay the living wage in his department, Ed gets things done." – **Kate Green, MP for Stretford & Urmston**



"I want a Labour leader who makes day-to-day decisions firmly but with no fuss but also gets the really big judgements right, and who talks less like a politician and more like everyone else. That's why I'm backing Ed." – **John Healey MP, shadow housing minister**



"Ed really impressed me at the youth hustings. He was the first candidate to call for a graduate tax to replace top-up fees and back a full time Youth Officer at Labour HQ. Ed gets it and he's the right person for the future of our party." – **Stephanie Peacock, NEC Youth Rep & Unite activist**



"Each time I've met Ed, either campaigning or at policy forums, he's been focused, attentive and he's really listened. That's why I'm supporting Ed to be our next leader." – **Simon Burgess, Vice Chair, National Policy Forum**



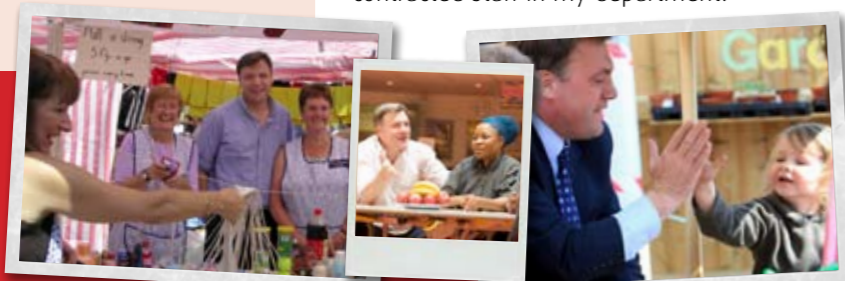
"The Diversity Fund that Ed Balls is promoting is just what we need to improve the representation of ethnic minorities in local councils as well as Parliament. That's why I'm supporting him." – **Clr Shaukat Ali, Dudley North CLP**



## Fighting for fairness

**Investing in jobs and growth**  
We shouldn't be cutting spending this year – we should be going for growth. That means a modern industrial policy, investing in manufacturing and new industries – with regional development agencies creating jobs where they are needed. If we need to raise more money we should start the 50p top rate at £100,000 not £150,000. And we need to get agreement for a 'Robin Hood' tax on financial transactions too.

**Defending our public services**  
We must oppose reckless and unfair cuts to our vital frontline services. This was a crisis caused by bankers, not by teachers, nurses and local government workers on modest incomes. It is immoral for them to pay with cuts to their pensions. Fair pay for public service workers is essential – that's why in government I introduced the living wage for all workers and contracted staff in my department.



**Building more social housing**  
There is an acute shortage of affordable housing. Local authorities must be given the resources and powers they need to build homes to fill that social need – either directly or in partnership. By doing so, they can both create work and boost skills in our economy.

**Scrap tuition fees**  
We were right to bring back grants and abolish up-front tuition fees. But taking on a debt through top-up fees still discourages young people from families on modest incomes applying to university. That's why we need to move to a graduate tax with no assumed debt and nothing to pay until after graduation. This will give everyone a fair chance to go to university.

**A modern constitution**  
I support an elected House of Lords and the Alternative Vote for the House of Commons – but I will not support a PR system which breaks the constituency link. We also need a written constitution which enshrines a positive Bill of Rights – decent education, free healthcare and an end to child poverty.



Out on the doorstep in Glasgow with John Robertson MP, Bill Butler MSP and local activists

Campaigning with Unison members against axed funding for the new North Tees & Hartlepool hospital

## Re-building our party – my pledges to you

**I will never forget that my first responsibility as a Labour MP and shadow cabinet member is to fight the unfair Tory-Liberal cuts**, which place the burden of reducing the deficit on those who can least afford it and will put jobs and growth at risk.

**I will defend and strengthen the crucial trade union link** between our party and the working people we represent – not just nationally, but on the ground in every constituency and union branch. And let's extend the £1 youth membership rate to members of affiliated unions who haven't yet joined Labour.

**I will drive a culture change in the Labour Party**. We must deliver the goal of 50 per cent women in the shadow cabinet and over time in Parliament too.

**I will set up the party's first-ever Diversity Fund** to help all those who are under-represented get selected, including BAME groups, disabled people and those from ordinary backgrounds. We need to select our candidates early for the next local elections and the general election too – but we must put an end to undemocratic imposed selections.

**I will give a more powerful voice to party members**. The National Policy Forum is an unexploited asset. Let's use it properly – not to manage our Conference but to reinvigorate Annual Conference as the debating chamber for working people in our country. On some policy areas – Iraq, tuition fees, agency workers, housing, and fair migration – we lost touch and lost our way. That cost us the trust of voters. I will listen to members about what we got wrong and what we need to do for the future.

## Save free school meals



The new Tory Education Secretary is following in the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher. She was known as the milk snatcher – and Michael Gove is now set to become the meal snatcher. That's because the Tory-Liberal government has said they will cut funding for free school meals – meaning 500,000 children on lower incomes will miss out. It's a shocking decision – so please **join the campaign GMB President Mary Turner and I have launched to save free school meals** at [www.edballs4labour.org](http://www.edballs4labour.org)