

PROGRESSIVE BRITAIN

Work Programme
2022



www.progressivebritain.org

WELCOME TO PROGRESSIVE BRITAIN

Launched following the merger of Progress and Policy Network in 2021, Progressive Britain is the new platform for policymaking, political education, and imaginative thinking to rebuild Labour and the Nation.

Rooted in the Labour Party, we are dedicated to national renewal through the intellectual revitalisation of the UK centre-left. Key to this is our rededication as a think-tank – and our ongoing work bringing politicians, policymakers, experts, and activists together to shape Labour's next winning policy platform.

This work programme sets out our priorities and aspirations for 2022.

**Nathan Yeowell
Executive Director
Progressive Britain**



REBUILDING LABOUR AND THE NATION

After a decade of austerity, and convulsed by the 'great crashes' of Corbynism, Johnsonism, Brexit and Covid, 2020s Britain requires a period of economic, social and political reconstruction. The country is suffering from sluggish growth, failing infrastructure, low self-confidence – and the regional and social divisions they create.

Only the election of a Labour government, committed to a genuinely national programme of renewal for the whole United Kingdom, can reverse these trends. Labour in power changes lives. Putting the country, and the party, back on track are not two separate projects. Rebuilding Labour is rebuilding the nation, and vice versa. Both are crucial if we are to win the battle for a Progressive Britain.

Our work has already covered Labour's challenge with economic credibility and strategies to overcome it. We will continue to do polling and opinion-led work on all aspects of Labour policy, strategy and narrative to support the party to develop distinctive, dynamic and popular positions and messages in the run up to the next general election.

Looking further, we will be asking what it means to be a progressive social democrat in the 2020s and 2030s, and how we ensure that the Labour Party retains its relevance as the primary engine for progressive economic, political and social change in the 21st Century.



A NEW ECONOMIC SETTLEMENT

Renewal of social democratic politics requires a new economic vision for the country, where the state takes a proactive role in shaping an economy that delivers sustainable and inclusive growth with opportunities for all. We will explore what this looks like in practice, what the implications are for workers, employers and government, and the politics of making it a reality.

THE FUTURE OF WORK

Work remains central to most of our lives – but its nature is rapidly changing. The pandemic, automation and the need for green transition will all massively impact our experience of work but politically, the issue itself is often overlooked.

We will be working with leading academics and unions on a new, political, theory of work, its future and its place in our lives.

PROGRESSIVE REGULATION

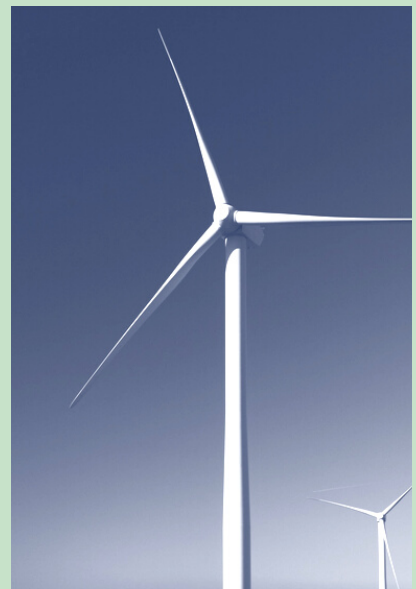
Government can do much more to support and shape the economy than tax and spend. A Labour government must use all the tools at its disposal to meet the challenges of climate transition and an ageing population.

Working with experts on governance, finance, and ethical business we will explore how government as a legislator, regulator, and norm-setter can direct resources towards these societal challenges.

LABOUR GROWTH

Growth is vital for the future of the UK economy and to fund the public services we all rely on. A Labour government must offer growth that is fair and inclusive, that is built on the everyday economy and social infrastructure, and that supports a green transition.

We will work together with businesses, economists, communities, & politicians to develop the policies and narratives to make Labour growth a reality.



THE PROGRESSIVE CASE FOR PLACE

The places we live and work are central to our personal and political identities. Regional disparities have been exacerbated by austerity and then weaponised via 'levelling up' in a way that, while entirely devoid of substance, creates headaches for Labour.

New thinking about the politics of belonging, economy and place is vital for Labour to win across the UK and will be a springboard for national renewal.

We will make 'The Progressive Case for Place', a new argument for social democratic localism across the regions and nations of the UK. We believe that our places – however defined – must be the building blocks of economic, social and political reform for the next Labour government.

THE PROGRESSIVE PLACES NETWORK

We will bring together Labour councils, Metro mayors and members of the Senedd and Scottish Parliament, to share and learn from each other, discuss universal social and economic issues with leading national (and international) experts, and develop future policy for local, regional, devolved and UK government.

Regular sessions will begin early in 2022 with experts on social determinants of health, community power and levelling up and the economics of places and local industrial strategy.



RETHINKING LABOUR'S PAST



To better understand Labour history and its effects on contemporary British politics, we will look for fresh thinking and analysis of individuals, themes and traditions. Labour has always had a contested history – and over time hard-left interpretations which misrepresent the party's past to confuse its future have come to dominate.

Our book, 'Rethinking Labour's Past', is published by IB Tauris/Bloomsbury in February 2022. It will kick off a series of events looking at key flashpoints and critical junctures in Labour's history, how they should be understood and the lessons for politics today.

THE STATE OF THE LEFT

To face both the global and domestic challenges of the 2020's progressives around the world must learn from each other. Progressive Britain has always given a platform to progressives from around the world and in 2022 our focus will be on 'progressives in power', how they meet the challenges they face, and the lessons they offer to the Labour Party in the UK.

Work began in 2021 with an online discussion on the SPD's recent victory in Germany and what it means for the centre-left, with Anneliese Dodds MP and Jens Zimmermann MDB and will continue with more online events, essays and blogs.



POLITICAL PANEL

Progressive Britain is dedicated to the intellectual renewal of the centre left in the UK. This is a project with urgency behind it, where there is little room for abstraction and one that cannot nor should not be separated from everyday political activity.

To that end we are grateful to the members of our political panel for their support and advice with our work and publications.

Our panel members are:

- **Gavin Callaghan, Former Leader Of Basildon Council**
- **Cllr Tudor Evans, Plymouth Council, Leader Of The Labour Group**
- **Vaughan Gething MP, Cardiff South & Penarth, Welsh Minister For The Economy**
- **Cllr Georgia Gould, Camden Council, Leader**
- **Daniel Johnson MSP, Edinburgh Southern, Scottish Labour Spokesperson For Finance**
- **Liz Kendall MP, Leicester West, Shadow Minister For Social Care**
- **Pat Mcfadden MP, Wolverhampton South East, Shadow Chief Secretary To The Treasury (Chair)**
- **Cllr Terry Paul, Newham Council, Cabinet Member For Finance & Corporate Services**
- **Bridget Phillipson MP, Houghton & Sunderland South, Shadow Secretary Of State For Education**
- **Cllr Arooj Shah, Oldham Council, Leader**
- **Wes Streeting MP, Ilford North, Shadow Secretary Of State For Health**
- **Cllr Sharon Thompson, Birmingham Council, Cabinet Member For Vulnerable Children & Families**

THE TEAM

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LABOUR TO WIN

Intellectual and organisational renewal in the Labour Party go hand in hand, and so Progressive Britain is proud to have teamed up with Labour First to create Labour to Win, the platform for organising the mainstream of the Labour party around the country.

Progressive Britain and Labour to Win are separate companies, with separate legal entities and structures.

<https://www.labourtowin.org/>

**LABOUR
TO WIN**