



The World
Transformed



Manifesto for the Movement

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INTRODUCTION

People feel like they have lost control. Politicians tell them they have their best interests at heart but money, power and wealth remain in the hands of the few. In order to change this, we need radical policy solutions that not only benefit local communities but are designed and implemented by the people themselves.

We need to use everyone's knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to create policies designed to build a better society. There is an increasing interest in participatory policy making with proposals like citizens' assemblies and local referenda capturing imaginations across the country. The Labour Party itself has started to test these ideas

with the National Policy Forum and the much anticipated Democracy Review. As a movement, we want to push these deliberative ways of policy making to the forefront of our politics and help participants, policy experts and the Labour Party find new processes and new solutions to the big challenges of today.

Our aims are simple but wide reaching:

- We want to create a sense of agency and ownership for participants within the Labour Party and the political process more broadly.
- We want to encourage participants to move beyond critiques of the current system towards more tangible policy proposals and solutions.



- We want to inspire the Labour Party to think radically about specific policy areas that need further debate.
- We want to instil confidence and respect - both within the Labour Party and the wider policy profession - for the wisdom of the grass-roots and the potential of the participatory, democratic activity.
- We want to test a new model of grassroots action - in turn demonstrating a new deliberative and participatory type of policy-making - which can be strengthened and developed for the future.

From education to crime policy, we have used the collective power of people to write a manifesto for the movement. The manifesto was created through policy labs that focused on specific policy areas, which explored the current landscape in these areas to see whether the Labour Party should be pushing for more radical alternatives. These processes were deliberative and participatory, and we hope it showed people the kind of policymaking we could and should be doing.

This project is an experiment. Each policy chapter was developed in a limited amount of time, and the policy areas covered were not comprehensive. Ideally participatory policy making processes such as this would take much longer and

we would cover other pressing areas. The ideas in this document are the ideas of the people in that room on that day and cannot claim to speak for the left, TWT or Momentum in general.

However, these processes were deliberative and participatory, and we hope it showed people the kind of policymaking we could and should be doing. What distinguishes the policy labs from other types of policymaking is the direct involvement of ordinary people's everyday experience, shaping the policy issues as well as being translated by these people into concrete proposals.

But the manifesto itself is just the start of the process. After the festival, we hope that the manifesto will be a living, breathing document that we can share with Transformed events across the country. This year, The World Transformed have launched TWT365 - a year-round project providing guides and support for people running their own local political education initiatives. This will include guides on running policy labs, and local Transformed groups will be able to add their own ideas and issues to the TWT Digital Hub, feeding into an ongoing process of developing policy as a movement, and mobilising for their adoption. We hope the manifesto is the beginning of a democratic process that will involve communities from across the country.



VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

The values and principles of our movement bind us, enabling solidarity and collective action. They also drive our approach to politics and policy-making. By 'principles' we mean not just our ideals but *how* we want society to be organised.

The principles of the neoliberal approach to policy that has dominated for decades can be summed up as: free markets; private ownership; limited government. Its core (self proclaimed) value is individualism. This framework can be applied to any issue from healthcare to housing to generate policy - from privatising the NHS to the Right to Buy your council house. This approach has negatively impacted on the most disadvantaged groups and led us to the mess we are in now. It has produced inequality, climate crisis, declining life expectancy, social immobility, anxiety, precarity, isolation and loneliness.

A big question facing the movement today is 'what is our alternative to this set of principles?' How can we sum up the new politics and the overarching ideas that shape our approach to policy? This is the question our first TWT Policy Lab

set out to tackle. The principles below were generated through individual reflection, small group discussion, large group deliberation and voting amongst participants. The text draws on the content of the group discussions.

OUR MOVEMENT'S PRINCIPLES

DEMOCRATIC, PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING.

Everyone should be empowered to have a say about decisions that affect them. This is fundamental to building a more equal society. It is different from the politics of the past where democracy was something done only by the state: this is about building a new, more participatory politics where solutions come from those on the frontline. This principle also includes accountability and transparency on the part of elected representatives where power is delegated to them.

DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP.

The principle of democracy also applies to ownership of common resources for the public benefit. This principle might include things like taking public services back into public ownership, but also many forms of common ownership of the resources that we need to live good lives - from housing and land to energy and

water to technology and data. We should all have a stake in these resources - they should not be captured for the benefit of the few.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

Climate change poses an existential threat to human society and will hit the poorest hardest. Any politics built on social justice must therefore have environmental sustainability as an overarching principle. We need to ensure that all of our policies protect and rebuild the earth's capacity to sustain life.

HUMAN LIBERATION TO LIVE GOOD LIVES.

The ultimate aim of our politics is to allow everybody to flourish and live meaningful lives. Crucially, this is not something that can be achieved by the neoliberal mantra of individual freedom and 'free' markets. It is something we achieve together by creating a society that actively empowers people to live the lives they want. For example, a four day week could be one way of advancing the principle of human liberation by giving us more control over our time.

SHARING RESOURCES.

One group expressed this as the principle of "from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs". This is

about sharing our collective resources in a fair way that empowers everyone to live a good life. For example, policies such as Universal Basic Income, Services or Assets (UBI/UBS/UBA) are about guaranteeing everyone equal access to a basic share of society's wealth. Another group expressed this as "sustainable sharing", reflecting the need to protect the rights of future generations to these resources as well.

COMMUNITY AND COOPERATION.

Where neoliberalism is built on the idea of the individual competing to meet their needs, our politics is built on the idea of communities where people cooperate to meet their needs. We recognise that human connection and 'collective joy' is a fundamental part of what we need to thrive and of how good societies should be organised.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

A just society cannot be built solely within national borders. We also need to enact the principle of solidaristic internationalism, recognising that the rights and principles set out in this document apply to all human beings. This includes recognising the destructive impacts of colonialism and neocolonialism and working to decolonise the global economy.

TOWARDS A NATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

The National Education Service is a commitment by Labour to free cradle-to-grave education. It is a commitment to have schools rooted in their communities, with parents empowered, and democratic processes to support the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of students and staff. But the details of this are yet to be defined, and so it is down to all of us to shape it.

ISSUES

There are major problems with the current mass monitoring and assessing of pupils, and the ways in which school performance is evaluated more widely. How should we change Ofsted so that it works for students and staff? What exams, if any, should children take and when would it help their development? Getting these answers right will be crucial to having a meaningful National Education Service.

“We want to blow up assessment. We want something focused on capabilities and learning habits which is life-long. The current system of assessments is too controlling, too centralised and too top-down.”

Another major issue is selective schooling. We live in one of the most economically unequal countries in the world and our education system reflects these inequalities, with private and selective schooling further entrenching segregation. Every year, millions of pounds are spent on private school education by parents, meanwhile the government can barely afford to repair the roofs of publicly-funded school buildings.

“I remember when I was a child the inclusive and supportive care I got at school due to my autism. We use to invest in these services, now children are being failed every single day.”

WE WILL...

MAKE ALL SCHOOLS FULLY-COMPREHENSIVE

...ending the fiction of parental choice and instead guaranteeing a good local school for every child. This means the end of admissions based on academic attainment, faith, or the ability to pay.

START FORMAL SCHOOL AT SIX AND A HALF OR SEVEN.

Before this age, children should learn through play, either in the home setting or in nurseries or schools organised for this purpose.

ABOLISH HIGH-STAKES TESTING UNTIL THE AGE OF 18.

Instead there will be a diploma route,

allowing students to take a mixture of academic, vocational, and technical qualifications at the level and time most appropriate for them. This will include a variety of appropriate methods of assessment, not just formal written examination.

Other policies discussed included broadening the curriculum within schools to emphasise arts and other underfunded areas of learning so vital to children's education. Eradicate all forms of streaming. The school system often splits children based on their ability at a very young age. This erodes trust and empathy, especially impacting children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Establish a democratic inspection process designed by the civil service.

DEMOCRATISING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Our schools, colleges and universities need to be democratic and participatory. They need to build grassroots power for teachers and students of all ages, and act as hubs for community organising at a local level.

ISSUES

Labour's current policy lacks detail on what the national education service will look like. There have been calls to return to something similar to the Local Education Authority structure, but, so far, little consideration of more radically democratic structures. Education policy has also not yet been linked into discussions around the Green New Deal and broader attempts to create socialism at a local level. A national education service must also put Further Education colleges and local community education centre stage, rather than being sidelined by schools.

Among the issues raised in the Policy Lab, participants supported Labour's commitment to abolishing academies and dismantling the private education system. Academies contribute to the lack of democracy throughout the education system. There was broad consensus that we should learn from the Lucas Plan and think about new ways of participating in educational institutions.

"In my primary school I asked a young girl named Holly what she learnt about campaigning for her own school council. She said 'I learnt about the processes you have to go through to change things for the better.' That's the best definition of politics I've ever heard... I think my life is complete!"

Achieving a more democratic education system means implementing more horizontal structures within schools, as well as creating more meaningful, productive relationships between universities and their local communities. Participants also called for policies which could help support unions across the education system.

"We need more horizontal structures and to stop the violation of our curriculum. There is a business ideology in all education institutions and it reeks. The inspections of schools has become judgemental and no longer cooperative. There is major frustration around the crushing of excellence. The lack of funding being key here."

Supply teachers are hit particularly badly by the democratic deficit within education, but there is a dearth of autonomy for professionals more broadly - teachers, lecturers, and assistants - which has a serious impact on student learning.

WE WILL...

RADICALLY REFORM TEACHER TRAINING.

This means deepening pedagogies and drawing from historic teacher training. The aim would be to help build teacher's autonomy and to move the curriculum beyond questions of employability. This could work through a national review of teacher training across the UK education system.

ESTABLISH LOCAL EDUCATION COMMITTEES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

These committees would help build democracy within the education system. Students, teachers and parents could be elected onto the committees through region-wide elections. They would help to set the direction of education policy across their area. This would help to build

new relationships between communities and schools, making for a pedagogy fit for a collective purpose that moves beyond the classroom.

PAY CAP AND RATIO SALARY THRESHOLD FOR ALL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

Individual institutions have the power to set their own pay scales, but it has to be completely transparent. This is particularly true for the managers of these institutions, who in recent years have seen exorbitant pay rises while staff in almost every other area has seen wages fall or remain stagnant.

Other policies discussed included eliminating all student debt, shifting the values system in education and establishing a National Curriculum Authority.

INTRODUCTION

Universal, equitable, comprehensive, high quality, free at the point of delivery, publicly funded and publicly accountable. But how does the NHS look now 71 years on? Underfunding and rampant privatisation are fast eroding its founding principles and we don't have much time left to act. This has had a particular effect on primary and community healthcare, which acts as the bedrock of the NHS and our first source of support. The numbers of GPs, nurses and health visitors have faced a devastating decline and there is woefully little support in terms of the continuity of care. We urgently need to discuss how to revolutionise a system, so that it is holistic, personalised and, above all, humane.

“The evidence is clear – if communities take control of their own healthcare, the service is radically improved.”

“There is so much value in having contact with a healthcare system that you feel like you know.”

ISSUES

Primary healthcare is extremely vulnerable to the pressures of international trade. The possibility of another damaging deal with Trump's USA, not only threatens our National Health Service, but also the availability of vital medicines and the key tenets of patient privacy. Even today the drugs available to GPs and other primary healthcare professionals contravene the precautionary principle, as a result of the international pressures.

WE WILL...

INTRODUCE AN INTELLIGENT RECRUITMENT POLICY.

The NHS faces crippling staff shortages, that has left many primary healthcare professionals unable to cope. We urgently need an intelligent recruitment policy in the NHS, to plug the most obvious holes in the system. We must introduce inclusive medical training, that enables everyone to become a healthcare professional.

END THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT IN OUR NHS.

The hostile environment has had a shocking effect on marginalised communities throughout the UK – many who are now too fearful to access vital healthcare. We must stop blaming migrants for the chronic underfunding of our NHS and abolish migrant charges.

ENSURE THAT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE IS DELIVERED BY THE COMMUNITY.

The community must be able to decide what their healthcare services should look like. This enables services to be developed where they are needed.

INCREASE COLLABORATIVE CARE IN PRIMARY SERVICES.

We must ensure that expertise are combined between both primary healthcare professionals and NHS consultants. The current division between the two is only serving to damage patients.

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CAPITALISM AND MENTAL HEALTH

"I never intend to become adjusted to the tragic inequalities of the economic system which will take necessity from the masses to give luxury to the classes... There are some things that I never intend to become adjusted to, and I call upon you to continue to be maladjusted."
- Martin Luther King Jr, quoted by a participant

In Britain today, we face a mental health crisis, with 1 in 4 people diagnosed with a mental health problem. But instead of looking at the societal causes of mental distress, millions are prescribed antidepressants, antipsychotics and mood stabilizers. Many are provided with limited support and are at risk of institutionalisation or are forced into treatment through Compulsory Treatment Orders. It is time to take action on how

capitalism is destroying our mental health and build a radical vision for the future of mental health services based on prioritising the quality of people's lives over measurements of GDP.

"There's a lot of mental illness in my family, my brother has schizophrenia, and I've noticed there's a problem with social isolation. We have huge amounts of disconnection from each other and from what we really need."

ISSUES

Mental health services in Britain are falling apart. In the past decade provisions have reached a crisis point. The most marginalised communities in particular fall victim to this crisis. How do we revolutionise mental health services so that they support all those in need, as well as transform societal attitudes towards those in mental distress?

WE WILL...

PRIORITISE THE SOCIAL MODEL OF MENTAL HEALTH OVER THE CURRENT EMPHASIS ON THE BIOMEDICAL MODEL.

The social inequality which permeates our society; the impact of poverty, inequality and injustice by race, class and gender differences, homelessness and poor housing conditions, benefit cuts and social isolation all detrimentally affect people's mental as well as physical health. The biomedical model holds the individual responsible. In fact, neoliberal capitalism is currently our primary mental health problem.

BRING ALL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BACK INTO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE AND NATIONALISE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.

Mental health provision has been privatised and outsourced, to devastating consequences. It is time to ensure that we bring services back in-house and offer in the NHS the diverse range of therapies currently only available to those who can pay privately. We must nationalise big pharmaceutical companies and end profit-driven prescribing.

INTRODUCE A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH.

We must view mental distress as resulting from trauma, and adverse life experiences. To do this we have to move from the 'biomedical model' of psychiatry

and psychological therapies to a social model which asks what has happened to you? Not what is wrong with you? We need to move from biomedical services which are not working, to fully funded trauma-informed services. We must incorporate a trauma-informed approach to mental health across all government policy: health, education, our criminal justice system, housing, social welfare.

INTRODUCE A DEDICATED FUND FOR NON-MEDICALISED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY.

Austerity policies have devastated the provision of local community services which help support people and offer community led initiatives based on local needs. Youth clubs, children centres, alcohol and substance abuse services, free day centres, domestic violence services and refuges, lunch clubs for elderly, council social care, free legal aid are essential services and must be restored and developed. Citizens Assemblies should decide which services and community groups are needed in their area, and have the funding they need.

Other policy priorities included reforming section 136 and the Mental Health Act so that the first response to mental health crisis is mental health professionals and not the police, having the option to ask for longer GP appointments and improving education on mental health in schools and the DWP.

DRUG REFORM AND RETHINK

INTRODUCTION

The focus of drug policy should be health, not criminal justice. Drugs come with potential harms but the best way to counter this is through evidence-based support and information. Drug users vary from recreational users to those with serious dependency-issues. Although this is lost in the debate, those with serious dependency-issues often have mental health trauma, which must be addressed not penalised.

“Addiction is related to mental health... ineffective policing at the moment is like putting a plaster on a massive gaping wound.”

ISSUES

The UK currently has one of the highest drug death rates in the whole of the EU. Scotland has the highest. Each of the

last seven years have seen the record broken for the highest number of drug deaths in a year. Participants felt that the current policing approach to drug use is ineffective, punitive and racist. Police are tasked with dealing with those with drug addictions when they really need mental health support.

“The police always discriminate. My white friends always get away with taking drugs but the incarceration rates for BAME communities in the UK is worse than in the US!”

Those from low-income and BAME communities are disproportionately targeted by the police leading to high rates of incarceration. Participants agreed that drug laws, in their current form, are used as a tool of social oppression and control.

WE WILL...

DECRIMINALISE ALL DRUGS AND REPEAL THE MISUSE OF DRUGS OFFENSES ACT

...ending the racialised and unproductive policing of drug use.

REPAIR AND REVIEW THE RIGHTS FOR THOSE WITH CURRENT DRUG CONVICTIONS

...with a view to commuting sentences and expunging records for those convicted of low-level offences that are no longer crimes.

MOVE RESPONSIBILITY OF DRUG POLICY FROM THE HOME OFFICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE.

This would include releasing funds that can support and rehabilitate people who were impacted by the previous policy environment.

CREATE NEW LOCAL DRUG ADVICE BUREAUS.

Similar to Citizens Advice Bureaus, these centres would include mental health support services that have a trauma support element and would focus on drug advice bureaus. Participants agreed there is a need for evidence-based education in local communities, with government guidelines available for institutions (public bodies, universities, trade unions etc.) and the media to change the framing of drug consumption throughout society.

Other policies discussed included international collaboration of drug policy, exploring the Swedish state monopoly model, safeguarding vulnerable tenants and changing school education on drugs.

CRIME AND JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

Our current criminal justice system is meeting poverty, mental health difficulties and systemic disadvantage with prisons, police and courts. Boris Johnson has taken up draconian law and order as a flagship part of his government, but we know that more police and prison places will not address the causes of violence, homelessness or substance misuse. There is a context to the lives of the 83,000 people in our prisons, as well as to the rising number of victims of crime - it is time we addressed that context seriously rather than taking up punishment as our first and last port of call.

“The people that put laws and policies in place have never socialised with the communities they are making policies for. They don’t understand where the problems stem from or the youth they are impacting, yet they make laws that decide these communities’ future.”

ISSUES

There are a huge range of issues facing a prospective Labour government, from dangerously overcrowded prisons in which someone takes their own life every four days, to overstretched courts, the decimation of legal aid, astonishing racial discrimination at every stage of the criminal justice system, a chronic failure to prosecute sexual and domestic violence, the stubborn rates of reoffending that see nearly half of all adults and two thirds of children reconvicted within a year of release, and the ongoing challenge of serious youth violence. Our Lab focussed on two key issues: serious youth violence and the over-policing and imprisonments of LGBTQ communities.

“There is proxy policing, where some are treated very differently to others. At the end of the day it’s the difference between seeing someone who is at risk, and seeing someone as a risk.”

WE WILL...

REVERSE THE ACADEMISATION OF SCHOOLS

...and have a moratorium on the use of exclusions and isolation rooms.

CREATE A MINISTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

...sitting between the Department for Education and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government who, consulting with an advisory body of paid young experts directly affected by youth violence, could develop policy and redirect provisions earmarked to expand the punishment of young people, to instead support them with education, youth provision, mental health support, housing stressors and more.

DIVERT FUNDS FOR EXPANDED SECTION 60 STOP AND SEARCH AND STATUTORY REPORTING DUTIES TO FUND SUPPORT UNITS IN SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES

...with paid youth workers who

understand the experiences of young people at risk of youth violence. These centres would provide an emotional amnesty for young people - where their experiences are heard without an obligation to report to police. Mentoring, career guidance, educational support and financial support should also be available at these units.

A MORATORIUM ON BUILDING MORE PRISONS

... instead pooling the funds to produce a Community Fund that marginalised groups are able to access to develop community support projects. Attached to this fund was an inalienable right to access its support.

DIVERT FUNDS FROM POLICE EXPANSION TO PRODUCE A HOST OF SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR QUEER COMMUNITIES

... including a network of LGBTQ community centres with specialist mental health, housing and legal support available to all.



GREEN NEW DEAL AND INTERNATIONALISM

INTRODUCTION

The demand for a Green New Deal (GND) has galvanised a generation and cut through environmental policy in the UK like nothing else. But while its aims are ambitious and radical, there has been less debate about its internationalist potential. Labour's Green New Deal must include exploration of how major international institutions can be used to expand the Green New Deal and what international cooperation looks like during a climate crisis.

There has been little discussion about the GND's international potential. Instead of just focusing on domestic industrial policy, the GND could kick start a new global and geopolitical order if we think strategically about the global power players in our economic system.

ISSUES

While the Labour Party's commitment to worker power in the face of a transition away from fossil fuels is a crucial step, the current timeline does not match the severity of the crisis at hand. The lack of tangible Labour Party policy on an internationally-minded Green New Deal programme reflects a gap in the Party's political vision.

Participants voiced their concerns with the British arms industry, both as a polluter and as part of a system which reinforces the dominance of fossil fuels.

On the topic of global justice, pursuing legal means necessary to hold fossil fuel executives accountable, as has been done in the past with the US tobacco industry. There is a need for good corporate behaviour to be enforced through a new corporate regulator.

Additionally, there is a need for that institutional infrastructure to regulate and verify the climate impact of products at all points along supply chains. Questions of land reform, as well as access to clean water, soil, and the autonomy of small farmers, is a crucial part of the Green New Deal debate. Participants were vocal about the need to stop using GDP growth as an indicator of progress. Equality can be a substitute for growth.

WE WILL...

CANCEL GLOBAL DEBT AS PART OF THE REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

This would help rebalance the relationship between the Global North and the Global South as part of a Green New Deal.

DISMANTLE THE ARMS INDUSTRY AND ENSURE THE IMMEDIATE END OF ARMS SALES BY WAY OF A JUST TRANSITION WHICH SHIFTS ARMS WORKERS TO GOOD, WELL-PAID, UNIONISED GREEN JOBS.

This would work to end British Militarism and the imbrication of the arms industry and the global dominance of fossil fuels

ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL ECOCIDE COURT ABLE TO TRIGGER INVESTIGATIONS, ADMINISTER

PENALTIES AND SUPPORT RENATIONALISATION OF INDUSTRIES.

This would help to build global accountability and dictate the pacing of a just transition away from fossil fuels.

REPLACE GDP MEASURES WITH INDICATORS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY, WELL-BEING, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Adopted across all levels of government, a plan to adopt GDP and look towards new metrics would help shift policy towards more internationalist goals.

Other policies discussed included the introduction of Universal Basic Income alongside collective ownership of technology, land and other assets. Additionally, participants discussed global reparations, free movement, and land rights for indigenous people.

TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT

INTRODUCTION

How can transport be seen as a Universal Basic Service that all can access, a service that takes us beyond driving and flying? How can we make it so rooted in communities it can never be privatised? Public transport has huge potential to transform our lives. It is a central component in tackling climate breakdown, making cities and towns liveable, reducing deaths from car accidents and air pollution, building social cohesion and making people healthier.

ISSUES

Deregulation, privatisation and austerity-related cuts to public spending have decimated our transport networks, leaving communities all over the UK isolated, facing exploitative fares and a skeletal service on its knees. Some people have no access to public transport at all. There are steep inequalities in who is able to access good quality public transport, with those out of London and particularly in isolated areas of the

country, people with disabilities, and those on low incomes particularly badly affected. Privatisation has also created a system whereby wealthy individuals and shareholders benefit at the expense of working-class people. Where transport options are available, they are often poorly connected so that it is difficult to make entire journeys without using a car.

Participants spoke about the way in which the dominance of cars on our roads affected how communities are able to interact, with communities divided by busy roads and public spaces being dangerous and unwelcoming to young people.

At the same time there was widespread concern about the environmental impact of our current transport system, with a pricing structure that incentivises flying and car use affecting not just Co2 but also air pollution. It was noted that, while it is those on the highest incomes that are most likely to be polluters, it is those on lower incomes who are more likely to suffer the consequences of climate change and air pollution.

WE WILL...

CREATE A FULLY INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM

...with accessible low carbon and free transport. This would include car-free zones, accessibility policies and Section 106 mandatory funding to make stations accessible.

MAKE BUSES FREE FOR ALL

...this includes harmonised schedules, regionally contextualised services and new regulations. The system would be centrally funded and locally administered.

REMOVE ALL VAT AND SUBSIDIES ON ALL FOSSIL FUELS

... and reinvest into 'greenization', specifically ways to travel by plane in a more sustainable zero-emissions way.

Other policies discussed included cigarette-style legislation for cars (e.g. no branding, pollution taxes, all cars the same colour and no advertisements). A massive national programme of investment in changes to roads and streets to facilitate walking and cycling e.g. pedestrianisation of areas and rapid expansion of cycle-friendly lanes.



A SOCIALIST MEDIA

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the established media landscape has lurched from one crisis to another as public trust erodes and readership declines. But with social media and demographic shifts posing possible existential threats to traditional media institutions now is the time to rethink their purpose, values and goals. This policy lab session will consider major and minor reforms to the media landscape and offer alternatives to the existing system.

ISSUES

The widespread feeling of distrust towards media organisations is a reflection of a heavily commercialised industry which has not fulfilled its democratic aims. The crisis in UK media converges on a few main issues: public media and the BBC, the state of digital media as well as the politics of data

collection, and the lack of support for independent media that can meaningfully support local communities.

Jeremy Corbyn's Alternative MacTaggart lecture in 2018 set out a clear socialist agenda for the transformation of the UK's media landscape, promising "a free and democratic media for the digital age". This included a push for broader democratic representation at the BBC, the calls for a British Digital Corporation to act as a sister organisation to the BBC, and a proposed independent public interest journalism fund, paid for by major tech companies. On the regulation front, Labour's policy has included a push for Leveson 2, a formal inquiry into press standards, and media ownership limits. Most of this policy remains underdeveloped, and generally too defensive and too technocratic to match the radical changes in digital media.

WE WILL...

ESTABLISH A BRITISH DIGITAL COOPERATIVE

...as a new public institution to foster democratic innovation in digital technologies. It would offer a platform for news, public mapping, community-building and more. It would bridge the gap between technical experts, who create and maintain the platform, and the general public who consume and are involved in the platform. The architecture of this platform would be actively transparent, with a commitment to clearly understandable back-end processes, for the general public to understand developments. Another key part of this institution would be to reinforce the emphasis on data protection and privacy. Current EU legislation includes the 'right to be forgotten'. Post-Brexit, the British govt. must commit to matching that policy at a minimum. This would be bolstered by an increase in measures from the electoral commission.

REFORM PUBLIC MEDIA

...making the BBC more democratic and accountable. This would include a commitment to regionalising production, developing democratic governance processes such as internal elections, and recruiting a more diverse range of voices on the BBC's board.

DEMOCRATISE JOURNALISM

...by supporting independent news outlets with increased financial support. A key proposal here is increased taxation on advertising (perhaps based on Sweden's 3% tax to help fund its news subsidies) to support core funding for small outlets. This would also include a voucher system for local and independent journalism, which would mean democratic accountability of journalism to the public and a further revenue stream. Revenue generated must be committed to democratic expansion rather than more advertising.

CONCLUSION

“That was one of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had. It’s amazing how emotional it was really talking about my own experiences, but mostly it was about coming up with the solutions together. It just felt so hopeful.”

Achieving democratic socialism requires not just the transfer of the levers of power from rightwing politicians to leftwing politicians, but a radical transfer of wealth and power from the elites to the people. This is about far more than fixing electoral democracy, and requires a total rethink of the state, and a democratisation of the way that we make and deliver policy.

This needs to happen in a number of ways. The Labour party, which has recently been experimenting with more inclusive styles of policy making, could do much more to involve members in meaningful ways in the process. A

reformed civil service under Labour should have participatory policy making at its heart, involving people in the implementation of policy as well as idea development. And finally we, as a movement, need to develop much better ways of creating, developing and challenging our own policy demands. This must have the experiences and voices of those most marginalised and affected by policy making at its heart.

The policy labs demonstrated the immense passion, knowledge and experience that people have to bring to the policy making process.

We hope this is the beginning of a process that can involve all those in our movement, and to do that we need everyone to get involved.

**“That was one of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had. It’s amazing how emotional it was really talking about my own experiences, but mostly it was about coming up with the solutions together. It just felt so hopeful”
Policy lab participant**

SUPPORTERS NETWORK

The World Transformed is about creating a space for you to put your ideas across. We want to make the promise of an open and 'people led' politics a reality.

This year has seen a growth in regional events inspired by The World Transformed; from Bristol, to Derby, from Wandsworth to Teeside, a growing network of Transformed events have put on exciting programs, built regional campaigns and strengthened the grassroots. We think this is a really exciting development, and hope to see this network grow over the years to come.

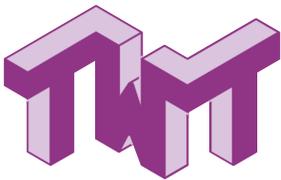
If you enjoyed our manifesto project, and want to continue to see projects like

this growing across the country, please consider becoming a member of The World Transformed Supporters Network. By committing to giving us a monthly donation of as little as £5, you can help us build a national network of organisers and educators working together to develop political education in our communities, all year round.

The World Transformed has always relied on the goodwill and deep commitment of our volunteers and supporters. This year, we need your help more than ever. Plus, to say thank you, our Supporters get a monthly newsletter on what we're up to and a free ticket to next year's festival!

<https://donorbox.org/the-world-transformed>





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