



Tackle the housing crisis by building a million new affordable homes

House building is at its lowest peacetime level since the 1920s, and the gap between the number of homes being built and the number that Britain needs, is over 100,000 a year.

Everyone deserves a home to call their own.

Tell David Cameron to tackle the housing crisis by building a million new homes in the next five years and giving first-time buyers priority when new homes are built.

Sign the Labour party's petition at: www.labour.org.uk/page/s/a-home-to-call-your-own

Labour demand Peel halts bid to develop greenfield land

Labour assistant mayor for planning at Salford City Council Councillor Derek Antrobus has called on Peel Holdings to drop a legal challenge which threatens greenfield land in the city.

The Council refused planning permission to Peel Holdings for development of 600 homes at Broadoak because the land was protected by the Council's Worsley Greenway policy.

The Council hired the country's top planning barrister to fight the case after Peel made an appeal against the decision.

The strength of the Council's policy – instituted by Labour veteran Ben Wallsworth in the 1980s – was cited as the main reason by a planning inspector for turning down the appeal.

But Peel started a judicial review claiming that the Government was wrong in law to uphold Salford City Council's decision. That review is in progress.

Salford has just carried out a review of its housing land and has demonstrated that

it has enough to meet its need for the next five years.

Councillor Antrobus said: "That is a game changer. Developers can no longer cherry-pick sites. Even if Peel were to win their judicial review, the circumstances are now different and the Council's case for refusal even stronger. It seems wasteful to spend money on a legal action of this kind.

"I have, therefore, written to Peel and asked them to withdraw their legal action and to join us in identifying through the local plan process the land that we will need to address the chronic housing shortage.

"There are many young couples in Salford crying out for affordable new homes. We should be working together to build them rather than fighting fruitless battles in court."

Barbara slams Government for handing millions to wealthiest councils

Barbara has slammed the Conservative Government's decision to give Conservative councils most of the money from a £300 million Government fund set up to ease the blow of Government cuts to council budgets. Wealthier local authorities like Surrey and Cheshire East are receiving extra funds but Salford Council will receive nothing. Surrey Council is being given the most from the fund, with an extra £24 million. In Greater Manchester only Conservative-run Trafford Council will benefit from the Government's fund.

Only £17 million of the £300 million funding will go to Labour-run councils across the country, despite the fact that those councils have suffered the harshest cuts since 2010 and most have much higher levels of deprivation.

Adult social care has suffered deep cuts since 2010, but the Government's plan is that Salford and other councils can increase council tax by 2% over the next four years to pay for social care. However, levying the extra council tax would only raise £1.6 million in Salford this year. This compares to cuts of £15 million the council has had to make to adult social care since 2010 and leaves the council with a substantial funding gap for services.

Barbara said: "Once again the Conservatives are helping their own councils and ignoring the areas of the country which are in most need. This is a deeply unfair way to allocate funding.

"Since 2011 Salford Council has been forced to make £118 million of savings and the Conservative Government told the council last year to save another £56 million. Salford Council is doing everything possible to protect our vital frontline services, but the council can only do so much with the reduced funding that it has. Government cuts mean we are seeing mounting pressure on all our local services, including social care services, public health, services for children and young people and other community services.

"It is an insult to the people of Salford for the Conservative Government to leave our services struggling while shamelessly handing over financial support to wealthy areas like Surrey, and to Tory Trafford. This is a blatant misuse of public money."

Barbara Keeley, MP for Worley and Eccles South.



Salford Labour Voice

in Worsley & Boothstown and Ellenbrook Spring 2016

David Cameron wants to shut the door on open government

When he was in opposition, David Cameron said he wanted to head the most transparent Government in the world. Now, as Prime Minister, he wants to unpick the Freedom of Information Act, which has arguably shed more light on how the Government works than any other law in our history.

The Act was introduced by Labour in 2000. It is a vital tool for holding the government and other public bodies to account. Transparency depends on making information about the services we use and pay for freely available. That's why the FOI Act is so crucial; it gives us the data we need to judge whether the Government is doing a good job.

Given his commitment to transparency you'd think that David Cameron would be glad the Act exists. But his Government has set up an Independent Commission to make recommendations on whether it should be changed – and it is certain to find reasons to water it down. Why do I say that? They've stuffed the commission who have been openly critical of the Act.

They meet in secret and no one can find out what they discuss because their deliberations aren't covered by the Freedom of Information Act. You couldn't make it up.

Chris Grayling, the government's Leader of the House of Commons, inadvertently revealed the real motivation for the FOI crackdown. He told MPs the Act was used to "generate" stories for the media. But it is the job of the media to hold the Government to account.



Do we really want our executive to govern behind closed doors?

The Tories have shown their true colours since they won a narrow majority in May. They have changed the Ministerial Code, which governs how Ministers behave, so that it no longer refers to their responsibility to take account of international law. They have talked about scrapping the Human Rights Act and now they want to limit your access to information that should be freely available.

David Cameron wants to shut the door on open government. Let's make sure he doesn't succeed.

Jeremy Hunt to impose a contract on junior doctors



Jeremy Hunt's decision to impose a contract on junior doctors is provocative and damaging. Rather than helping to resolve this difficult dispute, his action will only inflame it.

The BMA has continued to table proposals to settle the dispute. The fact that the Health Secretary is now simply trying to impose his will rather than negotiate, demonstrates a lack of confidence in his own arguments.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY TO INVEST £30M IN NEW SALFORD GARDEN

We are delighted that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has chosen Salford for a new 156 acre garden at the historic ground of Worsley New Hall. The RHS, in partnership with Salford Labour Council, will invest £30 million to develop an attraction of national significance, restoring historic features and creating new learning facilities.

The new RHS Bridgewater Garden will bring long-term investment which will generate hundreds of jobs and create considerable educational, volunteering and community engagement opportunities. Community involvement will be nurtured by experts from the RHS. A new Learning Centre will be built containing an RHS Gardening Advice Service and Plant Centre, which will work with schools and develop young people's horticultural knowledge. Year round public engagement will be provided for a range of groups, local volunteers and visitors. A learning partnership will put in place so that local young people will be able to access the jobs created.

It is anticipated that phase one of the garden will begin during 2016 and for the garden to be fully open in 2019. The proposals will be subject to planning approval and councillors will be looking closely to see what impact this may have on local services.



We need to recognise the huge contribution junior doctors make and the years of training they go through to look after us. These are people dedicated to our health and our NHS.

Patients, doctors, the BMA and the public want an agreed settlement. What is now keeping this dispute going are the actions of the Secretary of State himself.

More strikes now look likely. If that happens, it will be clear that the blame lies with the government, not the doctors.

Even at this late stage, I appeal to Jeremy Hunt to go back and negotiate with the BMA.

This government is reckless with our NHS and is now prepared to put patient care at risk in the service of its self-defeating austerity programme.

The council budget: the facts

The Tories have taken away support to keep the tax down. Now under the Osborne tax proposals, they want to force us to increase council tax by 3.75% or make further cuts.

Faced with this onslaught of government cuts why are some local critics attacking the Labour Party rather than the Tories?

We are told, by critics, that we can somehow set a "legal" no cuts budget and make no cuts. This is not the case. If that was possible why would we not adopt such a budget?

For these reasons:

1. A "no cuts budget" based on irresponsible borrowing leads to the bankruptcy of the city.
2. The truth is that no such "legal" budget is possible. We are told that we can exhaust the Council's reserves and borrow the rest to bridge the £22 million pound government cut. Under the law, any attempt to set such a budget requires Council officers to intervene and set a different budget from the elected councillors.
3. It would lead to the appointment of government commissioners to

impose worse cuts on the people of Salford. This would fall heaviest on the most vulnerable

4. Every Council in the country who has considered this, has rejected the idea of a "no cuts" budget as a cruel con trick. We are not prepared to play games with people who need our services.

Salford Labour Councillors know they have no choice but to implement cuts. We try to do so as sensitively as possible in order to protect those Salford citizens most at risk from this Tory government's discrimination against the most vulnerable while it protects the powerful.

Now we hear the Tory government has announced a £300 million grant to help mainly Tory authorities while not giving a penny to Salford. Yet another insult to the people of this city.



Give Salford it's share of the £300 million transitional fund

The government announced a £300 million transitional fund for local authorities – then handed nearly all of it to Tory councils. 85% of the additional money will go to wealthy Conservative-run areas with Salford receiving nothing.

Salford Labour Party demands a fair distribution of the transitional grant scheme to ensure that those in most need receive a fair share of the funding.

Tory cronyism is taking from the poor to give to the rich!

This Government is giving Conservative councils most of the money from a £300

million Government fund set up to ease the blow of Government cuts to council budgets.

Wealthier local authorities like Surrey, Hampshire and Buckinghamshire are receiving extra funds but Salford Council is getting nothing.

grants awarded for 2016-18:

Surrey	£24.10 million
Hampshire	£18.69 million
Buckinghamshire	£9.22 million
Salford	£0 = ZERO

sign the petition at:
change.org/p/george-osborne-give-salford-it-s-share-of-the-300-million-transitional-fund

Paul Dennett for City Mayor

Dear Resident,

I have recently been selected as the Labour Party's candidate for the Salford Mayoral election in May. For those of you who don't know me I am a dedicated, campaigning socialist councillor for Langworthy. I am from a working class family with Labour values at my core - I cut my teeth establishing residents associations in the high-rises off Blackfriars, and community campaigning is close to my heart. As a proud Trade Unionist, I believe we are stronger when we work together, stand together and look out for one another.



I am campaigning for a manifesto of growth, jobs and for skills in our city. Against the misery and austerity promised from further Tory cuts, I will fight for a bright future for the Salford of tomorrow.

The policies I stand by are,

1. Championing a new Skills Agenda, linking our educational institutions with local employers to create an integrated programme of training and development
2. A Fair Rents Commission, to ensure Salfordians aren't priced out of their communities
3. The creation of an Equalities Charter for the city, to promote fair treatment and representation for the city's minority communities
4. A campaign within Greater Manchester for significant transport investment in Salford, connecting areas of the city currently cut off
5. Supporting a productive growth strategy, creating a home for new digital industries, manufacturing and high-wage jobs in the city

The future of our city, our public services and local high streets, is at risk under the incompetent economic management of the Tories. Against all expert opinion, they continue with a policy of austerity which is strangling our communities, crippling our health and social care facilities, and dampening growth. Labour offer a program of hope and change for Salford, and I hope you will join me in fighting for those values in May.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Dennett



Labour supporters with Paul Dennett following his selection

Labour's Vision for Salford

Salford Labour Party Manifesto 2016

Between 2010/11 to 2016/17 the council has had to make cuts of £171 million to balance its budget. We have had to manage a 42.4% reduction in our core government funding. This equates to a cost of £753 for every home in Salford. We have done our best to manage these savage government cuts despite increasing costs and pressures on services. Now we have run out of options.



A Safer City

Community Safety remains a key priority for the City. People are entitled to walk the streets without fear of being attacked or having their house burgled. Cameron and the Tories do not see this as a priority, cutting back funding, year after year, for the emergency services. We however are

determined to campaign to reverse police funding cutbacks.

We pledge to use our powers to prevent antisocial behaviour to the full extent of the law. We will continue to target burglary, vehicle crime and hate crime.



A Healthier City

Although much has been achieved, we still remain a City with some people dying at a younger age than they should. We will work with the Health Service and use

our Public Health responsibilities to build a twenty first century health system.

A City that Looks After the Elderly

The Osborne Tax of an extra 3.75% in Council Tax will not solve the problems we face in meeting growing needs for social care for older and vulnerable people. We will align our

services with health under one body that will allow people better access a whole range of services and prevent deprivation.



A City that Supports its Young People

Looking after our children remains at the heart of our agenda. We will pioneer a new approach. We will seek to address all the needs of families by working with the Police, Health providers

and Government Departments. Only by doing this can we tackle the root causes of neglect.

A City with Decent Homes

Housing, for those already living in Salford and for those who want to come to our city and make a contribution remains at the top of our list.

We will ensure new housing, both social and to buy, to address the needs of homeless and those living in substandard accommodation.

We will also establish a fair rent commission to establish what is a fair rent for property in Salford.



A Greener and Cleaner City

The Government has sought to reduce the money available to manage the environment. We, however, will continue to work in partnership with the general public and voluntary organisations to maintain our commitment to our green spaces.

Our City needs public transport. We will seek, with other Councils in Greater Manchester, the power to regulate passenger transport on the same basis as London.