

# Labour News

November 2010

## Coalition Cuts Are Unfair

Leeds North East MP Fabian Hamilton says Osborne's cuts are wrong.

We all accept the need for spending cuts to reduce the deficit. But Tory chancellor George Osborne and his Liberal Democrat supporters are putting the economic recovery at risk by cutting too much too fast. According to accountancy firm PWC, the cuts will mean a million people lose their jobs.

### UNFAIR ON PENSIONERS

Even worse, many cuts are deeply unfair. Sneaky cuts they hope no one will notice e.g. changing the measure of inflation used to calculate increases in pension payments. Because of this change, a pensioner who currently receives a pension of £10,000 a year is likely to be £600 a year worse off by 2016. And this is on top of having to pay more for everyday essentials because of increased VAT.

### WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HIT HARD

Women, children and families will also be hit hard by the cuts. New school buildings are being cancelled. Spending per pupil is set to fall. Many families are having working family tax credits and child benefit taken away. University Tuition fees are set to double. There will be fewer police on the beat. Why aren't the bankers being asked to pay more? After all, it was them who caused this mess in the first place.



Fabian Hamilton MP for Leeds North East

### MP presents certificates at Northcall

Fabian Hamilton MP presented certificates to local residents who gained qualifications in voluntary activities, at a ceremony at Northcall on Cranmer Bank last month. The lunchtime event was well attended and Fabian commented: "It was a pleasure to be able to give certificates to people who have worked so hard to achieve these qualifications".



Fabian congratulates residents

### I voted Conservative and I feel ashamed....

Commenting on the spending review on BBC Radio 4, Daily Mail columnist Peter Osborne said "I voted Conservative at the last election, and I felt ashamed when the Tory backbenches got up and cheered announcements putting hundreds and thousands of people out of work." Well said Peter!



# Labour in Leeds: Standing Up For the Vulnerable

Leeds City Council Labour Leader Keith Wakefield told "Labour News" how Labour Councillors will respond to the Coalition spending cuts.

One of the most important things Leeds City Council does is provide social care for the elderly and disabled. This care allows pensioners to grow old with dignity, giving them the support they need to remain independent in their own homes, saving us all money by freeing up hospital beds and reducing the need for care homes. But the coalition are cutting the money Leeds gets to pay for these vital services - taking £150 million from the city.

It is deeply disappointing that the Lib Dems in the coalition haven't done more to stand up for Leeds and for the needs of the elderly and vulnerable in our society. Keith and his Labour colleagues will do their utmost to protect these care services against the cuts.



Labour leader of Leeds City Council  
Keith Wakefield

## What is Labour doing for you?

### ➤ Mending the potholes in our roads

Since the last Council elections the state of the roads - left in a mess after six years of Tory Lib Dem rule in the Council with potholes everywhere - has been greatly improved.

### ➤ Making bankers pay their fair share

Bankers in the City of London are set to receive £7 billion in bonuses this year. Fabian Hamilton is campaigning to reintroduce Alistair Darling's tax on bankers' bonus - after the bailouts, it's only right that the bankers pay their share.

### ➤ Opposing tuition fee rise

Fabian Hamilton is fighting the proposed huge rise in University tuition fees. Fabian said: "doubling the cost of a degree goes against everything we believe in."

### ➤ Fighting to improve cancer care

The number of cancer patients waiting more than 6 weeks for diagnostic tests before they can begin treatment has nearly doubled under the coalition (source: Sunday Telegraph). Fabian is campaigning to restore the Labour guarantee that waiting times should be no more than two weeks.

### ➤ Speaking up for pensioners

Fabian Hamilton who has championed the cause of Equitable Life policyholders who lost out badly when the company almost collapsed in 2000 has spoken out against the failure of the Tories to honour their pre-election promises to pay full compensation to those affected.

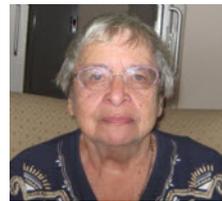
How to Contact Fabian Hamilton MP:  
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Come to an Advice Surgery held at:  
First Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon  
Reginald Centre, Chapeltown Road  
Second Friday each month, 12.30-2pm  
Moor Allerton Library  
Second Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon  
New Testament Church of God  
Fourth Friday each month, 12.30-1.30pm  
Reginald Centre, Chapeltown Road  
Fourth Saturday each month, 10am-12 noon  
Technorth, Harrogate Road  
iContact virtual surgeries: Fabian also holds iContact virtual surgeries by appointment while he is in London. Please phone for further details.

## Coalition cuts hit local people

### Cuts hit the elderly



*"Older people like me are worried about how we are going to pay for everyday essentials after the increase in VAT in January. Why are the Lib Dems supporting the VAT rise when they campaigned against it in the election?" Lorna Cohen, pensioner*

### Cuts hit families



*"The Coalition cuts are bad for families like us. They're cutting schools, working families tax credit and Sure Start centres. Before the election Nick Clegg said cuts would be fair but now they're cutting the services children need " The Gleissner family*

### Cuts hit young people



*"I'm worried about the effects of cuts on young people. Youth unemployment is already really high, and tuition fees are set to double. I feel really let down by Nick Clegg and the lib Dems - they promised to get rid of tuition fees but instead they are doubling them." Tom Clements, student*