

[Greens respond to Conservative manifesto](#)



18 May 2017

***Caroline Lucas brands Conservative manifesto as “misguided” and “cruel”**

The Green Party has responded to the Conservative manifesto, saying it reveals the “recklessness at the heart” of the party’s plans.

Caroline Lucas, Green Party co-leader, said:

“The Tory’s dementia tax and their hardline approach to migration are deeply misguided, and reveal a recklessness at the heart of Theresa May’s plans. The social care changes will hit those in need worst, shifting the cost burden onto individuals and further undermining the welfare state. The lockdown on migration isn’t just economically illiterate and bad for business, it’s cruel too.

“Next week the Green Party will unveil its manifesto and when we do we will be setting out our vision for the confident and caring nation that we believe Britain can be. We will be talking about investing in essential social care, not making people pay more for the privilege of being looked after, reshaping the economy so that it rewards our passions and nurtures our talents, and building an education system that inspires children to create the kind of future we want to see.”

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[Green Party responds to Lib Dem manifesto](#)



17 May 2017

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: “These pledges will never be enough to win back the young voters the Lib Dems betrayed”**

The Green Party has responded to the Lib Dem manifesto, which has been

published online and will be officially launched at an event in London later today [1].

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

“The Lib Dems are trying to repair their broken relationship with young people but these pledges will never be enough to win back the young voters they betrayed in coalition with the Tories. While the Green Party shares some similar policies, such as votes at 16, banning fracking and taking in more refugees, how can we trust the Lib Dems to actually implement them?”

“The Lib Dems are not the only ones with a strong stance on Brexit – the Greens have already promised a second referendum with the option of staying in the EU if voters don’t like the Government’s deal [2].

“But Brexit isn’t the only urgent issue we’re facing – the Lib Dems need to take off their Brexit blinkers and commit to tackling inequality as well. Shouting about Brexit and trying to woo young people will not hide Tim Farron’s terrible voting record: for reducing housing benefit, for the Bedroom Tax and against a bankers’ bonus tax.

“If the Lib Dems truly wanted to create a better future for young people they would be putting the fight against climate change and protecting our planet at the heart of their manifesto. The Lib Dem manifesto lacks a bold vision for the future. The Green Party is the only party committed to offering a real choice on the Brexit deal, protecting the environment and tackling inequality caused by Tory cuts.”

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39942573>
2. <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2017/05/02/greens-give-voters-chance-to-stay-in-eu/>

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[Greens respond to Labour manifesto](#)



16 May 2017

***Manifesto is a ‘step in the right direction’ but ‘fails to address some of the biggest issues of the day’**

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: 'Labour is trying to be all things to all people and failing'**

The Green Party has responded to the Labour Party's manifesto, which was launched in Bradford this morning [1], calling on the party to go further and commit to a full vision for a fair and sustainable future.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"This has been called the boldest Labour manifesto in a generation, and that's no surprise since much of it appears to be based on the Green Party's 2015 manifesto. Where the Greens have led, Labour has followed – but they still have a long way to travel on the road to a truly sustainable future and a fair, open society. It's said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but they have to be consistent.

"Labour is trying to be all things to all people and failing. You can't pour money into Hinkley and create a renewable energy revolution. You can't solve the air pollution crisis while expanding airports and roads. You can't be a peacebuilder while renewing Trident. You can't transition to a new economic model while hanging onto 20th century ideas where growth is the only answer. It's time Labour embraced our full vision for the future instead of cherry picking a few good Green policies, then contradicting them.

"To see the Labour Party give up on freedom of movement and fail to offer a ratification referendum on a final deal with the EU is disappointing. Only the Green Party is committed to keeping Britain close to our European neighbours, building a truly fair economy and protecting our environment. Labour's economics have shifted in a positive way – but they still don't offer a complete package to transform this country for the better."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39930865>

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[Green Party accuses Tories of 'empty promises' on workers' rights](#)



15 May 2017

The Greens have responded to the Conservative Party's announcements on workers' rights today [1].

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"The Conservative credibility gap on workers' rights couldn't be wider. It is almost laughable that the Tories are trying to pitch themselves as a party that stands up for workers' rights. The Conservative Government tried to bring in anti-strike laws [2], oversaw a huge increase in zero hours contracts [3] and attempted to shut down trade unions [4].

"Leaving workers in a precarious position, unsure if they're going to have enough money to pay their rent or food bills, and trying to silence their collective voice is no way to create a happy, healthy workforce. Today's empty promises will not make us forget how the Tories have treated workers with total disdain during their time in Government.

"Theresa May repeatedly says one thing and does another. But the Green Party will always stick up for workers' rights, not just during an election campaign. We're the only party with a positive vision for the future world of work, exploring bold ideas like a shorter working week and universal basic income."

Notes:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2017-39917472>
2. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/24/120-tory-mps-back-calls-tougher-anti-strike-laws-end-rail-misery/>
3. Statistics published in March revealed 905,000 people were employed on zero hours contracts, an increase of about 101,000 in a year: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/people-in-employment-on-a-zero-hours-contract-mar-2017>
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jul/15/trade-unions-conservative-offensive-decades-strikes-labour>

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[Green Party pledges to scrap SATs and ditch academies](#)



15 May 2017

***Green Party promises to plug £7billion funding gap facing education**

***Vix Lowthion: “We need to put the enjoyment, creativity, and inspiration back into school”**

The Green Party has promised to abolish SATs tests and end the academies programme as it announced its plans for an inspiring education system [1].

Vix Lowthion, Green Party education spokesperson and secondary school teacher, has pledged to end the practice of testing children from the age of seven through SATs, freeing teacher and pupils from “pointless, pressured testing”.

The Green Party believes parents and teachers should control children’s education – not businesses – and Ms Lowthion has put forward plans to end the academies programme and bring existing academies back under local authority control.

Ms Lowthion also promised to invest £7billion in the education system to fill the funding gap created by years of underinvestment and cuts. Figures show that by 2020, 99% of schools will have been hit by a funding cut – the average primary school will have lost £103,000, and the average secondary school will have lost £470,000 [2].

Vix Lowthion, Green Party education spokesperson and secondary school teacher, said:

“We want to create an inspiring education system that transforms lives and transforms Britain – but that can’t happen without the very basic foundations being in place and this Government has been removing them brick by brick. How are schools meant to prepare children for life when 99% will suffer from funding cuts and children and teachers are subjected to pointless, pressurised testing?

“We need to make up for the enormous shortfall, the massive neglect, in our education system by plugging the £7billion spending deficit. At the same time as schools are getting less resources, more is being asked of teachers and pupils. Getting rid of SATs tests would be one big step towards putting the enjoyment, creativity, and inspiration back into school and ensure teachers are free to teach.”

The launch of the Green Party’s education policy was held at Sandown Bay Academy in the Isle of Wight, which is facing closure after claims the school is not bringing in enough money [3].

Lowthion added:

“The academies programme has taken schools out of the hands of local authorities and parents and given them over to private businesses. That means that if a school isn’t performing a commercial interest, it can be shut down at will by the owners, leaving pupils without a school to go to. We would bring existing academies back under local authority control so that our children’s education is in the hands of teachers and parents, not

businesses.”

Notes:

1. Details of launch: 10am, Monday 15 May 2017, Sandown Bay Academy, The Fairway, Sandown, P039 9JH.
2. <http://schoolcuts.org.uk/#!/>
3. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-3987584>

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