

We know the difference Labour in local government can make – Andrew Gwynne will today address Labour Party Conference

Andrew

Gwynne MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, speaking at the Labour Party's Annual Conference in Brighton, will say:

On the work of Labour councils, Andrew Gwynne will say:

"We know the difference Labour in local government can make.

"In Bristol, Labour has pushed the social care crisis into the spotlight – leading the call for city leaders to come together to lobby central government over cuts.

"South Tyneside has developed a purpose-built facility to support integrated health and care services, designed to support the needs of those with varying stages of dementia.

"In London, Sadiq Khan, has called an end to Boris's vanity projects, instead prioritising the development of new affordable housing.

"In Greater Manchester and Merseyside, our Metro Mayors, Andy Burnham and Steve Rotheram, understand that 'a Northern Powerhouse' is one built by local people, and by investing in our communities – and not through slogans alone.

"Labour in local government will continue to innovate to make a real difference to people's lives. But I also know the very difficult decisions that councillors have had to make over the past seven years as this Tory government sneakily attempts to devolve the blame for their cuts away from Whitehall – to local councillors in Town Halls."

On funding

for local government, Andrew Gwynne will say:

"Police cuts. Fire Service cuts. SureStart closures. The crisis in social care. They all have the same root cause: a Tory dogmatic vision of a smaller state.

"We cannot empower our communities if we impoverish them. That's why we have promised to put council funding on a sustainable footing. Councils

would be £1.5bn better off under a Labour Government next year.”

On empowering local communities, Andrew Gwynne will say:

“A generation of outsourcing and forced privatisation of public services, has hollowed out the capacity of our councils to deliver for our communities.

“Today I can announce Labour’s radical plan to renew faith in local services and deliver a renaissance of local government.

“We will give councils greater powers to deliver services themselves – because our services should be run for our local communities alone.

“We’ll extend transparency and Freedom of Information rules, so that communities know where their money is going.

“And we’ll end the two tier workforce with a “Fair Wage” clause.

“Taken together, this will be some of the largest set of reforms to local government in modern times: empowering communities and rebuilding local institutions and local services. Because they’re our public services – and we should always put people first.”

[Labour will take action to end period poverty – Dawn Butler speech](#)

Dawn Butler MP, Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, speaking at the Labour Party Women’s Conference in Brighton today, said:

*****CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*****

Welcome to the start of Conference – yes Labour Party Conference starts today, starts now – and starts with you.

In celebration of Jeremy’s new, kinder politics, I wanted you to be the first ones I share my cleanest political joke with. What have Theresa May and a circle got in common? There’s just no point in them.

Good morning. My name is Dawn Butler, and I am your new Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities.

In this new role, I want to tackle all injustices – my teachers told me I wouldn’t amount to anything – racism and sexism has always featured heavily in my journey. I have always worked in male-dominated industries, and it was the trade union movement that taught me that others will stand beside me in

my times of despair. It taught me that united we stand, divided we fall.

Today, at our new transitional Women's Conference, be united in our fight against injustice.

All of you in this room are phenomenal women – what are you?

Our Conference today is to discuss policy, but also to empower you and for you to empower others.

We are all on a journey and, as Martin Luther King said, "I cannot be where I ought, until you are where you ought to be, that is the interrelated structure of reality."

Therefore, how you travel your journey is vital. Your dream should not be built on the pain of other women. You should not travel your journey on the backs of women, so they are looking down whilst you climb up. You should aim to travel your journey on the shoulders of women. Let other women look up to you as you progress.

If you are on the ladder of success, lay the foundations for an escalator.

If you are on the escalator, lay the foundations for a lift. Ensure that the women following behind you have an easier journey, and be proud that you have helped smooth her journey. Be a friend of women.

We may have a female Prime Minister, but she is no friend of women. She says all the right things, but her deeds are destructive – 86% of her Government's cuts have fallen on women. Black and Asian women have suffered particularly badly. And disabled women really suffered, so much so that a UN panel criticised our Government for not protecting the rights of disabled people in this country.

Since 2010, women's life expectancy has worsened. We will not live as long as other women around Europe. This Government is literally killing us.

I want us at this Conference to commit to helping women and young girls; females who can't afford to buy sanitary products. I want us at the start of Labour Conference to lead the way and say no more period poverty. Say it after me – no more period poverty.

On average, every female spends around £5000 in their lifetime on sanitary products. In the year 2000, Labour reduced the VAT on sanitary products from 17.5% to 5%. It was a good start, but we could have done better. David Cameron was pressured by the tampon tax campaign, helped by one of my team, the MP for Dewsbury. But the response has been lacking in real commitment.

Low income families shouldn't have the additional burden of struggling to afford sanitary products; or homeless women suffering on the streets; or young girls having to use socks in their pants; or missing school once a month because they just can't afford sanitary protection.

There are many solutions to this problem: free sanitary products in schools and colleges; free prescriptions for sanitary protection or reusable cups.

With all of our efforts, we could eradicate the problem in our lifetime. After all, it's not our choice whether we have periods. It's far from a luxury, so why should we suffer? If men had periods, this would have been resolved a long time ago – period.

I am proud to announce here today that you are now part of Labour's official launch on period poverty.

The next Labour Government will provide funding for free sanitary products for secondary schools, foodbanks and homeless shelters,

I will work with Monica Lennon MSP, Member of the Scottish Labour Party, who has tabled an excellent Bill on period poverty.

The Labour Party wants all women, regardless of age, social status or background, to be able to easily access the sanitary products they need.

We will pay for it by scrapping vanity projects like grammar schools and free schools.

I am a phenomenal woman.

Intersectionality, is about double, triple or quadruple discrimination. I will admit at first, I didn't like the word, mainly because I could hardly say it. But I realised during my journey I have suffered triple discrimination. I used to be discriminated against because I was black, being a woman and I was young. OK, one of those is no longer an issue, although in Parliament with the average age still being around 75, I am still quite young

Just imagine, a working class, trade unionist, black woman, I became an MP against the odds, and I became the first black woman in the House of Commons to ever be a Minister in the UK. It was not easy, but as time goes on, I realise we are all phenomenal women, and anything is possible.

This is a hammer blow to the economic credibility of the Tories and Philip Hammond – Peter Dowd MP

Peter Dowd MP, Labour's Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, responding to the down grading of the UK's credit rating by Moody's, said:

"This is a hammer blow to the economic credibility of the Tories and Philip Hammond, who used to claim it was "critical" for the UK to maintain the highest credit ratings.

"For the second time under the Tories the UK's credit rating has been

downgraded, and on this occasion citing their lack of faith in the Chancellor to meet his own spending targets as a result of unfunded spending commitments such as the deal with the DUP.

“Only Labour has a plan for a strong growing economy underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule. A Labour Government will provide much needed high-paid, high-skilled jobs to build a country for the many not the few.”

[Andy McDonald MP comments on Transport for London's decision to not renew Uber's licence](#)

Andy McDonald MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, commenting on Transport for London's decision to not renew Uber's licence, said:

“All companies must play by the rules and adhere to high standards—particularly when it comes to the safety of passengers.

“The type of arrangements used by Uber seem to be specifically designed so that the company can circumvent regulations and dodge their responsibilities, undermining passenger safety and workers' rights throughout the industry.

“Despite the Law Commission recommending the wholesale reform of taxi and private hire vehicle legislation more than three years ago, the Tories have failed to act.

“Labour would overhaul the current regulations, so that it keeps up with the changes to technology, and further ensures a level playing field for companies, proper employment rights for all workers, and a good and safe service for passengers.”

[The Government is still no clearer about what our long term relationship with the EU will look like...](#)

The Government is still no clearer about what our long term relationship with the EU will look like – Corbyn

Jeremy Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour party, responding to the Prime Minister's speech in Florence, said:

"Fifteen months after the EU referendum the Government is still no clearer about what our long term relationship with the EU will look like.

"The only advance seems to be that the Prime Minister has listened to Labour and faced up to the reality that Britain needs a transition on the same basic terms to provide stability for businesses and workers.

"That's because Theresa May and her Conservative cabinet colleagues are spending more time negotiating with each other rather than with the EU.

"The Tories have made clear they want to use Brexit to deregulate and cut taxes for the wealthy. Labour wants a Jobs-First Brexit that uses powers returned from Brussels to invest and upgrade Britain's economy."