**Labour Manifesto: Relevant policies to REC Members**

**Below is a summary of policies in the 2024 Labour Party General Election manifesto most relevant to REC members. These have been directly taken from the manifesto and the specific wording is not necessarily the view of the REC.**

**The Economy, Business and Jobs**

* Introduce a new industrial strategy, which will work in partnership with industry. This will accompany an Industrial Strategy Council, which will consist of business, trade unions and civil society.
* Commitment towards one major fiscal event a year to ensure stability for businesses and society.
* Cap corporation tax at the current level of 25%.
* Retain full expensing system for capital investment and the annual investment allowance for small business
* Overhaul the business rates system and ensure that there is a level the playing field between the high street and online giants.
* Labour will not increase following taxes: National Insurance, the basic, higher, or additional rates of Income Tax, or VAT.
* Take action on late payments to ensure small businesses and the self-employed are paid on time.
* Modernise HMRC and change the law to tackle tax avoidance. Will involve enhanced registration and reporting requirements, strengthening HMRC’s powers, investment in new technology and build capacity within HMRC.
* Establish a National Wealth Fund to support economic growth and clean energy.

**Skills**

* Scrap the Apprenticeship Levy and instead create a flexible Growth and Skills Levy.
* Labour to establish Skills England, which will bring together businesses, training providers and trade unions with national and local government to ensure we have the highly trained workforce needed to deliver Labour’s Industrial Strategy.
* Skills England will formally work with the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to make sure training in England accounts for the overall needs of the labour market.
* Create a comprehensive strategy for post-16 education
* Commitment to devolving adult skills funding to Combined Authorities.

**Health and Social Care**

* Cut NHS waiting times with 40,000 more appointments each week, during evenings and weekends
* Deliver an extra two million NHS operations, scans, and appointments every year; that is 40,000 more appointments every week. We will do this by incentivising staff to carry out additional appointments out of hours.
* Publish regular, independent workforce planning, across health and social care. Deliver the NHS long-term workforce plan to train the staff we need to get patients seen on time
* Develop an NHS innovation and adoption strategy in England. This will include a plan for procurement, giving a clearer route to get products into the NHS. They will undertake a programme of reform to create a National Care Service, underpinned by national standards, delivering consistency of care across the country.
* Establish a Fair Pay Agreement in adult social care.

**Education**.

* Recruit 6,500 new teachers in key subjects to set children up for life, work and the future, paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools

**Immigration**

* Reform the points-based immigration system so that it is fair and properly managed, with appropriate restrictions on visas, and by linking immigration and skills policy.
* Labour say that they will not tolerate employers or recruitment agencies abusing the visa system. And will not stand for breaches of employment law. They say that employers who flout the rules will be barred from hiring workers from abroad.
* End the ‘long-term reliance on overseas workers’ in some parts of the economy by bringing in workforce and training plans for sectors such as health and social care, and construction.

**Employment rights and Labour’s Plan To Make Work Pay**

* Labour say that **Britain’s employment laws are ‘outdated and not fit for the modern economy’**
* **Labour’s Plan to Make Work Pay means**  introducing legislation within 100 days. Banning exploitative zero hours contracts; ending fire and rehire; and introducing basic rights from day one to parental leave, sick pay, and protection from unfair dismissal.
* Create a Single Enforcement Body to ensure employment rights are upheld.
* Bring Jobcentre Plus and the National Careers Service together to provide a national jobs and careers service.
* Establish a youth guarantee of access to training, an apprenticeship, or support to find work for all 18- to 21-year-olds.
* Guarantee two weeks’ worth of work experience for every young person, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges.
* Remove age bands, so all adults are entitled to the same minimum wage.
* Introduce a Race Equality Act, to enshrine in law the full right to equal pay for Black, Asian, and other ethnic minority people, strengthen protections against dual discrimination and root out other racial inequalities.

**Transport**

* Bring railways back into public ownership - Great British Railways, will deliver a unified system that focuses on ‘reliable, affordable, high-quality, and efficient services, along with ensuring safety and accessibility’. It will be responsible for investment, day-to-day operational delivery and innovations and improvements for passengers, working with publicly-owned rail operators in Wales and Scotland.
* Introduce new powers for local leaders to franchise local bus services - and give local communities in England control over routes and schedules.

**Welfare**

* Reform or replace the Work Capability Assessment alongside a proper plan to support disabled people to work.
* Work with local areas to create plans to support more disabled people and those with health conditions in work. They will offer devolved funding so local areas can shape a joined-up work, health, and skills offer for local people.
* Tackle the backlog of Access to Work claims and give disabled people the confidence to start working.
* Review universal credit.