

Conference Chronicle Special



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What is our Progress so far?

In 2010 Britain was borrowing nearly £160 billion; we were in the middle of the deepest recession since the war a year and unemployment had increased by nearly half a million.

Since 2010:

- The **deficit cut** by over a third;
- **Income tax cut** for over 25 million people
- **Benefits capped** to reward work
- 1.8 million **more people in employment**
- The **state pension increased** by £800
- More children in **good and outstanding schools**
- **Immigration down** on its peak under Labour
- 50,000 **families with a home** thanks to Help to Buy

But the job is not done and there is still more to do.

That is why we need a Conservative government that is able to follow through a clear programme of economic and social reform which builds on what has been started.

So to a Better Future

Control spending

The belief that government can spend its way out of trouble is what caused the problem. It led to high borrowing and a mountain of debt which killed the growth which is necessary to raise living standards. Conservatives want to see improving public services and we are willing to pay for them. But we are not willing to burden the economy with debt which depresses living standards and leaves a crushing legacy to the next generation.

Conservatives will therefore insist on effective controls in order to ensure spending is affordable and efficient.

Cut income tax.

We promise to cut income tax, not because it is popular but because it is right to reward success and enterprise and encourage growth. Conservatives will:

Raise the personal allowance to £12,500. Over the next parliament we shall raise the personal allowance from £10,500 at the beginning to £12,500 by then end. It will take a million people out of paying income tax, and mean no one working 30 hours a week on the minimum wage would pay any income tax.

Raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. By April 2020 we shall increase the rate at which people pay the higher rate of tax to £50,000, from the £42,285 it will be from April 2015.

Promote job creation Job creation requires the right opportunities and incentives. Conservatives will:

Expand real apprenticeships. Conservatives will create 3 million real apprenticeships which combine training with experience of work with a wage.

End unconditional Job Seekers Allowance for unemployed 18-21 year olds Conservatives will limit benefits for young unemployed people to six months, after which they will have to take an apprenticeship, a Traineeship that leads to an Apprenticeship, or do daily community work for their benefits.

End Housing Benefit for 18-21 year olds Young Conservatives will end entitlement to Housing Benefit for unemployed people aged 18-21, except in special cases.

Cap welfare Labour increased welfare spending by 60%. Conservatives will continue to shift the balance in favour of people who work hard and play by the rules.

Freeze benefits for two years Conservatives will freeze discretionary working-age benefits for two additional years from April 2016, saving £3.2 billion a year by 2017/18.

Protect disability and pensioner benefits. Benefits for the most vulnerable will continue to rise in line with inflation.

Reduce immigration and ensure that people coming to UK are doing so for the right reasons – to work hard and contribute to our society.

Raise education standards A good education prepares young people for life. It helps them prepare for the responsibilities of adulthood, as well as acquiring the skills and knowledge required to compete in the global market place. Conservatives will:

Open 35 new Free Schools which will create up to 22,000 new high quality school places.

Reform exams and school curriculum to ensure they reflect the changing needs of our society;

Support the growth of universities and colleges so that British institutions continue to attract the brightest and best teaching staff and students from all over the world.

Expand health and social care so Care of the sick and elderly is the hallmark of a civilized society. As we all live longer Conservatives will:

Protect NHS funding to ensure that growing resources are available to meet growing need in the NHS;

Reform community services to ensure they deliver a joined up supportive service to dependent people.

Reform pensions so people who have worked and saved all their lives will have financial independence and security to enjoy their retirement, and be able to pass more onto their children and grandchildren. Conservatives will

Abolish the 55 per cent tax on pension pots. In future, when the deceased is 75 or over *any* beneficiary will only have to pay their marginal income tax rate, normally 20 per cent, when they draw down the pension.

Enable people who die before they are 75 to pass on their pension pot tax-free. The beneficiary will not pay any tax when they inherit the pension, nor will they have to pay any tax on the income they draw down. The Lifetime Allowance of £1.25 million will remain unchanged.

Allow all beneficiaries freedom to draw down income from a pension pot There will be no restriction on the amount that can be withdrawn at any one time.

Tackle tax avoidance Tax avoidance simply means others pay more. Conservatives will prevent multinationals diverting profits offshore. Conservative ministers will outlaw complex arrangements designed for the sole purpose of avoiding tax.

And lastly, UKIP

A vote for UKIP will simply make it more likely that Ed Miliband becomes Prime Minister and Labour forms a Government. A vote for UKIP will deliver more tax, more borrowing, and more inefficient and ineffective spending.

It will see Britain slip back to uncontrolled immigration, unlimited benefits, and the British people will again be denied their say on Europe in a referendum.



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Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP
Regular surgeries are held. If you want to see Stephen Dorrell ring the number above for and appointment.



MEMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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