

# Shape Labour's Manifesto for London



## Business, growth and jobs

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### The challenge

Working Londoners and businesses drive growth and prosperity in the capital, and it is vital that London's Mayor stands up for both.

Our entrepreneurs, small and large businesses create the jobs and wealth that make London one of the world's great commercial centres. But too often, those who seek to grow are constrained by barriers – such as soaring bills for energy and rent and difficulty accessing finance. For many businesses, and especially those in our booming new industrial sectors such as technology and low carbon, as well as some more traditional areas including finance, it is a lack of available workers in London with the skills that they need that creates the biggest barrier to growth.

Working Londoners are the people who make our economy function. But there are still too many who are not paid enough to afford a decent standard of living. And too many of our young people are never given access to the opportunities they deserve. Meanwhile, the current Mayor refuses to engage with the representatives of London's workers, which has led to unnecessary industrial dispute, and inconvenience for Londoners.

London's standing as one of the world's greatest centres of commerce is built on our openness to ideas, people and trade. So many of our businesses and jobs rely on our trading relationship with our European neighbours. So those, like Zac Goldsmith, who are in favour of leaving the EU pose a grave threat to London's prosperity, putting jobs and growth at risk.

### Sadiq's plan

Sadiq will be the most pro-business Mayor of London yet. He will stand up for London's businesses and workers, making sure that all of our industries are given the chance to grow, and working with them to remove barriers to prosperity.

Meanwhile, Sadiq will ensure that all of London's workers get their fair share of the prosperity that we collectively create, with a real London Living Wage for all, an emphasis on fairness, and a positive, constructive relationship with our trade unions.

- **Taking growth seriously:** Sadiq will always ensure the voice of business is heard in major decisions affecting London's future – for example on infrastructure, planning and skills. He will ensure business' infrastructure needs are met – backing additional capacity at Gatwick Airport, solving London's broadband challenge and delivering the transport upgrades the capital needs to move people and goods quickly and cleanly
- **Promoting the jobs of the future:** Sadiq will work with businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs to support new and exciting growth areas of the future. He will protect the small workspaces and workshops so vital to new companies getting off the ground, support greater access to finance and deliver the skills and infrastructure that underpin expansion and wealth creation.
- **Skills for Londoners:** To address the shortage of skills which leaves many businesses struggling to find enough workers to grow, Sadiq will work with industry, educators and communities in partnership to deliver a coherent, integrated and high profile

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skills strategy, creating new talent pipelines for growth industries like tech, low carbon and construction, and ensuring all young Londoners get the core skills that they need to succeed on work.

- **Make London a living wage city:** All Londoners should be paid a real London Living Wage. Sadiq will task the GLA Economic team with calculating a new rate taking into account the Government's cuts to tax credits. And he will work to encourage all employers to become living wage employers, using public procurement to ensure the Mayor sets an example.
- **A new focus on fairness:** A new fairness team at City Hall will oversee public procurement and work with businesses to promote fair pay, good working conditions and promote apprenticeships. It will issue a new London business compact, recognising great employers.
- **London in Europe:** Sadiq will play a leading role in campaigning for Britain to stay in Europe, which provides London's businesses with access to the world's largest market.
- **Positive industrial relations:** London needs a Mayor who listens to the people who work in our public services. Sadiq will reverse the current Mayor's closed door approach and engage constructively with the staff of the GLA, TfL and other London service workers and their representatives.

## Questions for consultation

1. What are the key opportunities for growth in London and how can the Mayor support business to make the most of them?
2. What barriers to growth exist for small, medium and large businesses, and how can they be overcome?
3. How can we ensure that Londoners have the skills that they and business need to succeed? How can we create more apprenticeships and support young people into successful and rewarding careers?
4. What do we need to do to ensure all Londoners are paid a decent wage and treated fairly in work?
5. What barriers exist to work and how can we tackle them, and back all Londoners to succeed?
6. What other priorities and challenges exist in this area?

## Take part in the consultation:



The consultation closes at **6pm on 27 November 2015**, so please do get in touch by then. You can fill this in online at: [labour.org.uk/shape-labours-london-manifesto](http://labour.org.uk/shape-labours-london-manifesto)



If you would prefer to make your submission **by post**, you can send it to London Labour Party, One Brewer's Green, London SW1H 0RH.