

## Harriet Harman - MP for Camberwell and Peckham

Newsletter - June 2015

### Challenging David Cameron at PMQ's

Since the Prime Minister came to power the percentage of people owning their own homes has fallen. He has also failed on his promise that for every social home sold another would be built. I raised this along with his failed promises on childcare, changes to child benefit and shared parental leave with grandparents. I also challenged his opposition to votes for 16 and 17 year olds in his proposed EU referendum.



### In Defence of Human Rights

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June we celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, which helped form the basis for modern democracy, human rights & the rule of law. I gave a speech about the importance of protecting the Human Rights Act, outlining the following:

- \* The key role of the Human Rights Act in protecting British rights
- \* The importance of being clear and resolute in your support for human rights
- \* David Cameron's plans to alter the Human Rights Act are politically and constitutionally destabilising
- \* The Labour Party will protect our human rights and we must remain within the framework of the ECHR

You can read the speech on my website: <http://www.harrietharman.org>

### Labour's response to the Queen's Speech

The Government's legislative plans for this Parliamentary session were delivered in the Queen's speech on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. In my response I argued that Britain faces a fragile future for our economy, our constitution and our public services, and we fear that this Tory Government will make things worse. The real question is whether this Queen's Speech will improve our country, our communities and people's lives. That is the test that will be set for this Government and the standard to which we, as the Opposition, will hold them to account. The speech is on my website: [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org)



### New Mayor for Southwark

I warmly congratulate our new Mayor Councillor Dora-Dixon Fyle. Dora has tirelessly served her Camberwell constituents for over 15 years and she will be an outstanding Mayor for Southwark.



### Welcoming our new CLP members and Labour MP's

I'd like to warmly welcome all our new Labour Party members in Camberwell & Peckham. Since the General Election 170 new members have joined which takes our membership to 1,228! I welcomed our 53 new Labour MP's to Parliament including Southwark's new Labour MP's Neil Coyle and Helen Hayes.

## Learning the Lessons from Defeat

Labour has set up a 'Learning the Lessons from Defeat' Taskforce, chaired by Margaret Beckett MP, to look at the reasons why we lost the General Election. We cannot waste this defeat. It should, and must, have profound implications for the future direction of our party. Over the past few weeks I have been around the country speaking to our candidates, members and activists to ask their opinions and hear their experiences. The Taskforce includes representatives from all parts of the Labour Party and will report to the new leadership and the NEC in September. I would encourage you to take part and submit your views. You can find more details on my website: [www.harrietharman.org](http://www.harrietharman.org)

## Leadership & Deputy Leadership Elections

The following people have been nominated for the Labour Party leadership contests:

### Leader:

Andy Burnham, Yvette Cooper, Jeremy Corbyn and Liz Kendall

### Deputy Leader:

Ben Bradshaw, Stella Creasey, Angela Eagle, Caroline Flint and Tom Watson

Ballots will go out on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. It's a good opportunity for you to encourage your family & friends to become a member or register as a supporter so they can vote - [www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)

## Southwark's Housing Crisis

There's a housing crisis in Southwark with people not able to afford to buy, private rents too expensive and long waiting lists for council and housing association homes. Council tenants currently have the right to buy their homes at a discount. But the problem is the Government didn't keep its promise to replace them. Now the Government is planning to give tenants in housing associations, like council tenants, a discount to buy their own homes. There are currently 16,500 housing association tenancies in Southwark and under the new policy an estimated 8,600 of these homes will be opened up for tenants to buy. Southwark's housing associations tell me that this is not the right policy. To pay for the housing association discount, under these new proposals, Southwark Council would have to sell off its most expensive properties, when they become empty, including 30% of the homes they've just built. Extending Right to Buy to housing association tenants would mean very few people will get on the housing ladder while waiting lists for council and housing association homes will only grow. My Southwark News column is on my website: [www.harrietharman.org/southwark\\_news\\_column](http://www.harrietharman.org/southwark_news_column)

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**MY ADVICE SURGERIES ARE AT  
Walworth Methodist Church 'Clubland'  
54 Camberwell Road, SE5 0EW**



Next advice surgery dates:

Fri 26 June 9am

Tue 21 July 5pm  
Fri 31 July 9am

Tue 11 Aug 5pm  
Fri 21 Aug 9am

*Getting to Clubland: Bus Routes: 468, 148, 171, 45, 68, 176, 12*

## Casework Update June 2015

Since my last report in Feb 2015:

- Action on 1,365
- Including 529 new cases
- 9 advice surgeries
- Attended by 248 people
- Average reply time: 7.5 working days

