

SME4 Labour

SMEs account for 99.3 per cent
of all private sector businesses
in the UK

2019 - 2020

www.sme4labour.org

SMEs had a combined
turnover of over £2 trillion
last year



“SME4Labour provides small businesses with a way to have their voices heard, which are too often drowned out by larger companies and corporations.”

Jeremy Corbyn MP
Leader of the Labour Party



“I wish to thank SME4Labour for the major contribution the group has made to developing and campaigning so successfully for Labour’s policies. SME4Labour has really made its mark on our political direction.”

John McDonnell MP
Shadow Chancellor



“The Labour Party understands that SMEs are the lifeblood of our communities, as most small businesses create jobs and reinvest in their local areas.”

Ibrahim Dogus
Co-chair of SME4Labour

Small & Medium Enterprises **for Labour**



“Delicious food, beautiful atmosphere”

WESTMINSTER KITCHEN

Steaks&Burgers

Book now

020 7928 1986



**WESTMINSTER
KITCHEN**
GRILL HOUSE

Contact us
for all your
fundraising
dinners

www.westminsterkitchen.com

House, Unit 3A, County Hall, Belvedere Rd, Lambeth, SE1 7GP



Ibrahim Dogus
Co-chair of SME4Labour

For so long, debate has been dominated by discussions about Brexit, freedom of movement, or the customs union. The nation conversation has been largely conducted at the level of macro-economics, and geo-politics; big sweeping themes about the future of our nation, and our nation's place in the global economy. But it is vital that the voice of small and medium enterprise is not lost amidst all the noise.

In 2017, there were 5.7 million businesses in the UK. Of these, 99% are SMEs, employing fewer than 250 people. And amazingly, 96% of British businesses are micro-businesses, employing fewer than nine people. Total employment in SMEs was 16.3 million; 60% of all private sector employment in the UK. The combined annual turnover of SMEs was £2.0 trillion, 52% of all private sector turnover.

So it is SMEs which are creating the jobs, generating the wealth, and providing the goods and services that keep Britain going. And unlike some of the transnational companies that operate in the UK, SMEs pay their taxes and behave like good citizens. There was a time when it was regarded as axiomatic that the Tories were the party of small and medium enterprises.

Mrs Thatcher famously learned her economics in her father's grocers' shop.

They used to say Labour was compassionate, but incompetent. And the Tories were cruel, but competent. But not any more. Now we know Labour can be compassionate and run the economy, And the Tories? Bedroom tax? Universal Credit? Brexit? Well, now the world can see the Tories are cruel and incompetent. The Tories have left SMEs behind, ignoring their needs.

That's why SME4Labour was founded, because we knew so many SME owners and entrepreneurs who share Labour

values, and want to see a Labour Government. Family-run businesses which care about their community.

Businesses created by immigrants to the UK, who want to be model citizens.

Businesses which generate local jobs and provide the glue which hold communities together. So of course there should be strong ties between SMEs and the Labour Party, because our interests are aligned and we care about the same things.

I was honoured to be a Parliamentary candidate at the last general election, and the offer we made to SMEs was serious, thought-through, and it went down well with SME owners. From regional investment banks to ending late payments, we had the right policies, against the backdrop of public sector investment and infrastructure investment which would get the economy moving, all the way down the supply chain.

We have solid policies for SMEs:

- Reform government procurement to make sure that it supports good businesses and local industry.
- Re-introduce the small profit rate of corporation tax and commit to no quarterly reporting for businesses below the VAT threshold.
- Radically reform business rates to ease the burden on the traditional high street and town centres in an age of online shopping and to create a fairer system of business taxation for all.
- Take action on late payment to prevent the exploitation of small and medium sized businesses to ensure every business, regardless of size has every opportunity to flourish.

I hope and trust that the next Labour manifesto will go even further to support SMEs. We want tougher rules on late

payment, cracking down on the cowboys and fraudsters. We want a radical new approach to tax, not just closing the loopholes and ending avoidance, but looking at new models which match the new economy. The fact is we have an analogue tax system for a digital economy and it must be radically reformed. We need to protect workers' rights in this new economy, especially those SMEs which employ only their owner.

The rise in sole traders, start-ups, and freelancers is welcome, but it creates a new kind of worker, without protection and without a workplace. The economy is transforming before our eyes. Automation, Artificial Intelligence, 3-D printing, driverless vehicles – these things are not science fiction, they are real. And our systems of law and our public institutions are playing catch-up.

We know the Conservative Party cannot equip our country for the future.

Only Labour can prepare us for what is to come.

SME4Labour is ready to play our part, reflecting the real, dynamic, innovative part of the economy.

And of course all of our fantastic activity has to be paid for, so we welcome our generous donors and financial supporters, and thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

With an election looming, SME4Labour will be called upon once again to bring SMEs and Labour together in hundreds of constituencies.

Even if the Tories limp on, we will be active, developing the relationships and building the bridges we need between SMEs and Labour, and I hope you will join us.



Jeremy Corbyn MP
Leader of the Labour Party

“SME4Labour provides small businesses with a way to have their voices heard, which are too often drowned out by larger companies and corporations. I’d like to thank and congratulate my colleagues in the SME4Labour team for their contribution to an economic policy that works for the many, not the few.”



John McDonnell MP
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

“I wish to thank SME4Labour for the major contribution the group has made to developing and campaigning so successfully for Labour’s policies. SME4Labour has really made its mark on our political direction”



Tom Watson MP
Deputy Leader of the Labour Party

“SME4Labour is a vital component of the conversation that the Labour Party will have with voters between now and the 2020 election. More than five million small and medium enterprises in Britain employ over 15 million people, and are the productive frontier of our future economy. Clear, strong and close relations between our party’s policy makers and SMEs are critical, and SME4Labour is playing a strong and innovative role in providing that platform.”



Jennie Formby
General Secretary of the Labour Party

“SMEs are the backbone of our economy and SME4Labour provides a vital platform for us to communicate with hard working people of the small business community. Under a Labour Government, led by Jeremy Corbyn, our policies would encourage growth and a level playing field for all SMEs.

I am delighted to see a growing number of SMEs joining Labour and supporting our message of hope.”



Sonny Leong

Co-Chair of SME4Labour and Chair of Chinese for Labour

“99.9% of private sector businesses are SMEs, employing an estimated 15.7 million people, which is well over half the private sector workforce. It accounts for nearly half of private sector turnover at £1.8 trillion. SMEs are not only the source of many people’s livelihoods but also the dominant driver for growth and creativity in our economy. Every national business success – Amstrad, Virgin, Innocent, Ella’s Kitchen – began life as a small business, as a glint of ambition in their founder’s eye.

Yet start-ups face huge challenges. 7 out of 10 don’t make it through their third year due to a lack of working capital, business planning and entrepreneurial skills. This is an area where an active government can use its powers to ensure that startups can fulfil their potential.

More than 8 million people work in more than 5 million micro-businesses, those that have less than ten people, in this country – an existence that can be a source of great innovation and creativity, but can also be a very insecure experience.

We need to continue and build on these efforts under Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership. To that end, SME4Labour: a group of Labour supporters from every part of the party offer support, advice and policy suggestions to the Shadow Business team.

With a goal of a more fair and sustainable economy, we will look to cover a range of areas, including:

- Recognising the importance of micro-business by pushing for a dedicated shadow minister and local council leader for this group.
- Catalysing start up growth through investment relief; using unused council property as start-up hubs; reducing red tape and providing greater practical support; and enabling greater access to sectoral business mentors and advisers.
- Expanding the reach of small businesses by pushing the government to help SMEs access international markets too often dominated by bigger organisations.
- Deepening the partnership economy by developing the same links big business has built with educational institutions to connect SMEs with schools.

In all of these areas, the Labour values of partnership, internationalism and common endeavour are very much of benefit to business AND to working people of all backgrounds who want make the most of their talents and potential.

That, for me, is what Labour is all about – bringing each of us a life of success, by building a successful society - together. That’s what SME4Labour is about. It’s why I will continue to give my all to Labour under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.”



Chi Onwurah MP

“Small businesses are the engine of our economy and the platform for our future growth. We need to invest in and nurture small businesses and encourage entrepreneurs from all backgrounds, if we are to build an economy that works for all.”

Messages of Support



Debbie Abraham MP

“Our small business sector is the power-house of the economy, contributing 47% of the UK’s income in the private sector and constituting over 99% of all businesses and the majority of private sector jobs. Small businesses are critical to boosting aggregate levels of productivity in the UK. For sustainable and healthy growth, we need to support and nurture our entrepreneurs and small businesses.

“But one of the issues facing SMEs and which has a direct impact on their productivity is late payments by large companies to their suppliers. That’s why I have worked closely with SMEs in my campaign Be Fair – Pay on Time to tackle the scourge of late payments. I was delighted our recent manifesto “declared war on late payments” and promised to both use government procurement to ensure that anyone bidding for a government contract pays its own suppliers within 30 day and develop a version of the Australian system of binding arbitration and fines for persistent late-payers for the private and public sectors.”



Angela Rayner MP

“Comprising over 99% of private sector businesses in the UK, small and medium enterprises are the backbone of the economy. I’m delighted that the Labour Party has such a close relationship with SMEs through SME4Labour. It is no secret that the Labour Party is the only party committed to a fair deal for working people and so this relationship is essential when 60% of all private sector employment in the UK is in small businesses.

Supporting small businesses to be successful is an essential part of Labour’s agenda for government. I believe that our policy of introducing a lower small profits rate of corporation tax for SMEs and scrapping quarterly reporting for businesses with a turnover of less than £85,000 will go some way to reducing the financial and administrative burden that small businesses currently face under the Tories. In my own education brief I know that our plans for a National Education Service will ensure that people have the skills that they need to get on and that businesses have the highly trained workforce that they require to be successful. I am very pleased to be joining the SME4Labour gala and hope that this strong relationship with the Labour Party continues to develop in the coming years.”



Richard Burgon MP

“Small and medium enterprises make a huge contribution to our shared prosperity, and provide an important number of jobs in Leeds East. That’s why I’m pleased to support the fantastic work SME4Labour does working in partnership with these enterprises, trade unions and the Labour Party to develop Labour’s plan for growth and a fairer society.”



Bill Esterson MP

“SMEs are responsible for 60% of private sector jobs. Smaller businesses are often the source of the innovation and creativity which we need to unlock to boost our productivity and growth. Labour’s plans for a National Investment Bank, access to government contracts and making sure larger firms pay their suppliers promptly will all help businesses start and grow.

Our investment in infrastructure and growth are crucial to the success of businesses of all sizes. The next Labour government will put the economy first in negotiating Brexit and make sure we maintain membership of the single market and customs union during a transition period for as long as business economy needs. We want a deal which maximizes our access to our biggest market in the EU and minimizes disruption after that we leave. That includes guaranteeing the rights of EU citizens who make such a massive contribution to so many businesses in the UK. Business needs government to be its partner, along with our workforce. SMEs need a fair market and the chance to compete on an equal footing with larger businesses. The next Labour government will stand up for businesses, especially smaller businesses, which are at the heart of our communities and are the key to our future success.”



Peter Dowd MP

“SMEs are vital in growing a sustainable economy and SME4Labour pays a crucial role in that goal. Hearing what SME4Labour have to say on this is important in shaping Labour’s economic position.”



Baroness Hayter
Shadow Deputy Leader
of the House of Lords

“Given the potential impact of Brexit on SMEs, it is vital Labour hears direct from them about their hopes and fears so that our policy responses reflect their needs. SME4Labour is the channel for this dialogue, and we look forward to working with them in the year ahead.”

Messages of Support



Lesley Laird MP

“From Kirkcaldy to Kelty and Cowdenbeath to Crosshill, SMEs are the backbone and heartbeat of the Scottish economy. In Scotland, SMEs account for 99.4% of all businesses, 55% of private sector employment and 40% of private sector turnover. It is for this reason that I am delighted to see so many SMEs come together in support of Labour. We are proud to be the party of SMEs and we will always act in their best interests.”



Liz McInnes MP

“SMEs are absolutely vital to our local economy in Heywood and Middleton, and to the British economy as a whole. As we face the challenges and opportunities of Brexit, it is crucial they are given the support and certainty necessary to thrive. The work that SME4Labour does is very important in highlighting the significance of this and I am happy to give them my full support.”



Jim Fitzpatrick MP

“Small and medium enterprises provide 60% of private sector jobs in the UK and are a vital part of local communities up and down the country - they need the support of the Government to thrive.
“Labour is the party of SMEs. Given the changes the UK economy is about to go through, we must ensure they're fully equipped and ready for the years ahead. Listening to groups like SME4Labour is now more important than ever.”



Toby Perkins MP

“As a former small business owner myself I know the commitment, bravery and passion required to set up and run a business. That's why Labour must listen to the business community and create an environment that supports them to survive and thrive. SME4Labour do a crucial job facilitating that and they'll always have my support.”



Ian Lucas *MP*

“I ran a small business and understand its challenges and rewards. As more people earn a living this way, it is essential Labour speaks to those people even more effectively.”



David Drew *MP*

“SMEs are the lifeblood of our economy. That’s true of Stroud as much as it is in the rest of the country. I work very closely with SMEs and I congratulate Labour’s initiative in this area.”



Virendra Sharma *MP*

“The impact and importance of SMEs cannot be overstated. In my constituency of Ealing, Southall and up and down the country they drive the High Street and the economy. Small and medium businesses are run by our friends and families, are their livelihoods and put food on the tables of millions. Employment is driven by the success of these smaller businesses, and I am delighted that for the third year in a row SME4Labour are demonstrating how much the Labour Party cares. We need to know what you want, and what we can do to help. Good luck to all the entrants to the awards and have a truly wonderful evening.”



Lord Iain McNicol

“SME4Labour provides a brilliant and worthwhile link between small businesses and the Labour Party. Small and medium-sized enterprises employ the vast majority of the working people we seek to represent, and the work SME4Labour does in advancing that cause is highly valued by us all. “I’d like to congratulate the SME4Labour team on their outstanding work in hosting events the year round, and look forward to watching how they will continue to grow in the future.”

Messages of Support



Maria Eagle *MP*

“Whilst small businesses contribute to job creation and economic activity locally, they rarely have the time or space to get involved in formulating public policy – SME4Labour can enable a two way flow of information and understanding ensuring that Labour policy takes account of the needs of this vital sector and that small business understands how it can support and put into effect Labour values at a local level.”



Sharon Hodgson *MP*

“SME4Labour recognises the vital part SME’s play to our economy, both locally and nationally. I’m proud to be a supporter of SME4Labour which ensures that people who work within SME’s have a voice inside and outside the Labour Party.”



Jack Dromey *MP*

“Small and medium-sized businesses, the backbone of the British economy, are an ever-growing cohort of constituents for every MP across Britain. Their needs are unique and varying depending on the nature and size of their business. Labour, the party of small and medium-sized businesses, is on their side.”



Eleanor Smith *MP*

“Small and medium-sized businesses play an absolutely vital role in the development of the economy. In local communities they are the lifeblood of job creation. SME’s represent 60% of all private sector employment, and 51% of all private sector turnover in the UK, so it is vital that the Labour Party listens and supports them. SME4Labour has done terrific work in standing up for SMEs inside and outside parliament.”



Sarah Champion *MP*

“Small and medium sized businesses are the cornerstone of our economy. It is hugely important that they have a voice in policy development. SME4Labour provide that voice in our party and I commend their work in ensuring that the needs of SMEs across Britain are reflected in our debates and decision making.”



Valerie Vaz *MP*

“Small businesses are at the core of our communities and are the driving force behind our economy. There were 5.7 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK in 2017, accounting for over 99% of all businesses. I am delighted that SMEs are thriving in my constituency – in Walsall South, there was an impressive 7.5% increase in the number of VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises in 2017 from the previous year. I would like to thank SME4Labour for its invaluable support to the Party and for providing a vital platform for SMEs to have their voices heard. Businesses are better off under Labour and SME4Labour’s important contribution will help to ensure that we build an economy that is fair for all in Britain.”



Thelma Walker *MP*

“I’m pleased to support the fantastic work that SME4Labour does to further strengthen relationships between the Labour Party and SMEs. 99% of businesses in my constituency are SMEs. They are the backbone of our economy. Labour has a clear vision for a productive and successful economy and our smaller businesses and support for them is part of that vision. SME4Labour is doing a brilliant job supporting engagement and dialogue and promoting how it is Labour’s plans that make the most sense for SMEs.”



Ruth Smeeth *MP*

“Small and medium sized businesses are the backbone of our economy and often play a leading role in our local communities. I’m proud to stand up for SMEs in my constituency and I’m delighted to be able to support the brilliant work that SME4Labour are doing to connect our party with the hopes, needs and aspirations of so many working people across our country.”

Why Small And Medium Enterprises (SMEs) For Labour?



SME4Labour

Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the United Kingdom's economy. As of 2017, SMEs made up over 99.3% of all private sector businesses in the UK. There were 5.7 million SMEs in the UK in 2017 and total employment in SMEs was 16.1 million, which is 60% of all private sector employment in the UK.

Through SME4Labour, we want to provide a forum where SMEs can work in partnership with the Labour Party and continue to inform the debate around our economic policies.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- SME4Labour seeks to strengthen the relationship between small, medium, micro, and family-owned businesses with the Labour Party.
- We support constructive and informed discussion with the Labour movement on issues impacting SMEs.
- We work closely with trade unions, employers groups and individuals, encouraging strong partnerships and collaboration.
- We organise meetings for Labour parliamentarians and others so that a greater understanding of the challenges faced by SMEs can be gained.

JOIN US!

Standard membership: For invitations to our events and a say in how SME4Labour is ran, £15/yr

Concessionary membership: For members of Young Labour (under 27), students and retirees who support our cause, with the full benefits of standard membership, £5/yr

CLP group membership: If your Constituency Labour Party can put together a group of 5+ party members who wish to join, you can pay together and we will knock off the price of one standard membership in addition to any concessions. 10+ members and we will knock off the price of two memberships.

We rely on our members and the generous donations from our supporters to allow us to continue doing what we do. To join SME4Labour or make a donation, please go to www.sme4labour.org. Alternatively, you can request an application form by emailing: info@sme4labour.org.

SME4LABOUR
8th Floor, Elizabeth House
39 York Road, London SE1 7NQ, Uk
www.sme4labour.org

T: 02071834272 • info@sme4labour.org

sme4Labour sme4Labour



*Large hummus for the Hughes family.
Cold starters are hot in Lambeth.*



*Delivering for the nation
Order on the app tonight*

Poll of SME sector on current vote and potential

Labour support

SME4Labour commissioned Survation for a study into the political attitude of UK residents aged 18+ who identified as owners of a small business, freelance or self employed.

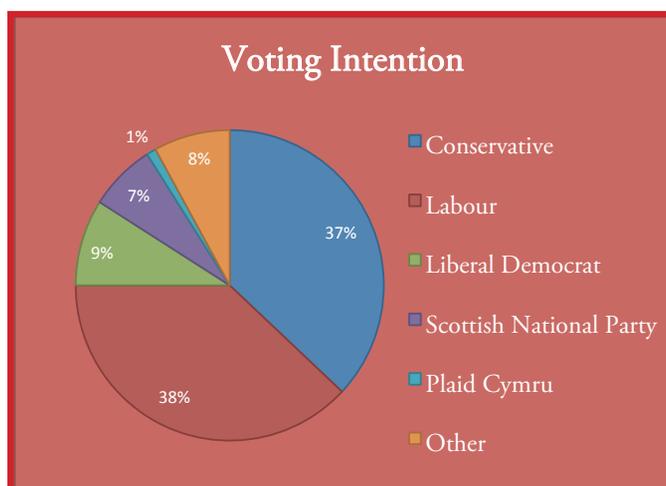
Our findings indicate that:

- Support among the SME sector is currently evenly balanced between Labour and Conservatives

- The Conservatives currently enjoy only a small brand reputational advantage as the party of small business.
- There is potential for Labour to increase its support among the SME sector given:
 - » Its higher potential pool of support amongst SME voters.
 - » The popularity of its policies and the willingness of some voters to reconsider their vote when made aware of them.

Labour has a narrow 1 point lead in support amongst SMEs

- Tied with the Conservatives by 31% each when 17% don't know included.
- Support higher for Labour among self employed at 32% to 28%
- Conservatives lead 35% to 30% among small business owners



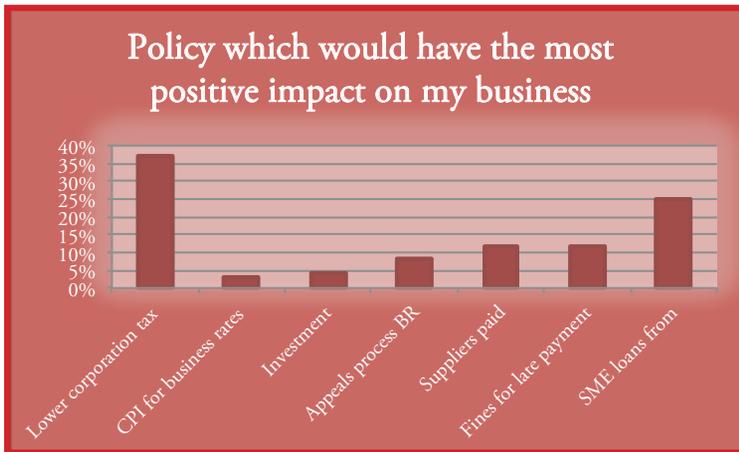
Labour has a narrow 1 point lead in support

Regardless of your current voting intention, would you ever consider voting for the following political parties?

- 49% would consider voting Labour while 41% would not consider Labour, a net positive of +8%
- 5% would consider voting Conservative, while 46% would not consider Conservative, a net negative of -1%

Party	Would consider	Won't consider	Net +/-
Labour	49	41	8
Conservative	45	46	-1
Lib Dem	39	43	-4
Green	41	41	0
UKIP	17	70	-53

First choice of Labour Manifesto policies



- 37% Introducing a lower rate of corporation tax for small and medium enterprises.
- 25% Creating investment and development banks which prioritise lending to small and medium enterprises

Popular policies likely to be Conservative

The Conservatives led Labour as the party most likely to produce policies the SME sector liked by:

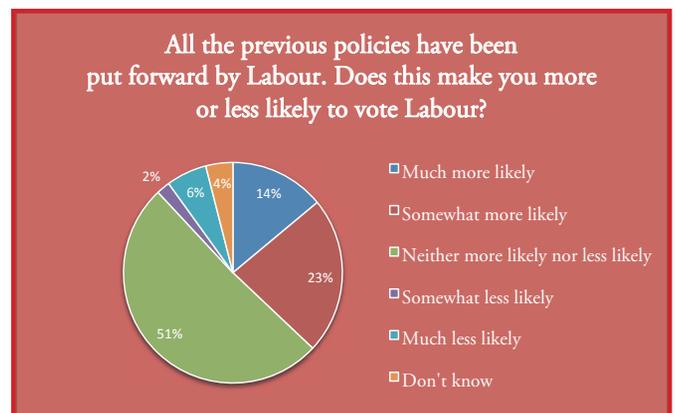
- Four per cent (34% Conservative, 30% Labour) on a lower rate of corporation tax for SME's
- Two per cent (27% Conservative, 25% Labour) on establishing a state bank that prioritised lending to SME's

Which political party would you most associate with the following policies?					
Policy	Tory	Labour	Neither	Don't know	Net +/-
Introducing a lower rate of corporation tax for small and medium enterprises	34	30	11	25	-4
Switching from RPI to CPI indexation when calculating business rates	17	15	17	52	-2
Exempting new investment in plant and machinery from business rates valuations	20	19	20	41	-1
Ensuring access to a proper business rates appeals process	21	26	18	35	5
Ensuring anyone bidding for a government contract pays suppliers within 30 days	17	25	21	36	8
Introducing arbitration and fines for those who are late in paying their suppliers	18	26	22	34	8
Creating investment and development banks which prioritise lending to SME's	27	25	19	29	-2

37% said they were more likely to vote Labour when told the policies were Labour

The Conservatives led Labour as the party most likely to produce policies the SME sector liked by:

- Four per cent (34% Conservative, 30% Labour) on a lower rate of corporation tax for SME's
- Two per cent (27% Conservative, 25% Labour) on establishing a state bank that prioritised lending to SME's



3rd SME4Labour Gala Awards



On the 18th of December 2018, SME4Labour held its third annual gala and Labour excellence awards at the Park Plaza London Riverbank Hotel. Over 500 guests were joined by figures from across the Labour family, including more than 70 MPs and peers alongside council leaders, trade union officials and representatives from socialist societies.

Hosted by political commentator and comedian Ayesha Hazarika, the evening sought to recognise the outstanding con-

tribution made by members of the Labour movement across 12 categories from Shadow Cabinet Member of the Year and MEP of the Year to Constituency Labour Party of the Year and Labour Friends Group of the Year.

Keynote speeches were delivered by Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and Labour Party General Secretary Jennie Formby, each of whom emphasised the importance of small businesses to the party and the crucial role

they play in the national economy.

Other notable guests included Shadow Secretary of State for Education Angela Rayner, Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities Dawn Butler, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development Dan Carden, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade Barry Gardiner and Shadow Attorney General Baroness Chakrabarti.

Speaking on the evening, Ibrahim Dogus, Co-Chair of SME4Labour, said:

“There have always been strong ties between SMEs and the Labour Party, because our interests are aligned and we care about the same things. SMEs pay their taxes and behave like good citizens, generating local jobs and providing the glue which hold communities together.”

This was reiterated by Sonny Leong, Co-Chair of SME4Labour, who said:

“Labour stands for putting people back at the heart of driving our economy forward, supporting those from every background who are investing their faith and future in their own ideas, talents and efforts.”





Our Events

Labour Conference 2018: Small Business Question Time with Ayesha Hazarika Sponsored by IPSE

Date: 25th September 2018
Labour Party Conference
ACC Liverpool

SME4Labour collaborated with the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed to host a 'Small Business Question Time' at Labour Party Conference 2018

After Ayesha Hazarika introduced the panel, the debate kicked off with a question on how the Labour Party can convince SMEs to vote for them and what policies they would propose to tackle the late payments, withheld payments, and non-payments that SMEs constantly suffer. Alison McGovern MP, answering first, explained that Labour had been trying to tackle late payment for a long time, without much success, and suggested a new approach was required. Rather than trying to cajole businesses into paying people in a timely fashion, McGovern, drawing on her experience of sitting on the Treasury Select Committee, proposed that transparency should be required of companies. Companies should report on the timeliness of their payments in the same manner that they report on the gender pay gap, and naming and shaming poor performing companies could be an effective incentive for companies to pay their contractors in a timely and consistent manner.

Simon McVicker of IPSE highlighted the importance of non-payments. McVicker cited the findings of their own research,



that 43% of freelancers have completed work they were not paid for, which increased to 58% for 18-34-year olds. IPSE supports greater powers for the small business commissioner, and believes the current commissioner should make more use of its current powers to name and shame companies with a poor track record of paying contractors. IPSE also supports co-operatives which would allow SMEs to take up issues collectively.

Adam Payne began his response by noting that 11% of SMEs are owed £100,000 or more, and 58% of SMEs feel the issue of late or no payments threaten their future. This, Payne contended, is not only scandalous but unsustainable. Payne agreed with McGovern's ideas on increased transparency and argued that it was in the pub-

lic interest to report poorly performing companies.

The second question queried what a future Labour government might do about the gig economy. McVicker replied first to highlight the importance of clarifying the difference between those in the gig economy and those who are self-employed. Research shows that there is no single definition of self-employment and thus there cannot be a one-size fits all definition. Definitions and distinctions between workers and employees are complex and controversial and should not be left to the courts. It is time for the policy makers to step up, with the aid of expert opinion.

McGovern explained the inception of the term 'gig economy' originated from musicians who would 'gig' alongside their day job. This sort of creativity should not be stifled, nor confused with ordinary full-time employment. McGovern agreed on the importance of defining these terms, and the rights of employees and the responsibilities of employers. McGovern criticised the Taylor Report's shortcomings, especially regarding the importance of trade unions. Trade unions should be considered an essential component of civil society and of our democracy, not as interest groups relevant only to their own members.

Payne advised any future Labour government to take their time researching the gig economy question. While cases like Gary Smith versus Pimlico Plumbers put





issues pertaining to the gig economy on the map, it was a unique case and not necessarily representative of the issues workers in the gig economy are facing.

At this point, John McDonnell MP joined the debate and explained that before the last general election the Labour Party has set up a working group from the Federation of Small Businesses to look at a number of issues pertaining to the gig economy and self-employment. With representatives from the Institute of Employment Rights, members of the shadow front bench, and members of trade unions, they have been working to secure a clearer definition of self-employment, as requested by the Federation of Small Businesses. McDonnell echoed McGovern's criticism of the Taylor Report and concluded that ultimately, society cannot continue with such levels of low pay, exploitation, and abuse. While there will always be an element of flexibility, protecting workers' rights and guaranteeing a certain number of hours is a priority.

Given that SMEs are going to be significantly affected by Brexit, the third question asked, what is Labour going to do to support SMEs as it comes to pass?

McDonnell replied with scathing criticism of the current Brexit negotiations by the Conservative Party. While the current leadership are unable to negotiate a deal that can satisfactorily protect jobs, McDonnell argued, the Labour Party have built and sustained a strong relationship with Brussels and are ready to step in to take over negotiations.

McGovern, agreeing with McDonnell's sentiments, emphasised her opinion that the Labour Party are ready step into negotiations by criticising Labour MP Barry Gardiner's comment on Twitter that "Never interrupt your enemy when they are making a mistake" as unwise. McGovern, referring to a potential 'People's Vote', asserted that 'Remain' must be on the ballot paper. Refocusing on SMEs, she agreed with the questioner that – from her perspective on the Treasury Select Committee – their voices were not being heard.

Next, Payne answered the question with a critique of Labour Party policy on the single market. Payne accused the Labour leadership of "cherry-picking" and claimed that given the magnitude and importance of Brexit, the Labour leader-

ship had a "moral duty" to provide a more coherent and detailed alternative to the current Conservative Party position.

McVicker accused the government of lacking coherence and implored the Conservative Party to listen to businesses.

Stephen Kinnock MP joined the debate and argued that we need an active state, which – without micromanaging businesses – gives them an opportunity and a platform to work, and the advice and the support they need. Kinnock agreed that a small business administration is required, similar to the US set-up, which is effectively a 'one-stop shop' for all SME needs. At the debate's conclusion, Kinnock called for a holistic approach to SME, with the foundation of an agency and an institution for SME needs.



Our Events

Labour Conference 2018: Lessons from the Fight against Fixed Odd Betting Terminals

Date: 24th September 2018

**Labour Party Conference
ACC Liverpool**

SME4Labour together with the Labour Campaign for Gambling Reform hosted a panel discussion on the lessons from the fight against fixed-odd betting terminals with Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Tom Watson, gambling campaigner Matt Zarb-Cousin and Bradford Councillor Richard Dunbar.

The event was kindly chaired by Carolyn Harris MP

Tom Watson, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, began the discussion on lessons to be learned from the fight against Fix Odds Betting Terminals. Mr Watson – lamenting his own involvement with it – explained that the 2005 Gambling Act was not fit for purpose, and had in fact ushered in a wave of gambling addiction in Britain. He recounted the ridicule and attacks from the gambling industry when he tried to draw attention to the continuous rise of gambling shops on Britain's highstreets and the inadequacies of current legislation to contend with the issues of problem gambling.

In particular, Mr Watson highlighted the diffusion to gambling into daily life



through an explosion of digital products. As live odds betting has – for some – led gambling to become an intrinsic part of supporting a team or following sport, Labour has called for a “whistle to whistle ban” on game betting, which has been well received by parents who have raised concerns on the subject.

Discussing the wider social impacts of problem gambling, Mr Watson highlighted that many problem gamblers gamble on debt, which can lead to dire financial consequences. Furthermore, the banking industry can take on responsibility, by

allowing problem gamblers to voluntarily ‘self-exclude’. As an incentive and mark of trust, when a problem or ‘at risk’ gambler informs their bank not to allow the purchase of betting products from their account, their credit rating should not suffer.

On a positive note, Mr Watson remarked that the industry has begun to respond positively to proposed changes. There is a reputation risk for gambling businesses, and companies that believe in corporate social responsibility, and in responsible gambling can be a force for change. Moreover, when there is a failure in regulation, it is important for a party that believes in the empowering state to act quickly, decisively, and wisely. For this reason, the Labour Party is working on detailed proposals for regulatory and/or legislative change that could be implemented during the first session of a Jeremy Corbyn led government. Mr Watson ended his talk by highlighting the breadth of the issue: 430,000 gambling addicts in the UK, 25,000 of which are 16 or under, and 2 million further ‘problem gamblers’ who are at risk of slipping into addiction. We want to see people enjoying recreational gambling Mr Watson concluded, but we do not want to see lives, families, and communities destroyed by addiction.

The second speaker, Matt Zarb-Cousin, spokesperson for the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, explained that 43% of fixed odds betting machine users are ‘at risk’ gamblers,





and the vast majority of profits are generated from problem or at risk gamblers. Mr Zarb-Cousin described the campaign to change the maximum betting odds to £2 as an effective and specific request – one which could be enacted through secondary legislation. They campaigned through the sustainable communities act, which allows local authorities to submit a proposal to change country-wide law. Alongside this useful piece of legislation, Mr Zarb-Cousin advised, other lessons that can be taken from the campaign are the importance of getting cross-party support and of not overlooking backbench MPs when sourcing advocates in Parliament.

Richard Dunbar, Councillor for Thornton and Allerton, Bradford Council, said he was glad that the argument around fixed odds betting terminals had opened up a wider debate about how to tackle problem gambling. In Bradford city centre, he noted, there are 12 betting shops within a 250m radius. Cllr Dunbar advised on three key points that could help local government tackle the spread of problem betting: firstly, local government needs more power from a licensing and planning perspective to restrict excessive clustering of betting shops. Secondly, local government needs more resources for planning functions. Since 2010, over 50% of planning resources in local councils have been cut, meaning that local councils often cannot afford to send officers to appeals. Finally, money for the treatment and care of those affected by gambling addiction should come through the local authorities to pub-

lic health departments. Local authorities know their own populations best and are in a unique position to assist them. 'self-exclude'. As an incentive and mark of trust, when a problem or 'at risk' gambler informs their bank not to allow the purchase of betting products from their account, their credit rating should not suffer.

Gambling, explained at 43% of fixed odds betting machine users are 'at risk' gamblers, and the vast majority of profits are generated from problem or at risk gamblers. Mr Zarb-Cousin described the campaign to change the maximum betting odds to £2 as an effective and specific request – one which could be enacted through secondary legislation. They campaigned through the sustainable communities act, which allows local authorities to submit a proposal to change country-wide law. Along-

side this useful piece of legislation, Mr Zarb-Cousin advised, other lessons that can be taken from the campaign are the importance of getting cross-party support and of not overlooking backbench MPs when sourcing advocates in Parliament. can be taken from the campaign are the importance of getting cross-party support and of not overlooking backbench MPs when sourcing advocates in Parliament. when sourcing advocates in Parliament.

Richard Dunbar, Councillor for Thornton and Allerton, Bradford Council, said he was glad that the argument around fixed odds betting terminals had opened up a wider debate about how to tackle problem gambling. In Bradford city centre, he noted, there are 12 betting shops within a 250m radius. Cllr Dunbar advised on three key points that could help local government tackle the spread of problem betting: firstly, local government needs more power from a licensing and planning perspective to restrict excessive clustering of betting shops. Secondly, local government needs more resources for planning functions. Since 2010, over 50% of planning resources in local councils have been cut, meaning that local councils often cannot afford to send officers to appeals. Finally, money for the treatment and care of those affected by gambling addiction should come through the local authorities to public health departments. Local authorities know their own populations best and are in a unique position to assist them.



Our Events

Labour Party Conference 2018: Nurturing the Green Economy - In Conversation with Clive Lewis MP, Shadow Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

Date: 25th September 2018

**Labour Party Conference
ACC Liverpool**

SME4Labour together with Labour Business and SERA hosted Shadow Treasury Minister Clive Lewis at Labour Party conference for a discussion on nurturing the green economy. The event was chaired by Polly Billington, journalist and executive member of SERA.

Billington began by asking Lewis where he stood on the debate within the Labour Party between those who want to focus on economic growth and those who emphasise sustainability, to which he answered, 'good growth'. He argued that shifting from a 19th century economic infrastructure and decarbonising it would take significant investment and could provide the sustainable



jobs for the future. At the same time, he said, we have to recognise the limits of economic growth, which requires new thinking and cultural changes that challenge the idea of consumption for consumption's sake.

Asked how this was going to translate into Labour's economic policy, Lewis said he was putting forward proposals on green finance, sustainable transition and food security as well as looking at the metrics the Treasury uses to measure environmental issues. Crucial, he said, was changing the culture of the department towards looking at long term issues rather than five-year cycles, and a working group of economists and climate scientists has been set up to provide the technical details.

The treasury's wide remit, Lewis argued, put it in a strong position to effect envi-



ronmental change. For example, none of the treasury's £500billion transformation fund, he argued, should be spent on projects that are going to add carbon and be unsustainable if we are to meet tight climate change targets.

On the issue of Heathrow expansion, Lewis said he understood why some trade unions had an aversion to decarbonisation because, as member-led organisations, they are thinking about their workers' jobs. The solution, he said, was to prove to trade unions that a Labour government would put those most effected by a sustainable economic transition at the centre of the change, and not abandon them like the mining communities. At the same time, he reiterated that we should not be building any more airports as, ultimately, we cannot negotiate with the scientific reality of the environmental situation.

Lewis criticised the government's decision to suddenly cut subsidies for the renewable energy sector, which he said had significantly damaged investor confidence and seen funding for projects rapidly decline. The Brexit the country is moving towards under this government, he said, was also likely to be devastating for the green economy, with few guarantees of continuity in terms of environmental legislation.

Challenged on what a socially just environmental transition would look like, Lewis said the issue of redistribution was key to a

post-growth agenda. The wealthiest, he said, would have to pay for the clear majority of climate change given they account for the most carbon emissions. He also criticised the idea of natural capital, which allocates a financial value to natural resources, saying it could only ever be a guide to something that is a fundamentally unquantifiable.

Lewis ended on a positive note, arguing that the 21st century emphasis on an environmental agenda could help win Labour the next election, providing modern, efficient and sustainable solutions to people's problems.

quires new thinking and cultural changes that challenge the idea of consumption for consumption's sake.

quires new thinking and cultural changes that challenge the idea of consumption for consumption's sake.

quires new thinking and cultural changes that challenge the idea of consumption for consumption's sake.



Labour Party Conference 2018: How Labour Councils Can Support SMEs

Date: 23rd September 2018
Labour Party Conference
ACC Liverpool

SME4Labour began party conference with a panel discussion bringing together councillors from across the country to share ideas and best practice on what local government can do to support SMEs.

Shadow Small Business Minister Bill Esterson began the discussion by emphasising the important links between the trade union movement and the business community, with well-paid jobs helping to increase demand for goods and services.



He said Labour councils have a crucial role in demonstrating what the party can do in power albeit in the difficult circumstances under Conservative government-imposed austerity. He highlighted the work done by Preston council, particularly in focusing public procurement locally, as well as Sefton council where they have focused on supporting SMEs through a commitment to prompt payment. A focus on towns, he said, was particularly important, given so many have seen such a steep fall in living standards and here local Labour councils can make a crucial difference.



Rachel Eden, a councillor in Reading and the newly selected prospective parliamentary candidate for Reading West, spoke passionately of her own experiences of running a small business. Gaining the support of SMEs, she said, would be crucial to winning marginal seats like hers for Labour. She raised various measures local government could take to support smaller businesses, from making council meeting spaces available for those who tend to work from home, to tackling specific issues like the theft of tools from vans. SMEs can also do things for local councils, she said, giving the example of how small businesses had stepped in to effectively provide social services that would have otherwise been closed under financial pressure.

Kieran Williams, a councillor in Southwark and cabinet member for jobs, skills and innovation, spoke about the importance of going out and listening to the aspirations and concerns of local small business owners. The economy, he said, was fundamentally broken, with wages in Southwark at all levels lower now than they were ten years ago, despite the borough's economy growing by 20% in the same period. This, he argued, showed that wealth being created in Southwark and small businesses, which tend to invest locally, were crucial to efforts at rebalancing. There were simple but fundamental things, he said, that Southwark had been trying to do to support SMEs, including streamlining access to council services, and helping to connecting businesses with potential employees locally.

Nweeda Khan, a councillor in Preston and cabinet member for social justice, gave an introduction to the trailblazing work being done by her and her colleagues to work with businesses to invest in the local economy. The initiative, she said, was driven by the challenges the area faced from the



economic crisis of 2008 onwards and the need to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Small businesses, she argued, were key to the aim of keeping the money for procurement in the local area. She gave the example of the council's pension fund being used to fund Preston's student accommodation, providing local jobs that in turn buoyed local businesses, rather than being invested by financial institutions elsewhere. Such steps, she said can make a real difference.

Mete Coban, a councillor in Hackney and chair of the skills, economy & growth commission, spoke about the importance of inclusive growth. He said it was crucial that local businesses and communities are at the centre of the changes transforming many parts of London and other big cities. He gave the example of Amazon, which has



just built a new headquarters in Hackney providing 6500 new jobs, and the importance of ensuring the area's longstanding SMEs benefited rather than being marginalised. At the heart of this, he said, was engaging with the challenges faced by local BAME communities, emphasising the need for diverse means of communicating as well as providing networking and mentoring opportunities.

2nd Annual SME4Labour Gala and Labour Excellence Awards



Held at the Park Lane Sheraton Hotel in Piccadilly, the event was attended by over 400 guests. This included over 60 Labour MPs and peers, including several members of the shadow cabinet. They were joined by mayors, local councillors and other members of the Labour family, alongside trade union leaders and distinguished figures from the business community.

The evening's keynote speech was delivered by Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Ms. Long-Bailey emphasised the Labour Party's commitment to building an economy that works for all, before presenting the award for

Shadow Cabinet Member of the Year to Angela Rayner MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education.

Other speakers included Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Iain McNicol, General Secretary of the Labour Party; Stephen Kinnock MP; and Tim Roache, General Secretary of the GMB; all of whom praised SME4Labour's work in promoting the interests of small and medium sized enterprises and the self employed.

Although not in attendance, Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, sent this message of support:

"SME4Labour provides small businesses with a way to have their voices heard, which are too often drowned out by larger companies and corporations. I'd like to thank and congratulate my colleagues in the SME4Labour team for their contribution to an economic policy that works for the many, not the few."

Speaking at the awards, Ibrahim Dogus, Co-Chairman of SME4Labour, said:

"When we win, SMEs and the self-employed will be at the heart of Labour's programme, because they mean so much to the future prosperity of the country. I am delighted that SME4Labour is playing its part. We have exciting plans for next year, and I hope you will join with us."

The event was kindly sponsored by First Premier, Bira London, Cobra Beer and Cheviot Capital.

Presenters of the event were Cllr Aysha Raza of London Borough of Ealing and Author, NHS Campaigner and Disability Spokesperson Jos Bell.

Entertainment was provided by musician Paul Stanworth, accompanied by Andrew Hylton, and singer Hadis Ayoubi, accompanied by her band.

SME4Labour relies on the kind donations of its supporters to continue to do its work. Please consider making a contribution.





Labour Excellence Award Winners 2017



Labour Parliamentary Assistant of the Year
Calum Mulligan



Socialist Society of the Year
SERA - Labour's Environment Campaign



Friends Group of the Year
Sikhs For Labour



Labour Peer of the Year
Baroness Janet Royall of Blaisdon



Labour Assembly Member of the Year
Unmesh Desai



Affiliated Trade Union of the Year
GMB



Labour MP of the Year
Luciana Berger MP



Shadow Cabinet Member of the Year
Angela Rayner MP



Labour Councillor of the Year
Cllr Kevin Craig



Labour Councillor of the Year
Cllr Jennie Mosley



Labour Councillor of the Year
Cllr Parvez Ahmed



Labour Council of the Year
Preston City Council



Labour PPC of the Year
Sophie Cook



Constituency Labour Party of the Year
Knowsley CLP



Friends Of Durham Miners' Gala Fundraising Dinner

Date: 9th May 2018
Troia Restaurant



SME4Labour hosted a fundraising dinner for the Friends of Durham Miners' Gala at Troia Restaurant on Wednesday, 9th May 2018.

The lively dinner, attended by many activists, Labour members of parliament and trade unions raised £5000 which went directly to supporting Durham Miners Gala (the Big Meeting).

Co-Chairman of SME4Labour Cllr Ibrahim Dogus and members of the Executive Board were joined by Chairman of Durham Miners' Association Joseph Whitworth and Secretary of the Association Alan Cummings.

Other distinguished guests included Tim Roache, General Secretary the GMB Union; Dave Ward, General Secretary

Local Elections 2018 And SMES

Date: 30th April 2018
Host: Thelma Walker MP
Speakers: Chi Onwurah MP, Bill Esterson MP, Thelma Walker MP, Sonny Leong.
Chair: Andrew Dismore
Jubilee Room in the Houses of Parliament



SME4Labour held a public forum on the Local Elections 2018 in the Jubilee Room of the Houses of Parliament on Monday, 30th April 2018.

The keynote speakers were Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Business Bill Esterson MP, Thelma Walker MP for Colne Valley and Sonny Leong, Co-Chairman of SME4Labour.

The event was kindly hosted by Thelma Walker MP and chaired by Andrew Dismore, Labour London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden. Attendees included small and medium

business owners.

The issues that were discussed included small business rates, lack of investment outside London, skills education, better infrastructure and the funding gap for SMEs.

As the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP, Thelma Walker spoke about Labour's engagement with SMEs not only in London but also in other regions including her constituency. She referred to the meetings held with small and medium businesses in her constituency and said that businesses had a chance to listen to

Labour's policies on business and most of them found that they agreed with these policies which have been the outcome of Labour's engagement with SMEs. As a member of Education Select Committee, Thelma Walker MP argued that one of the most important issues affecting SMEs is the huge skills gap and that local governments and universities must focus on skills education across the country.

Chi Onwurah MP outlined Labour's strategies for providing better support for SMEs. She said that the Labour Party will create a national investment bank which will create funding for start-

of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU); Doug Nicholls, General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU); Mick Whelan, General Secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF); Simon Dubbins, Director of International & Research at Unite the Union; Labour Party Chairman Ian Lavery MP; Shadow Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Bill Esterson MP; Shadow Secretary of State for Health Jonathan Ashworth MP; Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Tony Lloyd MP; Shadow Minister for Justice Gloria De Piero MP; Jo Stevens MP; Chris Peace PPC and Shadow Minister for Education and Children and Families Emma Lewell-Buck MP.



ups and support SMEs in cases of late payments. She said that the Labour Party will introduce harsher penalties for late payments as this is one of the immediate issues affecting small businesses. Chi Onwurah commented that Labour will create a national education service to close the gap of skills. She added that Labour's business strategy is to create an innovation nation where the government invests in infrastructure, renewable energy and skills which would provide good production and services for the country.

Bill Esterson MP focused on unfair competition between big and small

businesses. Referring to the Sainsbury's and Asda merger and the Carillion scandal, he argued that the suppliers are the ones that suffer the most as they lose money and business on unfair terms. He pointed out that the current Tory government is not implementing any measures to protect small businesses. He added that the Labour Party listened to SMEs across the country and produced policies that will provide fair markets, not just free markets.

Businessman Sonny Leong argued that the Labour Party must have a vision for the future of business as 20 million jobs will

be lost due to the level of technological change over the next 20 years. He added that the number of freelancers is on the increase and that Labour must support this growing force of work. Mr Leong also urged the Labour Party to welcome more and more business people to the party and encourage them to stand in local elections as, he argued, local governments lack business people and they are therefore weaker in terms of introducing business friendly provisions.

The presentations were followed by further discussion on issues affecting small businesses.

SME4Labour AGM 2018

Date: 18th of April 2018

Speakers: Jack Dromey MP,
Ibrahim Dogus

Chair: Rehana Ameer

**Committee Room 6 of the
Houses of Parliament.**

On Tuesday the 18th of April, SME4Labour held its Annual General Meeting in Committee Room 6 of the Houses of Parliament.

The evening began with a brief introduction from the chair and member of SME4Labour's executive committee Rehana Ameer.

This was followed by remarks from Shadow Pensions Minister Jack Dromey MP, who kindly hosted the event, and spoke passionately about the importance of the small business community, the work SME4Labour was doing, and the Labour Party's role in championing SMEs.

SME4Labour Co-Chair Ibrahim Dogus then gave a brief report outlining what had been achieved over the last year, noting that SME4Labour had held roughly one meeting every month that had sought to bring together figures from the Labour Party with small business owners and the self-employed. This included notable events at parliament and Labour Party conference. Mr. Dogus also gave a brief outline of SME4Labour's financial situation, which continues to be healthy.

Following the annual report, the meeting moved to elect an expanded executive committee of 29 members.

In total, there were 27 nominations to the executive committee. They were elected unanimously, with the committee mandated to find suitable candidates to fill the remaining vacancies.



The members of the executive committee are as follows:

- Aliur Rahman, Chief Executive of the London Tea Exchange
- Doug Henderson
- Claire Johnston, Director Lion Communications and Events
- Simon Lydiard, Former Senior Civil Servant and Director Breaking Barriers innovations
- Mike Hedges, Taxi Driver and Chair of Unite London and Eastern Political Committee
- Ibrahim Dogus, Chair of British Takeaway Campaign
- Cllr. Haydar Ulus, Founder of Ulus Group
- Rehana Ameer, Chief Executive of Prosap Corporation Limited
- Paul Cons, Managing Director of Konditor and Cook
- Cllr. Guy Nicholson, Chair of the Group Board at Newable
- Martyn Davis
- Raife AYTEK, Restaurateur
- Andrew Pakes, Director of Communications & Research at Prospect
- Mike Joslin, Founder of Write You Media
- Cllr. Jack Hopkins, Director of Good Planning
- Cllr. Ali Gul Ozbek, Owner of Med-Chem Pharmacy
- James O'Keefe, Executive Director at Quatro Communications
- Callum Anderson, Policy Adviser at the Quoted Companies Alliance
- Sen Kandiyia, Director of Lyca Health
- Shahin Rahman
- Cllr. Beulah East
- Rezaul Hai, Chief Executive of the Centre for Interactive Education
- Sonny Leong, Executive Chairman of Academy for Parliamentary & Policy Studies
- Martin Howe, Founder of Howe+Co Solicitors
- Mark Glover, Founder of Newington Communications
- Cllr. Paul Dimoldenberg, Executive Chairman of Quatro Communications
- The meeting ended with a discussion on how best SME4Labour can move forward.





*Large hummus for the Hughes family.
Cold starters are hot in Lambeth.*



*Delivering for the nation
Order on the app tonight*

SME4Labour's 2nd Annual Parliamentary Reception (2018)

Date: 5th of March 2018

Host: Bill Esterson

Speakers: Chi Onwurah MP, Debbie Abrahams MP, Anneliese Dodds MP, Rajesh Agrawal, Kat Fletcher, Kevin Courtney, Hannah Reed, John McDonnell MP

On Monday the 5th of March 2018, SME4Labour held its 2nd annual parliamentary reception in the Jubilee Room of the Palace of Westminster.

SME4Labour works to bring together small business owners and the self-employed with members of the party at all levels, and the room was packed with people from small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and the Labour movement. This included many Labour councillors, peers and members of parliament, alongside a variety of entrepreneurs, trade unionists and community activists.

Shadow Minister for Small Business Bill Esterson, who kindly hosted the evening in parliament, spoke passionately about the issues facing SMEs and how a Labour government would take action to help them. His comments were echoed by Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy Chi Onwurah, who detailed the policy measures being developed by the Labour Party, including a series of regional development banks. She was followed by Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Debbie Abrahams, who spoke about the work she had done to tackle the damage done by late payments to small businesses. Shadow Treasury Minister Anneliese Dodds then gave her family's own experiences of running small businesses, and emphasised the need for tax reform to level the playing field with larger companies. Deputy Mayor of London for Business Rajesh Agrawal elucidated on the efforts being made to support SMEs by the local administration in London. While a London regional organiser for the Labour party, Kat Fletcher, issued a rallying call ahead of the local elections, asking business people to get involved in the campaign.

Joint General Secretary of National



Education Union Kevin Courtney added the voice of the trade union movement, with comments criticising the government's cuts to education and the need for further investment in education to provide the skills and training necessary for a successful economy. A point that was also made by Hannah Reed, Senior Employment Rights Officers at the Trade Union Congress, who said that it is the economy that benefits most from a close working relationship between businesses and unions.

The keynote speech of the night came from Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell who gave a wide-ranging set of remarks on how the Labour Party

was the natural home for SMEs. In particular, he criticised the government for "being in office but not in power", saying that the legislature was paralysed by Tory infighting over Brexit while the rest of the country continued to suffer the devastating effects of austerity. He called on Chancellor Phillip Hammond to use the Spring Statement to invest in the future of the economy, and in particular to help local councils crippled by cuts to their budget.

The evening ended with a networking reception, with the room buzzing with ideas being discussed and connections made.



Beating The Tories On Business

How Labour Can Win The Battle For SME Hearts And Minds Again

Date: 21st November 2017

Host: Jack Dromey MP

Speakers: Bill Esterson MP, Hamish Sandison, Simon Lydiard, Emma Barnes.

Chair: Rehana Ameer
Committee Room 6, House of Commons

SME4Labour held a roundtable discussion in Parliament about how the Labour Party can beat the Tories on business and re-establish itself as the party of - and for - small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) owners and workers. The session was kindly hosted by Jack Dromey MP, Shadow Minister for Labour. Shadow Secretary of State for Business Bill Esterson MP joined Mr. Dromey for the session. Rehana Ameer, councillor in the City of London and an SME owner, kindly chaired the event, and our panel of speakers featured Hamish Sandison, chair of Labour Business, Simon Lydiard, former civil servant, and Emma Barnes, owner of Wild Fawn jewellery.

Jack Dromey MP celebrated that business is now talking to Labour again after some period of distance, both because of the uncertainties around Brexit and Labour's impressive performance at the General Election, meaning Labour is perceived to be a government in waiting. He cautioned, though, that Labour needs to do more to win the business community's full support.

Bill Esterson MP spoke about how Labour is pro-business but against the type of "short-termist behaviour", such as in the City, that has blighted the UK's economy for too long. Mr. Esterson spoke about the challenges SME owners face –



challenges such as late payments, business rates and lack of access to finance, and the injustice of the way banks treated SMEs in the wake of the financial crisis. He heralded the 2017 manifesto, developed in partnership with SMEs.

Hamish Sandison said that Labour needs to do three things: (1) bust the myth that the Tories are the party of business, (2) reposition Labour as the "natural party of business" (to paraphrase Harold Wilson), and (3) listen to business and go beyond traditional comfort zones on the doorstep. He said that businesses are frustrated with the Tories' inability to tackle the key issues facing them, such as the productivity gap and lack of investment, and noted that the Tories couldn't even produce their traditional letter from the 'captains' of industry at the 2017 general election. Labour, on the other hand, was able to do so.

Emma Barnes spoke about her eco jewellery business Wild Fawn, which consists of Emma herself plus two employees, and has been going for 3 years. She outlined a number of issues that her small busi-

ness and the businesses of fellow jewellery makers face. These include the VAT threshold, which can deter some businesses from expanding, and issues around competitiveness and the costs of imports.

Simon Lydiard, recently retired from the civil service, expressed concern that the big consultancy companies dominate Whitehall, locking out SMEs from key decision making. He said that the Coalition and Tory governments have had "no vision" to offer SMEs, just targets. Mr. Lydiard praised John McDonnell, saying he is one of Labour's best media performers in his role as Shadow Chancellor, arguing for an economy of sustainable investment and inclusive growth.

In the roundtable discussion after our panelists' speeches, we discussed how to talk to voters about business on the doorstep, how to challenge old prejudices about Labour being 'anti-business', how we should challenge the idea that small business and big business' interests always align, and why we should be championing good practice among businesses.



Soho Print: because you don't want to get into business to worry

Email us with your print, promotional and mail fulfilment needs and we'll sort them out for you.



Full range of business print services - for all your stationery and promotional printing. Mail fulfilment and mailout printing. Banners, brochures, business cards, envelopes, flyers and more.

Email us at info@sohoprint.co.uk
mention **sme4labour** for special discounts.
For election and other party printing please contact us on 01273 833333

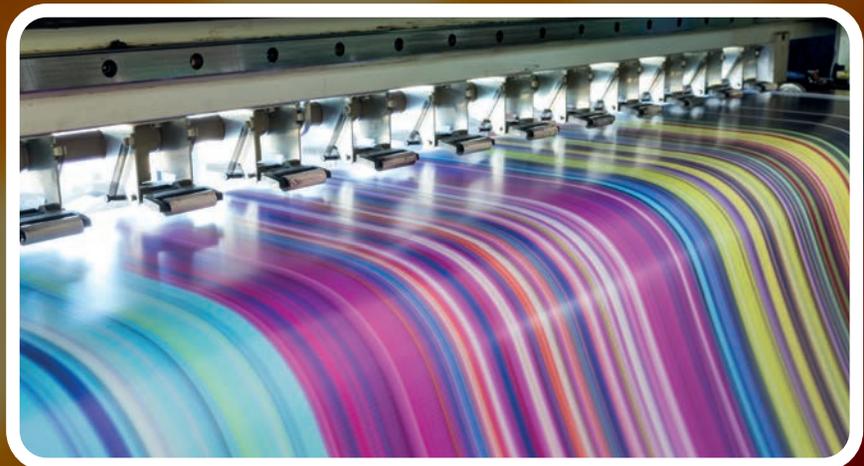
you didn't go ry about printing.

d
out.



info@sohoprint.co.uk

mention **sme4labour**
for special discounts



otional needs large and small, with express turnaround or economy service.

flyers, folders, invitations, leaflets, letterheads, menus, posters, tote bags, T-shirts, and more.

sohoprint.co.uk for our best deals:

discounts not available to the public.

Please ask for Labour Party campaign rates.



The Taylor Review And Its Fallout

What Are The Implications For The Flexible Economy?

Date: 31st October 2017

Host: Bill Esterson MP

Speakers: Jack Dromey MP, Simon McVicker, Hannah Reed, Mark Glover, Matthew Taylor.

Chair: Philip Ross

Location: Westminster

SME4Labour held a fascinating forum in Westminster on the Taylor Review into modern employment practices. Commissioned and endorsed by the Prime Minister, in July Matthew Taylor published his far-ranging review into modern work. Covering everything from zero-hours contracts to reforming employment law, the report has provoked significant debate. The event was kindly hosted by Bill Esterson MP and chaired by Philip Ross of Labour Business. Speaking at the event were Jack Dromey MP; Simon McVicker, Director of Policy and External Affairs at the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed (IPSE); Hannah Reed, Senior Employment Rights Officer at the Trade Union Congress (TUC); and Mark Glover, Founder and Chief Executive of the communications consultancy firm Newington. Review author Matthew Taylor of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) joined us in the second half of the session to discuss his report and to address some of the criticisms that have been levelled against it.

Chair Philip Ross asked how should Labour respond to the changing workplace landscape, highlighting the positive use of 'worker-tech' in the Taylor Review and its potential to assist in organising the self-employed. Host Bill Esterson MP briefly spoke about his background in small business and said that Taylor was asking the right questions, even if not everyone agreed with all of his solutions.

MP and veteran trade unionist Jack Dromey said that the Labour Party is pro-worker and pro-employer and that there is "no contradiction" in that at all. He stated that SMEs are the "backbone" of the economy and that Labour's plans in its general election manifesto – scrapping



quarterly reporting for SMEs, a national investment bank with regional arms and so on – would be "transformative" and would greatly strengthen that backbone. Simon McVicker welcomed the Taylor review in highlighting much neglected issues around precarious employment but said that some issues remained undealt with. He spoke about IPSE's work with the Community union on the vulnerable self-employed.

Hannah Reed of the TUC said that TUC analysis shows that insecurity in the workplace is primarily driven not by technological changes, as is often claimed, but rather by political decisions that hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest. She agreed that Taylor had made a "timely" and much needed contribution to the discussion about workers' rights and 'good work', and said that SMEs, the self-employed and trade unions are all workers and allies, and that they need to work more closely together in partnership.

Event sponsor Mark Glover outlined his

company Newington's work with taxi drivers in their struggle against Uber. Echoing Reed, Mr. Glover said that companies like Uber were less about technological developments and more about old fashioned exploitation and bosses cutting corners. He stated that "flexibility is used as an excuse for poor pay", and highlighted issues such as tax and social profits.

Matthew Taylor said that he aimed to "nudge rather than shove" – so, for example, the review recommends a higher minimum wage for non-contracted hours (a "nudge") rather than abolishing zero-hour contracts altogether (which would constitute a "shove"). This, he said, would stop bosses shifting risk onto vulnerable workers while maintaining flexibility and dynamism in the economy. He argued for the right to request a permanent or fixed contract and transparency around the labour supply chain and criticised certain industries, giving the example of road haulage companies, where workers are vulnerable and exploited with bogus self-employment.



Do you have a Plan B For Your Health?

We offer “unlimited” healthcare services...
We connect patients from all over the world with the right doctors in different countries, we carry out all communication studies in the target markets of health institutions.

Share your health details with us is enough....
During the course of your treatment, we are by your sides at every turn with expert advisors who speak your language.



Aesthetic & Cosmetic Surgery - Dental Treatment - Orthopedics and Traumatology - Advanced Health Technologies
Hair Transplantation - Laser Eye Surgery - Medical Oncology - In Vitro Fertilization
Liposuction Surgery - Bariatric Surgery - Rhinoplasty Surgery - Gamma Knife Treatment

 www.planbhts.com

 contact@planbhts.com

PLAN B
Health Travel Services

SME4Labour at Party Conference 2017: 'Building a Pro-Business Reputation'

Date: 26th September 2017

Speakers: Ibrahim Dogus, Bill Esterson MP, Lola McEvoy, Stephen Kinnock MP, Hamish Sandison

Location: Labour Party Conference in Brighton

SME4Labour in partnership with LabourList, hosted an event at Labour Party Conference in Brighton entitled 'Labour's links with SMEs: building a pro business reputation'. SME4Labour Co-Chair Ibrahim Dogus was joined by Stephen Kinnock MP, Bill Esterson MP, Lola McEvoy of the Living Wage Foundation, and Labour Business Chair Hamish Sandison.

Bill Esterson MP kicked off the event, making the case for Labour as the party of small business. He spoke of the real uncertainties around Brexit, but stated that Labour is leading the way while the Tories dither and divide on the issue. He argued that Labour's manifesto was clear in its support of SMEs.

SME4Labour Co-Chair Ibrahim Dogus followed, arguing that we need to invest in SMEs to boost the wider economy. He made the case for greater innovation and that this has been stifled by years of Tory economic neglect, arguing only Labour has the ambition to embrace changes in the economy in a progressive way.



Lola McEvoy argued that low pay creates insecure consumers who don't buy as many goods and services as they otherwise would, making the pro-business case for the real living wage. She spoke of how effective campaigning can make the real living wage a reality and that procurement levers, making it more likely a company will win contracts if it pays the real living wage, should be fully utilised. Stephen Kinnock MP reaffirmed that Labour is the party of fair competition, helping the little compete with the large, and that SMEs need better access to finance – access that has dried up in recent sluggish years. He argued for the national investment bank with regional arms, a key part of Labour's election manifesto. He said that SMEs are the answer to question of how we rebalance our economy, spark a modern manu-

facturing revolution and build a new kind of inclusive growth. Hamish Sandison closed, arguing that we have to bust the myth that the Tories are a pro-business party. He said that Labour's excellent policies on health and education are also attractive for businesses – businesses thrive with healthy, productive, well-educated workforces.



Beyond Brexit: SMEs and the Future of the British Economy

Date: 19th July 2017

Speakers: Stephen Kinnock MP,
Martin McTague.

Chair: Simon McVicker

Location: Committee Room 6,
House of Commons

SME4Labour held a roundtable discussion in the House of Commons on the role of SMEs in the British economy after Brexit. The event was chaired by Simon McVicker, Director of Policy and External Affairs at the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed (IPSE), and featured keynote speakers Stephen Kinnock MP and Martin McTague, National Policy Director of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

Stephen Kinnock MP opened by speaking of the increasingly symbiotic relationship between politics and business, and how changes in the political landscape with Brexit would impact upon SMEs. He remarked that the big FTSE100 companies had their voices heard during the referendum last June, but that SMEs – whose voices would have been more relatable to ordinary voters, and whose interests differ to those of big business – were side-lined during the debate.

Mr. Kinnock noted that “all that glitters is not gold” – that while the economy may look okay on the face of it with increasing levels of employment, beneath the headlines lie serious, challenging, long-term structural issues, such as regional inequalities, over-reliance on the financial sector and poor levels of productivity. He posited that following the German model, with strong ties between regional banks and SMEs, would be a possible solution to these issues, and that the state should do more to facilitate SMEs and start-ups.

Martin McTague agreed that the interests of SMEs differ to those of large, highly mobile corporations, and that their interests should be heard more clearly – hence the FSB’s role in persuading government to pursue the most business- friendly Brexit possible. Mr. McTague also spoke about the geographical imbalances within



the British economy and argued that one of the key issues for SMEs in a post-Brexit settlement would be access to structural funds to redress this. He also argued that while most SME owners are aware of the need for good regulation, there was a widespread perception at the time of the referendum that EU regulations were poorly designed and poorly implemented.

In the Q&A, Mr. Kinnock speculated

whether politics would trump economics in the EU’s thinking with regards to a deal with the UK. He also said that Labour’s General Election manifesto contained some great ideas for SMEs - in particular the £250 billion transformation fund - and that he is currently endeavouring to build a cross-party “coalition of common sense” around Brexit with MPs from other parties.



Our Events

General Election 2017 Small Business Debate

Date: 18th May 2017

Host: Emma Jones

Speakers: Matt Hancock, Ibrahim Dogus, Lord Monroe Palmer, Rachel Collinson, Ernie Warrender.

SME4Labour Co-Chair Ibrahim Dogus took part in the General Election Small Business Debate, organised by Enterprise Nation. The debate was lively, with Mr. Dogus sharing his perspectives with the other participants and hearing the questions and concerns of the audience.

Mr. Dogus was joined on the panel by Matt Hancock, former Digital and Culture Minister and Conservative member of parliament for West Suffolk; Lord Monroe Palmer, Lords Spokesperson for SMEs for the Liberal Democrats; Rachel Collinson, Green Party Spokesperson for Business; and Ernie Warrender, Spokesperson for Small Business for UKIP.

The event was hosted by the founder of Enterprise Nation, Emma Jones.



Labour Campaign for Gambling Reform (LCGR)

Date: 6th December 2017

Chair: Carolyn Harris MP

Speakers: Jo Stevens MP, Matt Zarb-Cousin, Cllr. Richard Dunbar

On 6th December, SME4Labour launched the Labour Campaign for Gambling Reform (LC4GR). The event was hosted and chaired by Carolyn Harris MP, chair of the APPG on fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs). She was joined by Jo Stevens MP and Matt Zarb-Cousin, spokesperson for the Campaign for Fairer Gambling and former spokesperson for Leader of the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn. The event was attended by many including people with first-hand experience of the dangers of gambling addiction.



Labour Campaign for
**GAMBLING
REFORM**



CROWDFUNDER

Crowdfunded Business Finance

Grow your business with a Crowdfunder loan

Raise up to £1m over 5 years and build your own team of investors
by borrowing from the public from as low as 6%

www.crowdfunder.com

IPSE and SME4Labour Dinner

Date: 23rd January 2016

Host: Nick Brown MP

Location: House of Commons

SME4Labour hosted a dinner for members of the Labour Party at the House of Commons in partnership with the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed (IPSE).

SME4Labour Co-Chairs Ibrahim Dogus and Sonny Leong attended the event along with the principal directors of IPSE including Simon McVicker, the Director of Policy and Public Affairs. The event was hosted by Nick Brown MP with the aim of giving leading Labour MPs an opportunity to engage with small businesses, enterprises, the self-employed and inde-



pendent professionals by identifying the Labour Party's priorities and policies for the small business sector. The event was a resounding success and a productive dialogue was had over the course of the meal. Alongside Nick Brown MP, other MPs in

attendance included Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Seema Malhotra MP, Jim Dowd MP, Toby Perkins MP, Jess Philips MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Ian Lucas MP and Cathrine McKinley MP, attesting to just how crucial the meeting was.



Impact of Brexit on SMEs

Date: 14th December 2016

Speakers: Chuka Umunna MP,
Bill Esterson MP,

Chair: Ibrahim Dogus

Location: Committee Room 19 at
the House of Commons

SME4Labour organised a roundtable meeting involving MPs Chuka Umunna and Bill Esterson, attended by an audience of small and medium business owners. It was hosted in Committee Room 19 of the House of Commons and chaired by Ibrahim Dogus.

Chuka Umunna MP opened by firmly restating Labour's commitment to being the party of small business, demonstrated under the last leadership. Chuka brought up his own family connection to the cause, his father having run a market stall, and related several times to the experiences of business owners on Streatham High Road in his constituency. He made a three-point analysis of Labour's relationship with SMEs. The first was that Labour, being the party of the working people, had to back the businesses that provide the majority of private sector work in the country. Secondly, SMEs provide high streets and communities with their unique character, so support for them is a fundamental part of Labour's communitarian values. Finally, he pointed out that setting up a business is an act of challenging the market establishment.

Turning to the topic of Brexit, Mr. Umunna spoke about the failure of the Conservatives to even prepare a plan for a leave scenario, much less carry through on one. Their failure to do so has been directly in conflict with the interests of small traders: the 21% fall in the value of the pound has had massively adverse effects for traders on Streatham High Road, where 28% of the produce is sourced from the EU (to say nothing of the produce sourced outside of it).

Bill Esterson endorsed all of Chuka's comments and added his own family experience - his grandfather ran a corner shop, along with Bill's own background having spent 15 years running his own business.



He noted that in the three years since Chuka and others founded Small Business Saturday, millions more people work in SMEs, and millions more pounds are spent in them.

He mentioned that the Treasury's own analysis say as much as 60% of our trade is at risk if we revert to World Trade Organisation rules. He criticised the way

the government sought a deal with Nissan, pointing out that the future cannot be made on a business-by-business deal basis: whole sectors are reliant on the outcome of negotiations which he added are now predicted to take five to ten years. It is in this context that Mr. Esterson believes that Labour should aim "not just to be the party of small business, but of all business".



The Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Date: 8th November 2016

Host: Stephen Timms MP

Speakers: Bill Esterson MP.

Chair: Martin Howe

Location: Room P, Portcullis House,

Stephen Timms MP hosted a round-table discussion on how the Labour Party can create and win the support of the next generation of entrepreneurs. The event was

chaired by Martin Howe of the SME4Labour Executive Committee, with keynote speakers Stephen Timms and Bill Esterson MP at Portcullis House.

Stephen Timms MP began by applauding the work of SME4Labour. He stated that the current government set-up doesn't seem to support SMEs in the way that it should, and that is a political opportunity for Labour. He argued that the tax system needs to reflect more and more the needs of people who set up businesses for them-



selves and that this was an agenda Labour needs to get right.

Bill Esterson MP agreed that SMEs provide opportunities for criticism of government policy, and argued that on the topic of Brexit, business confidence is essential for success. He said that the loss of long-term foreign investment into the country will cause increasing problems over time and added that the result with Nissan is

vaunted, but that it is a success with one company in one part of the country and definitely is not a plan. He argued that the target of 3 million apprenticeships is dangerous and that a rush will mean that there will be a loss of quality. He also stated that projections suggest there will be a deficit of 0.5 million jobs in intermediate and advanced-skilled areas including the construction sector.





FAST, RELIABLE DELIVERY
AT GREAT PRICES

DELIVEREASE ™

Powered by trusted worldwide delivery services



**WHILE YOU'RE THINKING BIG,
WE'LL HANDLE THE SMALL STUFF.**

As international packing and shipping specialists, Mail Boxes Etc. has the expertise to make it happen.

Shipping across the UK or around the globe is easy when you trust your packages to MBE.

Anything from important documents and samples to a new product line – MBE can pack it and ship it anywhere in the world.

Choose from a range of Express and Scheduled services which allow you to balance speed with economy, helping you to reach new customers and suppliers wherever they are based.

Worried about confusing paperwork or regulations? We've got the knowledge and technology to cut through all the red tape.



WORLDWIDE PARCEL DELIVERY

- Ship across the UK, Europe and the World
- Packaging Services & Supplies
- Express or economy
- Internet tracking
- Proof of delivery
- International expertise



MAILBOX SERVICES

- Base your business at our address
- Phone in to check for mail
- Mail forwarding to your home office
- Package acceptance from any carrier
- 24 hour access available
- Private & confidential service

Mail Boxes Etc., Soho
15 Ingestre Place,
London. W1F 0DU
020 7439 3331
info@mbesoho.co.uk
www.mbesoho.co.uk


MAIL BOXES ETC.®

Worldwide Parcel Delivery
Mailbox Rental
Postal Services
Office Supplies and Stationery
Copy and Print

Meeting between Emily Thornberry and SME Owners

Date: 27th April, 2015

Speakers: Emily Thornberry MP

Location: Islington

SME4Labour organised a meeting in Islington between SME owners and Emily Thornberry MP. There were SME owners from various backgrounds who raised their concerns and other issues while also advocating for the Labour Party to become the natural home of small businesses, and that it should do more to engage with them. The key issues raised were lending to small business, immigration issues for the workforce, high rents and business rates.



SME4Labour Policy Roundtable

Date: 16th May 2016

Speakers: Angela Eagle MP, Bill Esterson MP, Seema Malhotra MP

Chair: Stephen Kinnock MP

Location: Labour Party headquarters

SME4Labour held its first policy roundtable in May this year at the Labour Party headquarters. The meeting room was full to capacity with small business owners, start-ups and freelancers.

It was chaired by Stephen Kinnock MP and attended by the Shadow Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills, Angela Eagle MP, the Shadow Minister for Small Business, Bill Esterson MP and the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Seema Malhotra MP. Also in attendance were representatives from the Cooperative Party and the Institute for the Self-Employed.

The event was also notable as Angela Eagle outlined the new Labour is Listening campaign, which is introducing new ways of engaging with the SME community through social media. SME4Labour applauds this campaign and looks forward to continuing to engage with it.

The policies considered during the event focussed on the following areas:

- Central and local procurement, good and bad regulation
- Banking and finance
- Pensions
- Infrastructure and broadband
- Recruitment and retainment
- Skills and training
- Business ethics
- Innovation and empowerment



BOOK LAUNCH WITH PETER HAIN: “Back To The Future Of Socialism”

Date: 13th October 2015

Host: Stephen Kinnock MP

Speakers: Rt Hon Lord Hain

Location: Ev Restaurant

October 2015, SME 4 Labour along with Stephen Kinnock MP held a discussion with Rt Hon Lord Hain about life in British politics and the success of Lord Hain’s book Back to the Future of Socialism. The book highlights what the future holds for the Labour Party and its members putting forward a profound alternative to the neo-liberal economic agenda. Lord Hain is best known for being a prominent activist in the anti-apartheid campaign in South Africa during the 1970s and for his later role in the Northern Ireland peace process. Having served the Labour Party for 50 years and been a cabinet member under both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, Lord Hain is a true advocate for carrying through the policies brought in by the Labour Party.



Networking reception in Parliament

Date: 18th January 2016

Host: Bill Esterson MP

Speakers: Ibrahim Dogus, Jeremy Corbyn, Angela Eagle MP,

Location: Jubilee Room, House of Commons

November 2015, saw the first networking reception for SME4Labour which led to its widely anticipated official launch in Parliament the following January. Hosted by Bill Esterson MP (and Shadow Minister for small businesses), the event was well attended by 50 MPs and Councillors. With the queue reaching over 400 individuals. SMEs make up 50% of the national economy with a majority of them being Labour-leaning, a fact which only reinforces the need for SME4Labour.

The event started with an opening speech



from the co-founder of SME4Labour, Ibrahim Dogus, who highlighted what the group stands for. This was reinforced with a speech from the Leader of the Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn where he stated “the formation of this group, within the Labour party, is a very important step forward” and that SMEs “need to have

equal access to all the benefits of the welfare state and business system.”

Angela Eagle MP expressed that a healthy relationship between the Labour Party and SMEs is essential because they “craft our policies so that we can build a prosperous economy for the 21st Century”.



First Annual SME4LABOUR Gala and Labour Excellence Awards



SME4Labour held its first annual gala, sponsored by Galliard Homes with drinks provided by Cobra Beer and Bira London, and hosted by Councillor Abena Oppong-Asare. The event was attended by over 400 guests including over two dozen MPs and a number of Labour's other elected politicians and peers. The gala, which took place at the Park Lane Sheraton Hotel in Piccadilly, also saw the launch of the first ever Labour Excellence Awards.

Winners of these prestigious awards, recognising for contributions to the party and to the country, included Yvette Cooper for 'MP of the Year', John McDonnell for 'Shadow Cabi-

net Member of the Year', Unite the Union for 'Trade Union of the Year', and Lord Dubs for 'Peer of the Year'. (For the winners of each category, please see below.)

As well as presenting an award, Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the Labour Party, delivered a speech praising SME4Labour's work, underlining the importance of SMEs to communities. Without SMEs, Mr. Corbyn said, our high streets would be bland clones of one another. He commended Ibrahim Dogus, co-chair of SME4Labour, on his efforts and thanked him for what he had achieved. Mr. Corbyn added that it was important that smalls SMEs be able to have access to government contracts. Other speakers, including Yvette Cooper MP and

John McDonnell MP, also praised the organisation's work to raise the profile of entrepreneurs and the self-employed in the party.

Cooper said that SMEs shake things up and this is what the Labour Party is all about. She commended Ibrahim Dogus and Sonny Leong, co-chairs of SME4Labour, on what they had done and said their energy and those working with them in SME4Labour exemplifies the energy and drive of small businesses. Mr. McDonnell said that Labour can protect people and communities by investing in skills and supporting risk-taking entrepreneurs, adding that no community should be left behind. Ibrahim Dogus said that the Labour Party and SMEs are perfect partners. Mr. Dogus noted social justice cannot happen unless there is a growing economy. He said that Labour must be the party for all of those who want to be better off, to see their families get on, and that SMEs are the perfect engine for this. Sonny Leong said that we must never allow people to divide our country and that the Labour Party is the best way to make sure this does not happen. Mr. Leong said that SME4Labour is here to represent the views of small and micro businesses. Martin Howe, a member of SME4Labour's executive committee, said that aspiration is a Labour value.

Other guests and speakers included Dawn Butler MP, Clive Lewis MP, Baroness Angela Smith, Stephen Timms MP, Sharon Hodgson MP, Claude Moraes MEP, Jennette Arnold AM, and Rajesh Agrawal, the Deputy Mayor of London for Business.





Fundraisers and Receptions

Photos from past events





A prestigious address for your business without the overheads



*Ask us how
we can help
your business*

**SUPPORTING
YOUR BUSINESS GROWTH**

**Your business address
mail room
parcel despatch
print room**



Mail Boxes Etc., Soho
15 Ingestre Place,
London. W1F 0DU
tel: 020 7439 3331
info@mbesoho.co.uk
www.mbesoho.co.uk

Need a lawyer? We'll speak up for you.



Duncan Lewis
Solicitors

Duncan Lewis Solicitors, a national law firm with over 50 offices in London and throughout the UK, is one of the country's fastest growing firms of solicitors servicing both corporate and private clients. We take pride in our diverse working environment with over 800 staff from over 60 different ethnic backgrounds. **We are recognised by the independent legal directory Legal 500 UK as a top tier law firm and ranked as a leading firm in 11 of our key legal practices nationwide.**

We specialise in:

Immigration

All matters including Appeals & Judicial Review



Children Matters

Abduction
Social Services
Contact Orders
Wardship



Divorce & Domestic Violence

Other Family Matters



Employment & Litigation

Consumer, Property, Bankruptcy
Debt & Probate



Crime & Fraud

All criminal defence matters (24 hours access)



Personal Injury & Medical Negligence

Conditional Fee Agreement



Professional Negligence

Dealing with duty of care breaches between professionals & clients



Housing

Landlord & Tenant Issues
Possession Proceedings
Disrepair, Allocation
Homelessness
Neighbour Disputes



Mental Health

Advice & assistance in all areas of the MHA 1983 (Amended 2007)
Nearest Relative rights
Tribunal Decision appeals



Other Areas:

Action Against the Police, Civil Liberties, Human Rights, Prison Law, Mental Capacity, Court of Protection, Public Law/Judicial Reviews, Wills and Probate, Property Disputes

Lawyers for your Business:

Immigration Advice for your Business, Contractual Disputes, Debt & Insolvency, Employment Law for your Business, Company Mergers Or Acquisition, Company Formation, Regulation, Health & Safety Law, Investigations, Director & Shareholder Disputes, Insurance Disputes, International Disputes

Legal Aid Available

Over **800** Staff
To Assist

Offices
all across
UK

Interpreters
Available

t: 033 3772 0409
www.duncanlewis.com



web: www.duncanlewis.com, email: contact@duncanlewis.com. Offices across London and in all major cities in the UK.

Bira London, world's first beer for kebabs!



info@biralondon.com | www.biralondon.com

 BiraLDN

 Bira London