

LABOUR REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

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Model motion on Welfare

This CLP notes that the Welfare Reform Bill is currently being debated in Parliament, and that the government has announced £18 billion in welfare cuts, while giving £24 billion in tax breaks to business.

This CLP condemns the coalition government's lack of any strategy for job creation and its increasing demonisation of those claiming welfare, while obsessing about benefit fraud. We note that benefit fraud costs the country £1.5 billion annually, but also note that £16 billion of benefits are left unclaimed, while fraud by the super-rich and big business means there is a £120 billion tax gap.

We are appalled at the current low level of benefits, among the lowest in western Europe, and note that unemployment benefit is just £65.45 per week (£51.85 for under-25s). If it had increased in line with earnings since 1979 it would be worth £110 per week today.

This CLP asserts that welfare is a right for those who are out of work or unable to work. We are opposed to increased means-testing, conditionality and stigmatisation – and believe welfare should provide people with dignity rather than poverty and humiliation.

We are also opposed to the further privatisation of welfare, leading to a worse service for claimants, profits to business and more cost to the taxpayer. We note that the National Audit Office, welfare charities and academic research has all found that Jobcentre Plus is more effective at helping people into work than private companies or charities.

We therefore call on our local MP to oppose the Bill and resolve to support and mobilise local trade unions, pensioner groups, unemployed workers' centres and party members in campaigning against the Bill and for a decent welfare system that provides security and dignity.