

Labour Fail



The Spending Challenge: Labour's record of failure



“ *We will manage your money properly.
Every pound that is spent, is spent wisely.* ” - Ed Miliband

You'll spend money wisely? Really Ed??

Labour councils have been spending millions on cars, redesigning their own plush offices and even suggested a wine terrace. They have spent thousands on self-publicity, tutorial DVDs and in one council, Labour spent **£8,000** on a new silverware cabinet.

So what have Labour
councillors really spent
your money on?



- ▶ DVDs telling you how to unblock a sink
- ▶ A £15,000 oil painting
- ▶ Repairs to a road only used by councillors
- ▶ More political staff
- ▶ A new silverware cabinet
- ▶ A concert in honour of a Labour mayor
- ▶ Luxury cars for council executives
- ▶ Legal fees to unmask a mystery blogger
- ▶ Major refurbishments to council offices

Across the country, Labour have wasted millions of pounds while closing libraries, Sure Start centres and other essential services.

Labour locally, are as bad as Labour nationally.

Has Ed Forgotten? In Government his was the party which spent:

£12bn on a failed IT system for the NHS

£500m on failed fire control centres

£2.8m on furniture and luxury sofas for Labour's plush Government offices.

Focus on Islington

Islington is one of Labour's flagship councils. The council is cutting services and laying off 140 staff in the year ahead. It has axed funding for 16 police community safety officers and thirteen staff in the community safety unit.

So in tough times, how have they spent your money in Islington?

- ▶ **£235,000** just spent on 'refreshing' the council website but the difference are minimal
- ▶ **£2,000** on producing a community safety DVD to show to councillors at the last full council meeting
- ▶ **£800,000** on creating new parking spaces, that will only raise £500,000
- ▶ **£50,000** wasted on a consultation about future housing which they decided not to finish
- ▶ **£25,000** spent on 're-branding' the council housing service

Remember: As Gordon Brown's backroom boys Ed Miliband and Ed Balls were running the economy when Labour was failing to balance the books, failing to regulate the financial markets and failing to take on the banks.

In Stoke-on-Trent, the Labour-run council is spending **£10,000** making a DVD showing its tenants how to unblock their sink, change light bulbs and bleed radiators. [↗](#)

The council has also been criticized for spending **£330,000** of taxpayers' money in redundancy payments to 25 staff - only to rehire them full-time. One worker who agreed a redundancy package with Stoke-On-Trent City Council spent just 27 days away from the local authority before returning to a new position. [↗](#)

Labour's efforts in Liverpool to reduce potholes saw most of the £1.1m Government's grant for filling in potholes across the city spent on one road only. **£800,000** was spent on resurfacing Regent Road. [↗](#)

They also spent taxpayers' money on sending letters to a resident for a council tax bill for a penny. The cost of postage only was more than the debt payable. [↗](#)

They are also providing luxury cars (a BMW and an Alfa Romeo together worth about **£90,000**) for two senior employees of the council at taxpayers' expense. [↗](#)

Labour-run Waltham Forest Council prosecuted Linda Bracey for giving away spare cardboard boxes to a passer-by. The authority ran up legal bills of **£15,000** after accusing Mrs Bracey of 'illegally disposing of business waste.' The Judge branded the case as a 'monumental waste of public time and money'. [↗](#)

Focus on Hull

Labour councillors at Hull City Council have failed to come up with a plan to deal with the financial shortfall facing the council in 2014 of **£24m**. This has doubled on their watch.

How have they been spending residents' money?

- ▶ **£8,000** from an "emergency fund" to buy a display case for council silverware
- ▶ **£35,000** repairing a private road that is blocked off from the public by a barrier and can only be accessed by councillors and council officials
- ▶ Reversed the Liberal Democrat cabinet's decision to take a 5% pay cut
- ▶ **£60,000** for a concert in honour of the Labour councillor who's Lord Mayor this year.

For more than two years, Labour-run South Tyneside Council has been trying to uncover the identity of an anonymous blogger known as Mr Monkey, who has mercilessly criticised and ridiculed Cllr Malcolm and his colleagues. [↗](#)

South Tyneside claims the costs so far are less than £75,000 but according to reports the figure is much closer to £250,000. [↗](#)

The same council is looking at **£32m** of budget cuts which has resulted in lollipop ladies and lunch vouchers for the elderly being axed. [↗](#)

In Newcastle, Labour immediately added a political officer to the Leader/Cabinet office when they took over control, costing the tax payer **£30,000** a year.

The Labour-run council have set up “Let’s Talk Newcastle” which involves meetings, literature and a website that costs **£45,000** alone. This is used for PR purposes only and there’s no evidence that any of the ideas coming from it are featuring in Labour’s policy or budget

Labour’s council rejected the offer of **£5m** from Government for “myPlace”, a city centre space for young people in what would have been a renovated former school, involving café, performance space, information services for young people from organisations like Barnardos.

Focus on Sheffield

Labour took control of Sheffield City Council in 2011.
How have Labour spent residents’ money since they took control 12 months ago?

- ▶ **£2.2m** on revamping meeting rooms Sheffield Town Hall
- ▶ **£400,000** to ‘communicate’ their plan to end weekly bin collections
- ▶ **£400,000** to fund full time Trade Union officials

In addition to this, Labour councillors:

- ▶ Refused extra funds from Government to save weekly bin collections
- ▶ Scrapped Liberal Democrat plans to give the lowest paid council workers a permanent **£250** pay rise both this year and next year.
- ▶ Rejected a plan to save **£1.2 million** by reducing the pay of senior Town Hall managers

Brent’s Labour Leader Ann John and her Labour Executive have been accused of giving away two buildings worth **£1.5 million** in their drive to shut down libraries without doing anything to prevent their loss. [↗](#)

The 2012/2013 budget reduces funds for disabled children’s transport and projects designed to raise awareness of mental health issues in schools, and two nurseries face an uncertain future. At the same time, the Council is doubling funding for an expensive ‘have your say’ scheme which was not mentioned at any stage during the budget consultation process. [↗](#)

Glasgow’s Labour-run council has plans to spend around **£15,000 on an oil painting** of the city's current Lord Provost, Bob Winter. [↗](#)

In September Labour-run Southwark unveiled plans to spend **£120,000 creating an executive wine terrace** at its Tooley Street headquarters. [↗](#)

Labour in Durham spent more than **£5000 on a bus stop** that hadn’t been used in two years – ‘The bus stop to nowhere’. [↗](#)

Labour councillors in Haringey propose to spend over **£1m on a fund that has no agreed plan or purpose** and has the name of the party's election manifesto 'One Borough, One Future fund' to promote political aims and pay for Labour pet projects. [↗](#)

Labour-run South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority had been planning to spend **£400,000 on luxury cars** for three executives. At the same time, the Authority will be closing fire stations and cutting staff numbers to meet budget targets. The plans were put on hold after Liberal Democrat Councillor Paul Scriven put forward a motion to rethink the proposals. [↗](#)