

Starmer Pledges "Pro-Worker" Policy After Labour's Election Fail



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"I'm on the side of working people," UK Prime Minister claims after disastrous election results. To prove this, he announced new policies aimed at defending the British capital.

Details. Labour [suffered](#) a major defeat in the 2026 local elections, [losing](#) 1,498 councillors while Reform UK gained more than 1,454 seats across former Labour strongholds. Labour also lost [ground](#) in Scotland and Wales, where the SNP [advanced](#) and Plaid Cymru brought an end to a century of Labour dominance in the Welsh Parliament.

► In his response [speech](#), Starmer attempted to present himself as pro-worker, declaring that he was "on the side of working people" and recalling the experience of his working-class family, who "work harder and harder, but worry about the cost of living." He claimed Labour would "deliver for ordinary people" and bring "immediate change."

► As examples of this, Starmer then [outlined](#) three new policy priorities: nationalising British steel production, pushing for closer economic ties with the European Union, and enlarging the "[Pride in Place](#)" programme, which aims to direct £20 million in investment into struggling towns.

► Despite this repositioning, pressure on Starmer has [continued](#) to grow. More than 80 Labour MPs have reportedly [called](#) for his resignation or set a timetable for his departure. His health secretary, Wes Streeting, has [quit](#) the cabinet and called on Starmer to resign, while other [more popular](#) Labour members are preparing for a leadership contest.

Context. During Labour's time in government, living conditions for British workers have continued to worsen. Britain has faced [worsening](#) public health, [rising](#) youth unemployment, and growing difficulty [affording](#) essential goods.

► At the same time, Labour has expanded repression and surveillance measures by retaining [anti-protest](#) laws, [broadening](#) police powers, expanding [facial-recognition surveillance](#), and pushed for the implementation of a [digital ID system](#).

Important to Know. Despite presenting the new policies as pro-worker, Keir Starmer has consistently [centred](#) his programme around "growth," presenting increased profits and investment as the solution to Britain's crisis. Starmer's earlier [defence](#) of the two-child benefit cap, which [affected](#) the poorest workers the most, highlights the hypocrisy of his "pro-worker" language today.

► The nationalisation of steel production further [secures](#) a strategic industry for British capitalism. Having already taken emergency control and spent [£419 million](#) in public funds covering wages and raw materials, the government will now compensate the previous private owners for the asset. The earlier emergency control bill passed with [cross-party support](#), including from right-populist Reform UK.

► Closer ties with the EU [aims](#) to strengthen Britain's position within a larger imperialist bloc amid global competition, aligning UK policy with EU strategies that increasingly include [austerity](#) measures to fund rearmament, tighter cross-border [surveillance](#), and [coordinated](#) economic and [military](#) policy against rival powers.

► The "Pride in Place" programme [offers](#) only relatively modest £20 million funding packages for deprived councils, such as support for local businesses, while doing little to reverse austerity or meaningfully improve conditions for workers.

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