

Foreword



**The Right Honourable
Pat McFadden MP**

Shadow City Minister

Any serious party of Government has to care as much about wealth creation as it does about fair wealth distribution. That means a focus of the economic strengths of the country and how they can be fostered alongside a concern for a properly funded public sphere which looks after us as citizens and challenges inequality.

The experience of the Covid pandemic has reinforced the need for such an approach by exposing the inequalities in society and how many key workers are treated, as well as resulting in the biggest hit to economic growth in over 300 years.

The contributions in this pamphlet are written by people who collectively have decades of experience in business. They discuss some of the key issues for all of us concerned with wealth creation and fair wealth distribution. The transition to net zero and the opportunities it represents, ESG investment, the challenges of regional inequality, the debate about resilience and globalisation, the charmed circles which are still prevalent at the top levels of business and the role that fiscal policy has to play in the recovery are all discussed.

What unites these contributions is that twin concern for economic growth and social justice. Under new leadership, Labour seeks a new and positive relationship with business with wealth creation and a concern for the good society at its heart. As the Conservative party morphs ever more towards right wing nationalism there is an urgent need for a political voice that cares about family prosperity, living standards and how the UK succeeds in a world of rapid global and technological change. We want to build an inclusive recovery that results in strong economic growth and addresses the long term inequalities that have held back opportunity for far too long.

As Keir Starmer said in his conference speech a few months ago, Labour is always at its most successful when it focusses on the future and tries to answer the problems of today and tomorrow, not when it tries to fight for a better yesterday. That is true of the all too rare moments of victory we have enjoyed – in 1945, 1964 and 1997. The issues raised in this pamphlet are at the heart of many of the challenges facing the country right now and they are a positive contribution to the debate we need.