

The background of the cover is a photograph of a wind farm at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the lower-left quadrant, casting a warm, golden light across the sky. Two large wind turbines are silhouetted against the sky; one is on the left and one is on the right. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a fence and some trees.

ANN UAL REP ORT

2010-2011
compass

CAMPAIGNING FOR THE GOOD SOCIETY

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Introduction

The following report outlines the main work and progress of Compass from March 2010 through to early October 2011. For legal requirements we're required to file an annual report for the financial year which runs from March-March, for the benefit of members we've included an update to October 2011 when this report was written.

The last year has been a highly challenging one for the organisation, yet it has been a hugely exciting one too with new opportunities on the horizon

In many ways this is not so dissimilar to the lives of many people up and down Britain over the last year – households challenged and faced with some of the most turbulent political and economic times faced in our country's history. Despite what the Prime Minister may say people are struggling simply to make ends meet at the end of each month, let alone have any spare cash to pay off the credit card.

It's in part due to the increasing hardships now faced by those on both middle and lower incomes, why in the summer of 2010 we launched our hugely popular campaign to End Legal Loan Sharking, with our call for a cap on the total cost of credit. This was in response to financial institutions in this country who now charge interest rates in excess of 2500% when the bank base rate is just 0.5% - this is usury and nothing short of legal loan sharking, a national scandal that we must put an end to. This campaign is important because it goes right to the heart of some of the fundamental problems with our economy. This was a campaign that we demonstrated could not only work on the pages of *The Guardian*, but on the pages of the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Mail* too. It's a credit to the tenacity and energy of all those involved in the campaign that we've put this issue firmly onto the national news agenda, whilst the coalition Government has now instigated its own independent research into how a cap on the cost of credit might work in practice. However there is still much we need to do on this issue and we will have to await further opportunities to intervene in the future subject to the legislative and Parliamentary timetable.

Furthermore, this year, in response to the establishment of the Independent Commission on Banking we launched the important campaign on Good Banking, calling for the break-up of retail and investment banking as a first and necessary step to deliver a safe, secure and good banking system for all.

Whilst this summer, in response to the Murdoch-gate revelations we launched our hugely popular campaign *In the Public Interest*. This has not only hit the headlines, but we've created a real buzz on social networks sites and quickly attracted over 10,000 new supporters. We intend to take this campaign further in the months ahead and build on our success so far.

We have also produced a heap of ideas over the last year – putting innovative and pioneering research into the national debate. From ideas on Transforming Labour, on Banks We Can Believe In and Good Banking, on reforming our Democracy, on Building the Good Society, on Financial Exclusion, on Red/Green politics and most recently on Education.

However probably the most profound, pivotal and proudest event for Compass over the last year was beyond any doubt the organisation's decision to open up its membership to centre-left activists in other parties. Whilst this vote was a huge challenge for the organisation I think members should feel very proud of the ballot and the debate we conducted – with a resounding yes to the decision to open up our membership. This was important, because Compass can't just talk the talk of a new pluralist progressive politics – we must also walk the walk. We fully appreciate that some of our members did not feel fully comfortable with this decision. However we should remember that in addition to opening up the membership, Compass is now formally committed to a transformed Labour Party. It's also worth noting





that our membership rules are now no different to many of the Labour-supporting trade unions.

Yet we should recognise that despite the opening up of our membership, there is now huge work to be done to fully capitalise on it. We must use the opportunity that opening up provides to reach out to social liberals in the Liberal Democrats, many of which are hugely disaffected with their current leadership, as well as 'Red Greens' in the Green Party too. Just as Compass was a bridge to the hundreds of thousands that left Labour in the late 1990s to early 2000s, so we must now build a bridge to centre-left progressives in other parties, so that we fully play our part in building an enduring progressive alliance and movement in the country.

Indeed whilst we must always do more, our membership and supporters base continues to grow. Our membership now stands at just under 5000, whilst we now have over 50,000 members and supporters. We should pay tribute to the many local campaigns and events that have taken place right across Britain thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of our local coordinators who volunteer their spare time at evenings and weekends to Compass and whom organise so many exciting activities throughout the year.

In spite of our membership and supporter growth and despite being highly efficient and nimble in the way in which we operate; our financial and human resources continue to be hugely over-stretched. The only way we will achieve any kind of self-sustainability is through increasing the money we receive from members and supporters. In the last financial year we raised £80,000 from members and supporters, we ideally need to double this figure. If you are able to commit to a regular monthly gift by standing order I'd urge you to do so, even if just a few pounds a month this makes a massive difference.

As we state in the Political Positioning and Priorities Statement (PPPS) our goal in the year ahead is to focus down on four key areas:

- The Good Society: continuing research, development and campaigning on the concept of the good
- New Political Economy: continuing research, development and campaigning for a reformed economy for a good society
- Reforming the State : developing our networks, researching and campaigning for a reformed state that can help be the catalyst for a good society
- Political support: continuing to build the organisational framework and a movement for the good society

If you've any questions about the work we've done or are planning to do we'd be delighted to discuss this with you. We'd also encourage you to submit your ideas and amendments to the Political Priorities and Positioning Statement (PPPS) in time for the AGM on Saturday 3 December 2011 – this is a document that is democratically amended and voted on by the membership each year, so please use this opportunity to have your say on our future priorities.

As always thanks must go to all our members and supporters for your terrific support and enthusiasm throughout the year, for which the whole Compass team is immensely grateful for. We look forward to working and campaigning with you in the year ahead.

Introduction: Gavin Hayes, General Secretary, Compass

Members and supporters

A movement for real change

We have had strong membership and supporter growth in the last year. We now have over 50,000 members and supporters across the UK.

Membership has grown from 3625 in August 2009, to 4421 in October 2010 to 4747 in October 2011.

Our combined membership and supporters list has gone from just over 40,000 in October 2010 to over 50,000 in October 2011.

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: If you'd like to help us recruit people, then please encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to become members or supporters of Compass. Or if you can help us to get a recruitment leaflet/free insert into a relevant mailing (your local CLP newsletter, trade union branch, community action group mailing etc) then please get in touch.



Local groups

Putting Compass in your communities

Local Groups now meet across the UK with voluntary Regional Co-Ordinators in the North East (Newcastle), North West (Liverpool), West Midlands (Birmingham), East Midlands (Nottingham), Yorkshire and the Humber (Leeds), East Anglia (Norwich/Cambridge), South East (Southampton and Portsmouth), South West (Bristol), Scotland and Wales. Local groups meet to discuss political ideas, organise local meetings/conferences and to discuss and organise local campaigns.

Full contact details of the co-ordinators can be found on the Compass website.

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: Compass local groups are being established all over the country and with our membership now open to all, there's huge opportunity to bring a whole plethora of coalitions of people together to build alliances for a good society. If you would like help setting up a local group, or a local activists meeting, just email Joe or Gavin and they will assist you and provide you with the help and support you need to run a successful meeting and facilitate the establishment of fledgling groups.



Events

Forums to re-energise centre-left debate

A packed array of excellent debates, discussions, seminars, conferences and other events have been organised throughout the year:

After the election: what next for centre-left politics?

MAY 2010 (WESTMINSTER, LIVERPOOL, OXFORD, NEWCASTLE)

This series of essential high-profile events took place immediately after an historic general election and at a significant moment in British politics. Speakers included Jon Cruddas MP; Polly Toynbee, Chuka Umunna MP, John Harris and chaired by Neal Lawson. Anticipation surrounded the new leadership election, which provided a chance to really reflect on the state of the Party and look to its future as a progressive force in the country.

Compass National Conference 'A New Hope'

JUNE 2010 - LONDON

Almost 1500 progressives gathered at Compass's 7th annual conference to assess, evaluate and debate the future of centre-left politics. The conference was a major success, acting as a platform for a diverse range of speakers to discuss the formation of a rainbow coalition of progressives, arguing that Labour must embrace pluralism and leave tribalism behind once and for all. Highlights included a full capacity conference hall witnessing Dianne Abbott MP, Ed Miliband MP, David Miliband MP, Ed Balls MP and Andy Burnham MP all put forward convincing cases for becoming the next leader of the Labour Party.

Compass North and East London meeting with Neal Lawson

AUGUST 2010 - LONDON

Neal Lawson provided the impetus to kick-start the regular meeting of the Compass North & East London local group. Neal led an open and frank discussion on the Labour leadership election and the broader future of the political Left in the UK, which intrigued the audience no end.

Labour Party Conference

SEPTEMBER 2010 – MANCHESTER

Compass held five exciting and dynamic fringe events at the Labour Party Conference in 2010. One notable highlight was our rally entitled; A New Hope for Labour, which attracted speakers Neal Lawson, Compass (chair); Jon Cruddas MP; Chuka Umunna MP; Lisa Nandy MP; Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP; David Lammy MP; Baroness Helena Kennedy QC; John Harris, The Guardian; Tony Robinson, Actor & Broadcaster and Prof Francesca Klug OBE. The remaining four events staged by Compass were as engaging as ever and included; Beyond the recession: housing in the new political era; Transforming Labour: Can centre-left parties become grassroots movements for change? Pursuing an Ethical Foreign Policy: Should civil society have a role? And finally After the Coalition: What Left for a progressive alliance?

The Coalition Spending Review and Labour's alternative

OCTOBER 2010 – WESTMINSTER PUBLIC MEETING

Against a background of draconian spending cuts, The New Political Economy Network, Soundings and Compass, in association with The Guardian, organised a public meeting to design an alternative political economy for creating sustainable growth and prosperity. This desperately needed and desirable event featured speakers Jon Cruddas MP; Frances O'Grady, Deputy General Secretary, TUC; Polly Toynbee, The Guardian; Larry Elliott, The Guardian and was Chaired by Aditya Chakraborty of The Guardian.



Compass in Newham

OCTOBER 2010 - NEWHAM

Compass hosted yet another lively grassroots debate, facilitating progressive debate in new areas, with a panel that listed Cllr Steve Reed, Leader of Southwark Council, Graham Lane, former Councillor & Chair of Education, LB Newham, Cllr Sam Tarry (LB Barking & Dagenham) chair of Young Labour, Cllr Paul Brickell (LBN) and Chair: Keith Hasler.



Stopping the banks busting the economy again: Time for a new banking model?

NOVEMBER 2010 – WESTMINSTER DEBATE

Yet another high profile economic event held by Compass focused on the future of banking, in the same month that the government announced over £83BN in sweeping public spending cuts. The debate enabled the contemplation of a banking model that is responsible and sustainable. Coinciding with the publication of a major report by Compass, the debate attracted high profile speakers including the then Treasury Select Committee member Chuka Umunna MP; Compass Chair Neal Lawson; Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesperson Lord Matthew Oakeshott; and Lindsay Mackie. The event was chaired by Jill Treanor of The Guardian.

Compass Christmas Boat Party

DECEMBER 2010 – LONDON

We welcomed and embraced supporters and friends of Compass for our annual Christmas party on a boat at Albert Embankment on the River Thames. This was a unique, friendly and relaxed evening where we celebrated another successful year for Compass.

End Legal Loan Sharking Rally

FEBRUARY 2011 – WESTMINSTER

The first event of our groundbreaking campaign to End Legal Loan Sharking coincided with the second reading of Stella Creasy MP's Consumer Credit and Advice Bill. This event kick started major research on the impact of financial exclusion by Compass. Speakers at the rally included self help author and former presenter of BBC Spendaholics Benjamin Fry; Stella Creasy MP; Helen Goodman MP; Stephen Gilbert MP; Damon Gibbons, Chief Executive, Centre for Responsible Credit; Maurice Glassman, London Citizens; Rev Paul Nicolson, Chairman, Z2K Trust; Gavin Hayes, General Secretary, Compass. We have since produced a compelling publication entitled *On the Margins - Debt, Financial Exclusion and Low Income Households* which sets out short and long term policy recommendations to help solve an issue that has a crippling and devastating effect on people who are low on economic capital.

Compass Annual Lecture - A realignment of the mind - what way forward for progressive politics?

FEBRUARY 2011 – LONDON

Our first ever New Year Annual Lecture was delivered by Professor David Marquand, prominent political academic and former Labour MP. He succinctly argued that the current crisis of capitalism is so profound that we have to draw upon all ideological currents and political traditions if we are to forge a new political settlement. David ended by calling for the formation of a new progressive movement to help bring about the fundamental change now required. This challenging and thought-provoking lecture was followed by contributions from a panel of the highest calibre; Leader of the Labour Party Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP; Leader of the Green Party Caroline Lucas MP and Professor Francesca Klug of the LSE, whilst Compass's Neal Lawson chaired the lecture. The whole panel of respondents argued passionately in favour of a pluralistic politics and interestingly all

declared their full support for reforming the Compass membership rules to ensure Compass can play a key role in building a pluralistic progressive movement. Ed Miliband praised Compass as a place where people of the centre left come together, adding he was 'completely relaxed' about Compass opening up to members of other political parties.

The Good Society versus The Big Society

MARCH 2011 – WESTMINSTER DEBATE

With the left under pressure to offer an alternative positive vision of society with meaningful human relationships at the heart, Compass rose to the challenge by initiating The Good Society. This Westminster debate attracted the prestigious panel of Lord Maurice Glasman, Stella Creasy MP, Anna Coote from nef, David Robinson from Community Links, author of the 'Big Society' Jesse Norman MP and Jon Cruddas MP set out to elucidate their positions. Crucially the debate allowed many parallels, nuances and distinctions to be drawn between the two ideas, facilitating constructive conclusions to be drawn on how Compass' Good Society can effectively counter the false panacea like image that the right have created with regards to The Big Society.



After May 5th - what future for centre-left politics?

MAY 2011 – WESTMINSTER DEBATE

Close to 100 members and supporters of Compass gathered to discuss the way forward for the centre left following the disillusioning AV failure. A diverse panel chaired by Neal Lawson included Lord Mathew Oakeshott (Liberal Democrat), Lisa Nandy MP, Jon Trickett MP Shadow Minister of State, and Darren Johnson (Green party London Assembly Member). The meeting surfaced many important arguments, but perhaps more so, it served to highlight the urgency and necessity of action. The debate enabled the much needed facilitation of optimistic opinions on the way forward for pluralistic politics for a progressive left.

Transforming Labour: ideas for refounding and reforming the Party

JUNE 2011 – WESTMINSTER

Our Secretary General, Gavin Hayes, was joined at this notable event by the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP, leader of the Refounding Labour initiative on Party reform. Thoughts were gathered surrounding the manner in which Labour will go about the biggest transformations in the past 20 years, which hope to reinvigorate and empower Party members and supporters alike, whilst seeking to build the bridges for a unified left.

What is Education for?

JUNE 2011 – NEWHAM COLLEGE

This event posed to answer the complex issue of what role we seek our education system to perform in society. Speakers Ian Wright MP, and Eddie Playfair, Principle of New Vic generated significant debate surrounding a question that so vitally needs highlighting against a backdrop of spiralling tuition fees and significant changes educational policy.

Compass National Conference 'Building a Good Society'

JUNE 2011 – LONDON

A tremendous success once again, over a thousand centre left activists and supporters gathered at the Robin Cook memorial conference to help offer their vision on building a Good Society. As stated by the Compass Chair Neal Lawson in his opening speech, 'we have never been more determined or better placed. We are going to change the world, because we have to.' An endless list of leading

progressive thinkers and experts contributed to the many debates and fringe events held at the conference, which significantly helped to provide strategic consensus for the progressive left.

Social Housing: the localism bill and beyond

SEPTEMBER 2011 - LIVERPOOL

The coalition seems content with hitting the worst off the hardest, scrapping the rights of social housing tenants. Compass refused to passively sit back on this matter and staged an event to tackle the issues with the localism bill. This was led by Liverpool City Councillor and Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, Ann O'Byrne.



Labour Party Conference 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011 – LIVERPOOL

Compass held a number of prominent and exciting fringe events at the 2011 Labour Party Conference. The notable highlights included our Building the Good Society rally and a key debate entitled Tribalism versus Pluralism: can progressive parties work together? We once again provided a platform for some of the foremost progressive experts around, with a star studded line up including Lisa Nandy MP; Chuka Umunna MP; Jon Trickett MP; Rt Hon Peter Hain MP; Angela Eagle MP; Prof Francesca Klug OBE; John Harris, The Guardian; Polly Toynbee, The Guardian; Rt Hon Peter Hain MP; Dr Evan Harris; Jenny Jones AM; Markus Engels, SPD Germany.

Education for the good society

OCTOBER 2011 – WESTMINSTER DEBATE

Compass realised that the Left is facing a crisis of its approach to education, highlighted by the 'education revolution' of the Coalition Government. We attracted a number of high profile speakers including Stephen Twigg MP & Shadow Secretary of State for Education Stephen Twigg MP; Professor Ken Spours, Institute of Education; Lisa Nandy MP, Education Select Committee; Sir Alastair Macdonald, Morpeth Secondary School Headteacher; Professor Becky Francis, Director of Education at RSA. We argued that it was important to step back and present a positive vision of education based on the key pillars of the Good Society - fairness, democracy, sustainability and well-being. This values-led agenda, whilst offering an opportunity to take the moral and philosophical high ground, also posed a number of difficult strategic questions.

Secure affordable homes for all: A policy for the next government

OCTOBER 2011 – EAST THAMES HOUSING HQ

At a dynamic event, a well informed and expert panel included June Barnes, CEO East Thames Housing, Nicky Gavron AM, GLA Labour Housing Spokesperson, Eddie Benn, Chair, Carpenters Tenant Management Organisation. They set out strategies to overcome the fundamental challenge of the housing deficit and spiralling demand, an issue ignored at our peril.

Other speaking events

Management committee members, staff, regional co-ordinators and key Compass activists have spoken at a wide-range of other external meetings throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: If you'd like a Compass speaker to address a meeting, or are interested in organising a Compass meeting of your own please get in touch.

Campaigns

Delivering real change

Our campaigns continue to be effective in reaching out to new audiences, building new alliances and bringing about real political change. We have grown our online supporters database by over 10,000 this year largely as a result of our campaigning. This growing database of supporters allows our online and offline actions to have a greater impact. It also makes Compass more sustainable as it broadens our donor base.

Whilst the government's harsh austerity measures have meant the left has largely been in defensive mode this year there have been glimmers of hope. We have found inspiration by working with and supporting organisations such as UK Uncut, the movement against the marketisation of higher education and the Yes to Fairer Votes campaign. In their different ways all of these movements have shown us that there are innovative campaigning methods and new alliances out there that can begin form the basis of a strong movement for the good society. Working with these movements and supporting these campaigns is invaluable as it helps us to develop new relationships and campaigning techniques.

Despite huge economic instability and devastating public spending cuts the attitude that we continue to have is that these are times in which the potential for radical change is great and we always aim to reflect this optimism in our campaigning.

Next year our aim is to build the supporters database by at least 20,000 people. Political economy will be central to next year's campaigns and we will build and maintain pressure for a 'Plan B' alternative economic model. We will continue to work with the Good Banking Forum and others to campaign for major reform of financialised capitalism. We will also build momentum behind the End Legal Loan Sharking and In the Public Interest campaigns.

End Legal Loan Sharking

In summer 2010 we launched our campaign to end legal loan sharking. Capping the cost of credit and increasing access to affordable credit would help enable the poorest households to become financially independent and help to provide a route out of personal debt. Currently irresponsible lending can cause personal debt to become unmanageable; some loan and credit companies are charging annual interest rates equivalent to over 2500% (despite the Bank of England base rate being just 0.5%). Borrowing at these rates repeatedly tips customers into inescapable cycles of debt and poverty.

We now have the support of 208 MPs from all across the house and due to pressure from our campaign and campaigning from others such as Stella Creasy MP the Government is now commissioning fresh research into the viability of a credit cap, an unthinkable step before our campaign was launched just over a year ago.



Visit <http://www.endlegalloansharks.org> for further details.

Good Banking Campaign

In July 2011 Compass in partnership with nef (the New Economics Foundation) along with a unique range of leading figures from academia, politics, the law, consumer and civil society groups launched a new campaign calling for a Good Banking system - one that is secure and useful, as well as one that is economically, socially and environmentally fit for purpose.

The campaign was set up to challenge the limited scope of the Independent Commission on Banking (ICB) and has mobilised public pressure for 'Good Banking'. We believe the break-up of the large universal banks is a necessary first step to real reform.

Although the ICB did not call for the complete separation of the universal banks we now



have an ongoing forum through which can build pressure for more radical reform in the coming years and months.

Next year we will continue the work of the Good Banking Forum to build the alliances, structures and campaigns to democratise and reform financial capitalism.

Visit <http://goodbanking.org.uk/> for further details

In the Public Interest

Something is unravelling before our very eyes. From Bankers to media-barons, private interests have bankrupted the public realm. Power, for so long hidden in the pockets of a cosy elite, has been exposed. Those who yield it have been found wanting - in scruples, in morals, in decency.

The phone hacking scandal was not an isolated event. First, the bankers and their bonuses; then some politicians with their expenses and then phone hacking.

Responding to these crises in August 2011 we called for the government to establish a new 'Jury of the People' to restore the public interest in our important institutions. This campaign makes the argument that Britain should not be focusing on a mythical 'Feral Underclass' - but a very real 'Feral Elite' and that only the people can define and enforce the public interest.

This campaign has got off to a fantastic start with over 10,000 people now signed up. We are now looking to set up and fund our own independent Jury of the People to come up with a series reforms and policies to restore the public interest in our country's institutions.

Visit www.inthepublicinterest.org.uk to sign the petition and receive updates



MEMBERSHIP ACTION: You can sign up and take action on Compass campaigns on the website. Whenever we run a campaign we encourage you to get involved as much as possible with campaign related activities, like responding to our consultations or e-petitions, writing to your MP or writing a letter to your local paper. Our web-based tools mean you can assist us in our campaigns in just a few easy clicks. We can also provide Compass speakers for local campaign meetings. To get more involved in our campaigns please get in touch.

Research, policy & publications

Changing the terms of debate

A key strength of Compass is its relationships with key academics, experts and many organisations including NGOs, trade unions and some trusts and foundations. These relationships allow us to deliver an exciting and compelling research and publications agenda.

This year our research has been focused largely around three themes; political economy, the good society and the reforming the state. We will continue to build on these research areas next year.

THE GOOD SOCIETY

From the simple concept of the good society Compass will build a much more tangible and vivid notion of what this society might look like. We will also build more detailed visions around the framework focusing on old age, young people, gender, housing, localism, Scotland and Europe. We will also look to develop a 'Good Society Index' to make the concept more tangible. Central to the good society vision is the politics of time and next year we will look to develop a research project into this.

We will continue to work closely with the Compass Sustainability Panel to ensure that sustainability is front and centre of the good society vision. We will also build on the well established Progressive Alliance series of meetings to build shared awareness, approaches and techniques amongst centre-left organisations that want to work towards the good society.

A NEW POLITICAL ECONOMY

An alternative vision of political economy is desperately needed if we are to move beyond a neoliberal model that has failed to deliver for people and planet. Therefore central to next years work will be the continued development of 'Plan B'.

This will be complemented by our ongoing work with the 'Good Banking Forum', a unique range of leading figures from academia, politics, the law, consumer and civil society groups through which we hope to develop the research and policies necessary to democratise and reform financial capitalism.

We will also continue to support the fantastic work of the High Pay Commission and hopefully aid their transition to a High Pay Unit or Institute.

REFORMING THE STATE

Next year we will set up a series of seminars to rethink what a responsive, democratic and modern state looks like and build a theory and practice around this theme. We will continue the fantastic work of the Education Group and build on the first values based e-book with a focus on structures and implementation. Following on from our In the Public Interest campaign we will look to establish new and innovative public jury's as a vehicle for democratising the state.

Over the last year we have written and published the following reports, which cover a broad range of issues.

The Next Hung Parliament: How Labour Can Prepare

The days in which people across the political spectrum within Labour explored the possibility of an alliance with the Liberal Democrats seem far away. However the wider political and electoral context makes it essential for Labour to build broad social and electoral alliances in order for us to realise our objectives. In this publication Matthew Sowemimo argues that the Labour Party must learn and prepare for the next hung parliament.



Banks We Can Believe In

In this publication Neal Lawson and Zoe Gannon argue that the banking sector remains too big, too free and too risky and the government has yet to undertake the necessary reforms to ensure we avoid another banking collapse. It advocates a string of policies alongside the central necessary reform which is a separation of the retail and investment functions of the banks.

A Realignment of the Mind

A Realignment of the Mind is based upon a sell out lecture delivered by Professor David Marquand on the 10 February 2011. Professor Marquand argues that the contemporary crisis of capitalism is so profound that we have to draw upon all ideological currents and political traditions if we are to forge a new political settlement. He ends by calling for the formation of a new progressive movement to help bring about the fundamental change now required.

The publication also contains positive responses from the leader of the Labour Party, Rt. Hon Ed Miliband, leader of the Green Party Caroline Lucas MP, Dr Evan Harris and Professor Francesca Klug of the LSE.

Democracy by Machines or Morals?

In this document Neal Lawson argues that the old levers of the state don't work anything like they once did. Power, by which we mean the ability to change the world – not just to be in office, cannot be won on the basis of 40% of the vote – but has to be negotiated again and again in civil society, the media and the economy. This is a world that chimes with AV. It argues that the good society will be built through negotiations and alliance building, as difficult as it is the alternative vote offers the chance to make change happen.

Building the Good Society: A New Forum of Progressive Politics

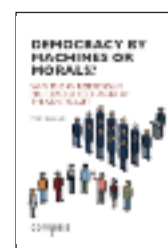
Written by Robin Wilson and Jon Bloomfield this publication analyses how we reached where we are and how to break out of the impasse. It outlines a compelling vision where each individual can aspire to fulfil their potential. The thinking is informed by the marriage of the ideals of liberty, equality and solidarity but fused with a 21st-century concern for the environment and the legacy we leave to future generations.

Good Banking: Why We Need a Bigger Public Debate

Three years on from the full outbreak of the banking crisis, a unique range of leading figures from academia, finance, politics, the law, consumer and civil society groups gathered at the Good Banking Summit to try to answer the question, 'What would a good banking system look like?' This report is based on these discussions.

Good Society/Green Society? The Red-Green Debate

Edited by Victor Anderson (Convenor of the Compass Sustainability Panel) the articles in this book discuss questions raised by the proposition that reds and greens should co-operate, as part of a new pluralistic politics. Some of the articles tackle difficult questions such as economic growth, the influence of consumerism on the labour movement, and the limitations of anti-cuts campaigns. Others explore possible common ground, around ideas about equality, values, and international trade. There are also articles providing a feminist angle on red-green dialogue, and an account of the experience of red-green co-operation and coalitions in other countries, such as Germany.



On the Margins – Debt, Financial Exclusion and Low Income Households

Written by Joe Cox, Kevin Gulliver and John Morris our latest report, jointly produced with Birmingham based think tank, the Human City Institute is based on 250 interviews with tenants on a social housing estate in the Midlands. The research combined with existing literature shines a light on the growing personal debt crisis and questions the government's economic strategy of increasing levels of private debt as a means to reduce the public deficit. The report also highlights the huge and growing problem of reliance on high cost credit. Short and long term policy recommendations are put forward to help avoid this emerging crisis.

Membership action: Compass publications can form the basis of local reading groups or book clubs, we'll provide you with a framework on how to run a successful reading group soon. You could ask your local bookshop and library to stock Compass publications, or donate your old Compass publications to your local community hubs. You could also ask your local trade union and CLP to subscribe to Compass and get our publications. All Compass publications can also be debated on the Compass website.



E-communications & website

Communicating to wider audiences

The main Compass website continues to be a good forum for centre-left ideas, debate and campaigning. The website consistently attracts over 150,000 active user sessions a month.

In addition to the main Compass website, we have also launched additional micro-sites and blogs to further enhance Compass's ability to campaign and communicate. We now run and manage the Education for the Good Society blog, End Legal Loan Sharking campaign site; the Good Banking site and the In the Public Interest campaign site.

These micro-sites enable us to reach niche audiences and build our activist and supporters base around specific issues. Furthermore they act as a good platform for the broad alliances we seek to build around our campaigns and causes.

As mentioned above our email supporters list has grown from over 35,000 last year to just over 50,000 this year – the most effective way that we can communicate with a large body of progressive activists across the country.

Perhaps what has been most interesting this year; is that we have focussed exceptionally hard on getting our campaign messages and what we say in our emails right and focussing carefully on what resonates with our supporters, as well as regulating the frequency of emails and putting in place stricter email schedules. As a result of specially targeting our emails and fine tuning the language of them we are now starting to see open rates for our emails often exceeding 70% - this is an exceptionally good open rate. Indeed open rates for campaign emails such as for In the Public Interest have exceeded 90%.

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: We welcome comment, debate and contributions from members on our website, both on the main news page, as well as on the 'Compass Debates' members-only section. If you have ideas for articles or thinkpieces please get in touch. Please do add your comments/views on a regular basis.



Building our future

Compass Youth is the autonomous youth-wing of Compass, run by their own democratically elected Compass Youth Organising Committee - below is a summary of their activities for 2010/2011

2010/2011 was a tumultuous year for the centre left generally and for generation Y especially. The Compass Organising Committee (CYOC) 2010/2011 bore witness to wave after wave of attack on the hopes, dreams, apparent entitlements, and futures of Generation Y.

Shoulder to shoulder with likeminded campaigners, CYOC fought to turn disillusion in the political process into a story of hope. The year saw the university occupation return from the dying embers of our socio political memory to the forefront of political practice. Direct action and civil disobedience once again became acceptable for a generation suffering from a chronic shortage of housing, work, and faith in the political process.

Throughout the year CYOC worked alongside numerous 'progressive allies' on a number of different campaigns and actions. We campaigned on student fees and corporate tax avoidance. Perhaps most successful was our campaign with CWU to 'Keep The Post Public'. We led our own campaign on youth unemployment, on raising the national minimum wage, and showed solidarity with organisations from across the labour movement. We built bridges, created value, and strengthened our position within the Labour Party.

With the opening up of the wider Compass membership a small number of CYOC members decided it was best for them to leave the organisation. Not sharing the pluralist and open vision of those who stayed, those who left failed to grasp the opportunities that opening up created. However, the slowdown this created was only met with renewed enthusiasm by the co-opted members of CYOC and the early part of the new CYOC 2011/2012 has been marked with an enthusiasm and determination much needed in such troubling political times.

As of August the new CYOC were duly elected with Will Cass as Chair, Matthew Fulton as Vice Chair, Jon Ridge as Treasurer, and Marley Miller as Secretary. The overarching strategy for the coming year is twofold spanning across the next two years.

The political context in which the new committee finds itself is increasingly more stark than that of the previous year. The cuts are taking affect across the UK and the threat of a double dip recession looms heavy over our heads. Furthermore, when politicians talk about engaging with youth politics, what they generally mean is engaging with a caucus of energetic, compliant and unrepresentative youth who give their time for free to causes led by parties

We say young people need an agenda of our own. That's why over the next 2 years we will be working towards a radical generational agenda, a manifesto around which young adults can rally and from where our voices can genuinely begin to be heard. We will break down the divides that atomise our generation and reinvigorate the ideological direction of youth movements.

What we need is a sense of political totality. Compass Youth must take the lead in bringing the likeminded and the active together under a common banner. We need however to take stock of where we are and to continue to, over the coming year, build up our credibility, our influence, and our ability to persuade.

The strategy of CYOC 2011/2012 reflects the sense of urgency with which we must act. Accordingly, our strategy for the coming year is split into 4 quarters which brakes broken down as Q1 August/November, Q2 December/February, Q3 March/May, and Q4 June/August. Over Q1, the main emphasis is reach out, to re-establish ourselves in the campaigning community after several months of inactivity.

Over Q1, we intend to build our email database, make ourselves ready and available to support our sister organisations, and to be youth ambassadors across student movements.



Already we have held several events and are looking at an impressive 10 events over the first 4 months and have triggered the Compass Youth Ambassador scheme which aims at developing Compass's influence within universities. But this is only the beginning.

A movement without ideas is directionless and over Q2 we need to start building ideas. Not only will we contribute to the ongoing debates within Compass but ramp up our collaborative efforts with UKuncut and Class Wargames to name but two.

In Q3 we will trigger a yearlong policy seminar process aimed at bringing together thinkers and activists from across the key policy areas that effect youth the most. Having built a groundswell of positive sentiment, increased influence and activist numbers, over Q3 and Q4 we will seek to lead on our own campaigns and in doing so, set the foundations for an even more successful CYOC 2012/2013.

Our resolve is clear and our mission even more so, we must rise to the challenge of generational justice and be the catalyst for a new politics. We must be the change we wish to see!

Come and see us at the AGM or contact us at youthchair@compassonline.org.uk.

Our networks

Building strong relationships with other progressives

Since October 2010 we have continued and built upon our 'Progressive Alliance' monthly breakfast meetings. These bring together progressive campaigners, thinkers, politicians, academics, organisers and others once a month to help better coordinate shared goals and join up our work for a more democratic, equal and sustainable world more effectively. Here we share ideas, projects, campaigns, research and best practice. This national network of progressives has also grown significantly – up from around 100 when we launched to just over 200.

New developments over the last year also include the development of networks around specific issues and policy areas, seeing the launch of our Education Group, Sustainability Group and New State Network.

In the last year we have also extended and further developed our international network, in particular across Europe thanks to the support and strategic partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (FES). This has enabled us to build relationships with social democrats all across Europe. Compass will also have a presence at the forthcoming PES (Party of European Socialists) Progressive Convention in Brussels at the end of November.

In addition we continue to maintain our links with progressives in the US and in Australia.

We will continue to build these strategic relationships in the year ahead to further the goals of Compass and the wider centre-left.



Media coverage

Leading the national debate

We have continued to have a high media presence this year, this has been greatly assisted through the popular campaigns we have run since March 2010 and our extensive policy and ideas programme of work. Compass is regularly represented on BBC News 24, Sky News, the Today Programme, BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live, The Politics Show and other key programmes. In fact it was quite incredible how much media coverage we receive given our limited capacity. A small selection of positive press coverage can be found below:



“Compass gets 5 out of 5.” (for being the most transparent and accountable thinktank)

George Monbiot, *The Guardian*, September 2011

“Establishing a People’s Jury would be innovative and refreshing”

Stephen Coleman professor of political communication at Leeds University
The Guardian, August 2011

“I welcome what Compass is doing, because this factional stuff is a zero sum game,”

Jon Cruddas, *Total Politics*, June 2011

“Compass – is embarking on some refreshing new thinking.”

Will Hutton, *The Observer* May 2011

“Compass are...[one] of the two main pressure groups inside the party.”

Patrick Wintour, *The Guardian*, December 2010

“The Compass campaign to end legal loan sharking...is brimming with potential.”

Tribune Web Editor, *Tribune Online*, October 2010

“They were active and smart...They had plenty of energy...and they were organised.”

Long-term Compass critic Tony Blair writing in his book *A Journey*, August 2010

“Compass itself (is), plural and democratic to its core.”

Mehdi Hasan, *New Statesman*, August 2010

A full list of media coverage can always be found on the press page of our website.

Staff and office

The 'engine' room

The organisation currently employs 2 full-time employees. These are Gavin Hayes, General Secretary and Joe Cox, Campaigns Organiser. It should be noted that for part of the period that this Annual Report relates from April 2010 – October 2010 Zoe Gannon was employed as Research Coordinator – however from November 2010 went to work for the independent High Pay Commission. We are based in a dedicated office space at Southbank House near to Vauxhall.

Neal Lawson the organisation's Chair is also contracted to work for the organisation on a consultancy basis.

The office also operates a rolling volunteer programme throughout the year and we are exceptionally grateful to all those that have given up their time for free and contributed to our National Office activities over the last year.

We would like to make clear that in the next year it is absolutely vital that we are able to again employ a further member of staff – this will only happen with the ongoing support and generosity from our members and supporters.

If you do not yet donate to Compass on a regular basis we would urge you to fill in and return the regular standing order form at the back of this report. Even just a few pounds a month would make a huge difference and mean we have a regular income to rely on.

Management Committee

Providing direction, support and advice

The Management Committee members for 2010/2011 were: **Neal Lawson** (Chair); **Sue Goss** (Vice Chair); **Mark Cooke** (Treasurer); **Meg Russell**; **Lisa Nandy MP** (Parliamentary Rep); **Sam Tarry**; **Willie Sullivan** (Scottish Rep); **Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**; **Ruth Lister**; **Jon Cruddas MP**; **David Ritter**; **Luke Pearce** (Compass Youth); **Daniel D'eath** (Welsh Rep); **Kamaljeet Jandu**.

The Management Committee members for 2011/2012 are: **Neal Lawson** (Chair); **Ruth Lister** (Chair of the Management Committee); **Willie Sullivan** (Vice Chair and Scottish Rep); **Mark Cooke** (Treasurer); **Lisa Nandy MP** (Parliamentary Rep); **Jon Cruddas MP**; **Prof Francesca Klug OBE**; **Cynthia Dereli**; **Martin O'Neill**; **Victor Anderson**; **William Cass** (Compass Youth); **Heather Wakefield**; **Simon Hebditch**.

Gavin Hayes, the General Secretary of Compass, also serves the committee as its Secretary but as a full-time member of staff does not have voting rights.

Financial report

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How we spend our resources

2010/11 was a very difficult year indeed for Compass financially. The General Election early in the year disrupted fundraising activity, with many potential funders needing to reassess their priorities in the light of the election result.

In particular trade unions ceased to be a significant source of funds during the year. Yet despite this we continued our own activities vigorously and did not reduce our expenditure.

A number of funders did not proceed with funding that we had strong expectation of receiving, and this resulted in our incurring a significant deficit during the year of over £50,000.

A more normal situation resumed later in the year; and into 2011/12 and a healthier flow of funds is now being received. We expect this to be sufficient to enable us to fully fund our activities in 2011/12 and to clear a substantial part of our deficit.

Membership subscriptions grew significantly during the year. The opening up of membership took effect too late to affect these and we hope that further increases will take place this year.

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation this year. If you can afford to do so, a regular standing order, however small is of particular value, as it provides the predictable flow of money to cover staff costs.

MEMBERSHIP ACTION: If you can afford a regular donation by standing order, or even just a one off donation by cheque, please consider doing this so we have a constant regular income to rely on (see the form at the back of this report).



Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2011

	2010/11 (£)	2009/10 (£)
INCOME		
Members' subscriptions	42,818	34,861
Members' donations	37,090	41,027
Grants from Trade Unions	-	71,661
Grant from Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	39,950	26,550
Grants from Electoral Reform Society	9,844	13,584
Other grants	65,088	76,700
Event income – Compass Annual Conference	39,940	32,190
Event income – other events	11,162	1,726
Other	10,454	80
Total Income	256,346	298,379
EXPENDITURE		
Payroll costs	104,337	86,115
Other staff costs	10,414	12,186
Chair's Consultancy Fee	60,000	60,000
Chair's Consultancy VAT	8,500	0
Office costs	39,238	34,084
Compass annual conference costs	33,229	27,607
Other event costs	19,079	24,222
Publications costs	7,069	21,102
Membership recruitment	10,800	5,943
Fundraising costs	6,090	3,650
Other	11,149	19,459
Total Expenditure	309,905	294,369
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	(53,559)	4,010

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

	2011 (£)	2010 (£)
ASSETS		
Debtors and accrued income	18,992	15,050
Cash	(8,184)	18,079
	10,808	33,129
LIABILITIES		
Creditors and accruals	(51,014)	(27,397)
Deferred income	(15,121)	(7,500)
	(55,327)	(34,897)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	(5,778)	(1,768)
REPRESENTING		
Members' Funds		
Brought forward	(1,768)	(5,778)
Surplus for year	(53,559)	4,010
Deficit carried forward	(55,327)	(1,768)

Donors

Being open and transparent about where our resources come from

In the interests of transparency and openness Compass publish all donations and project funding of £5000 or over, this excludes smaller donations and income including membership subscriptions. Below are details of funding and grants awarded to Compass of £5000 or over for 2010/2011. We'd like to pay tribute and thanks to all the organisations and individuals who've given funding to Compass over the past 12 months and in the coming year ahead.

Donations/payments of over £5,000 during the financial year 2010/2011

Jun-10	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	£11,250	Core funding
Jun-10	Electoral Reform Society	£2,500	Electoral reform project
Aug-10	Barry Amiel Trust	£6,000	Annual lecture
Aug-10	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£5,420	Compass Conference
Aug-10	Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust	£5,000	Core funding
Oct-10	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£1,400	LP Conference event
Nov-10	Electoral Reform Society	£7,344	Electoral reform project
Dec-10	Millfield House Trust	£10,135	Banking project
Dec-10	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£1,680	Progressive Alliance events
Jan-11	Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust	£20,000	Core funding
Jan-11	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£5,040	State project
Jan-11	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£2,420	Progressive Alliance events
Feb-11	Barrow Cadbury Trust	£5,000	End legal loan sharking project
Feb-11	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	£4,200	Banking project

Thank you for supporting our work...

MONTHLY GIFT STANDING ORDER MANDATE

YES I'd like to support Compass with a monthly gift of £ _____

I ENCLOSE A ONE OFF CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDERS FOR £ _____

I HAVE COMPLETED THE STANDING ORDER MANDATE BELOW

FULL NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTIONS

Please pay immediately by standing order to Compass' account, Lloyds TSB, 32 Oxford Street, London, W1A 2LD (a/c 02227769, sort code 30-98-71) the sum of £_____ (in words _____) starting with the first payment on (date) _____ and continuing for 12 months on the same day each quarter/month (delete as appropriate), unless cancelled by me in writing.

Bank/building society name _____
Bank address _____
Account name (your full name) _____
Account number _____
Sort Code _____
Signature _____
Date _____

RETURN TO:

Gavin Hayes, General Secretary
Compass
Southbank House
Black Prince Road
London, SE1 7SJ

The logo for Compass, featuring the word "compass" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "s" is significantly larger and extends downwards, creating a distinctive graphic element.