

Labour – key players and policies



Left to right: **Gordon Brown** (PM), **Alistair Darling** (Chancellor), **Lord Mandelson** (Business secretary), **David Miliband** (Foreign sec.)

■ **Economy:** Forecast to level out at £167 billion in 2010, 11.8% of GDP. Plans to halve deficit over four years. Increase spending on hospitals, schools and police. ***Brown favours additional £31 billion of spending in 2010/11, saying cuts too early could choke off recovery***

■ **Taxes:** New higher 50% rate of income tax will raise £3bn. National Insurance to rise by 1% from April 2011, raising £8.75bn

■ **Banking sector:** International levy on banks to fund support for industry. Part-nationalised banks must lend £94bn to businesses as price for taxpayers' bailout. ***"People's bank" based on Post Office network***

■ **Afghanistan:** Labour has committed 10,000 troops to fighting Taliban, arguing war is essential to counter terror plots on streets of UK. ***Allocate £4bn to fund operations***

■ **Social issues:** Free homecare for some 280,000 people with highest needs. Stamp duty holiday to help first-time buyers get on housing ladder. ***State pensions to rise by 2.5% in April, child allowance up by 1.5%***

■ **Electoral reform:** Proposes U.S. Senate-style elected upper house. Voting rights at 16. ***Referendum on changing voting system to "alternate vote" from first-past-the-post system***

■ **International aid:** Boost spending from current 0.56% to 0.7% of GDP