

Labour Manifesto 2019 - Working for Winchester

LABOUR'S PLEDGES FOR PROSPERITY

- Secure, good and affordable homes for everyone, within thriving communities.
- An integrated, accessible and affordable transport system and work for a high quality and sustainable environment locally and globally.
- Sustaining and developing Winchester's strong local economy, offering opportunities and support for local people and businesses.
- High quality leisure facilities and a thriving, diverse cultural scene, accessible to all.
- The best quality education for our children and throughout life.
- A properly funded, free to use NHS from cradle to grave.
- A transformed City Council, engaged with, and responsive to the residents it serves.

The Labour Party in Winchester stands for fairness of opportunity for everyone. Our Council should deliver high quality services, make our historic city fit for the future, protect the environment, and provide better jobs and genuinely affordable homes in our communities.

Labour has a strong tradition in Winchester of standing up for all local people, and promoting imaginative, innovative and progressive policies. We have helped secure real change for the benefit of the communities we serve and the city as a whole including -

- Helping to secure a substantial increase in social housing within the City district;
- A 20mph speed limit in residential areas;
- Securing and safeguarding the Neighbourhood Warden service.
- Developing local democracy with children helping to choose play equipment.
- Pressing for the Council to become a Living Wage employer.
- Arguing for sound planning policies, with the right homes in the right places, a high quality new leisure centre and the right development at Silver Hill.

With the support of over 700 local Labour Party members and many others, working hard in and for their communities, Labour can and will win in Winchester.

Housing and Communities

Secure, good and affordable homes for everyone, within thriving communities.

- The Council should build **at least** 200 homes at truly affordable rents every year. In addition, 40% of homes on all developments must be social housing at genuinely affordable rents. Current council house building plans are totally inadequate.
- The inclusion of low rent, highly affordable homes as an **essential part** of the City Centre regeneration, and high quality homes for the people of Winchester that can be realistically afforded.
- A strong Local Plan for the whole of Winchester district, to see the right homes provided in the right places, with the impact of development on our environment, local communities and services fully considered from the outset.
- Ensured provision of dedicated social/affordable housing in Winchester for key public service workers such as NHS staff and teachers.
- A strategy for high quality private rented accommodation including a new charter for private sector rented tenants, promoting a tenancy management service to offer landlords and tenants a good quality, reliable and low-cost service. Effective monitoring of landlords with enforcement for Houses in Multiple Occupation. Encouraging Housing Associations to offer high quality market rented homes with secure tenancies.
- A robust Empty Homes Strategy to bring as many as possible back into use.
- Promoting a positive, engaged relationship among students, landlords and the universities to ensure high quality housing for students within local communities.
- The elimination of the growing problem of homelessness and rough sleeping, working with neighbouring councils and homelessness charities such as Trinity, Emmaus and Winchester Nightshelter.
- An effective council strategy to combat domestic violence and abuse, including training for staff and working with police, County Council, local charities and organisations to ensure robust reporting, support channels, and accommodation where required for all victims and those fleeing abuse.

Transport and the Environment

An integrated, accessible and affordable transport system and work for a high quality and sustainable environment locally and globally.

- An Integrated Transport Plan for Winchester, co-ordinating services to ensure maximum connectivity for all areas of the city and district, and promoting walking and cycling as central to the City's development.
- An effective transport and environment strategy for Central Winchester, to include a proper bus and coach interchange with high quality facilities as part of the Central Winchester Regeneration plan and affordable fares for everyone including students.
- Urgent action to tackle air quality in the city centre, encouraging less traffic by offering reliable, greener transport options along with high quality, safe facilities for pedestrians and cyclists throughout the city centre.
- A taskforce to make Winchester a landmark city for walking and cycling with high-quality, uninterrupted routes on all key approaches to the city, and a safe city centre.
- A fitting development of the Station Hill area as a gateway to Winchester with transport facilities and outdoor spaces, in line with the transport strategy.
- A regular forum bringing together local people with public transport providers as well as walking, cycling and environmental groups to tackle issues collaboratively.
- Opposing County Council cuts to vital bus services, and any introduction of concessionary bus pass charges.
- A free Park and Ride facility at weekends, paid for by an increase in weekday City Centre parking charges. Development of the Park and Ride to include electric car charging points, evening opening and increased capacity at key sites.
- Further development of 20mph zones to control traffic in residential areas, new pedestrian crossings where needed, and working with the County Council to improve safety at major junctions including the redevelopment of the Winnall M3 junction.
- Community led solutions to parking problems including around schools and the University. Ensuring that parking considerations are thoroughly addressed in planning permissions for new development.
- A strong and innovative approach to waste management and recycling, including kerbside glass collection, opportunities to recycle plastics through innovative methods such as eco-bricks and working with neighbouring authorities, with the aim of making Winchester a leader in minimising waste to landfill.

Promoting Economic Growth & Tackling Poverty

Sustaining and developing Winchester's strong local economy, offering opportunities and support for local people and businesses.

- Promoting the Real Living Wage for all workers in Winchester – everyone deserves a wage which reflects the cost of housing and living in Winchester.
- Winchester should become a Fairtrade City working with local partners such as shops, the University, faith groups and schools.
- Commitment to become a Sustainable Food City - working with supermarkets to reduce food waste, promote community allotments and reduce the reliance on food banks by ensuring that unwanted food is distributed free to those in food poverty.
- An in-house Council service to undertake repairs, maintenance and landscaping of City property and extending that service to homeowners and private landlords, thus encouraging apprenticeships and skills development.
- Winchester should join the Transition Town movement, aiming to create a Clean Energy City by 2050 and to support development of a community energy co-operative, investing in renewable energy and local skills to tackle fuel poverty.
- Support for accessible policing services, making sure that increased funding for the Police and Crime Commissioner is used to deliver local services for safe and prosperous communities.

Leisure and Culture

High quality leisure facilities and a thriving, diverse cultural scene, accessible to all.

- The new Winchester Leisure Centre at Bar End should offer the best quality facilities to future-proof multi-choice sports and leisure provision in Winchester. There should be a comprehensive review of the use of land across the entire site, and how it is accessed, to maximising use of public transport, cycling and walking to ensure it is available for all.
- The River Park site should be retained as open space and leisure facilities, including keeping the skate park at River Park as a facility for our young people.
- Further development of open spaces, access for all and cycle routes for a clean and safe city, in line with the ambition for Winchester to become a landmark city for cycling and walking.
- Further development of local democracy with local communities, including younger people, helping to shape facilities in their areas.
- Ensuring access to the city centre in the evenings, including for young people, making sure leisure activities are accessible, and supporting the evening economy and employment. Younger people to be engaged in how they can best use the city in the evenings.
- Supporting and championing a diverse range of cultural activities in Winchester – ensuring

that they cater for everyone and that nobody is priced out.

Education

The best quality education for our children and throughout life.

- Opposing the gross underfunding of Early Years Education by the Conservative government, the closure of Sure Start Centres, and the massive cuts to local school budgets which have led to fewer teachers, larger class sizes and less individual support.
- Supporting and implementing the national Labour policy of a fully integrated and properly funded National Education Service (NES) from the cradle to the grave. This includes the provision of meaningful, high quality apprenticeships, the re-introduction of the Education Maintenance Allowance for 16-19-year olds, abolishing university tuition fees, and the provision of life-long learning.

National Health Service

A properly funded, free to use, NHS from cradle to grave.

- Proper funding of our NHS services to ensure high quality care and effective treatment for every patient.
- Effective integration of health and social care services to ensure that the right support is available to people in their homes.
- Transparency and democratic accountability of the government's Strategic Transformation Plans and their successors Accountable Care Organisations.
- Ensuring that the core existing level of care at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital is maintained, including a full Accident and Emergency service, consultant-led maternity care, a postnatal depression psychosis unit and other key services. Supporting the development of a hospice at RHCH to serve local need.
- Ensuring the provision of dedicated social/affordable housing in Winchester for key workers like NHS staff and teachers.
- Opposing the contracting out of services where they can be provided effectively by the NHS.

Open Government

A transformed City Council, engaged with, and responsive to the residents it serves.

- Labour would overhaul the decision-making process, create a clear scheme of delegation and adopt a presumption of openness and transparency in the conduct of business and the sharing of information, speeding up responses to freedom of information requests and making public all financial information assessments. The council should listen and respond to the views of residents as the best way to deliver excellent services for local people.
- Labour would promote open and transparent democracy - the Council should be a servant of the people – engaging the community to shape local service and spending priorities to restore trust in local democracy and improve decision-making. Labour will scrap the Tory Cabinet system of secret government and will open up decision making.
- The exploration of new and innovative ways to allow local people of all ages to participate in local decision making.
- Adequate time for the public to be engaged in consultations on major developments, so to ensure people feel that their views are respected and listened to and are not a tick-box exercise.
- Engaging, connecting and collaborating with organisations active in our civic society and third sector, including charities, community groups and like-minded people, in order to tackle the issues facing us and improve the quality of life for everyone in Winchester.