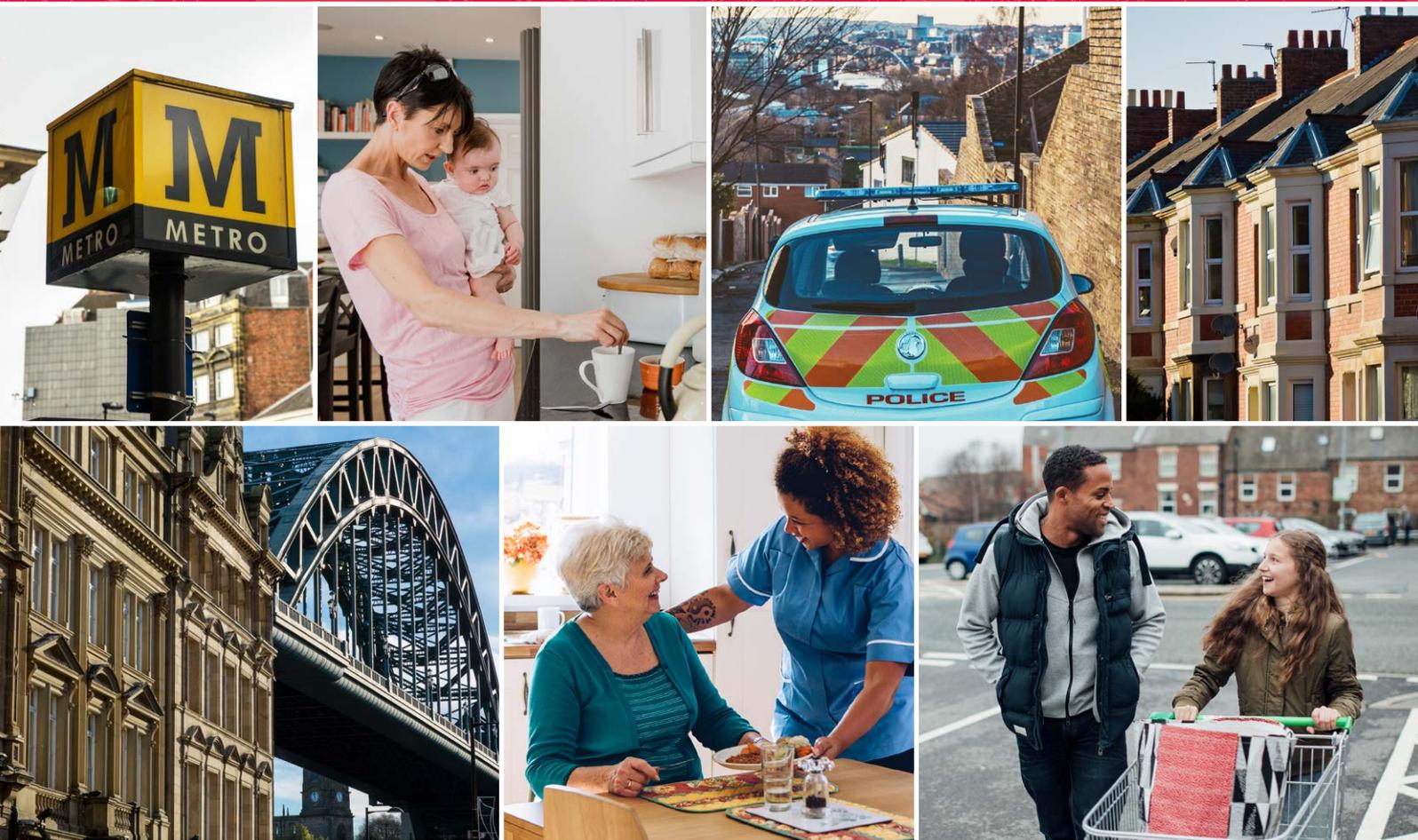


- ✓ SECURITY
- ✓ PROSPERITY
- ✓ RESPECT

# Newcastle Labour's promise to you

MANIFESTO 2022



- ✓ **SECURITY**
- ✓ **PROSPERITY**
- ✓ **RESPECT**

# Newcastle Labour's promise to **you**

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# Introduction to Newcastle Labour

Newcastle is a beautiful city, but it has stark health and wealth inequalities. We are facing a cost-of-living crisis and we know that people are going to have to make increasingly difficult decisions.

Existing inequalities have been made worse by the pandemic, but we will always fight back. We will do this with a focus on protecting our most vulnerable, investing in our children and young people, creating jobs, improving our neighbourhoods, supporting innovation and delivering on our carbon neutral action plan to ensure that our recovery is green and sustainable.

We will tackle poverty and inequality. We will build a strong local economy that supports fair work, encourages local spending and uses the land and property of the council to ensure that all communities benefit.

We need to get the basics right, the core responsibilities of councils impact directly on the lives of our citizens, wherever they live in the city.

Newcastle Labour will put the well-being of the people of Newcastle at the heart of our work.

At the very core of the Newcastle Labour response will be a commitment to listening to and acting on residents' concerns.

Underpinning every decision our Labour council will make is a commitment to tackling inequalities and levelling-up the city in a uniquely Newcastle way.

As we move out of the pandemic it has been heartening to witness the ability of communities to pull together and work for the common good. The many volunteers have been an inspiration to us all in a time of need. That resilience, that co-operative spirit, the ability to fight for our communities, must be encouraged and cultivated and will play a key part in the rebuilding of this city in the years to come.

As we look to that future, we do so knowing that the past two years have been incredibly challenging for the people of Newcastle and our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic.

The response to the pandemic in Newcastle has shown us what we can achieve when we work together, council and communities. We will build on this. As we enter the recovery phase of the pandemic, we must ensure there will be no return to the status quo – perhaps we can call it a “reframing” or a “new” normal, but it is clear that many of us now want to be actively involved in decisions that affect our lives. The commitment to that involvement starts here and now with Labour’s manifesto.

This will not be easy. The Conservative government talks of ‘levelling-up’, yet they have cut more than a billion pounds from Newcastle public services, which means your council has almost a third less money for services than it did in 2010.

Newcastle Labour has consistently opposed compulsory redundancies and will continue to do so. However, in some services staffing levels have had to be reduced to the point where it is impossible to deliver a full service. We will campaign for fair funding and fight cuts in services.

Newcastle Labour has huge ambition for our city. We will work with you to develop a clear, long-term vision for Newcastle in which the voice of every neighbourhood is heard and civic pride is a priority.

We will campaign with you to reverse the worst of austerity and force the Government to invest in our future.

And we will keep you informed of what is being done on your behalf.

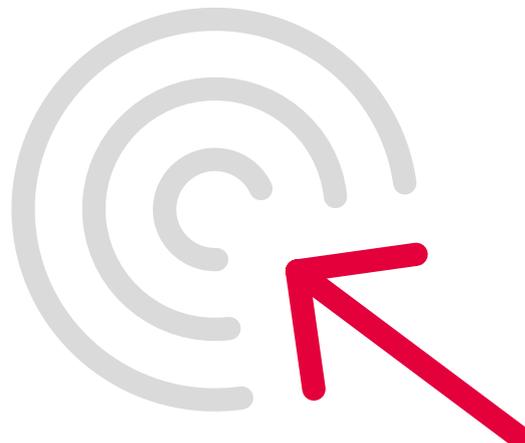
**Security, prosperity, respect –  
Newcastle Labour’s promise to you.**



**Cllr Nick Kemp**  
Leader of Labour Group



**Cllr Karen Kilgour**  
Deputy Leader  
of Labour Group





# The difference Labour in power makes locally

The North of Tyne Combined Authority, led by Labour Mayor Jamie Driscoll, has:

- **Invested £1.8m** to tackle **child poverty** and **help children thrive**.
- **Created a Tyne Taskforce** of public and private sector to **transform our river**.
- **Invested £3.3 million** in **ageing** and **ageing well**.
- Prepared land for **3144 new homes**.
- **Invested £4.75m** in our **culture** and **creative sector** since 2019.

Working with your Labour Police and Crime Commissioner Kim McGuinness, Newcastle has seen:

- **Increased investment** in **youth services**, giving young people **healthy role models**.
- **Investment in Metro** with new **safety teams** and a **transport app**.
- **Money seized from criminals** handed back to **local organisations** and **charities**.

Our Labour Council has:

- ✓ Supported the city, our communities, NHS partners and local businesses through the Covid 19 pandemic while keeping services running.
- ✓ Provided children with free food and activities through the Friday Fun Days project and ensured children eligible for free school meals continued to receive meals during school holidays.
- ✓ Created Health and Social Care apprenticeships with guaranteed job interviews at the end of the process.
- ✓ Secured £19m funding for brand new leisure facility in West Denton.
- ✓ Secured funding to restore and enhance the historic Grainger Market.
- ✓ Achieved Good Work Pledge (advanced) status as an employer and White Ribbon accreditation for work to prevent violence against women and girls.
- ✓ Achieved Climate Leader status and an A rating from the Carbon Disclosure Project - one of only 11 cities in the UK and 95 internationally to do so.





# Getting the basics right

Our starting point is getting the basics right where you live. Families and households in every neighbourhood across the city have a right to a decent standard of service. Some things are non-negotiable, and our commitment to you is just as firm – a good service no matter where in the city you live.

That means:



## Waste and litter

We'll look again at every aspect of litter collection and street cleaning services to make sure they're neighbourhood focused.



## Neighbourhood pride

We'll invest in play areas and green spaces and review all grass cutting to ensure the right balance between biodiversity and smart neighbourhoods.



## Supporting families

The cost of living is rising and families are being forced in to poverty. We'll invest to support.



## Listening

and acting on what we hear.



# 1. Quality of life

Newcastle's neighbourhoods make this city special – supporting them is the priority for Newcastle Labour. Where you live matters, and you should feel safe and secure in a neighbourhood with good local services. Clean neighbourhoods, a vibrant cultural scene and a council that is there to help in hard times – that's what you can expect from the Labour party in Newcastle.

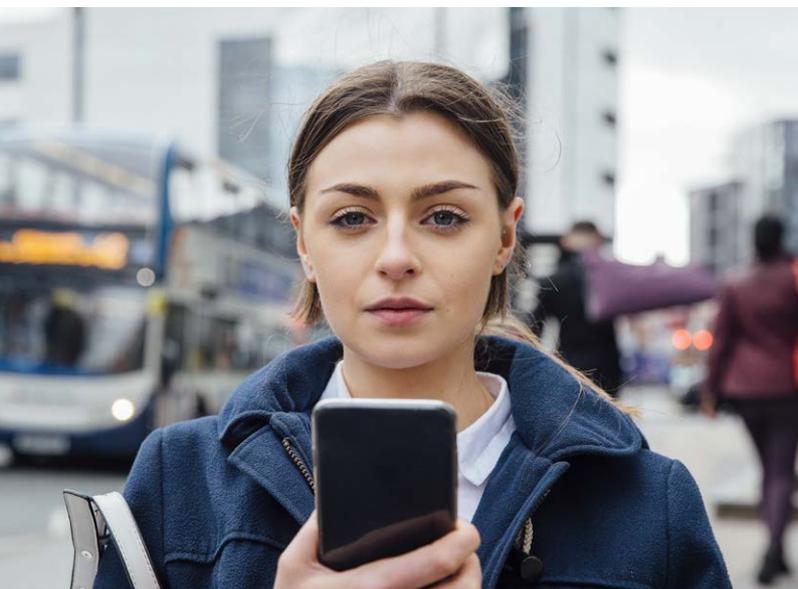
## We will:

- Introduce a **'Love Where You Live'** volunteer scheme. The scheme will recognise and support those hundreds if not thousands of people across our city who play their part in local litter picking. We will celebrate their commitment and achievements. This scheme is in addition to and not to replace paid staff.
- Hold developers to the commitments they made in the planning process – if you are making money out of building in our city you should also be investing in our neighbourhoods.
- Take pride in our status as a city rich in arts and culture and we will work to widen access and participation in all our cultural and leisure provision.
- Continue to work with schools, parents and local communities to make walking and cycling to school safer for parents and children through safer street and junctions as well as through awareness of air pollution.
- Set a target that every school in the city should be outstanding.
- Continue to stand by families and individuals in private rented accommodation, building on the work of the selective licensing schemes.
- Put new resources in to tackling anti-social behaviour. It's time we stood up to those bringing misery to local areas.
- Work with others to ensure violence against women and girls has no place in our city.



## CAMPAIGNING

Your Labour party will support campaigns against racism and all forms of discrimination.





## 2. A prosperous, growing city

Newcastle is a thriving city, but its prosperity is not shared by all. Newcastle Labour is committed to ensuring everyone has access to a good, well-paid job in the city they love. For some, that means the council securing new investment and regeneration opportunities. For others it might mean support during a downturn or skills training for those most in need.

Newcastle Labour believes that for our city to succeed, we all have to have equal access to jobs and opportunity. As the cost of living increases and more people are forced in to poverty, we will work to ensure the support is there when needed.

A key part of that will be our commitment to ensuring our council spends even more of its money in our city and encouraging other organisations to do the same.

And we know that while our city centre is a huge driver of our economy, we need to see our neighbourhoods thrive as well. We will only be a truly success city if prosperity extends to all.



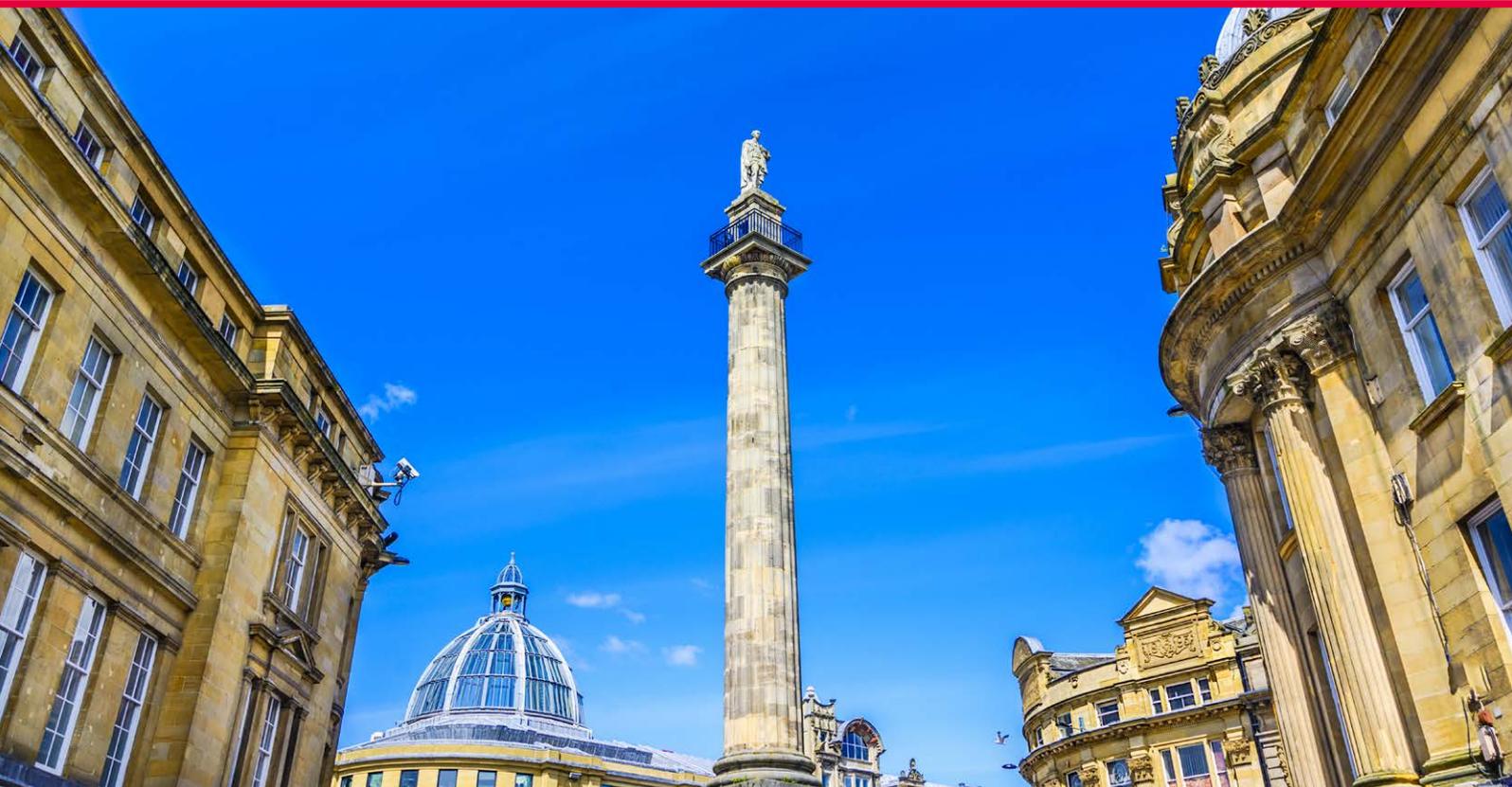
## We will:

- Establish an anti-poverty strategy that puts the council at the forefront of efforts to end poverty.
- Ensure our economy grows and flourishes, and that local people feel the benefit.
- Set an ambition for 75% of contracts awarded by the council to be given to Newcastle or North East based organisations, keeping the Newcastle Pound local. We will ensure our spending power is used to support local businesses, training and good jobs for Newcastle people.
- Strive to become a Real Living Wage employer, valuing our employees is simply the right thing to do.
- Support people with learning disabilities into suitable volunteering or employment so they can contribute to and be part of the communities they live in.
- Work with the North of Tyne Combined Authority and others to create good jobs in Newcastle.
- Encourage employers across the city to follow the council's lead and sign up to the Good Work Pledge.
- Support the Kickstart scheme to enable young people to move out of unemployment.
- Deliver multi-million-pound investment into the Grainger Market – one of the jewels of our city centre.
- Work with businesses to minimise job losses from the Covid crisis, and stand up for businesses in those sectors most affected.
- Ensure that Newcastle gets the hundreds of new homes it needs each year, and increase the number of affordable homes. We will explore options including shared ownership, rent-to-buy and co-operative housing models.
- Work to prevent the clustering of housing of vulnerable people into neighbourhoods where resources and capacity are already strained.



### CAMPAIGNING

Your Labour party will oppose the Tory attack on public sector wages.



# 3. A caring city

Newcastle is a city that cares, and we promise to support those who need our help, even in the face of Government austerity. We will ensure all our communities are strong enough to withstand the Tory government's cost of living crisis. From child support services through to creating a dementia friendly city, we promise to ensure everyone feels safe and supported in Newcastle.

## We will:

- Deliver more specialist housing options for people with learning disabilities and/or autism, dementia, age related frailty or ill mental health to help people live as independently as they are able to, with the right support in place, in their own communities.
- Develop the work, interrupted by the covid 19 pandemic, to make Newcastle a Dementia friendly and autism friendly city.
- Change the way we commission home care services to move away from time and task to a more flexible and responsive service.
- Campaign for better recognition of carers.
- Lobby Government for a long-term funding solution to the social care crisis.
- Work closely with the NHS to care for the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Ensure families continue to benefit from welfare advice and practical support in their neighbourhoods, such as fuel vouchers for those most in need.
- Continue our ambition of being a child friendly city.
- Build on the 'No child left behind' initiatives including Newcastle Youth Fund panel and increase children and young people's voices in determining their own provision.
- Grow our Best Summer Ever youth activity programme to support and inspire children and young people no matter where in Newcastle they live.



- Help those struggling with addiction.
- Work with others to reduce and prevent homelessness.
- Work with community and voluntary sector partners to reduce food waste and element food poverty, including support for the city's foodbanks.
- Maintain and build on our status as a City of Sanctuary.



## CAMPAIGNING

We will campaign to reverse the cuts to Universal Credit and call on Government to ensure benefits rise by at least 6% to match inflation.



## 4. Looking after our environment

If we want Newcastle to remain a great place to live and work for generations to come, we need to act now. Labour councillors proudly declared a climate emergency, and now we need to build on that work. From creating green jobs to actively reducing our carbon footprint, the work to reverse the climate emergency has to increase. We have already promised to be carbon neutral by 2030, and that should only be the start of our ambitions. Our city needs to see major change if it is to continue to lead the way in protecting our planet.

### We will:

- Continue our leadership role of working with our partners to deliver our carbon zero action plan.
- Review the plans for the City Centre and Old Eldon Square.
- Actively support local neighbourhoods in becoming plastic free and waste free. We successfully worked with partners in Ouseburn to achieve this status and are ambitious to roll this out across our communities.
- Introduce more Play Streets / Low Traffic Neighbourhoods / School Street pilots.
- Aim for net-zero new homes standards, and explore new technologies to retrofit existing homes with carbon reducing schemes such as ground and air source heat pumps.
- Take steps to extend food waste collections.
- Continue on the work set out by the Waste Commission to change the way the city approaches the waste it produces.
- Introduce fume-free school gates to ensure all our children arrive and leave school with plenty of fresh air.
- Introduce policies to ensure Newcastle is a bee friendly city.
- Introduce pilot schemes to assess alternative methods of weed control.



### CAMPAIGNING

We will demand from Government that Council is given all necessary resources and support to take urgent action against climate change.



# Your Newcastle

Only Labour can lead a council that is on the side of residents, not vested interests; a council that cares about people and the environment and actually gets things done.

**Polling Day is Thursday 5th May** – only by voting for Labour can you ensure that our city, our neighbourhoods and our communities will prosper.



CLP	WARD	CANDIDATE
Central	Arthur's Hill	Abdul Samad
	Benwell & Scotswood	Hazel Stephenson
	Blakelaw	Juna Sathian
	Elswick	Miriam Mafemba
	Gosforth	Milo Barnett
	Kenton	Gerald Bell
	Monument	Jane Byrne
East	West Fenham	Karen Kilgour
	Byker	Stephen Sheraton
	Dene & South Gosforth	Nicholas Arnold
	Heaton	Lara Blanch Ellis
	Manor Park	Stephen Barry-Stanners
	North Jesmond	Stella Postlethwaite
	Ouseburn	Paula Holland
	South Jesmond	Laura Cummings
	Walker	John Stokel Walker
	Walkergate	Stephen Wood
North	Callerton & Throckley	Stephen Fairlie
	Castle	Vince Barry-Stanners
	Chapel	Oskar Avery
	Denton & Westerhope	Daniel Greenhough
	Fawdon & West Gosforth	Michael Bell
	Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall	George Pattison
	Lemington	Barry Philipson
	Parklands	Christopher Bartlett
	Benwell & Scotswood	Susan Anthony



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