



**AMBITION
FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW**

Newcastle Labour Party
Manifesto 2019

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Introduction

Newcastle City Council has been severely affected by the austerity imposed by the Tory / Lib Dem Coalition Government of 2010 – 15 and the Tory Government from 2015 onwards. By 2020, the council will have lost a total of £327m – the equivalent of £1,100 for every person in the city, or £2,481 per household. In contrast, Tory-controlled Wokingham has only lost £2 per person.

The gross unfairness of these cuts has had a huge impact on the services that the council has been able to provide for local residents. But they have also been coupled with a deliberate political strategy by the current Government to localise the blame for them; they've done their best to turn people against their local council. This hasn't fooled residents of Newcastle; we know that the cuts to our city have been disproportionate and unfair, and where the blame lies for their impact.

There is no doubt that austerity has also had a devastating impact on many people in our city. The Bedroom Tax has plunged thousands into financial crisis, with shocking research showing that people have been forced to choose between heating or eating - skipping meals and going to bed early to avoid heating costs. Cuts to welfare have left many disabled people without the support they need to remain independent, and cuts to legal aid and advice have left people with no means to right injustices.

Thousands on low pay have been forced to pay council tax for the first time, putting further pressure on overstretched household budgets. In the meantime those on top salaries have seen higher rates of tax reduced, and bankers' bonuses continue unchecked. Those who caused the financial crisis have been allowed off the hook by this Government, and the cost of paying down the deficit they created has fallen on the shoulders of those who had can least afford to pay it. This is morally wrong and indefensible in a civilized society. The UN sent a special rapporteur to Newcastle to look at the impact of Government policies on the poorest in society – something the Conservatives should be truly ashamed of.

In these tough times, Newcastle Labour has sought to achieve two things – to protect the most vulnerable in our city from the worst effects of these cuts, and to invest in our city to build confidence in the future. We have sought to invest the council's limited resources wisely, and where they can have the greatest impact for the public good. So we have continued to support debt and welfare

advice services to help those in financial difficulties, subsidised a council tax support scheme to help those on lowest incomes, and worked with housing providers and charities to alleviate the impact of the bedroom tax. We have invested in the future of our city's young people with apprenticeships and a bursary scheme, developed new specialist housing for older and disabled people, and promoted a Newcastle Living Wage for lower paid staff.

We are committed to maintaining our great City as a clean, green and safe place, and clearly the environment is a priority for everyone. This manifesto lays out our commitment to all aspects of the environment and sets out key targets to ensure we act responsibly now, but also for the future generations of citizens of Newcastle.

We are installing new cycling routes, investing in roads and pavements, finding innovative ways of keeping parks and leisure facilities open, and working with other councils to improve public transport. We continue to support community festivals, such as Chinese New Year celebrations, Pride and the MELA, as well as working to bring major sporting and cultural events to Newcastle. We have constantly sought innovative new ways of delivering public services with fewer resources, making sure the council is efficient and effective and delivers good value for money.

We are guided, in the tough decisions we have to make, by our values of fairness, inclusion and social justice. Austerity has created the right conditions for the rise of the Far Right – and we will do everything we can to ensure they do not take root here. We are inspired by the spirit of the communities in our city, the commitment of our businesses, the professionalism of our public sector partners. Our team of Labour councillors comes from all walks of life – but we have one thing in common. We are working hard to make Newcastle a great place to live, work and visit, despite the challenges we face. This manifesto sets out what we seek to achieve in the coming year as we build a Newcastle for the many, not the few.

Nick Forbes

Nick Forbes

Leader, Newcastle Labour



Employment – Promoting More and Better Jobs

Having good, well paid jobs accessible to all is a fundamental part of building a society where everyone feels valued, appreciated and able to fulfil their potential. At a time when many people feel insecure, this is also one of the ways in which we can ensure that there is no fertile ground for the division and hatred spread by the far right to take root. We have signed up to the TUC Great Jobs Agenda, which sets out an excellent framework for good employment practice. We will continue to promote this over the coming year.

Over the past 12 months we have continued to drive forward our work in delivering our economic growth plans. Key activities have involved continuing the work with partners to develop and invest in key sites; stimulating employment and growing skills; securing new jobs through inward investment and business growth; and working to create new opportunities through devolution. As a result, unemployment is at its lowest level since 2005, at 5.6% (Apr 17 – Mar 18).

Around 4,000 fewer of the city's residents are unemployed than a year ago, and the level is 10,000 below its peak in 2009. More and more Newcastle residents are working, as our city's growing economy provides opportunities.

It's not just about being in work that's important – it's also the salary you get paid. We are proud that Newcastle City Council was the first in our region to introduce a Living Wage, and has consistently backed this commitment over the last 8 years. By April 2019, all employees of the Council will continue to receive at least the Foundation Living Wage rate of pay and we will continue to urge other employers to follow our lead.

However, there are too many people in our city who continue to be exploited. We've seen an increase in 'zero hours' contracts in recent years, and this creates huge uncertainty and instability in households. It is difficult to plan ahead if you don't know how much income you will have for the coming month. We will continue the fight to end exploitative zero hours contracts.

We want to create better jobs for the future which in turn will have a positive impact on our residents' health and wellbeing. But more and better jobs aren't just good for individuals – by building a stronger business rate base across the city, we are helping build a sustainable future for the public services that it will fund in the future.

We want Newcastle to be a city:

- In which everyone benefits from the city's success and no-one is left behind.
- Where people have access to decent jobs and affordable homes.
- In which people can get around and services and opportunities are accessible to all
- Where life chances are not determined by wealth and background

To do this we will:

- Promote Newcastle as a city open for business, welcoming investments that further our objectives of inclusive growth;
- Promote those key economic sectors where Newcastle has major national strengths (digital and tech, life sciences, energy, culture and tourism) and our nationally renowned expertise in ageing and artificial intelligence;
- Continue to work to become a Foundation Living Wage City in which Corporate Social Responsibility is a priority;
- Maintain our commitment to a Bursary Scheme which enables young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain access to further training or stay on at school;
- Create a citywide 'Gold Standard' for apprenticeships and urge employers to adopt it;
- Continue our commitment to 'the Newcastle Model' community wealth building, using our procurement to keep jobs 'in house' wherever we can, ensuring that the money that the council spends is retained in the local economy as much as possible and that council procurement processes continue to support the creation of apprenticeships, training programmes and local job opportunities;
- Promote a fairer economy by exploring how we can increase the size of the co-operative sector in Newcastle. Growing the number of co-operative and mutually owned businesses is an important step towards creating a fairer, more resilient economy;
- Continue to take a stand against Modern Slavery. Newcastle City Council has already signed the Charter against Modern Slavery and worked with the Police to investigate a number of cases and bring perpetrators to justice;
- Lead the fight against corporate tax avoidance. Billions are missing from our public purse because some companies choose to avoid tax. Not only does this mean less money for vital public services, but also that local businesses

can't compete on a level playing field. We will promote the Fair Tax Mark to empower consumers to shop with those who pay their share of taxes;

- Promote and develop credit unions as an affordable alternative to payday lenders and commercial banks. Credit unions are financial co-operatives, owned by members and offering fairer financial services for their members. We have previously supported these 'peoples' banks' and will continue to promote them as viable alternatives to mainstream banking;
- Establish a Co-Operative Commission, inviting local co-operatives to join us in exploring how co-operative ideas can help to solve existing problems, share good practice and contribute to the achievement of the ambitious programme set out in this manifesto.
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Education and Skills – the best learning opportunities for all

We know that we are all different and that some people, because of their background or other circumstances, find it harder to succeed than others. We want everyone to achieve their best; wasted talent is not just a personal tragedy, but a loss to our city too.

Over the last year we have:

- Maintained high quality early years childcare provision and supported the offer for free provision for two and three year olds
- Continued the Newcastle Bursary Scheme
- Maintained our commitment to youth service provision
- Campaigned to raise awareness of children and young people with caring responsibilities
- Relocated all pupils following the sudden closure of the Discovery Academy
- Reviewed and improved provision at the Virtual School for children in care ensuring Education, Health and Care plans are in place
- Worked with schools through the Newcastle Promise Board to ensure that pupils at risk of exclusion were supported appropriately
- Held children and young people's events including: Schools Achievement Awards, Celebration of Success for Looked After Children, Inclusion Conference, UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Planning Days and the Youth Council Elections and Safe in the City Conference
- Maintained our commitment to lifelong learning through Newcastle City Learning
- Introduced a Council Tax exemption for young people leaving local authority care aged 18-25 from April 2019

In the next three years, Labour will make Newcastle a UNICEF-accredited Child-Friendly City – a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children and young people are fundamental to all that we do.

As part of this work, we are:

- Co-operating with cultural organisations within Newcastle and Gateshead on the City of Dreams programme, which focusses on improving engagement between young people and the cultural sector in order to make Newcastle a great place to be young.

- Focusing on inclusion, with inclusive events for children and young people and making children and young people who are vulnerable a priority, including those for example with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and children in care.
- Working with all schools in the city through the Newcastle Promise Board to ensure that all Newcastle children get a good education and schools support each other to improve continuously.
- Listening to the voice of the child and young person, alongside our work with parents and carers.
- Providing access to free sanitary products in schools and other community buildings by supporting the Red Box scheme.
- Encouraging schools to 'poverty proof' all their activities to remove any stigma and barriers to learning;
- Ensuring that LGBT children and young people feel safe and welcome in school and when in contact with our care system.
- Strengthening our commitment to lifelong learning across all ages through the devolution deal, offering people new opportunities to learn new things for personal, work, community and skills development.
- Exploring how a Learning City framework of partnership working might respond to the recommendations of several current national inquiries into lifelong learning.

We will continue to:

- Develop our outstanding offer at Castle Nurseries;
- Work with, and learn from, partners in the community and voluntary sector to tackle issues such as holiday hunger and period poverty;
- Co-operate with health partners, schools and parents and children to make the city more inclusive through our shared Strategy for Children with Special educational Needs and Disabilities;
- Work with schools to provide sufficient high-quality school places for all children in Newcastle – for example, by relocating and expanding provision to better serve expanding populations in the North and West of the City;
- Strengthen pathways into employment and further and higher education by providing good quality pre-apprenticeship programmes in partnership with Newcastle City Learning and local employers;

- Support families in the city struggling with the effects of austerity by continuing to develop the link between our Active Inclusion service and Early Help.



Environment – a clean, green and safe Newcastle

We all want to live in a clean, green city. But a minority of people cause misery for others, committing environmental or social crimes which impact on us all. We are determined to continue to tackle these problems, so we can all live in neighbourhoods that we can be proud of. We are committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability; we will raise the profile of climate change challenges over the coming year and lead a number of initiatives to encourage people to take greater care of our planet.

Litter blights our city centre and neighbourhoods. The City Council is not responsible for dropping litter, or fly tipping rubbish – it is caused by irresponsible, thoughtless individuals – but cleaning this mess up costs taxpayers millions of pounds a year. We have held annual ‘spring cleans’ across the city, but we will do more. We will run a hard-hitting citywide anti-littering campaign, and continue our nationally-recognised enforcement action against those who commit environmental crimes. We will also use the council’s new powers to seize and destroy vehicles of prolific fly-tippers.

We will conduct a full review of household waste and recycling centres, in line with our overall objective to increase recycling rates, encourage re-use of items and reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill. We will set an ambitious target to increase the amount of household recycling to 55%, and pilot food waste recycling in some areas of the city.

We have already eliminated single use plastics from council buildings, and have led the way in encouraging a significant number of businesses to reduce or eliminate such plastics from their day to day operations. We will continue this work throughout the coming year, challenging more businesses to review their use of plastics and using the council’s procurement processes to embed environmental sustainability principles into firms that do business with the council.

Newcastle Labour has led the way in establishing plans and targets for our city to do its part in tackling climate change. We have already moved to ban fracking in our local authority area, and our current Climate Change Plan commits the city to achieving a 34% reduction in carbon emissions (on 1990 levels) by 2030. However, we are concerned about the increase in adverse weather events around the world, and the projections of global levels of warming are much greater than predicted even 5 years ago. In recent months we have seen young people coming together to demand change. We stand with them, we are

entering a climate change emergency. We believe that further radical action is needed now to show leadership on this issue before it is too late.

We will therefore:

- Revise the Council's Climate Change Plan, setting a new target of making Newcastle carbon neutral by 2030;
- Actively discourage the extraction and use of fossil fuels in the city for energy production;
- Establish an Environment Commission to introduce a Newcastle New Green Deal, and call on the new North of Tyne Combined Authority and Mayor to promote this approach;
- Promote active and sustainable travel choices, continue to invest in cycling infrastructure in Newcastle and campaign for viable public transport alternatives to private motor cars;
- Lobby Government and Opposition Parties to introduce more comprehensive Climate Change legislation.

The Tyne and Wear Pension fund for local government (which covers council employees in Newcastle upon Tyne) has a good track record of not investing heavily in fossil fuels – less than 2.5% of the fund is invested in such industries. However, our representatives on the Pension Committee will continue to make the case for further disinvestments over a 3 year period.

We have previously explored the business case for setting up a green energy company locally. When the Conservative government ended feed in tariffs for renewable energy, it made this model financially unviable. However, we will keep this under review and work with neighbouring authorities to explore different models and undertake a further business case exercise in the context of a wider review of waste management and disposal across the region. We will continue to support energy switching for residents to help people save money."

Although the city council has a leadership role to play on environmental sustainability and climate change, real action will be delivered by people. This means we have to persuade our citizens of the need for change, and encourage businesses to prioritise this despite potential additional costs. We will therefore establish a Climate Change Convention, bringing together businesses, residents, academics and public sector representatives to agree a city-wide plan of behaviour change and action.

During 2018 we continued with the development of the bus loop which included upgrading signals at junctions and also widening Newgate Street. These measures will contribute to making buses more reliable and efficient with improved journey times. We also had the trial closure of Blakett Street at weekends and this proved to be a great success. Business Groups including NE1 (the business improvement district initiative) supported the closures and arranged the social and leisure activities on Blakett Street during the closures. The overwhelming opinion is that the street was much more pleasant and safer for pedestrians.

We will therefore:

- Prioritise pedestrians and public transport in the city centre:
- Challenge bus operators (who are private providers independent of the council) to work towards zero emissions fleets:

As part of the efforts to improve air quality across the city bus operators were awarded £3.3m to retro-fit their fleet and bring them up to Euro 6 standard. Stagecoach has told us that this funding will bring 65% of their fleet up to the required standard. We will continue to work with bus operators and push them towards having 100% of their fleet brought up to standard. Our work with NEXUS has seen the introduction of the POP Blue card. This card is available for all residents aged 16-19 years and offers journeys for £1 which is a greatly discounted rate.

We have continued to invest in cycling infrastructure across the city and are currently consulting with the public about Streets for People in 3 areas of the city. This programme will further enhance public space to encourage people to walk and cycle more. We have also supported cycle training schemes such as Bikeability and an "over-50s" Cycling School to encourage those looking to take up cycling for the first time.

We will continue to invest in new cycling infrastructure and encourage more people in the city to cycle.

We have already run a hard hitting publicity campaign to raise awareness of the positives of improving air quality, plus the dangers of poor air quality. The amount of commuter traffic, the school run, irresponsible and dangerous driving and parking outside schools and vehicles idling, are all recognised as significant issues. We have already introduced a 'park and stride' scheme for staff at the Civic Centre, and in the coming year will;

- Review the evidence from the current consultation into improving air quality, and make final recommendations to improve air quality in areas which breach the formal legal limit imposed by Government;
- Call on Government to devolve powers and funding to our area (e.g. for bus retrofitting, installation of charging points for electric vehicles, regulation of bus routes and fares) so that we can work with businesses and communities on long term strategic plans to improve air quality;
- Lobby the combined Authority and North of Tyne Elected Mayor to press Government for support to local authorities to achieve this;
- Campaign for more powers to ban vehicles idling (e.g. outside schools, at taxi ranks and bus stops);
- Work with taxi drivers to find new solutions to the challenges faced by the taxi trade;
- Consider restricting the age of vehicles that can be used as taxis;
- Work to involve children and young people in activities which improve air quality round their school, on their journey to school/college and in their neighbourhood – especially exploring more Park and Stride Schemes, review/evaluate school travel plans and School Streets;
- Promote and encourage use of car clubs, car sharing schemes;
- Use the Highways Maintenance budget as effectively as possible and carry out infrastructure changes as part of maintenance schemes.



Health and Social Care – a healthy, caring city

We want everyone to live healthy lives and to be able to live independently in their own home for as long as possible. But health isn't just about individual choices – it is affected by many issues such as the environment, housing and employment status. In addition to providing adult and children's social care services, the council has responsibility for public health programmes in the city. We have worked hard to embed our holistic approach to health and wellbeing across all areas of council policy and activity.

Our country is facing a social care crisis. More than half of Newcastle City Council's budget is now spent on care services. The Government has repeatedly delayed in producing a green paper for the future of Adult Social Care, despite lobbying by virtually every council in the country for a long term solution. Temporary solutions have included one off grants and an 'Adult Social Care precept' to get council tax payers to pick up the funding gap caused by central government cutting council budgets.

As part of the national lobbying, we have provided evidence and examples of good practice from our work in Newcastle which has been used by the Local Government Association and shadow ministers in making the case for sufficient funding. We will continue to highlight the challenges faced in both the adult and children's social care systems, and lobby for long term, sustainable funding. We will also keep under review the financial viability of developing more 'in house' adult care services.

We have been innovative in designing new models of supported accommodation for vulnerable adults, including building a new purpose-built refuge for victims of domestic violence and – the first of its kind in the country - a new facility for people with learning disabilities and autism. We will continue to commission and deliver such specialist housing schemes, as they not only provide better outcomes but often help the council save money by bringing multiple services under one roof.

Our 'time to think' flats – temporary homes for people leaving hospital but not yet sure whether they can manage again at home or need to move into supported housing – have been really successful.

We will explore the possibility of expanding the scheme if there is sufficient demand.

We have maintained our focus on supporting carers by developing new and innovative ways of helping them to continue in their crucial role. We are working with health partners to improve the support offered to carers in Newcastle with special emphasis on our young carers and their families. We continue to support Carers Week which this year saw many carers, individuals and professionals attend the Carer Friendly Community Awards.

Over the last year we have held a number of events to mark Dementia Action Week, trained a number of staff who work in the city centre (at the Grainger Market and the NE1 Street Rangers) to become Dementia Friends and hundreds of council, university and NHS staff in dementia awareness. We have also held information and advice events, modelled home adaptations to support people with dementia and supported partners to open a Dementia Advice Centre in West Denton customer service centre.

We understand that it is important for all our residents to be able to access shops, restaurants, bars, cultural and sporting venues. People with a range of disabilities - some visible, some hidden – find the lack of accessible toilets and changing facilities a real barrier to participating in civic life.

We will therefore:

- Reassert our commitment to supporting unpaid carers in the city;
- Continue to further our work in making Newcastle a Dementia-friendly city, working with partners across the city to deliver a 12 month programme of events, information and advice from a base in the Grainger Market, continue to train people in dementia awareness and support neighbourhoods to become dementia friendly;
- Work with partners to investigate ways to make the city autism friendly;
- Examine how, working with partners, we can improve and promote accessible toilets and changing facilities in the city.

Occasionally there are sickening stories in our local media highlighting the scams that have been carried out on vulnerable older people. We have already introduced a number of 'no cold calling' zones across Newcastle, where such scams are more likely to be tried, but we will continue to raise awareness about scams and pursue the perpetrators through Trading Standards.

Mental health services nationally are struggling under increased demand coupled with government funding cuts, and we will continue to ensure that our partners provide appropriate treatment and support services that are accessible to all communities in our city. Despite this, we have successfully promoted good

mental health amongst Council employees in partnership with the Trade Unions and welcome the many initiatives across the city that aim to combat social isolation and improve mental well being.

We recognise the impact loneliness can have on someone of any age and we will therefore:

- Investigate interventions and approaches to tackle loneliness in different groups of people in different parts of the city;
- Campaign to raise the profile and status of mental health, which will include challenging the stigma around poor mental health;
- Sign up to the national Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health programme.

We work closely with the National Health Service, and in the coming year will continue to develop a 'Newcastle Model' for integration of health and care services. However, we are concerned by the pressures on GP services in the city, with a shortage of permanent doctors and operating from inadequate premises. We will continue to work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to highlight such concerns. We will also use health scrutiny powers to hold regional health organisations to account and challenge the creeping privatisation of the NHS.

We have made good progress in making Newcastle the first 'Heart Start' city by ensuring defibrillators are available in a range of places, including businesses, schools, public buildings and Fenham Library Health and Wellbeing hub; and encouraging people of all ages to learn basic life support skills. Over the coming year we will roll this programme out to other council owned buildings.

We have campaigned to raise the profile and status of mental health, and promoted good mental health amongst council employees. This has included challenging stigma around poor mental health and ensuring that partners provide appropriate treatment and support services that are accessible to all communities in our city. We will continue the partnership work developed with the council, NHS and trade unions and extend this work to include loneliness / isolation as a cause of poor mental wellbeing.

Housing – more and better homes

We believe that everyone should have the right to a decent home. However, many people have difficulty affording somewhere to buy or rent within their budget. In addition, there is a real shortage of certain types of housing in Newcastle.

We continue to prioritise brownfield sites for housing development, and our work has seen the highest rate of housebuilding in Newcastle for more than 30 years. In 2017/18, for example, 1150 new homes were built – of which 447 were affordable and 167 specifically for older people. In the same year we also helped bring more than 500 empty properties back into use. Newcastle Labour has gained a national reputation for being trusted to deliver on the housing agenda – however, we are ambitious to do more.

To deliver homes at the current pace we will need to be radical in acquiring land, demolishing buildings and reviewing the assets in the city. We will develop a long term plan for our asset base, to sit alongside the recently published Development Allocation Plan (DAP).

In addition to continuing to make land available for new housing developments, we will support a range of community initiative to develop new homes, including co-operative housing models, self build schemes and university pilot schemes to demonstrate new housebuilding technology.

Many people in Newcastle live in private rented accommodation. Many of our private landlords provide an excellent service. However, there are some who – through neglect and absentee management - cause real problems for their tenants and the communities in which their properties are located. We will ensure that there is effective enforcement in place to tackle rogue landlords and will consider closely the outcomes from the recent consultation on extending selective licensing to cover the whole city.

We have undertaken a significant amount of work with Your Homes Newcastle to support tenants to remain in their own homes when they are in debt, offering benefits and debt management advice. We will continue to do this, as well as investing in support for rough sleepers and the new citywide ‘Street Zero’ campaign and initiative to eliminate homelessness by 2022.

As a City of Sanctuary, we are proud to continue to support Syrian and Afghani families, individuals and unaccompanied children to settle and integrate into our communities. We have lobbied Government hard on the way they force asylum

seekers from different faiths and countries to share rooms, despite having nothing in common. We believe this is inhumane and will continue to challenge this policy strongly.

In the coming year, we will:

- Celebrate 100 years of council housing in the city in July 2019;
- Further develop new schemes offering supported housing across the city, preventing them from being sold under right to buy and providing quality accommodation for residents who may have been placed outside the city, in institutional settings away from their family and support networks to meet their needs;
- Support initiatives such as 'Street Zero' to move towards a 'Housing First' approach. We will continue to provide outreach support for rough sleepers in the city;
- We are concerned about fuel poverty and the number of people who live in cold homes so will explore with health partners how we might ensure homes are warm by improving insulation and replacing boilers to meet up-to-date standards and help improve the health and wellbeing of residents;
- Work with partners from North of Tyne on a Housing devolution deal that works for us all, ensures residents have choices that are decent, safe and appropriate to meet needs for rent or to buy;
- Develop and prepare to implement a Selective Licensing scheme that is appropriate for the city and improves the quality of housing in the private rented sector to protect tenants;
- Continue to assess the feasibility of establishing an organisation to manage private sector rented housing to a higher standard of housing condition and tenants' rights.
- Find new ways to give private sector tenants a voice in decision-making, bringing renters together to support one another and campaign for better conditions.

Conclusion – Newcastle Labour in an International Context

Following the 2016 referendum on our membership of the EU, the last three years have thrown the UK's future relationship with the rest of the world into sharp focus. Debates now rage about a whole range of issues – from climate change, global poverty, the plight of refugees to the future of our energy and food supplies. We are also concerned about the potential for the rise of the Far Right in the UK, and will do everything we can to ensure they do not get a foothold in our city.

Newcastle Labour recognizes that our city is not cut off from the rest of the world. We have promoted Newcastle as a Fairtrade City, and will continue to renew our status. People living here have friends and family in every country and continent. So while this manifesto is primarily aimed at how we will seek to lead Newcastle and the Council in the coming year, it is also important to set this in an international context. We want Newcastle to be known as a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive city where everyone – regardless of background or origin – feels valued and appreciated, and is able to fulfil their potential.

The United Nations sustainable development goals, agreed by Heads of State and Government in 2015, are a blueprint to achieving a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges that we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice. It is easy to think of these as remote and distant in a first world developed country like the UK. But increasingly, issues about poverty, hunger, inclusive education, gender equality, inclusive growth, productive employment and many other issues covered in the goals are relevant to UK domestic politics.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

We will therefore sign up to these internationally agreed goals, and use them as our guide for decision-making post-Brexit and as an overall framework for taking action to improve peoples' lives within the city. Alongside our commitment to make Newcastle a UNICEF recognized child-friendly city, these goals will be the focus of our political debate and leadership for Newcastle over the coming year.

Labour is the only party that campaigns across the city, all year round

For more information about Newcastle Labour, or to get involved, please contact us:

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