

# Newcastle Labour

**A Proud Record. A Fairer Future for All**

*Our vision for a fairer future...*

Labour  
Manifesto  
2021

- ✓ The best start in life: clean air, great schools and opportunities to thrive.
- ✓ The quality homes that you and your family need.
- ✓ Fighting for you, on your side in challenging and uncertain times.
- ✓ A great place to live with clean, green and safe communities.
- ✓ A healthy city where your background doesn't determine your life chances.
- ✓ More and better jobs, where everyone has the skills to play a full part in our economy.
- ✓ A modern efficient council: working with the community, listening to residents and open to you.



**Use all your votes for Labour - 6th May**



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*Dear Resident,*

This year is the tenth that Newcastle Labour has led our great city. And this last year has been a year like no other – with a global pandemic that has wreaked tragedy and harm on an unprecedented scale.

We have learned a great deal in this last year. It has been proven that social, economic and health inequalities have made the most vulnerable in our society even more exposed to a virus which preys on the disadvantaged. And that those inequalities are more than ever a result of deliberate choices made by Governments.

We have learned too that our city will always come together in crisis. The response to COVID from our communities has been nothing short of inspiring. Neighbours, friends, strangers, have rallied round, supporting the vulnerable and the isolated, lending a friendly hand. In a year of so much tragedy these characteristics of our city, of our people, show us that there is a better way.

We are proud of our record in office – despite a decade of deep and damaging cuts from successive governments, we have worked hard to protect the most vulnerable in our city and invest in creating a brighter future for everyone. We have, for example, protected adults' and children's services, welfare rights and homelessness support; and also built thousands of new homes, attracted new businesses and jobs and worked to make our city a healthier place to live and work. We have set a challenging and ambitious target for Newcastle to be Carbon Net Zero by 2030, and this is shaping our whole approach to the post-Covid economic recovery.

The Conservatives in Government have slashed our budgets and made it harder and harder to deliver services. They have shifted the burden of financial responsibility for council services from Government to council tax. Newcastle City Council has had cuts of more than £327 million over the last decade – or the equivalent of £2,500 for every household in the city. In the Budget in March Government again made cuts to our funding that will impact the vital public services that our city relies on.

In a world changed by Covid, it is even more important that you have a council which is on your side. Our city has got through this last year, and through a lost decade of austerity, because we brought our residents together, listened to what you said was important, and openly explained the difficult decisions that we would have to make. You have done your bit in keeping each other and our city safe, we will do our bit by supporting you to raise your children, to get good jobs, to care for each other and live well in older age.

Our record shows that we can be trusted to deliver; now we are asking for your support in these local elections so we can keep delivering a fairer and better future for all in Newcastle.

*Nick Forbes*

*Councillor Nick Forbes*

*Labour Leader of Newcastle City Council*



# A Proud Record. A Fairer Future for All

- ✓ We have eliminated single-use plastics from council buildings and events, and initiated a 'Pride in the City' campaign to keep our streets clean.
- ➡ We will launch a Newcastle-wide water-bottle refill scheme to reduce plastic bottles.



- ✓ Put in place contingency plans and helped people relocate when private sector care home providers have declared bankruptcy.
- ➡ We will explore every options to bring more privatised care services 'in house'.

- ✓ Government cuts mean many councils are closing their libraries. We've kept ours open.
- ➡ We will maintain education bursaries to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds stay on in education.

- ✓ To make the Grainger Market more accessible we have made it a dementia-friendly place to shop.
- ➡ We will introduce new initiatives to make Newcastle dementia and autism friendly.



- ✓ We have narrowed the unemployment gap between Newcastle and the rest of the UK.
- ➡ We will work with Combined Authority to create more and better jobs for the future.





- ✓ To meet our housing needs we are building 19,000 new homes by 2030 and prioritised 'brownfield' sites for their location.
- ➡ We will use planning powers to ensure that new housing developments contribute to support local schools, health facilities, play areas and green open spaces.



- ✓ To support public transport, we brought the Metro back into public ownership, and secured investment for modernisation work and new trains.
- ➡ We will lobby for Rail North to replace old trains on Newcastle – Carlisle route.

- ✓ Invested more than £10m in improving cycle routes across the city, upgrading crossing points and junctions to make cycling safer for all.
- ➡ We will consult on plans to pedestrianise more areas in the city centre.



## The Tory / Lib Dem Record

The Lib Dems ran Newcastle City Council from 2004 to 2011.

During this time they spent £1,800 a day on consultants; spent £27m on a reorganisation that saved just £20m; spent £45,000 on consultants changing the name of a park; turned the speed cameras off in the city.



Cruel - tried to end life-time tenancies for those living in council houses, arguing anyone with a good pension or in work should be thrown out of their council home.

Out of ideas - they have no local manifesto, proposed axing investment in children's playgrounds. Despite making promises to increase public services but have no plan how to pay for them!

Lib Dems have refused to support policies to end cuts to Council funding, make so-called legal highs illegal, have opposed environment policies including banning fracking.

The Tories, and Lib Dems, when in Government, will have slashed Newcastle Council budget by £327 million by 2022.

There is over 50% less per year to spend on local services in 2020 than what was spent in 2010.

# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## ENVIRONMENT

*a clean, green and safe city*

Protecting the environment and dealing with the climate change emergency is an absolute priority. We have set an ambitious target for Newcastle to be net carbon neutral by 2030, and produced our Net Zero Newcastle Action Plan which will help us meet that target. And we are working with residents, businesses and public sector partners to create a whole new generation of 'green industry' jobs through our decarbonisation work.

Newcastle is greener and safer than ever. Despite Government cuts we have kept our parks open, increased recycling rates and worked with the police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We have signed up to the White Ribbon Campaign, committing our city to tackling domestic abuse and violence, and have a strong track record in standing up to hate crimes. We are making it easier to walk and cycle around Newcastle, which is good for promoting health as well as reducing our city's carbon footprint.

- **Will have** declared a Climate Emergency and set an ambitious target for Newcastle to be Net Carbon Neutral by 2030;
- **Will have** established a Climate Change Commission which gathered the views of residents and businesses about what they wanted to see the city do to reach net zero;
- **Will have** been recognised as a world leading city in our efforts to address climate change, and only one of three cities in the UK to be awarded an A rating, by the Carbon Disclosure Project;
- **Will have** maintained waste collection and street cleaning services throughout the Covid pandemic;
- **Will have** invested in new cycle lanes and safer, pedestrian friendly junctions to support active travel, reducing carbon emissions;
- **Will have** secured over £27m of funding to decarbonise our public estate, including schools and community centres;
- **Will have** reduced the council's carbon emissions by 45% since 2011.



Protecting the environment and dealing with the climate change emergency is an absolute priority. We will make Newcastle to be net carbon neutral by 2030. We have kept our parks open, increased recycling rates and worked with the police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

*See next page for what we will do...*

# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## **ENVIRONMENT** *a clean, green and safe city*

- **We will** work with residents, businesses and public sector partners to decarbonise our economy and create a whole new generation of 'green industry' jobs;
- **We will** take decisive action to tackle poor air quality, including introducing a Clean Air Zone in areas most affected by poor air quality;
- **We will** pedestrianise more areas in the city centre, improve and extend bus priority lanes across the city and campaign for cheaper bus fares;
- **We will** introduce Play Streets / Low Traffic Neighbourhoods / School Street pilots;
- **We will** continue to lobby government for greater investment in public transport, including integrated smart ticketing, despite Government's clawing back of funds to enable this work, and for local authorities to have more control over public transport provision in their area;
- **We will** seek funding to introduce more electric vehicle charging points across Newcastle, with the aim of having the most comprehensive charging network of any UK city;
- **We will** review the city's approach to waste management, focusing on re-use, increasing recycling and reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill;
- **We will** extend our commitment to biodiversity by installing bee friendly roofs on bus shelters and other appropriate locations, introducing wildflower verges and other spaces, and supporting wildlife habitats and corridors;
- **We will** ensure planning for our city's economic renewal and our Net Zero Newcastle Action Plan reflect the importance of biodiversity to the city, and plans to protect it further.



# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## EMPLOYMENT

*creating more and better jobs*

Newcastle thrives when people have good-quality, secure, well-paid jobs. Fair wages for decent work are the bedrock of a good society where people can put down roots, raise a family and plan for the future. We want to be a full-employment city and a good-employment city, where barriers to work are swept away, where everyone who wants to work has a job and where volunteering is properly recognised.

- **We have** signed up to the TUC Great Jobs Charter, and the North of Tyne Good Work Pledge;
- **We have** been recognised as the No 1 LGBT Employer in the UK by Stonewall;
- **We have** supported the Kickstart scheme to enable young people to move out of unemployment;
- **We have** and continue to campaign against zero hours contracts;
- **We have** campaigned for more help for employers who slip through the gaps in the Covid support schemes.
- **We will** see the development of skills and training to promote new job opportunities from our work tackling the Climate Emergency;
- **We will** work towards becoming a foundation living wage city;
- **We will** campaign for decent sick pay and good working conditions;
- **We will** tackle the scourge of Modern Slavery;
- **We will** continue to work with businesses to minimise job losses from the Covid crisis, and stand up for businesses in those sectors most affected;
- **We will** explore the possibility of the Council taking on more apprentices and work placements, to give more opportunities to the young people who have lost out because of Covid.



Everyone in our city deserves to have good-quality, secure, well-paid jobs. We will continue to work to make Newcastle a full-employment city, where everyone has the opportunity to achieve their aspiration.

# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## **EDUCATION AND SKILLS** *the best learning opportunities for all*

Every child deserves the best start in life. That's why in our recent budget we set aside £500,000 to leverage more support and resources to tackle inequalities and support hard-pressed families, so that no young person is left behind by the impacts of the pandemic. We are also working to ensure people made unemployed through the pandemic get the skills they need to get back into work, especially in foundational sectors like care, and the green economy.

- **We have** introduced an innovative social workers in schools pilot, helping to identify potential challenges for young people and addressing them early;
- **We have** supported children and young people to set up a Youth Parliament for the city;
- **We have** and continue to help children learn from home when schools were closed during lockdowns, ensuring IT kit reached those who needed it most;
- **We have** supported the creation of the North of Tyne Apprenticeships Hub, which will help residents to learn more about apprenticeships and connect them to employers.
- **We will** continue working towards being a child-friendly city, making our city centre a child-centred space, and listening to children and young people through Corporate Parenting and Newcastle Youth Council;
- **We will** extend education bursaries to help children from disadvantaged backgrounds stay on in education;
- **We will** support the expansion of schools and the creation of new schools to provide enough school places;
- **We will** build on our relationship with the Promise Board to address exclusions and attendance;
- **We will** launch Children and Families Newcastle, a service which will work with children and families to ensure they get earlier, community-based support that tackles inequalities and supports all children to thrive;
- **We will** campaign about the impact of poverty on children and families in our city, and do everything we can to alleviate poverty for children and young people;
- **We will** invest further in education, skills and training with partners, to ensure we have a flexible skilled workforce that responds to new jobs in the green economy;
- **We will** involve children, young people and students in initiatives that help them contribute to delivery of a Net Zero Newcastle.



Every child deserves the best start in life. We will support the expansion of existing schools and the creation of new schools to provide enough child school places.

# Newcastle Labour: A Proud Record. A Fairer Future



## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

*a healthy, caring city*

We want everyone to live a long, happy life filled with love, friendship, dignity and opportunity. Social care is our collective responsibility as a society to support adults with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and/or autism, unpaid carers as well as home and residential care and the safeguarding of vulnerable people. But a decade of Government cuts has left many people without the support they need to live independent lives, so they are left reliant on friends and unpaid family carers. Evidence shows that the health impact of Government austerity continues to get worse; the ten-year update to the Marmot review showed once again that more people are living in poverty with fewer services to provide the support they need. We will continue to support those most in need of council help, as well as campaign for a long-term solution to the social care crisis facing the country.

- **We have** prioritised delivering high quality, person-centred social care services for eligible adults aged 18+, despite 10 years of government austerity and a national social care crisis;
- **We have** built a range of specialist housing schemes with bespoke wrap around support for older people, people with dementia and people with learning disabilities and/or autism;
- **We have** worked with partners to make Newcastle a dementia friendly city, including renting a unit in the Grainger Market for use as a dementia friendly space to deliver training, advice, support and activities;
- **We have** set up Collaborative Newcastle, an innovative partnership with our health partners to integrate and improve health and social care in the city and improve the wellbeing of our residents;
- **We have** set up our Health & Social Care Academy supporting recruitment and retention of home care staff;
- **We have** the Covid-19 pandemic has been the defining feature of the last year. During that time we have:
- **We have** supported the Covid-19 vaccine rollout;
- **We have** supported vital in-house and commissioned services to access PPE, understand government laws and guidelines and to continue to deliver services in a covid secure way;
- **We have** supported key workers with asymptomatic testing;
- **We have** introduced community champions to support more people in communities to understand what is available to them.

We will continue to support those most in need of council help, as well as campaign for a long-term solution to the social care crisis facing the country.



*See next page for what we will do...*



# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** *a healthy, caring city*

- **We will** deliver more specialist housing options to help people live as independently as they are able to, with the right support in place, in their own communities;
- **We will** continue to develop Newcastle as a Dementia friendly city and autism friendly city;
- **We will** expand the Health and Social Care Academy to cover other areas of care provision;
- **We will** campaign for better recognition of carers;
- **We will** represent the UK on the WHO Healthy Cities political committee;
- **We will** work closely with the NHS to care for the most vulnerable in our communities;
- **We will** lobby Government for a long term funding solution to the social care crisis and seek parity of esteem between health and social care sectors;
- **We will** develop our Collaborative Newcastle Microcommunities approach to further localise health and care and put communities in charge of designing the care they need;
- **We will** promote independence in the community as a principle of our approach to care services.

# Newcastle Labour: *A Proud Record. A Fairer Future*



## **HOUSING** *more and better homes*

The housing crisis means that Newcastle doesn't have enough homes for our growing population. That's why we're building more homes of every kind, including nearly 2000 affordable homes. Ensuring the highest-quality standards for new-build houses, as well as finding new ways to insulate existing properties, will help people save money as well as help us tackle the climate emergency.

- **We have** developed an innovative partnership with Crisis to be the first city in the UK to end homelessness within a decade;
- **We have** been awarded global recognition for our work in preventing homelessness;
- **We have** built hundreds of new homes, including new council housing for people who need it;
- **We have** introduced strict licensing standards for private sector landlords to improve standards.
- **We will** ensure a constant 5-year supply of land needed continue to build the homes that Newcastle needs to accommodate future generations, while lobbying government to stop the imposition of centrally driven targets;
- **We will** prioritise 'brownfield' sites for new housing development wherever possible, and look to how we can develop more housing in the city centre to encourage a wider range of uses of the city centre;
- **We will** campaign for 'rent holidays' for people struggling financially as a result of the Covid crisis;
- **We will** work towards 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;
- **We will** deal with rogue private sector landlords by requiring them to take responsibility for anti-social behaviour committed by their tenants;
- **We will** prevent inappropriate office conversions into flats;
- **We will** continue to crack down on Anti Social behaviour to ensure that no resident feels uncomfortable or at risk in their homes or in our neighbourhoods;
- **We will** develop our work to support the White Ribbon campaign to tackle domestic abuse;
- **We will** resist the clustering of housing of vulnerable people into areas of the city where resources and capacity is already strained;
- **We will** increase the voice of tenants, especially in the private rented sector;
- **We will** build on our award winning work on inclusion by exploring the introduction of a 'human rights' based approach to tackling homelessness.



Everyone deserves to be able to live in a decent home. We are taken decisive to improve homes for council and private tenants alike. We have ambitious plans to build more homes to tackle the housing shortage.

