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## Your 2021 Cambridge Labour City Council Report



### A message from Cllr Lewis Herbert, Labour Leader of Cambridge City Council

**W**elcome to our 2021 annual Residents' Report. The local elections on May 6th are your opportunity to choose the candidates – for the city and county councils, Combined Authority Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner – who will deliver for you and your family, and for Cambridge, until 2025.

Firstly, a big THANK YOU to the whole community for sticking together, sticking to the rules, helping neighbours and donating to vital charities and emergency food aid. Together, we've kept the number of Cambridge cases low and weathered the worst of Covid-19, but it's not over yet. I'm also proud of your Labour councillors, who've been running food hubs, and supporting the amazing

community networks that sprang up in response to lockdown.

We've built on all our council team's work since 2014. Tackling food poverty that is unacceptable in an affluent city like ours, but still evident in over 32000 visits last year to our eight community food hubs. Backing Cambridge's excellent voluntary and community organisations in tackling poverty and inequality, with £1m given in grants to support their work. Retaining vital jobs and planning the greener recovery that Cambridge needs.

We're building 540 new Council affordable rent homes and offering all rough sleepers accommodation in 2021, in addition to those already helped in 2020. We've also provided £700,000 council funding for local















homeless organisations to support this work.

Tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing biodiversity is central to our vision. Cambridge now has a detailed plan to become a net zero carbon council by 2030, 20 years before the Government's totally inadequate 2050 target.

I ask you to continue putting your trust in Labour, voting Labour in all four local elections on May 6th. All candidates have a strong determination to achieve the best for you and Cambridge, managing our city's finances prudently and protecting your services despite continued Government cuts since 2010. Standing up for you and for Cambridge - **"One Cambridge, Fair For All"**.

*Lewis*



On tackling poverty and promoting food justice, we have:	On delivering essential services, we have:	On the climate emergency, we have:	On addressing the biodiversity emergency and planning for a more sustainable city, we have:	On housing and homelessness, we have:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed an ambitious evidence-based anti-poverty strategy.</li> <li>Set aside £220,000 before the pandemic to support community food hubs, and supported the Covid-food hubs with money, staff and buildings.</li> <li>Worked with our partners to tackle the digital divide and fuel poverty and used our emergency contingency fund to buy hardware and data for those in need.</li> <li>Been one of only a few councils to run a council tax relief scheme which provides up to 100% support for those most in need.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>10,000+</b>  community meals delivered between March and Oct 2020 </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allocated over a million pounds in community grants over the last year and given grants to local groups to support neighbourhood projects through our Area Committee Grants. This has supported organisations like the Citizens Advice Bureau, Cambridge C CVS, Cambridge Online, Abbey People and North Cambridge Community Partnership.</li> <li>Promoted the Real Living Wage campaign, funded a Real Living Wage officer, and been awarded a Living Wage Champion Award.</li> <li>Committed to paying all council employees at least £10 an hour and endorsed the TUC's 'Stay Safe - Join a Union' campaign alongside the local trades' council.</li> <li>Worked with community and voluntary organisations to support volunteering across our city, providing funding, supporting events and encouraging volunteering.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>£1 million</b>  provided in community grants in 2019/20 </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressed period poverty by putting free sanitary products in all our community centres.</li> <li>Created and funded a pandemic support network for local mutual aid and voluntary groups as we worked together as a city during this period of crisis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created a Covid response hub, coordinating services and supporting a city-wide team effort of mutual aids, community and faith groups, and local businesses.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> retained free green bin collections unlike some other councils </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed creative alternatives to in-person events, such as the Folk Festival at Home and the virtual Big Weekend, and set up a virtual community centre.</li> <li>Worked to combat isolation and loneliness, with outreach work in new communities, virtual and face-to-face events for everyone, outreach work with older people, and support for the work of local Covid support groups.</li> <li>Invested, in 2019/20, £188,900 in our playgrounds and £400,000 in our open spaces. These include state-of-the-art skate parks in Trumpington and East Chesterton and an accessible playground at Cherry Hinton Hall.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>£188,900</b>  invested in our playgrounds including an accessible playground at Cherry Hinton Hall </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invested in our community's facilities, including money for Nott's Own Scout Hut, Cherry Hinton Community Hub, Chesterton Pavilion and Nightingale Community Garden and Pavilion.</li> <li>Unlike many other councils, retained free green bin collections.</li> <li>Maintained almost £2 million of grants to support community organisations and homelessness projects.</li> <li>Re-purposed our community and leisure facilities during the pandemic, for example as food hubs and Covid testing sites.</li> <li>Given out £32 million in Covid support grants to support businesses, and authorised £50 million of business rate relief.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>£400,000</b>  invested in our open spaces including a state-of-the-art skate park in East Chesterton </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared a Cambridge climate emergency and introduced an ambitious new climate change strategy for the city to tackle the crisis.</li> <li>Been part of a county-wide net zero commission and strategy, setting out measures to achieve net zero on regional issues such as transport, food production, peat and utilities.</li> <li>Sourced our council electricity from a 100% renewal tariff.</li> <li>Required all new licensed taxis to be low emission vehicles, aiming to make all city taxis zero emission capable from 2028.</li> <li>Invested in electric vehicles in our council fleets and introduced more electric charging points.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>£2 million</b>  investment in cutting carbon emissions at Abbey and Parkside Pools </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceeded building regulation requirements for reducing carbon emissions in our new council housing developments, and are starting to build <i>passivhaus</i> eco-home schemes.</li> <li>Reduced our council's carbon emissions by almost 30% since taking control of the council in 2014, and have undertaken over 60 carbon reduction projects, funded by a £1.4 million dedicated climate-change fund.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>100%</b>  of our council electricity sourced from a renewable tariff </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of a Cambridgeshire-wide consortium, have secured £2 million of funding to be distributed to make homes more efficient.</li> <li>Carried out a large-scale trial of weekly separate food waste collections in the north of the city to make our recycling more effective and help people monitor their food waste.</li> <li>Invested £325,000 and secured £1.7 million in grants to cut carbon emissions at Parkside and Abbey pools.</li> <li>Ensured that the city council has no investments in fossil fuel companies and sought to have the Cambridgeshire Pension Scheme, that we are part of, divest from such companies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declared a Cambridge biodiversity emergency.</li> <li>Led an inquiry into the threat to our area's 13 chalk streams and identified 109 projects to restore them.</li> <li>Won Greener Festivals Awards for the Cambridge Folk Festival, and Green Flag status for Christ's Pieces, Cherry Hinton Hall and Jesus Green.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> run a year long pollinator campaign, built insect hotels and hedgehog doors </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planted over 1000 more trees, improved our city's nature reserves, increased our wildflower meadows to 20, and stopped using herbicides on city council open spaces.</li> <li>Only cut the grass in areas of our open space where absolutely needed, leaving selected areas to host more plants and insects.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> planted 1000 new trees and increased the number of wildflower meadows across the city to 20 </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Built insect hotels across the city to encourage pollinators, including bees.</li> <li>Supported the development of the Chisholm Trail, and worked with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to secure investment in improvements for Cambridge cyclists and pedestrians, such as the new bridge linking Abbey and Chesterton.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> commissioned a report into our area's 13 chalk streams and identified 109 projects to restore them </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run a year-long hedgehog and small mammals campaign, added hedgehog doorways to boundary fences, and required the inclusion of hedgehog doors in new planning applications.</li> <li>Run a 2020 pollinator awareness campaign and actively supported and promoted initiatives to increase the knowledge and opportunities needed for pollinators to thrive.</li> <li>Funded 10 new water refill points in the city's open spaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Already put plans in place to deliver over 540 new council homes, part-funded by the devolution deal, by 2022 and will have handed 130 keys to families by May 2021.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>542</b>  new council homes on track to be delivered, and will have handed over 130 keys to families by May 2021 </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budgeted £18 million in 2021/22 to improve our existing housing stock, and a further £1 million for energy efficiency work.</li> <li>Offered accommodation to every identified rough sleeper during the Covid crisis.</li> <li>Pledged no eviction of any council tenant who cannot pay rent due to coronavirus.</li> <li>Given out £700,000 in homelessness prevention grants.</li> <li>Established Cambridge Street Aid, which has raised over £100,000 for homeless people.</li> <li>Begun to build 16 modular homes, as part of the response to provide accommodation for homeless people, and worked with partners to provide 6 more.</li> <li>Ensured 94 percent of council homes are at or above national decent homes standards – higher than the average for social housing in the East of England.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> committed to building sustainable housing at <i>passivhaus</i> standard where possible and retrofitting existing homes </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceeded building regulation requirements for reducing carbon emissions in our new council housing developments, and are starting to build low-carbon <i>passivhaus</i> schemes.</li> <li>Brought many empty homes back into use, with more than 20 over the last year alone.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> <b>16</b>  new modular homes completed or underway to house rough sleepers </div> </div>
On tackling inequality and promoting diversity, we have:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted equalities for all through our Single Equalities Scheme and our work with partner organisations.</li> <li>Funded a wide range of equalities projects and groups including: Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, Cambridge Pride, The Kite Trust, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum, Cambridge Older People's Enterprise and Cambridge Disabled Kids' Swimming Club.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the Encompass Network's <i>Safer Spaces</i> campaign.</li> <li>Worked with our partners to support LGBTQ+, Disability, South Asian, and Black History months, and International Women's Day. Funded a Unison public art project on workplace equality, and set aside £20,000 for a post-Covid celebration of the women who have shaped our city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held an annual Holocaust Memorial Day event, school outreach workshops, and series of free talks.</li> <li>Supported EU citizens to apply for settled status and to register to vote.</li> </ul> <div>  <div> helped settled over 100 refugees and committed to welcoming 200 more over 5 years </div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Become only the fifth council to receive DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation for its work in tackling domestic abuse.</li> <li>Publicly affirmed the Council's belief that Black Lives Matter and commissioned a report on the impact of the pandemic on health in black and minority ethnic communities.</li> <li>Run equalities training for staff and councillors.</li> </ul>