

# CAMBRIDGE LABOUR

## CITY COUNCIL RESIDENTS' REPORT AND LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

5 MAY 2022



# ONE CAMBRIDGE FAIR FOR ALL





## ***A message from Cllr Anna Smith***

### ***Labour Leader***

### ***Cambridge City Council***

**It's a privilege to introduce our Cambridge Labour manifesto for the city council elections on May 5th.**

**Labour in Cambridge is all about actions. Since being elected by you to run the council in 2014, we have stood on a platform of creating 'One Cambridge Fair For All'. We've consistently delivered against our four key pledges, updated for 2022: achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies; tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice; build a new generation of sustainable council homes and reduce homelessness; protect local services despite Tory cuts, modernising the council and helping the most vulnerable during the pandemic and beyond.**

This work has never been more important. The cost of living crisis is already hitting our communities hard. More and more households are feeling the pinch as prices and bills rise. All of us have, as councillors, spoken with residents who are being forced to choose between heating their houses and feeding their families. Our manifesto sets out how we will support residents in meeting those challenges. We want all our communities to thrive. To be able to do that, they need enough to live on; safe, warm, decent, genuinely affordable homes; access to good food and green, open spaces; clean air and safe streets.

We're proud of our record. The work we are doing to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies, our council house building programme, our investment in retrofitting, the

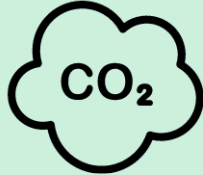
part the council played in leading the pandemic response, and the work we've done to make sure that we've protected free services which other councils have cut or charged for. We don't do all this alone. We are so lucky in Cambridge to have so many charities, faith groups, voluntary groups and businesses who contribute so much to our community. I want to thank them and I commit to continuing to work cooperatively with them to serve our city.

However, there's still so much to do. The next few years are not going to be easy for any of us. We face not only a cost of living crisis but a climate and biodiversity emergency, and we have to deal with those against a background of pandemic recovery. All this in the context of a shambolic Tory government which seems to have little to offer to our city. I would be irresponsible if I promised easy solutions. But what I can promise is that we will continue to work tirelessly as councillors, with and for our whole city and its residents.

Cambridge deserves a compassionate, principled council with a strong track record and a clear vision for the future. One that understands the links between social, economic, and environmental justice. It's only by voting Labour on May 5th that you can guarantee that the work we've been doing can continue, and that we can continue to work together to create One Cambridge, Fair for All.

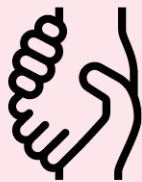
*Anna Smith*

# Labour's 4 Pledges



**Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies.**

*Pages 4 - 7*



**Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice.**

*Pages 8 - 11*



**Build a new generation of sustainable council homes and reduce homelessness.**

*Pages 12 - 13*



**Protect local services despite Tory cuts, modernising the council and helping the most vulnerable during the pandemic and beyond.**

*Pages 14 - 15*



## Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Cambridge Labour will continue to address the impact of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, driving progress towards making Cambridge a net zero council. We will ensure that sustainability is front and centre in any new builds, and address the health impacts of climate change.

### On achieving a net zero council by 2030 and addressing the climate and biodiversity emergencies, we have:

- ✓ Driven progress towards becoming a net zero council by cutting carbon emissions from our own estate, fleet, and operations by 21.7% (down 44.3% on the 2014/5 baseline).
- ✓ Initiated a £1.7 million decarbonisation scheme in our swimming pools to reduce emissions from Parkside Pool by 37.5% and from Abbey Pool by 47.5%.
- ✓ Reduced the carbon emissions and air pollution from our waste and recycling collection with the introduction of a second electric bin lorry.
- ✓ Updated the council's climate rating tool to ensure that all strategies, policies and projects are now measured against our 2030 net zero carbon target as well as their overall climate impact, putting us in the top 10% of councils nationally.
- ✓ Introduced carbon literacy training for all city council staff and elected members.
- ✓ Installed 21 new electric charging points for taxis to support the move to electric vehicles, cutting air pollution.
- ✓ Introduced a weekly food waste collection trial in 9205 households across Greater Cambridgeshire.
- ✓ Delivered a high-performing refuse collection service to residents, with 99.8% of bins successfully collected despite ongoing staffing pressures as a result of the pandemic.
- ✓ Responded to residents' concerns about fly-tipping, clearing up 2,300 reported incidents, and run 19 free neighbourhood clean-up events between July 2021 and April 2022.
- ✓ Worked with local partners, such as Action on Energy Cambridgeshire, to make home retrofit accessible to more residents.



Installed 21 new electric charging points for taxis to support the move to electric vehicles, cutting air pollution



Introduced a weekly food waste collection trial in 9205 households across Greater Cambridgeshire



Driven progress towards becoming a net zero council by cutting carbon emissions from our own estate and operations by 21.7%



Initiated a £1.7 million decarbonisation scheme in our swimming pools to reduce emissions



## Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Cambridge Labour will continue to address the impact of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, driving progress towards making Cambridge a net zero council. We will ensure that sustainability is front and centre in any new builds, and address the health impacts of climate change.

***Labour has made real progress in tackling the climate emergency, and the city council is now ranked in the top 10% of councils nationally for its environmental work. But there is much more to do, and we will work hard to build on these advances. We'll continue to cut the council's emissions to help us reach net zero by 2030 and will work with our partners to help Cambridge become a healthy, carbon neutral and water efficient city with clean air for all. We'll also help support residents to face the cost of living crisis and cut fuel bills through an ambitious retrofitting scheme.***

### Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:

- ✓ Ensure that the next Local Plan includes a requirement that no development uses gas connections, that the total energy demand for heating/cooling in all new buildings must be equivalent to Passivhaus standards of 15-20 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr, and that all developments should generate as much renewable energy as they use over the year.
- ✓ Deliver a Local Plan that requires new developments of over 150 homes or of 1000m<sup>2</sup> or more to calculate a whole life costing and demonstrate clear actions to reduce emissions, including in their construction, and incorporates rigorous water efficiency requirements which state that homes should achieve 80 litres/person/day.
- ✓ Continue to champion the introduction of a clean air zone for Cambridge and support consultation with our communities on creative and innovative ways to manage traffic in the city that work for all residents, and which recognise the negative health impacts of air pollution.
- ✓ Promote and support active transport for all residents to help improve air quality in our city and, with it, health and wellbeing in our communities. We'll promote walking and cycling, including by continuing Phase 2 delivery of the Chisholm Trail and improving bike storage.
- ✓ Continue to secure funding for climate action, walking and cycling, and wider projects, working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, neighbouring councils, and the Combined Authority, including securing the funds to build Cambridge South station.
- ✓ Continue adapting our own council buildings and fleet to help us meet our target of net zero by 2030. This will include securing a third electric bin lorry, installing a 1mw solar plant at our waste depot to sustainably fuel our waste and recycling fleet, and delivering 177 community EV charging points on our car parks over the next 12 months (with a further 400 planned over the next 7 years).
- ✓ Continue progress on our scheme to retrofit our council housing stock and commit to delivering Passivhaus and net zero carbon housing schemes wherever possible, lobbying Government for more funding as part of the Great Homes Upgrade campaign.
- ✓ Develop a new litter strategy for Cambridge, in partnership with residents, to keep our city centre and open spaces clean, pleasant, and safe places to be.
- ✓ Expand our successful food waste collection trial, recognising that food waste is a major contributor to climate change with a significant carbon footprint.
- ✓ Promote the circular economy through our community reuse and lending schemes, our promotion of recycling, and our support for redistribution of surplus food through the food hub network.
- ✓



## Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Cambridge Labour will continue our work to protect and enhance biodiversity, recognising the positive impact of nature on residents' health and wellbeing, and increase residents' access to green spaces.

### On achieving a net zero council by 2030 and addressing the climate and biodiversity emergencies, we have:

- ✓ Successfully submitted bids to the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority to enhance Logan's Meadow and further protect our chalk streams.
- ✓ Initiated a 12-month herbicide-free trial in Newnham and Arbury wards, exploring alternative, chemical-free methods of looking after our city's public areas such as pavements, building on our 2019/20 ban on herbicide use on parks and open spaces.
- ✓ Trialled alternative, low-carbon methods of maintaining our open spaces such as using heavy horses to harrow Stourbridge Common.
- ✓ Planted 594 trees in 2021, plus 269 Free Trees for Babies, 91 trees under the Neighbourhood Canopy Campaign, 260 trees on Logan's Meadow Nature Reserve, 35 on Paradise Nature Reserve and 600 in East Chesterton's Tiny Forest.
- ✓ Successfully opposed insurance requirements to pollard trees in Alexandra Gardens.
- ✓ Protected and enhanced nature across the city, building 10 bee banks, 11 bat boxes and 230 metres of beetle banks. We've also planted 5740 m2 of insect-friendly wildflower meadows, planted 320 m2 of native woodland bulbs and managed 80,000 m2 of our open spaces as long grass area.
- ✓ Collaborated with local residents' groups to win a third Green Flag status for the city at Jesus Green.
- ✓ Maintained our open spaces for physical and mental health, including arts projects for local children in North Cambridge.
- ✓ Continued our investment in a sustainable food system, planning for a permanent community food centre and delivering 151 new allotment plots.
- ✓ Ensured that biodiversity is considered in any development through a supplementary planning document (SPD) allied with a new biodiversity strategy.



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## Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Cambridge Labour will continue our work to protect and enhance biodiversity, recognising the positive impact of nature on residents' health and wellbeing, and increase residents' access to green spaces.

***Labour understand how important access to nature and green, open space is for wellbeing. That's why we'll continue to lead on protecting nature and enhancing biodiversity across Cambridge and explore chemical free and carbon neutral ways to maintain and enhance our open spaces for residents' mental and physical health. We'll keep up our work to preserve our area's chalk streams and ensure that a sustainable water supply is recognised as the number one priority in any development.***

### Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:

- ✓ Continue to put biodiversity front and centre in all the council's work, with a new biodiversity strategy that takes us forward to 2030 and sets out three main themes: mainstreaming biodiversity throughout council services; thinking about how we enhance the core wildlife sites and habitats we manage; and promoting nature in your neighbourhood.
- ✓ Protect and enhance our chalk streams, and insist that no development will take place within the new draft Local Plan without clear assurances from water companies that there is a truly sustainable water supply.
- ✓ Reinforce the importance of nature in new housing builds. All new homes will have bird boxes, 25% of new homes will be required to have bat boxes, and fences in all new homes will need to include gaps to allow hedgehogs and other species access.
- ✓ Continue to maintain as high a proportion as possible of our city's open spaces as long grass areas, with a view to joining the No Mow May campaign and encouraging residents to take part too.
- ✓ Push forward our commitment to making Cambridge a herbicide-free city, extending the work beyond our 12-month trial to cover all wards and work with local communities to look after our city without the use of harmful chemicals.
- ✓ Continue our exploration of alternative, low carbon – and traditional – ways of maintaining our open spaces and extend the recent trial of harrowing our commons with heavy horses to include planting and grass cutting.
- ✓ Look after and manage our existing open spaces both for nature and for our whole community, making the link to residents' physical and mental wellbeing. We'll also require new developments to provide open space for recreation, sports and play for all residents, in line with the draft Local Plan.
- ✓ Protect and enhance our city's network of 12 local nature reserves with projects such as the extension of Logan's Meadow, funded by our successful bid to the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.
- ✓ Promote even more community food growing opportunities, including both new allotment sites (at Eddington, Marleigh, Darwin Green, and Cherry Hinton) and other spaces such as community orchards or herb gardens. We'll also continue to support Cambridge's bid for Gold Sustainable Food Cities status.
- ✓ Improve Cambridge's air quality and build its resilience against climate change by planting more new trees to increase the city's canopy cover. We've started this by putting money in our 2022/3 budget to expand our tree and biodiversity teams.



## Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice

Cambridge Labour will help residents to face the impact of the cost of living crisis, and fight for food and fuel justice. We will continue to tackle poverty and inequality, and will prioritise social justice *with* environmental justice.

### On tackling poverty and inequality, promoting food and fuel justice and strengthening communities, we have:

- ✓ Awarded £1.7 million in grants to community and voluntary groups. This includes over £300,000 to the Cambridge and District Citizens' Advice Service to help them provide free legal, debt and money advice to local people.
- ✓ Promoted food justice by supporting our network of local food hubs, distributing over 200 tonnes of food to people in need, and started the work to make Cambridge a Right to Food City.
- ✓ Invested £200,000 to establish a community food centre and community kitchen, housing it in council properties since 2020.
- ✓ Tackled digital poverty by funding groups such as Cambridge Online, helping to get over 700 households online and giving 500 of those a digital device.
- ✓ Led the campaign to encourage all Cambridge employers to pay the Real Living Wage as a minimum standard, meaning that over 1000 workers in our city have received a pay rise, and started the work to make Cambridge a Real Living Wage Place.
- ✓ Funded groups that help families, young people and individuals in need, including Red Hen, the Meadows Children and Family Wing, Abbey People and Cambridge United Charitable Trust.
- ✓ Provided free events such as Music in the Parks and sports sessions, because health, culture and wellbeing activities shouldn't only be for those who can pay.
- ✓ Developed and supported community lending schemes which will reduce waste and help cut bills.
- ✓ Added an extra £75,000 to our Discretionary Housing Payment Fund to help council tenants who are struggling with their rent.
- ✓ Tackled fuel poverty and helped to cut energy bills by putting roof insulation in every council home and investing in an ambitious retrofitting programme.



Promoted food justice through our network of food hubs, distributing over 200 tonnes of food to those in need



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Tackled digital poverty by funding groups such as Cambridge Online, helping to get over 700 households online



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## Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice

**Cambridge Labour will help residents to face the impact of the cost of living crisis, and fight for food and fuel justice. We will continue to tackle poverty and inequality, and will prioritise social justice *with* environmental justice.**

***The cost of living crisis is already having a serious impact on residents' lives, meaning that many are having to make the choice between heating and eating. Labour will continue to fight for food and fuel justice, further strengthen our anti-poverty work and continue our generous community grants scheme and invest in high quality community facilities for all.***

### **Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:**

- ✓ Find a new home for the community food centre, to help establish it and our network of food hubs as a long term, key pillar of our city's food justice work.
- ✓ Work with members of the Food Poverty Alliance to identify the steps needed to make Cambridge the next Right to Food City, joining Liverpool, Manchester, Coventry, Birmingham, and Totnes in pushing the Government to properly address the food poverty that is part of the escalating cost of living crisis.
- ✓ Keep up the campaign to make sure everyone in Cambridge earns at least the Real Living Wage, promote trade union recognition, and explore becoming accredited as a Living Hours employer.
- ✓ Invest in brand new community facilities across the city from The Meadows in Arbury to the CHUB in Cherry Hinton, providing places where residents can meet and communities can thrive.
- ✓ Maintain our ambitious grants programme to support community groups to do what they do best in serving our city. We'll also carry out the planned review of our grants programme to make it easier for people to apply.
- ✓ Encourage community sharing and reuse schemes such as the library of things, to help cut costs for residents and reduce waste.
- ✓ Review our community services to ensure that they provide the best possible support for all our residents, from young to old, and give the most help to those most in need.
- ✓ Continue to offer our own free events for residents, including exercise classes, concerts and fireworks, and support community-led events across the city - for example, by looking at providing power supplies to more outdoor spaces.
- ✓ Audit the city's sport and cultural provision to identify gaps and make sure we are offering the very best to all our residents no matter where they live.
- ✓ Work with the police and other partners to take a strong, united stand against the issues of off-road electric bikes and scooters and antisocial driving that are affecting communities across the city, and work with the County Council to challenge antisocial verge and pavement parking.



## Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice

Cambridge Labour will help residents to face the impact of the cost of living crisis, and fight for food and fuel justice. We will continue to tackle poverty and inequality, and will prioritise social justice *with* environmental justice.

### On tackling poverty and inequality, promoting food and fuel justice and strengthening diversity, we have:

- ✓ Strengthened our commitment to personal safety, winning Purple Flag status in 2019. Retained our Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation, continued to support the Ask Angela campaign, and pledged action on drink spiking.
- ✓ Run an older people's visiting support service to help with independent living and combat isolation, and funded groups working with older people including Age UK, Care Network and COPE.
- ✓ Built 31 fully wheelchair adapted council homes, exceeding our target of 5% adapted properties, and ensured all new properties are fully accessible.
- ✓ Built Changing Places toilets at Clay Farm and Storey's Field community centres.
- ✓ Pledged support, as a City of Sanctuary, to refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- ✓ Supported groups advocating for the rights of our diverse communities, and ensured that EU citizens are aware of their rights.
- ✓ Funded women's support groups such Women's Aid, Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, and Romsey Mill, and led a domestic abuse conference for professionals and survivors.
- ✓ Taken a strong stand against anti-GRT hatred and racism, working with Traveller advocacy groups, especially after Jimmy Carr's comments.
- ✓ Commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day, celebrated Black, LGBTQ+, South Asian, Disability and GRT History months; and funded events to celebrate the unseen role of women in Cambridge.
- ✓ Funded LGBTQ+ groups and events, including Cambridge Pride and the Kite Trust, and



Built 31 fully wheelchair adapted council homes and ensured all new properties are fully accessible



Pledged support, as a City of Sanctuary, to refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine



Funded LGBTQ+ groups and events and continued our commitment to the 'Safer Spaces' campaign



Taken a strong stand against anti-GRT hatred and racism and worked with Traveller advocacy groups



## Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food and fuel justice

**Cambridge Labour will help residents to face the impact of the cost of living crisis, and fight for food and fuel justice. We will continue to tackle poverty and inequality, and will prioritise social justice *with* environmental justice.**

***Labour wants to keep Cambridge a safe, welcoming, accessible and inclusive city for all our residents. This year has shown just us all just how vital our work as a City of Sanctuary really is, and we are proud to continue our support for refugees, both from the Ukraine and elsewhere. We'll also focus on our support for GRT communities, working toward the provision of stopping sites. And***

### **Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:**

- ✓ As a City of Sanctuary, do all we can to welcome and support refugees from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and other countries.
- ✓ Fund a new liaison officer, to help us build trust with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities, so that we can understand and act on what those communities are telling us they need.
- ✓ Work towards the provision of GRT stopping sites in or near the city and, in the meantime, continue to apply a 'negotiated stopping' approach.
- ✓ Explore cooperative principles and develop ways of working with and listening to our residents which mean that everyone has a say.
- ✓ Support families through the work of our community development team and our grant funds. Become accredited as a breastfeeding friendly council, explore parental leave for councillors, advocate for better childcare and flexible working provision across the city.
- ✓ Scrutinise our own policies and practices to avoid structural or unconscious biases and challenge prejudice, and support and champion other organisations to do the same.
- ✓ Enhance our work with the victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and work with partners to ensure that everyone has a voice.
- ✓ Continue our commitment to public safety by pursuing additional accreditation schemes in bars and pubs to combat sexual violence and harassment in our night time economy and work with the Encompass Network to encourage more hospitality businesses to sign up to the Safer Spaces scheme.
- ✓ Ensure that the city centre remains fully accessible to people with disabilities, including making sure wheelchair users are able to get around safely and easily, and keep up the pressure where pavements have been blocked by bins.
- ✓ Work with community groups to ensure all black and ethnic minority people are supported and respected in the city and strengthen our own anti-racism work.





## Build a new generation of sustainable council homes and reduce homelessness

Cambridge Labour will continue our ambitious council house building programme, ensure we make homes more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and give every homeless person new opportunities.

### On building a new generation of sustainable council homes and reducing homelessness, we have:

- ✓ Exceeded targets for building new council homes, with 542 completed or started on site, including over 500 by 2021, 12 months ahead of schedule, with plans for a further 1000 by 2031.
- ✓ Initiated an ambitious retrofitting programme including a £3.2 million scheme to retrofit 150 1930s solid wall council homes to energy rating 'B', and a £5 million pilot to retrofit 50 homes to net zero carbon.
- ✓ Committed £1 million a year for 5 years from 2019 to improve our estates, including new fencing, security gates and footpath resurfacing, designing out crime with secure cycle stores and bin stores.
- ✓ Increased the proportion of council homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard to a record high of 96%.
- ✓ Invested in homelessness services, including our 'Housing First' provision, with 22 self-contained flats and £60,000 management costs.
- ✓ Collaborated with It Takes A City to improve winter provision for the homeless beyond intermittent hostel provision, including 20 ensuite rooms.
- ✓ Initiated enforcement action against rogue private landlords, including illegal evictions. Completed 120 HMO inspections and investigated over 200 tenant complaints.
- ✓ Exceeded our target of bringing at least 20 empty homes back into use in 2021.
- ✓ Commissioned a report to explore expanding our capacity to provide sub-market housing, particularly to those (including key workers) who cannot afford market housing but are low on our Council housing needs register.
- ✓ Pushed developers to meet our affordable homes targets for private housing schemes.



Exceeded targets for building new council homes, with 542 completed or started on site, with plans for a further 1000 by 2031



Collaborated with It Takes A City to improve winter provision for the homeless



Initiated an ambitious retrofitting programme including £3.2 million scheme to retrofit 150 1930s solid wall council homes



Exceeded our target of bringing at least 20 empty homes back into use in 2021



## Build a new generation of sustainable council homes and reduce homelessness

Cambridge Labour will continue our ambitious council house building programme, ensure we make homes more sustainable and environmentally friendly, and give every homeless person new opportunities.

***Cambridge is leading the way in building hundreds of new council homes. Labour will continue to address high levels of housing need by providing a new generation of council homes that are sustainable, low carbon, well insulated, and gas free. We'll look at how we support groups like key workers and we'll also fight for the rights of private tenants, holding rogue landlords to account. And we'll continue to support our city's homeless by providing accommodation and supporting homelessness prevention schemes.***

### Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:

- ✓ Build another 1000 new sustainable, gas-free and accessible council homes by 2031 to address levels of housing need in Cambridge, including our first eco-friendly Passivhaus flats in Arbury and five further Passivhaus schemes in Abbey, Arbury, East Chesterton and King's Hedges. Commit to making all new council homes accessible, with 5% fully wheelchair adapted.
- ✓ Commit a further £1.9 million in the next year towards our ambitious programme for retrofitting our council housing stock and bid for further funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Support fuel-poor homeowners with an £8.5 million Local Authority Delivery and Sustainable Warmth scheme for retrofit initiatives.
- ✓ Safeguard the rights of private tenants by enforcing our new legally binding Private Rented Sector Housing Standard, commit to tenant representation on our landlord forum, investigate setting up a tenant forum for private renters, and lobby the Government to improve renters' rights by introducing national rent controls, landlord registration and controls on short-term lets.
- ✓ Ensure that all homes adhere to at least minimum space standards, both council and private accommodation.
- ✓ Keep standing up to developers and pushing them to meet space and affordable housing requirements.
- ✓ Invest a further £1 million in 2022/23 on improving our council estates, including a city-wide lighting upgrade.
- ✓ Commit to a £20 million investment programme to continue improvements to our council housing stock, complementing our Decent Homes work, as well as reviewing response times within our repairs service.
- ✓ Bring more empty homes back into use, working with Town Hall Lettings, our not-for-profit letting agency.
- ✓ Look at how our Cambridge City Housing Company can provide more properties for those residents, like key workers, who can't afford market housing but wouldn't be a high priority for a council home. We'll also consider sub-market and intermediate rent options within the work of the Cambridge Investment Partnership.
- ✓ Continue our progress on tackling homelessness by making additional homes available under the 'Next Steps' and Rough Sleeper accommodation programmes and working with It Takes A



## Protect essential local services and modernise the council

**Cambridge Labour will deliver high-quality essential services in the face of Government cuts, support the most vulnerable in our communities through the pandemic and beyond, and will modernise the way our council runs.**

### **On protecting essential services, modernising the council and helping the most vulnerable through the pandemic and beyond, we have:**

- ✓ Set a balanced budget, which prioritises the needs of all residents, in the face of Tory cuts.
- ✓ Initiated a £1.7 million de-carbonisation scheme in our swimming pools to reduce emissions from Parkside pool by 37.5% and run one of the most generous Council Tax Reduction schemes in the country, currently working with over 6500 households.
- ✓ Supported our residents throughout the pandemic, working with mutual aids, voluntary groups, faith groups and businesses to make sure that residents got all possible support and advice during a difficult time.
- ✓ Initiated a Green Infrastructure Programme, ensuring that the climate and biodiversity emergencies are considered in all our future plans.
- ✓ Employed an Economic Development Officer to work with local businesses to restore a vibrant and resilient Cambridge economy, post-pandemic.
- ✓ Supported hundreds of local businesses through the pandemic, with £50 million in business rates relief and a further £5 million on a range of grants.
- ✓ Invested in improvements to our council's communications, which will keep residents better informed of work and projects across the city and improve our consultations.
- ✓ Invested in our city centre's infrastructure at the Park Street development, keeping the project on target and on budget.
- ✓ Retained free green bin collections and a successful pest control service, unlike many other councils.
- ✓ Invested £3.5 million in the 'Our Cambridge' transformation programme, which will improve the council's resilience in the face of future challenges.



Retained free green bin collections and a successful pest control service, unlike many other councils



Run one of the most generous Council Tax Reduction schemes in the country, currently working with over 6500 households



Invested in improvements to our council's communications, keeping residents better informed and consulted on the council's work



Initiated a Green Infrastructure Programme, focusing on the climate and biodiversity emergencies





## Protect essential local services and modernise the council

Cambridge Labour will deliver high-quality essential services in the face of Government cuts, support the most vulnerable in our communities through the pandemic and beyond, and will modernise the way our council runs.

***Continued Government cuts to local authority funding have left many councils, like ours, in a difficult financial position. But Labour will continue to manage our city's finances wisely, making the absolute most of our limited resources, ensuring that we deliver the services that our residents need and continue supporting the most vulnerable beyond the pandemic. We'll also embark on a major programme to modernise the council, making sure that it works for and with all our residents, and we'll review services like ICT, planning and council communications to make them the best they can possibly be.***

### Vote Labour on May 5th for councillors who will:

- ✓ Invest in a major 'Our Cambridge' programme to modernise the council, ensuring residents get the best service possible and making Cambridge resilient against Tory cuts and other challenges.
- ✓ Commit to setting a prudent, balanced budget that makes the best possible use of our limited resources to the benefit of all our residents.
- ✓ Overhaul our budget setting process to make it involve and engage residents more effectively, including a review of how we present information on the council's finances.
- ✓ Support the Cambridge economy's recovery from the pandemic and boost its success, champion local businesses and sustainable, ethical procurement, and explore community wealth building. We'll also champion local jobs and explore the potential of apprenticeship schemes.
- ✓ Revolutionise the council's communications to better meet residents' needs, improve community engagement and make sure we are listening to all our residents, not just the most vocal.
- ✓ Invest in green infrastructure, including building a new hub to replace the City Council depot that is carbon neutral, future-proof, and delivers better services for our community.
- ✓ Initiate further improvements to our shared planning service that will make it more accessible and easier to navigate for residents.
- ✓ Develop and improve both our customer services department and our ICT, to make it easier for residents to contact us, report issues, track progress, and give feedback.
- ✓ Encourage resident engagement with the council and expand political participation, especially for young people.
- ✓ Develop our work on doughnut economics, including putting together a city portrait to help us transform council services and ensure that any services we commission in the future will secure social, economic, and environmental benefits.



# Vote Cambridge LABOUR on 5th May

