

# CAMBRIDGE LABOUR

LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO  
AND CITY COUNCIL RESIDENTS' REPORT  
4TH MAY 2023



ONE CAMBRIDGE, FAIR FOR ALL



**We are proud of our record, and Labour will continue delivering for a fairer, greener and more prosperous Cambridge.**

***Cllr Anna Smith, Labour Leader, Cambridge City Council***

I'm delighted to introduce our Cambridge City Council Labour manifesto to you. It's a plan for Cambridge that promises to:

- Tackle poverty and inequality in our city and promote food justice
- Address the biodiversity and climate emergencies, including becoming a net zero council by 2030
- Tackle the housing crisis, building council homes, supporting the homeless and standing up for private renters
- Maintain our core services and transform our council in the face of continued Tory austerity
- Press for green public transport that really serves our city

It's a plan for everyone, from residents to workers, from local businesses to young people. It's a plan that builds on our record in power – a record of delivery, and not just words. So, for instance, we'll maintain our generous community grants programme, develop a new solar farm, build new council homes, and continue to work on a permanent food distribution hub.

These are challenging times. We face a cost of living crisis, the impact of Brexit, of the pandemic, of climate change. At a time when local councils have never been more needed, we face chronic underfunding from the Tory government.

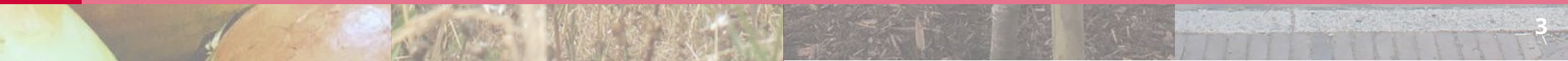
We've never promised easy solutions, and I won't promise them this year. But I can promise that your Labour city councillors are working tirelessly to meet the challenges we face, and we are fully committed to working equally tirelessly for Cambridge in the years ahead. We can't do this alone, and we remain committed to working with our whole community to support our city.

**Please vote Labour on May 4th so that we can continue to work for One Cambridge, Fair for All.**



## Our Key Pledges

- ✓ Tackle poverty and inequality in the face of the cost of living crisis and Tory austerity, while promoting fuel and food justice.
- ✓ Achieve a net zero council by 2030 and address the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- ✓ Build a new generation of sustainable council homes and work to reduce and prevent homelessness.
- ✓ Protect local services and businesses while modernising the council to best support and represent our residents.
- ✓ Deliver a vision for transport in Cambridge.



# Top 40 Cambridge Labour Achievements in 2022-23



We were recognised as joint 14th best local authority for our work tackling climate change- in the top 10% of all authorities nationally and 5th greenest city centre in the UK

Supported **510** refugees arriving from Ukraine



Funded **42** warm spaces across the city and pop up events to address the cost-of-living crisis



Continued the consultation process for our Draft Local Plan with over **9000** comments received and **30** online or in-person events held at community centres, forums, and webinars

Provided **20** rooms this winter for people who may otherwise be sleeping rough



Delivering **800** electric charging points in council car parks

Secured **£1.3m** package to help support people, communities and businesses under the Govt Shared Prosperity Fund



Ran a 5-week summer holiday programme, with free activities for primary school children every day

Ran a successful grant scheme across the city, delivering environmental improvements in all wards



Supported food hubs to distribute over **200** tonnes of food



Supported healthy living with **46,644** concessionary swims for those on low incomes

Funding secured from Green Recovery Fund in partnership with Cambridge Nature Network to trial grassland restoration techniques on our commons

Confirmed our ongoing commitment as a Real Living Wage Employer, with employees receiving the new uplift



Provided new facilities for young people, including a pump track at Chesterton Recreation Ground and a new 15-metre slide at Abbey Leisure centre

**£30,000** in sustainable city grants for projects reducing waste and carbon emissions



Provided free hot lunches with local partners to low-income families in **7** wards during the school holidays



A trial of **8** bin lorries fuelled by vegetable oil saw their net carbon emissions cut by **90%** and a second electric bin lorry was introduced



Future Business Centre operated by Allia opened, supporting start-ups, charities, and enterprises



Completed **1,857** emergency repairs & **12,000** responsive repairs to council homes



Awarded over **£1 million** in community Grants

Started work on the first Passivhaus council homes at Fen Road

Successful Domestic Abuse Conference at the Guildhall



Set up a Private Renters' Forum and are working to support private tenants

Our equalities programme supported Black History Month, Refugee Week and Holocaust Memorial Day, GRT History Month and Cambridge Pride



Secured Govt funding to undertake a study to explore the feasibility of developing a City Centre Heat Network with Cambridge University



Planted over **1,400** trees, cleared **2,392** cases of fly-tipping and collected over **43,000** tonnes of materials for recycling and composting



Doing research to create a place-based, social investment organisation



We received purple flag reaccreditation recognising our efforts to promote night-time safety



Provided **£20,000** in energy vouchers to our residents in urgent financial need

Completed **8** Cambridge Investment Partnership developments, with work underway on a further **11** sites, beating our target of starting **500** new council homes on site a year early with **694** council homes either completed or underway



Music in the Parks programme with **7** free concerts across the city



Working to reduce energy consumption in council homes & low-income homes after securing **£6.46m** with other Cambs local authorities from Govt

Supported rough sleepers with self-contained accommodation & **£324,000** in grants to voluntary groups supporting homeless people



Brought back the City Bonfire and Fireworks event



Administered **£36m** of Covid business grants and rate relief

Provided **700** Christmas hampers with our partners for families struggling at Christmas



**28,000** eligible Cambridge households received their **£150** energy rebate



Reduction in reported cycle theft by **58%** since 2019



Prevented homelessness for **394** households

Region of Learning programme was launched promoting learning, training, and work opportunities for young people



# Tackle poverty and inequality in the face of the cost of living crisis and Tory austerity, while promoting fuel and food justice.



As a Labour-run council, we will continue to help our residents face the impact of the cost of living crisis, with direct help to those in the greatest need.

We understand that poverty and inequality can take many different forms, and we will work hard to provide a safety net for all residents while tackling the root causes of inequality to make Cambridge a fairer city.

Labour believes that social justice cannot be achieved without environmental justice, and we will continue addressing food and fuel poverty so all residents can thrive in Cambridge.

For so much of our work, we are indebted to the support of key partners, whether that's in building council homes, delivering food hubs or fighting racism and discrimination.

As a Labour-run council, we pledge to continue building on these partnerships so that we can deliver for all our communities here in Cambridge.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Stand up for our most vulnerable residents:

- Continue to distribute our substantial £1 million community grants programme to support essential local organisations working across the city. While many councils are considering cutting these essential grants, Labour will also seek to further support charities and groups through routes such as fundraising advice and professional support.
- Implement a 'socio-economic duty' so that we assess all the Council's decisions against their effect on the poorest, in the same way that we do for other groups, such as people with disabilities.
- Continue to deliver up-to-date cost-of-living information and support to our residents. We will also review the warm spaces programme to make sure residents are getting what they need from it, and that it makes the most of our partnerships.

### Champion a safe and welcoming city for all:

- Continue, as a City of Sanctuary, to support refugees from Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan while taking an active stand against all forms of racism and discrimination. Cambridge has always been a city that welcomes refugees and migrants, and Labour will continue this work.
- Champion Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) rights and support in the city by finding a permanent stopping site in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council. We will work with our newly appointed GRT liaison officer to build better relationships with the GRT communities in Cambridge.
- Make sure young people's voices are heard and their needs provided for - young people under 25 years old represent over 35% of the City population. In order to achieve this, we will work with partners such as the County Council and Cambs Youth Panel, as well as designing a dedicated youth strategy.
- Ensure that spaces in the city, both current and future, are safe for women and vulnerable people. Commit to continuing our award-winning night-time economy work, building an accreditation scheme for our licensed premises and offering welfare and vulnerability training to anyone who works in the city at night. Work with the Encompass Network to encourage more hospitality businesses to sign up to the Safer Spaces scheme.
- Continue to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls by working closely with local organisations, and the County Council, on identifying abuse, early intervention and victim support.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Proactively work with and for local communities:

- Bring more council officers into community spaces to make sure they are connected with residents who need our support most. We will improve the council's online support but make sure that paper and/or in-person advice is still available for those who need it.
- Tackle digital exclusion in the city by continuing to support groups such as Cambridge Online, helping to get households online and giving digital advice.
- Make sure that new communities have focal points and space for people. Establish community centres, including our new centres on Campkin Road, The Meadows and Darwin Green, that really work for their residents.
- Highlight and develop our city's cultural and social offer, for a vibrant and dynamic city with events happening across all wards, not only in the city centre. We will continue to support the development of the arts while offering a range of events for all ages at the Corn Exchange.
- Look after the health and physical wellbeing of residents by encouraging sporting activities in our sports centres and open spaces. We will keep our swimming pools running to a high standard and programme investment into the Abbey pool complex.



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



Cambridge Labour will continue to fight the climate and biodiversity crises, while driving progress towards making Cambridge a net zero council.

We will ensure that sustainability is front and centre, whether that's in housebuilding, in our parks and open spaces, or in the work we do within communities.

For change to really work, we need to get everyone involved and work together.

We will work closely with our partners such as Cambridge Carbon Footprint, Cambridge Sustainable Food and others to make sure our residents and businesses are best supported to implement their own changes to combat carbon emissions locally.



## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Implement essential environmental projects across the city:

- Continue working towards our target of being a net zero council by 2030, whilst maintaining vital services for residents. We will decarbonise our council buildings, including leisure centres, convert up to 20 of our bin lorries to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil and begin the installation of our solar farm (in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council) at the Waterbeach waste depot, which will provide clean, renewable energy for up to thirty of our bin lorries.
- Install 600 Electric Vehicle charging points across the city in the next 7 years in our City Council car parks and on council-owned land, while working to ensure that pavements do not become cluttered with obstacles.
- Commit to a Local Plan with high environmental and biodiversity standards, including a requirement that no new 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.
- Hold a series of public forums for local leaders to investigate how resilient Cambridge is to the impacts of the climate crisis, with a view to tackling some of our region's key issues such as water scarcity, decarbonising housing and growth.

### Manage our green and open spaces to high environmental standards:

- Protect our existing open spaces and the City's designated nature reserves, as well as enhancing habitats across all of our parks, woodlands, and watercourses through our ambitious 2022-2030 Biodiversity Strategy.
- Ensure future developments support our residents' physical and mental well-being by providing open space for recreation, sports and play that is accessible, and on their doorstep. Additionally, we will make sure new developments deliver biodiversity net gains, such as in community gardens, allotments, and hedgerows.
- Pioneer ways of maintaining our open spaces without the use of harmful chemicals, expanding our successful Arbury and Newnham herbicide-free trial to other parts of the city.
- Build on the successful Tree Canopy Project, which planted 2,000 trees across the city, and update our Clean Air Strategy to reflect the most up-to-date World Health Organisation guidelines.
- Protect the safety and condition of the River Cam and the resilience of our water supply, putting it at the heart of our environmental policies. Campaign to ensure water companies act to restore and protect our precious chalk streams and rivers by reducing abstraction and preventing sewage discharges.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Use our influence and partnerships to deliver positive climate impact:

- Relaunch our green business grants, offering 1-to-1 expert support plus a capital grant to small and medium sized businesses in the city, helping them to save energy whilst cutting the city's carbon emissions.
- Complete our feasibility study to develop a ground source heat network, in partnership with Cambridge University, which would provide sustainable energy to the Council and city centre businesses.
- Foster a circular economy to reduce waste and help residents save money. We will work with partners across our waste service, as well as Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Transition Cambridge, to promote repair shops, set up a network of sharing centres, similar to the library of things model, and promote reuse and refill initiatives.
- Work with Cambridge Sustainable Food to campaign for Cambridge to become the third city in the UK to gain Sustainable Food Gold status.
- Help councillors, council staff and local residents to understand how we can all reduce our own carbon footprint, as individuals and in our work through our Cambridge Climate training and Cambridge Climate Charter, in partnership with Cambridge Carbon Footprint.
- Work with our partners across the county, with funding from Innovate UK, to understand and overcome the systemic barriers to achieving our national net zero carbon targets.



# Build a new generation of sustainable council homes and work to reduce and prevent homelessness.



Cambridge is leading the way in building hundreds of new council homes which are sustainable, low carbon, well insulated and gas free.

We are committed to ensuring that all of our homes are up to a good standard, particularly with the crippling energy costs our communities are facing.

We will upgrade our existing council homes, improve their Energy Performance Ratings, and support homeowners and private renters to improve their energy efficiency.

We have a strong record on homelessness prevention, and we will continue to work alongside local organisations to best support those who face homelessness in the city.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Provide high quality homes for residents:

- Address local housing need by building new sustainable, gas-free and accessible council homes in our '10 year New Homes Programme', with 154 already on site and 229 approved. This includes building to Passivhaus standards where possible, and making all new council homes accessible, with 5% fully wheelchair adapted and an ambition to increase this percentage.
- Strive to keep our council rent as low as we can, while making sure as many people as possible are paying genuine social rent in the city. In addition, we will continue providing advice to tenants to ensure they are claiming all financial assistance to which they are entitled.
- Consider how we can support people who are struggling to buy or rent in the city, but who wouldn't be eligible for council homes. Expand the council's offer of alternative forms of housing tenures such as shared ownership or rent-to-buy.
- Set high standards for the homes that are built in the city, to make sure they're fit for purpose for all our tenants and residents. For example, making sure new homes are built with more extreme weather taken into account.

### Upgrade current housing stock and support homeowners and landlords to do the same:

- Further develop the successful audit of all council homes which has allowed the Council to improve energy efficiency, identify problems and respond quickly to repair demands.
- Design a damp, mould and condensation action plan, while raising awareness on how residents can protect their own homes.
- Having already ensured 75% of our council homes are at least Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) 'C', we are allocating another £3.5 million to upgrade the remaining 25%. We will also encourage and help private homeowners and landlords to do the same.
- Work with large housing associations to improve the management and maintenance they provide in Cambridge, by, for example, encouraging them to have a local point of contact, and to use contractors in the Cambridge area for repairs.
- Promote the County Council's 'Solar Together' programme, to enable homeowners to install high quality solar panels, save money on energy costs, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Help Cambridge residents to retrofit their homes and improve their household energy efficiency by applying for government grant funding whenever it is available, and use the Council's expertise, contractors, and buying power to make it easier and cheaper. We will investigate the possibility of setting up a non-profit organisation to retrofit Cambridge housing, whilst working with local businesses and supporting training programmes for young people to develop their skills.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Combat homelessness and speak out against the housing crisis:

- Ensure we are not only preventing homelessness, but supporting homeless residents to find pathways into stable and long term accommodation. With our partners, we will maintain and expand the work we do with rough sleepers, as well as broadening our understanding of how to assist those who are 'hidden homeless'.
- Initiate our Private Renters' Forum, continue developing our Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and Landlord Licensing schemes, and ensure landlords and housing associations are aware of their legal duties.
- Lobby the government for stronger controls on short term lets and Airbnb accommodation in the city, to protect local homes for local residents.
- Bring more empty homes back into use, working with Town Hall Lettings, our not-for-profit letting agency.



**Protect local services and businesses while modernising the council to best support and represent our residents.**



Continued Government cuts to local authority funding have left many councils, like ours, in a very difficult financial position.

However, Labour will continue to manage our city's finances wisely, setting balanced budgets, making the absolute most of our limited resources, ensuring that we prioritise the services that our residents need and continuing to support the most vulnerable.

We will make sure that services are working as well as possible to meet residents' needs and improve community engagement.

We commit to strengthening our local economy by supporting local businesses and investing in our communities, ensuring the economic growth of our city works for all.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Improve our partnership working to deliver for all our residents:

- Develop our work on Community Wealth Building, to ensure Cambridge's economic development works best for people, place and planet rather than for profit. This includes using social impact investment to enhance the work we do, and procuring as locally as possible.
- Embed cooperative principles and prioritise ways of working with and listening to our residents which mean that everyone has a say. Sign up to the Cooperative Councils Network to share good practice with other cooperative councils.
- Work closely with statutory and non-statutory partners, such as the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and Innovate Cambridge, in order to get the best deal for our city.
- Adopt the Trades Union Congress (TUC) Volunteer Charter and encourage other organisations to do the same, to make sure paid staff are protected and volunteers supported.
- Ensure talent is not wasted in our city by improving support for young people to gain skills and training, helping young people into good local jobs. We will do this through our support for apprenticeships, work experience, and projects such as the Region of Learning initiative.
- Keep up the campaign to become a city where everyone is paid at least the Real Living Wage, promote trade unions within workplaces, and provide apprenticeship opportunities so local people can take on fulfilling careers.



## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Support our local businesses:

- Work closely with local businesses to help them thrive in Cambridge coming out of the pandemic and facing increasing pressures from rising bills, inflation and other costs.
- Build on the work we're doing with Allia in the Future Business Centre at the Guildhall by looking at how we can use more of our spaces to benefit small businesses, social enterprises and startups as well as community groups and charities.
- Support and develop our local markets, understanding their importance to our city's distinctive image, social fabric and economy.
- Design an affordable workspace policy, to help ensure that smaller organisations and charities have access to office space in the city as it grows.

### Improve services for residents:

- Keep the 'Our Cambridge' Transformation programme focused on ensuring the City Council is delivering services our residents want in a financially sustainable manner.
- Prudently manage our reserves in difficult economic times. Labour will allocate significant reserves to develop our future market square and the Guildhall into a strong and more accessible civic centre.
- Ensure the Council promotes democracy and participation throughout the year, particularly from underrepresented groups and in light of mandatory voter ID legislation.





# A vision for transport in Cambridge.



Transport and travel have been a hugely important topic of discussion for residents over the past year.

A 2021 Citizen's Assembly allowed residents to collaboratively shape three key aims for transport in Cambridge: to create space for people, to be environmentally friendly and cut carbon emissions, and to deliver high quality, affordable transport.

The Labour Party is still fully committed to these principles which shape our priorities for transport and better travel for those who live, work and study in the city.

## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Deliver high quality, affordable transport:

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Sustainable Transport proposals as they currently stand will have a major impact on the residents of Cambridge. We will continue to challenge the proposals to ensure that any charge, if introduced, **does not impact on the poorest people in our city.**

Although the decision will ultimately be taken by the GCP Board and the County Council, we will lobby the GCP and instruct our voting representative to vote on behalf of our residents and businesses to make any scheme - if any is implemented - as fair as possible.

This will include:

- Championing the needs of people on low incomes, small businesses and those who can't access public transport because of disabilities or medical needs.
- Looking again at the hours of operation to ensure they work fairly for everyone.
- Lobbying for proposals to address the concerns of those commuting out of the zone away from the traffic, shift-workers and formal/informal carers.
- Support bringing buses under public control via a bus franchising system so bus services are determined by **community needs and not private profit.**

**We believe that everyone should have access to safe, efficient and affordable transport, in a city where the air is clean and everyone can get where they want to go.** We have announced a 2030 net zero carbon target for the City Council, and transport options need to be seriously considered as part of this work. We also know that the **impacts of climate change, poor air quality and inadequate public transport hit those in poverty the hardest.**



## Vote Labour on 4th May for councillors who will:

### Ensure there is space for people:

- Support the 20's Plenty Campaign for a 20mph speed limit on all roads across the city.
- Work with colleagues at the County Council to improve street lighting across the city, so residents and visitors are safer in the city at night.
- Install more secure bike stands, work with our partners to invest in cycling infrastructure across the city and further reduce bike thefts following a 58% reduction in reported thefts since 2019.
- Continue to make Cambridge a walking and wheeling friendly city. We will work with Living Streets to 'cut the clutter' on pavements, so people have equal access to this important shared space.
- Support people with additional mobility needs. For example, we will campaign for all new buses to have space for two wheelchair users or buggies.
- Continue our work with the County Council to bring in an accessibility strategy, so all residents can safely move around the city and make sure measures are in place for people with hidden accessibility needs and disabilities.
- Build on our cross-organisation work to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the city, including e-bike and scooter safety and fighting street harassment.
- Take into account the impact of transport options on physical and mental health and ensure that active transport modes are better integrated into planning and infrastructure in the city.
- Work on a skateboarding strategy, analysing local need, so we can build a skating-friendly city, with fully adequate facilities.

### Be environmentally friendly and cut carbon emissions:

- Continue our work with the transport authorities and key groups to put Cambridge at the centre of improved transport networks.
- Support East-West Rail and the possibility of a new station to the East of Cambridge, recognising that rail provides a safe, fast and sustainable method of travel, and lobby for new access to the community north of the Fen Road rail crossing.
- Support alternative forms of transport such as community car clubs, dial-a-ride and shuttle buses. We will continue to work with partners to expand our Car Club, which currently offers 35 low-emission hybrid vehicles as an alternative to car ownership, including a localised trial for residents.

# VOTE CAMBRIDGE LABOUR



**For One Cambridge,  
Fair for All**