

**Cambridge Labour Local Election Manifesto
And City Council Report
2nd May 2024**

One Cambridge, Fair for All

I'm delighted to introduce our 2024 Cambridge City Council Labour Manifesto to you. It's a plan for Cambridge based around five key pledges:

- **Protecting and enhancing local services**
- **Supporting residents in need and preventing homelessness**
- **Tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies**
- **Building council homes and investing in community spaces**
- **Being a strong voice for the people of Cambridge**

Cambridge Labour is all about serving and delivering for you. We are honoured to have been granted stewardship of this wonderful city and we aspire to be ambitious, compassionate and forward-thinking in our leadership.

Our manifesto builds on our record in power - a record of delivery, and not just words. At a time when local councils are facing unprecedented financial strain, we understand the importance of budget responsibility so we can protect and invest in our essential services.

We are building record numbers of new council homes to high environmental standards, we are collecting bins efficiently and consistently, we are improving our play areas and green spaces, and working hard with our partners to make our city a safer place. This is work we can guarantee we will continue delivering as a Labour administration.

Cambridge is an ever-changing place and a city which will undeniably continue to play a part in the prosperity of the region and the country in the future. With increasing interest in Cambridge, we must robustly challenge how Cambridge's success will be shared by all residents and how any development will be managed sustainably in the face of acute water scarcity. We understand these challenges and are well placed to tackle them.

Labour has a vision for a beautiful, sustainable and thriving city and we are fully committed to working tirelessly for Cambridge in the years ahead. It's only by voting Labour on May 2nd that you can guarantee that the fantastic work we've been doing can continue.

Thank you for your support.

Councillor Mike Davey, Labour Leader, Cambridge City Council

Our Key Pledges:

- Protecting and enhancing local services
 - Supporting residents in need and preventing homelessness
 - Tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies
 - Building council homes and investing in community spaces
 - Being a strong voice for the people of Cambridge
-

Pledge 1: Protecting and enhancing local services

Local everyday services are vital to the maintenance and running of our beautiful city – from emptying bins on time, keeping our streets clear of litter and debris, maintaining our green spaces to a high standard and ensuring that public toilets are clean and accessible for residents and visitors.

Labour will protect and enhance these local services, working hard to balance our budgets to keep providing high quality for our residents.

Vote Labour on 2nd May for councillors who will:

- Continue delivering high quality bin collection services, investing in a sustainable bin lorry fleet as the city grows.
- Develop a proactive street cleaning programme to ensure our streets and pavements are safe and well-maintained.
- Crack down on fly tipping, ensuring our teams are proactively collecting waste and responding quickly when notified.
- Work alongside the community groups, schools and the police to prevent and combat anti-social behaviour across the city.
- Protect and develop Cambridge's market square and local markets. Continue offering support to younger traders who would like to develop market stalls and enterprises.
- Support our local businesses, including providing funding to help them reduce their carbon emissions and develop better ways of engaging with the business community.
- Work as a key partner for the Cambridge Business Improvement District to develop better tourist management in Cambridge, including through the proposed visitor levy which could bring in up to £2 million per annum for the city.

- Maintain and improve sports activities and sport centres for people of all ages. Invest £25k of match funding to improve skateboarding facilities in the city.
 - Invest in our arts and culture, ensuring opportunities for creativity are genuinely accessible to all. Work with our diverse arts venues, including our partners, the Junction and the Corn Exchange.
 - Continue to improve our planning service so planning decisions are made effectively, with high levels of resident input to our emerging Local Plan.
 - Continue to make better use of technology to deliver high quality services.
 - Ensure the City Council continues to deliver a balanced budget, despite difficult financial circumstances, delivering for local people.
-

Pledge 2: Supporting residents in need and preventing homelessness

Surveys tell us that people living and working in Cambridge are some of the happiest people in the country, but it's clear that there is also stark inequality across the city. Labour has a vision of a beautiful, sustainable and thriving city where residents and workers all enjoy a high quality of life. Labour will work to make Cambridge a place where people have access to good, well-paid jobs, healthy food and are safe at home and in public spaces.

Labour will work alongside our key partners to improve health and educational outcomes while supporting and empowering thriving communities.

Vote Labour on 2nd May for councillors who will:

- Work to end poverty in Cambridge, support residents through the cost-of-living crisis and improve quality of life.
- Partner with community groups that deliver essential services in the city, providing over £1m annually for local organisations and charities.
- Aim to develop our work as a Gold-awarded Sustainable Food City, working to feed residents good, locally grown produce while teaching important cooking and food growing skills.
- Look at how local food hubs can be developed into social supermarkets, offering affordable food for residents on low incomes.
- Develop our work on 'Community Wealth Building', fostering good jobs and the redistribution of wealth by investing and spending money locally.
- 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.
- Work with partners to provide good employment and skills opportunities for young people across Cambridge and the wider region.

- Improve health outcomes in Cambridge by working to combat factors linked to poor outcomes such as poverty and obesity, offering good quality health and leisure activities and promoting active travel.
 - Provide £300,000 in homelessness prevention grants to community organisations annually as well as working to prevent homelessness in Cambridge, for example by supporting people facing eviction.
 - Foster a citywide lifelong commitment to learning which enables every resident to develop their skills and fulfil their potential.
 - Campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls, improve safety at night, and provide support for victims of domestic abuse.
 - Welcome refugees arriving in Cambridge as a City of Sanctuary and continue speaking out against government policies which impact people fleeing war or oppression.
 - Champion the rights of marginalised groups, including working to develop better facilities and find a permanent stopping site for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.
-

Pledge 3: Tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Labour will ensure that sustainability is front and centre of our work, actively fighting the climate and biodiversity crises while building on our strong record of progress to become a net zero emission Council by 2030. Further development in our city must be based on real evidence of need and managed sustainably in the face of the region's acute water scarcity. We will work with our partners to ensure that innovation in Cambridge benefits people and the planet.

Labour will continue to build on its ongoing work towards climate justice and convene local partners and organisations to tackle these crises.

Vote Labour on 2nd May for councillors who will:

- Continue working to ensure the City Council's operations reach net zero by 2030, with the aspiration for the whole city to follow as soon as possible. Dedicate £750,000 towards a Climate Change Fund helping the council achieve its decarbonisation targets, and develop a District Heat Network in the city centre.
- Expand our advice on how to insulate private homes in Cambridge, helping homeowners reduce their gas and electricity bills.
- Develop an ambitious new Local Plan for Greater Cambridge, delivering an accessible city and ensuring all future development has the highest environmental standards.
- Maintain our beautiful open spaces and ensure biodiversity is improved across the city.
- Extend the tree canopy throughout the city, planting two new trees to replace every one that dies and working to protect all trees and habitats.

- Protect our valuable chalk streams with our dedicated Chalk Stream Officer and ensure that likely bathing water designation at Sheep's Green leads to meaningful action to clean up the river.
 - Support the decarbonisation of bin lorries and the electrification of the city's taxi fleet. Invest in new electric vehicle charging points for taxis and private vehicles.
 - Encourage active travel in Cambridge, improve cycle safety, add more bike racks, and improve the security of bike parking at Cambridge Rail Station and Queen Anne Terrace.
 - Facilitate nature networks in the city through delivering habitat improvement projects across our streets and open spaces, in collaboration with residents, local action groups and the broader community.
-

Pledge 4: Building council homes and investing in community spaces

Our Labour-led City Council has been one of the most successful local authorities in the country when it comes to building new council housing. However, Cambridge is a fast-growing city, with skyrocketing house prices and private rents, making the city increasingly unaffordable for many residents. Labour is the only party which can deliver such ambitious housebuilding programmes, providing new social and affordable housing for tenants most in need, and improving existing council housing stock.

Labour understands how acute the housing crisis is in Cambridge and will continue to build good quality homes, supporting local neighbourhoods with community centres and other amenities.

Vote Labour on 2nd May for councillors who will:

- Continue building award-winning sustainable and accessible council housing in Cambridge.
- Ensure communities have access to high quality local amenities, including community centres, open spaces, shops and schools.
- Continue with our flagship programme to support Abbey Ward, investing £54 million in East Barnwell, delivering 120 council homes and new community facilities including a nursery, local shops and a library.
- Deliver our investment of £1.6m for the Cherry Hinton Community Hub, including an extended library, community cafe and meeting rooms.
- Continue building modular homes for people who need a space they can call their own as a first step towards longer-term housing.
- Listen and respond to the voices of council tenants, both through proactive engagement and through our Council Housing Tenants' Representatives Group.

- Campaign to retain 100% of Right to Buy receipts permanently, following the Government's withdrawal of this scheme, and ultimately for an ending of Right to Buy.
 - Crack down on rogue landlords, work to license all Houses in Multiple Occupation in the city and continue developing support for private renters.
 - Fight for higher controls on short term rentals and Airbnb, as part of our work to provide homes for all in Cambridge.
 - Implement a Council Tax premium charge on long term empty homes and second homes from April 2025.
 - Reserve £20 million to begin work to design and develop a Civic Quarter in the centre of Cambridge, comprising the Guildhall, Market Square and Corn Exchange – delivering £1.3 million in additional revenue and reduced costs each year to spend on our services.
 - Continue ensuring developers contribute towards community facilities, open spaces, play areas and sports facilities, as well as the provision of affordable housing. For example, by making sure that 40% of homes on new private developments must be 'affordable', of which 75% will be for social rent.
-

Pledge 5: Being a strong voice for the people of Cambridge

Labour councillors are honoured to represent such a diverse, vibrant and exciting city full of ideas and change. Labour has a vision for Cambridge where citizens participate in the life of their communities to ensure decisions are made by residents, and where democratic accountability is genuine and accessible. Your Labour council works hard to represent the views of our residents both locally and at a national level, and this must be central to our work.

Labour will continue to work hard to do all we can to represent our city, particularly at a time of rapid change.

Vote Labour on 2nd May for councillors who will:

- Widen participation in Council structures and decisions, improving the governance of the Council and making sure we are listening to and considering all voices in the city.
- Facilitate dialogue at a local, national and international level as Cambridge becomes an area of increasing national interest with a global impact.
- Continue urging the Government to involve local authorities and residents in any 'Cambridge 2050' proposals, improving transparency and accountability.
- Call for urgent water infrastructure improvements and highlight the scale of the water crisis in the region at every opportunity.

- Support plans to bring buses under local control with franchising through the Combined Authority, to deliver high quality, affordable bus transport as one part of an integrated transport network.
- Campaign for improved streets and pavements, by working with the County Council, Living Streets, and Vision Zero Partnership to make our roads and pavements safer.
- Push for improvements to Cambridge's roads from the County Council, addressing potholes and disrepair.
- Play a full part in the decisions about the future of rail, including East West Rail, a new station East of Cambridge, doubling the track to Newmarket and a connection to Haverhill.
- Bring in a new Cambridge Joint Area Committee to consider residents' parking schemes and local mobility issues.
- Play a full part in the complex web of democratic structures around Cambridge including the Greater Cambridge Partnership to ensure that the needs of our residents are fully considered.
- Campaign for improved local control, devolution and community power through improved local government structures.
- Make the case for higher local authority funding from national government, to support the essential services provided by the Council and our partners.
- Foster a genuine partnership between academic, business and civic communities to enhance residents' prosperity, for example by playing a leading role in Innovate Cambridge.
- Work to achieve social and housing outcomes to support vulnerable people in Cambridge by pledging to invest £1m in the Social Impact Investment Fund.