

Cambridge Labour City Council Report 2024

Labour in Cambridge is all about taking action. I am proud to present our 2024 City Report which demonstrates the hard work of our council over the past year, highlighting a few of our top achievements.

It has been a difficult year for many local authorities across the country, yet despite the challenges we face, we have consistently delivered for the city and our residents.

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.

Cambridge is an ever-changing city, and while this presents us with fantastic new opportunities, we are aware of the difficulties that many of our residents are facing. We understand the importance of our essential services and will work hard to protect them: we are collecting your bins efficiently and consistently, improving our play areas and green spaces, and working hard with our partners to make our city a safer place. We are also tackling issues head-on and supporting people in need: building record numbers of new council homes to high environmental standards, ensuring residents have access to affordable and healthy food, and providing support for refugees and people facing homelessness. This is work we can guarantee we will continue delivering as a Labour administration.

Our vision for Cambridge must also be a shared vision and we are lucky to have many great local organisations working incredibly hard to create a better, more compassionate, equal and thriving city. I would like to thank all the groups, charities and individuals who work so hard to serve our city.

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.

Mike Davey,
Leader of 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

Top 40 Cambridge Labour Achievements in 2023-24

1. Invested £1.6m in an accessible new Community Hub in Cherry Hinton.
2. Investing £54 million in East Barnwell, Abbey - including in a new community centre, library, pre-school facility, open space, shopping units and 120 high quality council homes.
3. Invested £25,000 to improve skateboarding infrastructure in the city, alongside developing a new skating and sports strategy.
4. Renovated public toilets at Cherry Hinton Hall, and agreed plans for improvements to Silver Street and Drummer Street toilets.
5. Launched the Greater Cambridge Social Impact Fund with £200,000 seed funding.
6. Working to improve community access to the Guildhall, Market Square and Corn Exchange for residents, visitors and businesses.
7. Undertook a grants review in order to make it easier for small-scale local organisations to apply for council grants.
8. Improving outcomes for care leavers, ensuring the council is considering care experience in all new policies and decisions.
9. Developing a Youth Strategy, including work to set up a Youth Assembly, to improve our city for young people.
10. Awarded over £1.1m in grants to 88 community organisations.
11. Produced a Cultural Strategy to facilitate stronger arts and creative industries in Cambridge, with a wide variety of community benefits.
12. Supported the Cambridge Sustainable Food Partnership to achieve a Gold award from Sustainable Food Places.

13. Ended herbicide use in our regular operations, and invested £180,000 in equipment to clean our streets more regularly and effectively.
14. Reduced our annual emissions by 10% in a single year, following Labour-driven projects to decarbonise Parkside and Abbey Pools.
15. Offered up to £5,000 to 75 local small businesses to help with their decarbonisation.
16. Secured funding for a new £6.1m solar farm to provide energy for our 20 new electric waste collection vehicles.
17. Invested £165,000 to revitalise the Pulley Park Playground in King's Hedges.
18. Created a new Conservation Area at Howes Place and began work on a new North Area Design Code.
19. Collected over 49 tonnes of electrical waste across the Greater Cambridge area.
20. Placed second of all district councils in Climate Emergency UK's rankings of local authorities.
21. Invested in improving habitats across our city, including hundreds of metres of new hedgerows in King's Hedges, to provide aesthetic appeal and support biodiversity.
22. Invested in cycle parking, with £80k being committed to improving Queen Anne Terrace with more secure cycle parking to tackle theft.
23. Delivered over 70 new public EV charging points.
24. Invested £170,000 in 34 new environmental improvement project ideas generated by residents.
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26. Continued to promote walking and cycling, placing Cambridge 1st out of 55 UK cities for active travel use.

27. Supported partnership working and helped fund 20 additional ensuite rooms for rough sleepers over winter and spring.
28. Cracking down on damp and mould in council homes.
29. Successfully built 21 new energy-efficient 'Passivhaus' council homes.
30. Launched a £5m Net Zero Carbon Homes project, enabling up to 50 council homes to be retrofitted to zero carbon standards.
31. Directly delivered more new council homes than any other local authority in the UK bar Birmingham, with 747 homes either completed or underway.
32. Funded over £300,000 in homelessness prevention grants to run projects aimed at reducing the threat of homelessness faced by vulnerable people.
33. Identified and took enforcement action against several landlords renting homes without appropriate licences.
34. Approved 4 new modular homes, bringing the total to 20, offering wraparound support for people experiencing homelessness.

35. Secured £10 million from central government as part of our work to tackle water scarcity.
36. Hosted an 'Innovate Cambridge' Summit and the first 'Cambridge Conversations' event, to encourage debate and collaboration between civic, academic and business communities.

37. Supported the trial of a 4-day week for planning and waste collection staff, improving recruitment and retention, enhancing services and saving money.
38. Reaccredited with the Purple Flag award, celebrating work the Council has done with partners to support a safe and vibrant night time economy.
39. Funded new staff to tackle antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse.
40. Continued to uphold the Real Living Wage for all Council staff, for the ninth year running.