



CAMBRIDGE LABOUR

ONE CAMBRIDGE FAIR FOR ALL



CITY COUNCIL RESIDENTS' REPORT AND
LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO
THURSDAY 6TH MAY 2021



A message from Cllr Lewis Herbert Labour Leader Cambridge City Council

Welcome 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

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PLEDGE 1



Tackle poverty and inequality and promote food justice

Cambridge Labour will continue to address poverty across the city through our anti-poverty strategy, and promote diversity, seeking to make Cambridge an inclusive, welcoming place for all.

On tackling poverty and promoting food justice, we have:

- ✓ Developed an ambitious evidence-based anti-poverty strategy.
- ✓ Set aside £220,000 before the pandemic to support community food hubs, and supported the Covid-food hubs with money, staff and buildings.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Promoted the Real Living Wage campaign, funded a Real Living Wage officer, and been awarded a Living Wage Champion Award.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Worked with community and voluntary organisations to support volunteering across our city, providing funding, supporting events and encouraging volunteering.
- ✓ Addressed period poverty by putting free sanitary products in all our community centres.
- ✓ 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.



31,000+

food hub visits
in 2020



10,000+

community meals delivered
between March and Oct 2020



750

doorstep visits
to vulnerable households
during COVID



£1 million

provided in community
grants in 2019/20



promoted and paid a Real
Living Wage, with all
council staff receiving at
least £10 per hour



£20,000

new community seed fund to
help develop local visions

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Use our anti-poverty strategy to ensure everyone benefits equally from Cambridge's success and to strive to reverse inequality.
- Pioneer food justice work as a whole community, and become a Right to Food City.
- Support our city's food hubs beyond the pandemic, through funding, staffing and other joint working.
- Strengthen and support our vibrant voluntary sector, and maintain our ambitious community grants.
- Help local people take action to improve their local area through a new community 'seed fund'.
- Continue to address the digital divide through our membership of the Cambridge Digital Partnership.
- Make sure our work with children and young people supports those in greatest need.
- Promote the Real Living Wage through the work of our Living Wage Officer and by encouraging other local employers to champion better pay, making Cambridge a *Real Living Wage Place*.
- Support projects which tackle fuel poverty.
- Develop community wealth building, and champion ethical procurement.

On tackling inequality and promoting diversity, we have:

- ✓ As a City of Sanctuary, worked alongside partners to house over 100 refugees.
- ✓ Promoted equalities for all through our Single Equalities Scheme and our work with partner organisations.
- ✓ Run equalities training for staff and councillors.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Supported the Encompass Network's *Safer Spaces* campaign.
- ✓ Held an annual Holocaust Memorial Day event, school outreach workshops, and series of free talks.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Become only the fifth council to receive DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation for its work in tackling domestic abuse.
- ✓ Supported EU citizens to apply for settled status and to register to vote.



celebrated Gypsy
Roma Traveller
History Month



held an annual
Holocaust Memorial
Day event



won Domestic Abuse Housing
Alliance accreditation for our
work tackling domestic abuse



marked International
Women's Day



ensured all new council housing is accessible and at least 5% will be specifically adapted



celebrated LGBT history month



settled over 100 refugees and committed to welcoming 200 more over 5 years



committed £20,000 to celebrating the women who shaped Cambridge

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Resettle a further 200 refugees in Cambridgeshire (once the national resettlement programme restarts), and continue to not co-operate with the Home Office's 'hostile environment' policy.
- Build more disability-friendly play areas in the city and more Changing Places toilets.
- Ensure **all** of our new housing is accessible to people with disabilities, and that at least 5% will be **specifically** adapted and designed for people with disabilities.
- Make sure promoting equality stays a criterion for our community grants.
- Strive to make more places in the city safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people.
- Ensure that all City Council buildings are breastfeeding-friendly and encourage other employers and venues 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Champion Gypsy, Roma, Traveller History Month and other projects to challenge stereotypes and anti-GRT prejudice.



Cambridge Labour will continue to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies, and achieve a net zero council by 2030. We also remain committed to a vision of sustainable development that allows us to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

On the climate emergency, we have:

- ✓ Declared a Cambridge climate emergency and introduced an ambitious new climate change strategy for the city to tackle the crisis.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Sourced our council electricity from a 100% renewal tariff.
- ✓ Required all new licensed taxis to be low emission vehicles, aiming to make all city taxis zero emission capable from 2028.
- ✓ Invested in electric vehicles in our council fleets and introduced more electric charging points.
- ✓ Exceeded building regulation requirements for reducing carbon emissions in our new council housing developments, and are starting to build *passivhaus* eco-home schemes.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ As part of a Cambridgeshire-wide consortium, have secured £2 million of funding to be distributed to make homes more efficient.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Invested £325,000 and secured £1.7 million in grants to cut carbon emissions at Parkside and Abbey pools.
- ✓ 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.

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Cut the council's own carbon emissions, via a council decarbonisation strategy, to achieve our target of being a carbon neutral council by 2030.
- Work with residents, businesses and organisations across the city to achieve our vision of a carbon neutral city by 2030, and work with other councils to push for more government funding and updated legislation.
- Promote the Cambridge Climate Charter, asking all residents and businesses to sign up to build a partnership to reduce our city's carbon footprint.
- Invest in our council buildings to significantly reduce their carbon footprint.
- Ensure our new council homes are built to *passivhaus* eco-home specifications, and retrofit existing council properties to reduce carbon emissions and household energy bills.
- Replace city council vehicles with electric vehicles as the default option.
- Develop the electric vehicle charging network throughout our car parks and work with the county council to make EV charging available on residential streets.
- Put the River Cam and the resilience of our water supply at the heart of our planning and environmental policies, working with all statutory bodies and local partners to protect and replenish our aquifers.
- Champion the restoration of the chalk streams in and around Cambridge, especially Jesus Green Ditch, Vicar's Brook, Cherry Hinton Brook, Coldham's Brook and Byron's Pool.
- Champion the introduction of an ambitious clean air zone for Cambridge, consult on greater pedestrianisation, and increase the proportion of low emission and electric vehicles in the city.
- Assess *all* our policies against their impact on the environment.



100%

of our council electricity
sourced from a renewable
tariff



£2 million

investment in cutting
carbon emissions at
Abbey and Parkside Pools

On addressing the biodiversity emergency and planning for a more sustainable city, we have:

- ✓ Declared a Cambridge biodiversity emergency.
- ✓ Led an inquiry into the threat to our area's 13 chalk streams and identified 109 projects to restore them.
- ✓ Won Greener Festivals Awards for the Cambridge Folk Festival, and Green Flag status for Christ's Pieces, Cherry Hinton Hall and Jesus Green.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Only cut the grass in areas of our open space where absolutely needed, leaving selected areas to host more plants and insects.
- ✓ Built insect hotels across the city to encourage pollinators, including bees.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Funded 10 new water refill points in the city's open spaces.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Run a 2020 pollinator awareness campaign and actively supported and promoted initiatives to increase the knowledge and opportunities needed for pollinators to thrive.



28.9%

reduction in council carbon emissions since 2014



introduced more electric charging points



2028

required all new licensed taxis to be zero emissions capable by 2028



11

electric vehicles purchased for our council fleet so far



commissioned a report into our area's 13 chalk streams and identified 109 projects to restore them



run a year long pollinator campaign, built insect hotels and hedgehog doors



planted 1000 new trees and increased the number of wildflower meadows across the city to 20



funded ten new water refill points across the city

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Make sure that the new Joint Local Plan promotes sustainable development and meets the local demand for affordable housing and a range of jobs, taking into account water, infrastructure, community, transport and local needs.
- Promote a sustainable food system for Cambridge by becoming one of the first local authorities to sign up to the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.
- Create more allotments, help residents form community gardens, and consider more temporary 'meanwhile' growing spaces.
- Champion the elimination of herbicides on public land, including grass verges, and work towards being a herbicide-free city.
- Provide over 100 hectares of new public open spaces, create more nature reserves and double the number of wildflower meadows.
- Plant another 1000 trees on our land in the next year, work with residents and schools on their own tree-planting projects, and commit £500,000 for environmental improvement projects over the next two years.
- Provide a new boat pumping station for river residents.
- Continue to invest in cycling and walking initiatives, making good use of the £1.5million A14 mitigation funds, and consult on increasing the number of pedestrianised areas.
- Be a champion for the city, e.g. lobbying for repairs to pavements and potholes, work on dangerous junctions, improvements to Newmarket Road, more residents' parking zone consultations, and enforcement of the 20 mph speed limits.
- Campaign for better, and subsidised, public transport, with 'joined-up' routes that really benefit residents.



Build a new generation of council homes and reduce homelessness

Cambridge Labour will continue our ambitious council house building programme and give every homeless person new opportunities.

On housing and homelessness, we have:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Budgeted £18 million in 2021/22 to improve our existing housing stock, and a further £1 million for energy efficiency work.
- ✓ Offered accommodation to every identified rough sleeper during the Covid crisis.
- ✓ Pledged no eviction of any council tenant who cannot pay rent due to coronavirus.
- ✓ Given out £700,000 in homelessness prevention grants.
- ✓ Established Cambridge Street Aid, which has raised over £100,000 for homeless people.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Exceeded building regulation requirements for reducing carbon emissions in our new council housing developments, and are starting to build low-carbon *passivhaus* schemes.
- ✓ Brought many empty homes back into use, with more than 20 over the last year alone.





542

on track to deliver 542 new council homes, and will have handed over 130 keys to families by May 2021



£700,000

given out in homelessness prevention grants



94%

of council homes are *at or above* decent homes standard



£19 million

budget for improvements to housing stock and energy efficiency

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Address the housing crisis by building a further 1000 new council homes, with as many as possible at *passivhaus* (eco-home) or net zero carbon standards.
- Commit to continue providing decent homes for council tenants at a higher standard than the Government's own guidelines.
- Continue to help more rough sleepers and homeless people into accommodation suitable for their needs, including additional modular homes.
- Support innovative approaches to the housing crisis, such as co-housing projects and housing cooperatives.
- Offer more housing for intermediate rent to make housing more affordable for local people.
- Work with tenants' groups to stand up for private renters, offering support, and continue lobbying for better national protections.
- Stand up for leaseholders facing cladding bills and unfair charges.
- Tighten inspection and enforcement of homes in the private rental sector to make sure landlords provide quality homes for their tenants.
- Continue to provide housing support for victims of domestic abuse.
- Ensure *all* of our new housing is accessible to people with disabilities, and that at least 5% will be *specifically* adapted for people with disabilities
- Retrofit existing council properties to reduce carbon emissions and household energy bills.



**Deliver essential services
in the face of Tory
Government cuts**

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

On delivering essential services, we have:

- ✓ Created a Covid response hub, coordinating services and supporting a city-wide team effort of mutual aids, community and faith groups, and local businesses.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Unlike many other councils, retained free green bin collections.
- ✓ Maintained almost £2 million of grants to support community organisations and homelessness projects.
- ✓ Built hundreds of council homes since 2014.
- ✓ Re-purposed our community and leisure facilities during the pandemic, for example as food hubs and Covid testing sites.
- ✓ Given out £32 million in Covid support grants to support businesses, and authorised £50 million of business rate relief.

If re-elected, a Labour city council will:

- Work with our public health colleagues at the county council to help reduce the transmission of Covid-19 in the city.
- Keep Cambridge streets and public green spaces clean and well-kept and hold more community skip days.
- Invest in and improve our city centre through the development of Park Street car park and, in consultation with residents and stallholders, our Market Square project.
- Support our local economy by employing an Economic Recovery Officer, investing £700,000 in boosting the hospitality sector, and setting up the *Cambridge Visitor Welcome Partnership* to promote and manage tourism in the city.
- Provide free and subsidised activities for all residents so that everyone can access what our city has to offer, and continue to promote health and wellbeing by investing in exercise for all.
- Communicate the work of the city council in a proactive, accessible and community-friendly way.
- Create a community-led manifesto for high quality public art, invest in Cambridge's thriving artistic and cultural life, and support community arts.
- Value and strengthen our community groups who contribute so much to our city, and develop a system of community wealth-building.
- Build on the values of the Cooperative Movement to help us work together to benefit our city and make sure that every voice is heard.
- Adopt a model for addressing inequality and promoting sustainability, based on the concept of 'doughnut economics' as promoted by cities like Amsterdam.



£188,900

invested in our playgrounds including an accessible playground at Cherry Hinton Hall



unlike other councils, we've retained free green bin collections



£400,000

invested in our open spaces including a state-of-the-art skate park in East Chesterton



created online alternatives to major events such as the Big Weekend and Folk Festival

On Thursday 6 May
ALL your votes for



For more information on policies
visit **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

y, use
r **Labour**



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