

Building a strong future for our city

Labour's Manifesto for
Leicester 2015

Introduction

This manifesto sets out Labour's plan for Leicester 2015-2019: our plan to build a strong future for our city.

Since 2011 when I took office the city council has faced severe and unfair budget cuts from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government. This has meant some tough and difficult decisions. We have remained committed to protecting the most vulnerable and we will remain so going forward. Labour's plan will help improve living standards in Leicester, tackling inequalities and securing fairness.

This plan builds on our record since 2011. It is driven by our values of equality and social justice. This is Labour's plan to build a strong future for our city, setting out the vision and specific commitments that will be delivered by a Labour City Mayor and Labour's Councillors.

Labour will build a strong future for all our children and young people. We will ensure all resources that are needed and are made available to keep all children and young people safe from harm. We are investing in our primary schools to create the school places we need and we are ambitious for our children and young people. Our aim is for every young person in Leicester to go to a school officially rated as Good or Outstanding.

It is Labour in Leicester with the ideas and vision to tackle the big challenges we face. Together we can build a strong future and make Leicester an even better city. Labour will deliver a responsive care system, bringing the NHS and social care closer together, investing in Extra Care accommodation and setting out plans to develop and strengthen the care workforce.

We will address some of the big health challenges facing the population; investing to improve outcomes and secure better services in mental health and introducing a programme of free leisure centre visits and new outdoor gyms to help get people more active.



Many people are worried about housing and people in rented accommodation don't always get a fair deal. Labour will build more houses, including council homes, bungalows and affordable family homes for rent and buying. We will introduce a new landlords licensing scheme and rollout our Healthy Homes programme to offer new and stronger protection to tenants in the private rented sector.

Since 2011 Labour has delivered an ambitious plan for our economy. We are proud of our record in attracting major employers to the city like computer giant IBM. Going forward we will build on this record. Since the launch of our Economic Action Plan we have created 3000 jobs and 1000 apprenticeships across the economy. Our target for the next four years is to do this again, working with business and employers to create a further 3000 jobs and 1000 high quality apprenticeships.

It is our view that economic growth must be built on fairness. So, we will continue to support Leicester's many small businesses. They are the engine room of our local economy and we will continue to back them with Enterprising Leicester grants programmes to support growth and expansion and we will drive forward public sector procurement opportunities for local businesses.

Labour has introduced the Living Wage for city council staff and we will now develop a plan to encourage other employers to do this, helping to ensure that economic growth in Leicester is coupled with fairness for Leicester's workforce. Our vision to build a strong and fair economy for Leicester.

To secure a strong economy we need a thriving city centre, attractive and welcoming for Leicester residents and visitors from home and abroad. Recent developments have improved the city centre and with Labour further improvements will take place including the next phase of improving our cherished Leicester Market.

Labour will continue to invest to develop the city's transport network. The new Haymarket bus station will be completed and we will continue to press central government to give us the powers we need to improve local bus services.

We will continue to invest in highways repairs and upgrades, with a focus on securing an effective balance between motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. We will improve car parking on our estates and in the city centre and invest in new cycle routes along the key corridors. Over the next four years Labour will double the number of streets in local neighbourhoods covered by 20mph zones.

Leicester has a strong tradition of protecting the environment and implementing sustainability measures. We will continue to work to deliver ambitious carbon reduction targets, tackling climate change and exploring ways to provide a more sustainable energy grid for the city. We will set out an ambitious plan to improve air quality in the city.

Labour will build strong neighbourhoods, working with residents to improve our local communities. We will introduce new Love Leicester Action Plans for each area setting out the local problems and how they will be tackled. We will introduce more No Cold Call Zones and unlike some other councils, Labour in Leicester will never turn the street lights off at night.

We remain committed to protecting our library service and ensuring an effective network of community buildings and facilities across the city. We will maintain free entry to local museums and invest in a vibrant and exciting programme of events and festivals, celebrating our city's great diversity.

The past four years have been both challenging and exciting for Leicester. We have welcomed Her Majesty the Queen to launch her Diamond Jubilee tour; we celebrated the London 2012 Olympics on Abbey Park and we have recently buried King Richard III with great dignity, with the eyes of the world upon us.

These events have helped define Leicester as a proud and self-confident city. We take pride in these national events happening here in Leicester, but more importantly we take pride in the everyday life of our city. The enterprise and creativity of our local businesses; the achievements of young people in our schools; the worldclass research at our two universities; the dedication and efforts of hundreds of volunteers and community groups; the contributions of our faith communities; and, the unswerving and remarkable work of frontline staff across local services.

Labour's vision is to build a strong future for our city. There will be more difficult decisions ahead but Labour has a plan, set out in this manifesto, to build strong neighbourhoods, strong local services and a strong and fair economy.

Leicester is a great city to live and work. Together we can make it even better.

With Labour's plan, together we can build a strong future for our city.



Peter Soulsby
Labour's candidate for City Mayor, 2015

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**Building a
strong future
for our
children &
young people**

Our first and foremost priority is to keep children in Leicester safe. We will ensure all resources required are made available to meet this priority. A Labour City Mayor and Council will strengthen arrangements to keep children safe from harm and potential harm. These arrangements will be subject to continual monitoring and with performance being closely scrutinised. We will work to ensure these arrangements include work to protect children and young people in all settings.

With a Labour City Mayor and Council, Leicester City Council will continue to underpin a strong family of local authority schools. We continue to believe that the best way to secure improving results and attainment and to get the best outcomes for children and young people is through a supportive network of schools. We have proved in Leicester that schools can and do improve when they work together with a supportive local authority.

That will remain Labour's approach in Leicester as we continue to strive for improvement and the best start in life for all our children and young people. We do not believe that a fragmented school system is in the best interests of children. However, we also recognise that where academies and free schools do open in the city we have a responsibility to develop strong partnerships to ensure good outcomes for children and young people.

Our aim is for every child in Leicester to attend a school rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Labour will have an unrelenting focus on driving up standards, supporting children, their parents and teachers to improve exam results and attainment levels across all our schools. Every young person in Leicester will be supported to achieve their full potential and to go from school into further and higher education, an apprenticeship or work-based learning programme or into employment. In Leicester all children and young people will be supported and we are committed to ensuring the provision of effective services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, and their parents and carers.

Over the next four years we will work at least to halve the number of young people in Leicester not in education, employment or training (NEET). Our overall aim is for every young person to be in education, employment or engaged in a work-based training programme.

Labour in Leicester is fully committed to securing the best outcomes for children in care and leaving care. We will ensure support and advice is available to help young people make decisions about their future. The City Council will invest in apprenticeship and work-based training opportunities for young people in and leaving care, and will encourage other employers to join us. A Labour City Mayor and Council will also support young people leaving care to find homes, and the City Council's Housing Service will provide specific support for this.

We will listen to what young people say about the services they receive through the Children in Care Council and will work with them to secure improvements.

Our Building Schools for the Future programme has delivered transformative investment to improve and rebuild our secondary schools. Children across the city are now learning in modern, state of the art classrooms. Our schools investment is not only about new buildings and modern classrooms; it is about investing in the future of our young people, encouraging them to achieve their full potential and promoting ambition.

To continue this investment in our young people Labour will lead a programme of renewal of the city's primary schools. This will create over 2500 new primary school places with £26 million of investment. Labour will also deliver a new primary school as part of the proposed Waterside/ A50 corridor regeneration.

Labour will continue to ensure good quality, nutritious school meals that meet the School Food Standards. We will also work to secure agreement with academies and free schools that their meals will also meet the School Food Standards. Labour in Leicester will also support Holiday Hunger provision in parts of the city where it is needed.

Improving readiness for school for all children in Leicester is a top priority. Life chances are influenced significantly in a child's earliest years. **We will therefore launch a new strategy for school readiness.**

This will include working with all early years settings including Children's Centres, with partners including the NHS and with parents to ensure every child in Leicester has the best start in life and is equipped to succeed at school.

In 2011 Labour in Leicester committed to keep all the city's Children's Centres open. Despite savage government cuts we have done this. We remain committed to a full and active network of Children's Centres offering universal and targeted support to families in neighbourhoods across the city. We will also continue to explore how Children's Centres can become access points for other important services including health advice, welfare and money advice and housing advice.

We will ensure efforts to encourage the uptake of free nursery places are properly resourced and will make sure parents have access to information to make informed choices about their children's early years.

Improving children's dental health will remain a top priority with resources being made available to support the delivery of the Children's Oral Health Improvement strategy. This will include new work with dentists in the city and continued work in partnership with schools and childcare settings to ensure children and parents are supported to look after their teeth.

To support ongoing efforts to improve literacy Labour in Leicester will continue to support the Whatever It Takes initiative and summer reading programmes. Automatic library membership for children in reception classes in city schools will continue to encourage reading and use of the libraries.

We will also develop a new focus on numeracy and IT working with employers and other partners to ensure all children in Leicester are actively supported in their learning of these vitally important areas. Labour in Leicester will also work with partners to develop a new

approach to supporting progression in STEM subjects across city schools.

Young people leaving education should have access to good quality advice and support. Labour in Leicester will ensure young people have the support they need to make the big decisions about their futures. **Together with schools, colleges and employers we will build an advice service and careers advice service, available for all young people with direct links to the City Council's Apprenticeship Hub, further education providers and employers.**

Our ongoing commitment to 20mph zones underpins our continued determination to have safe roads near schools. **Labour in Leicester will introduce a new system of an annual road safety audit at each school with action to follow including yearly repainting of road lines outside schools and the installation of safety bollards.** We will also continue to provide funding for school crossing patrols at city schools.

Play is recognised as important and integral to childhood development. Labour in Leicester will continue to ensure provision of a range of activities for children and young people in our communities, including holiday play schemes. To ensure the council's approach to play remains responsive to changing need and modern practice, a Play Commission will be established bringing together experts, practitioners and young people to shape our future strategy which will include a continuing role for the city's Adventure Playgrounds.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will work with young people, practitioners and communities to develop a youth service that is high quality and responsive to needs in different parts of the city. We are committed to ensuring a range of positive and relevant activities for young people in all parts of the city, supporting young people's participation and supporting educational attainment and personal and social development.

We will strengthen the city's youth service by building stronger links with other council services in our neighbourhoods including sports and leisure services, health services, libraries and advice services.

Labour will also continue to ensure an effective youth offending service is delivered, responding to needs and working proactively with young people at risk of offending. Young people are also more likely than the population generally to be victims of crime so we will ensure good and appropriate support for young people who are victims of crime.

Labour in Leicester has always taken a serious approach to engaging children and young people in our work to protect the environment and tackle climate change. The city has set ambitious carbon reduction targets and equipping future generations with the knowledge and skills to help deliver these targets is key. A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to fund the new Leicester Eco-Schools programme to deliver high quality environmental education via our schools and engage young people in this important agenda.

Across all of our work, we will engage proactively with young people via the Children in Care Council, the youth parliament and other structures. Our view is that young people should be actively involved in discussions about their own futures and local services.

**Leicester: a
caring city**

Ageing Well in Leicester

An ageing population presents challenges to the city council and our partners. Labour in Leicester embraces this challenge and believes that people living longer is something we should celebrate. Older people can and do make many positive contributions to our communities and we see it is our job to support that and to ensure local services adapt dynamically to this.

Labour will ensure that local services remain responsive to the changing needs and expectations of older people. Our Ageing Well in Leicester commission will continue its work exploring how to ensure the best quality of life for older people in Leicester and to support us in shaping new services and approaches to securing the best outcomes and support for the city's older residents. The commission will also focus on how we support older people in continuing to make an active, full and positive contribution to society, whether in their roles as older people in the workplace, as volunteers or in their roles as grandparents and carers.

Care services for older people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable people will continue to change. The budget challenge facing the city council because of government spending cuts is severe. Change will always be based on a commitment to ensuring people receive high quality care that meets their individual needs. Personal care packages will be configured on the basis of need will always take into account the expectations and choices of service users.

Securing the best standards across residential and non-residential care will always be a priority for Labour. We will strengthen arrangements for the monitoring of care contracts in the independent sector and ensure that performance is rigorously monitored and scrutinised. The Leicester Safeguarding Adults Board will continue to be properly resourced and supported in carrying out its important work.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to invest in more extra care and intermediate care facilities in the city.

Wholeperson Care in Leicester

Labour in Leicester embraces the idea of Wholeperson Care with much closer integration of health and social care services without the need for significant and expensive NHS re-organisation.

The services being developed via the Better Care Fund and Better Care Together programmes will have a pivotal role in the future provision of care services locally and in realising a vision of Wholeperson Care.

Labour believes that more care should be provided in peoples' homes and closer to where they live in local communities. We will continue to invest in services aimed at keeping people safe and in receipt of appropriate care at home and out of hospital. We will also continue to fund services like the Integrated Crisis Response Service and a social care presence at Leicester's hospitals to reduce preventable hospital admissions and to get people home and out of hospital as quickly as possible.

In relation to some of the more significant changes proposed within the Better Care Together programme to acute services in the city, Labour in Leicester believes that all of these changes must be based on the founding and defining values of the NHS. We want to see excellent NHS services in Leicester, responsive to local needs and contributing to efforts to address health inequalities.

Where changes to acute services are proposed the City Council will utilise its formal powers of scrutiny through the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission and the Health & Wellbeing Board will provide strategic oversight of these plans. Specifically, where acute service changes are proposed that involve replacing hospital based services with community services we are clear that the community services should be up and running and proving to be delivering the necessary quality of care before acute services are reduced.

Under Labour the city council will work closely with voluntary and community sector service providers who have a key role to play in meeting the needs of people across our communities. Their role should not be underestimated and Labour will continue to value the role of third sector providers in the care sector.

We believe that care and health services should meet need regardless of gender, ethnic origin, disability, age or sexual orientation. A Labour City Mayor and Council will work with commissioners and providers to ensure a full and ongoing commitment to equality and diversity across the health and care system.

Leicester: a Dementia friendly city

Dementia is one of the most important challenges we face as a society. It is estimated that in Leicester there will be over 3000 people living with dementia by 2025. Delivery of the city's Dementia Strategy will continue under Labour but we will go further to make sure Leicester is a city ready properly to support people with dementia and their carers.

Labour will introduce a programme of measures to make Leicester a Dementia Friendly City. We will work with businesses, retailers and voluntary and community sector organisations to raise awareness of dementia. Dementia Cafes are becoming an important resource. We will work with partners to increase the number of Dementia Cafes across the city to meet need and improve access.

With Labour, 500 frontline city council staff will complete dementia awareness training to become Dementia Friends. This will include staff from all areas of the city council's workforce, and all city councillors will be expected to complete this training.

Listening to and supporting carers

The contribution of carers is invaluable and should be properly recognised. Labour will ensure carers receive the care and support they need. **To ensure needs are properly met and the role played by carers in Leicester is fully understood Labour will carry out the city's first comprehensive carers census.** This will give every carer, including young carers, the opportunity to talk about their experiences and needs to help the city council

in providing support that is relevant, responsive and appropriate.

Labour remains steadfastly committed to making sure the voice of service users and carers is heard when services have to change. We will continue to explore how formal consultation processes can be improved and that we properly take account of what people tell us about the council's means of consultation and engagement. Advocacy services have an important role to play and Labour will continue to support general and specialist advocacy services in Leicester.

Supporting and strengthening the care workforce

For Labour, securing better terms and conditions and tackling low pay in the care sector is a top priority. To introduce the Living Wage into all adult social care contracts would cost the City Council £10million. We will continue to call on central government to properly fund adult social care.

As each adult social care contract comes up for renewal an assessment will take place on whether the Living Wage can be secured.

This forms part of our action plan agreed with the Living Wage Foundation to secure the city council's formal accreditation as a Living Wage employer.

We have already ensured that the City Council does not commission 15 minute care visits in Leicester. We will now ensure that all care companies contracted by the city council pay staff properly for their travel time between care visits and that zero hours contracts are not misused.

We welcome initiatives like the Unison Ethical Care Charter which seek to raise awareness and improve standards for service users and workers in the care sector. Under Labour, Leicester City Council has already met many of the expectations set out in Unison's Ethical Care Charter and the Citizens UK Care Charter. If a Labour City Mayor and Council are re-elected in May, the City Council will continue efforts to meet all of the requirements in the Unison Ethical Care Charter.

People employed to provide care to elderly and vulnerable people do incredibly important jobs. Their work should be properly valued and we see this work as a professional vocation of the highest importance.

Labour will make it a priority to invest in the next generation of care workers in Leicester. We want to make sure we have a well-trained and qualified workforce to meet the care needs of Leicester's population in the future. **We will work to create the Leicester Care Curriculum working with training providers including post-16 colleges and universities to ensure all care workers have access to training and development opportunities.**

**Healthy
Leicester**

Mental Health

Through the Health & Wellbeing Board we are supporting commissioners and providers in efforts to reshape mental health services to secure better outcomes and improved access. This work will remain a priority and we will continue to promote good mental health and wellbeing through the City Council's public health priorities.

For the coming year we have more than doubled the proportion of the City Council's Public Health budget to be spent on mental health initiatives. This includes the provision of mental health awareness campaigns, mental health first aid training and suicide awareness training.

Good mental health services throughout life are important including for children and young people. Labour will work with partners to ensure an effective Children & Adolescents Mental Health Service for young people in Leicester and we will call on the government to ensure these services are properly funded.

Going forward we will invest in new resources and materials to support people in improving and protecting their mental health and wellbeing. **To further support this work a Labour City Mayor and Council will ensure every member of frontline council staff will complete mental health awareness training and autism awareness training.** This will happen within the first year of office of a re-elected Labour City Mayor and Council.

This training will then extend in future years to include all city council staff, including senior managers. Labour will also ensure work continues to deliver the commitments the City Council has made in signing the Local Authorities Mental Health Challenge. We will actively support with partners including the police and HealthWatch an annual mental health in Leicester summit.

We will support every elected councillor to become a Mental Health Champion in their community.

Active Leicester

Getting more people doing more exercise is key to preventing poor health. Labour in Leicester will launch a new approach to exercise and physical activity with the aim of getting record numbers of people exercising regularly in the city.

We will introduce a new programme of free visits to our leisure centres for city residents and strengthen links between GPs, health professionals and the City Council's leisure offer. This new Active Leicester programme will aim to maximise uptake and encourage people to stay active.

To support this Labour will invest in a new team of activators to work in local communities to get more people active. Our new Active Leicester approach will make the full use of community assets to get people active including leisure centres, outdoor gyms, parks and open spaces and community buildings and libraries.

The City Council has announced a new programme of investment in outdoor gyms and over the coming two years these new facilities will be delivered. Communities will be consulted on where outdoor gym equipment should be located.

We will continue to invest in Leicester's Stop Smoking Service. This service is now part of the City Council and will build links with other council services to improve access and take-up. We have called on the Government to introduce standardised cigarette packing to help bolster local efforts to support people who want to quit. Our priority is to support people who want to quit and to prevent young people from taking up smoking.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will work to build on our track record of NHS health check uptake. We have one of the best uptake rates in the country and we are determined to build on this as part of efforts to identify long-term conditions and to help people stay healthy.

Encouraging people to eat a healthy and balanced diet is an integral part of our public health policy. We will continue to invest in cook and eat sessions at Children's Centres and neighbourhood facilities. Labour will continue to invest in projects to support local food growing schemes to make affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables more widely available in our neighbourhoods.

Through the Health & Wellbeing Board and by working with the Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England we will continue efforts to support efforts to improve primary care in Leicester and to recruit and retain GPs in the city.

Labour in Leicester is ambitious when it comes to improving air quality in the city. Following consultation we will publish a new air quality action plan with a range of measures to improve air quality and ensure Leicester is on track to meet EU air quality standards. Poor air quality has a significant impact on public health. Labour will ensure that the city's approach to improving air quality is health-led and that resources are allocated to deliver the necessary interventions to improve air quality.

**Leicester:
building a
strong future
for our
economy**

Growing Leicester's economy, creating jobs and apprenticeships and backing local businesses are key to securing prosperity and improving living standards in our communities.

Labour's City Mayor working with Labour Councillors and partners have demonstrated real success in growing the city's economy since 2011. Labour has secured significant inward investment and public funding to support business growth and job creation, sending a very powerful and clear message nationally and internationally that Leicester is a place to do business.

The city's Economic Action Plan has supported the delivery of over 3000 jobs. Our priority going forward is to attract more jobs and support the creation of more apprenticeships.

Over the next four years a Labour City Mayor and Council will aim to attract a further 3000 jobs to the city and create 1000 more apprenticeships.

We will expand the Leicester Apprenticeship Hub and introduce a charter mark for local employers providing good quality apprenticeships.

We will also ensure effective work is taking place in all neighbourhoods of the city to support people seeking to enter the labour market. Through our Leicester to Work programme specific support will be provided to young people, women and the long-term unemployed. Specific programmes will be delivered in neighbourhoods with the highest rates of worklessness with intensive support to help people find jobs and training opportunities.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will ensure that tackling worklessness and creating jobs is a strategic priority for the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and that all opportunities to secure external funds, including from the EU, to support this work are explored.

We will work to strengthen links between schools and colleges and employers to ensure good quality work experience placements are available and the City Council will continue to invest in opportunities for new graduates.

The opening of Dock and the new Leicester Food Park, and the redevelopment of Friar's Mill, illustrate our commitment to creating the very best infrastructure and premises for businesses in Leicester. Maker's Yard in the Cultural Quarter shows our commitment to the creative sector, a vital and thriving sector in the city's economy. We will continue to create suitable accommodation for small businesses and work with businesses to secure appropriate grow-on space to ensure businesses can grow successfully in Leicester.

Leicester and De Montfort Universities in the city, and Loughborough, are thriving hubs of exciting, innovative and cutting edge research. Labour believes that the city should retain this expertise and actively work to support this research and development remaining in Leicester. We want to see the very latest research advanced here in Leicester and will work in partnership with the universities to develop a new 'researched in Leicester, designed in Leicester, made in Leicester' approach.

Going forward Labour in Leicester will build on our success in driving growth and investing to attract new business and employment opportunities to the city. **A new City Council Investment Fund will be used to purchase land to unlock private sector investment.** We will continue to explore all possible avenues of external funds to improve the business environment and infrastructure including regional, national and EU funding streams.

A Labour Mayor will continue to prioritise attracting inward investment. The City Mayor has played a pivotal role in securing investment to the city, creating new jobs and driving growth. The approach taken by the City Council under Labour's leadership to working with investors and business was acknowledged by IBM who are setting up a new base in Leicester, creating 400 jobs:

"The grant that we got from the RGF, the support from the LLEP and the support from the city council was the reason we came to Leicester. If we had not had that support we would not have come to Leicester. We love Leicester, we love the city, we love the work you are doing there and the great transport links and also the really good pool of graduates we are hoping will work with us in Leicester."

Bernard Szczech, Chief Executive of IBM, UK

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to prioritise securing inward investment and job creation. The City Council's Inward Investment team will be supported to keep Leicester on the map and strengthen our reputation as a city serious about welcoming investment and supporting enterprise.

Under Labour, we will continue to show leadership for growth via regional and national structures including the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership and via the City Deal negotiated with the Government. We believe that further prosperity and investment could be unlocked if we have greater powers devolved to the area from Whitehall.

Labour in Leicester will continue to make this case, arguing that it is politicians here in Leicester working with businesses and partners, best placed to take the decisions necessary to attract investment, improve skills and create jobs. We will continue to seek a better deal with central government, with the devolution of real powers on issues around growth, skills funding and transport funding.

Recognising that economic activity does not stop at the city boundary, and that the city's economic footprint reaches far beyond the outer ring road, we will continue to work with our immediate neighbours to secure growth for Leicester. On areas where we can attract investment and win positive change for the city, we will work with the county council and our partner cities in the East Midlands. We will also actively explore developing relationships with Coventry, North Warwickshire and parts of the West Midlands recognising that these links will also be important for Leicester's economic prosperity in the future.

As the largest city in the East Midlands in population terms and as the only city in the East and West Midlands with a directly elected mayor, we believe Leicester should be recognised as one of the UK's Core Cities. We will make representations to the Core Cities group to make this case and to further strengthen Leicester's voice regionally and nationally.

A thriving city centre remains key to our efforts to create growth and attract investment and jobs. Connecting Leicester Phase II will be delivered, building on the physical improvements we have seen in the city centre since 2011. It is Labour's view that regeneration is a continual process. Following the success of the opening of Highcross in 2008 and the creation of the Cultural Quarter, Labour continues to show we are serious about the sustained improvement of our city centre.

The new indoor meat and fish market has won awards and is proving to be popular with shoppers and traders. Further regeneration will take place in the market area to improve the market stalls and public space, making sure the famous Leicester Market continues to be something we can be proud of and which shoppers and visitors continue to enjoy long into the future.

Works around the Cathedral and Old Town have revitalised the historic core of Leicester's city centre. Improvements on Humberstone Gate have made one of the major thoroughfares for shoppers much more attractive. Labour's priorities going forward will be investing and improving Church Gate and Belgrave Gate as key gateways to and from the city centre. Working with businesses in the Cultural Quarter and St Georges will remain a priority, ensuring this part of the city centre continues to develop.

Investment will continue to improve shopfronts in neighbourhood shopping areas across the city. Labour will extend the shopfronts grants scheme to support wider public realm improvements in local shopping areas on our estates. We will also work with traders in local shopping areas like Queens Road, Evington Road, Abderdale Road & Francis Street, the Golden Mile, Narborough Road, Aylestone village and Evington to support their continued success and sustainability. Labour wants Leicester to be a city where independent traders can thrive in both the city centre and in our neighbourhoods. We will continue to back Small Business Saturday and other initiatives to encourage people to 'shop local'.

Labour will complete the rebuilding of the Haymarket Bus Station, creating a modern and welcoming public transport hub in the heart of our city centre. **We will continue to improve city centre car parking. Having created new on-street parking bays across the city centre and rationalised the pricing structure, we will take forward work to improve the quality of car parking.**

We will also ensure an improved provision of cycle parking in the city centre and in neighbourhoods, including piloting on-street cycle lockers.

Two areas of strategic importance will define the next phase of Leicester's regeneration programmes. In February 2014 the city's skyline changed forever when the two towers of New Walk Centre were demolished. Labour will ensure this significant site is redeveloped in a way that is sensitive to and enhances the surrounding area, including lower New Walk.

Having secured £26 million of public investment, Labour will drive forward the regeneration of Leicester's waterside. Our ambitious plan will see the waterside become an attractive and vibrant neighbourhood, with new housing and business premises. The waterside will also become a destination for visitors, with opportunities for leisure and good cycle and pedestrian links.

Labour in Leicester will continue to invest to improve broadband speeds across the city and public access Wi-Fi. We will explore new

models to maximise public access Wi-Fi coverage across the city.

Building fairness in our economy

Labour's economic growth agenda will be built on fairness. We want to see a focussed effort on tackling low pay in Leicester. We will encourage more employers to pay their staff the Living Wage and will build this into the City Council's procurement activity, something we have set out to do via our Living Wage Employer accreditation.

The city council will never knowingly award contracts to companies found to have engaged in blacklisting activities or companies which abuse zero hours contracts.

Within the first year of office of a re-elected Labour City Mayor and Council we will set out a comprehensive plan for actively encouraging other employers in the city to pay the Living Wage. This will look beyond the city council's procurement activity but consider how we can incentivise the Living Wage via business rates.

This fairness agenda will extend to how small businesses are treated. Delayed payments to small businesses can have a significant impact on cash flow and cause real damage to businesses. **We will introduce a new 21 days payment guarantee for small businesses supplying goods and services to Leicester City Council, going beyond the current 30 day requirement.**

Leicester has a great entrepreneurial spirit and tradition of enterprise. Since 2011 the City Council has backed over 1300 local small businesses with grants to support their expansion and development. **We remain firmly committed to backing small businesses and will continue the Enterprising Leicester grants scheme. A new Investment Fund will also be used to provide loans to local businesses to support expansion and job creation.**

**Connected
Leicester**

Investing to improve the city's road network will remain a priority for Labour. We will continue to tackle 'pinch points' across the network to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. The Connected Leicester programme Phase II will be taken forward to ensure an effective balance between motorists, cyclists and pedestrians and improving connectivity across the city.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue investment programmes to improve our road surfaces; resurfacing key routes and repairing potholes. Traffic calming and speed humps will be renewed where necessary and we will continue to provide a rapid response team to deal with emergency and urgent road repairs. The numbers of people cycling in Leicester on a daily basis continues to rise. We have set an ambitious target to double the number of daily cyclists by 2018. We will invest in the infrastructure needed to achieve this. We will continue to provide bikeability training in schools and with community groups.

We will work with organisations like the Leicester Cycling Campaign Group and Sustrans to take forward this ambitious vision for cycling in Leicester. We will actively explore introducing a cycle hire scheme for Leicester.

Improving cycling provision on main routes across the city is a priority. The Newarke Street, St Nicholas Circle and Belgrave Circle developments show how it is possible to provide significantly improved spaces for cyclists at busy parts of the city's road network.

In the coming years ensuring safe roadspace for cyclists on key corridors like London Road will be a priority to deliver a fully connected city for cyclists.

To further improve road safety and encourage walking and cycling in our neighbourhoods, Labour will continue to support the introduction of 20mph zones. Since 2011 we have introduced 20mph zones covering over 500 roads and streets in residential areas and near schools.

We will introduce further 20mph zones where residents support this, with the aim

of covering at least a further 500 streets, doubling the number of residential streets included in our 20mph zones. Our aim is to secure comprehensive coverage of 20mph zones in residential areas and roads near schools.

Improving the city's air quality is a key priority. Consultation will be carried out on a new air quality action plan for Leicester which will include a range of measures to improve air quality. We propose introducing a Low Emission Zone covering the new Haymarket Bus Station and St. Margaret's Bus Station to encourage bus operating companies to invest in greener vehicles.

Introducing a Low Emission Zone in this way would see greener buses introduced to the majority of routes across the city. Labour also proposes to explore a Leicester Freight Consolidation Hub to help reduce the number of heavy goods vehicles travelling into the city centre. This proposal will be developed with businesses to ensure it does not adversely affect the business community.

Labour will introduce measures to deal with problematic pavement parking, building on the proposed pilot schemes in four areas of the city. Where City Councillors and communities wish to explore future residential parking permit schemes we will ensure comprehensive consultation takes place.

Following Labour's introduction of new gritbins across the city we will continue to equip neighbourhoods with the resources they need in periods of severe weather. **For the coming winter we will introduce a further 250 gritbins in locations nominated by City Councillors and members of the public.**

Labour will also review the city's primary and secondary gritting routes. Our priority is to always keep the city moving through periods of bad winter weather. Reviewing these routes and seeking suggestions of where the routes can be extended will enable support the council in continuing to do this.

Improving public transport in the city will continue to be a priority. The new Haymarket Bus Station will create a modern public transport hub in the heart of the city centre. We will work towards an effective real-time information system and fully integrated, smart ticketing across the bus network.

We will continue to call for greater powers to regulate public transport in the city. We are concerned about continued fare increases introduced by the bus operators and would like to see fairer fares, especially for school, college and university students and people seeking jobs. The Bus Users Panel will continue to give passengers and their representative groups a direct voice with the city council and bus operators.

It is Labour's view that park and ride can help reduce car journeys and congestion in the city. However, park and ride must achieve financial self-sufficiency sooner rather than later. On this basis we will continue to explore all possible ways of increasing usage including the bulk selling of park and ride spaces to large employers in the city centre and by making park and ride services available for large events including football and rugby matches.

Taxis are a key part of the city's transport network. We will continue to ensure sufficient ranking space at key locations in the city centre.

Leicester's rail links are important for passengers and for our economy. We have led sustained lobbying for the investment needed to fully electrify and upgrade the Midland Mainline to improve journey times to and from London. There are no direct or immediate benefits for Leicester from the proposed HS2 route.

We would rather the proposed and significant investment for HS2 was allocated to upgrade the existing network, including freight connections in the East Midlands which have the potential to attract new investment and jobs to our area. If HS2 goes ahead we will work to secure all possible benefits for Leicester, including a connection to the HS2 northern route.

East-West rail connections are equally important for Leicester. We will push for investment to upgrade our connections to/from Birmingham and the West Midlands. We are also supportive of the case of reopening the National Forest/Ivanhoe Line for passenger services.

**Love Leicester:
building pride
in our
neighbourhoods
& stronger
communities**

City Councillors will work with local community groups and residents to agree a bespoke Love Leicester Community Action Plan for each area of the city. This plan will outline the local priorities to secure cleaner and safer streets and tackle 'grot spots'.

These plans will include the actions needed to address local issues such as littering, fly-tipping, vandalism, dog fouling and other local concerns. Residents and local businesses will be invited to participate in the shaping of these plans including via social media the Love Leicester app.

Once agreed resources will be allocated to support the delivery of these plans. A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to fund a team of City Wardens to work across the city's neighbourhoods to support this work. Other council services including cleansing, graffiti clean-up and community safety will be tasked to respond to local concerns quickly and effectively. We will continue to introduce enforcement campaigns to address issues like dog fouling, littering and spitting.

Under Labour, Leicester's domestic waste recycling rates have continued to increase. The popular Orange Bags scheme has helped to get more households recycling more of their waste. We will continue to provide the Orange Bags recycling scheme and remain committed to a comprehensive domestic waste collection service responding to residents' needs and expectations. We will also continue to take action to address the problem in parts of the city of wheelie bins left out on streets.

To help tackle the scourge of fly-tipping we will continue to encourage residents to make use of Leicester's two Household Waste Recycling Centres at Freeman's Common and Gypsum Close (from mid-April). It is our intention for these facilities to remain free of charge for city residents. We will also continue to provide a bulk waste collection service for householders. We have introduced a successful, optional green waste kerbside service and will look at ways how this could be expanded and improved.

In 2007 Labour introduced Leicester's Ward Community Meetings. We will continue efforts to strengthen neighbourhood engagement

and continue to give residents a real say in what is happening in their area. It is Labour's view that this should not just be limited to meetings but should also include online platforms for engagement including the City Council's new website and social media.

We want local areas to have a more direct say on how local services respond to local needs. This will happen via our new Love Leicester Community Action Plans. Each area will continue to have an allocated budget to support local projects and activities. Councillors will continue to lead Ward Community Meetings and take decisions on how the local ward community budget is spent. We recognise that different areas may want to explore other ways of engaging local people. Local councillors will work with their communities to determine the best arrangements for their areas.

To engage more people in their local communities and to build stronger neighbourhoods we will pilot street champions. Street champions will act as a conduit for information and working with City Councillors and others to encourage residents to take a more active interest and role in their local community.

To support community events such as carnivals, fetes and street parties Labour will streamline the application process for closing streets and roads for such events. **A Labour City Mayor and Council will make it more affordable for local groups and residents to close their local street for a community event.**

This will help encourage more community events bringing people together and support other initiatives like Play Streets where streets are closed to traffic for a period of time to allow a safe play environment for children

Labour will work to ensure a good range of facilities in our neighbourhoods that are well maintained, including play equipment, green spaces, community buildings and public toilets. We will continue to invest to improve public toilets and increase the number of changing places facilities across the city.

Ensuring that Leicester's community buildings are maintained sustainably will remain a priority for Labour. Through the Transforming Neighbourhood Services agenda we will continue to work with communities to develop a plan for the provision of community buildings and facilities. As part of this approach we will enable community groups to take on the running of buildings and facilities building on our Community Asset Transfer policy. Furthermore, we will work with schools to make their facilities available to local groups and the wider community, including sports facilities.

Labour in Leicester will continue to protect and improve the city's library service. We remain committed to a modern library service, meeting the needs of residents and providing access to a wide range of services including books, Wi-Fi internet access, homework clubs, reading groups, local information and digital resources.

Adult skills and learning is important for many people across Leicester's neighbourhoods. We remain committed to an adult skills and learning service delivering important skills courses including ESOL and a broader curriculum.

The Tory and Lib Dem government's welfare changes have affected many households in Leicester. A Labour City Mayor and Council will ensure those who need help receive help; we will continue to invest significantly in hardship funds. **We will make funding available to support 'Holiday Hunger' projects replacing free school meals during the school holidays.** The 'Pass it On' scheme to help people secure white goods and household furniture will be supported and we will work to ensure a co-ordinated approach to foodbanks in the city.

Labour will ensure a good range of advice services in our communities, ensuring people have access to general and specialist welfare, legal, housing and consumer advice.

Building safer communities

Community safety will always be a top priority for Labour in Leicester. Many residents are concerned about door-to-door sales and doorstep chugging. We recognise that door-to-

door collections are important for local and national charities. However, we will continue to enforce a rigorous permit system for door-to-door collections and ensure action is taken against organisations that flout it.

To offer further protection and reassurance to residents we will extend the city's No Cold Call Zones where residents request and support this. We will also extend the Love Leicester smartphone app to include a scam alert system to inform trading standards of concerns.

In some parts of the country street lights have been turned off during the night. In Leicester we are upgrading our street lights to more energy efficient LED lamps. **With a Labour City Mayor and Council street lights will not be turned off at night.**

We will seek stronger powers from the government to properly regulate chugging in the city centre. Labour in Leicester believes that local areas should have stronger powers to regulate the number of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) on our high streets. We will continue to press central government to devolve these powers to local authorities.

Ensuring consumers in Leicester have access to safe and appropriately regulated goods and services will continue to be a priority. We will lobby the government to make it a legal requirement for restaurants, cafes and takeaways to display their 0-5 food safety rating at all points of sale, including printed menu leaflets and online.

Labour in Leicester will continue to commit resources to tackle anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods. We will continue to demand tough enforcement of street drinking by the police. As part of a revised Alcohol Strategy for the city, new measures to address street drinking will be explored. We will also seek additional powers to deal with 'legal highs'.

Labour believes that neighbourhood policing has been a great success. We will continue to make the case for a dedicated policing command structure in the city and locally based, neighbourhood policing teams responding to needs in Leicester's communities. We will always make it clear to Leicestershire's Police & Crime Commissioner that the city's policing needs must be fully met.

We will continue to provide specific resources to support work tackling domestic and sexual violence. The How Many Times campaign underlines our commitment to raise awareness and to ensuring people can readily access the help and support they need. As a city we will adopt a zero tolerance approach to domestic and sexual violence against people of all backgrounds including women, men, young people, and within the LGBT community.

Building homes for the future

Labour believes everyone has a right to a decent home. We are committed to building new council homes and unlocking and securing all possible investment to support house building in Leicester.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will build new homes in Leicester including council housing, bungalows and affordable family homes for rent and buying. We will explore introducing low cost home ownership options and support for people wanting to get on the housing ladder for the first time.

Labour's approach to planning where new homes are will be based on a desire for balanced communities and neighbourhoods. We will continue to put in place measures to prevent an over-concentration of multiple occupancy homes in parts of the city. We want to see homes for families available in all parts of the city, including in the city centre.

Labour in Leicester will continue to make resources available and use powers available to us to bring empty homes back into use, aiming to increase year on year the number of empty homes brought back into use. We are determined to improve the quality of housing in the city, particularly in the private rented sector. We have worked effectively with landlords in the city and have

provided grants to improve energy efficiency in privately rented homes.

Labour in Leicester will introduce a landlord licensing scheme for all rented housing to help protect tenants and improve quality in the private rented sector. This will cover health and safety requirements and keeping house exteriors in a good state of repair. Alongside this we will work to ensure Housing Associations are keeping their properties in the city at a high enough standard.

We will also judge all rented homes in Leicester against a new local standard for quality including energy efficiency, safety and overall quality. The Decent Homes Standard has been an important vehicle for improving the quality of homes but we believe the definition of Decent Homes Standard should be now be modified. We will explore the development of a new local standard, working with tenants and landlords to develop a robust and relevant measure of quality for homes in Leicester.

We will also work closely with local students' unions to secure quality and protection across student housing in the city. Working with students we will explore whether there is appropriate housing available in the city for new graduates and young professionals. As part of our wider efforts on graduate retention securing a good range of accommodation for new graduates will be important as part the city's housing mix.

Labour will roll out the Healthy Homes programme to areas where we can make the biggest impact for residents. The Healthy Homes pilot delivered real success in helping to improve housing, assisting residents to access key local services and help as well as enabling landlords to secure improvement grants for their homes. The Healthy Homes programme also enabled enforcement action to be taken against landlords where this was required and necessary.

To help residents and tenants save money on their energy bills we will continue to provide a collective switching service. So far the City Council's Switch Leicester initiative has helped households in the city save an average of £200 a year on their bills.

We will continue to make the Council's Housing Repairs Service more responsive. The Tenant's Forum will continue to be an important body for consulting and engaging tenants' representatives on key decisions and policy.

On the city's housing estates we will continue to invest in the upkeep and improvement of greenspaces and communal garden areas. Where residents groups wish to take on responsibility for maintaining these areas we will work to reach agreement with them; empowering tenants and residents and supporting the continued improvement of our neighbourhoods.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will prioritise investment to improve car parking on our estates. A programme of funding will be provided to create new parking bays on estates. Specific plans will be developed with local councillors and residents in response to local circumstances and need.

Homelessness in modern Britain is not acceptable. Labour in Leicester will continue to support services to tackle homelessness and ensure people are supported on a sustainable basis into permanent accommodation as quickly as possible. Our outreach team will continue to be resourced to reduce and eliminate rough sleeping.

Leicester: a low carbon and sustainable city

Leicester is on track to meet our ambitious and long-term carbon reduction targets. Tackling climate change and protecting the environment will always be a priority for Labour in Leicester. We have set out a clear vision for Leicester to be a low carbon city. That vision reaches into all areas of council activity and city life including transport, our economic priorities, housing and the way in which the council delivers its services.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will link our determination to lower carbon emissions in the city with our priorities to grow the economy and create jobs. We will set out an ambitious vision to build a low carbon economy, supporting local businesses working in these sectors and attracting investment in this area to the city.

The district heating scheme in Leicester, covering six estates and a number of other buildings and locations, has been successful in providing a significant reduction in carbon usage. **Labour will take forward plans for the next generation of energy infrastructure improvements in Leicester.**

We will work towards setting up a new energy company to offer fairer tariffs to local residents and businesses as well as exploring more local energy generation opportunities including solar and community energy projects. We will continue to make resources available to upgrade the energy efficiency of council homes and privately rented homes, and seek to ensure local businesses can benefit from this investment.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to build a strong partnership to drive forward our low carbon city priorities and will seek more partners from all sectors to sign up to the city's low carbon action plan.

We will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and ensure resources are secured to deliver the priorities and necessary actions set out in the city's flood management plans. The city council will continue to model flood risk to properties and businesses in the city so appropriate actions and work can take place.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will renew Leicester's commitment to fair trade and will incorporate this fully into our procurement activity. We will encourage other public sector bodies to join us and are proud that Leicester is a fair trade city.

**Leicester: a
city of culture**

Leicester is a recognised as a vibrant, multicultural city. Residents and visitors experience this every day and our city's cultural, leisure and entertainment offer reflects Leicester's rich diversity.

Recent events have showcased Leicester to a global audience. The opening of the King Richard III Visitor Centre has added another unique addition to the city's exciting menu for tourists. Alongside the National Space Centre, the city's museums and historic buildings, Leicester is now becoming firmly established as a destination city for visitors and tourists from across the UK and abroad.

It is our intention to build on this by supporting developments like the National Railway Museum's plans at the Great Central Railway to further strengthen the city's tourism and visitor economy.

Under Labour, entry to New Walk Museum, Newarke Houses, Jewry Wall, Abbey Pumping Station and Belgrave Hall & Gardens will remain free of charge. We will also ensure wider access to the arts and exhibits from our museum collection by exploring pop-up museums across the city.

We will also explore how our museums and historic buildings can be more widely used as social spaces for people to meet. Flagship cultural venues like Curve, De Montfort Hall and Phoenix Square have an important role to play in the city's creative economy. We will aim to deliver a seamless box office ticketing system across these venues and work with them to ensure a varied and exciting programme of shows and events.

Leicester is a city proud of its history and it is our ongoing aim to celebrate and broaden the understanding of that rich history. Interpretation panels letting people know about the city's historic buildings have proved to be popular. **We will extend this to our the city's villages and neighbourhoods and launch a new theme of heritage work around the people of Leicester; celebrating the contribution of key industrial, faith, sporting, civic and educational figures from the city's history.**

We will continue to work with partners to safeguard and protect the city's historic built environment and the many fine example of architecture and built heritage across our neighbourhoods.

The reinterment of King Richard III has demonstrated Leicester's ability to host events of historic and national significance. We are looking forward to hosting Rugby World Cup matches later this year and 50,000 people enjoyed Kasabian's homecoming concert on Victoria Park. We will continue to explore opportunities to host flagship international and national events in Leicester, showcasing the city and boosting our economy.

Labour in Leicester will continue to support the city's busy calendar of cultural celebrations. The world famous Diwali celebrations on the Golden Mile, Eid, Vaisakhi, Caribbean Carnival, Christmas celebrations, Leicester Mela, Chanukah and Leicester Pride are all important and enjoyable events that we celebrate together as a city. A Labour City Mayor and Council will also work with communities and organisations who are creating and providing new festivals and events.

We will continue to support and showcase the city's cultural and creative sector through the City Festival each August bank holiday weekend. We are also proud of the countless other events that contribute to Leicester's unique offer to residents and visitors. The economic contribution of internationally recognised events like Dave's Leicester Comedy Festival are significant and a Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to work with partners to secure ongoing success for these events.

Pubs and Working Mens Clubs are an important part of our community. Labour in Leicester will work with CAMRA and others to protect and safeguard the future of our pubs and clubs.

We will also continue to oversee a responsible licensing policy to ensure people are safe when enjoying Leicester's pubs, bars and night clubs.

Leicester's parks and greenspaces will be protected and enhanced with Labour. We are proud of our record in securing Green Flag status for eleven parks. A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to improve facilities at the city's parks including public toilets, play equipment and via our new programme of outdoor gyms. We will also make sure automated external defibrillators are available at all city parks and open spaces.

Across our parks and greenspaces, and the city's river and canal environments, we will ensure a rich habitat for biodiversity including woodlands and planting of wildflower meadows. We will also support the development of more 'bee meadows' to protect the bee population.

Leicester enjoys a thriving junior and grassroots sports community and we remain committed to supporting it. Labour will ensure there is a good range of opportunities for organised sport and physical activity in all our communities for people of all ages.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will set out a long term and sustainable plan for the city's sports facilities. We have set out our intention to invest in Humberstone Heights golf course. The city council's leisure centres remain popular and we will set out a plan for investment to improve the city's network of sports and leisure facilities.

Our partnerships with the city's professional sports clubs are strong and the city council will continue to work with the clubs recognising their important role in the life of the city. The new indoor arena will provide a long awaited new home for the Leicester Riders and we are exploring with Leicester Ladies Hockey Club the long-term possibilities of them returning to the city as well.

**Leicester: a
strong future
for everyone**

Leicester is a great city to live. Labour in Leicester remains steadfastly committed to celebrating the diversity of our city's communities. In taking forward our plans to build a strong future for Leicester we will always listen to all of the city's communities.

We recognise that unacceptably that gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, age and sexual orientation can still be the cause of discrimination. This will never be acceptable to us and we will continue to take unrelenting efforts to tackle discrimination in Leicester. The City Council will work with partners from all sectors to secure equality and tackle discrimination.

With a Labour City Mayor and Council, the City Council's approaches to equalities including the production and use of Equalities Impact Assessments will be continually reviewed to ensure ongoing effectiveness. We will work to ensure a full and strong approach to equality and diversity is embedded across all council services.

We recognise that the city's many voluntary and community organisations play a vital role in supporting positive work and providing a wide range of services in the city. Labour in Leicester remains committed to supporting a vibrant, wide-ranging and effective voluntary sector in the city. Volunteers make a huge contribution to the life of the city. A Labour City Mayor and Council will bring forward plans with the voluntary and community sector to strengthen the sector's voice with the city council and decision-makers.

We are proud that the city is home to two leading universities and we welcome the contribution that students make to the life of our city. We will work with Students' Unions to ensure students feel at home in Leicester and can make an active and positive contribution to the city during their time here.

In 2013 the City Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant. We will continue to deliver on the commitments set out in the covenant to support servicemen and women, reservists, their families and carers and veterans.

People from across the world continue to make Leicester their home. We are proud of

our diversity and the contribution people from many countries make to our city, whether in business and industry, education or in many other fields. We will continue to work the City of Sanctuary and other projects working with people who arrive in the city needing help and support.

Leicester: strong governance and leadership with Labour

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to provide strong and decisive leadership for our city.

We will continue to manage the City Council's finances sensibly. Labour has set out a budget strategy for the mid and long term. The financial challenge facing the City Council because of government spending cuts is severe and unprecedented. Labour's financial strategy will support the ongoing and sustainable delivery of key services and will seek to safeguard the financial health of the organisation. Labour will also continue to ensure the City Council's funds are invested and held securely and not exposed to risk.

In 2011 we introduced a new system of governance that is more democratic. Further changes introduced have given members of the public the chance to question the City Mayor and Executive in public meetings of the Cabinet. Meet the Mayor events across the city have provided further opportunities for city residents to engage directly with decision-makers. We will continue to ensure the citizens of Leicester can engage directly and effectively with decision-makers and the council's democratic processes. This will include developing new online and digital opportunities.

We will continue to ensure the council's scrutiny system is properly resourced to support effective and proactive scrutiny. Council meetings will continue to be webcast and we will explore how other platforms including social media can be used engage more people in the democratic processes of the city council.

The City Mayor and Councillors will all be expected to uphold the highest standards of integrity and probity, consistent with the Code of Conduct and Standards in Public Life.

Labour's Plan for Leicester's Strong Future

Our aim is for every child in Leicester to attend a school rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Over the next four years we will work to at least halve the number of young people in Leicester not in education, employment or training (NEET). Our overall aim is for every young person to be in education, employment or engaged in a work-based training programme.

To continue this investment in our young people Labour will lead a programme of renewal of the city's primary schools. This will create over 2500 new primary school places with £26 million of investment. Labour will also deliver a new primary school as part of the proposed Waterside/A50 corridor regeneration.

Together with schools, colleges and employers we will build an advice service and careers advice service, available for all young people with direct links to the City Council's Apprenticeship Hub, further education providers and employers.

Labour in Leicester will introduce a new system of an annual road safety audit at each school with action to follow including yearly repainting of road lines outside schools and the installation of safety bollards.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue to invest in more extra care and intermediate care facilities in the city.

With Labour, 500 frontline city council staff will complete dementia awareness training to become Dementia Friends. This will include staff from all areas of the city council's workforce, and all city councillors will be expected to complete this training.

To ensure needs are properly met and the role played by carers in Leicester is fully understood Labour will carry out the city's first comprehensive carers census.

As each adult social care contract comes up for renewal an assessment will take place on whether the Living Wage can be secured.

We will work to create the Leicester Care Curriculum working with training providers including post-16 colleges and universities to ensure all care workers have access to training and development opportunities.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will ensure every member of frontline council staff will complete mental health awareness training and autism awareness training.

We will support every elected councillor to become a Mental Health Champion in their community.

We will introduce a new programme of free visits to our leisure centres for city residents and strengthen links between GPs, health professionals and the City Council's leisure offer.

Labour will invest in a new team of activators to work in local communities to get more people active.

Over the next four years a Labour City Mayor and Council will aim to attract a further 3000 jobs to the city and create 1000 more apprenticeships.

We will expand the Leicester Apprenticeship Hub and introduce a charter mark for local employers providing good quality apprenticeships.

A new City Council Investment Fund will be used to purchase land to unlock private sector investment.

Investment will continue to improve shopfronts in neighbourhood shopping areas across the city. Labour will extend the shopfronts grants scheme to support wider public realm improvements in local shopping areas on our estates.

We will continue to improve city centre car parking. Having created new on-street parking bays across the city centre and rationalised the pricing structure, we will take forward work to improve the quality of car parking.

Labour's Plan for Leicester's Strong Future

Within the first year of office of a re-elected Labour City Mayor and Council we will set out a comprehensive plan for actively encouraging other employers in the city to pay the Living Wage.

We will introduce a new 21 days payment guarantee for small businesses supplying goods and services to Leicester City Council, going beyond the current 30 day requirement.

We remain firmly committed to backing small businesses and will continue the Enterprising Leicester grants scheme. A new Investment Fund will also be used to provide loans to local businesses to support expansion and job creation.

Investing to improve the city's road network will remain a priority for Labour.

A Labour City Mayor and Council will continue investment programmes to improve our road surfaces; resurfacing key routes and repairing potholes.

In the coming years ensuring safe roadspace for cyclists on key corridors like London Road will be a priority to deliver a fully connected city for cyclists.

For the coming winter we will introduce a further 250 gritbins in locations nominated by City Councillors and members of the public.

City Councillors will work with local community groups and residents to agree a bespoke Love Leicester Community Action Plan for each area of the city.

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Labour in Leicester will introduce a landlord licensing scheme for all rented housing to help protect tenants and improve quality in the private rented sector.

We will also judge all rented homes in Leicester against a new local standard for quality including energy efficiency, safety and overall quality.

Labour will roll out the Healthy Homes programme to areas where we can make the biggest impact for residents.

On the city's housing estates we will continue to invest in the upkeep and improvement of greenspaces and communal garden areas.

Labour will take forward plans for the next generation of energy infrastructure improvements in Leicester.

We will work towards setting up a new energy company to offer fairer tariffs to local residents and businesses as well as exploring more local energy generation opportunities including solar and community energy projects.

Under Labour, entry to New Walk Museum, Newarke Houses, Jewry Wall, Abbey Pumping Station and Belgrave Hall & Gardens will remain free of charge.

labourinleicester.org.uk



Promoted by and on behalf the Labour Party and by G. Carr-Williamson on behalf of Peter Soulsby, on behalf of the Labour Party Candidates in Leicester, all at 29 Burley's Way, Leicester LE1 3BE.