

ON YOUR SIDE

MAKING
COLCHESTER
THE BEST PLACE
TO LIVE, WORK
AND ENJOY

Labour's Manifesto for the 2022
Colchester Borough Elections



 Labour

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COLCHESTER

THE BEST PLACE

TO LIVE, WORK AND ENJOY

Labour in Colchester has the vision and determination to achieve a Labour-led Council at the 2022 Local Elections.

Our manifesto sets out what a Labour-led Colchester Borough Council can achieve.

Labour Councillors stand out for their support for the most vulnerable during the pandemic and will continue to do so through the cost of living crisis.

Labour led in recognising the climate emergency, in building new council housing, in opposing outsourcing of services and protecting public services from Conservative funding cuts.

As we rebuild from the pandemic, Labour will put its values at the heart of Colchester's recovery and always be on your side.

Labour has worked with others to make a real difference in Colchester:

- ✓ Declared a climate emergency and developed an action plan for the council to become carbon neutral by 2030
- ✓ Helped residents, businesses and services to meet the huge challenges of the pandemic.
- ✓ Built the first council houses in Colchester for over thirty years
- ✓ Secured £19million Town Deal investment in the borough
- ✓ Introduced a 'Living Wage' for council employees and contractors
- ✓ Significantly increased recycling rates
- ✓ Improved neighbourhood zone working
- ✓ Redesigned sheltered housing schemes to create fully accessible senior apartments
- ✓ Helped prevent homelessness
- ✓ Redeveloped our magnificent Castle Museum
- ✓ Delivered events and concerts in Castle Park
- ✓ Encouraged businesses into the borough with significant investment
- ✓ Introduced locality budgets for ward councillors to fund community projects
- ✓ Delivered the Community Stadium and Northern Gateway Sports Park
- ✓ Supported Firstsite, the new Fringe Festival and the arts
- ✓ Significantly increased visitor and tourism numbers
- ✓ Protected and promoted our history and heritage sites
- ✓ Kept employment levels high and unemployment low
- ✓ Defended and enhanced services for the most vulnerable
- ✓ Welcomed refugees, including families from Syria and Afghanistan
- ✓ Supported our voluntary sector and the vital co-ordinating work of Community 360
- ✓ Provided funding for extra police resources to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour

THE COST OF LIVING

CRISIS

A Labour-led council would **help residents through the cost-of-living crisis** caused by austerity, the pandemic, disruptions to global supply chains, and – most recently – the conflict in Ukraine. We will do this by acting to implement this manifesto as well as by:

- Keeping council tax low
- Establishing an Emergency Fund to help residents with the cost-of-living crisis
- Enhancing the reach of the council's Finance and Employment Teams
- Lobbying government to restore the uplift to Universal Credit
- Improving residents' access to advice and assistance in relation to financial and other personal challenges through community hubs and other means
- Convening a Fuel Poverty Action Group and improve uptake of home insulation to reduce fuel bills
- Protecting more tenants from eviction from social and private rented properties
- Reviewing the Local Council Tax Support Scheme taper rate, to allow more residents to benefit

HOMES, HOUSING &

PLANNING

A Labour-led council will tackle Colchester's **housing, homes and planning issues** by:

- Building more council and social housing
- Promoting shared tenure projects
- Ensuring that Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are registered with the council
- Increasing the number of staff offering housing advice
- Investigating local rent controls and letting agent duties
- Enforcing housing standards to ensure high quality rented accommodation
- Working with community groups to tackle rough sleeping
- Assisting residents with disabilities to secure the home adaptations they need
- Lobbying the government for a planning system that respects local opinions
- Challenging inappropriate 'permitted development' to prevent sub-standard housing
- Supporting a Local Plan that enables sustainable growth and prevents speculative development
- Supporting the proposed garden community to ensure that it includes:
 - Infrastructure required for new communities to thrive
 - Affordable housing
 - Employment zones, green buffers and community facilities
 - Sustainable transport including walking, cycling and rapid-transit options

CLIMATE CHANGE

AND SUSTAINABILITY

A Labour-led council will take urgent action on **climate change and sustainability** by:

- Creating a new Colchester Climate Commission to achieve a Zero Carbon Colchester by 2040
- Developing a 'Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan' to encourage an integrated approach to climate adaptation, flood risk, sustainable energy, local food systems, land use, healthy soils, and vibrant river and coastal habitats.
- Convening a series of 'Future Generations' events led by young people to ensure that the council's policies are fit for the future and that we act today for a better tomorrow
- Enforcing clean air policies, especially in our worst polluted streets
- Encouraging all forms of public transport, walking and cycling
- Promoting electric and 'clean' buses within our historic town centre
- Introducing a local co-operative transport provider, serving the whole borough
- Discounting parking for electric vehicles and promoting car sharing
- Providing safe storage for bicycles throughout the borough
- Supporting resident-run allotments, community gardens and local grower groups
- Seeking to transfer responsibility for highways and transport from Essex County Council to Colchester Borough Council and parish and town councils
- Growing green walls in high pollution areas
- Increasing uptake of home insulation and other energy saving measures
- Protecting and enhancing public open space including green spaces and parks

WASTE AND RECYCLING

A Labour-led council will offer a more effective waste and recycling system by:

- Using the most efficient waste management methods
- Working with residents to reduce landfill waste and to increase recycling, repair and re-use
- Working with businesses to reduce the amount of waste they produce and supporting sanctions where necessary
- Lobbying government, producers and retailers to reduce packaging and single-use plastics
- Working with council officers to restore council-run waste services
- Taking a proactive approach to reducing fly-tipping

PROMOTING SAFETY

AND TACKLING CRIME

A Labour-led council will address promote community safety and reduce crime by:

- Lobbying the government to increase funding for Community and Neighbourhood Policing
- Working with Colchester Borough Homes, housing associations, Neighbourhood Watch and residents' groups to tackle antisocial behaviour
- Promoting the Colchester Neighbourhood Pilot initiative and the work of the zone teams to help build community cohesion, connections and pride
- Working with Essex County Council to restore street lighting and fix potholes promptly
- Working with partners to tackle modern slavery and domestic abuse
- Working with the One Colchester partnership to allow everyone to enjoy safe nights out
- Working with Essex County Council to ensure vulnerable children and adults are safeguarded
- Working with Essex Police to tackle pavement parking issues, and encouraging 20mph zones within new housing developments
- Supporting the victims of crime and reducing re-offending
- Tackling knife crime by supporting young people to make better choices
- Promoting fair life-chances across our communities

LOCAL ECONOMY

A Labour-led council will **encourage fair and sustainable business development, and promote community wealth** by

- Supporting Colchester's Business Improvement District (BID) and local traders
- Delivering Town Deal investments worth £19million across agreed projects
- Using the economic strength of the council, local 'anchor institutions' and large procurers to create local wealth through a new Community Wealth Building initiative
- Creating a new hub for Community Interest Companies to promote fair business practice
- Promoting sustainable procuring by the council, services and businesses
- Investing in superfast broadband across the borough
- Working with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to attract new investment via, for example, the national 'Digital Skills Initiative', 'Discover England' or 'Environment Land Management' schemes.
- Working with the University of Essex, LEP, BID and others to scope future labour market challenges and opportunities
- Celebrate and promote Colchester's incredible heritage, arts and culture.
- Promoting the 'living wage' across the borough
- Supporting co-operative and mutual businesses

COST OF LIVING

Labour is on your side and will support local residents with the cost of living crisis. We will establish an Emergency Support Fund for local residents most in need to access grants and advice on saving energy.

STRONG ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Labour led the declaration of a climate emergency in Colchester and will establish a Climate Commission and a commitment to a Zero Carbon Colchester

FIGHTING EQUALITY

Labour led the call to fight inequality in Colchester and will continue make Colchester a fairer place to live for everyone

CLEANER AND SAFER STREETS

Labour believes every community should feel safe and be looked after. We will tackle litter, graffiti and flytipping with a dedicated team in every area.

COUNCILLORS WHO DELIVER

Labour councillors engage with their communities and always work on their behalf.

HOUSING A PRIORITY

Labour believes that renters should have a voice not just owners and landlords. We will build the genuinely affordable homes we need.

 @ColchesterLabourParty

 @ColchesterLab

 **Labour**