

# **Labour's Plan for Cambridge**

## **One Cambridge, Fair for All**

I'm delighted to introduce Labour's Plan for Cambridge. Cambridge Labour is here to work with and for you, to listen to you, and to create a fairer city for everyone who lives, works, studies and spends time here, and for our natural environment.

We are honoured to have been granted stewardship of Cambridge and we're proud of our record: since Labour took on the leadership of Cambridge City Council, we have built over 700 new, energy-efficient council homes – more than almost any other council in the country –; planted over 4000 new trees, created new nature reserves, worked to protect and restore our precious chalk streams, and halved our carbon emissions; we've provided extensive support for our residents and communities, including over £1m each year in community grants; invested in parks, play areas, splash pads, swimming pools, sports facilities and community centres; provided a wide range of free events and activities, open to all; and so much more, all while responsibly managing the Council's finances.

This is a time of uncertainty for Cambridge, with local government being reorganised and Government proposing a development corporation for our area. As change comes to our city, we will ensure that residents' voices are at the heart of decision making. The next phase of growth for our city must bridge, not exacerbate, existing inequalities. We want new homes so that more people can afford to live here, but we must make sure that they are accompanied by high-quality community facilities, as well as key infrastructure for water, waste water and transport. We want good jobs for local people – we've set up an ambitious programme to improve social mobility and life chances for children and young people. And we must do our utmost to protect and enhance our natural environment, by cutting our carbon emissions and helping nature to thrive.

In the coming years, we will:

- 1. Build a new generation of council homes and community facilities**
- 2. Tackle inequality and help people in greatest need**
- 3. Lead Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies**
- 4. Support and empower Cambridge's communities**

Vote Labour on 7 May for councillors who will continue to work with and for you, to strive for a better future, for One Cambridge, Fair for All.

**Councillor Cameron Holloway**

*Labour Leader, Cambridge City Council*

## **1. Build a new generation of council homes and community facilities**

Labour is leading the response to Cambridge's housing crisis. We've been building a new generation of sustainable council homes and community facilities: to date, we have provided over 700 brand new, energy-efficient council homes, alongside new community centres, playgrounds and green spaces.

Vote Labour on 7 May for councillors who will:

- Build a further 1300 new, energy-efficient council homes in the next ten years.
- Maintain our existing stock of over 7600 council homes in good repair and make them easier and cheaper to heat.
- Put record funding into tackling homelessness, pilot innovative methods to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, and build new modular homes.
- Bring empty homes back into use through higher council tax charges.
- Invest in new and improved community facilities across the city, including community centres, nurseries, swimming pools and sports pitches.
- Champion renters' rights and tackle rogue landlords, with additional specialist council officers, while ensuring that all landlords and Houses in Multiple Occupation are properly registered.
- Progress a new Local Plan to ensure that new homes and communities across Greater Cambridge are built to the highest environmental standards, informed by residents' priorities through extensive consultation, and include the infrastructure needed for genuine connected communities.
- Introduce a tax on property developers to fund infrastructure for safer walking, wheeling, cycling and bus travel.

## **2. Tackle inequality and help people in greatest need**

We know that the high cost of living is having an impact on many people in Cambridge. We do our best to help with day-to-day essentials, like food, housing and finances, but also with free and discounted activities, open to all. There are times when we all need a safety net to help us through, so we will ensure that we go over and above to give that extra support where it is needed, to ensure that Cambridge is a city that is fair for all residents.

Vote Labour on 7 May for councillors who will:

- Maintain and improve over 100 play parks, paddling pools and splash pads across the city.
- Provide free or discounted sports and leisure activities for residents, children, and people with disabilities and their carers.
- Provide an extensive programme of free activities, including Active Families days, Music in the Parks, Out of the Ordinary Festival, Fireworks Night.
- Launch a new programme to provide access to skills training and job opportunities for all young people, as well as offering work experience and apprenticeships at the City Council.
- Commit well over £1m each year in grants to charities and community organisations, to tackle inequality, support health and wellbeing, help alleviate causes of homelessness, and promote diversity and belonging.
- Improve our city's food resilience, provide access to sustainable and affordable food through social supermarkets, allotments and free holiday lunches at community centres throughout the city, and work with partners to give people agency as well as nutritious food.
- Provide council tax relief worth £10m for a total of 9,000 households annually – one of the most generous such schemes in the country.

### **3. Lead Cambridge's response to the climate change and biodiversity emergencies**

In a severely nature-depleted part of the world, we know how urgent it is to support plants and animals to thrive. We will continue to protect our precious chalk streams, cut the council's carbon emissions (we've already cut them by over 50% since Labour took control of the council in 2014), working towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030, as well as working with partners across the city to tackle the climate and nature crises.

Vote Labour on 7 May for councillors who will:

- Embed biodiversity and nature all across Cambridge, to achieve Nature City Status.
- Protect our precious chalk streams through the Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams Project and other restoration initiatives.

- Use evidence from our Designated Bathing Water at Sheep's Green to force Anglian Water to clean up the River Cam.
- Reach net zero carbon emissions from the council's operations by 2030.
- Build a new solar facility to power our electric bin lorries.
- Plant more trees across the city, adding to the 4,000 we have already planted.
- Introduce a Smoke Control Zone across the whole of Cambridge to improve air quality.
- Continue our herbicide-free policy, while accelerating on-street weed removal to keep streets and pavements accessible.
- Cut carbon emissions in city centre buildings by 93% through a district heat network run on renewable energy.

## **4. Support and empower Cambridge's communities**

Labour councillors are honoured to represent such a diverse, vibrant and exciting city. As our city grows, Labour will continue to ensure that residents' voices are heard in local decision making, with genuine democratic accountability, while also helping communities to feel safe, equitable, and empowered.

Vote Labour on 7 May for councillors who will:

- Work with neighbourhood policing teams to tackle issues such as knife crime, drug dealing, anti social behaviour, and illegal e-scooters, ensuring that public spaces are safe and welcoming for all.
- Support survivors of domestic abuse, working alongside partner charities and community groups, and continue to proudly champion the White Ribbon campaign to end male violence against women and girls.
- Champion bus franchising, and fight to protect the £1 Tiger Pass for under-25s.
- Press the County Council to resurface roads and pavements rather than just making short-term patches to potholes, and improve street lighting for safer walking, wheeling, cycling and driving.
- Consult residents on their priorities for maintenance and facilities in the city centre, and campaign for a tourist tax to fund these improvements.

- Champion arts and culture as an important way to bring people together.
- Re-affirm our support for asylum seekers and refugees and continue our status as a City of Sanctuary.
- Represent residents' views to Government as part of any future development proposals for Cambridge.
- Ensure residents are involved in designing new councils as part of local government reorganisation, and continue to provide high-quality services throughout the transition period.