Portsmouth Labour Party
Local Election Manifesto
May 2018

"A Fairer City That Works For Everyone."
“Portsmouth Labour Party’s 2018 Local Election Manifesto sets out ambitious proposals for this great city of ours by putting the people of Portsmouth at the heart of our vision.

.....A vote for Labour in May will be a vote for a fairer city that works for everyone.”

Cllr. Stephen Morgan MP
Portsmouth Labour Group Leader & Portsmouth South MP
“A Fairer City That Works For Everyone.”

In government, and in the City Council, Tories and Lib Dems have used the policies of austerity to decimate public services and community amenities.

**Labour’s vision for Portsmouth is ambitious and challenging.**

We are ambitious to tackle the poverty and deprivation that affects over a third of our children. We will challenge the impact of austerity which means that families have to use foodbanks, homelessness is ever rising, and life expectancy is lower than surrounding places by 10 years.

We are ambitious to increase the wealth and opportunities for all, through investing in the people, businesses, environment and infrastructure needed to develop our city. We want to lead the way as a low carbon city.

We are ambitious to genuinely listen to people, to build a new relationship between the city council and the communities it serves across all of Portsmouth.

Labour will put social value at the heart of how the local authority contributes to the city’s economy. This means applying high standards for carbon reduction, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, equality of opportunity and investment in the Portsmouth economy creating sustainable local employment. Our commitment is to fair pay, decent working conditions and support for local businesses.

This is what other Labour councils are doing around the country. We will learn from them and bring innovation and creativity into the Portsmouth economy.
1. To reduce homelessness and housing need, we will:-

- Prioritise housing developments which include decent, adaptable, affordable homes for those in need. (See affordable housing plan)

- Ensure building projects from the local authority and housing associations employ local construction workers (skilled and apprentice).

- Increase supply and accessibility of decent temporary accommodation to respond to needs identified by homeless people themselves and with access to mental health and substance abuse services.

- Undertake an audit and impact assessment of student accommodation in the city to inform planning decisions.

A housing company launched by Croydon Council is set to build up to 1000 new homes over the next three years. ‘Brick by Brick’, wholly owned by the council, will construct houses on 50 sites across the borough in a bid to stem the homelessness crisis.
2. To reduce the city’s carbon footprint, we will:-

- Increase recycling, low carbon and low one-use plastics;
- Work to improve insulation of homes and businesses;
- Invest in energy efficiency measures in council owned properties;
- Reduce fuel poverty and tackle over-payments to energy providers;
- Protect and maintain natural habitats and green spaces in the city;
- Improve air quality by reducing pollution from vehicles, ships and businesses;
- Sign up to the UK100 agreement and commit to systematically increasing the use of renewable energy in the city.

With the support of Lambeth Council, Brixton Energy Solar 1 on the Loughborough Estate, is the first inner city, co-operatively owned renewable energy project on a social housing estate.
3. To shape Portsmouth as an exciting, attractive place to live, work and visit, we will:

- Defend the coast against flooding whilst improving access to beach and sea front attractions;
- Regenerate smaller areas in decline, such as Fratton, North End, Albert Rd and Cosham. Modernise Commercial Road and the Northern quarter;
- Maintain parks and open spaces;
- Work to put people and communities at the heart of local planning;
- Celebrate the diversity of communities and promote equality for women, people with disabilities, LGBT people and BAME communities.

*Bradford City Council’s City Centre Growth Scheme has helped support 90 businesses to open in the city centre and restore over 70 vacant high street units to commercial use.*
4. To develop a successful and diverse economy, supporting small and medium enterprises and increasing full-time, skilled employment opportunities, we will:-

- Address problems faced by SMEs such as high rents and business rates;
- Actively work to expand skilled apprenticeship opportunities in SMEs;
- Make Portsmouth City Council an accredited Living Wage Foundation employer, end zero hour contracts, bogus self-employment and the exploitation of agency workers through council procurement processes;
- Develop social spaces and business hubs across the city for work and skills development opportunities;
- Actively promote the development of co-operative and social enterprises.

‘Enterprising Barnsley’ is the economic development arm of Barnsley City Council. Since formed, they have helped create 340 new businesses, attract 40 companies to relocate and expand, have created over 4,000 jobs and provided support to 1,600 companies.
5. To improve people’s access to the arts, culture and historic character of Portsmouth, we will:-

- Improve access and affordability of heritage sites for local schools and residents;
- Support development of arts and heritage sites across the city, not just on the seafront, e.g. Royal Armouries, Charles Dickens Museum, Gatcombe Park and Hilsea Lido;
- Engage the people of Portsmouth in developing the ‘waterfront’ city identity and invest in becoming a City of Culture;
- Support creative projects and participatory arts initiatives in local community centres, schools, care homes, libraries and other community settings.

*Hull was the UK City of Culture 2017, a key milestone in their 10 Year City Plan to regenerate the city. Combined investment of millions from the council, government and private sector will transform the city’s streets, open spaces and cultural venues and create thousands of jobs for local people.*
6. To improve accessibility and reduce congestion by improving the public transport infrastructure, we will:

• Implement ‘A City to Share’ – cycling plan developed by the Portsmouth Cycle Forum;

• Introduce annual bus passes and 24/7 access to travel for people with disabilities;

• Make public transport more affordable for local residents;

• Work towards an integrated city transport infrastructure, with improved access to health hubs and amenities around the whole city;

• Extend the reach of park and ride by providing buses to more city venues;

• Commission an independent review of parking issues across the city.

*Nottingham City Council is the majority shareholder of Nottingham City Transport, which has won national and international awards. A Robin Hood Card scheme allows convenient travel across any mode of public transport across the Greater Nottingham area.*
7. To reduce inequalities in health, wellbeing and life expectancy across the city, addressing social deprivation, social isolation and access to health and support services, we will:

- Reduce the need for expensive crisis care by investing in effective early intervention and prevention, which builds family confidence and resilience and reduces lifelong disadvantage;
- Improve access to health care hubs and local amenities, particularly sports and leisure facilities, through better transport and cheaper fares;
- Introduce the Ethical Care Charter principles for outsourced social care services.
- Prioritise the promotion of good physical and mental health through education and through community resources, for children and their parents/carers.
- Seek to remove barriers to access and full participation in employment, social and community activities for people with disabilities.
- Address the availability of support services for health and social care across the whole city, particularly in north Portsmouth.
- Work with the NHS to engage local communities in the design and delivery of preventive, local health and social care support services.

*Brent Council has developed an ambitious building programme called New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL). Purpose built extra care units mean cost savings compared with residential or nursing homes and better care. Over £4.7million of savings have been achieved.*
8. To provide life-long learning and education opportunities from 2 to 102, we will:

- Increase access to nursery and playgroup provision across the city;

- Develop a strategy to support and develop the teaching profession to attract and retain high quality staff in Portsmouth schools;

- Work collaboratively with all schools to ensure a common focus on high standards of education and accountability to Portsmouth communities;

- Develop an integrated approach to adult education opportunities with further education providers, adult learning and community centres.

In 2010, Islington Council was the first to provide free lunches to all nursery and primary school children, regardless of parental income. Since then, many other councils have followed their lead.
9. To achieve safety and security for all those living, working and visiting Portsmouth, we will:-

- Work with the police to reduce crime and disorder;
- Refocus social care to work with families in local communities to prevent children coming into care;
- Fund child burial fees for bereaved parents;
- Prioritise support for people experiencing domestic and sexual violence;
- Address the rise in race hate and homophobic crime and seek to combat prejudice and discrimination in all forms.

*Wakefield Council has been awarded white ribbon status in recognition of the work it does to support those affected by domestic abuse. Localised support is available 7 days a week at 7 hub locations around the city, leading to much earlier access to support.*
10. To improve the commissioning of public services by the local authority, including the implementation of the Social Value Act, we will:

- Apply Social Value requirements to all public contracts including fair wages, full employment rights, apprenticeships and training, carbon footprint reduction, employment of people with disabilities, equality of opportunity, health and safety and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

- Refocus strategic planning on improving outcomes for citizens and service users;

- Involve citizens and service users in strategic planning of public services;

- Use evidence of what works to improve outcomes and value for money;

- Review outsourcing and reduce the number and value of contracts given to ‘for profit’ companies;

- Provide opportunities for local government and NHS directly employed services to compete for contracts alongside local ‘not for profit’ service providers;

*Preston Council has worked with other ‘anchor’ institutions to make use of procurement powers to invest in the local economy. It looked at how to redirect the £1.2billion total annual spending power of these anchors to local businesses, in particular encouraging the development of co-operatives.*
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