

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LABOUR

2019
DISTRICT COUNCIL
ELECTION MANIFESTO

INVESTING
IN OUR
FUTURE



FOREWORD

North West Leicestershire District Council provides services such as planning, housing, environmental health, economic development and leisure. These services are essential to supporting our local communities, but what makes Councils important is that they give communities a voice.

The Tories, who have been running the Council for the last twelve years, seem to have forgotten this. They have presided over years of under-investment in customer services, unchecked housing development regardless of the pressure on roads and drainage and deliberately running down our Leisure Centres, then planning to spend millions on a new one and promptly handing the keys over to a private contractor.

The Tories have broken faith with the electorate and it's time for a change. This Labour Manifesto "Investing in our Future," will put the interests of local residents back at the heart of the decisions the Council takes. We will properly engage residents in planning decisions which affect them, tailor new housing to local needs, create fulfilling job opportunities, and deliver a broad range of leisure activities for all.

This is a manifesto for young people, for skills, for housing and the environment. It is a manifesto for change and rebuilding trust. It is a manifesto for a Council that cares.



Sean Sheahan
Leader of the Labour Group

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

North West Leicestershire Labour District Council Election Manifesto 2019

A Housing service to be proud of

A Labour Council will –

bring about a steady increase in the number of new social houses built for rent, aiming to ensure that growth in the Council's housing stock keeps ahead of sales under the right to buy,

work towards a local 'Decent Homes Plus' standard, which ensures Council houses are maintained and improved above the minimum standard set by the Government,

rigorously monitor routine housing repairs to ensure consistently high standards,

help keep tenants' heating bills down and reduce the impact on the environment by making sure Council houses are energy efficient,

switch empty Council properties to a not-for-profit energy supplier, so that new tenants can benefit from fair and affordable energy from the day they move in,

offer support for community land trusts as an innovative way to enable local communities to provide new homes at a genuinely affordable rent,

explore ways to help people take their first step towards home ownership, such as developing a local authority mortgage scheme for first-time buyers, sourcing deposit guarantee and affordable home insurance schemes,

make tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping a key priority,

support domestic abuse victims by making them a top priority for social housing and by fully implementing the Make a Stand pledge,

encourage private sector landlords to deliver safe, well-managed, energy efficient housing at a good standard and take a robust approach to landlords who flaunt their responsibilities,

encourage and support tenants' and residents' associations across the district,

increase resources to meet more tenants' requests to convert wide grass verges or other unused land to off-street parking and, where appropriate, consider a scheme for installing drop kerbs and driveways for Council properties.

A new deal for the local economy

Provide an environment where businesses in the creative economy can flourish by identifying low-cost workspaces and offering start-up grants.

Encourage public bodies with large procurement budgets to buy local.

Form a partnership with local businesses and colleges to boost skill levels in the local economy.

Promote the District as a place for manufacturing businesses to set up and grow and encourage all businesses to take on apprentices.

In the more rural areas of the District, encourage businesses and services which are appropriate to the local environment and promote the National Forest as a focus for leisure and tourism.



Promote public transport, and campaign for a passenger rail service between Leicester and Burton – the National Forest (Ivanhoe) Line.

Campaign for, and where possible support, more local bus services in the evenings.

Modern, safe and thriving town centres

Pursue a policy of co-operation with the police and licensees to keep our town centres safe from anti-social behaviour, especially in the evenings.

Press ahead with modernisation plans for Coalville market and take positive action to encourage new retail businesses to set up shop in the town.

Work towards establishing more entertainment in Coalville particularly for young people, such as a cinema or ten pin bowling.

Support the establishment of a local museum within the old Snibston Mine buildings.

Provide more start-up units for new small businesses and continue to support them through a reduced Business Rate for the first two years.

Bring Ashby car parking charges into line with those in Coalville.

Ensure continued investment in Ashby as a centre for tourism.

Continue to support provision of a town centre manager and Ashby Tourist Information Centre

It's our future, let's plan it together



Labour will overhaul the planning system to make it fit for purpose: better protection for the countryside and green spaces, firmer control over numbers and types of housing and recognition that proper infrastructure is essential. Through the Local Plan process, we will strive to ensure local needs for affordable housing, social homes for rent and bungalows are met now and for the foreseeable future.

In addition, we will –

treat local people as stakeholders in the planning process, keeping them informed, engaging with their arguments and responding to their concerns,

encourage and facilitate parish councils to develop and update Neighbourhood Plans,

make best use of planning powers to ensure that major new industrial developments come with sustainable and timely transport links to local communities,

develop a Parking Planning Policy which meets the needs of existing residents, protects current parking amenity and ensures new developments provide sufficient parking spaces for new residents,

protect the sense of place of rural villages and conservation areas by controlling the rate of development, scale and location of new housing and employment sites.

Looking after the environment

We oppose HS2, but until it is stopped, we will work with affected local communities, businesses and other organisations to obtain mitigation or compensation for the inevitable disruption if the scheme goes ahead.

We will renew the Council's Air Quality Action Plan, incorporating clear actions to improve air quality in the District, particularly in relation to transport emissions.

Pursue measures to reduce the carbon footprint of the District.

Increase the number of electric car charging points.

Provide every household with one free bulky waste collection per year.

Increase recycling rates to the level of the best local authorities.

Seek protected status for all the District's buildings and structures with heritage value. Support new uses for such buildings where this will help with their conservation.

Leisure for all

Make sure local people have a strong voice in determining which leisure activities are provided by the Council.

Ensure continued improvement within Hood Park Leisure Centre.



Examine the potential to extend the opening hours of Hood Park Lido.

Promote grassroots sport and seek ways to increase participation in sporting activities.

Open up leisure and health-promoting opportunities for all generations, young and old.

Fund and promote outdoor gyms.

Aim to implement the Coalville and Ashby cycling strategies at the earliest opportunity.

Celebrate community life by supporting public art and local festivals.

A Council that cares



We will –

strive for the highest standards of customer services by investing in staff and technology,

develop a comprehensive policy to tackle social isolation and loneliness,

grant additional money for the Citizens Advice Bureau to fund a benefits caseworker to help claimants and their families get the money they are entitled to,

help local communities retain access to convenient banking services,

support close working between District Housing, County Social Care and Community Health services to maximise the use of Coalville Community Hospital, support care closer to home and reduce unnecessary hospital admissions especially for those at the end of their natural lives,

ensure Council jobs pay at least the real living wage and wherever possible commission services from organisations that do the same,

never knowingly award Council contracts to companies that have been found to have illegally blacklisted workers.