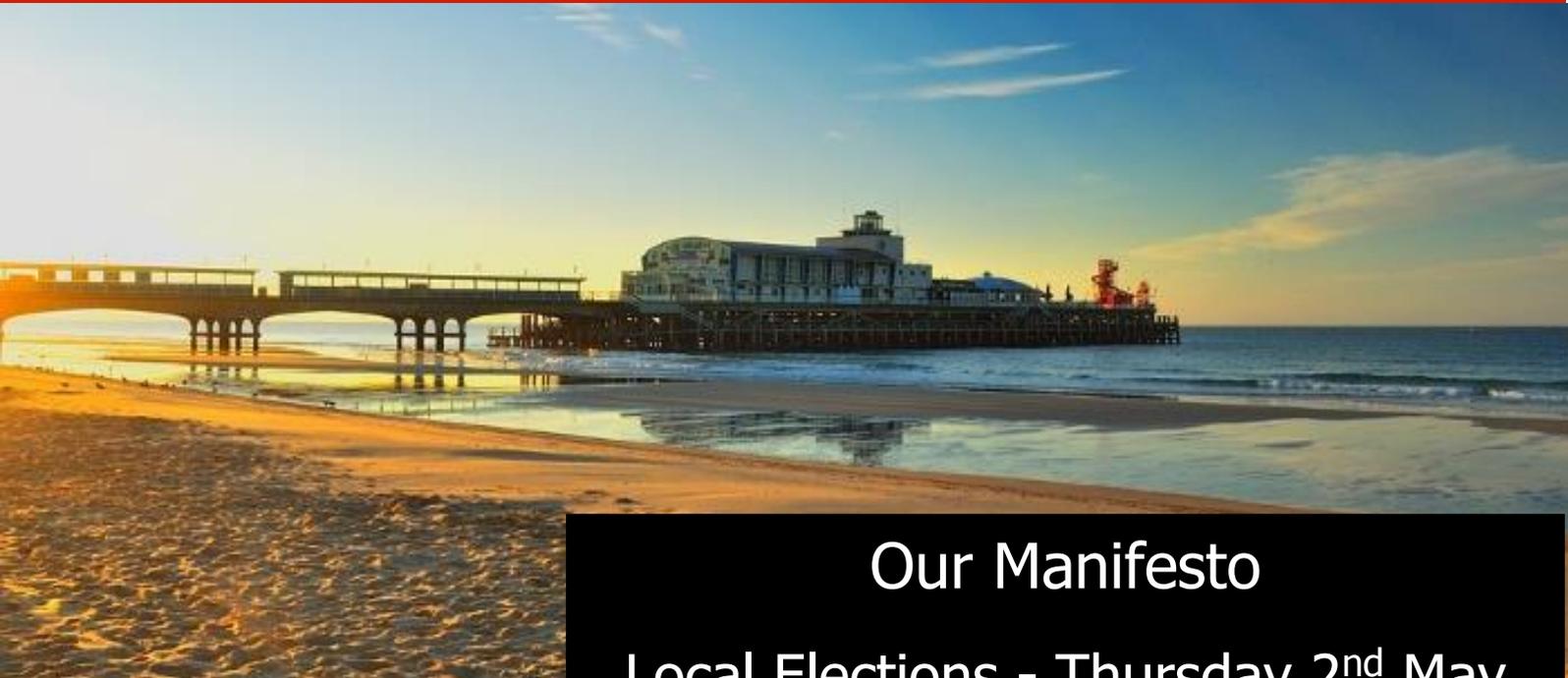


# New Council, New Councillors FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW



Our Manifesto  
Local Elections - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May



 **Labour**  
**BOURNEMOUTH**

## Introduction

Bournemouth Labour sees the new unitary council as an opportunity to work together with our neighbours, and make the positive changes needed to ensure this is an area where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Almost a decade of Conservative government austerity cutting funds to services, coupled with poor economic management leading to low growth and investment, has visibly taken its toll. Our local Conservative run council has failed to rise to the challenge of finding creative and effective ways to defend our town and its people from this threat. They have become complacent and neglected to listen to the needs of the people they are elected to serve. Locally, they have had no real opposition to create debate around decision making. We can change this.

Bournemouth Labour offers council candidates with a wealth and diversity of local knowledge and experience- who truly care about our town. If you believe Bournemouth deserves a fresh start, give Labour your vote at the local elections on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will listen to you and work for you.

Your Labour councillors in Bournemouth will commit to working towards the following - all of which have come from suggestions made by local people.

## Our Local Economy

Bournemouth Labour is committed to supporting local businesses and attracting investment that ensures well-paid, sustainable jobs for people across the conurbation.

- ✓ Empty shops damage our high streets. We will seek ways to support local independents, start-up businesses and projects by graduates from our universities, in providing vibrant and diverse options for shoppers and visitors.
- ✓ We will work with those developing new or greener business ideas and technologies, and look for ways to incentivise businesses in the renewable energy sector to relocate and start up in our conurbation. This will provide work and training opportunities, which are sustainable both environmentally and economically.
- ✓ Labour will support Bournemouth joining schemes such as Southampton Labour Party's Citizen Energy initiative, providing 100% renewable energy at affordable prices. Any surplus being put towards insulating homes to bring down energy bills.
- ✓ We will campaign for the living wage to be the minimum paid for council employees and those employed to carry out council contracts.
- ✓ We will encourage positive engagement between businesses and trade unions locally to support workers' rights. This is especially needed where we have a high level of insecure, zero-hour contract work.
- ✓ Labour Councillors will do everything possible to ensure that council services are brought back in-house, saving money and improving on delivery and quality.

## Local Transport

Congestion of our roads slows movement and results in dangerous air pollution. This issue needs to be tackled with a number of complementary approaches.

- ✓ Our local buses are privately owned, but we will pressure companies to ensure they are run for the benefit of the public and not for shareholders, with routes covering all areas.
- ✓ Your Labour councillors will request a complete review of parking charges and restrictions. The system should be affordable for local workers and shoppers, encouraging people to our high streets to benefit businesses of all sizes. We will also investigate viable park and ride options.
- ✓ We will consult with service providers and residents to improve transport planning, looking at measures which will relieve congestion and offer viable transport options to cover every area of the conurbation.
- ✓ Labour believes in sustainable travel and so we will support and seek out any opportunity to use zero or low emission transport in our area. We will also support incentives which encourage safe cycling.
- ✓ We will lobby Government and train companies to increase the reliability of train services and seek to ensure that all stations and trains are accessible to everyone.
- ✓ We fully support Labour Party policy for free bus travel for under 25s and so will work to implement this locally.

## Housing

There is a clear and urgent need for provision of truly affordable properties for sale and rent. Labour believes that a house is a home first and foremost, not a commodity.

- ✓ Bournemouth Labour will argue for more social and council housing to be built and purchased. We will review council regulations on planning loopholes which encourage the building of luxury properties over affordable ones.
- ✓ Bournemouth loses many homes to the short-term or holiday let market. We will look at ways to regulate this practice to release properties back to the families who need them.
- ✓ We support the Labour policy of taxation on second homes, and will look at ways of discouraging the purchase of new homes for this purpose locally.
- ✓ We will call for a review of brownfield sites and options of redesignation to increase housing developments options, before any new development on flood plains, or greenbelt takes place.
- ✓ Nobody should be homeless or sleeping rough. We will work towards a true housing first model where everyone is given long-term housing and provided with proper, joined-up support to address the causes of homelessness and to support them back into work and the community.
- ✓ We will seek to introduce a Tenant's Charter to raise awareness of tenants' rights and to press for a full licensing system for landlords.

## Our Local Environment

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the country. We must protect our natural environment and shared spaces so it is an even more attractive place in which to live and to visit.

- ✓ We will work to ensure that our parks, gardens and green spaces are adequately maintained to protect wildlife and bio-diversity.

- ✓ The local council should set the highest possible standards for using renewable energy, recycling and reducing waste across all departments. We will work to raise the standard to this level and encourage transparency by reporting progress regularly.
- ✓ Maintenance of public spaces has been neglected. Pot holes, fly tipping, damaged and unkept structures and inactive street lighting affect us all. We will consult the local people on areas which you believe require upkeep or investment, which we will then lobby the council to act on.
- ✓ We will push for clean-air zones and publish the findings quarterly, alongside encouraging tree planting to absorb carbon dioxide.
- ✓ We will continue to oppose all additional oil and gas exploration and extraction from our bay and the land beneath us.
- ✓ We will increase the number of dog waste bins, and properly maintain them, to help keep our shared spaces clean and hygienic, as well as animal-friendly.

## Children and Young People

Bournemouth Labour is appalled by the rise in levels of child poverty and lack of support services. We believe that time and money spent on children and young people is an investment which benefits us all.

- ✓ Working with local communities, we will look to renew youth club provision and dedicated youth workers. Quality careers and sexual health advice should be accessible to all, as well as opportunities for creative, extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Labour will do everything possible to ensure that there is proper funding to support those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in our local schools and colleges.
- ✓ Local foodbanks are doing a wonderful job, but should not be needed. We will work with them and other charities, to better understand how we can alleviate the pressure on them by providing the services a local Council should deliver.
- ✓ We will lobby the Council for funding to increase Sure Start services, to give valuable support to local children and families in their early years.
- ✓ We will speak to local schools and colleges to assess barriers to Higher Education and Apprenticeships, then champion solutions to allow young people to gain the qualifications they want and need to make their way in life.
- ✓ We will encourage better paid apprenticeship schemes, leading to decent jobs for all, not just for those at university.

## Health and Social Care

Bournemouth historically became popular as a place for people to heal and convalesce. Today, we want to ensure the best possible care is provided to all over 65s, those with illness or disability, with life controlling addictions and with mental health conditions.

- ✓ We will request a review of our local social care system and ensure that funding for social care and mental health support is appropriate and ring-fenced to protect it from any future cuts.
- ✓ We will ensure elderly and disabled residents are properly supported and comfortable in their own home for as long as possible, ending inadequate 15 minute visits. We will scrutinise service providers and request the council signs the National Pensioner Convention's dignity code.

- ✓ We will push our council and Government to properly fund our NHS and local GP services. Constant cuts will not provide better services, and neither will privatisation.
- ✓ We will consult with local GP practices to better understand how to reduce waiting times, and encourage the use of technology where possible.
- ✓ We will oppose any decrease in service provision locally and across the conurbation.
- ✓ We will work proactively with Dorset's Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure the health and care needs of local residents are fully met throughout primary, secondary and mental health care services.

## Community and Public Safety

We want Bournemouth to remain a place where people of all communities can feel safe, valued and at home. Community is vital to people's well-being and to the success of our town.

- ✓ We will campaign for more Police Community Support Officers and Community Safety Officers, to engage with members of our local communities and promptly identify issues to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ Knife crime and other offences among young people have risen significantly in our area in the last five years. We will support the police and local organisations in delivering education and early intervention projects, which have been shown to work.
- ✓ We believe that our diversity is a cause for celebration. Bournemouth Labour will support and facilitate events which bring together different local communities and encourage unity.
- ✓ We will support community centres, projects and voluntary groups who organise social, sports, creative and educational activities.
- ✓ We will work to maintain funding and accessibility of local libraries. These should be properly resourced and staffed for the education and enjoyment of all ages and experiences.

Labour Councillors in Bournemouth will be true public servants. Once elected, we pledge to hold drop-in surgeries at least once a month - for local residents to meet us, bring concerns, or ask for information. We will be the strong voice on the local council which all residents deserve.

Bournemouth Labour councillors will commit to honesty, integrity, and openness.

When you ask us a question, we will answer.

Politicians have gained a negative reputation, due to poor standards, self-interest and a lack of transparency.

### **We understand this.**

We are not politicians, we are your friends, colleagues and neighbours.

We will stand up for you and for the town we love.

## Labour: For The Many, Not The Few.

Promoted by Patrick Connolly on behalf of Bournemouth Labour Party, all at 11 Frankston Road, Bournemouth, BH6 5EG.