



MANIFESTO 2024

PEOPLE AT THE HEART
OF EVERYTHING WE DO



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PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO

Manchester is an incredible city. Vibrant diverse, resilient, friendly, optimistic and a great place to call home. We are a city made great by its people, and that's why driven by our values and ambition for the city Manchester Labour will always stand by our promise to put people at the heart of everything we do.

From the hard times of the pandemic to the Cost of Living Crisis– Manchester Labour has been on your side, standing up for Manchester and building a better, fairer, greener and cleaner Manchester together. Working alongside our Mayor Andy Burnham and our Labour MPs we have continued to fight for what our city deserves.

Last year we set out our ambitious local election manifesto on how we will continue to drive our city forward. A year later we can show how we are delivering on every one of our pledges. Now we are setting an equally ambitious programme that we will deliver over the next 12 months.

We're getting on with building the most social and council housing we've built in decades on track with meeting our pledge for 10,000 new council, social and genuinely affordable low carbon homes. We've helped record numbers of people through the cost of living crisis and helped many into good jobs. We've invested in voluntary and community organisations and community centres, children and youth services, opened new and improved libraries and leisure centres, invested in more parks and green spaces and in getting our streets cleaner. Your priorities into action.

We know that without a Labour Government we can't do everything we want. Over the last 14 years we have had £443million a year taken from our budget, first by the Conservatives and Liberal

Democrats, then successive Conservative Governments. We will never allow an uncaring, incompetent and out of touch Conservative Government undermine everything we have achieved in this city.

There is so much good about our city, but we want to make it even better, more jobs, more homes, more opportunities. We can deliver so much more if we have a government that backs us instead of holding us back. This year is a critical year for our country, we have the chance to kick out a Conservative Government that has seen our country go backwards and overseen years of decline. It doesn't have to be this way, a Labour Government can transform our country and enable us to do even better things in Manchester.

At the heart of this manifesto is our unwavering ambition for a thriving and sustainable city, where everyone benefits from our success, and a city that is the best place in the country to grow up, get on and grow old. We will always listen, always be on your side, and always put you at the heart of what we do to build a better Manchester together.

CLlr Bev Craig

Leader of Manchester Labour
& Manchester City Council



DELIVERING A BETTER, FAIRER MANCHESTER TOGETHER



Across the United Kingdom the Conservatives have run local places into the ground starving places of funding and public services are on their knees. We urgently need a General Election, and a Labour Government to deliver a decade of renewal, of opportunity and most importantly of hope.

Putting people at the heart of everything we do is the next phase of our Local Election Manifesto building on our 2022 and 2023 Manifestos - Working Together for a better, fairer Manchester. When we say we will deliver something, we mean it. This manifesto holds our previous commitments to account whilst making sure we look to the future despite one of the most difficult economic and political environments we have seen in decades.

Manchester is a great place to live, to work and to thrive. One of the fastest growing cities in Europe, we are an energetic, diverse and creative place.

However we want an even better Manchester, a prosperous and equal place, where every child has the best start in life, that creates new and exciting opportunities for Manchester people. A place where everyone can live happy and healthy lives, with good jobs, in clean and green and safe neighbourhoods, where everyone has a decent and genuinely affordable home. A city where no one is left behind, and everyone is proud of.

This is the Manchester residents tell us they want and a reality we are working together to build.

Over a decade of austerity has been forced on us by Tory & Liberal Democrat politicians, politicians Manchester rejected overwhelmingly at the ballot box. The money, power and opportunities stolen from our city, first by the Coalition and now by the current cold, uncaring Tory Government mean we cannot do everything we would want to do.

Our budget for this year is £443 million lower in real terms than it was in 2010. £120,000 a day has been taken from Manchester, every day, for the last 12 years. These cuts are politically motivated and deliberately targeted at the areas of greatest need, at Labour cities like Manchester. Even with only the average cut, Manchester would be £1.5 million a week better off. Now the Tories want to increase the burden on household budgets by forcing up the regressive Council Tax and National Insurance to cover up their economic failures.

Manchester Labour has always stood up for Manchester and delivered on your top priorities, working hard despite cuts to always put Manchester first.



Since publishing *A better, fairer Manchester together in the last 12 months* Manchester Labour have delivered:

- Manchester voted in the Top 30 of global cities to live and Lonely Planet and Timeout's Top cities to visit
- Spending over £50 million to help residents with the Cost of Living Crisis
- Continue to grow and invest in our 143 Parks and Green Spaces
- Expanded our network of 22 libraries and 23 sport and leisure centres across the city, and opened state of the art refurbishment of Abraham Moss Leisure Centre, the Velodrome and Aquatics Centre
- Delivering our Housing strategy to build over 10,000 new council, social and genuinely affordable low carbon homes, already building 800, getting on site with 1,500 and approving planning for another 1,700 genuinely affordable homes
- Building more Council homes through This City – right across the city
- Investing more in our youth services and becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City
- Growing the number of people getting better paid jobs through Manchester Living Wage City
- Invested in arts and culture, from Factory International in the City Centre to planning new cultural programmes across North Manchester and Wythenshawe

**OUR PLEDGES TO DELIVER
A BETTER, FAIRER MANCHESTER TOGETHER:**

PLEDGE 1: BY YOUR SIDE THROUGH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

PLEDGE 2: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

PLEDGE 3: BUILD THE HOMES WE NEED

**PLEDGE 4: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL:
THE BEST PLACE TO GROW UP AND GET ON**

PLEDGE 5: A GREEN, SUSTAINABLE MANCHESTER

PLEDGE 1: BY YOUR SIDE THROUGH THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS



Mancunians are facing unprecedented hardship as a result of a cost-of-living crisis caused by successive Tory Governments. We know how desperate life is becoming for so many of our residents and we will be by your side in this fight to secure support for those who need it most.

The last year has been difficult for work class families, with increasing bills and wages not keeping up with rising costs. Across the country the numbers of children grow up in poverty is increasing to their worst ever levels. Political choices from the Conservatives has made this situation much worse.

Manchester Labour is acutely aware of impact that this crisis is having on ordinary Mancunians and we promise to provide a vital helping hand to those who need it the most while continuing to invest in the services our communities rely on.

Since 2010, despite their promises to 'Level-Up', the Tories have cut the Council's budget by over £443m – almost half a billion pounds a year out of the pockets of Manchester people. This year more than half of the Council's budget will go on helping those most in need – caring for and supporting adults, children and people facing homelessness.

- Last year we spent £26million of council funds to support our residents and set aside an extra £4 million towards fighting homelessness and reducing the use of temporary accommodation. This year we commit to spending £35 million to support residents.
- We will continue to set aside extra money for voluntary and community groups providing community hubs and good neighbors groups and support to help anyone struggling with outstanding Council Tax debts. We will further expand our Council Tax support scheme which already given tens of thousands of the lowest paid Manchester people a substantial reduction in their bills.
- We will continue our commitment for £150,000 to support foodbanks and £200,000 to support advice services. We have continued to fund free school meals during holidays and worked to make sure there are free activities for children and young people. We have increased funding for children in care, care leavers and foster carers.
- The work that charities and local voluntary and community groups do, is vital in our local neighbourhoods. That's why on top of the £2.2 Million per year we give away in city wide grants, Local Neighborhood Grants in every ward, and our anti-poverty work, we've invested an additional £1 million each year to support local community centres and groups and continue extra funding for youth groups.

Manchester Labour knows the challenge that this city faces over the coming weeks and years and will not blink when it comes to fighting for those who need our support most no matter how difficult the situation gets.

In being by your side and supporting the most vulnerable Manchester Labour will:

- Continue to lobby the Government for the extra support families and businesses need
- Deliver a package of over £35million support for residents in low income households or at risk of poverty
- Continue the Free Cost of Living Support line, expand support for Foodbanks and extend Advice Services in the City
- Provide extra financial support to those facing hardship through our Council Tax support and hardship grants
- Increase funding to support children in Care, Care Leavers and Foster Carers
- Continue to support Children through Extended Free School Meals and the expanded Holiday Activity Fund
- Deliver our Anti-Poverty Plan to help people increase their incomes getting into work and education

PLEDGE 2: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE



We want Manchester to be the best place to live in the country and investing in our local neighbourhoods is just as important as the city centre for wellbeing and community pride. Residents want their streets to be cleaner, their roads to be safer and for parks and green spaces to be looked after, alongside investing in local services and activities to make sure there are lots of fun things to do.

That's why we focus on the priorities that residents tell us matter to them:

A plan for every local area

We are incredibly ambitious for all areas of our city and want to see investment and a brilliant quality of life everywhere from North Manchester to Wythenshawe. We

have a plan for the whole of Manchester, with no bit of the city left behind.

This year we have got to work on making sure Wythenshawe Town Centre lives up to its potential, we continue our radical plans for regeneration in North Manchester, plans for Withington, Moston and Gorton centres- we want every bit of the city to have a local plan. In the coming months we will be getting to work on even more, working with communities to help rejuvenate our high streets, plan for local public services, see better transport, and build new homes. All of this matters to make sure that we build and maintain local neighborhoods, with strong communities and places to be proud of.

Make Manchester Cleaner

Nobody wants to live on streets full of litter or with alleyways used for dumping rubbish. We will continue to invest in staff and machinery to keep our streets clean. We will work with residents to support litter-picks and community clean-ups and continue to support the Keep Manchester Tidy campaign.

- Each year Manchester City Council carries out about 30 million waste collections in the city. Getting basic services right are important to cleaning up our city.
- We will invest an extra £1.5m into keeping our streets clean, tackling illegal fly tipping and proactive cleaning of streets, parks and alleyways, and to increase recycling rates.
- We will invest more money to tackle fly-tipping which has paid for installing physical deterrents at fly-tipping hotspots across the city and fund CCTV cameras, some examples include protecting land used for fly-tipping joy riding and illegal encampments and cleaning alleyways up right across the city.
- We pledge to continue to work with Keep Manchester Tidy to work alongside our communities to tackle litter and promote everyone planning their part in a cleaner city.

Make Manchester Safer

We have seen massive cuts to policing across the country and the Conservatives cut 2,000 Officers from Greater Manchester Police since 2010. However everyone in Manchester should feel safe on our streets. We know that feeling safe is important, we will work with Greater Manchester Police to tackle anti-social behaviour in our communities and hold GMP to account on crime.

- Working with our Labour Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, the police service has improved over the last 2 years, gaining more trust, responding to crime better and increasing the number of police officers in our communities. Over the coming months every part of the city will have ringfenced PCs and a named PCSO which will be published online.
- Last year we committed extra resources to tackling violence against women and girls and hear residents' voices through our Women's Commission which led to the successful Night Time Safety Charter with hundreds of businesses now signed up. We will continue to work alongside GMP to tackle domestic violence, women's safety and hate crime. We will continue to fund safety schemes such as Street Angels and Village Angels and a safe haven in the city centre, and licensing with work alongside GMP and student campaigns to tackle spiking on nights out.
- Working with communities across the city we will continue to make Manchester a city that doesn't tolerate hate crime and work to build community cohesion and mutual respect within local communities to ensure that everyone can thrive

Invest in local libraries, leisure centres and community facilities

Local Councils across the country have been forced to cut and close libraries and leisure centres. In Manchester we've protected 23 Libraries and 25 Leisure and sports centres. Manchester Labour has chosen to prioritise keeping them open and invest in new facilities because they matter to communities, keep us fit and well and helps our city learn and grow.

Our 23 Manchester libraries continue to be the beating heart of our communities, improving residents' quality of life. They have played a crucial role helping residents



with the cost of living crisis. All our libraries have become a designated 'warm space' offering a free, welcoming service where people can stay as long as they want in comfortable surroundings, with access to wi-fi and a range of other resources.

80% of our libraries and been refurbished or significant improved in recent years. Last year we opened a new Library in Gorton and a new children's library in Hulme. This year will see improvements to Longsight Library, creating additional meeting rooms and also a new children's library and longer opening hours and plans to refurbish of Chorlton Library, the oldest library in the city. We will continue to invest in our local libraries both in terms of buildings, new books and technology and expanding opening hours.

Sport and Leisure: Keeping healthy and active is important, and that's why we prioritise **investing in our 25 leisure and**

sports centres. This year we opened the fantastic facility at Abraham Moss in North Manchester, the refurbished aquatics centre and velodrome, and the expansion of outdoor sports facilities across the city. We will continue investing in good quality, affordable leisure in the heart of local communities and we will continue to protect our popular free swimming for under 16s in the school holidays and free swimming for the over 60s.

Manchester's sporting success has also been our ability to draw in more funding. We will always make best use of the boost of Euro 2028 coming to Manchester, as well as other major sporting events. We will push to expand sport and leisure in schools, and for governing bodies to invest more in sports in our city for both recreation and competition. We will continue to expand the success of the Wythenshawe Cycle hub, bike lending schemes and sports taster sessions to get more people active.



Making sure Culture is at the heart of everything we do

Our culture defines what makes this city great, no-where else in the world will you find so much culture among communities.

The city is home to world-class cultural organisations and puts on an incredible programme of live music, festivals and events throughout the year. We will ensure that the city's cultural organisations and events continue to work closely with residents groups, schools and vulnerable people in our communities as well as attracting visitors to the city and providing jobs for mancutnians.

Our cultural scene is one of the big reasons that time and time again Manchester is named a top place to live and visit. As a Council we invest in major and grassroots cultural venues and activities. Last year we opened the hugely successfully Factory International at Aviva Studios, the largest

public investment in the arts in the UK since 2001. This complements the newly refurbished Manchester Museum, with the successful South Asia Gallery, the Whitworth, the Jewish Museum, Science and Industry Museum Manchester. We are also investing in culture in our communities as part of regeneration schemes in Wythenshawe Town Centre and across North Manchester.

Music is important to our city both venues big and small. 2024 will welcome Co-op Live, the largest indoor arena in Europe and Manchester Labour has secured good quality jobs for local people and millions of investment into local communities as a benefit. But we also know that local venues are struggling, and Manchester Labour has commissioned an independent Grassroots Venues Review to ensure that the Council even better supports venues. We will launch and publish this in full, and work with Manchester Music City to implement recommendations.

In pledging to making our neighbourhoods a great place to live Manchester Labour will:

- Spend an extra £1.5m on cleaning and managing the city, and £1m on small but urgent improvements – such as fixing broken swings and replacing litter bins.
- Make Manchester Safer: A named PC and PCSO for every ward, tackle violence against women and girls, tackle hate crime and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Investing millions more in improving road safety and safety outside schools, improving our footpaths and fixing potholes quickly
- Expand our network of 22 libraries across the city, such as the newly opened library in Gorton or the Children’s Library in Hulme and re-furbishing great libraries like Chorlton and Longsight
- Invest in our 25 leisure and sports centres across the city and improve outdoor recreation and sporting facilities
- Build a fairer better Manchester through Making Manchester Fairer
- Invest in arts, culture and music across the city, to continue to make Manchester a fun and interesting place to live
- A plan for every area to improve district centres and high streets starting with Moston, Newton Heath, Cheetham Hill, Withington, Gorton, Chorlton and Wythenshawe Town Centre, investing in the things that matter most.
- Invest in making our roads safer, tackling speeding and reducing accidents. Getting the basics right is important and we have a plan to improve the quality of footpaths, fix potholes and make roads close to schools safer.
- Encourage walking, running, cycling and outdoor sport. We have invested in improved facilities at Hough End, The Wythenshawe Cycle Hub, the Gym at Wythenshawe Forum, investing in playing pitches and facilities in our 145 parks and green spaceswork and education

PLEDGE 3: BUILD THE HOMES WE NEED



After over a decade of the Conservative government not building the homes we need, coupled with the wages falling and the cost of living increasing we are seeing the worst cost of living crisis since the 1950s is coinciding with a national housing crisis.

Manchester Labour believes that everyone in our city should have the right to a secure, decent quality, affordable home. **We are therefore committed to building low cost, secure, high-quality and low carbon housing across the city.**

Building Council and Social Housing:

In 2022 Manchester launched our new Housing Strategy to build 10,000 new council, social and genuinely affordable homes in the next decade.

Already over 1,000 new, low carbon affordable homes have been built, with 1,500 new affordable homes currently being built on site, – we have also seen some of the first new, zero carbon, social rent, council homes in the UK built. Another 1,700 affordable homes will start on site this year. We will build more accommodation for young care-leavers, supported accommodation for young people experiencing homelessness and adapted homes for people with disabilities. We have built 12 extra care schemes, with over 750



homes provided across the city in these schemes for social rent – we will continue to build more of these schemes all over Manchester.

We are getting on with building our own new Council housing through This City which is building 129 new council homes in Ancoats alongside the public park at Ancoats Green. Our aim is to build 500 new homes a year through This City by 2027 with other sites progressing across the city to help with our wider affordable housing delivery.

The Government has eroded ‘affordable housing’ and has too many confusing definitions of what makes a house affordable, that’s why we have launched the **Manchester Living Rent** Campaign. We want nobody to have to spend more than 30% of their income on their rent, and the Manchester Living Rent is capped at Local Housing Allowance rates.

Across the city the Council, This City and 18 Housing Providers now use the Manchester Living Rent and we have seen some private developers start to use this model for affordable rent in new developments

too. We campaigned hard for the government to lift their freeze on Local Housing Allowance levels, and we have seen a temporary lift. We will continue to campaign for this to be permanent to help fix the housing crisis.

Good quality, Low Carbon Homes

Manchester Labour brought 12,500 homes across North Manchester back into Council control in 2021 and the Council will continue to tackle the backlog of repairs in our council housing and ensure that empty homes are brought back into use.

We have invested £83m in energy efficiency measures across 1,000s of council homes in North Manchester, and will continue to retrofit more homes to bring down gas and electricity bills for residents and help contribute to our net zero targets. We are on site building 130 new low carbon council homes for social rent in Collyhurst, and have recently seen the completion of 69 new low and zero carbon council homes for social rent in Newton Heath on former brownfield land.



The Private Rented Sector

Too many people in the city, experience poor standards in the private sector. We have introduced landlord licensing schemes to tackle rogue landlords and improve standards for 1,000s of our residents renting privately.

We will champion the 'good landlord' charter and get more landlords to sign up to the Manchester Living Rent.

To tackle rogue landlords we are expanding our Landlord Licensing work with 8 selective licensing schemes in place and 9 more planned for 2024.

We have campaigned for more regulations of private lets and Airbnb's, and will continue to lobby for more enforcement powers, alongside increasing council tax rates for short term lets in the city.

We have worked with our local Labour MPs to stand up for residents impacted by fire safety and cladding issues. We continue to lobby for a fair solution and for the government to ensure the developers deliver

on a commitment to making their buildings safe and to pay for remediation cost.

An end to homelessness

We want an end to homelessness, and only a Labour Government can achieve this, but in the mean time we are investing millions in homeless services and initiatives to prevent people becoming homeless in the first place.

Across the country the Conservative Government has made homelessness a national scandal. The last Labour Government all but ended preventable homelessness and rough sleeping. Over the last 14 years the Conservative government has created a national homelessness scandal. Tackling homelessness remains a key priority.

Manchester City Council has worked hard to support over 3000 families experiencing homelessness in our city, providing crisis support and investing in preventing homelessness in the first place.

We opened new accommodation which has supported over 150 people formerly

sleeping rough as a result. We are currently repurposing/refurbishing council buildings into supported accommodation to provide greater availability and options for people experiencing homelessness.

Through our 'A Place called Home' Programme we will continue to invest in homelessness services with initiatives such as community prevention hubs in Moss Side, Harpurhey and Gorton aimed at preventing homelessness, tackling rough sleeping and reducing the numbers of people in B&Bs and temporary accommodation. We will continue our groundbreaking work with local schools to support families at risk of homelessness and invest in our 'Safer At Home' scheme. This will enable those experiencing domestic abuse the opportunity to stay in their own homes rather than become homeless where safe and appropriate.

Against a national trend, the annual rough sleeper headcount in Manchester reduced in November 2023 and we have

all but eradicated the use of Bed and Breakfasts for families and single people except in emergency situations. We will continue to deliver the 'A Bed Every Night' scheme which is jointly funded by Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Council and the GM Mayors Charity Fund and ensure that there is an 'off the street' offer of accommodation for those who need it.

We will work with our partners through the homelessness charter, including homeless people themselves, to ensure services meet their needs and those of the wider community and deliver the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-27 which aspires to make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeatable. This successful and valued partnership with homelessness charities and voluntary groups across the city, pooling our knowledge, resources and skills is the only way to tackle the complex challenge of homelessness

In building homes the homes we need Manchester Labour will:

- Campaign for the Government to truly deliver the plan for homes this country needs
- Accelerate our plans to build 10,000 genuinely affordable homes over the next decade, building low cost, low carbon social housing across the city
- Invest over £50 million to invest in and build new council and social housing right across the city- continue to build the 1,500 homes on site and move the 1,700 with planning permission to get on site as quick as we can
- Implement the Manchester Living Rent across the city and campaign for the Government to adopt it
- Ramp up building Council Housing with new council homes already built in Newton Heath and on site in Collyhurst, with more to come as part of Victoria North.
- Two sites have been launched with This City in the Northern Quarter and Ancoats, and we plan to build up to 500 homes per year through this City with at least 20% rented at or below the Manchester Living Rent to those on the housing register
- Be a good landlord to the 15,600 council homes we own and manage and roll out our retrofit programme
- Tackle rogue landlords in the private rented sector through rolling out landlord licensing and promotion of the GM Good Landlord Charter
- Roll out plans to retrofit homes and build net zero homes of the future, such as the UK's first net zero social housing in Beswick
- Invest in preventing and reducing homelessness, reduce rough sleeping and work with charity and community groups across the homelessness sector.

PLEDGE 4: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: THE BEST PLACE TO GROW UP AND GET ON



Manchester will succeed when all our residents succeed. Inequality has no place in our city. We want to the city that gives our children and young people the best start in life and celebrate their success.

The best place to Grow Up: Investing in our Children, Schools and Young people

Manchester is the youngest city in the UK. We want all our children to have the best start in life, that's why we have become a UNICEF Child Friendly City. A city that puts the voices, hopes and needs of our young people at our very core, with good quality services and investing in the things that matter.

We said we'd support our schools to be better than ever and we have done just that. In Manchester 90% of our schools are rated GOOD or better by OFSTED – we are above national for both primary and secondary.

We've kept our promise to invest in our Early Years. We have led the way on our Family Hubs- and are one of 15 areas in the country to act as a trailblazer- building on our Sure Start Children's Centres and acting as a "one-stop" shop for families to access help and support.

Our children deserve the best possible start in life so we will continue to invest heavily in early years. As a response to the pandemic, which has seen children starting school behind in their levels of development, we developed an Early Years 'Kickstart' programme to help those children most in need, to reduce the longer-term impact and we have been funding extra support in schools to get children school ready and help them catchup on what they missed.

We also know that education isn't just about what you learn on the curriculum but about life skills and experiences who shape who you are and who you become. Through our new Education Strategy

we will focus on exactly that- the extra experiences we give our young people outside of the classroom to develop their social and cultural capital and widen their horizons. We also know that businesses want to help with these routes into jobs, we will set up a brokerage service to connect and match schools and businesses, and also as part of the Child Friendly City Work run a programme for businesses to adopt a school and help donate to experiences outside the classroom.

Routes into employment in the future are important and often businesses in the city want to help. Through the Devolution deal in Greater Manchester we are working closely as part of plans to make sure there are better non university routes to doing well, so that every young person can aspire to a great career, no matter their post 16 route. Working with colleagues, universities and businesses we will continue to expand and grow the number of good apprenticeships in the city.

We will build on last years investment of an extra £500,000 into youth work with the result that there is more provision across the city than at any point in the last 10 years- covering every part of the city. We will continue to lobby the Government for better funded youth programmes nationally.

Education and Skills

We want to make sure our young people have the skills and knowledge that allow them to thrive in our growing economy. We have successfully improved the quality of Manchester's schools, and working with Greater Manchester will get more control over post 16 and post 19 education to ensure Manchester's children are best placed to access the best out city has to offer.

We want an inclusive economy ensuring that residents from all parts of the city can benefit from high-quality jobs with fair pay and conditions, and opportunities

for progression. We've set out a new Work and Skills Plan that also looks at how we can create new high quality green skills, meaning Manchester benefits from the green revolution.

We will increase the number of apprenticeships on offer in the city, building on the success of schemes such as the Town Hall refurbishment and the Factory.

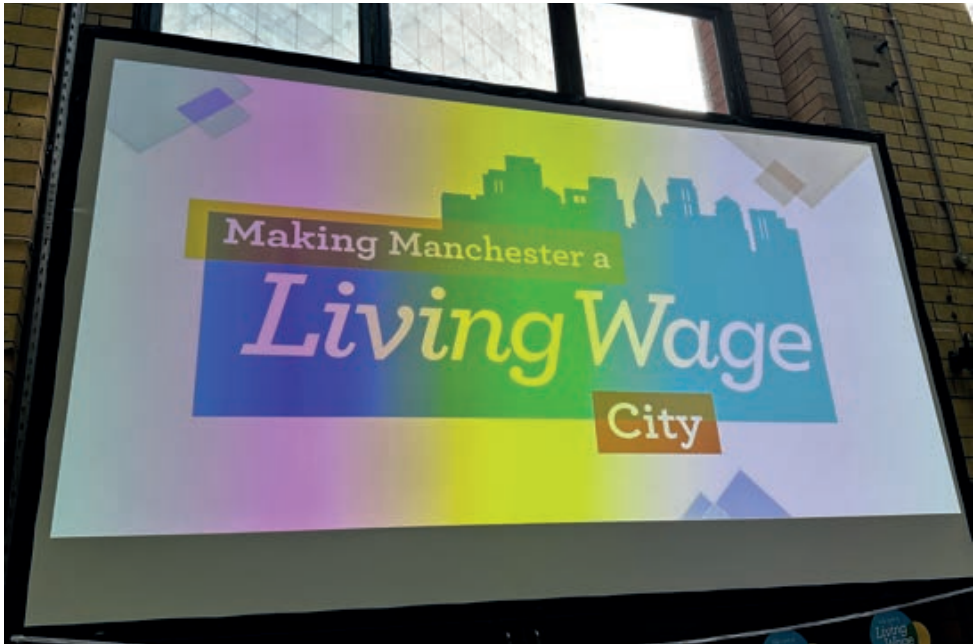
The Leader of the Council Bev Craig, alongside Mayor Andy Burnham recently launched Our Business, an initiative funded by Greater Manchester to grow of new small businesses, start ups, social enterprises and cooperatives across the city as part of our work to create a more inclusive economy.

Growing our economy

Over the last decade Manchester has continued on our journey to be a "world-class" city by 2025. Compared to 2010 we now have a significantly higher population, a larger workforce and more businesses operating in the city. Our economy has become more diverse, with digital, creative, technology and health innovation businesses now thriving alongside more traditional sectors, such as financial and professional services. This economic growth, building on the strengths of our existing communities, has helped to attract a younger, more diverse and higher-skilled population alongside helping Manchester residents stay in the city with good quality jobs.

This is important, because in the 1990's and early 2000s too many people had to leave to find opportunity, so Manchester Labour over the last two decades has led the transformation of the economy, creating over 200,000 new good jobs for current and future generations.

But we know, especially after years of austerity and the pandemic, that not everyone gets to benefit from the city's success, and poverty is too rife in parts



of the city. Our number one mission is to ensure every Manchester resident feels the benefits of our city's success.

Better jobs and better pay and conditions

We want to attract more high paying, skilled jobs to the city and will continue to build the city's expertise in digital, creative and tech, life sciences, manufacturing and financial and professional services, but we want everyone to access good pay and conditions. We want to attract 100,000 more jobs over the next decade, and we want Manchester people benefit

Manchester became a Real Living Wage City to lead the campaign that no one in our city should get paid less than the Real Living Wage which is £12 hour. We were recognized as doing this by the Real Living Wage Foundation and are leading the way with almost 300 employers in the city paying Real Living Wage, and we want to double that in the next 3 years. The Council and all of our contracts, even social care staff now receive the Real Living Wage –

demonstrating our appreciation for the extraordinary work they do.

The Council is now a member of the Good Employment Charter and Social Value is built into all council contracts meaning that the council spends hundreds of millions with Manchester based companies and on average creates an additional 2,000 jobs and 600 apprenticeships each year. Manchester Labour has been a leader on social value for over 15 years and has set the highest social value weightings used in procurement than any other Council in the country. Social value can be used to: Tackle health and social inequalities; create jobs and skills opportunities; and develop a local and resilient supply chain.

Manchester Labour's social value policies ensures that contractors: pay their staff fairly; promote equality, diversity and inclusion; give back to Manchester people; create opportunities for key resident groups; and boost local neighbourhood economies. We will continue to use social value to create education, employment

and skills opportunities as well as improve health and well being of residents and improve the local environment

We work closely with Trade Unions, and as a condition of the Good Employment Charter we want all employers in the city to recognize and work with trade unions.

The best place to grow old

Manchester is proudly an age friendly city- and we will continue to lead the way as a beacon for a city that celebrates and empowers the continuation of our older residents. We will support the Manchester Age Friendly Board to deliver their new strategy, and continue to invest in a range of measure to help people thrive, from changes in our neighbourhoods, digital inclusion, upskilling and retraining, housing for older people through to safe and accessible transport.

Tackle inequalities head on

Manchester isn't afraid to tackle complex, long term problems that national Government would put in the too hard box. That's why we've committed to tackling the inequalities of health and wealth, alongside issues around tackling discrimination head on. Through the flagship Manchester Manchester Fairer initiative, we are serious about making our city a fairer and more equal place and putting community power at its very heart. We will continue to fund and expand Making Manchester Fairer and despite government cuts to public health budgets, we will continue to expand our public health approach to tackling some of the worst health outcomes this country has seen.

To increase opportunities for all we will:

- Ensure that every Manchester resident feels the benefits of our growing city.
- Become a truly Child Friendly City
- Invest in giving children the best start in life through investing in early years support
- Work with Manchester Schools to continue to increase their attainment levels, their ratings, and a top class education inside and outside the class room
- Work with businesses to create more successful pathways for young Mancunians to get good careers
- Work with the NHS and schools to expand and increase mental wellbeing and mental health support in schools
- Continue to attract the best jobs to our city with a plan to create 100,000 new jobs in the next decade
- Expand the Real Living Wage City Plan get more employers to pay at least the Real Living Wage
- Get more employers in the city to sign up to become Good Employers through the Good Employment Charter
- Focus on giving high quality skills education to Manchester residents through schools, colleges, apprenticeships, universities and skills training in later life
- Continue to lead the way on using social value to get benefits for Manchester residents
- Remain committed to being an Age Friendly City; making Manchester a great place to age and thrive
- Invest in Making Manchester Fairer to tackle inequalities

PLEDGE 5: A GREENER, BETTER CONNECTED MANCHESTER



Across the world we see the impact of climate change, from the floods in Pakistan and Bangladesh, to famine in Somali, to locally impacts like more regular flooding on the Mersey. Too many Mancunians pay too much to heat their homes, and we know that if the UK had better energy efficient homes, our residents would have more money in their pockets.

Invest in our Parks and Green spaces

Our parks and green spaces are the lungs of our city and the importance of our parks to the physical and mental well-being of our communities was especially noticeable during the pandemic lockdown.

Manchester has 145 Parks and Green Spaces, we are investing in the ones we have and creating more. The opening of the £23m Mayfield Park in 2022, the first public park in the city centre for 100 years demonstrates Labour's ambition to deliver

world class parks and green spaces for Manchester's residents and visitors.

We will create new parks and green spaces where we can, such as Ancoats Green which is currently underway, the new River City Park as part of Victoria North, new pocket parks and underused spaces such the Lower Irk Valley and Medlock Valley.

We have invested almost £5million in our existing parks across the city working with 'friends' groups to deliver quality green spaces in every part of the city.

We have brought forward an action plan to improve the quality of Manchester's rivers and our biodiversity strategy, seeing already 10 places named as protected as local nature reserves. These include: Broadhurst Clough, Chorlton Water Park, Blackley Forest, Clayton Vale, Chorlton Ees & Ivy Green, Highfield Country Park, Boggart Hole Clough, Wythenshawe Park, Stenner Woods & Millgate Fields, and Kenworthy Woods.



A zero carbon city by 2038

Manchester Labour has been calling on Government to bring the UK's target of 2050 forward to match our target of 2038, and this year has refreshed the City's Action Plan to try to get us there.

We are committed to becoming a net zero city by 2038 and is one of the few places to set a science based budget to achieve this. Manchester City Council is on track to be zero carbon before our 2038 deadline, but we must do more across the UK and Manchester if the city as a whole is to achieve this ambitious plan.

As part of our Climate Change Action Plan we will continue to invest in a range of initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, such as; increasing our use of renewable energy, building on the success of the Civic Quarter Heat Network; installing solar car ports – such as at the National Cycling Centre; decarbonising and reducing emissions

from all council buildings and continue to meet our targets on planting over 1,000 new trees every year

Continue to develop Public Transport, Walking and Cycling across the city

Public Transport under the Bee Network is undergoing a revolution, with more and more bus services brought under public control. Phased in 3 waves, we are 2/3 of the way there, with the final stage across South Manchester yet to come. This allows us to build a reliable, resourced and more regular public transport system that connects seamlessly together. Manchester Labour has been committed to bringing the buses back under public control for decades and working with our Mayor, we will continue to accelerate this work.

We will continue to invest in public transport and to encourage more cycling and walking as a way to tackle pollution and dirty air in our city.

Manchester deserves an integrated, affordable, well-run public transport service. Through Greater Manchester we are delivering more control over our bus network and have been able to reduce cheaper fares such as the £2 journey cap, Our Pass is delivering for our 16 to 18 year olds and reduced travel for 18-21 year olds to come. We will push to ensure that season tickets are affordable, and the Bee Network will work with Credit Unions to provide interest free loans for those on low incomes. Say if you're travelling in from North Manchester to Shudehill and you need to get to Castlefield- we also know that travelling between bus and tram is not cheap. So alongside an integrated ticket we will push for a much sooner 'hopper fare' – a fare capped that allows anyone in the city centre area to move from bus to tram. Manchester Council set out it's ambitious 10 year Active Travel Plan, with the aim of Making walking the natural choice for short journeys. We set out a range of other measures such as reducing the default speed limit in the city to 20mph, and, where possible, reduce

40mph speed limits to 30mph by 2028; enabling at least 70% of primary school and 40% of secondary school pupils to walk or cycle to school by 2028 and removing all access barriers to walking and cycling paths by 2024. We are on track and working with communities are getting on with implementing community backed initiatives like School Streets.

Rail

The rail system in the UK is broken, and Manchester Labour and the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham have been calling for more control over the rail system in GM to see the train network made more reliable. We witnessed last year through the shambolic cancelling of HS2, that yet again the Conservatives don't care about the north.

We will continue to campaign for better rail connections, the implementation of Northern Powerhouse Rail in full, and a in the future a High Speed Train network that gets it right first time at Piccadilly Station





To ensure a green, better connected city we will:

- Continue to invest in Manchester's Parks and Green Spaces, and protect local nature reserves
- Create new parks and green spaces across the city.
- Deliver the Bee Network through Manchester, to deliver a better, cheaper and more reliable bus network which integrates buses, trams and trains
- Work with the Mayor to reinstate some of the bus routes we have lost over the years
- Call for an expansion of Our Pass for discounts for 18–21 year olds, and support for those on low incomes, and to call for a hopper fare to get around the city centre
- To keep the free bus in the city centre
- Implement Manchester's Active Travel Plan to make it easier and safer to get about when walking or cycling, and make our roads outside of schools safer
- Demand that the Government bring forward a UK Zero Carbon Plan for 2038 to invest in energy, homes, transport and the environment
- Deliver Manchester's Zero Carbon by 2038 Plan, investing £319 million to help get us there, investing in green energy, retrofitting buildings and reducing emissions
- Through focusing on retrofitting homes, Manchester Labour will always make sure that the burden doesn't fall on working people

UNDERPINNED BY GOOD QUALITY, RELIABLE SERVICES IN A WELL RUN CITY

To be able to achieve all of these things, Manchester Labour will make sure that Manchester City Council gets the basics right. The Council carries out 30 million waste collections a year from around 244,000 households, maintains more than 2,000 miles of roads and pavements and directly manages around 16,000 council homes, to supporting children's and adults services, how we deliver our services matters.

We will always put our residents first despite our Budgets being cut by Government as funding fails to keep up with rising costs and demand for services – especially care services. Services that keep people well, give them support and help and protect the most vulnerable account for a large proportion of the city councils budget.

For example the Council helped almost 5,200 children who needed help, support and protection, including 1,300 Looked After Children in the direct care of the Council, more than 800 of them in foster care. For the first time on Manchester's history our Childrens Services are rated as OFSTED Good, and we plan to keep them that way and become 'Excellent'. We will also continue to take a long term view and focus on early help and prevention to support children and their families.

The Council, like many others across the county spend a lot of their resources on adults social care. The council supports 5,300 adults – both older people needing longer-term care and younger adults with learning difficulties. Our re-ablement service helped more than 1,400 people to live well at home, with most needing less ongoing care afterwards. We will continue to expand Extra Care Supported housing, and housing especially catering for people with disabilities, and invest in our in house social care services.

We will:

- Deliver well run, high quality services
- Deliver a balanced budget that puts people first
- Be a good employer, true to Labour values respecting trade unions and being an exemplary employer
- Build on our approach of in-sourcing first
- Work with communities, public sector partners, businesses and charities to deliver our shared aims

CONTINUING TO MOVE MANCHESTER FORWARD TOGETHER

The pledges and priorities we've outline in this next phase of our work for Manchester demonstrates that we have a vision and a passion for this city that grows and changes – always keeping the person at the heart of everything we do.

We will strive to keep the following pledges to deliver together a better, fairer Manchester:-

PLEDGE 1: BY YOUR SIDE THROUGH THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

PLEDGE 2: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

PLEDGE 3: BUILD THE HOMES WE NEED

PLEDGE 4: OPPORUNTIIIES FOR ALL:

THE BEST PLACE TO GROW UP AND GET ON

PLEDGE 5: ENSURE A GREEN BETTER CONNECTED MANCHESTER

For that we need a radical Labour Government in Westminster and every Labour councillor elected in Manchester on May 2nd 2024 will take us closer to that reality.

To that end, we ask once again for your support in the 2024 local elections and continue on this journey to deliver for Manchester.

LOCAL CANDIDATES



Julie Jarman
Ancoats & Beswick



Abdi Muse
Ardwick



Tracey Rawlins
Baguley



Dave Marsh
Brooklands



**Mandie Shilton
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Chorlton Park



Donna Ludford
Clayton &
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Nasrin Ali
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Marcus Johns
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Joanne Green
Harpurhey



Julie Connolly
Higher Blackley



Lee Glover
Hulme



Zahid Hussain
Levenshulme



Sam Lynch
Northenden



Gavin White
Old Moat



Jon Connor Lyons
Piccadilly



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Julie Reid
Gorton & Abbey Hey



Luthfur Rahman
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Withington



Susan Wildman
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MANCHESTER
 Labour

A FAIRER GREENER FUTURE

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