



LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO 2015



TRAFFORD LABOUR: FIGHTING FOR A FAIRER TRAFFORD

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FOREWORD

By Andrew Western, Leader of Trafford Labour Group



It's time for a change in Trafford. After more than a decade of Tory control, we have a ruling Conservative Group that is out of touch and out of ideas. Trafford deserves better.

I am proud of Trafford and proud of everything Trafford has to offer its residents; but that doesn't mean things can't improve. We need truly integrated health and social care, improved transport links, more affordable housing and outstanding schools that work for all our children. Our services should be protected, not sold off to the highest bidder. And we need a more open, accountable and transparent council that listens to your views and is straight with you about the decisions we have to make.

We all know that these are difficult times for local government. The Tory-led coalition has ruthlessly targeted councils for the most brutal cuts with little regard for the impact on critical services such as children's centres, libraries and youth clubs. I can't promise to reverse those cuts, but a Labour Council will be honest about what we can deliver and work with you to take Trafford forward. Yes, we will balance the books, but we will do so in a fairer way. This manifesto sets out some of our key policies for the next twelve months, and I hope we can count on your support.

Andrew

Cllr Andrew Western

Leader of Trafford Labour Group



BALANCING THE BOOKS

"I know that the Labour Group will face difficult decisions if we take control of the Council in May. Not once have we seen local Tories challenge their Government on council cuts or call for an improved funding settlement for Trafford. Thanks to the misguided policies of the Tory-led Coalition Government, our budget has already been slashed by £70m since 2010. The next three years will see a further £50m disappear and the pressure on services will be huge. There will be tough choices to make but we will set a balanced budget each and every year that we run the Council."



CLlr Tom Ross, Shadow Executive Member for Finance

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Set a balanced budget in every year that we control the Council, in spite of unprecedented financial challenges
- Consult with residents in every part of the borough so they can have their say on the 2016/17 Budget
- Lobby government **of any colour** for a fairer funding settlement for Trafford
- Ensure Council Tax remains the lowest in Greater Manchester
- Restore sound financial management following the 'black hole' revelations of the past 12 months
- Work with other local authorities across Greater Manchester and beyond to pursue opportunities for collaborative working and find innovative ways to make savings
- Support the 'Devo Manc' agenda, ensuring that more decisions affecting Greater Manchester residents can be taken at a local level

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

“Trafford Labour Group is committed to making a difference to the lives of young people in our communities. I want Trafford to be an outstanding place to learn and a place where all children and young people can feel safe from harm and emotionally healthy; as well as being able to access outstanding educational and personal development opportunities. We support all our schools and congratulate and respect our staff, children, parents and governors for their work and achievements in Trafford. Our aim is to ensure every school in the borough is successful. I believe that a local authority should be judged not only on its academic achievements but also on the achievements of the most vulnerable and the ability to reduce inequalities in the borough. 15% of children in Trafford live in poverty and yet Trafford Conservatives have closed all our youth centres and all but two of our sure start centres. In addition, we have seen cuts to the budget for the youth offending service and cuts in LEA staff supporting schools; whilst the Coalition Government has allowed untrained staff in schools and allowed class sizes to increase.”



Cllr Jane Baugh, Shadow Executive Member for Children's Services

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Safeguard all our children, working closely with partners
- Continue to improve services for children in care and secure a better future for our most vulnerable children
- Ensure children with SEND and their parents receive the very best support, advice and help they need from birth in to adulthood.
- Provide first class support services to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of all our children
- Ensure our under 5's get the early support and education they need focusing on early intervention and prevention
- Focus - using targeted effort - on reducing inequalities between children and young people's services across the borough
- Maintain class sizes for 5-7 year olds at 30 or under
- Invest in staff through high quality training and continual professional development
- Introduce a clear local accountability system where schools work together to share good practice and local partners provide support

- Ensure that public money for the education of children and young people is not used to make profits for private companies or individuals who run our schools
- Plan ahead to ensure school places for all Trafford children
- Create more apprenticeships and deliver the very best career advice for young people
- Establish 20 MPH zones around our schools
- Support and develop a Youth Trust our aim being to re-establish our youth centres and youth workers in our communities

HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

“I believe that you judge a society by the way that it treats its most vulnerable people. In Trafford we face huge challenges, with an ageing population and an unprecedented funding crisis. At the same time our NHS is suffering, with the impact on Trafford residents clear. Accident and Emergency at Trafford General has been downgraded, whilst the added strain this has placed on Wythenshawe Hospital has led to waiting time targets being missed. As a Council we have a responsibility to provide the best possible care to vulnerable residents, easing the pressure on our hospitals and offering dignity to those who need our help the most.”



Cllr Joanne Bennett, Shadow Executive Member for Adult Social Services & Community Wellbeing

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Support health devolution across Greater Manchester, working with key stakeholders to ensure the best deal for Trafford’s residents
- Focus on fully integrating health and social care
- Fight for the future of Trafford General Hospital to prevent any further diminishing of services
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures are in place for vulnerable adults as well as children
- Place mental health on par with physical health in all council strategies and initiatives
- Deliver an Ethical Care Charter for Social Care ensuring quality, safety and dignity of care
- Promote safe cycling as a means of increasing health and wellbeing
- Maintain our parks and green spaces, which contribute to adult and child health & wellbeing
- Tackle health inequalities which see residents in one part of Trafford live for on average 10 years longer than residents in another part of the borough

A FAIR AND PROSPEROUS TRAFFORD

“I want to see a Trafford where everybody does well, in work that pays, and with opportunity for all. We have seen under this Tory-led government a cost of living crisis exemplified by the rise of zero hours contracts and increased foodbank usage. Our local town centres and shop parades, along with key employment hubs such as Trafford Park, are a vital part of any genuine economic recovery. I want to see our towns thrive and our residents all doing well for themselves, not just a privileged few. I want all local businesses to succeed, not to see some struggling to pay unfairly high business rates. A Labour Council would work tirelessly to attract investment into Trafford, delivering the good jobs and sustainable growth that we need to drive the borough forward.”



Cllr Mike Cordingley, Shadow Executive Member for Economic Growth & Planning

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Actively pursue growth and look to proactively enable key development sites such as Carrington
- Develop a masterplan for all our town centres, giving equal prominence to all our major centres
- Support shop parades as vital and distinct community hubs for their area
- Establish a Living Wage Charter to encourage local business to sign up to pay the National Living Wage (currently £7.85 per hour)
- Create an Ethical Procurement Strategy for the procurement of council contracts; supporting Living Wage employers, local businesses and those offering secure jobs with fair terms and conditions
- Promote skills training across the borough & ask all council contractors to offer high quality apprenticeships through the procurement process
- Take steps to tackle the rise of payday lenders on our high streets
- Support credit unions and promote the benefits of membership to residents
- Work with communities and community groups to establish key priorities for individual town and village centres
- Lobby for the revaluation of business rates to secure a fairer deal for Trafford businesses



TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

“Our local environment has deteriorated significantly in the past few years, as Tory cuts bite. The loss of the Council’s Environmental Enforcement team means that litter and flytipping go unchecked. Now the Conservatives have decided to privatise whole swathes of council services including highway maintenance, street lighting, parks maintenance and street cleaning. The Tories are taking a huge risk with your services. Our environment is so important and we all want to see a cleaner, greener borough, with good transport links and an attractive street scene. I don’t believe privatisation is the way to secure this and Labour would be taking a different path if we were in control of the Council.”



CLlr Steve Adshead, Shadow Executive Member for Environment & Operations

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Work in partnership with Friends of Parks groups and other community organisations to ensure top quality parks and green spaces across Trafford
- Monitor the performance of contractors to ensure clean streets and safe road surfaces; and take action against those firms responsible if standards decline
- Promote cycling and sustainable transport initiatives across Trafford, encouraging healthier lifestyles and lowering carbon emissions
- Oppose fracking in Trafford, in line with the Council’s existing position
- Establish an Air Quality Working Group, made up of residents and councillors, to tackle air quality issues in the borough
- Continue to oppose the proposed Barton Renewable Energy Plant
- Introduce additional 20mph zones in residential areas where there is majority support; as well as around all of the borough’s schools
- Take advantage of the transport opportunities offered by devolution; working across Greater Manchester to secure the Manchester smart card system and ensure passenger focused bus franchising
- Support the proposed Metrolink extension to Trafford Park and the Trafford Centre, key for jobs and growth in the area

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

“One of the biggest issues facing Trafford residents today is the lack of affordable housing in the borough. The local Tories have repeatedly missed their housing completion targets over the past twelve months at a time when many of our young people can not get on the housing ladder. This forces residents in to the private rented sector, where rents are astronomical and conditions can often



be poor. I am passionate about ensuring that we encourage housebuilding in Trafford and that we do everything we can to make sure that communities thrive and are a safe place to live for you and your family.”

Cllr Joanne Harding, Shadow Executive Member for Communities & Partnerships

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Work with the police and other partners to keep Trafford the safest place in Greater Manchester
- Encourage community cohesion and embrace Trafford’s diversity
- Operate a robust, multi-agency approach to tackling domestic violence and other key issues across Trafford
- Review licensing arrangements to deal with the growth of out of borough taxis, and resulting safety concerns
- Actively manage down the number of empty homes in the borough to ensure we make the best use of available property
- Assess the availability of land and explore potential for land acquisition for direct development by the Council
- Work with other councils in Greater Manchester to ensure Trafford receives its fair share of Housing Investment Fund spending
- Strongly encourage the development of brownfield sites for housing
- Promote the construction of ‘Lifetime Homes’ as part of a wider programme of housebuilding
- Introduce a Landlord Register for private rented properties in Trafford, driving up standards and ensuring a decent home for those in rented accommodation

A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR YOU

“Being a local councillor is a privilege and none of us should forget that. It is about working with and for the community and delivering on the priorities of residents. I believe that Trafford’s Tories have forgotten this basic principle. I want to open up the Council so that people are invested in the decision-making process and understand the reasoning behind the choices we make. These are difficult times. Only by working with residents right across Trafford will we be able to get the best deal for our communities. Trafford Labour is on your side, working with residents and putting local people first.”



Cllr Catherine Hynes, Deputy Leader of Trafford Labour Group and Shadow Executive Member for Transformation & Resources

A LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Be open, accountable, honest and transparent in all of our dealings with residents
- Ensure that there is no further outsourcing of council services, ending the Tories’ privatisation agenda in Trafford
- Pay all council employees the National Living Wage; currently £7.85 per hour outside London
- Return the £9000 pay rise recently accepted by the Tory Council Leader, an increase of 30%
- Allow the public to question councillors, by introducing a 30 minute question slot at council meetings
- Reduce by 50% the number of signatures required to bring a petition to council meetings
- Review Locality Partnerships with a view to opening all meetings to the public and increasing participation

TRAFFORD LABOUR: 20 KEY PLEDGES

Our key pledges for a fairer Trafford:

- 1 We will set a balanced budget every year we control the Council
- 2 We will ensure Council Tax remains the lowest in Greater Manchester
- 3 We will maintain infant class sizes at 30 or below
- 4 We will establish 20mph zones around all local schools
- 5 We will take steps to ensure children who need additional support benefit from early intervention and prevention work
- 6 We will support all local primary, grammar and high schools
- 7 We will ensure robust safeguarding of children & vulnerable adults
- 8 We will deliver an Ethical Care Charter for Social Care
- 9 We will develop a masterplan for all our town centres
- 10 We will utilise an Ethical Procurement Strategy for procuring council contracts
- 11 We will encourage more apprenticeships through the procurement process
- 12 We will establish an Air Quality Working Group to tackle air quality issues
- 13 We will introduce further 20mph zones in areas with majority resident support
- 14 We will support the Metrolink extension to Trafford Park & the Trafford Centre
- 15 We will promote cycling and sustainable transport initiatives
- 16 We will actively promote the building of affordable homes in Trafford
- 17 We will introduce a Landlord Register to ensure homes are a decent standard
- 18 We will pay all council staff the National Living Wage
- 19 We will return the £9000 recently accepted by the Tory Council Leader
- 20 We will open up council meetings to the public

