



# Stockport Labour

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## VISION 2020

Our Manifesto for Local Government



# OUR 2020 VISION FOR A

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## FOREWORD: OUR VISION FOR 2020

Alex Ganotis on Labour's vision for Stockport, and why Local Government should be at the heart of strengthening local communities and the economy.



In 2016, Stockport Labour set out its vision for Stockport, which placed Local Government and local residents at the heart of renewing and shaping the Stockport of the future. On this basis, the people of Stockport voted Labour into administration.

Since then, we have been delivering on that vision, working towards a renewed economy with the jobs and skills we need, a town centre fit for the future, building the homes we need and fostering strong, safe and sustainable communities across the Borough.

Despite the £32m funding gap we have faced over the last two years, we have made a strong start delivering this, with renewed Council leadership prepared to take on the challenges of both austerity and almost two decades of Liberal Democrat control. Although Stockport remains a great place to live and work, it is clear many aspects of what the Council can do for communities were left neglected by the tired former administration.

The evidence is clear that a corner has been turned in a Borough with new ambition, reflecting the significant progress we have made already toward implementing our 2016 agenda.

This document outlines what we have done, with our report back to you on 20 areas of progress. However, it also goes further-setting out our 2020 vision for Stockport. In 20 steps we set out our vision for stronger communities, a renewed economy which works for all, a Council administration which is focused on protecting and reforming services and will work with residents to do so.

It is my hope that you share this vision and I invite you to join us in making it happen.

Sincerely,

Alex Ganotis,  
Leader, Stockport Council

**Stockport Labour**



# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

**STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**



1

## PREVENTING CRIME

We will work with police colleagues to move to a preventive approach to crime and reform how community safety is delivered. Working with community groups and the police, we will invest in cross working and information sharing to prevent antisocial behaviour, and to link communities with jobs, skills and leisure opportunities.

2

## THE HOMES WE NEED

To tackle the housing crisis we set up Viaduct Housing, a Council-owned partnership with Stockport Homes. This year we will surpass 1000 homes built with Viaduct, and plan a further 300 in 2020. We'll also publish our plans for the Town Centre West development with up to 3000 homes, including shared equity, affordable and social rental units.



3

## PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

Stockport Labour is investing over £4million in parks and public spaces as well as upgrading play and sports equipment. For the 100<sup>th</sup> armistice commemorations we announced a programme of war memorial renovations. This work will continue with investment in our public realm, including plans for two new town centre parks.



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# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



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### RENEWING & PROTECTING LIBRARIES

Stockport Labour will ensure Stockport's library services are modernised, equipped for the digital age and the uses of the future. Where other Councils have closed libraries due to resource constraints, we will invest in and modernise library services to make Stockport's libraries fit for the future.

5

### GREENING STOCKPORT

Under Labour, Stockport will become greener in 2020, with plans including 'beelines' cycle path development and investment, opening a new public park in the town centre this year, completing our programme of fitting LED lanterns to all our street lights and planting over 2000 trees across the Borough of Stockport over the next three years.



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# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## RENEWING OUR TRANSPORT AND ECONOMY



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### A RENEWED TOWN CENTRE

Our transformational plans for Stockport Town Centre will move up a gear in 2020. We will see the pioneering Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation plans published, more progress on Stockport Exchange, upgrades to Merseyway and work begin on the ambitious new Transport Interchange and Park.



7

### NO DISTRICT CENTRE LEFT BEHIND

Labour's plans to renew the economy will help all areas of Stockport. We will develop a 'District Centre roadmap' and investment strategy through our comprehensive review of assets and service areas- leaving no district centre behind.

8

### OUR PLAN FOR GROWTH

Stockport Labour believe lasting economic growth relies not just on investing in roads and buildings, but on investing in people and their skills. This year, we will develop our long-term plan for inclusive growth, building upon the findings of the Work and Skills Commission.



# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

RENEWING OUR TRANSPORT AND ECONOMY

2020



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## GREENER, MORE INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Stockport Labour will begin building the new transport interchange this municipal year. We will continue to push the GMCA for solid commitments on bringing tram-train Metrolink to Stockport, and work with the GM Mayor toward investing in integrated ticketing and free 'Opportunity Pass' travel for 16-18 year olds.



10

## BUILDING ON BROWNFIELD

Labour remains committed to a Brownfield-first approach. We will ensure building on green belt is only ever a last resort and where due environmental evidence has been gathered. This fits with our ongoing town centre redevelopment and greener living agenda.





# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## PROTECTING AND RENEWING SERVICES



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### ENSURING ACCESS TO SERVICES

Stockport Labour recognise the importance of being able to access council services when you need them. Our reforms will aim to ensure that hours of access to all services are maintained or extended, through investment in technology and the contact centre.



12

### MAINTAINING FREE BUS PASSES FOR PRIORITY GROUPS

Stockport Labour will ensure free public transport for school children is maintained for priority groups, and work alongside the GM Mayor to extend the 'Opportunity Pass' to all 16-18 year olds, improving access to opportunities in jobs, skills, and education.

13

### INVESTING IN LEISURE

Stockport Labour believe everyone should have access to good quality, affordable leisure facilities, and that our services have seen years of neglect. We have already opened new facilities in Brinnington, upgraded Grand Central and are investigating ways of upgrading leisure provision in Marple. We will continue this programme, bringing forward more investment in the future of leisure.



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# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## PROTECTING AND RENEWING SERVICES

2020



14

### MAINTAINING SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE

We will prioritise ensuring support is available for the vulnerable. For example, we will ensure the Stockport Local Assistance Scheme is replaced in a different form which costs less but still provides the same support for those that need it, when they need it.



15

### PROTECT & REFORM, NOT CUT SERVICES

Stockport Labour pledge to look to every solution we can before simply cutting services. Whereas we cannot control Government funding for this Council, we can choose to look for creative solutions to reform how services are delivered, to deliver savings rather than cuts.



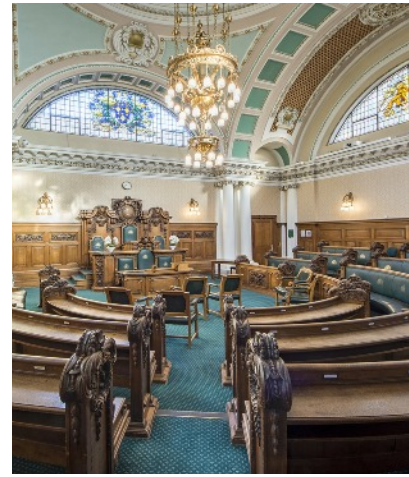
# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## A NEW WAY OF WORKING

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### MORE, NOT LESS CROSS PARTY-WORKING

Labour believe in our vision and values. However, we recognise sometimes working with others is the best way to make our agenda work for Stockport. Labour will continue our approach to openness and transparency, and work across the chamber on the issues which matter.



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### BRINGING SERVICES CLOSER TO YOU

Through comprehensively reviewing all Council assets, Labour will publish plans which bring access to Council services closer to users and communities. We will expand digital access and invest in the contact centre, tailoring services around you.



18

### WORKING IN COOPERATION WITH THE GMCA

We believe the Greater Manchester Combined Authority is an opportunity for Stockport and that by cooperating we can achieve more, such as the Mayoral Development Corporation coming to Stockport and securing reduced green belt take. Labour are best placed to work with GMCA and stand up for Stockport.





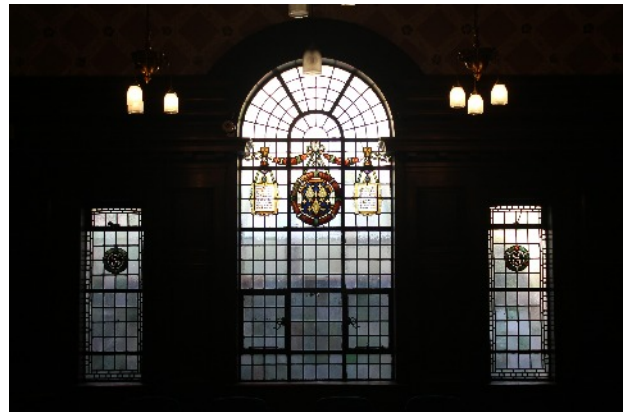
# OUR 2020 VISION FOR STOCKPORT

## A NEW WAY OF WORKING

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### ENSURING EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

Labour are engaging in significant reforms to the way Council decisions are scrutinised by other Councillors and the public. We will put openness, accessibility and public engagement at the heart of these reforms, to make sure our decisions are right for the people and the future of Stockport.



20

### LISTENING TO RESIDENTS

Stockport Labour will never stop listening to residents on the decisions we take and the way the Council is run. We will foster strong consultation and public scrutiny on all Council decisions; ensuring an open door policy and no back-room decision-making.





# Stockport Labour







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## LABOUR SAID



- We would work toward a town centre fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, revitalise the market place, renovate Merseyway, and progress Stockport Exchange.

## LABOUR HAVE



- Expanded regeneration plans, with the first Mayoral Development Corporation approved for the Town Centre West. We've begun Stockport Exchange Phase 3, Merseyway renovation, secured funding for a new Transport Interchange and brought new businesses to the Market Place.

### TOWN CENTRE

- We pledged to grow the Stockport economy, with regeneration efforts matching up with initiatives on jobs, skills and profile raising.

- Fostered an economy which is out-competing others in the region, thanks to increased investment from both the Council and outside investors, bringing new employment and skills opportunities which we have tied to new regeneration projects.

### ECONOMIC RENEWAL

- We would continue improving Town Centre Access, alongside further infrastructure improvements.

- Delivered completion of St Mary's Way, the Travis Brow A6-M60 link, and many other road and street upgrades, improving Town Centre Access.

### INFRA-STRUCTURE

- We would prioritise Brownfield development and town centre residential plans, and work with GM in order to minimise Green Belt use for homes.

- Secured the first ever Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) for the Town Centre West (with potential for 3,000 brownfield homes), and through working with GM on the GMSF, reduced green belt take from 12,000 units down to 4,000.

### BROWNFIELD FIRST

- We'd work with the GMCA to put Stockport at the front for Metrolink and deliver plans for a new transport hub.

- Ensured TfGM delivery plans now include extending Metrolink across the Borough of Stockport. Last year our new transport interchange plans received GM backing to enable our £42million scheme to progress.

### TRANSPORT

### WORKING WITH GM

- We pledged to work with GM toward more integrated public transport, improved infrastructure and to bring Metrolink to Stockport.

- Alongside the MDC, we are also working with the GM Mayor on plans for integrated ticketing on public transport, and extending the 'opportunity pass' to 16-18year olds. TfGM plans for Merolink extension also now include Stockport.



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## LABOUR SAID



### COMMUNITIES

- We would invest £1million in community and voluntary projects, and work with GMP to address antisocial behaviour.

### PARKS

- We'd make the largest ever parks investment of over £3.5million.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

- We'd replace every streetlight in Stockport with greener LED light bulbs, improve recycling rates, and plant hundreds of trees.

### THE HOMES WE NEED

- We pledged to build 600 affordable homes over 2 years through Stockport Viaduct.

### PARKING

- We pledged to freeze parking charges for 2018/19.

### LIBRARIES

- We pledged to invest in and protect our libraries and extend digital services.

### ROAD SAFETY

- We pledged to prioritise and improve road safety around schools.

## LABOUR HAVE



- Built our Stockport Local network of community and voluntary projects, helping them to help each other with £1 million. These organisations are working with the council to prevent antisocial behaviours along with close working with GMP and Stockport Labour.

- We are now investing in excess of £4million in parks, play and sports equipment, by far Stockport's largest ever investment in this area. This will promote active lifestyles and save money on maintenance.

- Already replaced most of Stockport's 33,000 public light bulbs, saving energy and £7.8million over time. SMBC are undertaking the largest ever tree planting in Stockport, with 2,500 trees either already planted or planned, and recycling rates have improved since launching the 'we love Stockport' campaign.

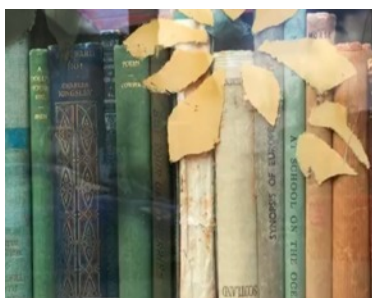
- Already built 500 homes, on target to have built or be on site building 1000 homes within 3 years of Viaduct's February 2017 launch. Our Town Centre West Plans further include up to 3,000 new homes.

- Frozen parking charges across 2018/19 and 2019/21, and have no plans for further rises. We are upgrading parking facilities, addressing long-term neglect.

- We are rolling out Open+ digital services to libraries, broadening our library offer, delivering savings and protecting our libraries for the future.

- Ensure more than 9000 children have received road safety training, alongside extra parking enforcement around schools and speed awareness training taking place in our colleges.





## EDUCATION & SKILLS

- We would invest in Schools and Stockport's Special Educational Needs and Disability capacity, support the Apprenticeships store and improve employer engagement.

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- We said we would increase investment in Children and Families as part of efforts to ensure a fair start for all.

## HEALTH

- We would continue our work towards fully Integrating Health and Social Care.

## FAIR CARE

- We would extend our Ethical Care approach and Charter for Stockport, improving conditions for carers and the vulnerable.

## DIGITAL ACCESS

- We said we would trial Wifi access in district centres, and maintain contact centre staff to support digital inclusion.

## PROTECTING SERVICES

- We said we would protect frontline services against cuts as far as possible, through reform.

## SOUND FINANCES

- We said we would ensure Stockport has the reserves needed to invest to save.

## LABOUR SAID



## LABOUR HAVE



- Delivered £25million of investment in schools at no added cost for the taxpayer and announced a new £14million SEND facility, improving learning and saving money. Under Labour, over 3000 14-19yr olds and parents/carers have attended Town Hall Employment and Skills information events and Apprenticeships Store attendance has trebled.

- Increased investment in Children's Services from £23million to £31million under Labour. We also increased uptake levels of Early Years initiatives to above the regional average.

- Rolled out locality-based Multiple Disciplinary Care Teams, and are developing a joint commissioning approach with partner organisations.

- Provided money to ensure all care workers can be paid the 'Real Living Wage'. We have introduced the Stockport Ethical Care framework aligning with Unison Ethical Care principles, which home care providers are signing up to.

- Invested in our contact centre to support customer digital journeys, progressed digital by design, and are expanding free Wifi access from public buildings in district centres, across 3 pilot district centres for an initial period of 3 years.

- Approached the budget by looking to all areas of the Council to find savings, focusing on outcomes and customer experiences. This has helped save money and protect services in line with our priorities.

- Published a Council reserves policy for the first time. Our approach has allowed a below inflation Council Tax rise 2019/20 despite savings requirements.

HELP US BUILD A

# **STRONGER** STOCKPORT

We want you to join our campaign to help realise our plans. Find out how you can help build a stronger Stockport through the contact details below.

**Vote Stockport  Labour**

*Renewing Stockport*

Thursday 2nd May 2019



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