



Stockport  Labour

Manifesto 2018

OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANIFESTO FOR STOCKPORT



Images courtesy of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council



Just two years ago it became my privilege to represent my hometown as Leader of Stockport Council.

Since then, Stockport's first Labour Cabinet has been extremely busy. We have seen numerous firsts and examples of transformative change, from our ongoing town centre renewal to the way the Council operates and Adult Social Care is delivered.

In less than two years Labour have shown ourselves able to govern for the whole of Stockport, with a record of being proactive, taking significant challenges head-on.

We are proud of our record of achievement:

- **Investing** £25million in improving school buildings, the largest ever in-year total.
- **Delivering** town centre renewal, with the completion of Redrock, Stockport Exchange phase two, and new routes into and around our town centre.
- **Progressing** town-centre investment, including a modern transport interchange, renovation of the Merseyway shopping centre, and Stockport Exchange further phases.
- **Renewing** the town's Market place with new investment, management and anchor tenants.
- **Transforming** how the Council runs with new digital services and responsive democracy.
- **Building** new affordable homes through the first Council-owned housing partnership, Viaduct.
- **Investing** £5million to bring Parks and Leisure facilities to a better standard.
- **Prioritising and investing** in road safety around schools.

All of this has happened in the context of unprecedented financial challenges. Across two budgets we have bridged a funding gap of £30million - through identifying savings, investing to save and generating additional revenue. Despite these funding gaps, we have a proud record of defending services through reform not cuts, and ensuring our growing economy works for all. In these circumstances it is all the more crucial that Stockport retains a Labour leadership with these principles at heart.

None of this has happened by accident. They are a result of the fresh thinking and hard work brought to you by Stockport's first ever Labour Administration since the Borough was created.

This manifesto sets out how we will build on our record and our vision for a future where local government is active in ensuring growth benefits everybody, and services are properly protected. Together we can ensure Stockport remains a town where people are proud to live, work and grow.

Sincerely,

Leader of Stockport Labour Group



Image courtesy of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Contents

02 Foreword		By Cllr Alex Ganotis
04 20 Things we have done		
06 50 Things we will do		
06 Economy & Regeneration		Revitalising our local economies so the benefits are shared by everyone.
07 Housing & Communities		Protecting the green belt, providing the right homes for strong communities.
07 Jobs & Skills		Upskilling Stockport with a targeted plan for jobs, skills and services.
08 Early Years		Prioritising a fair start in life for everyone in Stockport.
08 Educating Stockport		Ensuring our future citizens receive a fairly funded, high quality education.
09 Environment		A council which leads the way with cleaner energy and greener living.
09 Health & Social Care		Reforming to protect services, avoid cuts and treat individuals, not conditions.
10 Reform & Democracy		Making Stockport Council fit for the 21st Century.
11 Supporting Young People		Ensuring our young people are engaged in democracy and never left behind.



Images courtesy of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

20 things we have done

1 Over the last two years Labour have worked hard for Stockport, managing a £30million funding gap [through budgeting](#) to reform and protect services and investing in jobs and growth.

2 We committed to [over £5million](#) of investments in Parks and Leisure, including £2.8million to bring Grand Central facilities back to full use.

3 We invested [£18million](#) to replace Stockport's 33,000 street lightbulbs with modern, greener, more efficient LED lightbulbs.

4 We identified [£25million](#) to bring deteriorating classrooms back to standard and create 800 school places; Stockport's largest ever in-year investment in Schools.

5 Labour prioritised [road safety around schools](#) with over £400,000 in funding to improve signage and road markings, and help train 6,000 young people.



6 Labour launched Viaduct, Stockport's first ever [council-owned housing partnership](#) in March 2017, which is already building much-needed affordable homes.

7 We agreed [£42million](#) plans to upgrade Stockport's bus station into a fully modern transport interchange, ready to incorporate Metrolink.

8 Labour agreed a multi-million pound renovation and upgrade for the neglected Merseyway centre.

9 We saved the Market Hall from closure, and unveiled [ambitious plans](#) for Stockport's historic core including plans to breathe new life into the whole [Market Place](#) and [Underbanks area](#).

Our record

- 10** Labour oversaw completion and launch of the [£45million Redrock](#) Cinema and Leisure complex, transforming the Town Centre evening economy.
- 11** Labour opened the first council owned children's home in years, reducing cost and improving services for vulnerable children.
- 12** Labour have progressed our new commercial quarter, completing Stockport Exchange Phase 2 and green-lighting the [£17million next phase](#).
- 13** We established Stockport [Work & Skills Commission](#) to improve job-readiness, skills, economic and health outcomes for all.
- 14** Stockport Labour ensured all Care leavers in Stockport are [exempt from Council Tax up until the age of 25](#).
- 15** Labour have committed the council to use [100 percent clean energy by 2050](#).
- 16** We oversaw completion of the [Aurora Industrial Park](#), making the most of derelict land and bringing new jobs to the area.
- 17** As part of ongoing Town Centre Access Plan improvements we are planting [800 trees around Stockport](#), and have saved the much loved Midland Pub from demolition within these plans.
- 18** Labour have developed new models of care with Stockport Together draft Business Cases approved [in August](#) 2017, with integration already underway.
- 19** Labour secured [£15 million of Transitional Funding](#) to aid the transformation and integration of Health and Social Care.
- 20** We have reformed how council democracy works, with our [award winning Digital by Design programme](#), more meetings webcast, more consultation and a commitment to [discuss any petition 10,000+ strong](#).



Image courtesy of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

50 things we will do

Labour want to see a vibrant, growing economy in Stockport, where the benefits are shared by everyone. To do so, we will:

- 1 Prioritise public transport and work with GMCA partners to bring Metrolink to Cheadle, Marple & Stockport.
- 2 Work with the GM Mayor to ensure we remain at the forefront of plans on integrated ticketing, HS2 and airport links.
- 3 Deliver a Local Plan which works for everyone, with a comprehensive industrial strategy to bring the right jobs, skills and services to Stockport.
- 4 Build on Community Insight and Work & Skills Commission work to commission targeted skills and work readiness schemes.
- 5 Continue to renew the town centre ready for 21st century challenges.
- 6 As part of this, we'll continue working with Stockport Market Place traders and business owners to ensure increased footfall and vibrancy through to evening;
- 7 Begin work on Labour's multi-million pound full renovation plan for Merseyway this year;
- 8 Deliver Stockport Exchange Phase three and progress further phases to our new station gateway;
- 9 Create new and improved public spaces at the Transport Interchange, Mersey Square & Stockport Exchange; and
- 10 Minimise use of Green Belt and prioritise Brownfield development through the use of CPO powers.



Housing & Communities

Labour will protect green spaces and provide the right homes for strong communities; through:



- 11** Building 600 affordable homes over 2 years through Viaduct housing partnership, working with developers to plan the right homes in the right places.
- 12** Continuing our close work with the Police and the Deputy Mayor to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour.
- 13** Investing £1million in community and voluntary projects with the Community Investment Fund.
- 14** Providing the largest ever Parks and formal sports equipment investment of £3.5million found through Section106 reappraisal.
- 15** Pledging to freeze parking charges across 2019-21.

Jobs & Skills

Labour will promote jobs and skills for Stockport residents, by:

- 16** Expanding use of Section106 powers to encourage developers to employ and upskill Stockport residents.
- 17** Promoting apprenticeships with local businesses, supporting a sustainable Apprenticeships Store future and increasing council apprenticeships each year.
- 18** Commissioning targeted work readiness schemes to ensure the benefits of economic growth reach everyone.
- 19** Continuing to work with and liaise between businesses and education providers to provide local young people with 12 months experience toward eliminating youth unemployment.
- 20** Setting up a new Digital Innovation Group to help incubate and promote digital and creative businesses in Stockport.

Early Years

Labour will ensure a fair start for all, through:

- 21** Prioritising help for those with English as a second language and plugging school transport gaps.



- 22** Commissioning research through existing programmes to better target poverty impacts upon early education.

- 23** Targeting school-readiness gaps with holiday meals and breakfast clubs.

- 24** Establishing a Working Party to examine how departments can better work together to widen access and improve signposting to services.

- 25** Continuing to expand upon Labour's prioritisation of road safety around schools.

Educating Stockport

Labour will work towards improved education for everyone, by:

- 26** Actively fighting to ensure the true cost of education is reflected in the funding provided to Stockport schools, high needs and early years blocks.

- 27** Building capacity in Stockport's Special Educational Needs and Disability schools so every child is provided with a suitable place.

- 28** Supporting adult education to help more people become economically and socially active.

- 29** Prioritising mental health awareness from Secondary School age upwards and improving signposting for services.

- 30** Focusing on the transitions between different educational stages to improve attendance, reduce anxiety and raise outcomes.

Environment



Labour will promote cleaner energy and greener living, through:

- 31** Rolling out new LED bulbs across all streetlights, increasing electric vehicle charging, and extending CarClub and Mobike facilities around Stockport.
- 32** Setting a new target to achieve the highest recycling rates in the North West.
- 33** Targeting dog fouling and littering by doubling fines, working with communities and dedicated enforcement agents.
- 34** Continuing improvements to our cycle network and parks facilities as part of Labour's largest-ever investment in parks.
- 35** Planting hundreds of trees and building new green public spaces into Town Centre regeneration.

Health & Social Care

Labour will protect services and staff against the impacts of Tory and Lib Dem austerity, through:

- 36** Prioritising service reform, avoiding frontline cuts.
 - 37** Bringing in integrated Health and Social Care teams which will treat people as individuals, not conditions.
 - 38** Enabling the establishment of an employee-owned care organisation to promote ethical employment in care.
 - 39** Working across departments to address health inequalities with Communities funds, Leisure and environmental improvements.
- 
- A photograph of a white NHS sign with a blue border, mounted on a wall. The sign is slightly tilted and the background shows a blue sky with some clouds.
- 40** Prioritising Mental Health services, with more funding for support and step up/ down services.

Reforming Council Services

Labour will ensure Council Services are fit for the 21st Century, by:

- 41** Developing a modern Community Library Hub model; incorporating reading programmes for children, programme outreach and Public Health information.
- 42** Pledging to maintain staff levels in the contact centre over the Financial Year to support customers on their digital journey.
- 43** Trialling free public Wifi Access in our district centres from 2018/19, beginning with Moor Top, Edgeley and Bramhall.
- 44** A commitment to save £50k from Corporate resources and reinvest this in Libraries.
- 45** Commissioning a comprehensive review of all council-owned assets to save money and ensure our property is working for you.

Supporting Young People

Labour will ensure our young people are democratically engaged and not left behind, by:

- 46** Seeking to purchase a another care home, saving more money while better protecting the vulnerable.
- 47** Encouraging greater youth involvement in local democracy through the creation of a new Young Person's Consultation Panel.
- 48** Supporting and developing a sustainable customer facing apprenticeship service.
- 49** Continuing our Youth Jobs Guarantee work to eliminate youth unemployment by working closely with local developers and employers.
- 50** Increasing investment in Children's Services significantly over the next two year period.



Join us

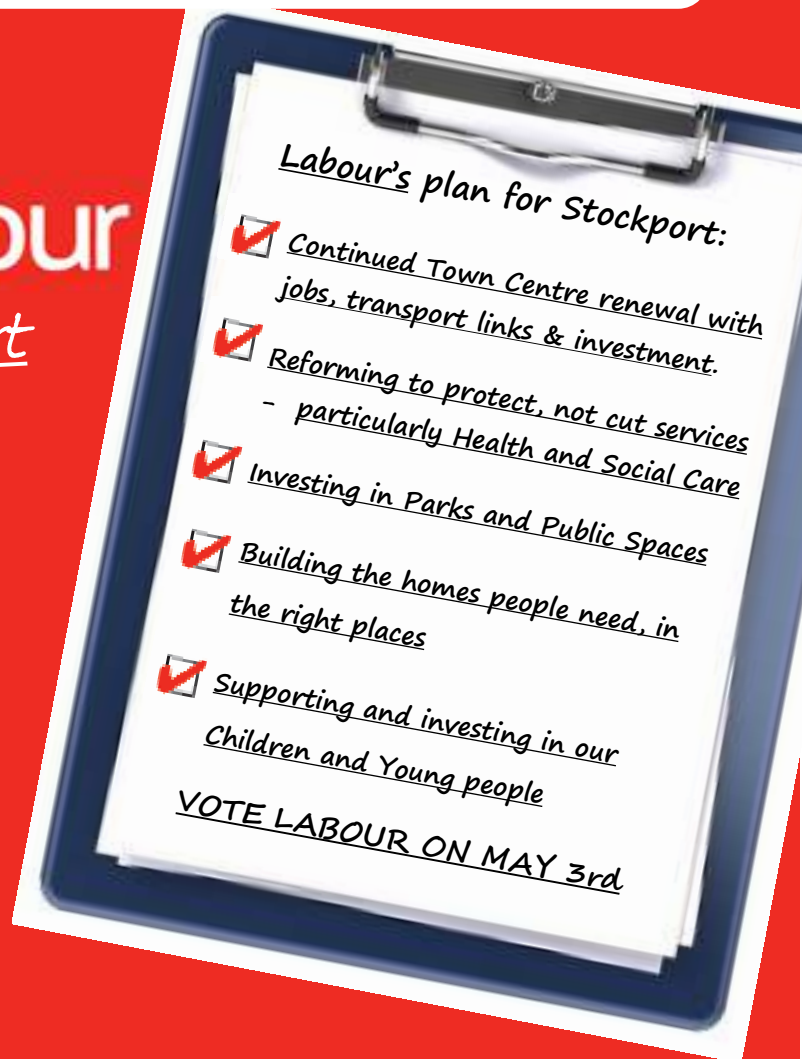


Join us

Stockport Labour

Serious about Stockport

We want you to join us in our campaign, and your input to help create a better future for Stockport. For more details on our campaign, our achievements or how you can contribute, contact us via the below details.



VoteStockport Labour

Thursday 3rd May 2018



Stockport Labour Party

Tel: 0161 474 3303



...or email:

stockportlabour@gmail.com



Follow us on twitter

@StockportLabour

www.stockportlabour.org.uk



Find us on Facebook

StockportLabourGroup



Write to: Stockport Labour
C/o 2 Lloyd Street
Stockport SK4 1QP