

STRONGER, GREENER COMMUNITIES

MK LABOUR PARTY LOCAL ELECTION
MANIFESTO 2021



Milton Keynes
 Labour

FOREWORD

The Coronavirus crisis has shown us what matters most. We need to go back to a society where we look out for each other, value our public services, and everyone has a chance to do well.

That is why the upcoming local elections really matter. MK Labour has a track record of success. We've provided leadership and kept people safe. We've kept council tax low, improved the roads, protected vital services from cuts, and we've supported those who need it most.

Now, as we recover, we need to support working people and local businesses, ensure a fair deal for families on affordable housing, defend our environment, and continue to protect services from cuts and keep people safe.

Our manifesto is our positive vision for Milton Keynes to ensure we keep Milton Keynes the best place grow up, get on and grow old.

Cllr Peter Marland
Labour Leader,
Milton Keynes Council



KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

Labour will continue to keep people safe from Covid-19. We've rolled out one of the biggest vaccination centres in England and provided testing for key workers.

We made sure MK Council provided PPE to care homes and front-line workers when the government were too slow to act. We can't afford another lockdown so we need to be ready for winter by continuing vaccinations, supporting testing and keeping people safe at work.

- **Prepare for winter with continued vaccinations**, making sure we are prepared for the autumn and winter months when infections increase;
- **Support testing to keep rates of Covid-19 low**;
- **Keep people safe at work by supporting businesses** to make changes to workplaces and follow the rules, and helping working people if they feel unsafe.

PROTECTING SERVICES FROM CUTS

A Labour-run council will protect vital services from cuts. We've supported care homes and will continue to ensure we provide high quality and value for money council-run social care people can trust, when other councils have privatised and cut services.

- **Protect services from cuts**, by continuing to manage council finances in a sensible and prudent way and stopping Tory privatisation of services that has gone too far;
- **Support social care**, by keeping our high-quality in-house social care service and fighting for a fairly funded social care system;
- **Keep children safe from harm and neglect**, by investing in high quality social workers, children and family support, and by tackling child poverty.



SUPPORTING WORKING PEOPLE

We will support working people with our £4m economic recovery fund. We've already helped over 1500 people and local businesses. We will encourage investment in new green jobs and back entrepreneurs, and we'll support those that the pandemic has hurt the most such as young people, women and those on low incomes.

- **Support working people**, by continuing our £4m support scheme to protect jobs and help businesses to access advice and financial support;
- **Help people back to work**, especially those impacted the hardest such as young people, women and those on low incomes;
- **Promote new green investment**, making MK the place for businesses to bring new green jobs and by supporting local entrepreneurs.

A FAIR DEAL FOR FAMILIES

Labour will ensure a fair deal for local families, building more genuinely affordable and council homes. We've kept council tax low, we're providing over £1million in financial help to families who need it, and we will fight for a good local school place for every child.

- **Build 750 genuinely affordable, green homes for local families**, by using our new council owned housing company, and by fighting for 40% of all new housing to be genuinely affordable in the new Plan:MK.
- **Complete 500 new council homes**, and continue with the long-term plan for community-led estate renewal;
- **Ensure a good local school place for every child**, and fight to take back local control of failing academies.



OUR PROMISE TO FAMILIES

We will make sure young people don't pay the price for the pandemic by investing in more youth services for children and young people, helping them to catch up on lost time at school and ensuring access to training, so that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

- **A new modern youth service** that gives young people somewhere to go, job and training opportunities and helps young people fulfil their potential;
- **A summer of play**, so all children and young people can access outdoor play, learning and activities over summer;
- **Support school catch-up clubs**, to help children and young people catch up with their learning and social skills.



A ZERO CARBON CITY

We will make Milton Keynes carbon neutral by 2030 and enhance our green spaces. We will take the climate emergency seriously by delivering our Climate Action Plan and investing in cleaner energy. We'll enhance our green spaces by delivering a new country park and creating new wildlife parks in urban areas.

- **Make MK carbon neutral by 2030**, responding to the Climate Emergency by implementing our Climate Action Plan;
- **Five new local wildlife parks**, protecting and enhancing our existing urban green spaces.
- **A new country park**, a new biodiverse country park managed by the Parks Trust in MK East, and ensuring all future new developments have 40% green space.

DEFENDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

We will defend our environment and stand up to the Conservative Developer's Charter that will mean local people get less say in developments, hands over public green space to fat-cat developers, promotes poor quality conversions of office space without proper funding for schools, our hospital or our infrastructure, and which supports the demolition of estates to build higher density housing.

- **Defend our public green space from the Tory land-grab by developers** that would see councils forced to hand over green space for development;
- **Fight removing a local say in planning decisions**, proposed by the Conservatives in their planning reforms;
- **Oppose demolition of estates for high-density housing** and bad quality office conversions supported by our local Conservatives.



TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT

We'll transform the way people get around Milton Keynes, to make it greener, more sustainable and safer. We'll invest in improving our redways and increase cycling. We'll make travel to school safer for children and better for the environment, and we'll bring forward plans for a mass transport system.

- Invest £25m on improving redways, cycling and green transport;
- Introduce five new Low Traffic School Safety Zones, by working with local communities to improve road safety and air quality around schools;
- Develop plans for a Mass Rapid Transport system.



SAFER STREETS

People should feel safe again in Milton Keynes. Labour will get tough on crime. Knife crime, violent crime and fly-tipping have all risen under this Conservative government. We will bring more people who damage our communities by fly-tipping to justice, and we'll take action on violence and knife crime by investing in services to tackle the causes of crime.

- **Reduce knife crime**, by continuing to invest in preventative services and education;
- **Use more CCTV to crack down on fly-tipping**, which has increased by over 300% under the Tories;
- **Tackle hate**, by working with Thames Valley Police to improve recording of hate crime, misogyny and online threats against young people, women and BAME people.



GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT

We'll clean up Milton Keynes. There is no excuse for breaking the rules, it's wrong and it makes our city, estates and communities look bad. We'll introduce wheelie bins, clear graffiti and fine people who don't care about their community and drop litter. We'll repair more potholes and continue improving our roads which were in their worse state ever last time the Tories ran the council.

- **Introduce litter wardens** who can issue on the spot fines to litter louts;
- **Weekly wheelie bin collections**, that maintain a weekly residual waste collection and increase recycling;
- **Fix 7,500 extra potholes**, and continue to improve our highway condition.



IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We will improve health and wellbeing. All people who live in Milton Keynes should be able to grow up and grow old living longer healthy lives. We'll make sure families are supported to provide healthy food, that we reduce health inequalities, and that everyone can access and take advantage of our amazing green space and leisure facilities.

- **Expand Food Bank Xtra** to help ensure families are supported to provide healthy food;
- **Tackle health inequalities** by working with the NHS to fund targeted public health support to communities at higher risk of long-term conditions;
- **Support leisure facilities to stay open**, and ensure fair access to all local people.



PUTTING HIGH STREETS AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES

We will put high streets back at the heart of our communities. We will help and support our high streets to renew during these difficult times. The world is changing, the pandemic and unfair competition from large on-line retailers who pay little tax makes it a harder task, but by supporting community-led regeneration and offering new things we can make high streets feel like the heart of the community they used to be.

- **Redevelop MK Market**, to attract more shoppers, improve the variety of the city centre and encourage more space for local small businesses;
- **Revitalise Bletchley**, by continuing our community-led plans for regeneration of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford;
- **Regenerate Wolverton Town Centre**, by supporting the redevelopment of the Agora, improving parking and local public space.



AT THE CENTRE OF THE OXFORD - MILTON KEYNES - CAMBRIDGE ARC

Milton Keynes has a dynamic and strong economy, and we want to keep it that way. The Oxford to Cambridge Arc provides a huge opportunity to grow Milton Keynes in the right way, provide much needed affordable housing for local families and ensure the government funds proper levels of infrastructure for growth. However, we need to make sure we have inclusive growth and that it benefits the people of Milton Keynes.

- **Campaign for a fully electrified East-West Rail**, and not settle for anything less;
- **Agree a Growth Deal for Milton Keynes**, by working with partners in the Central Area Growth Board;
- **Secure funding for MK:U**, ensuring a world-leading new undergraduate university in Central Milton Keynes.



A STRONG LABOUR COUNCIL

The Conservative way of doing things hasn't worked.

Fly-tipping is up 300% nationally. They want to take away local people having a say in planning decisions and hand public green space to developers for high density housing. In power they cut services and outsource more.

Now isn't the time for a change of leadership in Milton Keynes. Over the next few years we'll need a strong, experienced and successful Labour-run council to secure the Milton Keynes recovery and to ensure Milton Keynes is the best place to grow up, do well and grow old.

