



NEWCASTLE'S FUTURE

Newcastle's Future

Investing in our City, Our Services and Our Communities

Newcastle is a great city, a city we are proud to call home. It is a city that is made great by its people, and that's why our promise to put people at the heart of what we do is so important.

We know it has been difficult recently; whilst the Conservative cost of living crisis continues unabated and prices continue to rise, Newcastle Labour has continued to work in collaboration across the city to support you.

Over the last year Newcastle Labour has put in place the building blocks for inclusive growth and resident centred services. We launched the city's first ever inclusive economic strategy and the first anti-poverty strategy; we became a Real Living Wage employer. They are strategies that have been signed up to by key partners and anchor institutions across the city, establishing real and meaningful partnerships and are the first steps in achieving lasting change.

We know we can achieve so much more by working together, and as we saw through the pandemic and subsequently the cost-of-living crisis, it is through partnerships and collaboration that the city can thrive.

As one third of the current Combined Authority, we have achieved significant investment in our city and our people. As part of the new, expanded North East Mayoral Combined Authority, we can go even further.

We have witnessed 14 years of Conservative chaos, but we will not allow an uncaring Tory government, with no interest in our communities or local government services, to undermine what we have achieved as a Labour council.

Newcastle Labour is committed to continue to listen to you, to stand up for you and to protect the things you have told us are most important to you.

Despite all the challenges that we face, I am optimistic for the future because I know Newcastle is a city of opportunity, a city that with a progressive Labour administration can realise its potential, to be a great place to live, a place full of hope and opportunity and one I am hugely proud to lead.

Our plan is ambitious and has you at its heart. A thriving and sustainable city where success is for the benefit of everyone, a great city which is the best place to grow up, get on and grow old.

Newcastle Labour will always be on your side and together we can build a better, fairer Newcastle.

CLlr Nick Kemp
Leader of Newcastle City Council

What are these elections about?

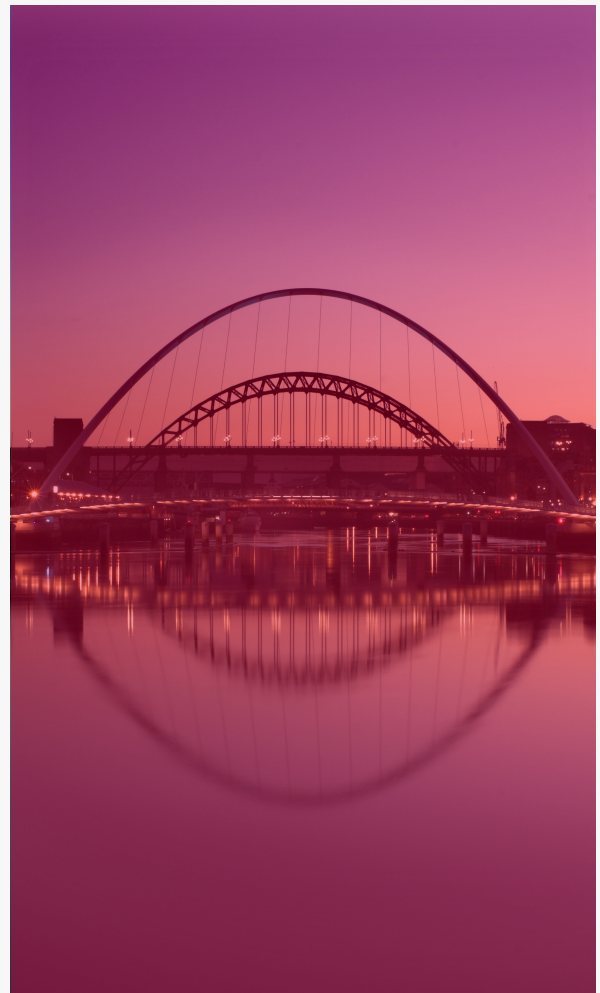
The local elections on Thursday 2nd May 2024 will decide not just who your local councillor is, but who will run Newcastle City Council.

Since 2011, Conservative and Coalition governments have cut Newcastle Council's core funding, reducing it by over 30%. These cuts and unfunded cost pressures amount to some £369m. That's money that could have been spent on tackling anti-social behaviour, potholes in the roads, adult social care, our parks, tackling the climate emergency, reducing poverty, new school buildings, emptying bins, clearing bulky rubbish and more.

Meanwhile, the demands on council services have only grown due to population change and successive Governments failing to deliver on their Levelling Up promise. Councils across the country are now hitting the financial buffers due to lack of funding.

Despite these challenges, Newcastle Labour has ensured that the Council is on a sound financial footing. In 2011 we inherited a legacy of profligate and risky borrowing by the Liberal Democrats, used to fund questionable property deals. Labour have managed to pay off more than half of this debt.

Labour has have worked hard to protect the most vulnerable from these Conservative/Lib Dem cuts, and to protect frontline services, essential to us all.



Newcastle Labour

We are ambitious for Newcastle, and we are proud of our record, but there is so much more we want to achieve.

Our key priorities are:

- Getting the basic right
- Investing in our services and our communities
- Ensuring we have an economy that benefits everyone
- Working collaboratively to tackle poverty
- Continuing to act on the climate emergency to achieve our target of net zero ambitions by 2030
- Campaigning for fair funding for the city

Our priorities

Looking forward



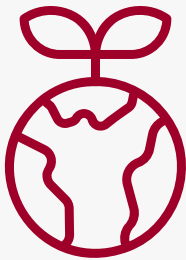
Standing with you through a cost-of-living crisis



A fairer economy for all



A growing city



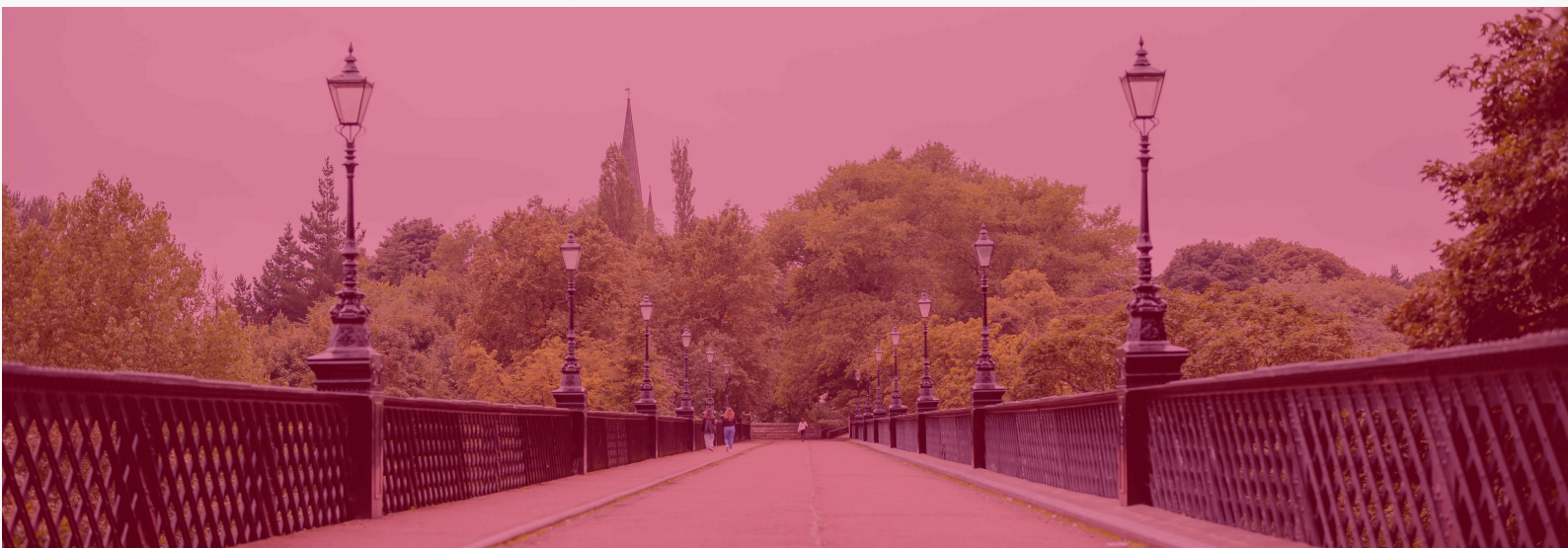
A greener sustainable Newcastle



A healthy caring city



Thriving neighbourhoods



Standing with you through the cost-of-living crisis

We are facing unprecedented hardship because of a cost-of-living crisis caused by successive Tory governments. We know just how hard 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. We promise to continue to provide a vital helping hand to those who need it most whilst investing in the services our communities need. The wellbeing hubs we established, the cost-of-living guide, the Household Support Fund and the council tax support scheme, all contribute vital support to those across our city who need it most.

A fairer economy for all

Newcastle will succeed when all our residents succeed. Inequality has no place in our city.

Newcastle's economy is growing, with new businesses flourishing. Our economy has become more diverse, with digital, creative, technology and health innovation businesses establishing themselves here.

We need a strong economy where all Newcastle residents have access to decent, secure jobs, and benefit from the economic recovery of our city. Newcastle Labour prioritises local businesses and people by keeping as much of our spending as possible within the city or wider North East region.

As a council we became a Real Living Wage Employer and are championing Newcastle to become a Real Living Wage City. Already the Living Wage City campaign is delivering over 5,000 pay rises to those on the lowest incomes.



Our priorities

- Strengthen our Welfare Rights Service
- Support the creation and growth of businesses, generating good job opportunities for our residents and ensuring fair wages
- Attract businesses committed to providing quality jobs for Newcastle residents
- Improve Employment Support to make it easier for residents to find and maintain employment successfully
- Assist local small businesses and community organisations in reducing energy usage and costs, promoting sustainability.
- Work with partners to attract more visitors, enhancing the vibrancy and appeal of our great city.
- Offer more apprenticeship opportunities



A Growing City

We want our children to have the best start in life, that's why we wish to become a UNICEF Child Friendly City, to put children's voices at the heart of what we do, this is already embedded through our EVERY programme. Collaborative working ensures that children and families are supported to get the right help at the right time. Our Holiday Activity Fund provided a wide range of enriching activities in addition to a healthy meal during school holidays since 2019.

87% of Newcastle schools are judged good or better by Ofsted. Education and Skills including post 16 support is offering new opportunities with support through the Combined Authority.

Our Priorities

- Work with schools and families to increase school attendance.
- Reduce exclusions and suspensions for all pupils.
- Increase availability of special education need places.
- Protect and support families and children who require additional help.
- Promote and increase uptake of Healthy Start vouchers and free school meals.



A Greener Sustainable Newcastle

Across the world we see the impacts of climate change, floods, forest fires, famine. There are local impacts too with regular flooding in areas of our city and disruption and damage from more frequent and severe storms.

Newcastle Labour declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, setting a target of Net Zero by 2030. We will continue to press the national government to set the same target and provide the funds and support we need to achieve this hugely important goal.

Listening to residents, you tell us you want the streets to be cleaner, the roads to be safer and parks and green spaces to be looked after, as well as investing in local services and activities to make sure there are lots of fun things to do.

Our priorities

- New Green Jobs for the city
- Integrating a clear decarbonisation plan in all that we do
- A key city in the Heat Network Zoning, we will offer low cost, low carbon heat to residents, businesses, and organisations across Newcastle
- Planned maintenance and cutting regimes for grassed areas
- Tree Risk management, planting, and biodiversity improvements
- Refurbishment of the Tyne Bridge and other highway maintenance
- Progress with the delivery of £7.7million funded Active Travel Network upgrades
- Roll out electric vehicle infrastructure
- More motorbike and cycle cages for safe parking



A Healthy Caring City

We want people in Newcastle to live happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives and to be able to live in their own homes and communities as independently and safely as possible for as long as possible. We understand that people's health is affected by a myriad of different factors, including the environment around them, the house they live in and their ability to access education and employment. We will ensure that all our policies and services are designed with good health and wellbeing at their heart.

Our priorities

- We will support the recruitment and retention of care sector workers, including paying carers a real living wage.
- Tackle social isolation by supporting people to be digitally included.
- Provide support to children and adults with learning disabilities, autism and physical disabilities as well as to people with ill mental health, age related frailty or dementia, promoting independence and community connections.
- In collaboration with partner organisations across the city, work to prevent people in our city falling into poverty and to alleviate poverty where it is already exists, since we know poverty and ill-health are inextricably linked.

Thriving Neighbourhoods

Newcastle is an expanding city, and we need to make sure that we have the homes that people need. The Tory Government created a national housing crisis and made it difficult to build the affordable homes this country needs. We believe that everyone should have an affordable, safe, warm and decent place to call home.

Our priorities

- To be a good landlord to the 25,000 council homes in the city and improve housing standards and bring housing management back into the council
- Tackle rogue landlords in the private rented sector by building on the success of and expanding Selective Licensing to more areas across the city
- Invest in Better Lives, Safer Communities – building meaningful relationships in neighbourhoods to address local people's concerns
- Invest in voluntary and local community enterprise groups
- Build a new leisure facility in the outer west and protect library provision
- Work with partners to create a safer city centre and night time economy.



Our promise to Newcastle

As this manifesto is being written, there is greater political uncertainty in the country than most of us can ever remember.

Newcastle Labour will continue to listen, to stand up for our city and our people and to respond to the things you tell us are important. Working with and for the residents of this great city, we will continue to build a Newcastle that is fairer, healthier, and better off in every way.