

SHEFFIELD LABOUR PARTY
MANIFESTO FOR MAY 2021

“Empowering
Sheffield,
Building Our
Future”

 Labour

FOREWORD

The pandemic is unlike anything most of us have faced. The last twelve months have had a major impact on the city and the loss of life has been truly tragic.

In the weeks since the virus was first transmitted, we have been vigilantly working alongside the public, voluntary, community, faith and private sector organisations to come together to protect and support Sheffield's communities.

It is still too early to tell what long-term economic impact will be – but we do that it is affecting the poorest and vulnerable the most, and we will always act to ensure that the greatest support goes to those most in need.

Labour has an overall majority of councillors in Sheffield, meaning we can set Labour-led objectives and policies by which Sheffield City Council is governed. This means we have been able to lead locally when government has failed to deliver – providing free school meal vouchers to over 22,000 children over school holidays, 6,000 laptops to children to access home schooling during lockdown, and additional support for residents struggling to pay for heating, utilities, or food, with unique Sheffield hardship schemes.

The economic damage to the city has been immense, but we are working hard to identify interventions to help focus collective efforts and resources to address the impact of the COVID crisis on Sheffield businesses and jobs, and are leading the city's recovery.

Despite the difficulties this is also an opportunity to help build back a stronger Sheffield - with a city that is fairer, more prosperous, and cleaner, greener, and safer for everyone.

We have huge ambition for the city, and if re-elected in May we will implement all of the policies within this Manifesto - to empower Sheffield, and build a better future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BJ'.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TF'.

Councillor Bob Johnson
Leader of Sheffield City Council

Councillor Terry Fox
Deputy Leader of Sheffield City Council

CONTENTS

Chapter 1

Manifesto Pledges 2021

Chapter 2

Responding to the Pandemic & Making Sheffield Safe

Chapter 3

Supporting Key Workers

Chapter 4

Economic Recovery and Renewal

Chapter 5

Cleaner, Greener, Safer—and tackling the climate emergency

Chapter 6

Empowering Communities

Chapter 7

Supporting Local Housing

Chapter 8

Candidates 2021

1. Manifesto Pledges 2021

If elected in May Labour Councillors commit to:

Empowering Sheffield's Local Economy – Your Labour Council will continue to do everything we can to keep as much money as possible in the local economy. In the 12 months before the pandemic £80 million more was kept in the local economy through our procurement policies – which ensure priority for local contracts and suppliers.

Empowering local shops and businesses – your Labour Council will spend £2 million extra to revitalise district centres throughout the city, supporting local communities to thrive and giving community high streets a much-needed boost.

Empowering our local communities - Your Labour Council will launch new ways of bringing people closer to the council decisions – by giving people a greater say and control of their local area through the development of **new Local Area Committees**

Fight austerity and prioritise those most in need – your Labour Council will continue to prioritise those most in need. Since the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition formed in 2010, £475 million has been cut from the council services – this is a huge 50% of the budget. This makes it harder to deliver the public services the city deserves but we will always prioritise those most at need

Tackle the climate emergency – Your Labour council will invest millions to prevent flooding, tackle air pollution, protect the city's ecology and wildlife, and improve Sheffield's green spaces

Empowering the city to be:

Cleaner - We are investing in more cameras and CCTV to tackle litter, graffiti and fly tipping. Extra enforcement powers to staff to issue fines, and Household Waste Centres open longer and 7 days a week.

Greener – Plant 100,000 trees over the next 10 years as part of our Trees and Woodland Strategy, and putting record investment into parks and green spaces

Safer – More action to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour with new Street Wardens in every part of the city, supported by a safer neighbourhood team and an even greater focus on preventative work.

Empowering young people – your Labour Council will invest an extra £2 million to support youth services - helping young people develop their skills, and creating more youth clubs. Plans will be co-devised by young people

Provide decent affordable homes – your Labour Council will build more than 3,000 new council homes, and spend millions on upgrading council homes and the repairs service.

Support private rented tenants- Greater protection for private rented tenants and tough action against rogue landlords

Protection for the Green Belt – Your Labour Council is committed to protecting the Green Belt and making sure it is free from housing developments



2. Responding to the Pandemic

Support for Sheffield Citizens:

At the start of pandemic Labour councillors set up a council helpline exclusively for Coronavirus questions and concerns.

The helpline - **0114 273 4567** - links each person with the right council service.



Working with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Groups we have worked throughout the pandemic to ensure people get the right help for food deliveries, medicine, or mental and emotional wellbeing.

More than 20,000 calls made to the service resulting in:

Over 2,000 shopping deliveries

Over 1,000 medicine deliveries

Over 5,000 'Safe and Well' visits

Financial Hardship Payments

Grants for Hardship

In addition to grants provided, through government funding, we enacted the **Covid-19 Emergency Assistant Grant** – to help those who are struggling to afford food or keep their home warm.

Council tax relief/support

We increased the Council Tax Hardship Fund by £200k for 2021/22. The Hardship Fund now totals £1.8m per year.

Winter Grant – for vulnerable families

Winter Grant specifically targeted to 29,432 children (living in vulnerable families /eligible for free school meal, families supported through our care system). This provided support for food and utilities.



2. Responding to the Pandemic

Free School Meals – acting when government have failed to deliver

We stepped in to provide **free school meals to 22,000 children** in the city over the October half term holiday, after government shamefully refused to do so.

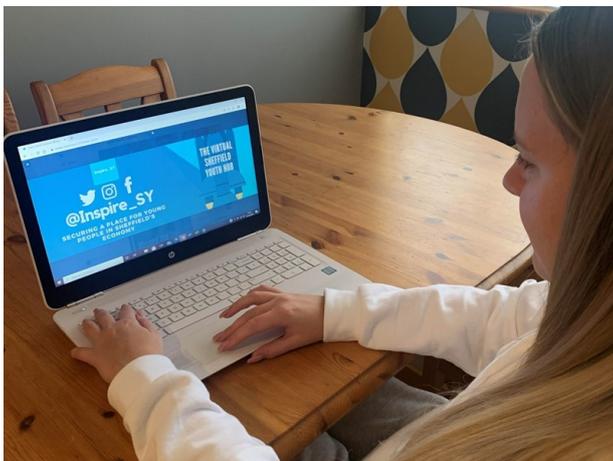


We've provided free school meals to 22,000 children during the school holidays- after the government shamefully refused

We are providing 6,000 laptops so every child can learn from home- after the government didn't give schools enough

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Tackling Digital Exclusion – Thousands of Laptops for Children



We provided thousands of additional laptops to support children who were having to home school, without the devices to do so, during the third national lockdown 6,000 laptops were provided to school children of all age. In addition, connectivity was funded for families who do not have access to education resources at home.

The investment into this project will be in the region of **£1.5 million**.

Working in partnership with the Laptops for Kids campaign, this project has been supported by many partners across the city and has already generated thousands of

pledged devices to support children. Unfortunately, the Government's failure to put the necessary support in place means that many children are still without laptops and unable to continue with their studies.

Supporting Communities and Voluntary organisations

Throughout this crisis the council has been working closely with the city's voluntary organisations. We are supporting the work of Community Hubs, bringing together charities and organisation to co-ordinate volunteers and help vulnerable people across the city in some of the following ways:

- Collecting and delivering shopping and medication
- Supporting local food banks
- Working with mutual aid groups
- Reinforcing public health messages

3. Supporting Key Workers

Keyworkers have kept our essential services going, neighbours have formed mutual aid groups, Council and voluntary services, faith groups, businesses and schools have collaborated to provide support to those in need.

- ✓ Provided 300,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) per week (around 12 million in total) – with 85% going to Independent Care Providers.
- ✓ £10 million of extra support for care providers

A Pay rise for the city's care workers

Sheffield workers have kept our country going through this pandemic. Not just those at the NHS, but the city's teachers, police, bus drivers, postal workers, and shop workers – plus many more.

Yet the Tory government have said that they'll freeze public sector pay for at least a year! They clapped for key workers on the steps of Downing Street are yet are now turning their backs on them at the first opportunity.

Public Sector workers have already seen their pay decrease in real terms over the last decade – due to the pay freeze enacted by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition from 2010.

This is a disgrace, and Labour stand opposed to pay freezes for the Sheffield workers.

Like all the city's key workers, care workers have given so much during the pandemic and we should all be grateful for their dedicated work.

The city's carers often work in difficult working conditions with inadequate pay. This is why we are investing £4.2 million into the care sector to give Sheffield's Care Workers a pay rise.

This investment is the first step in our ambition is to achieve pay, conditions and a career path in line with NHS Healthcare Assistants, and we will work with the city's care providers to deliver this.



Pay rise for carers

£4.2 million investment in providing a pay increase for Sheffield care workers

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4. Economic Recovery and Renewal

Support for individual businesses

The demand for support has been vast and the Council has provided **over £100 million in grant funding**.



The Council has worked hard to spend every penny of support made available for businesses but sadly there is strict funding criteria which set by government, and the council has no power to alter the criteria

All businesses who may be able to benefit from any business grants have been contacted.

Businesses given a dedicated point of contact and extra support

The Council has responded to over 6000 thousand calls and provided 4000 thousand one-two-one business advice sessions since March 2020.

Supporting the city's High Streets and District Centres



A host of measures have been enacted to keep people safe and help consumer confidence, including hand sanitiser stations, more pedestrianised areas and digital boards, and floor stickers displayed to remind people to stay apart and adhere to social distancing guidelines as they move around the city's shopping districts.

Information Officers work with businesses in distinct centres, areas outside the city centre, to act as a point of contact for queries as well as sharing up-to-date guidance and information on Council initiatives that could benefit businesses.

Extra Funding for District Centres

We will provide an extra £2 million towards supporting the city's district centres – the beating heart of many of our communities.

This extra funding will help businesses reopen safely, adapt and thrive as lockdown rules ease and encourage people back to local businesses when it is safe to do so.

We understand that every area of Sheffield is unique and very much it's own place, and this fund will react to the specific demands in each area

4. Economic Recovery and Renewal

Supporting jobs growth, opportunities, and keeping money in the local Economy

We are using the Council procurement policies to keep more money in the local economy and support local businesses.

- ✓ In the twelve months before the Pandemic, £80 million more was kept in the local economy because of Labour's Procurement Strategy
- ✓ Our Ethical Procurement Policy has also resulted in half of the Council's contracts now being awarded to local businesses.
- ✓ 80% of Sheffield City Council supply chain is now paid the Real Living Wage
- ✓ Ensuring that new council contracts are only awarded to companies who agree with our ethical standards and who must share our desire to create a city economy that works for all—by paying their taxes, respecting workers' rights and equal opportunities, and investing in the talents of their employees through good training and healthy, safe working conditions

Supporting Young People

Due to Labour councillors an additional **£2 million per year will go into Sheffield Youth Services.**

Youth Services have also been brought 'in-house', being ran direct by the council, which will mean better linking of services, with improved support for young people including more youth clubs.

We will ensure this support is embedded in our local community, so it is responsive to local needs, and co-designed by young people and their families.



5. Making Sheffield—Cleaner, Greener, Safer

Despite the pressures of the pandemic and government cuts to our budget, we are determined to deliver better core services. We have made real progress, but we want to go much further.



Cleaner

- ✓ All household Waste Recycling Centres keep open throughout the Pandemic
- ✓ Waste collection throughout the pandemic – something many other local authorities failed to achieve
- ✓ Recycling rates increased by 11%
- ✓ Over 99% of black bin waste disposed of without being sent to landfill.

Greener

- Over the next 10 years the Council will plant **100,000 extra trees** as part of Labour’s Trees and Woodland Strategy.
- Under Labour’s leadership the city’s parks and green spaces are undergoing the **biggest investment in decades** – with millions of pounds extra being invested to improve Sheffield’s green spaces.

Protection for the city’s Green Belt

We have developed a Housing Strategy (called the ‘Local Plan’) to ensure that no houses are built on Sheffield’s Green Belt.

We want to see new homes on brownfield sites closer to the city centre and leave the green belt free from development.

5. Cleaner, Greener, Safer

Improving air quality

Anti-idling zones are now active outside of all primary and secondary schools, and other notable places such as hospitals and health centres.

Committed to further investment for **School Streets** – where roads outside of schools are closed during drop-off and pick-up - to address the adverse effects of school traffic and encourage people to choose alternatives to driving to school, and helping to improve localised air quality.

Climate Emergency - Labour councillors declared a Climate Emergency and committed Sheffield to reducing its carbon neutral target from 2050 to a 2030.

Tackling the Climate Emergency

£161.5 million investments
for 21/22

- Connecting Sheffield
- Retro fitting buses
- Cycle Routes
- Upper Don Valley Water Management
- E Bikes
- Electric Vehicle Programme
- More Electric Charging Stations
- Community Heating Investment
- External Wall Insulation
- Grey to Green
- Electrical Upgrades to 22,000 properties
- Installing More Air Quality Monitors

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Anti-Fracking

Labour councillors made Sheffield the first local authority in the country to ban fracking applications on council owned land.

Renewable Energy

- ✓ The Council now purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources - this is an increase of 81%
- ✓ Established Energy Surgeries and installed Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating up to 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy

Flood Protection

- ✓ Invested over £22 million to keep the city safe from flooding.

5. Cleaner, Greener, Safer

Safer Streets

Next year we will invest £1million – to provide Community Wardens and trial more CCTV to improve community safety and reassurance in local areas.



Our extra investment will provide better joint working across the council, and with partners such as SYP, VCF, Health and Schools, as well as our communities and local members.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and reducing exploitation of the young and vulnerable with emphasis on prevention and early intervention work.

Safer roads

In previous years the council was able to make lots of road safety interventions – for measures such as crossings – but this has been massively reduced by a decade of austerity. This means that the council is currently only able to fund around two to three crossings per year.



This is why we will invest **£4 million extra to help get road safety back to where it should be.**

We will also continue rolling out 20 mph zones throughout residential areas across the city

6. Empowering Communities

Brining politics closer to people

We want to revolutionise how citizens can influence the decisions that matter to communities, committing to a modern way of engaging, empowering and enabling residents to shape their local areas.

We want the council to transform its approach to the planning and delivery of services, with greater focus, responsiveness, and accountability to the different needs of communities across the city.

Local Area Committees

Our ambition is to engage, empower and enable communities, making sure the right decisions are made at the right times and at the right level

To achieve we will create seven new Local Area Committees covering every part of Sheffield, and plan to shift power and influence for important local decisions to those Committees over the coming 12-18 months.

The Committees will become the platform for communities, public services, community organisations and the Council to work together to achieve the things that citizens want in their areas, making the most of existing local networks and relationships. Each of the committees will be councillor-led, accountable structures supported by council officers for all areas of the city, becoming the key platform for citizens to influence and shape decisions over the most important issues for their area.

We don't think councillors should be spending more time in committees in town hall, but more time in the communities they serve.

We also want council workers to be closer to the action and the communities they serve— so each area will now have their own dedicated council officers for many different issues – whether it be community safety, parks, or housing.

This is just the start and we will devolve further control of council services worth millions of pounds – such as for community safety, youth services, and our green spaces.



7. Supporting Local Housing

A place to call home, safe streets, connected communities - this is our vision for Sheffield

We are committed to ensuring the best possible council housing:

- ⇒ **3,100 new council houses will be built by 2028** - Government policies, such as 'Right-to-Buy', means demand far outstrips supply of council homes. Despite the challenges we will create 3,100 new council homes by 2028, and we want to go further and are currently working with registered social landlords to deliver this.
- ⇒ **Upgrades to council homes** - Millions to be invested into council homes, with thousands of tenants getting new roofs and kitchens, and improvements to communal spaces.
- ⇒ **£2 million extra into Housing Repairs** - Emergency repairs are attended to within four hours, and urgent repairs were attended to within 24 hours. The council completes up to 10,000 repairs each month but as direct impact of Covid there are delays to some housing repairs, so we have provided an extra £2 million to tackle the backlog.



Affordable Homes

- ⇒ We have forced housing developers to make public their viability assessments for affordable housing - to ensure that developers' calculations are correct and meeting affordability targets.
- ⇒ We will ensure that new student housing developments contribute to affordable housing and can later be adapted to different housing uses.

7.4 Private Tenants

- ⇒ Selective Licensing Schemes - we are working hard to make sure they can be enacted where possible and desired.
- ⇒ Greater protection for private rented tenants and action against rogue landlords
- ⇒ Supporting the 'End Our Cladding Scandal Campaign' and demanding that private tenants are not left footing the bill

LABOUR CANDIDATES 2021

Beauchief & Greenhill

Geoff Cox

Firth Park

Alan Law

Shiregreen & Brightside

Peter Price

Beighton

Julie Gledhil

Fulwood

Jackie Kennedy

Southey

Tony Damms

Birley

Bryan Lodge

Gleadless Valley

Janet Ridler

Stannington

Craig Gamble Pugh

Broomhill & Sharrow Vale

Alison Norris

Graves Park

Edd Mustill

Stocksbridge & Upper Don

Lisa Banes

Burngreave

Safiya Saeed

Hillsborough

Bob Johnson

Walkley

Fran Belbin

City

Matthew Dwyer

Manor Castle

Anne Murphy

West Ecclesfield

Adam Hurst

Crookes & Crosspool

Ruth Milsom

Mosborough

Tony Downing

Woodhouse

Mick Rooney

Darnall

Mazher Iqbal

Nether Edge & Sharrow

Gareth Slater

Dore & Totley

Samantha Nicholson

Park & Arbourthorne

Sophie Wilson

East Ecclesfield

Andy Bainbridge

Richmond

David Barker &
Mike Drabble

Ecclesall

Zoe Sykes

FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW