

# Labour



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## Local Election Manifesto 2022

*'Preston for the many'*

# A forward from Leader Matthew Brown

**Labour needs your support on Thursday, May 5th to rebuild Preston post pandemic. We are the only party prepared to challenge the status quo and offer policies based on social, economic, and environmental justice.**

Labour will regenerate our city through public endeavour so local people, businesses, and the community benefit with £60m of public investment in the Harris Quarter to build local resilience.

We will place a renewed focus on culture and creativity with events, public art, and expression going hand in hand with the restoration of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery.

Labour will require developers to employ local people, use local suppliers and provide new affordable homes. We will collaborate with large employers including the NHS to recruit people in areas of high unemployment and those most affected by the pandemic.

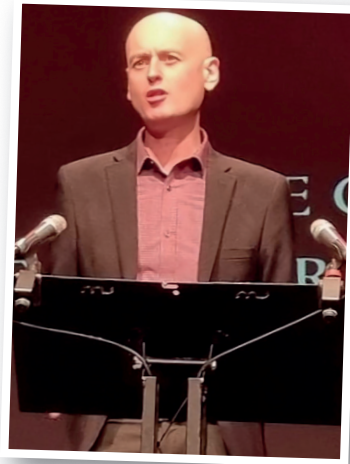
Labour will develop a new local economy underpinned by a regional cooperative bank, unionised, real living wage jobs through public procurement and democratic forms of ownership.

Labour understands the scale of the cost-of-living crisis and will collaborate with partners to free up land for affordable housing, strengthen community food provision and improve energy efficiency for resident's whilst retaining essential advice services for the community.

We will tackle the climate emergency and improve our environment by investing further in Preston's parks and open spaces, plant new trees, retrofit homes, and build capacity for public and community production of energy.

Labour acknowledges minority communities, women, the disabled and the less well-off remain disproportionately affected in society so we will introduce new initiatives to tackle racism and discrimination ensuring the council directly and through its influence promotes equality for all.

And all this will be done in the context of Labour passing another 'no cuts' budget due to sound economic management ensuring services you rely on like waste collection, licensing, park maintenance and environmental health remain strong.



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*Preston has a bright future. Let us build that future together.*



# A Preston economy for everyone

Labour will build a local economy that is resilient and we have more control over. Simply chasing developers millions or expecting a magic bullet from government is not going to work. Instead, we grow strength and prosperity from the talents and skills of our residents, our institutions, and local businesses.



Labour will spearhead a £60m regeneration of the city centre primarily in local public ownership with new cinema and leisure scheme 'Animate', a refurbished Harris Museum and Art Gallery and Amounderness House and by funding Preston Youth Zone.

These measures will enable Preston to take control of its own destiny ending years of delay due to a previous overdependence on corporate developers.

Labour will push for further government support and reform of Preston, South Ribble and Lancashire City Deal so adequate public and community infrastructure is provided for a growing city and affordable homes remain integral to it.

As part of all development, Labour requires the use of local suppliers and labour through the planning system to create new jobs for residents that we recently strengthened.

Labour will accelerate Community Wealth Building commonly known as 'The Preston Model' to ensure public contracts support local people and businesses and more of our economy is locally and socially owned.

Labour has worked for years with local 'anchor institutions' including the NHS and UCLan to spend significantly more with locally based organisations including SME's. Labour will seek to bring additional anchor institutions into this work.

As part of council regeneration plans, we will expand the real living wage, apprenticeships, unionised jobs, move toward zero carbon supply chains and promote similar with partners.

Labour recently helped establish an ‘anchor network’ with our NHS to deepen Community Wealth Building. This has begun targeting recruitment of people in less well-off areas into secure employment in Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. We will encourage this principle across the local public sector.

Labour acknowledges a shared, more democratic economy will enable communities to benefit more fairly in Preston. Labour has received external funding to establish new worker and employee-owned businesses in Preston with five new businesses registered including Preston Cooperative Education Centre (PCEC) due to start operating this summer.



Several more worker owned businesses will launch this year and Labour is working with unions including the Communication Workers Union (CWU) as part of their industrial strategy to investigate whether local post offices can become worker owned, for example.

We will address the failures of the current banking system which has seen dozens of branches withdraw from our communities and a dearth of lending to local businesses and people.

Labour and its partners are making solid progress with community bank North West Mutual which has registered as a cooperative with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and recruited a board of experts to move toward applying for a banking license.

When fully licensed across the region North West Mutual expects to deliver thirty new branches and lend over £600m by 2030 in a comparable manner to Banc Cambria supported by Labour’s Welsh Assembly.

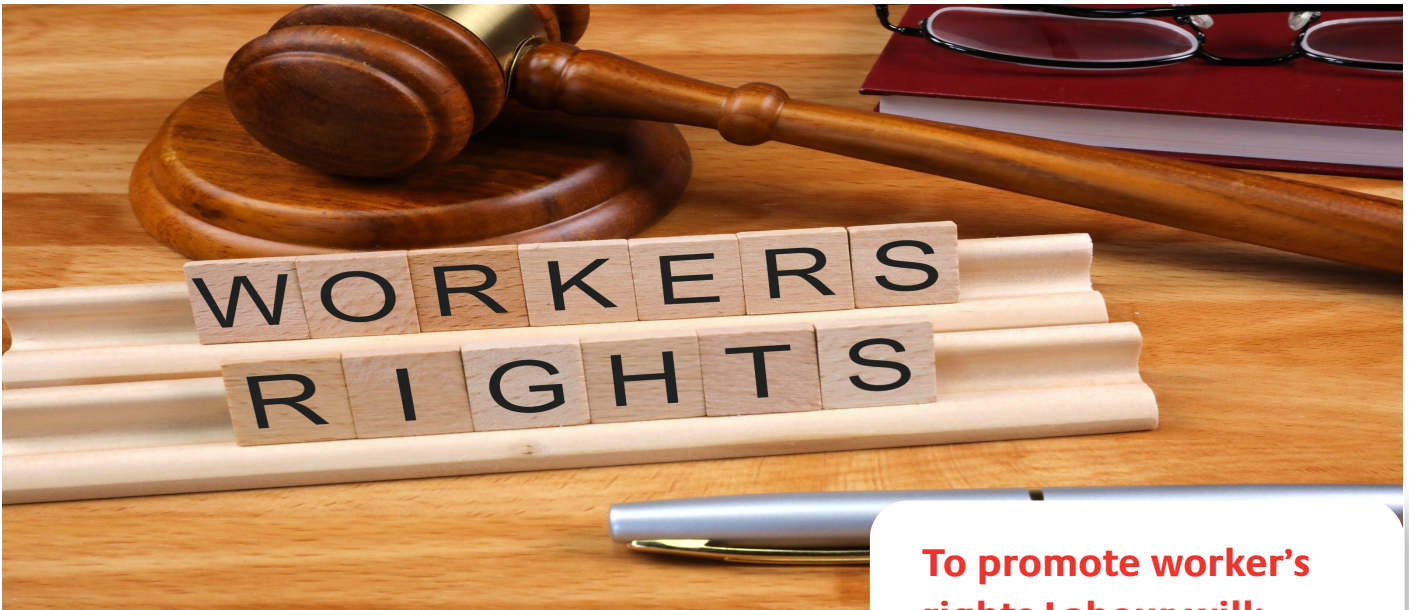
### **To deliver a fairer local economy Labour will:**

- ✓ **Use council investments and internal borrowing to invest directly in Preston including in Animate.**
- ✓ **Work with partners to regenerate the Stoneygate area including substantial new investment in social housing.**
- ✓ **Repurpose Amounderness House to support local business and affordable workspace.**
- ✓ **Establish a new Careers, Employment Information Advice and Guidance centre (CEIAG).**
- ✓ **Use our membership of Lancashire Pension Fund to promote a ‘Lancashire fund’ like the ‘London fund’ to invest regionally for social impact.**
- ✓ **Enter discussions with City Fibre to establish a broadband provider to target the digitally excluded in local public ownership.**



# On the side of working People in Preston

Labour unequivocally backs the rights of working people in Preston who made enormous sacrifices during the pandemic.



Labour believes every worker should be encouraged to join a trade union bringing security and health and safety at work. Labour will continue promoting the benefits of union membership in Preston with the North West TUC.

Public purchasing is an extremely powerful tool to influence the behaviour of contractors. Labour will use public procurement to secure a real living wage, union recognition and access, apprenticeships, and other pro worker outcomes.

Labour took the pioneering decision in 2012 to become the first accredited real living wage employer in the north of England and has promoted it widely since ensuring Preston became the best local authority in Lancashire for people receiving at least £9.90 an hour by workplace. This action has supported women and ethnic minority employees in particular.

Labour is collaborating with Citizens UK to make Preston a Real Living Wage city to increase numbers of accredited employers so more benefit from the living wage. Labour will lobby the County Council to reward contracted care staff with foundation living wage rates.

As part of devolution discussions Labour will push for a 'Good Employment Charter' across Lancashire like those adopted by Labour Metro Mayors across the region. This will feature union recognition, employee voice, career progression, a healthier workplace, and the real living wage.

## To promote worker's rights Labour will:

- ✓ Retain all key services in house and promote insourcing across the local public sector.
- ✓ Work with local trade unions through Preston Cooperative Education Centre (PCEC) to develop new union cooperatives.
- ✓ Make the argument for a Universal Basic Income (UBI) trial as part of any devolution deal.
- ✓ Not use zero-hour contracts or engage with companies who do as far as legally possible.
- ✓ Use our role as a landlord to promote union friendly working practices.

# Helping with the cost of living

**Labour understands families are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis the Tory government is unwilling to address so we will act locally to support Preston residents.**



Labour increased support for community food provision during the pandemic and we will continue to expand it. Across Preston, we aim to reach forty outlets incorporating holiday markets, food pantries, hot meal providers and foodbanks. These facilities can save families up to £30 a week and are available to anybody who needs them.

Labour will help establish community food kitchens, increase uptake of healthy start vouchers, and provide veg boxes during half term alongside long-standing 'holiday market' provision. We will explore how to implement a new school breakfast's initiative including provision of free fruit in local schools.

With rising energy bills, home insulation measures reduce costs and are more environmentally friendly. Labour recently secured £450,000 through Cosy Homes in Lancashire to help 893 households live in warmer, more energy efficient homes with new boilers

and central heating systems, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. New funding will continue through 2022 and focus on renewable energy alternatives.

Labour will maintain our debt and benefit advice services that has secured millions in unclaimed benefits and debt resolution including assistance with form filling and representation at tribunals. We will continue our collaboration with community providers to promote financial inclusion and grant fund the VCFS sector.

## **To tackle the cost-of-living crisis Labour will:**

- ✓ **Support Preston Markets who provide high quality, competitively priced locally sourced food.**
- ✓ **Attract and lobby government for substantial funding to improve the efficiency of private sector homes.**
- ✓ **Support local work clubs helping Prestonian's into decent well-paid jobs.**
- ✓ **Provide funding to establish new food purchasing cooperatives.**
- ✓ **Develop a wraparound service linking food hubs to advice on financial inclusion and employment opportunities.**
- ✓ **Increase the number of affordable housing completions in Preston.**



# A greener Preston that tackles the climate emergency

Labour recognise the severity of the climate emergency and will use the powers and influence at our disposal to address it. Our commitment to this agenda has seen a new Cabinet Member for Climate Change appointed alongside a dedicated Climate Change Officer.



In the last decade Labour has secured millions in external funding to invest in Preston's parks and open spaces including key projects in Moor Park and Avenham and Miller Parks alongside play areas across the city.

Labour has adopted a new 10-year Parks and Open Spaces strategy aiming firstly to upgrade tennis and sport facilities on Moor, Haslam, and Ashton Parks. Labour will seek funding to repair or replace the Old Tram Bridge with a Levelling Up bid considered for parks and open spaces.

Labour will adopt a long-term tree strategy that alongside partners will plant thousands of new trees over coming years building on council action that situated new trees near the River Ribble.

Labour remains the only party in Preston to genuinely address the climate emergency by seeking an incremental restructuring of our local economy. Labour will employ Community Wealth Building to tackle the

climate crisis by seeking opportunities to produce energy in public, cooperative and community ownership by working with anchor partners and seeking opportunities on our land and estate.

Labour believes new devolution arrangements must bring Lancashire buses under public control in the long term like Andy Burnham's Greater Manchester.

Labour will rigorously pursue this despite the Tory County Council moving forward with an 'enhanced bus partnership' leaving Preston and Lancashire citizens behind their North West counterparts.

## To help deliver our environmental agenda Labour will:

- ✓ Use the planning process to push for net zero development by 2030.
- ✓ Ensure Preston's new Local Plan provides green infrastructure and preserves green corridors.
- ✓ Explore with partners the feasibility of a cycle hire scheme.
- ✓ Push for further pedestrianisation of the city centre.
- ✓ Ensure new council owned developments are built to the highest environmental standards.
- ✓ Through public procurement move towards zero carbon supply chains and develop new worker cooperatives to retrofit Preston homes.

# Homes for all in Preston

Labour believes in the importance of quality housing that is affordable for all.



Labour's long-standing policy to commit developers to a target of at least 30% affordable homes on larger housing developments contributed to 564 new affordable housing starts in Preston in the last two years.

Through City Deal Labour has ensured levels of affordable housing are both formally reported and are policy compliant on Homes England land. This helped ensure 48% of all new properties in Preston are affordable in latest figures.

Labour will continue its City Living strategy to encourage development in the city centre and ensure there is adequate affordable housing provision alongside market housing.

Labour's belief in a more democratic economy will apply to housing. Labour aims to establish a council housing company to directly provide housing again and we will lobby for powers and resources to re-establish a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in the longer term.

Labour helped establish a new housing cooperative with our traveller community and is working to support Preston's first Community Land Trust in Plungington. We will maintain our strong relationship with registered providers to maximise new affordable homes.

Labour will continue our successful 'Making Homes from Houses' scheme with Community Gateway that acquired and refurbished thirty long standing empty homes with £800,000 now allocated for further funding.

The expansion of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) in recent years has led to issues in some areas including increased anti-social behaviour. Labour will lobby to give councils powers to restrict HMO's where it is appropriate

to do so. We will also target action and resources in areas with high numbers of irresponsible landlords.

With an expanding and diverse city, Labour will work with housing providers to ensure they support minority communities and through the planning process encourage development to be sensitive to the needs of all communities with appropriate infrastructure and provision for places of worship.

Labour will work tirelessly to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness building on work we have done through Housing First and the pandemic that ensured the homeless were accommodated. We will focus resource on those experiencing multiple disadvantages, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic abuse, and contact with the criminal justice system.

## To support our housing agenda Labour will:

- ✓ **Free up council land for affordable housing development and lobby public sector partners to do similar.**
- ✓ **Maintain our Housing and Homeless Advice Services.**
- ✓ **Continue working in partnership with excellent local charities like The Foxton Centre and Emmaus House.**
- ✓ **Push for any devolution settlement to ensure substantial new funding for upgrading private sector properties.**
- ✓ **Lobby for powers and resources to acquire land for development for new affordable housing.**



# A city to enjoy and be creative

As we emerge from the pandemic Labour will place a new focus on creativity, events, and expression in 2022 to enrich lives, reimagine the city centre, and support our creative sector.



Labour will relaunch our events programme with egg rolling on Easter Monday. A full summer programme will be delivered in key parts of the city centre from the Flag Market to Winckley Square and the Bus Station culminating in the Lancashire Encounter festival in September.

The new Mobile Events Tent (MET) featuring community and creative sector activities will be launched. Public art murals will appear and Preston's nine iconic red telephone boxes will be brought into creative use.

Labour helped secure £14m of new investment for the Harris Museum and Art Gallery delivering a once in a lifetime physical improvement to both modernise and restore its original splendour as the UK's first blended museum, library, and art gallery.

Library activities have relocated to Preston Guild Hall and a Harris programme will continue in alternative locations with multi-million-pound work undertaken by a locally based principal contractor strengthening Community Wealth Building.

## To support culture and creativity Labour will:

- ✓ Substantially improve the public realm in the Harris Quarter.
- ✓ Work toward a sustainable future for Preston Guild Hall as Preston's premier entertainment venue.
- ✓ Implement Preston's new cultural framework involving local artists and support the Birley Street collective.
- ✓ Through Animate offer independent as well as mainstream movies.
- ✓ Collaborate with partners including local venues and Preston BID to strengthen the night time economy.
- ✓ Act as host for the Welsh National Team in this year's Rugby World Cup.

# A Preston that is healthier

The pandemic has been exceptionally difficult so Labour aims to improve the health of our population and tackle entrenched structural inequalities. We will work with health partners to monitor Covid and use our influence so issues like long Covid and mental health are addressed.



Labour has lobbied for a New NHS Hospital in Preston as part of the New Hospitals Programme as a state-of-the-art facility for clinical and patient provision. We are delighted this has made the shortlist and will work with NHS colleagues to identify appropriate locations.

A new Preston hospital will require additional government funding which we will strongly make the case for. We will oppose private sector involvement in NHS services on any new facility.

Labour will use our influence so health provision is targeted in less well-off areas and amongst minority communities disproportionately affected by lower income and deprivation.

Labour recently upgraded local sports pitches and play areas across Preston and worked successfully to reopen West View Leisure Centre. With the operator we have secured fairer pricing structures to ensure lower income groups are supported.

## To support a healthier community Labour will:

- ✓ Utilise the planning process to ensure developers provide appropriate health facilities when the city expands.
- ✓ Through partnership arrangements lobby the NHS to consider new community facilities in vacant commercial units in the city centre.
- ✓ Continue working with our Lead Member for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to support those experiencing mental illness.
- ✓ Directly engage with minority communities to improve uptake of health provision and activities.
- ✓ Seek further funding for Preston's Disabled Facilities Grant.



# One Preston

**Labour knows that minority communities, women, the disabled and the less well-off continue to be treated unfairly. So, we will introduce new initiatives to tackle racism and discrimination and make sure the council promotes equality for all.**

To build inclusivity Labour will take action to tackle all forms of racism working with Show Racism the Red Card, PNE and local schools to introducing sessions that educate and build a culture of tolerance in children and young people.

The response from all sections of our community was exceptional during the pandemic and Labour will work with Preston's faith communities to deepen interfaith dialogue. We will ensure new burial and cremation provision is inclusive for all communities.

For the young alongside plans for a youth zone we will engage with youth organisations and support a new youth programme as well as providing apprenticeships and work opportunities.

For older people we will tackle isolation, promote a positive view of ageing, encourage new job opportunities for older workers and ensure our community food programme supports them.

Labour has expanded the number of equality events focusing on women's rights, LGBTQ+ and Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention. We continue to play a key safeguarding role through our own services and with partners. Our Labour Group is more diverse in terms of gender representation and we aim to reach equal representation soon.

Labour will work through the Community Safety Partnership to reduce offending and reoffending and prioritise tackling knife crime, drug use and violence against women and girls. Labour Councillors are regular attendees at PACT meetings fighting for safer and stronger neighbourhoods.

2022 will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Labour will commemorate the event with the development of the Big Lunch which will incorporate the celebrations. This builds on the tree-planting fortnight that took place earlier this year as part of jubilee year.



## **To support an inclusive community Labour will:**

- ✓ **Work with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) to deliver new sheltered accommodation.**
- ✓ **Provide a new community centre for Preston's African Caribbean community with Windrush CIC.**
- ✓ **Provide funding for charities who tackle domestic violence.**
- ✓ **Ensure development is more accessible for the elderly and disabled and deliver new 'Changing Places' facilities.**
- ✓ **Raise awareness of and offer support to refugees and asylum seekers fleeing conflict and persecution.**
- ✓ **Impact assess all our services, so they protect Human Rights.**



# Vote Labour on Thursday 5 May

## Labour's 6 pledges for 2022



### Labour will continue delivering for you with:

- ✓ Over £60m of public investment to regenerate our city centre including a new cinema, bowling alley, restaurants and Youth Zone creating hundreds of local jobs.
- ✓ An economy working for all with public contracts supporting local businesses and unionised jobs, a growing cooperative sector and Preston becoming a Real Living Wage city.
- ✓ A resurgence of cultural activity to support performance, art and creativity including modernising and restoring the splendour of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery.
- ✓ More affordable homes by requiring developers to provide them, freeing up public sector land and delivering new models of council owned and cooperative housing.
- ✓ Action to tackle climate change through the strategic planting of thousands of new trees with partners, more renewable energy production and further investment in parks and open spaces encouraging biodiversity.
- ✓ Affordable food in every community by supporting holiday markets, food pantries and hot meal providers and investigating a new school breakfast's initiative with free fruit.

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