



Labour Values

Community Thinking

**Our plan for a
successful and
fairer city**

***Brighton & Hove
Labour Party***

Local Elections 2011

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Introduction: *Putting the council on your side.*



Introduction: putting the council on your side.

Brighton & Hove Labour wants to get our city thriving again. The city needs to attract investment and develop stronger communities with locally delivered services. Residents need and deserve a real say in how their services are managed. Labour will provide the strong leadership, working in partnership with other organisations in the city, if elected to run the council on May 5th 2011.

Labour rejects the Tory belief that councils should provide only the most basic of services, leaving it to the private sector to charge residents for the rest. We believe strongly that with the right investment and leadership, the public and voluntary sector in Brighton and Hove, led by the city council, can deliver excellent services for all.

In Brighton & Hove the gap between the more affluent and those facing the most disadvantage is stark. Running through this manifesto is a drive to reduce inequality and make Brighton and Hove a fairer place to live. Labour are committed to taking the city forward and out of recession, but all residents must benefit from an improving economy, not just the better off.

Between 1997 and 2010, the Labour government invested almost double the amount Tory governments put in to local councils previously. Despite this investment the city has failed to thrive following the Tories taking control in 2007. Derelict city centre sites remain empty, with no plans forthcoming for them and too many remain trapped in a cycle of joblessness and substance abuse.

There has been a total lack of leadership and political will to tackle the deep-rooted problems in the city, such as the shortage of affordable homes, better access to transport and educating and skilling the city's young people. Our secondary schools are not improving at the same rate as those in the rest of the country with inner-city London schools out-performing those in Brighton and Hove. Things have to improve.

The next council administration is going to face continuing tough financial times and so it is important that every penny of tax-payer's money is spent wisely. We will work with all partners in the trade union movement, the voluntary, public and business sectors to achieve this – the need for collective action is greater than ever.

Introduction: *Putting the council on your side.*



Brighton & Hove Labour want residents that use local public services to know that they are listened to about how those services are delivered. Where appropriate, we will look at the creation of co-operative and other 'mutual' models, so that those delivering the service and those using the service are brought closer together.

We will restart our popular, high-profile 'Grime Fighter' days where council officers, police, parking attendants, trading standards officers and graffiti busters combine to tackle crime and grime in neighbourhoods based on local resident priorities.

We want to safeguard the future of the city's high quality Surestart Childrens Centres by developing them into 'Neighbourhood Hubs' where local residents can easily access a range of services, help and advice.

The Brighton and Hove Strategic Partnership, made up of representatives from the key sectors in the city, takes important decisions that influence the large amounts of public money are spent, yet little is known of this body and its work. A Labour-run council will take the Strategic Partnership out into communities and neighbourhoods so that local people can discuss issues face to face and hold it to account.

Too much money is currently being wasted by the Tories on expensive consultants (£5.2m in one year alone), the unnecessary duplication of services, marketing and communication teams, glossy publications, agency staff, abandoned projects and sham consultations.

Labour opposed the recruitment of four new 'Super Directors' on £125K salaries, in a process that has cost local residents nearly £1m while essential services were cut and lower paid staff lost their jobs.

At a time of tight public and personal finances, Labour wants to end this Tory waste and direct money right to front line services that benefit the city's residents the most.

Labour will protect front-line services and put fairness and social justice at the heart of everything the city council does. We will put Brighton and Hove back on track to becoming an aspirational and prosperous city where people have confidence in their council to lead, where everyone has the opportunity to succeed, and where those in need will be cared for by services they can rely on.

To make this happen vote for your local Labour council candidates on May 5th.

Building a successful economy

Spreading the City's wealth



Brighton & Hove Labour wants to ensure that economic growth in the city is managed to the benefit of all of our residents and visitors. Our policies will ensure that this growth is environmentally sensitive has a diverse economic base and minimises the impact on climate change.

We know that cities do not stand still and without the right political leadership and vision they fall into decline. But economic growth also has to be fair and socially sustainable with adequate infrastructure and public services.

We want to create new and sustainable businesses in Brighton and Hove and to help our residents benefit from the wealth they will produce.

Around 10,700 people in Brighton and Hove are without jobs and want to work. 17% of households have incomes below £10,000 per year and 20% of children live in households with no working adults. Average earnings in the city are below national levels while property prices are higher than average.

Over 500 16-18yr olds in Brighton and Hove are not in education, employment or training - one of the highest rates in the country. Social exclusion is economically inefficient, it represents a waste of people's potential and generates unnecessary welfare costs.

This is why Brighton & Hove Labour has backed projects that would have provided hundreds of local jobs, affordable homes and apprenticeships for local young people as well as new buildings and homes with the highest environmental credentials.

In the last recession of the 1980s, the Labour Council worked hard to speed the area's recovery by attracting the investment needed to give the city its top position as a high performing conference & retail centre, while securing a reputation as a leading cultural and arts destination. It was this vision and leadership that gave the city its great identity and helped protect it from the worst effects of the recent recession.



Building a successful economy

Spreading the City's wealth



Brighton and Hove is a city of entrepreneurs with 19% of the workforce being self-employed. We have a unique opportunity to pioneer a low-carbon economy.



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Work with investors, the two universities, medical school and local hospitals to bring a major medical/cancer research and treatment centre to the city.
- Ensure that the city takes advantage of the 'Environmental Technologies' that will provide new jobs at every level from high level engineering to retrofitting energy saving measures in homes.
- Get the council to commit to provide 100 apprenticeships and work with large and small employers in the city to maximise the availability of apprenticeships and skills training to increase the employability of city residents.
- In partnership with local colleges, universities and developers we will create a dedicated Jobs & Homes Unit part-funded by developer contributions that would co-ordinate the employment, training and skilling of local people in the construction industry and address the jobs shortage, especially for young men. This would include pre and post construction training and paid training placements
- Support ethical trading via campaigns such as Labour's 'Fair Tips' campaign where 50 local restaurants pledged to pass on 100% of customer's tips to staff.
- Work with businesses to expand the city's Business Improvement District to attract more investment into the city centre.
- Use the funding Labour identified in the Council's budget to implement a Financial Inclusion Programme in disadvantaged areas to help local residents manage their money on a day-to-day basis, increase the number of residents with a basic bank account, provide access to affordable credit - such as joining a Credit Union, and receive debt advice delivered from the 'Neighbourhood Hubs'.
- Support the campaign for a national Living Wage of around £7 an hour
- Set up a central work placement unit to ensure that the city's young people benefit from regular and varied work experience in all sectors
- Promote the clustering of small businesses to better enable them to bid for large public sector contracts along with readily accessible advice on tendering

Building a successful economy

Spreading the City's wealth



IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE LABOUR HAS:

Had the foresight to expand the Brighton Centre to attract visitors to the city year round, invested in the regeneration of the Dome and Corn Exchange and started the world renowned Brighton Festival now contributing £20m per year to the local economy.

Made Brighton and Hove the UK's first 'Fair Trade City' and will work to support the expansion of Fair Trade products on offer in local shops as well as undertaking a radical review to improve the council's own ethical procurement policies.



Positioned the city as a hub for the Digital and Cultural Media Industries by building the Innovation Centres that nurtured them and worked alongside them to promote their growth. We want to do the same again by ensuring that the city can take advantage of key developments in the medical and environmental technology industries to attract jobs.

We have always supported Brighton and Hove Albion FC to enable the building of the city's first sports stadium at Falmer—opposed by the Tories and the Greens. The Labour Council supported the club's community programmes that have enabled thousands of young people and adults to achieve vocational qualifications—more than any other club in the country.

Brighton and Hove Labour started the regeneration of the Brighton Centre, now stalled by the Tories, and brought forward proposals for the regeneration of key seafront sites to provide much needed affordable homes, jobs and a state of the art leisure centre—while the Tories and Greens voted against with no proposals of their own.

We implemented a city-wide sustainable transport programme to accompany this growth and prioritised investment in public transport that cut unnecessary car journeys, boosted cycling and bus use while improving air quality.

Building a successful economy

Spreading the City's wealth



Tory Council waste and inaction:

During their four years running the council the Tories have failed to take the city forward, have failed to show leadership and have put investment in the city at risk.



During the economic downturn they have failed to prepare for better times and position the city to take advantage of the economic upturn.

The Tories have sent out the message that "Brighton and Hove is closed for business".

They have failed to bring forward proposals for key sites that still remain empty instead of providing jobs and homes.

They have scrapped the Future Jobs Fund that was helping more than 700 Brighton and Hove youngsters to get jobs.

They have scrapped the vital Connexions service that guided young people from school into training and into work and ended the valued Education Maintenance Allowance that enabled young people from poorer families to pay for bus fares, books and lunches at college and made all the difference to them starting and staying on at college.

The city's transport programme being implemented by Labour has been allowed to grind to a halt with millions cut from its budget and hundreds of thousands wasted on abandoned projects—they now want to spend £1.1 million on the removal of a cycle lane that has cut road accidents by 20%.

Children, young people and education. *Investing in the future*



We believe all children in Brighton and Hove deserve the best start in life. We will work to narrow the gap between those with advantage and those without and to see all children, young people and their families being able to access the help and support they

We know that children from better-off homes benefit from wider opportunities and that poverty affects a child's educational abilities even before they reach school.

This is why Labour Governments introduced universal services such as 'Surestart' and 'Connexions' - services that the Tory and Liberal Democrat Government and the local Tory Council are now cutting.

Brighton & Hove Labour believes that all schools in the city, both in the state and private sector, should work together to serve all the city's children and that state funded schools should not be forced to compete with each other. We will strive to maintain a strong LEA and work to ensure that as far as possible there is a genuine comprehensive intake of pupils from all backgrounds.

We backed the Labour Government's policy to create Academies where schools were failing and needed a new focus with investment but do not support the move by the Coalition Government to force all better performing schools to become Academies while abandoning the rest.

We believe that Academy Schools should stay within the partnership of LEA schools with the same admissions criteria and a responsibility to work with and exchange their educational expertise with all other schools for the benefit of all of the city's children.

Under the Tory Council we know that the city's secondary schools have not been improving in the way that they should or at the same rate as those in the rest of the UK, according to a recent Audit Commission report. *'Oneplace' report: Audit Commission 2009*. Schools in deprived inner-city London areas are producing better results than Brighton and Hove.

Labour will not shy away from making it a priority to tackle the causes of that underachievement - we want every parent in the city to positively want to use our schools.

Children, young people and education. *Investing in the future*



All children in Brighton and Hove deserve the best education and start and in life.



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Protect Children's Surestart Centres by turning them into vibrant 'Neighbourhood Hubs' delivering a variety of services to the local community.
- Raise the educational standards in the city's Secondary Schools by working with parents, staff and governors.
- Deliver a permanent, new Primary School in Hove where we would consider a Co-operative Trust School model that would give parents a greater say in how their school was run.
- Encourage schools to promote a lifestyle of healthy activity and healthy eating to help address the rise in childhood obesity. We would like to get the views of parents on the reintroduction of 'Meat Free Mondays' for school meals.
- Reduce teenage pregnancies, youth crime and help young people into training and jobs by developing a distinct 'Brighton and Hove Connexions Service' in conjunction with the voluntary sector and schools, based on the successful national model and funded by cutting back on the council's public relations budget.
- Strive to maintain a strong LEA that will improve quality, fairly distribute resources and provide accountability in the face of government attempts to dismantle local education democracy.

Children, young people and education. *Investing in the future*



Labour has:

Worked to significantly improve all of the city's schools so that none were in 'special measures' - improvements that the Tories have failed to take forward.

Created specialisms within Secondary Schools including the performing arts, languages, technology and music and ensured that those specialisms were shared with other schools and adults in the local community.

Attracted £26 million of Labour Government funding for the provision of a new Academy School at Falmer to serve a particularly disadvantaged area—opposed by the Greens.

Worked to attract a £150m Building Schools for the Future funding for new buildings for secondary schools in the city—scrapped by the Tories and the Lib Dems.

Young children

Brighton & Hove Labour firmly believe that the provision of good quality child-care and nursery education for those families that want it can help to give children a good start in life. When running the council we prioritised this provision, providing flexible, 'wrap-around' childcare to help working families.

Labour built 15 city 'Surestart' Childrens Centres, starting with areas in most need.

Worked with the private sector to establish Neighbourhood Nurseries in areas of disadvantage where parents were also helped into training and jobs.

Created additional nursery classes within infant and primary schools.

Ensured that as far as possible the council could offer a primary place near to a child's home with an adequate supply of places.

Education and a bright future for children and young people in the city is being put at risk through waste and inaction.



Children, young people and education.



Education and a bright future for children and young people in the City is being put at risk through waste and inaction.



Current Conservative Council waste and inaction:

An additional extra £10m government funding for new school buildings and class-rooms refused in 2009 because the Tory council “could not cope with it”.

A chronic failure to provide sufficient Primary School places for Hove and Portslade children that is causing unnecessary anxiety for parents and has removed their right to a reasonable choice of schools.

Cutting the Building Schools for the Future funding that would have improved all the city’s secondary schools so as to pay for their ideologically divisive ‘free-schools’ policy for the few.

Cutting the funding to Surestart Children’s Centres, the Connexions Service, Education Maintenance Allowance and the Future Jobs Fund.

Failed to maintain the academic improvement in the city’s secondary schools and are now bringing in an external consultant to sort out the problems.

Are proposing ‘top-up fees’ for children’s nurseries that only the better off can afford.

Tried to close the top-quality city centre Bright Start Children’s Nursery but have backed down after concerted opposition from parents, staff, unions and Labour.

Housing. *Building affordable, sustainable homes in our City*



Brighton & Hove Labour believe that everyone has the right to a secure, decent and affordable home in a safe community, whether buying or renting. Labour is the only party committed to delivering the new homes that local families and the city's economy needs.



There are working families on low and middle incomes who find it difficult to buy outright and do not gain access to social housing. These are often people at the heart of our economy and in the front-line of public services: HGV drivers, IT workers, teaching assistants, receptionists, shop assistants, librarians, caterers and even the bricklayers and carpenters building the new homes.

We must do much more to meet housing need. Housing is the bedrock of public services and it too important to be left entirely to the market. We need to expand the role

of council housing and housing association homes to meet the housing needs of ordinary people, of families, of the young and the elderly.

Pressure on the private rented sector is increasing and the changes to Housing Benefit that will impose a single room rate up to the age of 35 years will cause a surge in the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Added to this, the Tory-led Government has removed the requirement for planning permission to change family homes into an HMO.

Brighton and Hove Labour wants to see the reinstatement and development of more robust controls on the conversion of family homes into HMOs.

New local homes:

Brighton & Hove Labour will kickstart a new home building programme. We will use all funding available to us, whether from the private or public sectors, to start to provide new homes for local people again, built to the highest environmentally sustainable standards.

We will positively explore the creation of Co-operative housing schemes and ensure that local young people and workers gain skills and jobs from all new developments.

Young people need to be given the opportunity to begin independent lives and should not be excluded from the housing market. We will work to maximise the availability of 'rent to ownership' schemes such as HomeBuy Direct, the popular scheme that gives first time buyers a foot on the property ladder.

Housing. *Building affordable, sustainable homes in our City*



Decent council homes

Brighton and Hove Labour is opposed to the selling off and privatisation of council homes and believe that tenants should be fully involved in the decision making and management of their homes.

Labour Governments have worked to tackle the £19 billion of council and housing association repairs left by the last Tory Government when almost 40% of social homes were in an unacceptable condition. New windows, doors, central heating, insulation, kitchens and bathrooms have been provided for millions of tenants and now over nine out of every ten social homes are decent.



We will continue the Labour Government's programme to bring all council homes in the city up to the decency standard.

Meanwhile too many homes are lying empty and in disrepair on our estates that could be brought back into use for needy families.

We oppose the government's requirement that these homes have to stay empty for at least two years, becoming a magnet for squatters and delaying the chance of a home for families on the waiting list.

Housing. *Building affordable, sustainable homes in our City*



Everyone in the City should be able to live in decent, safe and affordable housing.



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Bring empty and disused homes in the public and private sectors back into use - via compulsory purchase if necessary.
- Strongly oppose the Tory and Liberal Democrat Government's plans to end secure tenancies for social housing tenants and to equalise rents with the private sector. This could mean the average council rent jumping from £61.63 per week to £132.46.
- Implement an ambitious home insulation programme and develop a feed-in tariff scheme linked to the installation of solar photovoltaic panels for council homes and extended to the private sector
- Call on the new government to continue Labour's funding for Decent Homes and accelerate the programme.
- Establish a local private tenant's landlords register so that all tenants can check their landlord's details.
- Push for better regulation of letting and managing agents by working with them to raise standards.
- Locally regulate the running of Houses in Multiple Occupation across the city making full use of the new powers given to councils by the previous Labour Government.

Housing. *Building affordable, sustainable homes in our City*



Brighton & Hove Labour has:

Invested millions in improving socially rented homes, as well as building thousands more by providing sites at low cost.

Built hundreds of high quality sheltered homes for elderly and vulnerable residents and worked with the local NHS to provide extra-care housing.

Set up a structure and involved tenants in the running of their homes.

Successfully introduced a 40% affordable homes policy for all new developments - opposed by the Tories and the Greens.

Looked in detail at the issues of 'studentification' in the city and developed sensible proposals to improve life for all in affected neighbourhoods after listening to residents, university officials, letting agents and students.

The previous Labour Government:

Reformed council house finance so that councils can keep 100% of rental income to use to invest and build new homes - now under threat of a 'U' turn by the Tory led Government who want more money to go to the Treasury.

For the first time introduced national service standards for social housing tenants that also includes a requirement on landlords to tackle anti-social behaviour—scrapped by the Tories.

Introduced changes to Planning rules so that councils now have more powers over the management of Houses in Multiple Occupation—watered down by the Tories.

Extended and strengthened the rights for people who privately rent their homes so they get a better deal such as with the compulsory tenant's deposit protection scheme and leasehold reform.



Valuing & supporting this diverse City



We will work to support strong and positive relationships between communities and strive to foster the understanding and value of the diversity of peoples backgrounds. We want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity for similar life chances and



We are proud that Brighton and Hove is a diverse and tolerant city. It is one of the reasons that people love living here. The variety of its population is expressed through the city's history that in turn makes it a place that people want to visit and learn about.

Brighton and Hove Labour recognise that the differing communities in the city need to be supported and that the local public sector agencies must work with them to gain their trust and to fully understand their needs when designing and delivering services.

Brighton and Hove Labour will:

- Continue to support the capacity of community groups via a funding programme that includes the role of the voluntary sector's expertise and experience in community engagement with diverse groups.
- Ensure that there is adequate representation from the city's diverse communities on council policy making and service planning.
- Be a strong voice in challenging discrimination both in our workforce and in communities.
- Maintain anti-bullying and equalities work in schools to particularly tackle discrimination—work that was ended by the Tories.



Valuing & supporting this diverse City



- Continue to support an effective Equalities and Communities Team within the council to support community development work in neighbourhoods across the city.
- Ensure that the voices and experience of older people are properly listened to and taken into account when designing new policies and support the Older Peoples Council that lobbies on their behalf.
- Complete the council's Equal Pay system and speak up for women who are bearing an unfair burden from the Tory-led Government's cuts.



Crime and Community Safety.

A safe, inclusive and crime free City



Brighton and Hove Labour believes that stronger, fairer communities are the best defence against crime and anti-social behaviour.

The previous Labour Council supported Sussex Police's introduction of Neighbourhood Policing by co-funding the first Police Community Support Officers in the city and setting up neighbourhood Local Action Teams to involve residents in setting local policing priorities.



Now all residents can easily find out who their local police officers are and how to get directly in touch.

We created the Environmental Improvement Team to work with local residents to make safer and more attractive public spaces that reduce the fear of crime and put pride back into communities.

Labour established the Police/Council Community Safety Team in its own city centre premises where experts at dealing with hate crime, domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and racism work alongside each other and are directly accessible to the public.

This successful approach has led to steadily falling levels of crime with 9% fewer crimes reported in 2008/9 and levels of criminal damage to buildings and homes also down. The number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time and ending up in custody fell by 25% in 2010.

We want to build on this progress by consulting with partners on the establishment of a Community Justice Centre in the city with the aim of bringing a problem solving approach to sentencing that directly reflects the local needs and concerns of the immediate community.

However, Brighton & Hove Labour is keenly aware of the threat to the stability of communities and to individuals' lives posed by the level of drug dealing and drug taking in the city and the city's unenviable reputation as the "Drug Death Capital of the UK". Over 70% of all burglary crime in Brighton and Hove is drug related.

Crime and Community Safety.

A safe, inclusive and crime free City



Brighton and Hove Labour will make tackling drug dealing and drug-taking a priority. We will support the police in their increasingly successful efforts to cut off the supply of drugs by targeting the gangs who supply them and we will work alongside the agencies in the voluntary sector and NHS who are at the front line of helping addicts into treatment and support, where the numbers who are staying on such programmes are slowly increasing.

We support the approach of the successful 3 year pilot run by the Sussex Partnership NHS Trust where previously unreachable injecting drug addicts are supplied with prescribed injectable drugs in conjunction with intensive support and counselling to properly engage them in their own recovery. We want to see the new government fund such programmes that are far more cost effective than keeping addicts in prison.

No less serious an issue for the city is that of alcohol abuse and, in particular, underage drinking. Labour strengthened the council's Trading Standards and Licensing functions to deal with the problems this can cause and will not hesitate to take tough action and revoke licenses where needed.



We support the move towards a minimum price for alcohol and a ban on sales below cost price as being a first step towards tackling alcohol abuse.

Crime and Community Safety.

A safe, inclusive and crime free City



Everyone, from every part of our community, should be able to live free from the fear of crime.



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL

- Protect and enhance those projects that work to keep young people active and engaged with their communities - this is the best way to help steer young people away from crime and addictive behaviour, give them a sense of self-worth and prevent them from becoming a marginalised group.
- Strengthen relations with the Courts to get meaningful sentences and a better shared understanding of the council's community safety priorities.
- Examine whether the establishment of a Community Justice Centre could make sentencing more relevant to local problems and provide solutions
- Want to see tough sentences for drug-dealers.
- Fight to keep the city's PCSOs and front-line police - increased by Labour and now being cut by the Tories and Liberal Democrats.
- Give powers to PCSOs to be able to enforce dog control orders across the city, including a clampdown on the minority of dog-owners who fail to clean up after their pets.
- Support and extend the use of Restorative Justice (Probation Service) projects that bring a sense of natural justice to neighbourhoods that have suffered from crime.
- Safeguard projects that work with drug and alcohol abusers, getting them out of addiction and back in control of their lives while at the same time being tough on drug-dealing and irresponsible alcohol sales.
- Use pooled budgets with the police and NHS to maintain the experienced Hate Crime Workers that are helping residents to tackle homophobia, domestic and sexual violence and other discriminatory behaviour

Leisure, Sports and Culture

An entertaining and vibrant City



The vision and investment of successive Labour administrations gave the city its enviable reputation as a leading destination for arts and culture. Visitors flock here for the wide variety of attractions. But we must improve the city's sporting facilities.

Tourism, arts and culture in the city has a hugely positive impact on the city's economy, with 20% of the workforce being direct employed in the tourism sector alone which contributes over £400 million to the local economy. The creative and cultural industries account for a further 10% of employment and with one fifth of businesses classed as creative and cultural, this is a fast growing sector.

Brighton & Hove Labour will reassert the Council's commitment and pivotal role in promoting and sustaining sports, leisure and culture in the city.



The Brighton Festival, an internationally renowned arts festival started by Labour, contributes £20 million to the local economy.

However, we do not want the cultural attractions of the city to be the province of a small elite - we want them to be accessible for all.

Arts and Culture in the city contributes millions to the local economy and Brighton and Hove Labour want to ensure that all residents in the city benefit from these economic opportunities.

But the city deserves better sports facilities and the Tory run council has failed to provide them. According to a study commissioned by the council "the city lacks high profile and a much needed network of specialist sports facilities which could form the focus of a major sports development programme." (*Ken Burlton Consultancy 2009*).

Brighton & Hove Labour will seek to ensure that our city contributes to and benefits from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.



Leisure, Sports and Culture

An entertaining and vibrant City



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Continue to fund free swimming sessions for 11yr olds and under during the school holidays.
- Work with investors to provide the state of the art leisure centres that the city deserves.
- Widen participation from the whole of the city in sports and healthy exercise and work with all sports partners, including the football club, to maintain the School Sports Partnership and support its 1,000 volunteers.
- Support aspiring young people making the leap from gifted amateur to professional
- Seek to use the best of 21st century chip technology to give every tax paying resident a smart card that can be loaded with points from socially beneficial activities such as volunteering to then give free access to cultural and sports events and facilities or even exchange for a free bus ride.
- Maintain the excellent Brighton and Hove music service for schools that is under threat from Tory cuts.
- Work with local Arts organisations to help them establish good financial income streams to secure their planning of innovative new works.

Environment & neighbourhood. *A clean and green City*



While the Green Party merely delivers slogans, it is Labour in Brighton and Hove that has taken the decisions and delivered the results that has made the city “the most sustainable in the UK” - *Forum for the Future. Oct. 2007.*

Brighton and Hove Labour’s environmental policies are on the side of residents by contributing to a greener, cleaner and fairer future for all.

Brighton & Hove Labour wants the city to have its own ‘Central Park’ and will work to bring forward proposals for a major scheme to enhance and improve Valley Gardens where what are currently giant traffic islands could be linked up to create continuous, safe and useable green space that reduces the impact of traffic, better connects to the North Laine and provides a more suitable setting for the historic St Peter’s Church.



The Tory Council has neglected keeping the estates and streets, where most residents live, clean whilst spending money on what they call their ‘high profile’ areas in the city. Brighton and Hove Labour will focus council resources on keeping streets where residents live clean of rubbish, fly-tipping and dog-mess.



We want to ensure that the city’s outlying estates and the city centre areas get the same quality of cleaning as its leafy suburbs and tourist areas.

Environment & neighbourhood. *A clean and green City*



Failure to tackle speeding can blight neighbourhoods and make them feel less safe, especially for families with young children and older people. We will continue with our programme of incrementally installing 20mph zones in neighbourhoods in consultation with local residents.



We will restart our popular environmental action days with a 'Grime Fighter' day programme in neighbourhoods where council enforcement officers, police, parking attendants, trading standards officers and graffiti busters will be combined to tackle abandoned cars, fly-tipping and other crime and grime issues.

Labour will work to bring investment and improvements to the city's local shopping areas and protect local services such as Post Offices that the Tories want to privatise.

We will continue the council's bus route subsidy for bus routes to outlying areas to enable residents to access the vital bus services they need.

Climate change

Climate Change is the single biggest challenge we face as a planet and we will ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in every decision we make.



The effects of climate change globally and locally will have the most disastrous effect upon the poorest and most vulnerable. Rising energy costs and increasing extremes of temperature will have the most impact on the fuel bills and health of the least well off in the city.

Brighton & Hove Labour supports the carbon cutting 10:10 campaign and is serious about its objectives. We are also committed to taking the work forward to enable the city to become an Urban Biosphere Reserve first proposed by Labour in 2008.

Environment & neighbourhood. *A clean and green City*



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Put our citywide Sustainable Transport Strategy back on track by prioritising efficient public transport, continuing investment in cycling, enhanced pedestrian facilities and tackling traffic congestion and air pollution.
- Explore whether 'smart' technology at traffic signals could give buses priority to speed them on their way. Buses moving more freely around the city means they run on time and frequencies can be increased.
- Work to provide more high quality public open space in the city centre and seek to implement more urban regeneration schemes such as our successful project for New Road.
- Bring forward plans to improve Valley Gardens after they were scrapped by the Tories. We will provide more green space in the heart of the city while reducing traffic and improving air quality.
- Work with energy companies and co-operatives to make thousands more homes in the city energy efficient in conjunction with a project such as Reading Council's 'Heatseekers' scheme, that uses thermal technology to identify private sector homes that would benefit from better insulation. This will ensure that more people are protected from rising energy costs, is a social fair way to reduce CO2 emissions and provide jobs.
- Investigate the feasibility of 3 viable Park & Ride systems operating from edge of city sites and assess their impact on city centre traffic reduction
- Maintain the hours of operation of the older person's bus pass.
- Maintain weekly domestic refuse collections.
- Continue to make public transport more accessible by working with train and bus operators to develop the Brighton and Hove version of London's Oyster Card.
- Continue to uphold our tough environmental planning policies and ensure that developers build to the highest environmental standards.
- Protect the city's Downland and open spaces. Any new building must take place first and foremost on brownfield sites adjacent to good public transport links.

Environment & neighbourhood. *A clean and green City*



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL (CTD...):

- Reduce the level of food-waste in the city - currently 1/3rd of all domestic waste - and trial a food composting scheme.
- Increase the number of allotments and promote community allotment schemes
- Increase the supply of electric vehicle charging points to keep pace with demand
- Incrementally implement 20mph zones in residential areas in consultation with local residents
- Expand our successful Real Time Bus Information service

Labour's environmental record:

Took the city's refuse collection service back in-house and worked with the unions to improve the service to residents and make it more efficient.

Substantially increased the level of waste recycled to 29% by setting up one of the most comprehensive recycling services in the UK to 95% of city homes, creating new jobs in the process and all at no extra cost to the tax-payer.

Reduced domestic waste by 7% year on year.

Ensured that local residents can still buy subsidised composters from £5 each to recycle food waste.

Implemented our own nationally recognised award winning environmental planning policies for low/zero carbon sustainable homes and buildings and ensured that developers delivered on tough requirements for energy efficiency.

Delivered multi-million pound sustainable transport programmes that prioritised public transport, increased cycling and reduced congestion.

Made appropriate housing developments 'car-free' to help parking congestion.

Worked with energy companies to introduce the 'Warm Homes' scheme that is making hundreds of Brighton and Hove homes more energy efficient and reducing fuel bills. The national 'Warm Front' home insulation programme has now been cut by 50% by the Tory led Government.

Built the UK's first cycle free-way running from the Downs to the sea that the Tories now want to remove at a cost to the taxpayer of £1.1 Million.

Environment & neighbourhood.

A clean and green City



Tory Council waste and inaction:

- Failed to take any measures to further reduce traffic congestion.
- Allowed recycling rates to steadily fall with a drop of 2% in just one year
- Wasted £95K tax-payer's money on a sham consultation on a cycle lane they had no intention of building.
- Failed to reduce the number of pedestrian road casualties while spending £700k on 'marble' steps and seats at the Clock Tower
- using precious transport funding that could have been spent on neighbourhood road safety measures.
- Cut school road safety programmes while spending £50K on two machines to count cyclists.
- Promised the city a Monorail and have failed to even produce a costed proposal.
- Sent £4m transport funding back to the government because they did not know how to spend it.
- Failed to keep the city's roads and pavements in good repair despite having made at least £30 million from parking fees since they have controlled the council.

Parking

The Tories promised to "end parking chaos" when they took control of the council but growing numbers of people are calling for a better way of managing parking.

Brighton and Hove Labour will listen to residents' concerns and suggestions and work to introduce a simpler and fairer system of parking controls that puts residents first.



Environment & neighbourhood. *A clean and green City*



Protecting and creating open spaces

From the 11,500 acres of rolling Downland in the council's ownership to the small pockets of open space in the city centre, our parks and open spaces must be preserved for all to enjoy.

Labour has always has the vision of a National Park for the South Downs and has worked to make that vision a reality so that the best possible protection can be given to the countryside surrounding the city.

We want to see the Downland in the council's ownership managed and farmed in a properly sustainable way and will work with the new South Downs National Park Authority to ensure that the increase in tourism that the national park will bring is not to the detriment of the landscape.



We opposed the Tory-led Government's plan to privatise the Forestry Commission land that would have led to restricted access for people.

Brighton and Hove Labour believe that it is essential for everyone's health and sense of wellbeing to be able to easily access the city's wonderful parks and we will work to invest in better, high quality public open space in the city centre.

We will support the local growing of food and actively encourage local communities and individuals who want to create allotments and community gardens.

We will promote participation in Labour's 'Land Bank' initiative that fosters community relations along with the local growing of food.

Where possible we want to see the creation of 'Pocket Parks' on unused sites.

Adult Social Care and Health

Caring for our citizens



The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation ranks Brighton & Hove as the 79th most deprived (where 1 is the most deprived). The city has the second worst male life expectancy among its comparator cities. Inequalities exist right across the city, between neighbourhoods and including people from different ethnic groups, people with physical and learning disabilities, carers and homeless people.

Reducing health inequalities

Brighton and Hove has high levels of need, particularly in relation to health where the difference in mortality rates between the more affluent areas of the city and the disadvantaged areas is stark.

Brighton & Hove Labour is committed to narrowing the gap and ensuring that people can easily access the help that they need.

Our vision is for a high quality comprehensive care service that is there for all, regardless of wealth or income. A Social Care NHS.

Public Health is now the council's responsibility and a Labour Council will work closely with the local NHS to design local health services to meet residents' needs and keep them out of hospital.

We want to see more health services delivered in communities through 'Neighbourhood Hubs', that meet our aims of reducing inequality and creating a fairer city.



Adult Social Care and Health

Caring for our citizens



BRIGHTON & HOVE LABOUR WILL:

- Carefully manage the introduction of personal and individual budgets to ensure that residents are properly helped to make the right choices for them.
- Use the council's powers of scrutiny to closely monitor standards in residential homes.
- Promote and support visiting schemes that work to reduce isolation and loneliness, particularly among elderly and vulnerable people.
- Work to ensure that day care and activities are available to those that want it as a change of scene and a chance to meet and mix with others.
- Pilot a neighbourhood help scheme along the lines of the Southwark Circle, linked to a 'Neighbourhood Hub' and run on a Social Enterprise basis that allows people to become members and 'buy in' (with tokens) the level of support and help that they feel that they need.
www.southwarkcircle.org.uk/getting_things_done.php
- Fiercely oppose the move by the Tory and Liberal Democrat Government to break up and privatise the NHS by scrapping PCTs and introducing the commissioning of health services via private health companies who will work on behalf of GPs. We believe Brighton and Hove residents should get the best local health care according to their needs, not on the basis of cost.
- Lobby the local NHS to provide an additional Midwifery Unit to prevent women having to be sent out of the city to give birth due to the pressure on existing services