



A BRIGHTER FUTURE

CORNWALL LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO 2021

KERNOW ONEN HAG OLL

 **Labour**

**FOR THE MANY
NOT THE FEW**

FOREWORD

On Cornwall Council, the Labour Group punches well above its weight! Declaring the Climate Emergency and committing to 2030 carbon neutrality were high profile Labour-led victories. But so much more has been achieved.

Labour councillors:

- Proposed and won a 2019 alternative budget to put £3.5 million towards mental healthcare in schools, the first ever successful budget challenge of this Council.
- Successfully proposed a motion supporting Marcus Rashford's campaign on child poverty stating that children of parents on Universal Credit should receive free school meals.
- Brought a council motion that led to a new Responsible Procurement Policy ensuring many council contracts now default to Cornish suppliers. Contractors are judged for the Social and Environmental Value that they provide to Cornwall.
- We are prominent advocates of the adoption of the Foundation Living Wage, and the Ethical Care Charter, which improves the pay, terms and conditions of Cornish care workers.
- Chaired the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Inquiry Report into the state of Cornish Private Rented Sector Housing with accepted recommendations on licensing, better treatment for renters and rent caps.
- Held a seat on the Pensions Committee and fought for and achieved a new Responsible Investment Policy with commitments to drastically cut the amounts our Local Government Pension Fund invests in carbon.
- On second homes, the Council has now voted twice on Labour motions to scrap the tax loophole and support a Council Tax Levy on second homes and redirect the money for the purpose of providing social housing.
- Submitted a motion at the last meeting of the current Council to highlight the difficulties the fishing industry and in particular the shellfish industry is facing and to seek ways to support it so it can survive and thrive.
- Called for direct financial support to be offered to the shellfish industry as a matter of urgency and to use all the tools at the Council's disposal to offer assistance to the Cornish fishing industry which has been so badly betrayed by the government.

But that is not the limit of our ambitions. With your vote, a Labour Council would:

- Lead a transformation of public spending, ensuring every pound spent in Cornwall puts something back into the community, its people and its environment, increasing local ownership and reducing outsourcing, supporting and building Cornish businesses, co-operatives and Community Interest Companies.
 - Turbo charge social/council housing provision. We also want to change the definition of affordable, so that local people on their local wages can live in security in Cornwall.
 - Accelerate Cornish devolution. Support launching regional investment banks where spending decisions are taken in Cornwall. Make Cornwall a Foundation Living Wage area. Keep planning and housing decisions local, rather than in Bristol or Westminster.
 - Maximise the huge opportunity to invest in our green infrastructure and own the future of energy in Cornwall.
 - Take local control of local transport and do a full review of Cornwall's transport needs. Make it affordable, low carbon and make it work for the community.
- Save our high streets. Invest in repurposing empty buildings and revitalising town centres.
 - Push the government to close business rates loopholes for second homes. Ringfence future taxes arising for Cornish social housing provision.
 - Provide quality council (and support co-operative) owned and run care for our elderly and vulnerable with decent terms and conditions for workers.
 - Push hard for fairer health and care funding for Cornwall. Too many of our buildings are run down & no longer fit for purpose. We need more staff and more beds so people can be treated closer to home.
 - Bring leisure facilities back under Cornwall's control and keep them open. Provide more vital youth services.

Since 2017, Cornwall has voted Labour more than ever before. The track record of Labour councillors is clear. Vote Labour on 6 May and give us the mandate to secure, protect and rebuild Cornwall.

HOME CORNWALL



HOUSING AND PLANNING

Labour believes everyone in Cornwall should have a decent, secure and affordable home.

Everyone who lives in Cornwall should have a decent home they can afford to live in so we will make the cost of private ownership, private rents and social rents reflect the reality of earnings here and be truly affordable. A decent home is a right, we will ensure there is enough of the right housing in the right places to provide decent homes for everyone who lives here, this will include social rented housing so we will ensure all existing social rented housing is a decent standard and build good quality council housing where it is needed.

We will work to close the loophole that allows second homes to avoid council tax, this revenue will be used to fund social rented housing. We will lobby government for the right to charge a 'housing offset levy' which will raise money to offset the damage caused to our communities by second homes.

Labour will take action against rogue landlords and ensure rented homes are fit for human habitation.

Providing the right housing in the right places that people can afford to live in will help to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping which we will further tackle by introducing a 'housing first' policy.

We will lobby government to stop imposing unfair, unrealistic planning diktats that don't take account of the situation in Cornwall. It's vital that communities have a strong voice in planning so we'll make sure every town and parish has a Neighbourhood Plan, this will mean local people have a democratic say in the future of their communities.

Labour believes that the planning system in Cornwall is key to providing and protecting the kind of Cornwall we want to live in.

We will seek powers from the government to plan communities rather than disconnected developments and make sure that local infrastructure such as schools and healthcare are planned alongside new homes. We will seek powers to make changes to planning rules to prevent our communities being hollowed out any further by second homes.

All new homes should already be built as zero carbon homes to reduce their environmental impact and make them more economical to run. The government has a target date of 2050 to achieve this; as this kind of home can already be built we believe Cornwall should lead the way in protecting it's environment by working towards an earlier date for all new homes to be zero carbon.

GREEN CORNWALL



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Climate Emergency affects all of us and everything we do; it is taken into account in all Labour policies and aspirations.

Labour sees policies to tackle the climate emergency and to improve our environment as a chance to kick-start a green industrial revolution for Cornwall where we decisively grasp the opportunity presented to us by the urgent need to change the way we do many things; as we are changing things for the better environmentally we will change them for the better socially and economically.

We will fight for local communities to have the right to set up community owned energy companies so they can collectively take action to reduce energy usage and also generate, manage, purchase and sell energy. We will promote geothermal, tidal, wind and solar energy so that we can power Cornwall with clean green energy and sell what we don't use to the National Grid.

We will locally source goods and services where we can to reduce emissions and we will encourage other large scale purchasers to do the same; this also means we will be spending more money locally to boost the economy. We will retrofit council buildings and the existing social housing stock to net zero carbon standards where possible which will further reduce emissions, reduce the running costs for tenants, and will provide well paid jobs on a large scale.

We will increase recycling capacity and recycling rates in Cornwall and make the kerbside collection service work for the people who use it – local residents. We will invest in an anaerobic digester in Cornwall so that we can collect and process food waste here.

CARING CORNWALL



Labour believes that Health and Care is best managed in Cornwall – for Cornwall.

Our NHS

The NHS in Cornwall is badly underfunded so Labour will fight for better, fairer funding. Where someone lives must not determine the quality of healthcare they receive, everyone must be able to access the healthcare they need in an NHS facility within a reasonable distance of their home.

Social Care

We will increase the number of council owned and run care homes so that the older and more vulnerable members of our community can receive great care closer to home; people working in our care homes will be fairly employed on good terms and conditions and will be able to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Public Health

We will prioritise Public Health and Prevention and seek better funding for it, money for Public Health must only be spent on Public Health. We will ensure Cornwall can deliver a robust and effective pandemic response including local test and trace capacity now and in the future.

Our NHS, Social Care and Public Health services should all be managed locally, Labour firmly believes that those in Cornwall know Cornwall best.



COMMUNITY CORNWALL

People should be able to travel around Cornwall easily and efficiently with the lowest possible environmental impact.

Public transport will be brought under local public control to ensure affordable, reliable, frequent services that serve the needs of both residents and visitors; we will use electric vehicles to achieve this wherever we can. People who live in Cornwall should be able to travel to and from work using public transport and the public transport system should be able to cope with the influx of visitors during the summer.

We will review rail services across Cornwall to connect more towns and communities and ensure they connect to other services such as local buses.

Investing in safe cycling routes linking towns as well as town centre cycle, e-cycle and e-car hire hubs will allow people to travel safely for work or leisure with zero carbon footprint. We will promote this 'active travel' for leisure and to and from work and ensure where possible that it is a genuine alternative to other forms of travel.

We understand the need to use private vehicles for many in Cornwall and the pressure this puts on our roads and carparks – especially during the summer period. Investing in public transport, active travel, car hire hubs, and car clubs as well as other innovative solutions will help to reduce the strain on our roads and carparks.



THRIVING CORNWALL

Labour knows that it is not enough for the economy to simply survive – it must thrive so that the people and communities of Cornwall can thrive.

We will lead by example and implement policies that build local community wealth; as we lead we will promote these policies to other large scale employers and purchasers across Cornwall. When we buy goods and services we will consider the social value the provider brings to the people of Cornwall by prioritising things such as local employment, good employment practices and the training given to local people including real apprenticeships and we will encourage and support these other employers to do the same.

To build community wealth we will encourage ownership types that increase the economic power held by communities, local people and local institutions. Driving more diverse ownership models such as small enterprises, cooperatives, local municipal ownership, and ownership by local community groups will harness the wealth, labour, skill, and resources that exist locally and increase and redirect flows of investment within our local economy, these types of businesses support local jobs and retain far more wealth locally than large PLCs.

We will reduce the need to seek capital from national or international sources by redirecting our own investment and investments we have influence over to local schemes, we will support the creation and growth of mutually owned financial services and support a development bank for the far South West.

Employment should be fair and the labour market must work justly for everyone, we will encourage unionisation and a Labour council will always pay the foundation living wage as the minimum, we will require any supplier to Cornwall Council to do the same and encourage other employers to do likewise.



**SAFER
CORNWALL**

SAFER COMMUNITIES

Labour believes that policing and crime prevention should be a central government responsibility, not shifted onto local taxpayers.

We will work proactively with the Police and Crime Commissioner in a multi-agency approach to restore community policing, achieve greater investment in crime prevention, and to reduce violent and other crimes that have increased in recent years.

Community safety in Cornwall has suffered badly because of Tory cuts to policing over many years. The recent funding for more police officers is very welcome, but it doesn't go nearly far enough as there continues to be a tremendous strain on police resources across Cornwall. The damage done by the cuts imposed by the Tories since 2010 cannot be underestimated and cannot be put right by simply increasing local taxation.

A Labour led Cornwall Council will work proactively with the Police and Crime Commissioner and other agencies to help ensure the best possible outcome for communities in Cornwall. Together we will restore community policing by increasing the number of officers in Neighbourhood Teams and increasing the number of PCSO's where needed. We will work together to end the tragedy of increased crime in our communities, especially violent crime by investing in crime prevention and enabling increased cooperation between agencies in a broad "public health" approach. Making communities across Cornwall safer by tackling the crimes that affect them is our aim, a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner would ensure better policing for every pound spent and a Labour Cornwall Council would put our communities at the heart of tackling crime and tackling the causes of crime.

The Fire and Rescue Service not only protects communities and properties in Cornwall from fire and other disasters such as flooding, terrorism, rail disasters, and road traffic collisions but also provides other vital services.

We will work with the Fire and Rescue Service to support the prevention programme of fire education within schools, the community and industry, in particular advising on appropriate building material such as external cladding. We will push for the inclusion of sprinklers and fire alarms in all new homes and public buildings. We oppose the transfer of responsibility for the Fire Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RURAL CORNWALL



FARMING, FOOD AND FISHING

Labour knows that agriculture is vital to Cornwall, not just producing food but shaping many of our communities and the beautiful open spaces we know and love.

We will support farmers and food producers to increase productivity while protecting the environment. We should rely less on food imports with more of the food we eat being reared, grown, or produced here in Cornwall. This will shorten supply chains reducing the environmental impact of the sector and help to ensure more of the money generated by farming and food production stays in Cornwall.

We recognise the importance of reducing food miles where possible but also that farmers and food producers should be helped to promote and export to national and international markets as well, we will support the establishment of an agri-food hub that can support the sector to become a nationally recognised market leader

We will help the sector to work with local schools, colleges and universities to drive innovation in farming and food production, this will not only help farmers to get the best out of the land they manage but to develop new sustainable farming practices.

Creating these strong links will ensure that the industry has access to the latest ideas and technologies and that young people growing up here have the opportunity to pursue careers in farming and food production here; we don't think our young people should need to leave Cornwall to find this kind of work.

Labour supports the fishing and seafood industry which has been so badly let down by the Conservative's flawed Brexit deal.

We know that the fishing and seafood industry is a cornerstone that is vital to the economy, identity, history, and future of Cornwall and that it is nationally significant to the rest of the UK.

The fishing and seafood industry would not be left to struggle by a Labour Council, Labour Councillors would ensure direct financial support is made available and that the Council does everything it can to support the industry.

A sunset over a beach with three policy pillars overlaid. The pillars are: SECURE our economy, PROTECT our NHS, and REBUILD our country.

SECURE

our economy

PROTECT

our NHS

REBUILD

our country

THE FUTURE

Funding

At its heart, Labour is committed to funding, not cutting, the provision of health, education and welfare needs for Cornwall's people.

Cornwall has the natural resources but needs the national financial resources to fulfil our potential. As the pandemic showed, money is available. It is the government's choice as to how it is used. The election of Labour Councillors will give voice to a call for a fairer share of funding.

Local Issues

Your local divisional candidate is keen to hear from you about the local issues you have concerns about. Whether it is about finding an NHS dentist, potholes, bin collections, planning applications, problems with your landlord, a transport issue or if it is Covid related, to be put in touch with your local candidate, please visit www.cornwalllabourparty.com.

Promoted by Joy Bassett, Secretary, on behalf of Cornwall Labour Party, , Bryn, Love Lane, Bodmin PL31 2BL.

