

**MAKING
MANCHESTER
BETTER**

**100 WAYS WE
WILL MAKE
MANCHESTER
BETTER**

MANCHESTER
LABOUR'S 2026
LOCAL ELECTION
MANIFESTO

Manchester
 Labour
PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST

MAKING MANCHESTER BETTER

INTRODUCTION

Manchester is an incredible city. Vibrant, diverse, resilient, friendly, optimistic and a great place to call home. A city made great by its people, and that's why Manchester Labour will always stand by our promise to put our city before party politics and put people at the heart of everything we do.

We want a better Manchester. A city that is fairer, more equal. A city where everyone can thrive and benefit from the city's success. A city that stands for social justice and fairness, that campaigns and build a better tomorrow.

For too many people across the city, life is too hard. The cost of living is too high, the national housing crisis pushes rents further up, poverty and inequality have real impacts and the impact of 15 years of Central Government cuts from 2010 has damaged lives and held our city back.

Manchester Labour has a track record of standing up for and getting things done for Manchester. Working with our Mayor Andy Burnham, we are getting to work on making our city a fairer and better place for all.

The best years are ahead of us, and we are turning a corner.

Our economy is growing faster than anywhere else, that means more jobs and opportunities for Manchester people, from helping attract 100,000 jobs, to global events like the BRITS. We're helping record numbers of people through the cost-of-living crisis and helping many into good jobs.

We're building the highest number of council, social and genuinely affordable homes in well over a decade, with 1000s more to come- on track to deliver our target of 10,000 new council, social and genuinely affordable low carbon homes.

Our new High Streets Programme is investing right now across the city in places like Wythenshawe Civic, Gorton Town Centre, Moston, Withington and Newton Heath, and exciting things to come from Levenshulme to Cheetham. We're investing in voluntary and community organisations and community centres, children and youth services. We've protected and grown our libraries and leisure centres, invested in more parks and green spaces and in getting our streets cleaner. Your priorities into action.

A campaigning council that is well-run council that spends your money carefully and delivers for you. Our children's services became the first council in the North West to ever be rated outstanding, our housing services ranked good, nationally recognised as giving out one of the highest number fines for fly-tipping and our highways are rated one of the best performing in the country. We want our services to be even better and with more money from the Government, we are making sure it gets directed into front line services, giving tax payers value for money and delivering a better city.

This year we are setting out the change for the year ahead, a year when we are starting to see things change. We've demanded more from the Government and are starting to repair the 15 years of damage to our public services and communities.

More police on our streets, more teachers, more GP appointments and shorter NHS waiting times, more money for social housing, a new hospital for North Manchester, new tram stops, better childcare and breakfast clubs, and more money for our council services. A new fund that will see £100 Million go to some of our most disadvantaged communities, money that the community can spend themselves – putting the power in your hands.

This Manifesto sets out what we've already delivered but crucially what we can do with your backing in the 12 months ahead- we show you at least 100 things we will do.

We will build a successful and more equal city, where everyone benefits from our success, a city that is the best place in the country to grow up, get on and grow old, and a place where everyone feels proud to call home.

My promise to you, is that **Manchester Labour will always be by your side** and will always put our city first.

Cllr Bev Craig

Leader of Manchester Labour
& Manchester City Council



MAKING MANCHESTER BETTER

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BUILDING A BETTER CITY, DELIVERED BY A WELL-RUN COUNCIL:

- 1. Neighbourhoods to be proud of:** Invest across the whole city
- 2. Build 10,000 council, social and genuinely affordable homes**
- 3. Cleaner streets, safer roads and better parks**
- 4. Help with the Cost of living** and making Mancunians better off
- 5. A fairer, more equal city:**
where everyone benefits from the city's success

MANCHESTER LABOUR WORKING WITH A LABOUR GOVERNMENT

- ✓ **Pride in Manchester:** £100 million for some of the city's poorest neighbourhoods for local residents to decide how to spend it
- ✓ **£1 Billion to build a world class hospital in North Manchester,** NHS waiting lists down and more GPs across the city
- ✓ **Lifting over 50,000 Manchester kids out of poverty**
- ✓ **More Police on the streets since 2010**
- ✓ **Youth Jobs Guarantee:**
£1 Billion investment into apprenticeships and jobs for young people
- ✓ **Landmark Workers Rights Act and a big increase to the minimum wage**
- ✓ **A Renters Rights act to protect 100,000 Mancunians**
- ✓ **More GP appointments and reduced NHS waiting times**
- ✓ **Cash boost for Andy Burnham and Greater Manchester, and for Manchester City Council**
- ✓ **Action on the cost of living;** reducing energy bills

DEEDS NOT WORDS: WHAT WE'VE DONE

MASSIVE HIGH STREETS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME:

- ✔ Getting to work on Wythenshawe Civic
- ✔ Moston Lane
- ✔ Withington
- ✔ Chorlton
- ✔ Newton Heath
- ✔ Gorton Town Centre

RECORD NUMBER OF NEW COUNCIL, SOCIAL AND GENUINELY AFFORDABLE LOW CARBON HOMES.

Last year alone nearly 800 properties, currently on site with 1,500 and 2,200 with planning permission ready to go

RECORD NUMBER OF JOBS created for Manchester residents

ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMING HIGHWAYS TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY, resurfacing over 1,300km of pavements and roads

CLEANER STREETS: more money into tackling flipping and taking action

WELL RUN SERVICES, first council in NW to get OFSTED Outstanding, with nearly every schools ranked good or outstanding

BEST EVER GCSE and A Level results

INVESTMENT INTO OUR 150 PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, with new parks and green spaces being built and a plan to deliver more

UNICEF backed programme to become a CHILD FRIENDLY CITY

INVESTMENT into our 23 libraries and 25 leisure centres

6,933 CHILDREN participated in the Summer Reading Challenge

THROUGH THE SEE MYSELF IN BOOKS FESTIVAL, 3,469 children from 43 schools attended events and 804 books were gifted

PARKTASTIC DELIVERED 330 FREE PLAY SESSIONS across 55 parks, for over 8,000 children

THE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME SUPPORTED over 100,000 visits, delivered by 111 providers

CASH WINTER SUPPORT PAYMENTS to more than 7,700 households to help pension-age residents to stay warm and pay their bills

30,000 CHILDREN HAD FUN through our holiday fund with free activities across the city

91,000 PEOPLE IN THIS CITY ARE NOW PAID THE MCR REAL LIVING WAGE, which is higher than the national minimum.

It also means that 10,000 Manchester employees have had a pay increase as a result

600 people with health issues have had **SUPPORT TO STAY IN WORK**

5,000 of our residents came to our **ORGANISED RECRUITMENT EVENTS**

7,000 SIM CARDS AND 2,000 PHONES, LAPTOPS AND COMPUTERS

have been supplied to people so that everyone can benefit from the advantages that technology brings

Over 14,000 residents got help with bills, debts and benefits through our **COST-OF-LIVING ADVICE LINE**

SOME OF THE THINGS

WE WILL DO:



Clean up our streets! A new Cleaner Manchester Charter, more street cleaning, a war on fly-tipping and more CCTV.



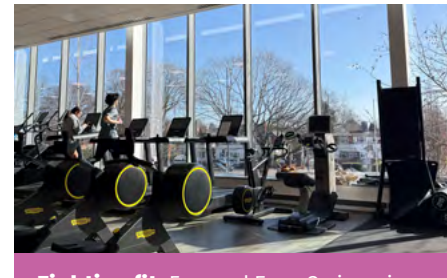
Action for Renters: A city-wide Renters Rights Act team and a big 'Know your Rights' campaign.



Create thousands of new well-paid, good jobs for Manchester residents with more Manchester apprenticeships.



Build a record 10,000 council, social, genuinely affordable homes on top of the 70,000 we have already.



Fighting fit: Expand Free Swimming for Under 16s and Over 60s, FREE Gym Membership for over 40,000 11-16-year-olds in the city, and free gym and swim for our veterans.



Roll out the Bee network, protect the £2 cap, Our Pass and Free 24hr travel for older and disabled residents.



Roll out our investment in every High Street and neighbourhood across the city, with no area left behind.



Support those in need and help reduce the Cost of Living.



Expanding our child friendly city with more support for families, more school breakfast clubs, free childcare and building 6 new youth centres.



Build a better, fairer, more equal city where everyone benefits from a successful, united city.

GOOD AND AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ALL



This country faces a housing crisis, however Manchester is fighting back.

Last year we built more council, social and affordable homes than at any point in over 15 years. On top of the 70,000 council

and social homes we already have, we're building 10,000 more. We established the Manchester Living Rent and rolled out landlord licensing. With the historic Renters Rights Act we can take even more action.

- 1. Build 10,000 council, social and genuinely affordable homes, delivering 1,000 a year** across all parts of the city, including specific support for older and disabled residents
- 2. Be a Good Landlord:** Invest and improve our 17,000 council homes, a new repairs service and a new community investment fund for North Manchester residents
- 3. Stand up for Renters:** A new citywide Renters Rights Team to enforce the landmark Renters Rights Act, a citywide Know your rights campaign, roll out further selective and city-wide additional landlord licensing schemes
- 4. A Manchester Living Rent for all:** Campaign for more private landlords and developers to sign up to affordable rent rates
- 5.** Campaign to **fix the Cladding Crisis**, and work with GMCA and Homes England on plans to help deal with fire and building safety issues in high rise residential buildings
- 6. Make homelessness a rare occurrence:** reduce rough sleeping, continue bucking the national trend in reducing homelessness, and build more high-quality homes for the homeless
- 7. No families placed in B&Bs and free travel** to school for any child in temporary housing
- 8. Lower bills by retrofitting another 5,000 social and council houses** across the city

- 9. Get empty homes into use:** Bring into use 500 private homes that have sat empty for too long
- 10. A Manchester local lettings policy:** where local people get priority for new homes



NEIGHBOURHOODS TO BE PROUD OF:

INVESTING IN OUR AREAS:



Everyone deserves top class neighbourhoods that are clean, green, well-kept and look good. We want high streets and local centres, where local businesses thrive, with accessible services close to where you live and lots of great things to do.

We want improvements all across the city, not just in the city centre and our High Streets programme is doing just that. Bringing investment and opportunities to your doorstep. But we want Manchester people to have a say, and we are asking you how to spend our money.

IMPROVING OUR AREAS

11. **A new plan to improve every neighbourhood and high street across the city**
12. **NEW: £100m fund** decided by residents, **£20 Million each** for Benchill, Clayton Vale and Newton Heath, Harpuhey, Monsall and Moston and Moss Side
13. **A new £3 Million neighbourhoods fund to improve our high streets and a citywide High Streets team** to improve local high streets and support local businesses to thrive, standing up to blight and reducing takeaways and vape shops
14. **A new £30,000 Neighbourhood fund** for every area (£30k for every Council ward) for local groups to benefit
15. **Deliver the largest urban regeneration scheme** in the country at Victoria North and Collyhurst, building council homes, a new tram stop, a public park, GP surgery and high school
16. **Deliver our £500 million for Wythenshawe Civic** with new Culture hub, revitalised Civic and social homes on site this year
17. **Turbo-charge our delivery on Gorton Town Centre, Moston, Newton Heath and Chorlton**
18. **The next wave of new plans for Cheetham, Longsight, Levenshulme and Harpurhey in the coming months**
19. **A world class North Manchester hospital and health campus**, and working with the NHS another 4 new GP surgeries city-wide
20. **A safer and cleaner city centre: Fix Piccadilly Gardens** (with flowers!) and a brand-new public park at Water Street



CLEANER STREETS AND PARKS



- 21.** A new **Manchester Clean Streets Charter** for everyone to do their bit with the City's **biggest ever Community Clean Up Campaign**
- 22.** A bigger **Crackdown on fly-tipping**; a city-wide fly-tipping team, more CCTV and increased fines and enforcement
- 23.** **Rapid response Alleyway cleaning teams** rolled out across the city
- 24.** A new standard for cleaning: **More regular litter picking and street sweeping** on our streets, roads and parks and public spaces
- 25.** Bring back **city-wide leaf clearing programme** to stop blocked drains, trips and falls
- 26.** **Improve our 150 parks and green spaces with park improvement programme for every park**
- 27.** **More support for our parks friends groups and community greening projects**
- 28.** **Build more parks and green spaces** like Mayfield and Ancoats Green, such as the newly announced public park at Water Street and pocket parks across the city
- 29.** **Improve 60 play areas** in parks across the city and install inclusive play equipment
- 30.** **Plant over 4000 trees a year**

EXCITING PLACES WITH LOTS TO DO

- 31.** **Expand Free Swimming for Under 16s and Over 60s**
- 32.** A new **Free Gym Membership for all 11-16 years olds** in the city
- 33.** Rewarding service: **Free new Gym memberships for our veterans**
- 34.** A new **Communities Celebration and event Fund** across the city including bringing back **BONFIRE night celebrations**
- 35.** **More funding for community sports groups** and clubs across the city who support our communities
- 36.** **More Investment into our 23 council run libraries, with an expansion of opening times including Sunday opening,** and every library in the city open full time
- 37.** **Expand the 25 leisure and sports centres** across the city
- 38.** Invest **millions into sports facilities** in parks and continue to make Manchester the capital of sport
- 39.** **Bring world class events to our city** like the BRITS, MOBOs and Euros 28, to make sure that not only our economy benefits but we create a lasting legacy for communities
- 40.** A new **Manchester Culture pass** for local residents to access the **city's cultural venues**



SAFER STREETS AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES:



- 41. More police on the streets,** with another 82 police officers for Manchester
- 42. Every neighbourhood to have a dedicated neighbourhood police team**
- 43. A crackdown on Anti-Social Behaviour** with an expanded team and action on off road bikes
- 44. Make Manchester a safer city for women and girls** and expand our Nighttime Safety Charter work and Walksafe app
- 45. Reduce Knife crime,** educating our young people and making young people feel safe
- 46. Make our roads safer and more speed cameras to tackle anti-social driving**
- 47. No room for hate:** tackle rising hate crime, bringing communities together, more third party reporting centres and firm action from GMP
- 48. Everyone should be able to worship safely,** roll out government funding to places of worship in the city

BETTER TRANSPORT. BETTER CONNECTIONS

- 49.** Work with **Andy Burnham** to deliver the **Bee Network** the biggest boost to transport in a generation
- 50.** Fight to keep the **£2 bus fare cap**
- 51.** Make permanent **24-hour free bus travel for older and disabled** residents and protect the **Our Pass** for young people
- 52.** **Bring back cut bus routes with more night buses and better cross-city links**
- 53.** **Demand better, more reliable trains** across Greater Manchester
- 54.** Secure an **underground station at Manchester Piccadilly** for a more reliable network and **more jobs**
- 55.** Grow and expand our **71 Active Travel projects safe streets** for walking and cycling, with **more routes, cycle hangars** and more
- 56.** **Create more School Streets** and make permanent the **30** we've already started
- 57.** **Invest £20 million** to fix our streets: resurface **200+ roads** and **200+ pavements**
- 58.** **NEW winter pavement gritting** and install more **community grit bins**
- 59.** **Clean 50,000+ gullies** in the coming year with a faster emergency response



HELP WITH COST OF LIVING.

HIGHER WAGES. BETTER CHANCES.



For too many people, the cost of living is too high and puts too much strain on everyday life. Bills are too high, and often wages too low, so we are doing our best to change that- helping keep costs down but crucially trying to get wages in the city up.

Our aim is simple, help for those struggling now, but long term we want to end poverty in our city. We are attracting good jobs to Manchester, and we want those jobs for our Manchester people. We will always campaign for the Government to lower costs where they can, from energy bills, to support for families.

Manchester's Labour Council tackles long term poverty as well as giving short term help. We stepped in when the Government threatened to cancel Winter Fuel with cash payments for older residents and we will always provide support to those in need. We are stepping up our efforts with flagship policies to help people earn more in the longer term, keep bills low and make money go further.

We campaigned against the 2-child cap when the Conservatives and Lib Dems brought it in, and we campaigned for the Labour Government to scrap it. The government therefore will lift over 50,000 Manchester children out of poverty.

60. **A free Cost of Living Advice Line** and expand our citywide support programme Family Friend
61. **Make work pay:** build a **Real Living Wage City** so at least **100,000** Manchester workers get a pay rise to the REAL Living Wage
62. Grow an economy that works for everyone: attract another **10,000** good, well-paid jobs into Manchester prioritising Manchester residents
63. Deliver the **biggest expansion of adult education, skills and retraining in a decade**
64. A new **Manchester Apprenticeship** campaign and a **Youth Jobs Guarantee**- real opportunities for our young people
65. **A new Live Well Hub** in every community
66. **Help thousands** of residents back into work with new training and employment support
67. **A citywide £40 million council tax support scheme** for people on low incomes
68. **A Housing Support Fund** of £3million helping people avoid homelessness and protect against unfair rent rises
69. **Back our voluntary and charity groups** with vital funding so they can support residents and help people out of poverty
70. **Better support for care leavers** with a comprehensive programme from cash payments to tailored support and housing
71. **Stand by older people:** Manchester Labour stepped in with winter fuel cash support to around 8000 older people and campaigned to bring payments back and well keep a dedicated programme of hardship help
72. **Tackle the digital divide:** keep our award-winning Digital Inclusion project last year: **7,000 SIM cards and 2,000 phones, laptops and computers**



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES:

THE BEST START IN LIFE



Every young person in our city should have the best start to life and can thrive and share in the city's success. We know that for too many people, the cost of living, poverty and additional needs can get in the way of a good family life, so we want to make it easier.

Cuts to services took away much of the national support, but we protected services in Manchester and that is why we are the first council in the North West to get ranked outstanding in our children's services.

- 73. Take our **UNICEF-accredited Child Friendly City** to the next level, putting children at the heart of every decision
- 74. Protect our **OUTSTANDING Children's Services** (the only Council in the Northwest)
- 75. Deliver the **biggest investment in youth services since 2010** because every young person deserves a safe place to go and something to do
- 76. **Build 6 brand new youth centres** and invest more in the centres we already have
- 77. Keep rolling out the **Holiday Activities Fund** giving **tens of thousands** of young people free things to do and provide **free school meals in the holidays** for low-income families
- 78. **Expand free childcare and free breakfast clubs** across the city
- 79. Give every child the best start: roll out **12 Family Hubs**, strengthen early help teams, and expand our successful programme supporting dads
- 80. Put young people in the driving seat: a new plan for **18-25-year-olds, led by our young people**
- 81. Set up a dedicated **young people's wellbeing service** support for physical, mental and emotional health
- 82. Raise standards in every school: a world-class education for every child, backed by a **new Greater Manchester careers service**, Manchester businesses and Skills for Life
- 83. Better support for young people with **Special Educational Needs** so every child gets the help they need, when they need it



A FAIRER, MORE EQUAL MANCHESTER



Manchester can be better. We want a fairer, more equal city, where everyone can do well and stands up for what's right. Too many people are held back by longstanding injustices or inequalities, so that's why we are unashamed in tackling the inequalities of health and wealth. And we are turning a corner. Life expectancy is going up, unemployment down. We are making a difference.

Social justice is in our DNA and we will always stand against hatred and stand for hope in a better city. From tackling hate, to bringing communities together, we are best when we stick together. We lead from the front- from telling racists they aren't welcome in our city, helping the LGBTQ+ Community save pride, campaigning against welfare cuts for disabled people or pushing the Government to go further to protect our communities- we will always stand up for what we believe in.

- 84. Stand up to racism and discrimination in our city**
- 85. Fight cuts to support for Disabled People** and keep working with disabled groups across the city to get their voices heard
- 86. Protect Manchester Pride:** back Pride in **2026** and support our Gay Village
- 87. Honour the Armed Forces Covenant:** extend our 3-year partnership with the Royal British Legion to support veterans and service personnel and remember those who served
- 88. Adopt the Government's new definition of anti-Muslim hostility** and act on it
- 89. End health and wealth inequalities:** keep narrowing the gap and raising life expectancy across our city
- 90. Expand our groundbreaking Making Manchester Fairer** programme tackling health and wealth inequalities, structural racism, and putting investment where it's needed most
- 91. A bigger Our Manchester Fund for the VCFSE** working in partnership with our Voluntary, Community, Charity and Faith sectors to deliver for our city
- 92. Support unpaid carers:** open a new Carer Support Hub, expand Carer Navigation, strengthen mental health support, and increase access to culturally appropriate respite
- 93. Be an Age Friendly City:** accelerate our journey to be the best city to age well
- 94. Fight Climate Change and deliver our net-zero ambitions** driving a just transition that cuts carbon and lowers bills



**A WELL RUN LABOUR COUNCIL
THAT GETS STUFF DONE**



**BE ON YOUR SIDE,
ALWAYS PUT
MANCHESTER
FIRST AND MAKE
MANCHESTER A
BETTER, FAIRER,
MORE EQUAL CITY**

95. Always prioritise front line services and focus on value for money to make our cash go further

96. Fight for better services, work with our trade unions and continue our in-house first policy

97. Make Council services easier to access both online and in person

98. Be the first council in the NW to maintain Outstanding Children's services and aim for outstanding in every service

99. High quality social care support, that is person centred and focused on helping our older and vulnerable residents live independently and at home

100. Climate Change: Maintain our A* rating for the 5th year in a row by taking action such as our award winning zero carbon and retrofitting work



LONGER OPENING HOURS IN LIBRARIES

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



EXPAND FREE SWIMMING & FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP FOR UNDER 16S AND VETERANS

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



BUILD 10,000 SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOMES

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



IMPROVE ALL OUR 150+ PARKS

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



BUILDING A BETTER MANCHESTER

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



MORE POLICE ON THE STREETS

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



INVEST IN OUR HIGH STREETS

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



CLEAN UP OUR STREETS

Manchester Labour | PUTTING MANCHESTER FIRST



DECLARE A WAR ON FLY-TIPPING

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