Bristol Labour Manifesto 2021
My heartfelt thanks go to all my fellow Bristolians for pulling together and doing their bit through this extraordinarily difficult year. Everyone has made immense sacrifices throughout the pandemic and that deserves to be recognised and appreciated.

The pandemic has affected everyone across the city – and protecting and creating jobs all over Bristol is essential to avoid the worst impacts of the recession, so we can ensure everyone benefits from our economic recovery.

Despite the pandemic, the uncertainty of Brexit, and a decade of national austerity, we are well on our way to building a City of Hope.

We have delivered on all of our 2016 pledges: we’ve tripled affordable house building, protected our children’s centres and libraries from national austerity where other councils couldn’t, and are exceeding our climate targets.

We’ve laid the foundations for a mass transit system, we’re building new schools and Youth Zones, and we’re on track to reach net-zero by 2030.

If re-elected, we can ensure these are delivered. We ended a period of stagnation, and Bristol finally has an administration that’s getting stuff done.

Only Labour can tackle the housing, jobs, and environmental crises – but we need your support in all four elections on the 6th of May to keep delivering for Bristol.

I am immensely proud of what Bristol Labour Councillors have accomplished with Marvin over the last five years. As well as our headline achievements, we have stood up for our local communities in the face of national Tory austerity, invested in our local parks and green spaces, and cleared the blackhole left in our accounts by the previous administration.

We have the opportunity to build on this work by re-electing Marvin and electing Labour councillors on the 6th of May. We need to ensure we build a better Bristol with our Covid recovery, and only a Labour administration can do that.

I am equally proud of the selection of candidates we have this year. They are diverse, hardworking, and truly reflect the people and the city that they hope to serve and represent - I know they'll continue to stand up for their residents' interests.

This manifesto was written by our councillors and candidates with the input of hundreds of Labour members across Bristol. Sitting alongside the One City Plan, it provides solutions to the housing, climate, and jobs crises.

We’ve achieved a lot already, but there’s more to be done. With your support on 6 May, we can keep building a better Bristol: our City of Hope.
Transport and connectivity

We want to connect people to jobs, opportunity, and leisure. Over the last five years, we've delivered a Clean Air Zone, a fleet of bio-gas buses, and laid the foundations for a mass transit system. With your support, we will deliver the mass transit system, make our streets safer, and put walking and cycling at the forefront of our transport policy.

- **Deliver a mass transit system**
  This will be in the form of both an underground and an overground - as well as expanding and improving our existing infrastructure - connecting people to one another, jobs, and opportunity.

  As part of the journey to mass transit, we have drawn up ambitious plans to rejuvenate Temple Meads, turning it into an integrated transport hub. We will open new and improve existing stations, such as Ashley Down, Henbury, and Filton North, and provide more frequent train services through the Metrowest project. We will also improve the condition of existing stations by installing shelters and cameras – as well as investing in all round improvements. Find out more about our plans here.

- **Better buses**
  Double the frequency and improve the reliability of existing bus journeys through the Bus Deal and increase the number of routes so more areas are served. As well as this, we will protect existing community services. By improving both train and bus reliability, we will increase public transport capacity and usage as part of the journey to mass transit.

- **Safer neighbourhoods**
  We will tackle rat-running and speeding and make our streets safer – giving people the confidence to walk and cycle, rather than use polluting vehicles. We will continue to develop our School Streets projects, increasing the number of schools involved year on year.

**We will also:**

- Provide free travel for apprentices and students under-25.
- Deliver a Clean Air Zone that charges non-compliant vehicles in the centre of town.
- Roll out at least two Liveable Neighbourhood pilots – with a view to expanding it.
- Deliver a London-style one-touch integrated ticketing system so that your ticket can be used across different types of public transport.
- Provide more on-street bike hangers throughout the city. Expand the number of Park and Ride sites.
- Introduce freight consolidation to minimise polluting lorries in our neighbourhoods.
- Introduce a website to allow people to report heavy lorries driving through restricted areas.
- Increase the penalties on delays to roadworks and introduce an app for people to report non-active roadworks.
- Continue to promote cleaner technologies for buses, cars and taxis, expand electric car infrastructure and continue to invest in bio-gas buses.
Homes:

Bristol needs good-quality, affordable, sustainable housing. We will build on our 2016 homebuilding pledge, up our targets and build an unprecedented number of good-quality, eco-friendly homes. We will improve conditions for private renters, provide more efficient repairs for council tenants, and tackle homelessness.

- **More affordable housing and more social housing**
  Continue to accelerate homebuilding, building over 2,000 homes a year, of which 1,000 are affordable, by 2024, and reduce the number of households in temporary accommodations. Provide more adult social care housing.

- **Sustainable housing**
  Build innovative, low-carbon homes through investing in sustainable regeneration in places such as, Western Harbour, Temple Meads, Bedminster, and Frome Gateway. We will build thousands of homes in sustainable locations, close to work and leisure.

- **Improve support for the homeless and formerly homeless**
  Improve support available for homeless people and provide a better transition between homeless shelters and follow-on housing.

**We will also:**

- Protect and expand landlord licensing schemes
- Expand tenant support services and look at ways to have Housing Officers hold regular surgeries in their communities.
- Support the victims of the #EndOurCladdingScandal
- Improve HomeChoice
- Invest in more building control officers and pest control so that standards are enforced.
- Protect and build family-friendly and child-centred communities using stronger planning policy.
- A Living Rents City: Campaign for the power to introduce rent controls to make Bristol an affordable living city
- Introduce a prompt repairs promise for council tenants
- Ensure domestic violence victims are always safely rehoused and offer appropriate support and security measures in their accommodation. Provide access to training and support services and increase provision of training for perpetrators in anger management. Continue to prioritise victims of domestic abuse for rehousing.
Covid has hit Bristol - and it has hit the worst-off the hardest and had a disproportionate impact on minority communities. We need to continue to tackle all forms of inequality and injustice, close the digital divide, and focus investment in high-deprivation areas. Bristol is a proud, diverse city and Labour is committed to being a voice for everyone in it.

Tackle Food Inequality
Deliver a Green Spaces and Allotments Strategy which encourages local food production in every ward to help tackle food poverty. Introduce a rent freeze for allotments, and create a network so owners can easily contribute to local food growing projects and foodbanks. Develop a food Equality and Action Plan, and deliver a Bristol 2030 Good Food Action Plan to help the 10,000 households in Bristol suffering food poverty.

Close the digital divide
Ensure every child has access to the technology and skills needed to learn, and distribute new or refurbished laptops to those who need it and provide a free course to ensure they can use it effectively. Establish a digital forum to support technological innovation to work in tandem with the voluntary sector's recovery work.

We will also:
- Submit a multi-million pound bid to the Changing Futures fund to help support victims of domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction, as well as vulnerable adults and those with learning difficulties.
- Provide £8m funding for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations.
- Create community spaces in regeneration areas to support our voluntary sector to flourish in the city.
- Revitalise our parks, and support communities to invest in new and refurbished play parks.
- Expand the Community Toilet programme and introduce an app that provides their location.
- Implement the recommendations of the Library Strategy and pilot a range of new initiatives through community organisations to build 21st century libraries and community hubs.

Safe consumption rooms
Safe consumption sites have been proven to reduce overdoses, drug deaths, blood-borne virus infection rates and public injecting. We’ll lobby the Government to allow us to pilot a safe drug consumption room in Bristol.

Communities:
Covid has hit Bristol - and it has hit the worst-off the hardest and had a disproportionate impact on minority communities. We need to continue to tackle all forms of inequality and injustice, close the digital divide, and focus investment in high-deprivation areas. Bristol is a proud, diverse city and Labour is committed to being a voice for everyone in it.
Homes and communities

Equalities

- **Disability**
  Embed disability quality through a Mayoral Equalities Commission. Deliver a high-quality, One City, disability equality strategy and an action plan led by disabled peoples’ communities and other key stakeholders.

- **Race**
  Work with the Commission on Race Equality and other race equality groups, city institutions, business, and the voluntary sector to support practical initiatives to dismantle institutional racism/race disparities as identified by BAME communities as set out in their action plan.

- **Women**
  Ensure our Covid recovery emphasises the disproportionate impact of Covid on women and acknowledges the gender inequality in the city. Work with transport groups and emergency services to ensure Bristol is a safe place for women.

- **LGBT+**
  Commission a Mayoral Equalities Report to look in to and address LGBT+ discrimination in Bristol. Work with LGBT+ groups to champion their cause and interests, and work with schools, the NHS, the police and other groups to ensure Bristol is a safe space for LGBT+ people.
The pandemic has had a profound effect on people's health and will have a long-term impact on mental health and wellbeing. It has highlighted and exacerbated inequalities and gaps in life expectancy across our city. The urgency of dealing with Covid has strengthened partnership working across the city and we will build on this to raise living standards and health outcomes for all, focussing on measures that prevent ill-health and include all communities. Our public health and community development teams will work with residents and community leaders to reduce health inequalities and to reflect the cultural diversity of the city in our health and social care workforce. Health will remain at the heart of all we do.

**Invest in mental health**

Increase mental health support, expand mental health training through our Thrive programme, and address the causes of poor mental health – not just the outcomes. We will work with health partners to reduce waiting times for acute mental health support and press for increased capacity in Children's and Adolescents Mental Health Services and local in-patient support for children and young people in mental health distress, so they don't have to travel out of area for the specialised support they need.

**A stronger role for Community pharmacists**

Community pharmacists strengthen the link between health care and the community, by providing health advice and support as well as prescribing medicines and supporting vaccination programmes. Their local 'open-access' facilities are trusted by residents, and we want to see them play a fuller part in our neighbourhoods.

**Independent Living for older and disabled people**

Invest in ‘balanced communities’ - extra-care housing for independent living with care available, where older people can remain independent and close to their social networks. Provide intergenerational flats where older and younger people can provide mutual support, and improved accessibility in newly built social housing. Provide a faster and more efficient service of aids and adaptations to enable older and disabled people to remain in their own homes, especially to allow for easier discharge from hospital.

**We will also:**

- Value and support our health and care workforce - we will implement our Ethical Care Charter to improve pay, status, and treatment of care workers. We will enhance the flexibility of skills training to improve recruitment of care staff and allow for career progression, as well as recognising and supporting the contribution made by unpaid carers.
- Create and sustain healthy places and communities through improving the built environment, transport options and access to green spaces, leisure opportunities and good employment.
- Address loneliness and isolation by supporting the voluntary and community sector to build supportive neighbourhood networks in every community. We will support access to social prescribing to enhance wellbeing.
- Work with health partners on improving integration of services but always with a focus on local needs, acting as a democratic voice for our residents.
- Make Bristol a leading city for testing, prevention and treatment of HIV/ AIDS
- Listen to people with lived experience of health conditions and disabilities to co-design and improve health and social care services. We will help people become central to decisions about their own care.
The pandemic has had a profound impact on every corner of our economy. We've steadied the ship and mitigated the worst effects of it, but we now need to ensure we don't return to the old-normal and instead, keep building a better Bristol. We will also ensure a just transition to a zero-carbon economy, meeting our climate goals and not leaving anyone worse-off.

We've delivered on our 2016 pledge to be a Living Wage city, uplifting 1,900 people onto a real Living Wage and will work to continue to improve pay and working conditions across the city. The pandemic has left us with high unemployment rate - we will provide a revitalised skills offer to offer people a route back into work.

● **A Bristol Bond**

Establish a Bristol Bond to develop long term capacity for civic investment in new affordable homes, infrastructure, and economic and social development. Work with the City Funds to deliver the economic priorities in the One City Plan.

● **Support for the unemployed**

Develop community hubs – like the one announced for Lawrence Weston - and support deprived areas. Maximise assistance for local residents facing redundancy with a regional support programme.

Support and create jobs in the green economy and low carbon sectors, such as renewables, installation, sustainable architecture, retrofitting, communications and engagement on sustainability, ecology, and climate action. We will also work alongside the voluntary sector to ensure that groups facing the most complex barriers can get the support they need to improve their employment and skills.

● **Revitalise our high streets**

High streets have been in decline for years, but their struggle has been exacerbated by the pandemic. We’ll invest in local centres and high streets so they can create new functions in addition to retail, such as pop-up art galleries, flexible workspaces, and leisure facilities.

**We will also:**

- Implement **Community Wealthbuilding** strategies to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of our wealth.
- Develop a **community-based enterprise model for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic business sector** – including infrastructure for workspace.
- Invest in the **Bristol Works for Everyone** programme, to help everyone, from all walks of life, into employment. Invest in research and development for **green jobs**, and lobby for Government investment in emerging industries.
- **Support diversity in business** through the Stepping Up programme.
- **Modernise the workforce** by linking skills pathways to higher level construction, energy efficiency, renewable energy provision, building retrofit, digital design and project management skills.
- Implement the **Construction Charter** across construction sites throughout the city.
Bristol is renowned for its thriving cultural sector, and we want to embed its status as a true city of culture. The cultural sector, from museums, to music venues, to art galleries have all been enormously hurt by the pandemic. We'll revitalise this sector and ensure every part of it benefits – from the grassroots to our iconic institutions. We have world-class cultural assets and we need to work to ensure everyone has access to them. We'll work to make a more connected, less isolated communities, and a fair distribution of our cultural capital.

- **Revitalise the Events, festivals, hospitality, and Night-time Economy**

  Support and nurture Bristol’s night-time economy and the creative sector so that it recovers, thrives and becomes world renowned for its inclusivity, sustainability, safety, vibrancy and sense of uniqueness.

- **Bristol Plays Music**

  Support the work of Bristol Plays Music to ensure everyone has the chance to be involved in music. We’re delivering on our 2016 promise to get an arena built, we will ensure it’s completed, and we’ll finish the refurbishment of Bristol Beacon – a cultural landmark that can now continue to serve Bristoliars for years to come.

- **Raise awareness of Bristol’s past through the History Commission**

  A commission to work with citizens and community groups to foster a greater understanding of the factors that shaped the city as it is today, including emancipation, wars, strikes, migration and slavery.

We will also:

- Support the return of **Bristol Pride** and **St Paul’s Carnival**, as well as other festivals.
- Expand and protect the **Agent of Change principles** to protect the night-time entertainment economy. Promote sports by **investing in new and existing sports facilities** and work with sports clubs to protect playing pitches.
- Work with our professional sports clubs to **grow participation in physical activity** and grow elite sport.
We were the first city to declare a climate and ecological crisis, and we're committed to net-zero by 2030. Bristol has already made huge strides towards that goal - with the council alone reducing our direct carbon footprint by 9% in one year. We are committed to building on this so that we can reach our carbon zero targets.

**£1bn investment in renewable energy**

Secure £1bn of investment to decarbonise Bristol’s energy system through our City Leap programme, with the focus on domestic and commercial insulation, wind and solar energy, district heat networks, and innovation around smart energy and demand management.

**Double our tree canopy coverage**

We will double our tree canopy coverage. As well as helping our Co2 emission targets, it’s been found that cities with more tree coverage greatly improve physical and mental wellbeing.

**Invest in biodiversity and rewilding programmes, and dedicate 30% of the Council’s land to nature**

Invest in rewilding programmes and make sure that these programmes are spread throughout the city. Support investment in natural solutions to address the climate and ecological emergency through our natural assets – e.g., our rivers, forests, and land – benefitting businesses and biodiversity.

**We will also:**

- Support business’ investment in the green, eco-friendly, and biodiversity sectors, and promote the use of local supply chain for low-carbon, sustainable goods and services
- Support investment in green and low-carbon vocational training and apprenticeships.
- Invest in our flood defences to help protect us from the effects of climate change and support sustainable developments in the city centre.
- Encourage biodiversity as a factor in planning committee policy when approving new developments.
- Provide citywide activity to encourage every citizen, from all walks of life, to personally reduce their own carbon footprint.
- Campaign to reduce the number of parents driving their children to school and minimise the carbon footprint by supporting schools to adopt alternative active travel plans, and involve pupils in monitoring the air quality around their schools.
- Take action to reduce the levels of pesticides, plastics, and pharmaceuticals in Bristol - particularly in the waterways.
- Promote community activism tackling the climate and ecological emergencies through the Climate Environment and Ecological Programme (CEEP) programme.
Environment and sustainability

Waste and recycling

With everyone doing their bit, Bristol has become one of the UK’s best cities for reuse and recycling and we have the potential to become even better.

We will:

- Roll out a programme to make it easier for people in flats to recycle.
- Provide more fly-tipping and litter enforcement officers deployed across Bristol.
- Work with communities to reduce on-path and pavement clutter to make life easier for disabled people and those with other mobility issues, as well as introducing better enforcement for pavement parking.
- Reduce the large item collection fee from £25 to, at most, £15.
- Complete and open Hartcliffe Way recycling and reuse centre.
- Increase the number of bins in each community as part of our Clean Streets programme.
Children, young people, and skills

Children and young people

After such a tough year, Bristol's children and young people need additional support. We delivered on our promise to keep all of our children's centres open where other councils couldn't, and are going further by building a world-class Youth Zone in south Bristol.

- **A world-class Youth Zone for south Bristol**
  Ensure its completion and look to replicate it in other parts of the city.

- **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**
  Increase the range and quality of specialist provision for children and ensure that their needs are met in a timely and appropriate way, including 450 specialist school places within the next three years. Provide more focused support and investment for children in mainstream schools. Transform Bristol's SEND provision and support for children and families with SEND through to adulthood.

- **Early Lives**
  Acknowledge the impact of the pandemic on children and work to proactively support children's emotional health and wellbeing through the recovery, with a continuing focus on educational support and tackling food poverty.

**We will also:**

- Undertake a comprehensive review of Early Years provision
- Increase support for people who do not have English as a first language
- Support schools and academies to review and refresh their curriculum to ensure all subjects are taught in an inclusive way.
- Continue to work with schools to reduce school exclusions and enable everyone to thrive in mainstream schools.
- Work with local schools to provide catch-up summer schools for Free School Meal children and others who may benefit from it.
- Provide support for victims of domestic abuse
Children, young people, and skills

Skills:

We provided 12,000 quality experiences of work for Bristol’s young people through the Bristol Works programme – we will continue to develop and expand this programme and give everyone the opportunity to develop their skills.

● **Build on our apprenticeship scheme**

  Develop a One City Apprenticeship scheme that can support diverse recruitment across public, private and Small-to-medium enterprise employers, and a range of pre-apprenticeship programmes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and other young people and adults who are under-represented in key sectors.

● **The creative sector**

  Support creative talent by breaking down barriers to entry to the creative economy for those from under-represented groups, including areas of high deprivation, through partnerships with University of the West of England, Rising Arts Agency, Accentuate and other groups.

● **Green employment**

  Use public procurement to increase employment and training provision in green infrastructure and natural solution schemes, and support retraining in other green job sectors, such as gas central heating engineers, to become skilled in renewable energy.
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