

Swindon Labour

2019

Manifesto

50 Policies to Transform Swindon

Labour's Top Five Pledges For Swindon

1. We will set up a £2m fund to support the Honda workforce, their supply chain and other workers affected by any future economic downturn.
2. We will recruit more enforcement officers and fund more PCSOs to tackle anti-social behaviour.
3. We will build 1000 Council Houses within 5 years.
4. We will reinstate Children's Centres to Swindon.
5. We will support local businesses by prioritising them when allocating public sector contracts.

Swindon Deserves Better

Forward From the Labour Group Leader, Jim Grant



Swindon is a great place to live and work. But in recent years Swindon Borough Council has lacked vision and direction and has ceased to act as a council should.

Under the Conservatives, police cuts mean crime is rising; the Council closed all of its children's centres, putting children at risk of harm according to Ofsted; it has overseen a housing and homelessness crisis with not enough council houses built; the Town Centre remains in dire need of regeneration; while recycling rates are falling and crime is on the rise.

In short, Swindon deserves better than this.

Labour will deliver what the town needs. We will do it based on our 5 themes against which all our policies should be judged against. We will:

- Be tough on crime and rebuild our communities.
- Protect the young and the vulnerable.
- Tackle Swindon's Housing Crisis – building homes to ensure our young people can afford to live and work in Swindon.
- Work towards making Swindon a carbon neutral town by 2030.
- Put local businesses at the heart of regenerating the town centre, supporting the renovation of our town's heritage buildings.

We believe that by introducing policies based on these themes Swindon can once again become the vibrant, self- confident town we were in the 1990's when we were the fastest growing town in Western Europe.

Swindon deserves better. Under Labour, Swindon will be better.

Cllr Jim Grant

Swindon Labour Group Leader

Improving Swindon's Environment

1. We will increase our recycling rates from 38% to 60%.
2. We will deliver the installation of LED streetlighting across Swindon and will investigate further reducing costs by introducing a centrally-controlled streetlight system.
3. We will install more solar panels on council sites, continuing to increase renewable energy production.
4. We will seek to integrate new electric charging points throughout the town through the revised Local Plan.
5. We will take all necessary measures to improve the air quality in areas of Swindon that need it.

Growing Swindon's Businesses & Economy

We will support local businesses by prioritising them when allocating public sector contracts (referred to as the "Preston Model").

We will set up a £2m fund to support the Honda workforce, their supply chain and other workers affected by any future economic downturn.

We will pay the Real Living Wage to all Swindon Council employees (as accredited by the Living Wage Foundation).

We will use the Local Plan to prioritise new employment land for renewable energy and advanced technology sectors.

We will sign the Council up to the Unite Construction Charter.

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

1. We will recruit more enforcement officers and fund more PCSOs to tackle anti-social behaviour.
2. We will introduce new Council enforcement powers to tackle pavement parking in all communities that would like it.
3. We will sign the Council up to the Cooperative Party's Modern Day Slavery Charter.
4. We will increase parking enforcement across the town, especially in Residents Parking areas, to ensure motorists are complying with the law.
5. We will lobby the government to increase funding for the police- to increase the number of police officers on our streets.

Council Democracy & Fairness

1. We will introduce the Committees System within the Council, giving all councillors the opportunity to influence council policies.
2. We will make Swindon a "City of Sanctuary", ensuring all refugees who come to this town feel welcomed and supported.
3. We will instigate a Community Governance Review to reassess past Council decisions in relation to Parishes and Parish Boundaries.
4. We will end the use of exploitative zero hour contracts.
5. We will transfer on long-term leases to respective Parish Councils community green open spaces that need to be protected from development.

Improving Swindon's Transport Network

1. We will introduce 20mph speed limits on all residential roads that would like it.
2. We will make Swindon a Cycling Hub and create a new Swindon Cycle Masterplan, to plan for the linking of cyclepaths across Swindon. We will integrate this within the Local Transport Plan.
3. We will work with Wiltshire Council to make the case for a Swindon Ring Road, linking the M4 with the A419 along the west of Swindon.
4. We will hold a consultation on how the road network can be improved to ease traffic flow around the town. This will include greater use of public transport.
5. We will open up Town Centre and Old Town car parks for Residents Parking, maximising the use of our local car parks and easing the demand for on-street parking in Residents Parking zones.

Supporting Swindon's Children

1. We will reinstate Children's Centres to Swindon - committing resources to early intervention services that safeguard our children.
2. We will deliver more university education placements in Swindon- increasing skills and attracting new businesses to the town.
3. We will lobby for reduced waiting times for both the assessment and treatment of children and young people with mental health issues.
4. We will lobby for the fairer funding of our underfunded schools and support schools and colleges to improve education outcomes for our young people.
5. We will use the Council's housing and financial facilities to attract key workers, such as social workers, nurses, doctors and teachers to Swindon, in order to reduce the current recruitment crisis in our local public services.

Supporting Swindon's Vulnerable Adults

1. We will sign up to UNISON's Ethical Care and Residential Care Charters, ending arbitrary 15 minute care visits and providing care workers with paid travel time.
2. We will build and encourage other providers to build specialised housing for adults with learning disabilities, the elderly and teenagers leaving care. This will ensure they are housed satisfactorily and do not have to live outside of the borough, away from their families.
3. We will work with charities, social care providers and others to publish an action plan to reduce loneliness in Swindon.
4. We will lobby for the reintroduction of a "place of safety" unit in Swindon.
5. We will improve public health through changes in the Licensing and Planning system, making fast food restaurants and betting shops less accessible.

Town Centre Regeneration

1. We support the redevelopment of the Corn Exchange, and will work with the developer to kickstart the existing scheme.
2. We will build on the success of Swindon's Heritage Action Zone bid and the improvements made to the Carriage Works, by renewing opportunities to redevelop the Mechanics Institute and restoring the Milton Road Baths.
3. We will kickstart the Kimmerfields development in the Town Centre, ensuring the scheme is mixed-use. We will provide residential units, office facilities and open spaces.
4. We will deliver the North Star development based on its current outline planning permission.
5. We will not support Town Centre highways schemes that increase traffic around Central Swindon.

Tackling Swindon's Housing Crisis

1. We will build 1000 Council Houses within 5 years to provide housing for local families on the council's housing waiting list and in temporary accommodation.
2. We will use the Swindon Housing Company to build more private housing for rent, offering quality private rented accommodation to Swindon residents that will set the standard for other private landlords.
3. We will implement a Homelessness Reduction Strategy and work with local charities and organisations to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in the town.
4. We will build Urban Villages on the outskirts of the Swindon Borough, providing high quality homes and revitalising Swindon's satellite towns.
5. We will enhance the Council's housing repairs system, improving the reporting system for housing repairs.

Culture & Leisure

1. We will keep Lydiard run by the Council, in the public interest.
2. We will invest in Coate Water, retaining and improving the country park's amenities and keeping the park rangers that make the park what it is.
3. We will make use of Swindon's green open spaces by encouraging more festivals and open air events to Swindon- bringing Swindon residents together.
4. We will retain Swindon's libraries as a single service, and not transfer them to an outside provider.
5. We will find a new home for the Swindon Museum & Art Gallery.