

# MANIFESTO 2016

## Labour – Better for you, better for Wolverhampton

**We promised investment  
in jobs and skills – we  
*are delivering***



**We promised investment  
in young people – we  
*delivered***



**We promised investment  
in Wolverhampton – we  
*delivered***



**We promised investing  
in more homes – we  
*are delivering***



**Vote  Labour**

# Wolverhampton Labour Group Promises to:

- ✓ Build on our success in attracting major investment to the City by developing Sainsbury's old site, the Bilston Urban Village, the railway station interchange and the extension to i54 enterprise zone
- ✓ Work with West Midlands Councils through the West Midland Combined Authority to attract more investment to the Region and improve our transport system
- ✓ Work with schools, colleges, the University and industry to increase the skills of local people so that they can benefit from the new jobs created
- ✓ Set up a Council energy company to provide fair and value for money gas and electricity to the City
- ✓ Continue to improve the City's housing offer to create new Council houses and affordable homes
- ✓ Work to make the City's cultural heritage assets (e.g. West Park Conservatory, Bantock House, the Art Gallery and Bilston Craft Gallery) commercially viable to avoid forced closure due to the cuts
- ✓ Competently and innovatively manage Council services and finances despite Government cuts to the Council Grant of over 50%
- ✓ Continue to improve and modernise our children's and adult care service to protect the most vulnerable in our community
- ✓ Improve people's experience of dealing with the Council by transforming our customer service centre and creating an industry leading digital platform
- ✓ **Work for a fairer Wolverhampton for all**

# We believe jobs and skills are worth investing in:

***i10 – completed on time, on budget and now almost fully let***



✓ Our investment in the new office and retail space (i10) near the station is completed and almost fully let. It has created new jobs and provided high quality office space for rental. We are progressing the station interchange project with our partners.

✓ Working with our partners we have obtained £6 million external grants towards our £10.4 million refurbishment of the Civic and Wulfrun Halls increasing capacity and enabling them to host new attractions.

✓ Our approach to preserving the City's cultural heritage in the face of the cuts is to adopt a more commercial approach to the Art Gallery, Bantock House, the Grand Theatre, the Bilston Craft Gallery and the West Park Conservatory and other facilities to ensure they can be afforded.

✓ We are preserving and improving vital City car parking by essential repairs and refurbishment of the Civic Centre car park.

✓ We have bought the St John's Sainsbury's site to ensure a great retail and residential development on this key part of the city centre.

# We believe jobs and skills are worth investing in:

## *Learning the right skills for the new jobs in the City & the Region*



- ✓ Our outstanding Adult Education provision continues to provide support to adults reskilling for work.
  - ✓ Working with our partners we are supporting the transformation of the derelict Springfield Brewery site into the home of the new West Midlands University Technical College (UTC) for Construction. Wolverhampton University will also relocate its School of Architecture and the Built Environment there.
  - ✓ Our Wolverhampton Charter sets the standard for employers seeking to do business with the Council and our partners.
  - ✓ The Wolverhampton Skills Commission has made detailed practical recommendations to help us shape future skills development and strengthen the city's long-term economic output with proposals for new investment in skills and training supported by funding from the European Union.
- ✓ We are working with our partners in the West Midlands Combined Authority to attract inward investment to the region and ensure that our transport links and employee skill base will support it.

# We believe our communities are worth investing in:

## *'The Way' – working for youth*



✓ The City's Youth Zone opened on schedule in early 2016. It is a purpose-built facility for the city's young people delivering sport, fitness, dance, arts, music, media, enterprise and wellbeing and self-improvement. Over 3,500 young people have already joined.

✓ The first new Council homes in over 30 years have been built and the first families have moved in. We are setting up a Council Housing Company to build an extra 300 homes in addition to the 400 planned for Wolverhampton Homes.

✓ Work to create a 500 home development as part of the £176 million Bilston Urban Village project is now underway.

✓ Set up Wolverhampton Energy Company to provide value for money and fair energy tariffs to Wolverhampton people.

✓ By our early intervention in families we have safely reduced the numbers of children looked after by the local authority from over 800 to 670 – keeping families together as well as saving money to transform children's services.

✓ We are developing the use of telecare technologies to help ensure all our elderly and vulnerable are well looked after within the cost constraints imposed by the Tory Government.

✓ We are working to improve public health particularly by reducing obesity and bring down childhood mortality rates.

# Only Labour believes in a fair deal for our City:



Between 2010 and 2016/17 **Wolverhampton** has had its grant cut by **£323.63** per person. Compare that to wealthy Conservative controlled **Oxfordshire** including David Cameron's constituency where the cut per person is just **£107.48** – less than a third of ours.

To make matters worse Oxfordshire was then given £9.2 million “transition grant” to soften the impact of the cuts following the PM’s mum and aunt signing an anti-cuts petition while Wolverhampton got...not a penny!

**We will continue to lobby to get Wolverhampton a fair deal and to expose the unfairness**

**Vote  Labour**