



Wolverhampton Labour Party

Manifesto 2019

Vote  Labour



Dear Voter,

This year's Labour Manifesto details our continuing commitment to protecting vital services and supporting our city. Over the last 8 years, continuing cuts by the Tory Government and before that the Conservative / Lib Dem coalition, have put unprecedented pressures on services.

Both Conservative and Lib Dem parties attack our best endeavours but neither place the blame where it really lives – with the policies of their national parties. They make promises knowing that they will never be asked to fulfil them.

We alone have to make hard choices, but we are committed to driving forward our policies despite the challenges we face.

I hope you will take the time to look at our achievements and future commitments and vote Labour to ensure we can deliver our ambitious plans for our services and our city.

Councillor Roger Lawrence,

Leader of City of Wolverhampton Council

Austerity in Wolverhampton

Conservative Government Cuts and Pressures

More than £220 million budget reductions over the last 8 years.

Budget reductions of £19.5 million for 2019-2020.

Demand for Adult Social Care faces increasing pressures and demand – the cost for 2019-2020 is in excess of £62 million.

Government expects councils to increase Council Tax to pay for services.

Labour have set a balanced budget despite these challenges

Labour - Investing for Your Future

Labour - Investing in Wolverhampton and its Citizens *In Homes, In Jobs, In Skills and In the City Centre*

- ✓ 600 new homes planned for canalside living in the heart of the city.
- ✓ 420 more new homes for Bilston Urban Village.
- ✓ i10 office development highly successful - soon to be joined by the new i9 building.
- ✓ i54 business park expansion to create 1,300 new jobs.
- ✓ New Loxdale Primary School taking shape.
- ✓ Wolves At Work – a new initiative to improve city employment.
- ✓ New outdoor market loved by traders and revitalising the city's retail offer.
- ✓ New railway station interchange taking shape.

City Environment (1)



City Centre Market - Brand new and better located. The increased footfall has been welcomed by existing traders. Almost 40 additional stalls have been created which have provided increased choice for consumers.

Waste & Recycle Transformation - Essential service bought back in-house. A successful transformation has ensured that the service is protected for at least the next 10 years.

Parks and Recreation - Refreshed and refurbished. Three Green Flag Awards for the West Park, East Park and Bantock Park. 16 traditional play areas have been refurbished and new equipment installed.

Road Works - Roadworks misery tackled. A new Highways Permit Scheme introduced which holds utility contractors to account when carrying out road works.

City Environment (2)

A Cleaner City - Fly tipping reduced by a massive 50%. Culprits facing steep penalties including having their vehicles confiscated and crushed.

A Greener City - All lighting columns to be replaced over the next 3 years ensuring more efficient use of energy.

An Environmentally Friendly City - Electric vehicle charge points for public use.

A Prospering City - East Park Gateway creating 8,000 new homes and thousands of new jobs.

City Economy (1)

A Fast Growing Economy - Wolverhampton's economy is projected to grow up to 3% faster than the national average over the next decade.

Fourth Best City in the Country in which to Start a New Business - According to researchers at *Quality Formations*, a firm specialising in forming new companies. An impressive and independent endorsement of the Council's hard work to make the city more attractive to businesses. [Quality Formations Dec 2015 - 2016]

High Survival Rates for Start-up Businesses - 92.9% of the city's businesses that started up 12 months previously survived the first year of business. Higher than the national (English) average 91.6%, the Black Country (91.5%) and the West Midlands (91.9%).

City Economy (2)



The University of Wolverhampton - One of the most entrepreneurial in Britain and a national leader in knowledge-transfer programmes. In recent years, the university has supported businesses with consultancy, research and development facilities, skills development and knowledge transfer activities worth £25.6 million.

The Brewers Yard Scheme - Over 1,000 new homes are to be built under £185m plans for The Brewers Yard scheme, ten acres of brown-field land next to the railway station and the University of Wolverhampton's Springfield Campus. Work is set to start next year.

The initiative is a joint venture between the Council, West Midlands Combined Authority and developer Court Collaboration. The scheme aims to deliver high-quality, affordable living in what will be some of Wolverhampton's tallest buildings.

Westside Leisure Development Scheme - Work will start by the end of the year on the scheme, which will bring £50 million investment into the city and around 500 jobs once completed. It will feature a range of leisure, food and drink outlets with a multi-screen cinema, new multi-storey car park and high-quality public square.

City Economy (3)

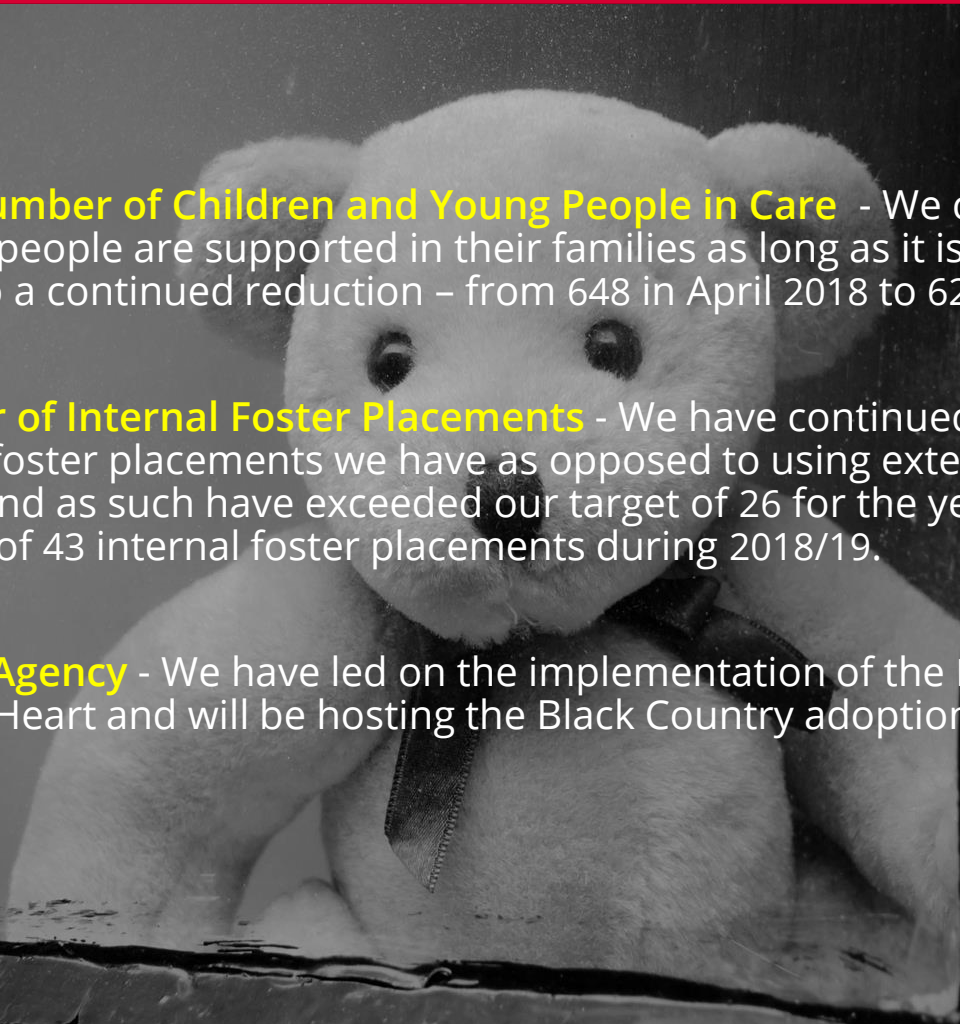
Third Best City in the UK - The city has been ranked third best city in the UK in which to bring up a family, by Money Supermarket.

i9 Office Accommodation - Situated next to our award-winning i10 development, building work has already begun. It will provide 50,000 square feet of Grade A office space suitable as a headquarters for a major business. To be ready in 2020, bringing around 300 jobs.

Developing Bilston Urban Village - Another 420 homes set to spring up on land earmarked as part of the multi-million-pound plans which will see the continued major development south of Bilston town centre and the Black Country Route. The Hop Pole pub next to the market has been demolished as part of further plans to transform the area.

Relocation of City of Wolverhampton College's Paget Road - Plans are underway to relocate the campus into the heart of the city as part of a City Learning Quarter. New buildings and state-of-the-art teaching facilities will transform opportunities for all students.

Children and Young People (1)



Reduction in the Number of Children and Young People in Care - We continue to ensure children and young people are supported in their families as long as it is appropriate and safe – this has led to a continued reduction – from 648 in April 2018 to 624 to date.

Increase in Number of Internal Foster Placements - We have continued to increase the number of internal foster placements we have as opposed to using external private fostering agencies and as such have exceeded our target of 26 for the year end – we have achieved a net gain of 43 internal foster placements during 2018/19.

Regional Adoption Agency - We have led on the implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency - Adoption@Heart and will be hosting the Black Country adoption agency from early April 2019.

Children and Young People (2)


Ofsted Finds us very Self-aware - A fair and balanced Ofsted visit in September 2018 that focussed on Child in Need and Child Protection assessments and plans – Ofsted found us to be very self aware of both our strengths and areas for development.

Ofsted Recognition of our really Child-centred Short Breaks Home - this was recognised by Ofsted in December 2018 and is a key part of our support system to families where their children may be on the edge of becoming looked after.

New Structure across CYP Services - We implemented a new structure across CYP services in November 2018 which has led to a more stable workforce enabling us to reduce the number of agency workers we have and reduce caseloads.

This has been evidenced through our new quality assurance process – practice weeks – enabling senior managers to spend time with frontline practitioners across CYP services to celebrate, review and observe practice. Improvements in practice is emerging including understanding the child's lived experiences, hearing their voice and improved assessments to name a few.

Children and Young People (3)



Local Offer for Care Leavers - We launched our Local Offer for Care Leavers in October 2018 which highlighted a whole system commitment to supporting our care leavers in Wolverhampton.

Youth Offending Service - We continue to provide a robust multi-agency Youth Offending service and performance in re-offending was recognised as improving by the Youth Justice Board.

HeadStart Programme - We continue to benefit from Big Lottery funding for our *HeadStart* Programme and are now working with partners to agree sustainability elements of the programme going forward.

Education and Skills (1)

Rising Attainment - Our educational attainment rates continue to improve at a pace.

More Good and Outstanding Schools - More children than ever are attending good or outstanding schools in Wolverhampton.


School Investment - New school building programme to cater for a 24% rise in births between 2002 and 2014 triggering 300 extra school places.

School Exclusions - Currently 4.7% and still the lowest in the Black Country but 0.18% higher than the national average. We aspire further to address the number of young people excluded from school.

NEETs - Not in Education, Employment or Training stands at - 4.6%.

Boys' Attainment - We will provide additional focus on boys' education in their secondary years in order to close the attainment gap.

Education and Skills (2)



Learning Platform - 10,000 residents have been engaged in grass roots learning in communities through partnerships.

Adult Education - Offering lifelong learning and rated excellent by Ofsted.

WorkBox - WorkBox provides the city's digital platform to skills and employment. It has been visited 320,000 times uniquely, that's about 600 times a day.

Apprenticeships - 4,882 over the last two years by Wolverhampton residents.

Employment - Wolves at Work has placed 4,000 residents in work. Of these, 45% are young people.

Volunteering - 1,100 people were supported to volunteer in local organisations.

Our People

'Our People' Strategy

Attracting the Best People - We have recently launched our 'Our People' Strategy. In order to deliver our promises to you and to deliver our vision as outlined in the City Plan, we need to attract the best people to our Council and we need a highly motivated and skilled workforce.

Nurturing Our Employees - We will develop our workforce in line with the Strategy. It's effectiveness will be monitored by representatives from all levels of the workforce and if necessary, it will be amended to ensure it meets our aims. In this way we will be able to continue to build a confident, capable Council.

Public Health and Wellbeing (1)

The Labour Party has ensured that local skills, resources, funding and expertise are used to best effect in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Wolverhampton.

Working Together - We have worked with a range of partners including NHS Wolverhampton CCG, the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and the Voluntary Sector Council to produce a Public Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy and local Suicide Prevention Plan, and develop the *Head For Health* programme with the Wolves Community Trust.

Keeping You Safe - We have been working with the Police, voluntary groups, schools and local community leaders to prevent and tackle crime. We have delivered programmes to prevent and address violence against women and girls; to tackle gang culture; and to ensure emergency resilience is in place.

Listening to You - We have listened to local communities in order to shape local services and respond to your concerns and interests. We have delivered innovative health programmes and listened to those experiencing poverty and worked with religious and community groups to enhance the Community Cohesion Forum.

Public Health and Wellbeing (2)

Good Start in Life - 2018/19 has seen significant work to improve the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme. For 4 out of the 5 mandated checks, performance has never been as good. 81% of children received a 6-8 week review and 73% had received a 12-month check by the time they were 15 months old.

Keeping Well - Following our flu vaccination campaign in 2018/19 we had the highest overall uptake in the Black Country, with approximately 3,500 more children being vaccinated and uptake in other groups was maintained.

Fewer Flu-like Illnesses - There were fewer flu-like illness in the community compared to last year, with approximately half as many flu outbreaks in care homes. In addition, around 1,300 Council staff were vaccinated, ensuring that key services could be maintained throughout the season.

Adult Health Checks - Wolverhampton has significantly improved performance in the delivery of adult health checks for people aged 40-75. At the start of March 2019, almost 5,000 health checks had been delivered – double the number for this time last year, with numbers continuing to improve.

Public Health and Wellbeing (3)

We are committed to the continued improvement of the health and wellbeing of Wolverhampton residents. In 2019/20 we want to:

School Readiness - Ensure that more children are ready for school by increasing the number of children receiving their 2-and-a-half year checks, and guiding their parents and carers to local services to support their development and access to free nursery provision.

Improve Mental Health Services - Continue to work with partners to improve local mental health services and alcohol prevention and treatment.

Address Local Issues - Widen the range of initiatives taking place in the local area, and work with residents on the local issues that matters to them.

Improvements for Older Residents - Improve health of older residents and take steps to improve the quality of life of people over 70 years old.

City Assets and Housing (1)

Civic Centre - We have completed works to the Civic Centre that have created a better customer experience and a more efficient work environment.

Health and Social Care Hub - We have produced an outline business case for a Health and Social Care hub in Bilston using 'One Public Estate' funding.

Working Together - We continue to work with and support local business and communities to help them to grow.

Community Assets - We have completed community asset transfers including Wildside Activity Centre.

Surplus Assets - We continue to dispose of surplus assets to generate income for the council.

City Assets and Housing (2)

Fire Safety - We have conducted a comprehensive fire safety review and will ensure all council properties are safe and secure.

Homelessness - We continue to work in partnership with others to tackle homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.

Rent with Confidence - We are seeking to improve private homes and conditions in the private rented sector. We have introduced a rent with confidence scheme for private landlords and are taking a stronger line of enforcement against poor landlords.

Estate Improvements - We continue to invest in our estates with major works being carried out in Heath Town and further estate improvements to follow.

House Building - We continue to expand our house building programme to provide housing for sale, private rents and affordable social housing. We hope to build over 1,000 houses over the next four years.

Adult Social Care (1)

Our Vision

The Council's vision for Adult Social care aligns with our Corporate Values for the City of Wolverhampton.

To promote independence thereby supporting our vulnerable and elderly residents to have independent and fulfilling lives.

To work in partnership with health services, the voluntary sector and other public sector bodies.

To deliver integrated services to support vulnerable people and maximise their independence, where possible, within their own homes, making greater use of assisted technology and telecare.

Adult Social Care (2)

We have spent the last twelve months embedding our care models, which assist in managing local demands.

Day Opportunities - £180,000 invested in renovating & upgrading our day opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Initiatives include: Brickkiln Centre, Neil Dougherty Centre and Action for Independence.

Supporting Life Choices - Over 100 new homes have been created for adults with learning disabilities or mental health needs in the last 24 months in Wolverhampton.

Discharge Delays Reduced - The total number of people delayed in hospital when ready for discharge has fallen overall by 33%.

Wolverhampton's Telecare Service - This invaluable service consists of a range of personal and environmental sensors, that enable people to remain safe and independent in their own homes for longer.

Dementia Friendly City - Wolverhampton was recently officially granted Dementia Friendly Community Status by the Alzheimer's Society, in recognition of work undertaken by the Dementia Action Alliance (described as 'best practice' across the region).

Adult Social Care (3)

Key Priorities for 2019/20

Living Independently - Would like more people with care and support needs to be supported to live as independently as possible in their own homes, for as long as possible.

Discharge Time - We have made good progress this year in reducing the amount of time people are waiting to be discharged home from hospital. Our ambition is to reduce waiting times even further and achieve an average wait of 2.8 days (2019/20).

Support to Find Employment - To improve the support available to people with care and support needs, who want to find paid employment.

