



April 3, 2018

RICHMOND UPON THAMES LABOUR PARTY LAUNCHES LOCAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

Richmond and Twickenham Labour Party has launched its local manifesto, ahead of the local elections taking place on May 3rd. With just one month to go, Labour is looking well placed to make historic electoral gains in the Borough, as well as across London.

The manifesto includes policies on housing, air quality, education and youth services, care and preventative services, outsourcing and the local economy.

Commenting on the manifesto, the Leader of the Labour Group on Richmond Council, Cllr Jennifer Churchill said:

“This manifesto clearly articulates the ambitions of the Labour party for Twickenham and Richmond. It is based on comprehensive local knowledge and shaped into workable, realistic policy proposals for a fairer borough for everyone.

“Council funding has been cut by more than 40 per cent by this Tory government. And Richmond’s Tory council has passed on the impact of these cuts to the least able to pay and those who need services most. It doesn’t have to be like this.

“Building Council Homes is one of our top priorities. Richmond has the worst record of any London Borough for providing affordable housing. We would borrow to invest in building high quality social homes, creating valuable community assets that generate long term income for the Council through social rents. And, unlike the local Tories, we will ensure all new developments incorporate at least 35 per cent social and affordable homes.

“Radical action is needed to tackle very high pollution levels. As has been implemented by Labour councils in London, we will introduce a diesel levy and the

money raised will be used to pay for cycling and electric vehicle infrastructure, as well as a diesel scrappage scheme.

“One in seven children are living in poverty in Richmond. Social care and mental health budgets have been cut to the bone.

“We would invest in Richmond’s young people, who have suffered most of the cuts to preventative services in health, cuts to youth services, and the loss of school support systems. We have been making young people pay for the reckless, short-sighted behaviour that brought us the financial crisis. That must end, now.

“Finally, we would end poverty wages by becoming a London Living Wage Accredited Council, so all staff employed on council contracts would receive the London Living Wage. At present, the largest group being paid low wages are those working in social care, mostly women. Showing respect for care workers must be the first step in delivering care services fit for the 21st century.

“These are ambitious proposals – we would secure their success through sensible, strategic and bold year on year budgets. We are clear on our priorities, formed through listening to the concerns of thousands of residents. Vote Labour on May 3rd and let’s make Richmond upon Thames somewhere we can all be proud to call home.”

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