



# Labour

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## ***Sutton Borough Labour Manifesto 2018***

***There is much to celebrate about Sutton, but it is becoming increasingly clear that the outdated policies set by the Liberal Democrat Council no longer meet the needs of local residents. Only a Labour council will protect acute services at St Helier Hospital and deliver the vital changes needed in housing, education, and the environment in Sutton.***

**All of our Labour councillors are committed to the following policies:**

### **1. TO KEEP ALL ACUTE SERVICES AT ST HELIER HOSPITAL AND STOP ANY PLANS THAT THREATEN HEALTHCARE FOR ALL.**

- People are rightly concerned that there are plans to see services removed from our **St Helier Hospital**. Sutton Labour councillors will strongly oppose any cuts to acute services - like A & E and Maternity Services - from our local hospital and any further privatisation of our local NHS. We support our local hospital and a properly funded NHS and Social Care system that is publicly owned, integrated and accountable.
- **St Helier Hospital** is one of the safest hospitals in the country and one of the few Trusts that consistently delivers the four hour A&E target time making it regularly the best in London. We have listened to, and share, your concerns about the threat to services contained within the South West London Clinical Commissioning Groups' Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) and its 'Five Year Forward View' ('FYFV). Labour councillors will not support or agree to any changes that reduce the services provided by our local hospital. We need more hospital services, not fewer.
- The Epsom and St Helier Trust claim to have consulted residents about the proposal that could result in an inadequate and inconvenient acute unit on the Sutton Hospital site, but we've not yet heard anyone say they agree with this plan. We therefore reserve the right to consider holding a referendum to give



residents their say on keeping the current full NHS health use of the St Helier site along with a “Resident’s Lock” on the site in future. **To protect services at St Helier Hospital: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **2. TO ACHIEVE A CLEANER, ECO-FRIENDLY BOROUGH BY ADDRESSING THE DEBACLE OF #SUTTONBINSHAME AND STRONGLY OPPOSING THE BEDDINGTON INCINERATOR.**

Labour councillors and the local residents we have spoken to are in joint agreement regarding the following issues

:

- **the new waste collection contracts do not meet the needs of residents in our community, #SuttonBinShame;**
- **burning rubbish on our doorstep via a Beddington Incinerator is detrimental to the environment and carries potential health risks for local residents.**

Contracting out our waste services through remote, multi-authority bodies has failed, resulting in the appearance of unsightly bin bags on our streets and an increase in animal activity. Labour will give residents the opportunity to take back control of our borough’s waste policy by:

- **bringing more Council services back in-house to increase recycling rates and create a cleaner borough with more quality green jobs;**
- **consulting with residents about the waste collection services you would prefer (if necessary, we will use contract compliance and break clauses to force rapid change, including the option of ending the contract with Veolia);**
- **giving all residents the chance to vote in a local referendum, to have their say about ending the incinerator contract. **To bring Sutton bins back under Council control and have your say about the Beddington Incinerator: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).****



### **3. TO CREATE MORE QUALITY SUTTON SCHOOL PLACES FOR SUTTON CHILDREN.**

There's so much to celebrate about the achievements of our borough's children and their schools but there is much to be done to ensure that all Sutton children get the educational experience they deserve.

- **Labour councillors demand more borough school places for our children to reduce unwanted, out of borough school placements. We will support Sutton's headteachers in their campaign against cuts to their school budgets and encourage all of our borough's schools to close the attainment gap between pupils from poorer and wealthier backgrounds.**
- **We will encourage Sutton schools to share good practice in order to raise academic achievement across the borough. Our support of the successful Co-op sponsored Sutton Education Trust demonstrates that our schools can work effectively without joining unaccountable Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs).**
- **Labour will ensure that Sutton's Children's Services, Centres and all our state funded schools offer genuinely safe, inclusive, community based provision that serves the needs of all of our children and young people, regardless of ability or need.**
- **The recent Ofsted report highlighting failings in Sutton's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision clearly shows the need for change to the more open, accountable and child-centred educational provision that Labour proposes. **For the best education for all Sutton children: [Vote Labour on May 3rd.](#)****

### **4. TO PROVIDE SECURE HOMES FOR ALL AND BUILD MORE GENUINELY AFFORDABLE, SOCIAL HOUSING IN OUR BOROUGH.**

As with all London Boroughs, Sutton has a housing crisis. Labour will take action to plan and build genuinely affordable homes for sale and rent and ensure that borough tenants, whether privately renting or renting from the Council or other social landlords, are fairly treated.

Labour councillors will:

- **remain committed to protecting private tenants with greater control and**



licensing of landlords and providing more affordable housing options to enable young residents to stay in Sutton;

- work towards more shared ownership, housing co-operative schemes and social housing stock;
- support action to ensure all Council homes - including tall buildings - are maintained to be safe from fire and healthy to live in;
- aim to build 400 Council homes a year for the next four years to alleviate the current housing crisis. This would be achieved using a fully local authority owned Housing Company using grants and prudential borrowing to focus exclusively on social homes building;
- reduce homelessness. Under Labour, homelessness will be managed directly by the Council, rather than through outsourced private sector contracts; we will set up a number of locations in the borough that provide housing, help and hope for people who are homeless. **To increase and improve housing in our borough: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## 5. TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACROSS THE BOROUGH

We need good infrastructure such as integrated public transport links to ensure the borough economy thrives to produce jobs and incomes.

Labour councillors will work to successfully implement the following transport proposals:

- *an extension of the Tramlink to Rosehill, St Helier Hospital and Sutton Town Centre as part of a wider planned extension of the network as far as the proposed Cancer Hub in Belmont*
- *for Sutton to be included in Zone 4*
- *to establish a black cab rank at Wallington Station*
- *to extend a night bus from Morden, past St Helier Hospital and onto Wallington Station*
- *an X26 bus stop for Beddington Village*



Labour will continue to support the Freedom Pass for the elderly and disabled and will work with the Mayor of London to develop a proper transport plan and policy for the whole borough.

Our new councillors will demand that existing rail management contracts and franchises designed to keep fares high, destroy jobs and extract profits are ended to allow TFL to run our rail services.

Labour councillors will support the viability of Sutton High Street and our other district shopping centres. We will undertake a full environmental impact analysis before planning consent is given to any significant development or change of use; our planning policy will protect pubs, live music venues, meeting spaces and other public spaces.

We will work to improve Sutton and Wallington Town centres by encouraging arts and culture-based regeneration as well as start-up, creative and niche artisan producers to make our High Streets better places to visit and use. We will also look for opportunities to bring back a Sutton covered market, like the successful ones there still are in Tooting and Brixton. **For a vibrant borough with improved public transport: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **6. PROMOTE FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY IN ALL THAT THE COUNCIL DOES.**

It's sometimes easy to feel that public bodies like the council are more interested in taking money from us than providing services. A Labour Council will do what it can to promote equality and make your life easier in these tough economic times. We will promote value for money through a new Contract Compliance Unit and aim for ethical procurement policies. By implementing a Sutton Fairness Commission, we will seek to make life for residents easier by supporting the adoption of:

- ✓ **the living wage**
- ✓ **maximum pay ratios**
- ✓ **credit unions**
- ✓ **accessible advice services**
- ✓ **a 'Waste Watch Unit'**

It is a disgrace that so many of our hard-working neighbours are compelled to rely on food-banks. We will look at what discretionary support a borough like Sutton can provide and seek to tackle debt problems related to payday loans. As part of our anti-poverty and



social exclusion strategy we will introduce a comprehensive 24-hour advice service for all who need it, where residents can find legal and welfare support. **For a fairer council that supports all its residents: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **7. MAKE OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFER BY SUPPORTING OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES AND POLICE.**

Historically, Sutton has been a low-crime borough, but fear of crime is high. We will ensure people are not only safe, but implement strategies so people feel safe.

We will work with the Mayor of London to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and seek to support our local emergency services. To reduce fear of crime, Sutton needs a strong team of police & PCSO officers across all parts of our borough and we will work with the Mayor to fund more 'Safer Neighbourhood' police.

Labour will discuss with the Mayor of London how police bases in the borough can be retained, including police bases at Worcester Park and Wallington. We also want to procure a commitment from him to protect front-line services and explore how the borough could buy in extra policing to target key local areas with higher crime, such as a 2 for 1 scheme.

Our councillors are committed to ensuring that victims of crime are supported and making sure the Victims Fund is accessible to all residents with minimum form filling. As domestic violence and abuse is the biggest crime in Sutton (currently affecting one in four women, as well as some men), we will also strive for stability and assured funding for a local independent domestic violence advocacy, including evening and night services. **For a safer borough: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **8. TO MAKE RESIDENTS' VOICES HEARD BY BEING AN OPEN, HONEST AND CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL.**

Did you ask for any of these:

- X to build an incinerator within our borough?**
- X to change our bin collection contracts, therefore causing confusion and environmental discord?**
- X to move services away from St Helier Hospital?**

Labour want to create a more accountable, responsive and transparent Council to ensure real local democracy and representation. Residents should have the chance to contribute



their views in a council that encourages participatory, co-operative public engagement with decision-making.

We will ensure that residents paying for council services are clear on who holds local power. We believe councillors should always remember from whom they derive their authority, to whom they are accountable and in whose interests they use their power.

As a “Co-operative Council” we aim to develop a Young People's Community Plan, extend the library card to provide a local 'freedom card' and support the use of 'Community rights', including a safeguarding 'community right to acquire' designation for St Helier Hospital if disposal of the site is threatened.

Our vision for a more open, honest and responsive council also includes:

- **establishing a Sutton Disability Parliament to be fully consulted on all Council issues;**
- **the development of "Street Watch" coordinators across the borough;**
- **long-term funding for Sutton Women's Centre;**
- **restoration of a Sutton Trade Union Resource Centre to strengthen local Labour rights;**
- **a more comprehensive local advice service to support well-being, tackle debt and promote community resilience. **To have your say and be heard: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).****

## **9. TO PROVIDE SECURE, QUALITY JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTRACT NEW BUSINESS INTO OUR BOROUGH.**

Labour councillors are united in their commitment to returning vibrancy and employer investment to Sutton.

Not only will we focus on protecting existing jobs in the borough and securing the new, good quality, well-paid jobs that current and future borough residents will need, but we will also set up an economic development unit to foster partnerships with local businesses, including local town management. Supporting a strong “Foundational Economy” and promoting “Community Wealth Building” are essential to this process. As well as seeking to strengthen “local anchor institutions”, such as the local NHS, schools, community and local



sports clubs, we will work with them to encourage their own local investment in the community through their local procurement policies.

We will establish a Co-operative Development Agency, defend workers' rights; challenge discrimination, the toxic nature of a 'gig economy' and zero hour contracts whilst seeking a living wage for all contracted-out workers, including carers.

Working with the Mayor of London, other boroughs, the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) for South London and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Labour will seek to develop a Mission-Driven Employment and Industrial Strategy around new retail opportunities in the Town Centre, information technology and "Green Collar" jobs including "retrofitting" the entire borough. The aim is to work with the GLA research department to measure Sutton's GDP so we could collectively press for a 3% of GDP spent on research and innovation and create a Borough or South London Investment Fund to focus on helping businesses with their innovation. **For a growing local economy: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **10. PROTECT THE ARTS, SPORT AND CULTURE TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL.**

Do you have the feeling our borough's arts, sports and cultural facilities have gone into decline? Sutton is now the only London borough without a functioning theatre!

Labour will oppose any further cuts to Sutton's arts, sports and local culture facilities. Instead, we will work with local communities to develop vibrant arts, crafts, sports and leisure opportunities that properly reflect the diversity within our borough.

We will seek to protect provision in order to contribute to local people's well-being and employment by working with local people to build viable thriving communities with arts, craft, sports and leisure spaces available for all. **To protect Sutton's arts, sports and culture: [Vote Labour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>](#).**

## **Sutton Labour: for the many, not the few.**

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