Our Bristol Plan

Ensuring Everyone Benefits from Bristol’s Success

Labour’s 2020 Vision

MARVIN FOR MAYOR

Labour Bristol
Welcome

Bristol is a great city. I share the love so many people have for our diversity and dynamism. From Brunel to Banksy via Concorde, trip-hop and Aardman, to our 450 parks and green spaces, we are a source of knowledge and innovation.

The West of England is the UK’s most economically productive region and we are the only region outside the South East to be a net contributor to the Treasury.

Our challenge is that while we have a great story to tell, this prosperity is shared by too few people in Bristol. A quarter of our children grow up in poverty. We have 42 areas ranked in the most deprived 10% in England, six in the most deprived 1%. We are a city in which inequality is growing and life is increasingly unaffordable.

This is unacceptable. Not only is this a social injustice but it is an economic liability that undermines the strength of our democracy and society.

This manifesto is built on the lived experience and expertise of people from right across Bristol and pulls together the priorities and policies to put the city on the right track.

It is our aim to get every child off to the best possible start in life, ensure people can afford to live here, whether buying or renting, reduce economic, educational and health inequalities and enable people to age with dignity and confidence.

But it is not just what we want to do, but the way we want to do it that marks us out. We must strike a new deal with communities to devolve power and enable grassroots leadership. And we must coordinate with the city’s leading organisations across business, unions, health, criminal justice and education to share goals and align our resources to deliver them.

This manifesto aims to ensure Bristol is a city that can flourish with integrity because it is a city in which everyone can participate in success. Together we will build a better Bristol.

Marvin Rees - Labour’s candidate for Mayor of Bristol
On May 5th, all of Bristol will have the chance to elect our Mayor and local councillors, shaping Bristol's future for the next four years.

Labour councillors have shown by their actions, not just words, that we are the only people in the Council consistently prepared to stand up for social justice, and, alongside Marvin Rees, as Mayor, we are determined to address the inequalities that hold Bristol back.

Bristol Labour Councillors have changed Bristol for the better, working with residents at a local and neighbourhood level, fighting for your public services, more affordable housing, better public transport, safer communities and cleaner streets and parks, as well as challenging the current Mayor when he has been reluctant to do the right thing.

It was Labour councillors who forced the Mayor to introduce the Living Wage, and persuaded him to change his mind about the abolition of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to help the most vulnerable in our city. Labour councillors and campaigners have campaigned tirelessly to improve housing conditions for tenants in the private rental sector, making him take action, and it was Labour who forced bus fares down, stemming the reduction in passenger numbers.

With Labour councillors representing your community, and influencing City Council policies, we can start to see the real change our city needs to continue to be prosperous while addressing the major challenges of the ever-deepening housing crisis, the education and skills gap and increasing poverty.

We believe Bristol should be a city where everyone benefits from the city's successes, and our shared manifesto with Marvin Rees, shows some of the innovative ideas we have to do that, making it a place where all people have access to decent jobs and affordable housing, a city that is mobile and environmentally friendly, and above all else, a caring city where no-one gets left behind.

I know Marvin Rees shares our vision, so, if you do too, make sure we can build on these plans, working together to ensure that Bristol works for all, and that the city achieves its full potential.

Helen Holland - Leader of Bristol’s Labour Councillors
Our Vision

Bristol should be a city

- In which everyone benefits from the city’s success and no-one is left behind.
- Where people have access to decent jobs and affordable homes.
- In which people can get around and services and opportunity are accessible.
- Where life chances are not determined by wealth and background
- That leads on tackling climate change.
Our Values

We will be Responsible
We will be environmentally, socially and economically responsible.

We will be Democratic
We will listen to communities and devolve greater powers to neighbourhoods.

We will be Fair
We will serve the whole city, ensuring services, opportunities and investment are accessible to all.

We will be Doers
We will not over-promise and under-deliver; we will work with communities, businesses and the voluntary sector to bring about real change.

We will get the Basics Right
We will make sure when you contact the Council you can talk to a person.
Our seven commitments to you...

1. We will build 2,000 new homes – 800 affordable – a year by 2020.
2. We will deliver work experience and apprenticeships for every young person.
3. We will stop expansion of RPZs and review existing schemes.
4. We will protect children’s centres.
5. We will increase the number of school places and introduce a fair admission process.
6. We will put Bristol on course to be run entirely on clean energy by 2050, and introduce a safe, clean streets campaign.
7. We will lead a European Capital of Culture bid to make culture – and sport – accessible to all.
Our Economy

Bristol needs a strong economy. But it has to be the right kind of economy. Bristol was recently described as one of the most prosperous cities in the UK but one that is increasingly unaffordable and unequal. The evidence tells us that it is not possible to build strong societies, healthy democracies and resilient economies across great wealth gaps. We will work with business, unions, our public sector partners, and communities to build an economy that works for us all, today and over the long term.

We will...

1. Be open for business
   - Maintain and develop Bristol’s international reputation as a city that can attract global investment and opportunities.
   - Generate decent jobs, skills and apprenticeships, ensuring opportunities for enterprises to thrive in all parts of the city.
   - Help new and existing businesses access European and UK sources of finance and know-how.
   - Ensure longer term planning for economic development, including planning for apprenticeships.

2. Become a Living Wage city in which Corporate Social Responsibility is a priority
   - Bristol City Council will pay staff and require contractors to pay the Living Wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation.
   - Create the Bristol Living Wage Partnership that will encourage all Bristol businesses to pay their employees the Living Wage.
   - Not use zero hours contracts.
   - Refuse to give work or contracts to companies guilty of blacklisting workers.
   - Establish a Mayoral Commission to focus on the elimination of the gender and race pay gap, ensuring everyone is paid equally.
   - Work with businesses, trades unions, and public and voluntary sector organisations to agree a Bristol Charter for Corporate Social Responsibility.

3. Promote Bristol as a global centre of creativity and innovation
   - Work with our universities, leaders in sciences and the arts, to ensure that Bristol continues to flourish.
   - Lead a first class bid to become the next European Capital of Culture.
   - Building on the legacy of Bristol’s year as Green Capital, we will develop an inclusive and resilient city economy.
4. Champion financial inclusion
   - Prioritise local businesses and organisations to maximise the impact of the City Council’s spending power in the local economy.
   - Work with providers to enable equitable access to financial services, including free cash points across the city.
   - Promote the role of Bristol Credit Union as an ethical means of accessing financial services.

5. Invest in training
   - Promote targeted skills training and create a Bristol Apprenticeship kite mark – ensuring quality apprenticeships that can be trusted.
   - Establish Bristol’s first Apprentice Travel Card, helping young people to get to work and training.

6. Secure greater transparency and accountability
   - Bring about greater accountability and openness in the Local Enterprise Partnership and ensure it targets resources at areas of deprivation.
   - Use business rates to make the city more attractive to potential employers.
   - Work with businesses, neighbouring Local Authorities and our public sector partners to strengthen Bristol’s devolution bid.

7. Complete the Arena
   - Ensure the Arena generates jobs and apprenticeships for local people.
   - Work with local communities to bring about sustainable parking and transport solutions.

8. Invest in infrastructure
   - Ensure we have the right public transport and broadband infrastructure in place to enable business and people to work productively.
   - Tackle the digital exclusion which financially disadvantages people and hinders their access to employment and training opportunities.

9. Support people into work
   - Establish a one-stop shop to help people into work by encouraging employers to advertise jobs on one site and ensure skills support is offered.
   - Develop a ‘Passport for Employability’ for all young people in Bristol.
   - Set up a forum to help anyone return to work after maternity/paternity or care leave.

10. Establish the Bristol Bond to develop a long term capacity for civic investment in new affordable homes, infrastructure and economic and social development.
Our Homes

Bristol is facing a housing crisis. Yet decent affordable homes are the foundation of a successful city. Our aim is to create balanced communities which avoid concentrations of deprivation and the worst excesses of gentrification. If Bristol is to flourish, people must be able to afford to live here and live well. Good quality homes will help us ensure our children get the best possible start in life. It is a matter of both social justice and economic common sense.

We will...

1. Set up a council owned company to oversee housing projects across the city
   - Build 2,000 new homes – 800 affordable – a year by 2020.
   - Establish a ‘Bristol Bond’, allowing people to invest in local housing schemes.
2. Promote Brownfield sites across the city for Housing
3. Work with local communities
   - Ask local communities to identify areas for redevelopment and bring forward appropriate council land to kick-start development.
   - Support the development of alternative housing initiatives such as co-housing and communal living that aim to tackle wider social challenges such as social isolation and community cohesion.
4. Establish a Bristol Ethical Lettings Charter
   - Establish a Landlord Enforcement Scheme to ensure that action is taken against landlords who fail to provide decent standards of accommodation and service.
5. Bring empty homes and buildings in Bristol into use
   - Remove council tax subsidies from owners of empty properties and make full use of existing legal powers to bring empty homes back into use.
   - Produce a public register of vacant land ownership in the city, allowing citizens to identify land or significant buildings which could be brought back into use.
6. Give tenants a voice
   - Work with ACORN, housing associations, student unions and others to create a Bristol-wide Tenants’ Federation representing and supporting tenants across the city.
   - Re-introduce tenant democracy and develop a new structure for tenant involvement with elected tenant representatives sitting on the housing management board or its equivalent.
7. Tackle Homelessness
   - Minimise homelessness through early intervention and work with and support young people who are at risk of becoming homeless.
   - We will adopt a “No Second Night Out” approach to reducing rough sleeping and we will work with our partners to ensure nobody has to spend another night out on the streets.

8. Support Community Initiatives
   - Support Community Land Trusts, local builders, eco homes and self-builds on sites already agreed by Neighbourhood Partnerships or Plans.

9. Build and Support Stable and Diverse Communities
   - Work with Bristol’s universities to provide more purpose-built quality student accommodation and ensure a proactive approach to the management and impact of student housing across the city.
   - Establish a Mayoral task force to understand and shape our response to the challenges of gentrification.

10. Address the Backlog of Housing Benefit Claims
    - Deal with the backlog which is causing financial difficulties and anxiety for both tenants and landlords.
Our Future

Bristol should be a city in which every child gets the best possible start in life and where opportunities and life chances are not limited by socioeconomic position. We will ensure all children gain the skills they need to build successful lives. We will work to ensure meaningful career and work choices are widely available and that organisations across the city share our ambition.

We will...

1. Ensure that children living in Bristol have the best start in life
   - Protect Childrens’ Centres, bringing together early years’ health and education to tackle child poverty and help children and families build resilience for life.
   - Work in partnership with schools and other providers in the City to ensure that the outcomes for pupils are not dependent on which area they live in, the community they are from, or their economic background.
   - Work with schools, colleges, universities, teaching schools and other education providers to undertake research and to share good best practice, to help ensure that no school in the City has results below the national average.
   - Increase support for the education of the most vulnerable children in the City, ensuring that there is adequate high quality specialist provision for children with additional needs, in the geographical areas where it is needed, and we will increase the support for the Virtual School, The Hope School, for Children in Care.

2. Maintain funding levels for safeguarding and for family intervention teams

3. Poverty-proof the school day
   - Work with schools to maximise the funding available to support the most disadvantaged families (e.g. the Pupil Premium).
   - Ensure that no child goes without a meal, uniform, or an educational opportunity such as a school trip.
   - Work with businesses and voluntary partners to ensure that all schools have a Breakfast Club by 2020.

4. Be a family friendly city
   - Put children, young people and their families at the centre of our policies.

5. Revitalise youth and play provision
   - Review the Youth Links contracts to improve the range of play provision in Bristol and to promote personal and social aspiration.
• Support children and young peoples’ participation in decision-making by funding the City’s Youth Council and supporting the City Leadership Programme.

6. Provide a real choice for 16 year olds
   • Work with head teachers to ensure all 16 year olds can access a full range of A-levels, apprenticeships and vocational training, together with effective careers advice.

7. Increase school places
   • Work with schools to increase the number of places needed to meet demand.

8. Promote lifelong learning
   • Encourage the development of adult and community education and family learning, delivered through a range of partners.

9. Be a learning city
   • Work with key institutions (such as universities, media, museums and libraries, community and voluntary sector groups and Trades Unions) to develop a holistic approach to delivering inclusive education to all young people and their families.

10. Be a city of readers
    • Promote reading to people of all ages and use Bristol’s libraries to ensure all learners have access to a wide range of books, both in and out of school.
Our Health and Wellbeing

*We want Bristol to be caring city where getting older is a positive prospect and where barriers to a healthy and satisfying life are broken down. We believe that good health shapes all aspects of life in the city, and that it is as important to look after mental health as it is to ensure physical wellbeing.*

We will...

1. Become an Ethical Care Council
   - Aim to increase the number of home care workers and community nurses to avoid unnecessary hospital visits.
   - Introduce a Bristol Ethical Care Charter to ensure home visits last longer than 15 minutes.
   - Lead on raising standards by providing a coherent package of training for private and community care partners.
   - Pay our home care workers the Living Wage and travel time.

2. Support carers
   - Work directly and with voluntary sector partners to support carers to prevent them from becoming isolated and to ensure they have access to respite and to educational and social opportunities.

3. Make Bristol a dementia friendly city
   - Establish a specialist dementia home care service, and provide dementia training for individuals, community groups and businesses.
   - Increase accommodation and support for people who need extra care.

4. Focus public health spending
   - Work through Public Health Teams and our voluntary community sector partners to keep people fit and active in their communities and tackle social isolation.

5. Work in greater partnership with the NHS
   - Fight for more beds in hospitals and specialised units so that people do not have to travel out of the area for care and treatment.
   - Integrate care teams so that patients have a single point of access, so that they only need to tell their story once.

6. Prioritise mental health
   - Work with the NHS to strengthen the capability of Bristol’s Mental Health services, improve access, listen to service users and focus on recovery.
   - Promote good mental health in the wider community, emphasising early intervention, especially for children and young people and those at greatest risk.
7. Demand greater health powers
   • Seek the powers we need to take control of health and care spending.
8. Protect our social services
   • Support our social workers to ensure we keep the skills and experience we need in Bristol.
9. Ensure the Director of Public Health has the resources to tackle health inequalities throughout the city
10. Work with Bristol’s Disability Equality Forum to improve and develop access to appropriate employment and support.
Our Environment

The world is facing major environmental challenges. We understand that environmental and social justice are inseparable. If we are to enjoy an equitable and prosperous future, we must decarbonise by 2050. In this way we will ensure Bristol builds a meaningful legacy from its year as European Green Capital.

We will...

1. Ensure all council-owned buildings are run on renewable energy by 2020
2. Work to become a carbon neutral city by 2050
3. Tackle fuel poverty
   - Improve home insulation, offering grants and loans to council house tenants, landlords and private home owners.
   - Work with the Bristol Energy Company and others to ensure customers get the cheapest possible tariffs through collective switching.
4. Increase recycling
   - Open a new Recycling Centre on Hartcliffe Way.
   - Increase recycling, setting a target of 55% for all waste by 2020 and increasing provision of recycling facilities across the whole city.
5. Promote Reuse
   - Play a leading role within the Bristol reuse network, implementing a new re-use strategy for household and commercial waste.
6. Combat dog waste, litter and fly-tipping
   - Invest in ‘fidos’ and ‘poovers’ to keep our parks and pavements free of dog waste.
   - Launch a Clean Streets Campaign working with community organisations and schools to promote behaviour change while increasing the number of enforcement officers and using mapping to target fly-tipping hotspots.
7. Maintain a Frack-Free Bristol
8. Stop using harmful pesticides
   - Eliminate the use of the most harmful substances and ensure proper safety for employees and contractors using pesticides
   - Develop a Bee Action Plan to cover the whole city.
9. Protect green space
   - Ensure all parks are served by a park keeper and work with community groups to ensure our parks and green spaces are accessible, clean and safe.
10. Promote sustainable food networks
    - Promote community gardening to improve access to local fresh fruit and vegetables.
• Build on the “Who Feeds Bristol” report to develop a strategy for a long-term sustainable food network which is food resilient and reduces food waste.
Our Transport

Bristol has long been under-served by an inadequate public transport network. Delivering a world class, integrated, accessible and sustainable public transport system is essential to our city’s future. It underpins our broader economic prospects and our ability to connect people in the most disadvantaged communities to educational and economic opportunity. We will address the importance of getting Bristol moving, from protecting pedestrians to planning for new travel hubs that help to join up our city.

We will...

1. Get Bristol moving
   - Make school routes safer by making sure the right level of highway and pavement protection is in place and that it is both enforceable and enforced.
   - Not roll out any RPZs or 20mph zones unless communities and businesses, working through their Neighbourhood Partnerships, make an explicit request.
   - Freeze the cost of RPZ permits until 2020.
   - Ask all councillors to work with their Neighbourhood Partnerships to undertake a review of RPZs and 20mph zones in their areas and make recommendations on how they can be made to work.
   - Review access to on-street parking across the city to free up spaces, while ensuring access for those needing it the most.
   - Scrap the ban on Blue Badge Holders parking in RPZ bays and remove the charge for permits used by health and social care and other essential workers.
   - Extend free parking in RPZ areas to one hour to support our local high streets and pilot discounted day passes for small local businesses.

2. Create an integrated public transport network
   - Establish Travel Hubs to make journeys easier and to help integrate and modernise our public transport route network.
   - Make sure bus priority works.
   - Review bus routes to identify areas with poor bus services provision.
   - Ensure community transport services are better supported.
   - Retain the concessionary fare scheme for community transport operators.
   - Intensify pressure for multi-operator tickets across all modes of travel.
• Make better use of devolved bus powers so we can ensure routes, service standards and fares meet Bristol’s needs.
• Extend bus colour coding to route planning, maps and apps.
• Install real time information screens and replacement shelters in all areas.

3. Support and invest in cycling
• Seek sponsorship funding for cycle hire (including e-bikes and folding bikes) at all stations on the Bristol Rail Network.
• Expand and promote the cycling proficiency test (Bikeability) to help boost cycling skills across Bristol.
• Invest in better signage on non-road cycle routes, including the whole of the Bristol-Bath railway path. These will include cycle speed limits and exit signs.
• Review cycle lanes and take relevant steps to improve and maintain them all year, as prioritised by Neighbourhood Partnerships.
• Review the cycling network to link routes and improve access to key destinations.

4. Prioritise the pedestrian
• Ensure all pavements are well-maintained and safe. This will include joint working between the Police and civil enforcement teams to combat dropped kerb and pavement parking.
• Create a safe, sustainable and attractive environment by using modern street lighting solutions throughout the city.
• Install Pedestrian Countdown on city centre traffic lights to replace puffin crossings at key destinations such as the BRI.

5. Invest in local rail through a Bristol Rail Plan
• Work with partners to support the opening of the Portishead and Pill line by 2019, plus Portbury and Ashton Gate following necessary technical work.
• Work towards making the Henbury Loop operational. We will investigate the potential to integrate some of these stations with Park & Ride facilities.
• Make sure proposals for Horfield & Lockleaze and St Annes are progressed, not mothballed.
• Lobby for a 20 minute frequency on Bristol’s local train network.
6. Demand greater transparency
   • Call for greater accountability and transparency in the priorities for capital spending and revenue support adopted by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the Joint Transport Board.

7. Encourage cross boundary transport integration and powers
   • Seek devolved powers over public transport and infrastructure to ensure new homes will be supported by integrated transport routes and services.

8. Tackle congestion
   • Develop a sustainable schools transport policy to promote walking and cycling.
   • Work with operators to improve punctuality and reliability in services and extend Park and Ride operating hours.
   • Promote car-sharing schemes and additional +2 lanes at pinch points.

9. Work with the taxi trade to make journeys safer
   • Work to ensure Bristol retains a safe and thriving taxi trade. We will prioritise passenger and driver safety, and ensure that Bristol is a city in which racial and sexual assaults or aggression are not tolerated.
   • Introduce an annual taxi fare review to ensure that decision-making is fully transparent before increasing or decreasing fares.
   • Work with the trade to ensure taxi ranks and bays are appropriately located.

10. Improve air quality
    • Support the introduction of hybrid and electric buses with low emission levels.
    • Pilot a low emissions zone in Bristol city centre and use the planning system to get more businesses using freight consolidation.
    • Replace the council’s fleet with low emission and electric powered vans and cars when appropriate.
    • Review the location of neighbourhood air pollution monitors and make data collected more accessible.
Our Culture

Bristol is renowned for its thriving and innovative cultural life. This is central not only to the city’s economic future but to the way Bristolians feel about where they live. We want to celebrate, support and develop this. The challenge is to ensure that Bristol’s cultural offer fully reflects our city in all its diversity and extends beyond the boundaries of the centre to enrich the lives of people across the whole city.

We will...

1. Improve access to and participation in the arts, sport and culture across the whole city
   - Actively promote and support creativity and innovation within all communities across the city.
   - Promote community arts and sports events as well as city centre projects.
   - Ensure that council-funded organisations work with communities across the whole city to increase participation in the arts and sport.

2. Work with Bristol’s media sector to promote plurality and diversity

3. Ensure Bristol has library facilities fit for the 21st century
   - Turn libraries into community hubs offering information, digital access and expert support and advice.

4. Complete the new city Arena and enable it to be accessible to all communities

5. Lead a first class bid to become the next European Capital of Culture.

6. Celebrate equality and diversity
   - Ensure that the governance of all council-funded arts organisations is properly representative of the whole city.
   - Support Bristol Pride, St Paul’s Carnival and other local festivals.

7. Preserve and develop our cultural heritage
   - Review the way Bristol’s museums, galleries and cultural sites are looked after, developed and promoted.
   - Promote best practice in the commissioning, design and planning of buildings across the city.

8. Recognise the complex legacies of industrial innovation, cultural creativity, trade and slavery that have created Bristol, and encourage education and understanding of the way Bristol’s past shapes its present.
   - Support the Bristol Aerospace Centre and promote pride in Bristol’s scientific and technological achievements.
   - Develop policies that foreground Bristol’s role in Science and Technology, Black History, LGBT issues, Media and Music.

9. Work to encourage and sustain a high level of musical and arts education across all communities in the city
10. Support excellence

- Work in partnership with Bristol’s cultural institutions, such as the Colston Hall, the Watershed, Bristol Old Vic, Spike Island, Royal West of England Academy, the Arnolfini and St George’s, to ensure Bristol remains a city where the arts thrive and excellence is rewarded.
Our Bristol

This election must be about dealing with the way the city works, not only within the Council but beyond it. In order that power is not concentrated in the hands of a few we must make our Mayoral system more transparent, diverse and accountable. Ensuring all voices are heard and acted upon will be key to the effective transformation of Bristol into a city in which everyone has a stake.

We will...

1. Renew our democracy
   - Commit to sharing executive power with a cross-party cabinet that is at least 50% women.
   - Reform and strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships so that meaningful local decision-making is supported.
   - Bring greater clarity and purpose to the constitutional role of city councillors to ensure our elected members are representative of Bristol in all its diversity.
   - Ensure the Council House is open and accessible to the public to sustain participation in decision-making.
   - Begin a mass registration of voters to ensure no one loses their right to vote.

2. Be a safe city for women and girls
   - Have a zero-tolerance approach to gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.
   - Seek to make Bristol a city where there are no Sexual Entertainment Venues.
   - Support victims of Domestic Abuse, prioritising them for housing.
   - Commit public health resources to ongoing work with communities and the Police to tackle Female Genital Mutilation.

3. Champion equality and diversity
   - Ring-fence funding for community organisations working on issues faced by women, BME communities, people living with disabilities, older people, LGBT people and other protected characteristics.
   - Develop an Equality Charter which will apply to the City Council and any organisation that we commission, grant aid to or procure services from.

4. Promote Bristol as a City of Sanctuary
   - We will be a welcoming city that has a clear strategic approach to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in partnership with refugee organisations.

5. Empower young people
   - Give the Youth Mayors a budget with which to commission interventions with the agreement of the Youth Council.
• Champion votes for young people aged 16 and above.

6. Get the basics right by improving Bristol City Council’s customer service and accountability
   • Make sure information about Bristol City Council services is accessible and widely available.
   • Ensure that when you contact the Council you can talk to a person.
   • Be clear about who is responsible for action and how they will respond.

7. Promote community safety
   • Focus on cutting crime through building a strong partnership between the Council, communities and the police.

8. Tackle anti-social behaviour
   • Work with our partners to quickly respond to and tackle anti-social issues.
   • Pilot 'no cold-calling' zones.

9. Join the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network and collaborate with other Local Authorities who are committed to finding better ways of working for, and with, local people for the benefit of their local community.

10. Work with Trade Unions and Council employees to make sure that the voice of front-line staff is heard when shaping Council services.