

# COLCHESTER'S FUTURE

**Colchester City Council**

**Local Election Manifesto**

**2024**



## Foreword

### Cllr Julie Young, Leader of the Labour Group

**Colchester is a welcoming place to live and work but it could be so much better.** Over the last 14 years, our council has experienced huge funding cuts due to Conservative government failures to grow the economy and redistribute resources fairly. Your Labour councillors have worked hard to ensure that our most vulnerable residents are protected from the worst of these cuts amidst a cost of living crisis.

***Join with us to make Colchester thrive by electing Labour councillors in your area in the local elections in May!***

Labour councillors are **on your side**. We offer support for all residents by holding regular surgeries, by responding to local issues and by communicating through newsletters and social media.

We have the support of a dedicated local Labour Party and we work with wide range of community groups and businesses **for the good of our city**. Our priorities are your priorities:

- Affordable, warm and sustainable homes
- **Secure jobs, fair pay and new skills**
- Thriving and healthy communities
- **Safer, cleaner streets and a crackdown on crime**
- A vibrant city centre, heritage and green spaces

Please support us in both the May local elections and in the upcoming general election. This is a special year – a year when we can elect more Labour councillors, a Labour MP and a new Labour government. **Colchester – and the country – needs that change.**

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*We will work to create more **affordable, warm and sustainable homes**:*

- Build more council, social and affordable homes
- Improve existing housing stock by promoting use of Homes Upgrade Grants and Disabled Facilities Grants
- Support new homes acquisitions
- Better meet the urgent needs of families in temporary accommodation
- Strengthen enforcement of private rental standards
- Implement North Essex Housing Summit action plan
- Support the Tendring & Colchester Garden Community, providing a new country park, social and affordable housing, infrastructure-first development, local employment, and sustainable transport schemes

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*We will work to create **secure jobs, fair pay and skills**:*

- Work with Colchester Institute, the University of Essex, Adult Learning Centres and others to boost local learning, employment and skills
- Promote the real living wage and fair pay
- Work with co-operatives, mutually-owned organisations and others to build community wealth
- Boost inward investment into our city's businesses
- Promote sustainable procurement to deliver social value
- Identify and address inequalities across the city to promote fairer life chances

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*We will work to create more **thriving and healthy communities**:*

- Improve our bus services, bus station and active travel routes
- Improve our air and river quality
- Plan or improve a playpark in every community
- Strengthen 'Live Well Neighbourhoods' plans to improve access to local health, mental health and social care services
- Work with 'One Colchester' to extend social prescribing to ease pressure on NHS services where appropriate
- Implement the new Women's Health Strategy co-developed with the local Integrated Care Board

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*We will work to create **safer, cleaner streets and** we will **crack down on crime:***

- Press for increased community and neighbourhood policing
- Push the local Community Safety Partnership to create a more effective plan to tackle crime in the city
- Work with Colchester Borough Homes, other housing providers, Neighbourhood Watch, zone teams and residents' groups to tackle fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and to build community cohesion
- Press for a devolved road and pavement repair budget so potholes and floods are dealt with at pace
- Work with One Colchester and others to make city streets and the night-time economy safer, particularly for women
- Strengthen multi-agency support for victims of crime
- Improve city employees' ability to identify and safeguard vulnerable adults and children

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*We will work to protect and enhance our **vibrant city centre, heritage and green spaces***

- Celebrate, promote and market the unrivalled heritage, arts, culture and landscape of our city
- Deliver the £40 million Town Deal investments for St Botolph's, Jumbo and Greenstead
- Use the City Centre Masterplan to leverage new investments into heritage, entertainment and retail
- Protect Middlewick entirely from housing by making it a designated 'local green space' or nature reserve
- Promote and protect public access to facilities in our existing country parks
- Review our sport and leisure offer to ensure these meet the needs of our diverse communities and age groups
- Build on our city status to promote Colchester as the best place to live, invest, work and rest

**It's time for a change. This time, vote Labour.**