



# DEVO-ROCHDALE

Rochdale Labour's  
Manifesto

 Labour

# 2022



Vote Labour

Vote Labour

Shah Wazir

Vote Labour

Vote Labour

Vote Shaukat Ali

Re-Elect Jean Hornby

Re-Elect Sara Rowbotham

Re-Elect Ali Ahmed

Vote Rachel Jersey

Vote

Vote Mohammad Arshad

Vote Mohammad Arshad

MAY 2019

# FOREWORD

The pandemic has made the world both a bigger and smaller place. We can attend a Zoom meeting with people 1,000 miles away but we are more aware of our immediate surroundings. The local really has become local.

Our borough has always been comprised of multiple towns and multiple identities. Now we are more aware of our immediate surroundings, it has never been more important to put greater emphasis on our urban centres. We need to ensure services and regeneration are delivered in every corner and every pocket of the borough.

This year our manifesto builds on our previous years' pledges by providing a refocus on each of the borough's towns. Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale each have their own Labour manifesto with a specific set of regeneration pledges for each town.

Our three town-based manifestos detail how Labour will ensure that our borough continues to grow in ways that benefit all residents as we rebuild from the Covid pandemic. We will mainly deliver this through the establishment of new Township hubs that will redistribute the Council's staff throughout the borough and create new civic focal points for each town.

Leisure, health, highways, environmental services and culture, to name just a few services, should be delivered directly in each locality. This is to ensure that people delivering services, and making decisions on behalf of local people, work and live in those areas. Your local Labour Party believe this wholeheartedly and these three manifestos will deliver Council services based on a local agenda.

Councillor Neil Emmott  
**Leader of the Council**

Tricia Ayrton  
**Chair of Rochdale Labour Local Government Committee**

John Blundell  
**Rochdale Borough Labour Manifesto Co-Ordinator**



Neil Emmott



Tricia Ayrton



John Blundell

# Devolution Rochdale

**Rochdale** is the largest town in the borough and in recent years has gone through a major renaissance. Rochdale Town Centre has been transformed and is now somewhere we can all be proud of. But all parts of Rochdale need to feel the benefit, including areas like Littleborough and Castleton.

The Rochdale Rail Corridor strategy has changed the focus of regeneration to urban brownfield sites that are well connected through the railway. This will help focus development away from green spaces to urban areas. Ultimately it will help attract and retain the brightest and best in the borough.

## **Rochdale Labour Party's pledges for regeneration are:**

- 1.** To produce a bar and restaurant strategy to support the many independent food retailers that have opened in the town.
- 2.** To support the redevelopment of Hopwood Hall College so that it can accommodate a University centre and expand its campus.
- 3.** To ensure the delivery of the masterplans for Littleborough Station, Rochdale Station and Castleton Station.
- 4.** To deliver a cultural quarter around the new Town Hall Square and Touchstones. This will support the independent bars and restaurants and transform the night - time economy; and
- 5.** To deliver more food festivals, artisan and farmers markets, and schedule more outdoor events to make our town centre far more attractive both to local people and visitors.



# Township Devolution

Our Townships are central to decision making in our borough. The best decision making occurs when decisions are made locally by local people. We have five pledges for our townships:

- 1. The staff looking after our towns should work in our towns.** We will move the location of staff, such as those in highways and environmental services, into local Township offices to create Township hubs in each town.
- 2. A focal point for every town.** The Township hubs will act as a focal point for each Township and will contain council staff. We will ensure there is a culture hub based in each township that will provide culture services in the community. Health services will also be provided at a township level through the township hubs.
- 3. Money is raised locally and should be spent by local people.** We will significantly increase Township funding and shift the decision-making power of how funding is spent by the Council to Townships.
- 4. Decisions that affect local people should be made by local people.** A full review of decision-making processes, and the Council's constitution, is currently taking place. The aim is to shift as much decision-making power to Townships as possible, away from the Council Offices and its cabinet.
- 5. There should be a town centre manager for each of our town centres.** Each of our towns needs a specialist professional to co-ordinate the commercial viability of our town centres. We will also support more festivals, markets and promote better co-ordination between the council and local businesses and to ensure support for the fantastic voluntary groups that make our towns thrive.



TOAD  
LANE

STORE

# Climate Emergency

- 1. We will set the goal that by 2023 every child in Rochdale will have planted a tree.**
  - *Working with partners, we will plant on valley sides, moorland slopes and other green spaces.*
  - *We will promote learning programmes around green issues.*
  - *We will support thousands of trees being planted , through a comprehensive council tree-planting policy.*
- 2. We will ensure Rochdale Borough Council signposts residents to providers of green energy and works with companies such as credit unions to improve access to green and ethical loans.**
  - *Working with partners, we will identify and support residents who may benefit from this.*
  - *We will endeavour to save residents' money on their energy bills*
  - *We will help provide access to green and ethical loans*
- 3. To become the most eco-friendly and sustainable Council in the country, RBC will pioneer:**
  - *Changing procurement strategy in line with our Eco-Business scheme*
  - *Carbon literacy training for staff*
  - *Green travel plans and home working options where possible*
  - *All new council owned vehicles being electric or clean power*
  - *An environmental impact assessment on all cabinet reports*







# People

1. We will open a pop-up Birthing Centre, so that children can be born in Rochdale Borough again. This will give parents a real choice about where they want their babies to be born.
2. We want to make sure 'no child goes hungry' in Rochdale Borough. We will support efforts to make this a reality through our successful Read and Feed scheme and other measures (such as providing food vouchers, where needed).
3. We will support all Local Authority schools in being eco-friendly, and ensuring that environmental awareness is embedded in our children's education. We will also encourage schools to join the Eco Schools Green Flag Award Scheme.
4. We intend to commit to enhancing the quality of life for Rochdale people by continuing to develop culture, music and art . We will also emphasise the links between culture, and physical and mental health and wellbeing.
5. We will create an age-friendly Borough so that everyone has the opportunity to 'age in place'. This will include having an older person's accommodation strategy, including both housing and support.
6. We want to ensure a cohesive approach to the location of services (such as health and mental health support, careers education, dental services, bilingual and adult literacy support) in town centres and libraries, as well as in other parts of our local areas.
7. We will support parents through childcare provision, and an overall strategy for parents caught between work and benefits.



# Place

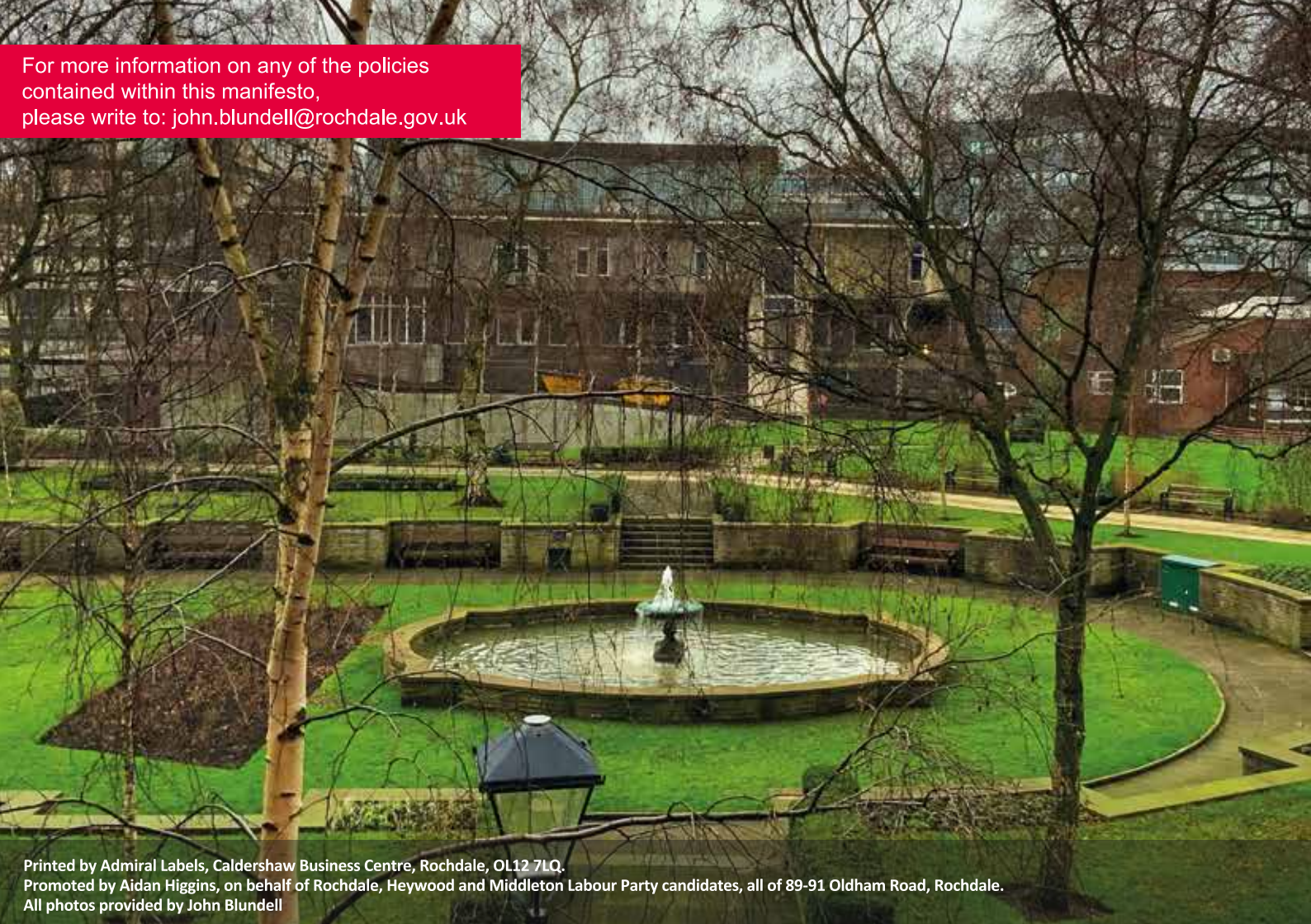
1. To create the 'Responsible Resident Council Tax Giveaway' scheme, through which members of the public who provide the evidence (leading to a successful prosecution) needed to fine people who tip rubbish illegally, or leave their dog's mess on the ground, are rewarded through a year's break in their council tax.
2. We will work with partners to improve paths and cycleways around major bus and rail station nodes. We believe in a modern, integrated transport system which includes infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists such as segregated cycle lanes and greater pedestrianisation in key areas.
3. For highway maintenance services to be brought 'in-house', and to rethink how the service is delivered, to ensure our roads are pothole free and maintained to the standard Rochdale's residents expect.
4. To provide a comprehensive policy to make it easier to hold events in public spaces. Community groups in the Borough believe that the costs and paperwork associated with the closure of roads, and holding events, are too prohibitive.
5. To continue to support the Borough's In Bloom groups, given their national success and positive impact on our towns.
6. To provide better access to Rochdale Council's wonderful 'Clean and Green' teams for members of the public.



# Prosperity

1. Rochdale Labour Party will develop an exciting masterplan for each of the Borough's key towns. Each Township will have ownership of their masterplan and the plans will be publicly accessible so that each area knows what the future holds for the place where they live.
2. We will continue to develop the Rochdale Rail Corridor Strategy to provide a focus on development around our rail stations. Residents in Rochdale regularly express that they want the Borough to develop in a sustainable way. Transport orientated development is vital to ensuring this happens.
3. We will develop green infrastructure and use our cultural assets to improve the desirability of rundown areas. This will include a new park (utilising the land made available by the disused platforms at Rochdale Rail Station), the introduction of urban beehives, owing to the scarcity of bees (and because they are the symbol of the Co-operative movement!) and making our council buildings increasingly sustainable.
4. We will bring forward a comprehensive policy on electric vehicles for the Borough, and encourage the installation of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) required.
5. We will ensure the council brings forward plans for further street art festivals, and will encourage the use of public art as a means of regeneration.

For more information on any of the policies contained within this manifesto, please write to: [john.blundell@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:john.blundell@rochdale.gov.uk)



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