



**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT  
MANIFESTO**

**CONWY LABOUR  
2022**

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## A message from Conwy Labour Party

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, many residents in Conwy have been on the front line delivering essential services. Whether it's care workers, refuse collectors, teaching professionals, supermarket workers, NHS staff or many other essential services, people in Conwy have done their bit during an incredibly difficult period to keep the County going. As a Labour party, we want to thank them for their tireless effort.

Whilst things have been difficult during the pandemic we want to move forwards ensuring the people of Conwy are protected from what is to come. We know the cost of living is increasing and we want to ensure that Conwy is ready to face the upcoming challenges. Many residents have told us they are worried about utility bills rising, food costs, the upcoming increase in national insurance. Labour wants Conwy to be a county where no one is left behind or left out. We want a county where we care about our community, our environment, where we focus on improving the lives of local people, reducing poverty and deprivation and where we keep council tax low.

### **To do this our key focuses are:**

- ✓ Tackle loneliness, isolation, health and well-being
- ✓ Put the environment top of the agenda
- ✓ Ensure education and training is for all ages
- ✓ Build council houses for local people
- ✓ Improve parks, beaches and playgrounds, including more public toilets

We also pledge that in wards where you elect Labour Councillors we will deliver regular updates to keep you informed on council decisions. Labour Councillors will also be ensuring that all decisions made by Conwy Council take more consideration to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015).

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## Housing

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We believe having somewhere to call home should be a human right. People's physical surroundings have a huge effect upon their lives. Labour will continue to improve the standard of the homes in which local people live. We want our residents to live in accommodation that supports their positive health and well-being.

### **To do this we will:**

- ✓ Build council houses.
- ✓ Lobby Welsh Government to ensure change of use planning permission is required before residential houses can become holiday lets.
- ✓ Strengthen our homelessness prevention services.
- ✓ Bring empty homes back into use and where that is impractical demolish and rebuild.
- ✓ Prioritise the redevelopment of brownfield sites and limit new development on greenfield sites.
- ✓ Work with Welsh Government to tackle rising rental costs.
- ✓ Ensure every building development meets the needs of local people – including prioritising truly affordable homes in line with the average local wage.

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## Environment

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How society responds to climate change and the Net Zero challenge is the biggest question of our time. Labour will drive forward commitments to cut greenhouse emissions to net zero and in doing so play our part in capping global heating to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

### **To do this we will:**

- ✓ Create a flood action taskforce to tackle the effects of flooding in Conwy once and for all.
- ✓ Ensuring all council owned car parks are fitted with Electric Vehicle charging points.
- ✓ Strengthen Council planning rules to ensure that developments meet Environmental ambitions including new houses being built with green technology (eg. Heat pumps, solar panels).
- ✓ Support development of a North Wales tidal lagoon and other renewable energy projects.
- ✓ Support and encourage communities to develop their own renewable energy projects.
- ✓ Arrange for a skip and recycling day once a year in each ward.
- ✓ Launch the 'pink poo' campaign to help tackle dog fouling.

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## Economy and Transport

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The creation of sustainable jobs is key to the success of Conwy's future and ensuring a strong post-covid recovery. Labour will encourage new ideas and will work proactively with the public sector, businesses, colleges and social enterprise to build economic capacity, increase year-round employment and create career opportunities for future generations. Labour understands the need for excellent quality public services and recognises the public sector is best placed to provide that.

### To do this we will:

- ✓ Ensure that Conwy Council and all organisations funded by the council pay the real living wage
- ✓ Ensure that companies awarded public sector contracts support the creation of local apprenticeships and provides jobs for local people.
- ✓ Hold a jobs and prosperity summit, bringing together the local business community.
- ✓ Introduce a Town Centre Recovery Action Plan, aimed at supporting centres across the county to bounce back from the covid pandemic.
- ✓ Hold a consultation on local business rates to ensure small local businesses have the necessary support they need post covid.
- ✓ Use Conwy's green areas to increase tourism by working to achieve more green flags of excellence for our parks.
- ✓ Work with travel providers to devise a scheme aimed at free travel for carers.
- ✓ Ensure the voices of Conwy residents are heard by the North Wales transport commission.

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## Health and Wellbeing

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Labour is proud of our tolerant and inclusive society. We celebrate diversity within our communities, and we will work to tackle isolation and ensure that we meet the needs of the vulnerable in our community, the elderly, those with disabilities, mental illness and vulnerable children. We are determined to root out discrimination and to promote social inclusion in all that we do. Through our libraries, leisure centres, theatres and open spaces we will support a range of activities to prevent ill health and promote healthy choices and lifestyles.

### To do this we will:

- ✓ Strengthen partnership working between Health and Social Care services.
- ✓ Work towards the implementation of the Ethical Care Charter.
- ✓ Ensure our older residents are supported to remain in their own home.
- ✓ Recognises the need for quicker access to mental health services and work with providers to deliver preventative care.
- ✓ Promote activities that contribute to well-being.

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## Education and training

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We are proud that Wales is the first nation to introduce a new curriculum of its kind and we're excited to work with schools to listen to their thoughts as we transition to the new curriculum in September.

Education and training should be available and accessible for people of all ages, and we applaud Welsh Government's commitment to this. Labour will do all it can to ensure that training, education and support is available to anyone who wants it.

### To do this we will:

- ✓ Double the annual target for the number of apprenticeships provided / facilitated by Conwy Council and promote Welsh Government's new apprenticeship scheme.
- ✓ Deliver a better deal on childcare to support parents and remove barriers to work or training.
- ✓ Promote re-training and re-skilling programmes, helping people develop the new skills that they will need to do the jobs of the future.
- ✓ Hold a 'listening project' to hear how parents and schools have found the new curriculum at 6 and 12 months in.
- ✓ Support schools in ensuring there is adequate funding to pay Teaching Assistants for the job levels they are needed for.

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## Heritage, culture and Leisure

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We will celebrate our heritage, culture and creativity to improve well-being and maximise economic growth. We will develop Leisure, Arts, Culture and Creative Industries to support the regeneration of our communities. To make a real difference we will use our libraries, theatres leisure centres and open spaces to engage, renew and connect with our communities. Agriculture, Tourism, Retail, Leisure, Green Technology, Creative Industries and our unique environment will all have a role to play as together we will develop an exciting future promoting health lifestyles and protecting our rich heritage.

### To do this we will:

- ✓ Ensure parks, beaches and playgrounds have disabled access and upgrade play park equipment to ensure it's safe for all children.
- ✓ Develop creative hubs in our communities, supporting local talent
- ✓ Improved Accessibility to Leisure.
- ✓ Provide more public toilets for residents and visitors.
- ✓ Fund more activities for all children, in community centres and leisure centres.

- ✓ Set an ambitious 5-year strategy to make Conwy truly bilingual, with priorities on families, children and young people, communities, and the workplace.