



A City Working for All

Labour's
Economy & Tourism Manifesto for
**Brighton
and Hove**

May 2019



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A CITY WORKING FOR ALL

We value the unique nature of our city and its economy. We will protect and support the many small businesses that ensure the strength of our city during times of economic uncertainty.

We will take a lead role in developing high quality jobs for our local workforce and become a global centre for eco-technology.

The Labour Minority Council has:

- Maintained a strong tourist economy with visitor numbers outperforming regional trends.
- Brought international sporting events to our city with the Rugby World Cup matches and the England Women's football team all making use of our fantastic Premier League stadium.
- Protected our crucial heritage by preparing the plans to move the Royal Pavilion and Museums into a dedicated charitable trust.
- Grown the level of attendance at cultural events so that the numbers of visitors to libraries, museums and galleries are ahead of comparators.
- Overseen the growth of our local economy and the number of businesses in our city.
- Secured funding to boost the take-up of apprenticeships in the city.
- Developed campaigns to end poor employment practices such as blacklisting and unpaid trial shifts.
- Promoted the Brighton Living Wage campaign and increased the number of businesses signed up to pay the Brighton Living Wage to nearly 500. Over 3,000 salaries have been increased as a result of the Living Wage campaign.

- Delivered major projects on time and on budget, including Circus Street, and started a successful crowdfunding campaign to restore Madeira Terrace.
- As part of the Greater Brighton Economic Board, overseen the completion of the state of the art construction training facility at Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (GB Met).
- Developed a new five-year economic strategy for Brighton and Hove in close collaboration with the business community.

A Labour Majority Council will:

- Keep our economy strong by becoming the lead UK city for community wealth building. We will take a leadership role in bringing together the purchasing power of the council and other major institutions such as universities, schools and hospitals to keep money circulating in our local economy, and more equally share the wealth within our own city.
- Independently audit all outsourced services and bring services in-house if it will achieve a higher level of social value and improve the development and retention of a highly-skilled council workforce.
- Support the development of a forum for all voluntary and charity sector organisations delivering council services to maximise co-operation and collaboration.
- Support and promote local businesses, especially small and medium sized enterprises, with a focus on cooperatives, community businesses and social enterprises to retain our resilience at a time of economic uncertainty. This includes ensuring major developments deliver sufficient shared worker and 'grow-on' space to support our many start-ups, and helping micro and small businesses to grow and develop.

- Promote the development of a sustainable economy by supporting low carbon growth and encouraging local and visiting businesses to reduce waste and pollution.
- Work with businesses, universities, regional development organisations and other partners to showcase clean energy research and innovation, with an aspiration to become a global centre for eco-technology.
- Work to ensure that women, BAME residents and other marginalised groups are supported to achieve their full potential and that barriers to successful, productive careers are overcome and removed.
- Become the leading UK city for ethical employment practices. Protect workers' rights in the gig economy, end unpaid trial shifts, zero hours' contracts and make the city a 100% Living Wage employer.
- Lead on the development of a Regional Employment Service across the Greater Brighton Economic area to tackle unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people. Lead collaboration between education institutions and businesses to plan future skills needs and increase the take



-up of apprenticeships at all levels.

- Build more affordable and key worker housing to help retention and recruitment of staff in our public services.
- Explore the potential for a voluntary tourist tax or a combined discount card for tourist attractions, local businesses and public transport. Use this extra revenue to clean up the city and fund

facilities for homeless people.

- Grow our visitor economy by protecting the uniqueness of Brighton and Hove with our independent shops, cafés and bars, and our distinctive arts and culture.
- Continue to raise money to restore our heritage, including Madeira Terraces.

With a Labour Government we could:

- End Tory austerity and have more money for essential local services and to invest in the future of our city.
- Lobby to license and introduce business rates for Airbnb properties, party houses and second homes that generate profits for their owners.
- Introduce a 'right to own' so that employees are the buyer of first refusal when the company they work for is up for sale.
- Support the transition of businesses to become part of a low carbon economy.
- Tap into a National Transformation Fund that will deliver investment and support businesses to create new skilled and secure jobs.
- Protect small businesses through reduced taxation, including reinstating the lower small business rate of corporation tax, a package of reforms to business rates and capping energy costs.
- Improve local skills through a National Education Service for England.
- Create good local jobs and reduce inequality through higher local government ethical procurement standards that clamp down on tax avoidance, recognise trade unions, protect the environment and pay suppliers on time.
- Help small businesses to access regional development banks, delivering finance for growth and innovation and prioritising lending where other lenders fail to meet the needs of small businesses.