

**TOGETHER FOR FLINTSHIRE**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTIONS - MAY 2017**

## Flintshire Labour – Standing Up For Our Community

I am proud of what Labour has achieved over the last five years in Flintshire despite the Tory Government austerity measures severely impacting upon public service finances.

We have, as a Labour led Council, worked tirelessly to defend Council services despite the difficult financial situation. **School budgets as well as Social Care have been both protected and increased each year over the last Council term.** We have successfully **defended our residential care homes and leisure facilities**, whilst at the same time continuing to invest over £100M into improving our existing council houses. The Labour Group of Councillors are incredibly proud that Flintshire is the first Council in Wales to begin a **building programme of new council housing**, offering hope to those local families in desperate need of secure, decent and affordable housing.

We have been pivotal in growing our local economy and have seen over 6500 jobs created locally, as well as ensuring that the Council is supporting **record numbers of apprenticeships** into employment.

All of this and more doesn't just happen - it requires strong political leadership. **Labour in Flintshire is ambitious for everyone and wants to provide opportunity to all.**

Our candidates come from many different Communities across the County and understand the real problems that local residents face. We work hard all year round, talking to Flintshire people and businesses, making sure that we can represent them effectively within the Council. Our party membership is growing, and we are a local movement for social change. We are not interested in power for its own sake, but seek to use the power of institutions and organisations to create a better, fairer County. In particular, we want to make sure that we support those who are most vulnerable from the Westminster Government's cuts agenda.

This manifesto seeks to ensure that we aim to be fair to everyone and ambitious for all. Our six key pledges are listed below:

1. Protect and invest in Social Care and Education.
2. Free Childcare – 30 hours a week.
3. More apprenticeships.
4. More Council housing.
5. Grow the economy – secure local employment.
6. Defend services from Tory cuts.

We want to work with you to make sure we are providing the best for our communities and residents. Flintshire is a great county – and by voting **Labour on 4th May, together we can make it even better.**



**Aaron Shotton**  
Flintshire Labour Group Leader

## Prosperous and Secure

Prosperity brings security to people, families and communities. We want better jobs, closer to home. We want work and secure housing for everyone, supported by sustainable growth of local businesses.

We will help businesses to thrive and create and retain high quality jobs. We will build and improve infrastructure to keep Flintshire moving and connect people with jobs, housing and leisure.

We will deliver a better deal on childcare to remove barriers to secure employment. We want to help people who want to work, or start a business, but find it hard because of childcare pressures.

We will invest in transport to ensure that people can travel easily to jobs and so that businesses can trade smoothly.

To do this a Flintshire Labour Council, working with a Welsh Labour Government will:

- Help to deliver the most generous childcare offer in the UK; 30 hours free childcare a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds, 48 weeks a year.
- Continue to deliver an ambitious programme of Council house buildings.
- Develop a Growth Deal for North Wales that benefits and grows the Flintshire economy.
- Provide timely and high quality business support to help firms thrive and create and retain high quality jobs within Flintshire.
- Work with local colleges to help increase the number of high quality all-age apprenticeships.
- Work with local police and others to develop strategies to tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Support residents to continue to improve our performance on recycling and minimising waste to landfill.
- Support residents to access affordable credit and continue to support local credit unions.
- Support a range of cultural, sporting and business events including the successful Mold Food Festival and Flintshire Business Week.
- Defend local policing against cuts from the Tories.

## Healthy and active

Health is an important part of our ambitions for Flintshire. We want to help improve health and well-being for everyone. Good health means that we are all able to fulfil our potential, meet our educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Flintshire.

An aging, growing and changing population is increasing demand and costs of healthcare. We take a positive view of the vital contribution older people make to society. We need to improve links between health and social services, and, as people live longer we will work with communities to support the aging population to stay well into later life. Mental Health treatment, support and prevention services will continue to be a priority.

We also want to reduce childhood obesity and help children to develop healthy behaviours through work in schools and other settings. We recognise the value of local play facilities, and in making local environments child and play friendly.

We recognise that local councils can play a key role in helping to provide for dementia friendly communities.

To do this a Flintshire Labour Council, working with a Welsh Labour Government will:

- Protect and continue to invest in our Social Services budgets.
- Protect our 3 existing residential care homes.
- Provide more residential care beds across Flintshire.
- Extend extra care provision across Flintshire.
- Invest £4 million to deliver a 21<sup>st</sup> century disability day care centre.
- Work with health partners to improve the integration of health and social care, continue to reduce levels of delayed transfers of care.
- Implement the Welsh Labour Government's pledge to double the capital people can keep when entering residential care to £50,000.
- Continue to develop our dementia friendly cafes across the county.

## Ambitious and learning

Our future prosperity and stability depend on the skills of our communities. Everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their potential and we believe that education changes lives and drives economic growth.

We want to create conditions to give every child the best start in life. We recognise the importance of the first 1,000 days in every child's life, including a safe, warm home, a foundation for reading skills and good health.

Education is the most important lever for improving the life chances of young people. We will continue to raise levels of educational attainment and continue closing the poverty attainment gap.

To do this a Flintshire Labour Council, working with a Welsh Labour Government will:

- Protect School budgets and invest at least an additional £7 million into school budgets.
- Continue our 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools investment programme to deliver additional new and refurbished schools.
- Maintain our successful Free Breakfasts in Primary Schools programme.
- Continue Welsh Labour's Flying Start programmes.
- Maintain our commitment to the Foundation Phase.
- Listen to looked after children and seek the best ways of meeting their individual needs, including support beyond the age of eighteen.
- Provide excellent Welsh-medium education, with good access for all communities.
- Ensure that all of our schools are able to access super-fast broadband.
- Introduce a Flintshire Youth Council – working with Schools to provide our younger people with a voice of Countywide issues.

## United and connected

Wales is engaged and connected to the wider world. We have seen significant technological advances over the last decade, which provide us with more opportunities than ever to connect within and beyond Wales. These cannot replace the importance of strong communities and transport connections, but they do provide us with additional opportunities to deliver a united Wales and to extend our reach.

We will continue to invest in infrastructure to boost the Flintshire economy and improve the connections in our area and across boundaries. We know that collaboration and joint working are vital. Solutions to many of our greatest challenges are being found beyond the boundary of each individual local authority and there can be no let-up in the pace of regional work if we are to maximise the benefit of the significant investment made in local government across Wales.

We will improve and extend our digital services recognising that digital technologies are helping to transform many sectors in society and that will include changes in the delivery of local government services.

To do this a Flintshire Labour Council, working with a Welsh Labour Government will:

- Improvements to our transport infrastructure including the A55/A494.
- Help to deliver a North Wales Metro system, including a new train station to serve Deeside Industrial Park and Broughton (Airbus)
- Ensure better access to active travel for all.
- Help more people gain at least the basic digital skills needed for the 21st century by 2021.
- Further improve our response to the Armed Forces Community, including improved identification, sign-posting and service take-up in line with our Armed Forces Covenant.
- Work with partners across all sectors to identify more opportunities for people to volunteer.
- Invest in play areas and sports pitches.
- **Above all we want to continue to work with local communities to defend local services.**

## Flintshire Labour Pledges to You

Your Labour Candidates care passionately about our community. They live in the County, use local services and want the local community to be served well by the Council. That is why they will make every effort to make themselves available at surgeries, on the phone and by e-mail.

### **It's not just in running the Council that Labour Councillors make a difference.**

Having a Labour Councillor means you will have someone who will represent you and everyone that lives locally and take on casework to ensure that residents get the best possible service. This is not always the case with Councillors from other parties.

Once elected, all Labour Councillors promise to:

1. Hold regular advice surgeries.
2. Do regular ward walks so we can spot problems and listen your views and concerns.
3. Ask for your views by phone, on the doorsteps and in surveys so you can express your opinions on issues that matter in your area.
4. Deliver at least 2 newsletters or newspapers per year in each Labour Ward about what Labour is doing locally and across the County.
5. Be present, or represented, at community events that local Groups invite us to.
6. Join local action groups and work to make them a success.
7. Attend the committees we are appointed to and be a constructive and well briefed member of that body.
8. Have an advertised contact number and will deal promptly and courteously with their constituents.
9. Ensure your problems are tackled quickly and efficiently.
10. Flintshire Labour Councillors will maintain a high personal profile locally all the year round, not just at election time!

**We are ready to campaign for a Flintshire Council that works for you.**

**In this landmark election, please help us to help you.**

**VOTE LABOUR on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2017.**