

# Labour is ambitious for Surrey



**Labour is ambitious for Surrey, our aim is to build back our communities better and greener.**

**Surrey has been badly run by the Conservatives for a generation.** They have squandered reserves, whilst failing to deliver effective services for Surrey residents. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that Boris Johnson's Tory Government were woefully unprepared for the pandemic following a decade of cuts and under-investment in health and social care which has had a devastating impact on local health services and our care homes. The Tories are complacent, out of touch, lack competence and don't deserve to be re-elected.

To replace the failed Conservative administration, with their austerity-led policies, and their invisible Police & Crime Commissioner, Labour in Surrey is offering an ambitious and innovative alternative, a programme that **will deliver** improved services, reduce crime and be better value for local tax-payers.

## Stop fire station closures and volunteer fire fighters

The Conservatives have steadily been reducing the fire cover in Surrey, putting us all at greater risk. They are now degrading our protection further by suggesting that, in places, we move from a professional fire service to a volunteer one. These cuts are a false economy as they can endanger lives and will push up the cost of your home insurance. The huge Chobham wildfire which forced 120 people to leave their homes over 150 acres of land, showed how stretched our fire fighters in Surrey are. Increasingly Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has to pay for extra cover from the London Fire Brigade. A Labour council will ...



- Reverse fire station closures
- Reverse the de-professionalising of our fire services

## A Labour Police & Crime Commissioner – Howard Kaye, *serious about law and order*



Over the last ten years the Tories have failed to provide the necessary numbers of police officers on our streets while also presiding over an increase in crime. These cuts have had consequences, this can't go on and under a Labour council and Labour Police & Crime Commissioner, it won't. As your Labour Police & Crime Commissioner I will ...

- Invest in more police officers and build back community policing by putting more police and police community support officers on our streets so providing better visible neighbourhood policing
- Commit to ensure that Police Staff numbers are adequate within Surrey
- Commit to oppose reduction's in budgets or services, whilst getting value for money for the residents of Surrey
- Work with the new unitary authorities and residents and agree policing targets to deal with increasing levels of anti-social behaviour and burglaries
- People's quality of life is being impacted by Anti-Social Behaviour. Tackling ASB will be a priority



## **Invest in adult social care** – *We will ensure dignity in old age and protect our veterans*

Labour has been saying for years there is a social care emergency in Surrey and the COVID-19 crisis has exposed this emergency to tragic **effect**. Surrey Conservatives sold off care homes across the county. If it wasn't for our hard-working NHS and local care workers, the impact in our care homes would have been far worse. Now is the time to build back better with proper investment in our adult social care

system. You shouldn't have to sell your home to provide for your old age so a Labour council will ...

- Work with local authorities to provide integrated social care with the NHS, keeping people in their own homes for longer
- Ensure that there is an adequate supply of adapted housing reserved for our brave veterans with life changing injuries

## **Fixing Surrey's roads** - *'In Surrey we don't just drive on the left of the road, we drive on what's left of the road.'*

The Tories have negotiated a road repair contract for the whole county with one company, Keir, who then often contract out the work. The budget has been mismanaged and clearly isn't value for money, as roads go unrepaired, more and more potholes appear, and the work is often to a less than satisfactory standard. A Labour Surrey would ...

- Break up the Kier monopoly and introduce proper competition, alongside a better in-house coordination and planning function
- Force the Government to increase the roads budget, until our roads are safe for drivers and cyclists
- The pandemic has resulted in more working from home with more focus on quality of life. More cycle lanes and routes will be planned and delivered to improve leisure options and make cycling safer for everyone



## **Protecting our environment** - *Building homes that local residents need*

Boris Johnson's proposals to change the English planning system into a Developer's Charter will remove democratic rights from local residents and hand them to Whitehall while doing nothing to solve the housing crisis. These changes will lead to local people no longer having the ability to formally object to inappropriate developments in their neighbourhood with limited influence on the housing that is needed. A Labour council would ...

- Fight Tory plans to give control of our planning policies to developers
- Protect our precious parks and playgrounds whilst aggressively pushing for more affordable housing on scrub land, waste areas and brownfield sites. Under Labour the environment will be protected, and people feel safe
- Under Labour, any council land sold off for development will be reserved for social housing or starter homes for young families
- Labour will reverse cutbacks on street lighting so that everyone feels safe at night
- Labour will make the roofs of public sector buildings available for solar panels provided by a local energy Co-op. This will help to save both the environment and council energy bills without costing the council taxpayer anything for the set up
- Reverse charges for taking non-household waste to Surrey's recycling centres this will result in a decrease in fly-tipping which despoils our beautiful towns, villages and countryside

Many of our local towns have high levels of pollution, often related to high levels of traffic. Labour will extend the relevant parts of the successful "Breathe London" initiative to Surrey to tackle this threat to health. Ultimately, Labour will commit to making Surrey County Council to being carbon neutral by 2035, so leaving an improved environmental legacy to our children and grandchildren.

### **Saving buses and better trains – we won't let bus and train companies ruin services**

The Tories have messed up the franchising process. For example, allowing Abellio to pull out of their contract, closing vital bus routes all over the county. The pandemic has forced the government to follow Labour policy and re-nationalised the rail service. A Labour Surrey council will ...

- Opposes cuts to bus routes
- Oppose a return to the old franchise system for rail operators
- If a suitable private sector provider cannot be found, then a Labour County Council would set up and use a not-for-profit bus operator
- We will lobby the government and consult with the Mayor of London to take over the poor services currently being run by Southern Rail and South Western Trains which make commuters lives a misery
- We will continue our campaign for London's Zone 6 to be extended to include all commuter routes in Surrey
- Labour is also campaigning to stop people parking on pavements and blocking the way for disabled people, those with prams and anyone needing more space. We will encourage more parking areas to be provided.

### **Make Surrey an economic powerhouse – Labour is the party of business and work**

Although totally supportive of the furlough scheme to protect jobs, the Tories have mismanaged the withdrawal of support which has led to a rise in unemployment leaving many families struggling to get by. Their botched exit from the EU is allowing Surrey to fall behind in the global economic race. They fail to truly back entrepreneurs and start ups and are letting our high streets decline. If Surrey is to be successful outside the European Union, then it needs a Labour County Council. A Labour council will ...



- Champion the SOhS campaign to Save Our high Streets which aims to regenerate every town centre so that they become the destination of choice
- Set up a start up centre in every borough to provide free tax, legal advice and discounted office space, supported by a network of angel investors and direct council investment
- We will encourage enterprise zones in town centres across the county and encourage social and community enterprise. Providing childcare while shopping (subsidised or free) would both enable the revival of town centres and provide jobs. Making our towns into digital hubs was well received in terms of providing jobs and economic growth
- Work with neighbouring counties to establish a regional business investment bank
- Support ethical business initiatives. Surrey is now a Fair-Trade County, thanks to Labour County Councillor Robert Evans
- The pandemic has shown a shocking lack of accountability when handing out government contracts and outsourcing services. A Labour council would adopt a "Surrey first" approach to contracting services, placing contracts with Surrey based companies and where possible, if the economics are sound, bring those services inhouse
- We will support the many self-employed entrepreneurs in Surrey who have not been eligible for the Tories support packages



## **World standard education** – *We will focus on standards not structures*

Sure Start Centres have provided vital support to young families since they were set up under a Labour Government in the 1990's. Across Surrey, dozens have been closed by the Tories, Labour will reopen them starting in the areas of greatest need.



The Tories botched attempts to reopen schools and the fiasco over A-level and GCSE results caused undue stress to students, parents and teachers and untold damage to pupils' education. We need stability in our school structures– we don't need any more top down reorganisation, whether it is segregating grammar schools or forced academisation. A Labour council will ...

- Labour will oppose forced academisation of local authority-maintained schools
- We will facilitate an expansion in the number of schools in Surrey to solve the crisis in the number of school places
- Schools will be helped to set up breakfast clubs for their students so that all those children who need it can start the day with a decent meal
- We will reverse policies that undermine teachers and education experts
- A Labour government would reintroduce the education maintenance allowance
- There is a complete lack of youth facilities across Surrey, we will ensure that every town and village has somewhere young people can go
- Schools will become hubs for the community with digital centres and the provision of childcare. These would have up to date equipment, IT access and free broadband. Centres for adult education, vocational courses and digital training

Unemployment is rising in Surrey and the prospects for the County's school leavers facing a depressed job market does not look good. Labour will work with the County's further education colleges to provide those newly redundant adults with retraining opportunities and the County's young people to learn skills which will help them find worthwhile careers in a competitive jobs market.

## **Save our libraries** – *Libraries are important hubs for the community*



The Tories, in some parts of the county, have abandoned the professional library service leaving volunteers to keep them running. This cannot be a solution for the whole service.

- Labour will protect our libraries from closure
- We would expand the range of services that are run out of libraries
- Labour would allow libraries with expanded services to convert to community benefit societies with the consent of both staff and the community

## **Animal welfare and rural development** – *Let's make sure Surrey remains civilised - free from animal cruelty*

In Surrey there is still at least one regular fox hunt and, whilst they hide behind a loophole in the law for trail hunting, it regularly still ends in the death of wildlife.

- Labour will ensure the fox hunting ban is properly enforced
- Labour will oppose the badger cull

- We'll bring an end to the cruelty of millions of grouse and partridges being bred just to be killed
- We will support farmers through the enormous changes as a result of Brexit to the subsidies they received from the EU. Priority will be given to tackling environmental damage and rural crime. Engagement on the ground. Listening and acting.
- We will encourage tree planting and organic farming practices which protect our precious bees, birds, and wildflowers

## **Reforming local government - abolish County Hall and district councils**



Labour in Surrey have consistently called for the abolition of Surrey County Council. The system of two-tier local government in Surrey is costly, inefficient and overly bureaucratic. But we reject the Tory idea of swallowing up the entire county into one gigantic body run by a central bureaucracy. Labour's plans would simplify local government by replacing Surrey County Council and all the district councils with three unitary authorities. In

addition to releasing millions of funding for services for local communities, This would ...

- Provide clearer accountability as all services will be the responsibility of one council rather than currently delivered by two, in some cases three, councils.
- Cut the number of overpaid councillors, chief executives and high-ranking staff so saving millions which leads to lower council tax bills
- Provide greater economies of scale which reduces duplication, inefficiencies and delivers lower council tax bills
- Give residents a *real say* in the services they use and staff a say on where to get efficiencies which will reduce the cost of politics