

Manifesto 2011 – 2015

Introduction

Nottingham is a city on the up. Whether it's the big reduction in crime, our school buildings or better leisure facilities, evidence for how far we have come is all around us.

At the last election we asked for your support for an ambitious agenda. We promised we would deliver much better school results, we promised to double the rate of recycling, we promised to make Nottingham the cleanest big city in the country. We promised to reduce crime by 25%.

We have delivered on almost everything we promised.

Four years on and we live in very different times. A world banking-led recession and a Government making ideological cuts to the services we need, would make it easy for us to tell you we can't offer a bold vision for our city's future. That's what the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are doing nationally and locally.

But Nottingham Labour is different.

We have a bold agenda for Nottingham and if elected will deliver it. We'll do this because we believe the people of Nottingham deserve top-class services, a high standard of living, job opportunities, a clean city and to live free of the fear of crime.

We're proud of what we've already been able to do and how far we have come together. Now we're proud to lay out our ambitious vision for Nottingham's future in this manifesto. It's a challenging agenda but one we can achieve with your support.

Nottingham Labour will:

- 1 Cut unemployment by a quarter.
- 2 Continue to cut crime and halve anti-social behaviour.
- 3 More school leavers getting a job, training or further education than any other city.
- 4 Your neighbourhood as clean as the city centre.
- 5 Help you keep your energy bills down.

Working Nottingham

As our economy remains on the edge of recession, Nottingham Labour has made "Keep Nottingham Working" a priority. We know how corrosive and damaging unemployment is to local communities and how demoralising the search for work can be. We know too that the economic wellbeing of the City depends on keeping people in work and able to spend in City shops rather than on the dole and claiming benefit.

That's why over the last two years, the Council has helped fund over 1100 'Future Jobs Fund' jobs and "Nottingham Jobs Fund" jobs created 700 Community Programme placements with business and the voluntary sector, and 200 apprenticeships in our own departments. We also helped and supported 300 people into work in the private sector through a number of other employment initiatives. We will continue to make job creation a priority even though the new Conservative and Liberal Democrat government has abolished the Future Jobs Fund and cut the Working Neighbourhood Fund Nottingham used to keep local people in work.

Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts will increase unemployment in Nottingham, put local companies out of business and put economic recovery at risk. Despite the impact of those cuts on the City Council, Nottingham Labour is committed to doing all we can to promote local investment and to link public sector investment to local jobs and training opportunities. We will ensure that as far as possible our communities are protected from the cuts and local people are trained and ready to take advantage of the recovery when it comes.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Ring-fenced entry level Council jobs for local people.
- 2 Created 1100 jobs through the Future Jobs Fund and supported 300 people into work in the private sector through a number of other employment initiatives.
- 3 Organised a number of job fairs citywide and in local neighbourhoods through the "Get Nottingham Working" campaign.
- 4 Supported the development of Social Enterprises across Nottingham.
- 5 Established a Council Apprenticeship and Trainee programme aimed at City residents.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 The City Council Apprenticeship Scheme.

- 2 Support for small business, social enterprise and cooperatives.
- 3 Woodfield Industries Sheltered Employment for people with learning difficulties.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Cut unemployment by a quarter.
- 2 Create 1000 new jobs for local people by continuing Nottingham's growth in the science and energy sector.
- 3 Continue to increase the proportion of Nottingham City Council employees who are city residents.
- 4 Create 500 jobs and 600 training places in the construction industry by defending public capital investment and encouraging private sector building.
- 5 Support current social enterprises and support the creation of 20 new social enterprises helping 500 more people into self-employment.

We will also:

- 1 Reduce worklessness in the city and increase the percentage of people in employment over the next four years.
- 2 Make people more employable by improving the basic skills of our workforce at level 1 and level 2 by 10%.
- 3 Continue to target entry level Council jobs at young people from Nottingham.
- 4 Campaign for the re-instatement of the Educational Maintenance Allowance and the Future Jobs Fund and make the most of whatever replaces them despite the funding cuts.

Respect for Nottingham

We know that if a community does not feel safe, residents who can afford to will leave, businesses will not invest and local people who remain become disillusioned. It is for this reason Labour has made tackling crime and anti-social behaviour our most immediate priority.

We launched Respect for Nottingham in 2003 to deal with problems and issues that had been identified on the doorstep. Local people told us that they were tired of people begging in the City Centre, drug dealing, street prostitution and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods.

Since then we have invested heavily in measures to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, increasing our budget in this area from

half a million to six million pounds a year. We have also wholeheartedly embraced legal changes brought in by the last Labour government to tackle these problems. This approach has worked despite the cynicism and opposition of local Tories and Liberal Democrats. Now in government they seem determined to cut back funding for the fight against crime, reduce the number of police officers and take away our powers to tackle anti-social behaviour.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Crime more than halved since 2003.
- 2 Invested in the Youth Service and supported Youth Inclusion Projects across the city.
- 3 Increased the number of Community Protection Officers to 100 across the city.
- 4 Seized and crushed mini-motorbikes and campaigned for a national ban on their import and sale.
- 5 Targeted the worst-managed licensed premises in the City Centre and promoted good management practice amongst responsible licensees.
- 6 Organised 'Days of Action' in every neighbourhood to target individuals and families involved in anti-social behaviour.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 A minimum of 100 Community Protection Officers working in Nottingham's neighbourhoods.
- 2 A Team of Officers dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 3 Multi-agency "Days of Action" each year in every neighbourhood to target individuals and families involved in anti-social behaviour and low-level criminal activities.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Continue to cut crime and halve anti-social behaviour.
- 2 Develop a rolling programme to introduce alcohol-free zones to tackle street-drinking in communities that want it.
- 3 Reduce young people involved in crime by a third.
- 4 Crack down on off-licences selling alcohol to people who are drunk, as well as those who are under-aged.
- 5 Require Nottingham City Homes to evict tenants with convictions for drug dealing and violent offences.

We will also:-

- 1 Work with the Probation Service to further develop the adult offending team to manage prolific offenders when they leave prison.
- 2 Continue to set a licensing framework in the city to reduce the number of nightclubs, big bars and off-licences, limit the number of casinos and sex shops, but encourage a wider range of smaller venues and restaurants.
- 3 Cut incidents of hate crime, recorded by Police, by a quarter.
- 4 Expand the "Family Intervention Programme" to ensure that the 100 most anti-social families in the City are targeted so that they either change their behaviour or face eviction and enforcement action.
- 5 Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour targeted at and between young people.
- 6 Work to cut burglary by a quarter in student accommodation.

A Nottingham for Young People

Education has been Nottingham Labour's top priority ever since the City Council took control of the Education service in 1998. At that time, just 26% of the City youngsters left school with 5 good GCSE grades – the minimum requirement to move on into further and higher education.

Just twelve years on, 72% of school leavers are now reaching that standard. Our schools are well-led and record numbers of children are staying on in education to get the skills that will get them a decent standard of living and meet the needs of local business. We have also introduced skill-based learning to equip pupils for the world of work and are supporting hundreds of apprenticeships in different trades.

However, our vision for young people goes way beyond schools and includes, Sure Start Children's Centres and Youth activities.

That's because we know that to improve the health, behaviour and learning of our most disadvantaged children we must intervene during their early years. We want to involve and help support parents and carers in bringing up their children and based on the evidence of drawn from a range of pilot projects run throughout the City, build on Nottingham's reputation as a national leader in what we call "Early Intervention."

Finally, we have, over the last four years, rebuilt and renovated many of our schools and had been promised funding to replace most of those that remained, providing decent places for children to learn and teachers to teach in. The new Conservative and Liberal

Democrat government has broken that promise, taking £94 million from Nottingham's schools, teachers and children. Local Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors said the money wasn't needed and that the cuts are justified. They're wrong and Nottingham Labour will continue to campaign for the investment our schools need and that parents and pupils want and deserve.

Our Primary School Capital Programme has renovated 6 schools across the city – now any further work is under threat from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Increased the number of young people getting 5 A*-C GCSEs from 45% to 72% in 2010.
- 2 Secured the funds to replace or refurbished every Secondary School in the City – including Bigwood, University of Nottingham Samworth Academy, Haddon Park High, Oakfield School and Sports College and the Nottingham Academy.
- 3 Directed resources and energy in children's early years to ensure improved education, health and parenting.
- 4 Provided all day child-care provision in every primary school.
- 5 Expanded the number of Children's Centres to 18 across the City.
- 6 Introduced an after-hours school programme in all Secondary Schools.
- 7 Established an all-day programme of activity for young people at every Leisure Centre during School Holidays at a reduced cost of 50p per day.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 Sure Start Children's Centres.
- 2 Cheap all-day holiday sports activities through our Leisure Centres.
- 3 All day nursery places in Primary Schools that have space to deliver them.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 More school leavers getting a job, training or further education than any other big city.
- 2 Increase the number of youngsters getting 5 or more good GCSEs including English and Maths by 25%.
- 3 Do everything we can to rebuild or renovate every school in the city despite Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts.

- 4 Fund early intervention activities that have been effective and shown to work.
- 5 Reduce absence in city Primary Schools to 6% or less.

We will also:-

- 1 Reduce teenage pregnancy by a third.
- 2 Ensure no young person leaves school without any qualifications, with all schools offering access to practical skills and trades.
- 3 Increase the number of places at Special Schools to provide support for those children whose learning difficulties or physical disabilities mean they can't cope in mainstream education.
- 4 Have a City Centre youth facility open 7 days/week, 3 other state of the art Youth Centres across the city and youth work in every neighbourhood.

Cleaner, Greener Nottingham

People want Nottingham to be a clean and green City. That's why over the last four years Nottingham Labour has successfully concentrated on making Nottingham the cleanest major City in England, improving recycling and reducing the Council and the City's carbon emissions.

We remain committed to building on the progress we have made in these areas but at a time when energy supply and rising energy prices are of increasing concern to all, we will over the next four years, make tackling this challenge a priority. Our aim as a City will be to help provide a secure and reasonably priced energy supply to encourage business growth and to tackle energy poverty.

Nottingham is already the most energy self-sufficient city in the UK because the Council has over the years invested in energy-saving initiatives and alternative forms of energy production. Indeed along with Manchester, Nottingham is one of just a few Cities to have developed a citywide energy strategy based on the green energy production. Our aim is to drive home this advantage by encouraging more alternative fuel supplies and by supporting even more energy-saving schemes in housing and commerce.

Nottingham has always taken a positive approach to tackling environmental issues and caring for the planet and Nottingham Labour is determined to work to ensure that our actions leave as little impact on the planet as possible.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Became the cleanest big city in the country.
- 2 Doubled our recycling.
- 3 Increased the frequency of street cleaning in areas where the population density is highest.
- 4 Halved the number of incidents of graffiti and fly-tipping in the City.
- 5 Continued to offer a free bulky waste service with an appointment option.
- 6 Promoted bio-diversity across the Council's Open Spaces.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 Dedicated staff to quickly remove graffiti and fly-posting.
- 2 Your bins collected weekly and the free bulky waste service.
- 3 Our £36million programme for the energy efficient replacement of all Nottingham's street lighting.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Make your neighbourhood as clean as the city centre and continue to be the cleanest big city in England.
- 2 Help you keep your energy bills down by doubling the number of homes with loft cavity and solid wall insulation
- 3 Crack down on dog fouling in our neighbourhoods.
- 4 Install solar panels to 2000 council houses.
- 5 Simplify recycling so more materials can be collected together in fewer bins.

We will also:-

- 1 Streamline the collection of bulky waste by providing kerb side collection.
- 2 Expand Nottingham's District Heating Scheme so more residents can choose to use it as the price of gas and electricity continues to rise.
- 3 Explore ways to introduce recycling in flats and to those few homes not yet receiving the service.
- 4 Develop an energy park where cheap locally generated energy will attract manufacturing jobs back to the city.
- 5 Create a new, cheap Nottingham energy tariff.
- 6 Explore building an Anaerobic Digester to dispose of food waste and generate electricity.
- 7 Cut carbon emissions by 31% as an authority and 15% across the city by 2016.

- 8 Use our planning powers to ensure developers incorporate energy efficiency standards into all building developments.

Senior Nottingham

Nottingham Labour is committed to providing good quality services for our older residents. We think our senior citizens deserve to live in comfortable homes and in stable and supportive communities and we will strive to achieve this even though cuts in Government funding have meant higher charges and less support to our elderly and most vulnerable. But people need and want to have choices as they get older and their need for care and support grows.

Over the last four years we have developed a mix of different ways to provide care for older people, recognising that the private sector can be, but is not always the most appropriate provider; and although we heavily support care within the home we still recognise that council-run care homes have their place. We also now fund 'self-directed care' that for those that want it, provides a budget to buy personalised care from whoever they choose.

But Nottingham Labour also recognises that older doesn't always mean less able. People in their fifties don't consider themselves elderly and many older people are healthy and active, want to continue life to the full and want Council services to reflect that. Many older people are healthy and active, want to continue living life to the full and want Council services to help this happen too. Our commitment is to ensure that as people get older, appropriate services and support are available from the Council.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 A Handyman service in each area of Nottingham to carry out small jobs for residents.
- 2 Opened the Larkhill Retirement Village to provide extra care packages enabling older people to stay independent longer.
- 3 Introduced Telecare equipment for elderly services users.
- 4 Improved the citywide garden assistance scheme for older and disabled residents.
- 5 Supported Voluntary and Community Organisations including BME organisations work with older people – for example Lunch Clubs and Home Care.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 Concessionary Bus Passes for Senior Citizens and people who

are disabled unless the Conservative and Liberal Democrats force us to do otherwise.

- 2 Services for the frail elderly and most vulnerable.
- 3 Pensioner discounts on Council services.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Ensure every Nottingham care service user has access to the telecare emergency assistance scheme.
- 2 SmartWater the property of every pensioner who wants it for free.
- 3 Give every eligible elderly resident the option of a personal budget by 2015 which maximises their choice and control over the care service they receive.
- 4 Encourage housebuilders to provide bungalows and other housing places for sale or rent for elderly people in every community.
- 5 Create another ExtraCare scheme like Larkhill Retirement Village.

We will also:-

- 1 Support the campaign to stop the Conservative and Lib Dem Government cutting free travel for the elderly, the Winter Fuel Allowance and free TV licences.
- 2 Continue to offer the Council's nationally recognised specialist dementia services.
- 3 To offer respite services to allow carers a well-earned break.
- 4 Continue to develop the Council's popular garden assistance scheme.
- 5 Grit well-used pavements as well as roads in winter to help protect people from slips and falls.

Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods

We want to improve the way Nottingham feels for people living, working and visiting here and encourage families to live in the city. We will work with partners and local people to Transform Neighbourhoods to achieve radical change in our most deprived communities.

Over the last four years we have set out to achieve this by investing in every neighbourhood. We have funded major improvements in our parks, play areas, leisure and sport facilities, council housing and local shopping centres. We have invested in pavement repairs, security work, environmental maintenance, road improvements and supported hundreds of community groups.

We have also made a difference by investing in our neighbourhood management. We've set up Neighbourhood Teams to build on the successful work of our Area Committees and to involve local residents in delivering public services. Neighbourhood working has developed to include local Community Safety Partnerships, where people come together to resolve crime problems, one-stop shops for Council services and Neighbourhood Policing.

We have done this because we know that if communities are to succeed, they require more than a series of council services no matter how efficiently delivered. The role of a Labour Council therefore is not to do everything for everyone. Nor is it to withdraw from communities and leave the voluntary sector, unsupported, to fill the vacuum as the Conservatives would. Rather it is to create the right conditions and to provide the support to enabling local people to become independent, aspiring yet responsible members of their community.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Improved working with the Board of Nottingham City Homes and achieved a 2* and improving rating for a better housing service to tenants.
- 2 Opened the new Djanogly Community Leisure Centre in Forest Fields as part of the Leisure Service Transformation Programme and modern Libraries in the Meadows and Southglade, Wollaton and Bilborough.
- 3 Established Environmental Action Teams to do clean-ups in each neighbourhood.
- 4 Brought 14 parks up to Green Flag status, improved 36 parks and playgrounds and put park keepers in each major park.
- 5 Invested over £38million on improvements to neighbourhood paths and environmental works.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Lib Dem/Tory cuts:

- 1 Staff visibly working in your neighbourhood.
- 2 Play Areas that are safe and quickly repaired.
- 3 Funding to fill potholes, repair pavements and pay for local improvements identified by local councillors and residents.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Tackle 100 vacant and derelict sites across the city to ensure they are brought back into use as soon as possible.
- 2 Build new swimming pools at Victoria Leisure Centre and on

- the Harvey Hadden site.
- 3 Develop new libraries in the one-stop shops in Bulwell and St Anns.
 - 4 Continue to build Council houses and bring all social housing up to the Decent Homes standard if allowed to by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Government.
 - 5 Bring all our major parks up to Green Flag standard and support regeneration schemes for the Forest, Highfields and Victoria Embankments Parks.

We will also:-

- 1 Use all our planning powers to encourage developers to build large family houses, keep family homes for families, and encourage the building of purpose-built accommodation for students.
- 2 Deliver a Nottingham City Homes repairs service that is more responsive and secures higher satisfaction from tenants.
- 3 Continue to seek outside investment in neighbourhood and town shopping centres to deliver a wider choice of shops for local people.
- 4 Provide incentives to encourage developers to build more energy efficient eco-homes.
- 5 Work with UNIPOL and the Students' Unions to tackle the issue of rogue landlords.
- 6 Deliver a welcome pack to all student households which includes information on local facilities and contact numbers for Council services.

Getting Around Nottingham

An efficient transport system is vital for investment, access to jobs, education and services. A decent public transport system makes the economy more efficient, reduces congestion and helps provide equality of access. Nottingham already has one of the best transport systems in the UK. Since 2000, the number of passengers using our buses has increased more than anywhere else outside London. We are developing our tram network; we are investing to improve Nottingham's Railway station; we support widening the A453 and the electrification of the mainline to St Pancras.

Nottingham Labour remains committed to deliver these improvements and having secured the funding to make that happen over the last four years, we will campaign to prevent the money being taken away from Nottingham by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats as they savagely cut public spending.

Nottingham Labour also remains committed to ensuring Nottingham City Transport's profits are reinvested to run services for social as well as commercial reasons. We want public transport in our city to continue to improve and will work to produce a clean and green transport system that will improve individual access and underpin the City's economic development.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 A network of Link Buses – including the Skylink Bus Service.
- 2 To introduced the use of biofuels into the city's bus and vehicle fleet.
- 3 Better and better enforcement of bus lanes to ensure public transport has priority road use at the peak times.
- 4 Improved cycling facilities across the city including a new parking area at Nottingham Station.
- 5 Implemented the Turning Point scheme to reduce traffic in Nottingham's city centre.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

1. Nottingham City Transport - Nottingham's council-owned bus service.
2. Free residents' parking scheme permits for council taxpayers.
3. Nottingham's network of Park and Ride sites.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Build lines 2 and 3 of the tram.
- 2 Develop a rolling programme of 20mph zones in residential areas and outside schools and take further measures to enforce them.
- 3 Redevelop Nottingham's Railway Station and create a full transport interchange between trains, trams, buses, bikes and cars.
- 4 Remove unnecessary street furniture, signs and barriers from Nottingham's streets.
- 5 Bring the Parking Warden service in-house and ensure they're never paid bonuses for the tickets they issue. Instead, we will make sure the service is more responsive to the priorities of the public and local Councillors.

We will also:-

- 1 More rigorously enforce Turning Point restrictions in the City Centre for the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bus

- passengers.
- 2 Support the local Link Bus Network.
 - 3 Introduce the Workplace Parking Levy as a way of paying for our contribution to the cost of building further tram lines, the rebuilding of the station and other public transport improvements.
 - 4 Develop our network of on-road cycle lanes on major routes.
 - 5 Encourage bus operators in Nottingham to further develop late night buses.
 - 6 Press for the electrification of the Midland Mainline and lobby for High Speed Rail to come through Greater Nottingham.
 - 7 Continue to lobby for the improvement of the A453.

Choose Nottingham

Nottingham is one of the UK's leading cities for science and technology with over 60,000 jobs in the city dependent on this sector. The City also hosts flourishing contemporary arts, design, film and games industries and is one of the top 5 most important retail centres in the UK outside London.

For these sectors to develop and provide local job opportunities we must continue the improvement in education standards and skill levels that we have seen over recent years. We must also seize opportunities in emerging industrial sectors such as green technology and alternative energy production.

The cultural and sporting life of a city is also an essential part of the economy. Culture and sport create jobs. They are an important way of bringing communities together; they attract investment and encourage people with talent to come to Nottingham and to stay.

Nottingham City Council supports two theatres, a concert hall, an Arena and two new art galleries. We built the National Ice Arena and are renewing our increasingly popular sport centres and swimming facilities. We actively support our local professional football, cricket, ice hockey and rugby clubs. We also put on a wide range of popular events across the City and continue to build on our Nottingham's place at the centre of the legend of Robin Hood, both to support the tourist industry and to promote the City internationally.

We do all this, not for the prestige of the City but because it's the best way we can make sure local people have the opportunities and standard of living they want.

In contrast, Conservative and Lib Dem politicians between them

have time and again opposed investment in the City even when the money invested wasn't Council money. They were against building the Royal Concert Hall, the Ice Stadium and the Tram. They refused to support investment in the Market Square, the City's new art gallery and have been against Lines 2 and 3 of the Tram. In all they have opposed over £500 million of external funding into our City.

We want more people to *Choose Nottingham* as a place to live, work, visit and invest in and over the last 4 years we have set out to achieve this.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Nottingham as one of the UK's top 3 cities for scientific and technology development.
- 2 Produced an extensive events programme across the City – including Splendour and Nottingham Children's Festival, Light Night, Park Life, Riverside Festival and a range of activities in the Market Square - The Beach, Big Wheel, City Pulse and the Open Air Ice Rink.
- 3 Opened the New Arts Exchange and the Nottingham Contemporary.
- 4 Improve City Card to include use as a bus pass/library card plus obtaining discounts in shops, Council Leisure Centres and Events like the Splendour Festival.
- 5 Base Nottingham's tourism offer on the promotion Robin Hood as the internationally known symbol of the city.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 An annual programme of popular events, including Splendour, Goose Fair and the Riverside Festival.
- 2 Funding to support Nottingham's development as a Science City.
- 3 Funding to support the World's Young Artist Event in 2012.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Support those 100 small firms in the city that offer the best prospects for growth and job creation.
- 2 Sustain Nottingham's top 5 ranking as a centre for shopping and reduce vacant shops by a third by 2015.
- 3 Further develop CityCard as a passport to free or cheap access to Council services, travel and discounts so that it is regularly used by at least half of city residents.
- 4 Ensure that the council's spending programme and purchasing

- supports the local economy.
- 5 Redevelop Sneinton Market and improve Trinity Square as attractive public open space.

We will also:-

- 1 Develop science, green technology and creative industries in order to provide 1000 jobs, to attract investment and to encourage graduates to stay in Nottingham.
- 2 Support the construction industry to help regenerate the city and provide jobs for local people.
- 3 Deliver international sporting events including tennis events, triathlon and other running events with support for international cricket at Trent Bridge and football at our professional club venues.
- 4 Promote supermarket development where it meets the needs of local communities but not at the expense of city centre shops or on land earmarked for other employment purposes.
- 5 Seek funding to develop a new central library in the City Centre.
- 6 Protect and diversify Nottingham's vibrant nightlife.
- 7 Support and work with Universities to ensure that Nottingham remains a world-class place to study.

Serving Nottingham Better

Serving Nottingham Better is about delivering top quality services and part of that is listening to what local people want and responding to their needs. By doing this we hope to develop services that are flexible, cost effective and deliver what Nottingham people want, when they want it.

we also aim to become the Council offering the most citizen-friendly services in the country.

Nottingham Labour believes that local people should be able to expect the best service from their City Council. People don't want to accept poor service from their bank, shops or supermarket and we don't expect them to tolerate it from the Council either. That's why our aim is to provide the most customer friendly service of any Council in the country.

At the last election we promised and have delivered:

- 1 Regular meetings across neighbourhoods (Your Choice, Your Voice) so that we can listen, and act on, what you say.
- 2 Opened two new one stop-shops for residents in Hyson Green

and Bulwell.

- 3 A new Contact Centre for Council Services established at Angel Row Library.
- 4 Expanded our support services to allow older people to remain in their own homes for longer.
- 5 Improved Council and Child Protection Services so they are independently judged as good.
- 6 Made efficiency savings of £38million to reinvest in front line services to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve street cleaning.

Nottingham Labour will protect from Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts:

- 1 A switchboard that ensures that when you phone the Council, during opening hours, you are answered promptly by a member of our staff not a machine.
- 2 Regular neighbourhood consultation meetings so the Council can listen and take account of your views.
- 3 Appropriate and meaningful performance targets that we will publish regularly so you know how well or not we are doing.

Nottingham Labour will:-

- 1 Make Nottingham the most citizen-friendly Council in the country and ensure that when surveyed 95% of people are satisfied with the way they were treated.
- 2 Make local independent debt and money advice services available across the city.
- 3 Bring Council and other public services together so they can be delivered more efficiently and conveniently for local people through one-stop shops.
- 4 Extend the opening hours of Council Offices so services can be delivered at times when they are most needed.
- 5 Raise £33m by selling unwanted Council land and invest it in better housing, leisure centres and parks.

We will also:-

- 1 In order to reduce the impact of Conservative and Liberal Democrat cuts on frontline services we will add to the £38million efficiency savings achieved over the last 2 years.
- 2 Make sure council services are equally available whoever you are, wherever you are.
- 3 Further develop the Council's website so that more services are available online to those who want to use them.
- 4 Maintain and enhance the Council's independently judged

- reputation as a well-run and improving Authority.
- 5 Cut bureaucracy by working with other Councils and public organisations to reduce back office costs.
 - 6 Ensure local services are delivered by teams of staff managed in your community and responsive to priorities set by local people and their Councillors.
 - 7 Provide a named person to guide people through the Housing Benefit application process.
 - 8 Ensure the Council works to engage young people in its decision making.
 - 9 Work with police to continue to clamp down on illegal loan sharks and support and promote Nottingham Credit Union as an affordable and responsible alternative.

Labour's Pledge to You

Labour Councillors care passionately about Nottingham. They live in the City and use local services. Labour Councillors come from the local community and want the local community to be served well by the Council. That is why they 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 their 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 at least 2 advice surgeries/month.
- 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 City.
- 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. Any concerns about

the way you've been treated will be fully investigated.

- 9 Ensure your problems are tackled quickly and efficiently through the Council's casework system and try to resolve them to your satisfaction.
- 10 Use our influence in the Labour Party and our contacts in Government to stand up for Nottingham.