



Creating jobs

Cleaner streets

Improving schools

Labour's local manifesto 2016

Rochdale, Middleton, Heywood and Pennines

Labour is proud of our borough. We want to create a place where all our young people are safe and excel at school and college. We want to create an environment that is clean and green and our parks and open spaces are great places to visit. We want to build our local economy to attract new investment and jobs.

We want to make sure our elderly receive the best care and dignity in later life and our most vulnerable residents are looked after. We want to build more homes to tackle the housing shortage.

Our priorities are More Jobs, Cleaner Streets and Improving Schools.

Our vision for Rochdale, Middleton, Heywood and the Pennines is to create a great place which we can all be proud of.

We need a fairer funding system.

One of the greatest challenges facing our borough is the unfair cuts we have received from the Conservative Government.

Since 2010, we have had £200million cut from local services – essential services that look after the young and elderly, services for disabled people and the most vulnerable in our community.

Almost half of our spending has been cut. But the same time, many affluent Conservative areas, mainly in the South, have seen their government funding grants increase or face far smaller reductions.

It is grossly unfair to the people of our borough that the Conservatives penalise high needs, poorer areas in the North, like Rochdale, to fund tax giveaways for billionaires and prop up well-heeled Tory councils in the South.

Labour believes in high quality public services. Conservatives do not.

Under this government, if you're not a Tory, you're not a priority.

Making every penny count.

Despite the major cutbacks from the Tory government, Labour has worked hard to make sure essential, front-line services are protected as far as possible.

We have increased efficiencies, rooted out waste and bureaucracy, shared services with neighbouring councils and cut back on management costs.

This relentless drive to make sure money is spent where it is needed most means Labour has protected the most important services to the public.

- **No library has closed**
- **No community centre has closed**
- **No nursery or sure start centre has closed**
- **No advice service has been cut**

There have been no cuts to-

- **Road sweeping and street services**
- **Parks and ground maintenance**
- **highways repairs**

There have been no cuts to social workers looking after vulnerable children or the elderly.

Times are really tough for our borough. But Labour is working hard to continue to improve services and make Rochdale, Middleton, Heywood and the Pennines a great place in which to work, live and play.

Our priorities are Creating Jobs, Cleaner Streets and Improving Schools.

We have made extra savings, created more efficiencies, dug deep into our reserves and won additional special funds to invest in improving the essential services that matter most to our residents

Creating jobs

and building our local economy

Labour will -

- **Create a £1m Business Fund – supporting firms with grants to create new jobs and help attract new firms to invest in the borough and to creating new jobs**
- **Award grants of up to £5,000 to independent retailers to set up in our town centres making them more vibrant**
- **Create 40 new Micro Business Units to help small firms set up**
- **Award £1,000 grant to firms taking on new skilled apprentices and awarding another £1,000 to the apprentices when they complete the course**
- **Extend Labour’s unique town centre new business rate reductions to 3 years and include Heywood and Middleton**
- **Continue the popular free parking for three hours in our town centres for another year**

Cleaner Streets

and investing in our environment

Labour will -

- **Invest an extra £1m to improve street cleaning and grounds maintenance**
- **Invest an extra £1m to fix pot holes**
- **Extend our Clean and Green teams tackling fly-tipping and grot spots for a second year**
- **Provide an extra 250 litter bins throughout the borough**
- **Create an extra 100 new allotments**
- **Launch a Spring Clean campaign to make our borough sparkle**
- **Provide extra investment for gully repairs**
- **Award grants to set up Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**
- **Work with the Environment Agency on a new £20M flood relief scheme for Littleborough and Rochdale**

Improving schools

and looking after our children

Labour will –

- **Introduce a target to exceed the national average for five good GCSE results by 2017/18**
- **Appoint a health governor in every school**
- **Enrol all children into a local library**
- **Double the number of computers in all public libraries**
- **Introduce new grants to attract the best maths teachers to the borough**
- **Award free Council Tax to all foster carers looking after a teenage child.**