Swansea Labour Party
Manifesto 2017

Building a better
Swansea
If you care about Culture, Sport, Parks and Open spaces then Swansea Labour will...

- Build a major digital entertainment arena & exhibition centre bringing the best acts to Swansea
- Invest in more 3G sports facilities in Communities
- Re-green our communities and invest in wildflower displays across Swansea
- Bid for Swansea to be UK City of Culture in 2021
- Work with partners to secure an international sport village and centre of sporting excellence
- Invest in our museums and galleries to become sustainable
- Support expansion of the Stadium and the Swans and Ospreys to be successful

If you care about reducing poverty and creating jobs and prosperity then Swansea Labour will...

- Deliver the £1.3bn City Deal creating between 10000 - 35000 jobs
- Reduce fuel bills to help people out of fuel poverty
- Create apprenticeships and job opportunities so people acquire the skills they need
- Support grow Local schemes to help people escape food poverty
- Strike a new fairer deal with Welsh Gov to retain business rates in Swansea for reinvestment in the local economy
- Create a thriving modern city centre to be proud of
- Create a new economy with well paid jobs closer to people’s homes

If you care about the elderly and the vulnerable in our communities then Swansea Labour will...

- Support people to live with dignity and respect in their own home for as long as they want
- Invest in care services and new sheltered housing and extra care facilities
- Guarantee better standards of care for all those who need it
- Provide Local coordinators in all parts of Swansea supporting people and our communities
- Help people to stay healthy and age well
- Stand up for those suffering domestic abuse
- Sign up to Unison’s care standards manifesto

£1.3 BILLION CITY DEAL FOR SWANSEA BAY
If you care about Public Transport, roads and parking in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Ensure every community has a reliable affordable bus service
- Increase parking availability across Swansea by building new car parks
- Freeze parking charges across Swansea for at least two years
- Fix potholes in 48 hours
- Invest an extra £5m in roads and walkways
- Seek government funding for upgrade of major routes from the West, East and North
- Lobby WG to upgrade the M4 between junc 43 and junc 48
- Lobby U.K. Gov to complete electrification of the mainline to Swansea
- Explore options for regional high volume public transport system for Swansea & South West Wales
- Expand the cycle network

If you care about children and education in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Invest £1bn in schools, education and services for young people
- Invest £100m in school buildings and better teaching facilities
- Give every child the best start in life
- Support schools to offer breakfast clubs and pre and post school day childcare
- Offer 30 hours of free childcare with Welsh Gov
- Give children a voice in council decisions and promote the UNCRC
- Ensure services are super connected around children
- Make Swansea one of the best places to be educated in the U.K.
- Promote good practice through our UNESCO network

If you care about resilient communities and better homes in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Invest £200m to improve council homes in Swansea
- Build modern high energy efficient homes for rent and sale
- Build affordable homes so people can get on the housing ladder
- Support strong action on nuisance neighbours
- Introduce public space protection orders to deal with anti social behaviour
- Ensure elected members have funds to deliver on community priorities
- Create our own energy venture to provide free energy to homes
- Increase recycling options but not reduce the 3 black bag limit
- Take strong action on fly tipping and prosecute those responsible
- Establish and enforce ‘no cold calling’ zones
Foreword

In the council elections to be held on May 4th the people of Swansea will make a big choice about the future of our City. Swansea Labour’s values will put local people first and at the heart of everything we do. We will offer a fair deal for families and children, fresh hope for our city’s communities, new opportunities for our people and businesses, support for jobs for younger people and future generations and a new sustainable, vibrant and successful Swansea. We are within touching distance of making Swansea a fantastic place to live, work and enjoy, and with your support that is what we will do.

Swansea Labour has set out and is delivering an ambitious vision for Swansea. The biggest investment ever and the biggest change to our great city in over 70 years. New jobs and investment from the city deal secured by your Labour Council will bring more than £1.3 billion of investment to our region. It will create nearly 35,000 jobs and help rebuild our city after years of decline. These will be better paid high value jobs created in Swansea so people can get the job they need closer to home.

Swansea Labour rejects Tory austerity, we reject the privatisation of our NHS, the dismantling of social care, the cuts to education and increased fees for going to university, the removal of opportunities for young people and the reduction in the numbers of police on our streets. This is what the Tory and Lib Dem governments have done over the past 7 years and we say enough is enough.

Swansea Labour’s response to austerity has been to build and invest in new schools and teaching facilities and education standards have improved significantly. New high energy efficient homes are being built for the first time in over 40 years which will cut fuel bills for the people of Swansea and lift people out of fuel poverty. At a time when the UK government is pushing austerity and cutting funding we are delivering for the people of Swansea, but there is much more to do. We promised to end the failure of the Liberal Democrats, Tories and so called Independents and provide fresh hope for our City and we have. We now know UKIP have nothing to offer, they want to dismantle the NHS, make us all poorer and have no coherent local policies.

So on May 4th this year, you have a big choice to make, you have an opportunity to create a better future for Swansea and a brighter future for our children and our communities. We hope you will trust Swansea Labour to continue the work we have begun, to deliver the benefits of the city deal, and to deliver a better future for you and your family.

Councillor Rob Stewart
Leader, Swansea Labour
Foreword

A Fair Deal is at the heart of everything Welsh Labour is delivering and builds upon the outstanding improvements delivered by Labour in Swansea over the last five years. In the local elections on May 4th, Swansea Labour will offer the people of Swansea a fair deal and a brighter more prosperous future.

Huge budget cuts handed down by the Tories to Wales have created huge financial challenges. Swansea Labour has met this challenge and innovated to continue to deliver the best services possible to the people of Swansea everyday.

I know that in Swansea, Labour is already delivering some of the best education results ever seen in Wales, and the best ever in Swansea. Building new energy efficient homes with annual energy bills of less than £70 per year, helping to lift people out of fuel poverty. Swansea Labour has established one of the strongest care services in Wales, supporting the elderly to live independently with dignity and respect. This is the difference Labour can make.

Swansea Labour Leader Rob Stewart led the Swansea Bay City Region team to secure the £1.3bn City Deal, the biggest city deal ever secured in Wales. This deal will deliver a huge economic boost to the Swansea bay region. With the leadership and vision shown by Rob and the team, Swansea will become a beacon of a Wales’s new ‘fair work nation’. People will be able to access nearly 10000 new and better jobs, closer to their home. They will be able to develop skills and careers, and expect decent life enhancing opportunities without exploitation or poverty.

A Fair Deal for the people of Swansea means money in our classrooms, and more help for the youngest and the least well off. More money in the bank accounts of older people going into care. The best childcare offer anywhere in the UK for working parents. More funding for social care for the elderly and vulnerable. A better deal for commuters.

Labour are the party of working people, and the best hope for Swansea and Wales. Please vote to support your local Swansea Labour candidates on May 4th and ensure Swansea retains a strong Labour council to deliver for the people of Swansea.

Rt. Hon Carwyn Jones
First Minister of Wales
Swansea Labour is ambitious for our city and our region. Swansea is a great city, with distinctive communities and rich in its culture, history, arts, and sporting achievements. We are very proud to live in such a beautiful place with its wonderful range of natural habitats, parks and open spaces. No other city can match Swansea with its miles of glorious beaches, the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and local and national nature reserves.

Swansea Labour has an ambitious vision of a ‘Smart and Healthy City’, where people can lead flourishing lives, find local well-paid employment, live in strong, resilient communities designed to promote their physical and psychological wellbeing, have access to excellent services, and be protective of our natural environment.

Swansea Labour’s values of fairness, social justice and opportunity for all will shape our actions in local government. Swansea Labour will provide Swansea with a beacon of hope that stands in contrast to the negativity and austerity of the UK Government and the incompetence and decay that so defined Swansea during the time of the Liberal Democrat, Tory and Independent Council.

Swansea however is not immune from the national Austerity dogma of the Tory Government. These are challenging times for our people and our communities but as we have done for the last 5 years, Swansea Labour will ‘Stand up for Swansea’ and put you, the people of Swansea, first. Together we are stronger. We have the ambition and the opportunity in May to continue to take our city forward and provide real opportunities, jobs and prosperity for all.

Swansea Labour set 5 clear priorities for Swansea in 2012 and these will continue form the basis of our work in 2017 and beyond. They are:

- Creating a vibrant and viable city and economy
- Building sustainable communities
- Improving pupil attainment
- Tackling poverty
- Safeguarding vulnerable people

Over the last 5 years Swansea Labour has provided the strong and clear leadership that the our city and Council had been crying out for. Not only did we deliver on our 5 key priorities but we delivered nearly every pledge we made in the 2012 manifesto, with only one pledge not delivered - the park-and-ride in the West of the city - and this commitment will be included for delivery in this manifesto.

Swansea Labour will continue to place an urgent emphasis on the delivery of high quality services for all. Under Labour Swansea council has become an award winning council recognised as excellent in many of the services we deliver. A range of Independent assessments of our services by ESTYN (Education), CSSIW (Social Services) and the WAO (Wales Audit Office) provide strong independent validation of the strength and quality of the services in Swansea.

Swansea Labour wants Swansea to continue to be recognised for high quality public services. To this end we will continue to modernise and invest in our front-line services to ensure their long-term sustainability and will establish a Leader’s Delivery Unit to embed effective delivery and cross-departmental co-ordination.
Swansea Labour believes in effective partnership - and has created a ‘Team Swansea’ approach. It is only by working together that we can meet the challenges facing our city and communities. Under the Liberal Democrats, Tories and Independents, Swansea Council became notorious for its ‘Can’t Do’ mentality and its inability to work with others. Swansea Labour has changed that and created an effective ‘Can Do’ culture with strong, effective partnerships with our local universities, health service, other local authorities, the business community, the third sector - and above all with our local communities.

Developing the Well-Being of all our Citizens and Every Community

Swansea Labour has been at the forefront of sustainability and the development of The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We will work closely with other bodies/organisations on a ‘Team Swansea’ basis to put the well-being of our citizens and communities and the seven well-being goals at the heart of everything we do:

1. A prosperous Swansea
2. A globally responsible Swansea
3. A resilient Swansea
4. A Swansea of cohesive communities
5. A more equal Swansea
6. A healthier Swansea
7. A Swansea of vibrant culture
Successful global cities are those where people with high levels of educations and skills can live fulfilling and productive lives and Swansea Labour knows education is the key to personal fulfilment, local and national prosperity. Swansea Labour has a long and proud history of helping people achieve their potential, often against the odds. That is why for us education and children are our top priorities.

Swansea Labour has made huge strides in raising educational standards in Swansea. Our pupils have achieved some of the best educational standards and outcomes in Wales in the last 5 years. Swansea Labour is proud that our city is now one of the best places for a child to be educated in Wales.

Swansea Labour is ambitious and wants Swansea to become the leading urban Education Authority in Wales and aims to be among the best in the UK by benchmarking ourselves against others.

Swansea Labour will work with our local universities to continue to innovate, learn from the best, share best practice with all schools and run an ambitious, supportive and effective performance framework for our teachers and schools.

Investing in Education

Swansea Labour will commit to spending nearly £1bn on schools, teaching and learning in the next 5 years. Education, and ensuring our children have the best start in life, will remain our top priority.

Swansea Labour will invest over £100 million in extensive improvements to school buildings across Swansea to ensure our children have the best facilities and greatest opportunity to achieve their ambitions.

Swansea Labour will also invest in facilities for those who have additional learning needs or require additional wellbeing and mobility support in our schools and in our special schools.

Swansea Labour is ambitious and wants the best for our children and young people including positive alternatives to traditional exams. As part of the Swansea Bay City Deal and working closely with the Regional Skills & Learning Partnership, we will help all people to attain the skills they need to find a job.

Swansea Labour will align our education system to ensure we create the right people with the right skills to supply the new economy, and to fill jobs offering routes to well-paid careers.

Swansea Labour will support pupils to choose the best career path, and assist those who want to progress through to college and university education.
High Performing Community Schools

Swansea Labour believes that Swansea’s schools should be at the heart of their communities and at the heart of making a difference. Swansea Labour will work with head teachers and governing bodies to ensure schools are accessible and open and available for community activities.

Swansea Labour will promote school buildings as a resource for the whole community not just children. We will assist schools to promote Family Learning, Wellbeing, Healthy Eating and Exercise, Recreation and Sports.

The Best Start in Life for all our Children: Happy, Healthy and Safe

Swansea Labour knows that investment in the early years of a child’s life is the best investment we can make. As part of the World Health Organisation ‘Healthy City’ initiative, Swansea Labour will encourage our schools to provide school breakfasts clubs and provide a safe and supportive environment before and after the school day. We will encourage school participation in the Welsh Government’s plan to provide 30 hours a week for 48 weeks a year, free to 3 and 4 year old children.

Swansea Labour will aim to provide the right number of places, in both English and Welsh medium education to meet the wishes of children and families who want to be educated in the two languages of Wales. Both languages will provide high standards and outcomes for our children.

A City of Life Long Learning

Swansea Labour believes that everyone should be able to access learning throughout their lives: learning for jobs, skills, recreation and mental and physical wellbeing.

Swansea Labour will lead in creating an intelligent knowledge regional network, based on a new dynamic relationship with schools, the further education colleges, our two universities and employers. This will underpin the needs identified in the Swansea Bay City Deal.

Swansea Labour will create a seamless education and skills ‘pipeline’ through all levels of education. Close collaboration with partners will create the workforce for the new technology skills and knowledge economy we will need to compete and succeed in the 21st century.

Swansea Labour will build on our international links through our membership of the UNESCO Cities of Learning to share ideas and best practice, learning from each other and build strong economic and cultural ties growing Swansea’s wealth and reputation.
Swansea Labour - Delivering Jobs and Regeneration

The Swansea Bay City Deal

Swansea Labour successfully secured the £1.3bn Swansea City Deal for the people of Swansea and the South West Wales region. We will continue to work with our regional partners and the business community to deliver the City Deal, the 35,000 associated regional jobs, and promote Swansea Bay City region to the world. We believe in a dynamic can-do ‘Team Swansea Bay’ approach.

Swansea Labour will establish a dedicated investment and growth team to attract inward investment and create the right conditions for job creation and growth, so that it can increase the wider economic and social prosperity and wellbeing of all communities in Swansea. Our mantra is simple ‘better jobs closer to home’.

Swansea Labour will deliver the regeneration of the Kingsway area and transform it into a digital employment district. This will be a priority project for the city deal.

Swansea Labour recognises the need to make Swansea more attractive and accessible all year round for pedestrians and shoppers.

Swansea Labour wants our city centre to be a great place to live as well as work and shop and we will encourage the development of more homes with a mix of tenures.

Swansea Labour will deliver the Swansea Central and Swansea Waterfront regeneration schemes on the old St David’s and Civic Centre sites. We will create new shopping, dining and leisure attractions. This will include a major multipurpose digital arena, digital aquarium and gallery, new hotels, offices and public squares. The developments will create over 5000 new jobs.

Swansea Labour Council will examine providing the city centre’s main streets with continuous covered walkways to guarantee weather proof shopping. We will create new outside dining areas and performance spaces in Wind Street. We will support and encourage independent businesses to set up in Swansea.
Swansea Labour is ambitious for our city, our communities and our people. We want Swansea to be outward looking, confident and successful with a positive global view.

Swansea Labour respects the EU referendum outcome and will work hard to create a successful future for Swansea by establishing new bilateral trade and economic agreements with cities and regions around the world. This will be a top priority of a Labour Council.

Swansea Labour will build on our international links and our special links with China and our twinned Cities around the world. We will build strong economic and cultural ties thereby growing Swansea’s wealth and reputation.
Swansea Labour - Standing Up for a Greener Swansea

Swansea Labour has been at the forefront of sustainability and the development of The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. We ensured that Swansea Council has become the most sustainable public sector organisation in the UK. Swansea Labour is committed to sustainable development and a greener, more sustainable Swansea. Our city has a unparalleled natural environment with an unique biodiversity and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 gives us a real opportunity to put our commitment to sustainable development at the heart of all our policies and value and seek to protect Swansea’s unique natural and built environment.

Swansea Labour - Delivering Green Energy

Swansea Labour will strive to make Swansea Bay one of the greenest regions in the UK. Swansea Labour will seek to create a low carbon economy which promotes renewable energy developments like the Tidal Bay Lagoon. Swansea Labour will promote renewable green energy and aim for all developments to have as low a carbon footprint as possible and will not promote fracking and other contentious gas extraction methods.

Swansea Labour will create a greener, smart and sustainable city by encouraging the development of 5th Generation network technologies to promote the development of ‘low carbon’ approaches and innovations in energy capture, storage, and distribution.

Swansea Labour will establish an energy company to manage the new energy generating facilities across the authority. We will run the company to ensure the taxpayers of Swansea receive the benefits of income from energy generated in Swansea.

Lighting Our Communities

Swansea Labour has delivered over 23,600 new low energy street lights in our communities making them brighter and safer, reducing the council’s carbon footprint and saving energy costs. Swansea Labour will commit to converting all remaining lights to low energy LED in the next 5 years.

Swansea Labour - Delivering Better & Smarter Transport

Swansea Labour has ambitions to make Swansea the greenest city in Wales and transport has a crucial role to play. Effective efficient integrated transport can only be achieved if it is planned and delivered on a regional basis, developing the built and natural environment, putting people first and encouraging higher levels of physical activity.
Swansea Labour is committed to achieving a ‘greener’, truly sustainable Swansea. Swansea is the regional capital of South West Wales and the transport needs of our city can only be planned and delivered on a regional basis. Our city regeneration will require a more diverse and fairer transport, planning and environmental policy for the benefit of all, including ‘car-less’ consumers.

Swansea Labour will support the regionalisation of transport planning and will work with the Welsh Government, regional local authorities, the health service and other major employers, transport users and providers to develop a sustainable transport plan that works for everyone in whichever community they live. Swansea Labour will explore with Welsh Government the creation of a Joint Committee (or similar body) to oversee transport planning for Swansea and the wider city region.

Swansea Labour is on the side of the commuter, but as our city grows we need to ensure we have an integrated smart transport infrastructure that supports growth and makes commuting easier for all, whichever mode of transport you use.

Swansea Labour will redress the balance between the customer and the company. There has been insufficient competition or cooperation between operators and we intend to work to resolve this both at city and regional level. For far too long Swansea has had insufficient public transport with too many communities badly served or isolated by poor transport links. Swansea Labour will support the development of new relationships with bus and rail operators to ensure connectivity and coverage exists for the entire city, county and region.

Swansea Labour will pursue ways to invigorate our City’s public transport services with simplified services using modern clean efficient vehicles, improved bus service frequencies, especially to our poorer communities, plus a simplified fares system. Swansea Labour will consider introducing a more demanding customer focused Quality Bus Partnership and/or Quality Bus Contract between the Council and bus operators.

Swansea Labour pioneered an integrated transport system through the introduction of ‘park and ride’ schemes. We will expand this network to ensure better coverage in the west of the city, in the east around the growing university campuses, and in the north as part of planning with the Swans and Ospreys for match day parking.

Swansea Labour will explore with the Welsh Government the full roll out of an ‘Oyster card’ style cashless card system as part of the integrated smarter transport system.
Greener, More Sustainable Transport

Efficient global and national transport links are vital for our city. Swansea Labour will therefore continue to strongly lobby the Tory Government in London to confirm a date for completion of the electrification of the main line from London to Swansea so that the cleanest energy trains run in and out of Swansea.

Swansea Labour will seek to follow NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) Guidance on Physical Activity and the Environment. We will work with the local health service, Sport Wales, our local universities and many other partners to make Swansea an ‘Active City’ by encouraging greater physical activity and improving people’s health and wellbeing.

Swansea Labour continues to invest in our road, walkway and cycle path network. We will continue to focus resources to deal with road and highway repairs in 48 hours.

Swansea Labour will bid for infrastructure funding to invest in better road and cycle links to the city, so that those travelling from the west, north or east of the county can commute more easily.

Swansea Labour has committed to increasing the numbers of electric and hydrogen vehicles in Swansea. We will secure investment to create a network of charging stations and hydrogen filling stations to promote the use of electric vehicles and hydrogen vehicles for public transport.

Swansea Labour will work with global partners to develop the technologies to support the development of new green technologies. We will work to attract inward investment in R&D and production facilities for these technologies in Swansea.

A Bike & Cyclist Friendly Swansea

Swansea Labour will adopt the Swansea ‘Wheelrights Manifesto’, and will seek to significantly increase access to safe, quicker and more cost effective cycle and walking routes through many areas of the city.

Swansea Labour will continue to encourage quality cycle training in schools for adults and will support the establishment of a bike hire scheme in Swansea. We will pursue the introduction of electric bikes in Swansea.

Fairer Parking

Swansea Labour believes Swansea’s current car parking regime often does not support trade in the city centre. A Labour council will examine the feasibility of introducing a comprehensive city centre parking system and adopting a more flexible fairer car park charges in local authority controlled car parks. We will expand parking provision across the city and commit to freezing car parking charges across Swansea for at least two years.
Swansea has a wonderful collection of parks open spaces across our city. Many of our parks have won prestigious ‘Green Flag’ accreditation. Swansea Labour will support actions that protect and enhance our parks and our beautiful natural habitats and encourage biodiversity for the enjoyment of present and future generations. In doing so, Swansea Labour will encourage greater community ownership of these assets, and will work with ‘friends of parks’ organisations to ensure long-term sustainability and control of parks and public spaces.

Swansea Labour will value and seek to protect Swansea’s natural and built environment by ensuring that any development and major event within the city complies with sustainable development principles.

In line with this commitment, Swansea Labour together with our public and private sector partners will seek to develop ‘Green Infrastructure’ in our buildings and estates.

Swansea Labour has modernised the planning system to ensure the city is a place where appropriate sustainable development can take place efficiently. Swansea Labour will continue to ensure Swansea is open for business and an attractive place for investment and development.

Swansea Labour will encourage the greater use of public access land such as our commons and forests for informal recreation.

Growing Local

Swansea Labour will continue to promote the greater provision of allotments and garden sharing, particularly where publicly-owned land is available and appropriate for such use.

Swansea Labour will expand community enterprises that help people gain growing and cooking skills.
Swansea Labour is the party of the local community. We share the values and hopes of our local communities. Swansea Labour believes that community engagement must be the basis of local democracy and making imaginative use of digital technologies, a Labour council will put this at the heart of its policies.

**Community Action**

Swansea Labour will follow the co-operative ‘one council’ model and ensure that the whole council - elected Members and Staff - works together to empower local communities to do more, to achieve more and to be involved in more of the decisions that affect them. Swansea Labour will ensure that community voices are heard.

**Cleaner Communities**

Swansea Labour will continue to prioritise cleanliness in our communities. We will create a task force to tackle fly tipping and ensure our streets are cleaned regularly. We will support recycling and ensure we continue to be the leading urban authority in Wales for recycling.

**Community Resilience**

Swansea Labour will continue to make available dedicated money for community budgets so that local people can decide, together with their representatives, what their Local priorities are, and importantly will have the funds to deliver them.

**Libraries and Community Buildings**

Swansea Labour will continue to invest in Libraries and Community buildings to make them sustainable and ensure people have local access to services across Swansea.

**Celebrating Diversity**

Swansea Labour will continue to ensure that Swansea is a city that celebrates and promotes diversity, respect, tolerance and understanding. We will stand up for the rights of all people in Swansea to live their lives, freely without fear, hatred, discrimination, or repression regardless of race, colour, religion and beliefs, sexual orientation, gender or age.

Swansea Labour is proud that Swansea is the UK’s second ‘City of Sanctuary’ and will continue to promote Swansea as an open tolerant place to live.
Promoting Community Safety

Swansea Labour will focus on cutting crime by promoting local ownership of community safety through building a strong partnership between the community, the Council, the police and other agencies. **Supporting People and Communities**

Swansea Labour will support people to live independently by ensuring a complete network of local area coordinators is established to cover the whole of Swansea. This network will work with voluntary organisations and others to ensure people get the information, advice and support they need in their community.

Community Safety - Standing Up For You

Swansea Labour believes that community safety must be a top priority. We introduced 20mph speed limits around schools, reducing traffic speeds and protecting our children.

Swansea Labour will take a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour, neighbour nuisance and those who seek to disrupt the lives of the people of Swansea. We will work with the police and local agencies to make Swansea a safe and attractive city.

Swansea Labour has been a strong advocate of tackling domestic abuse and ensuring those who suffer domestic abuse are fully supported. Swansea Labour will continue to work with partners and support a zero tolerance approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Swansea Labour will implement ‘public space protection orders’ where required to prevent on street drinking and the sale and distribution of so called ‘legal highs’.

Swansea Labour will work with residents and community organisations to develop ‘no cold-calling’ zones and prosecute breaches.

Swansea Labour will work with residents and community groups to consider further traffic calming measures or community safety measures to ensure our communities are as safe as they can be.

Strong Council Finances

In 2012 Swansea Labour inherited a council in financial difficulties, with a legacy of poor decision making and facing the prospect of huge austerity cuts. We had to deal with the legacy of the previous Lib Dem/Independent Council’s incompetent management of our city’s finances. The Lib Dem coalition council had borrowed over £80m and left a legacy of debt for the people of Swansea. Their debt has cost Swansea taxpayers over £32m in the last 5 years - money that could otherwise have been spent on vital services.

In addition the Tory-Lib Dem coalition UK Government, and subsequently the Tory Government in London have proceeded with a vicious austerity programme which has cut the money coming to Wales and decimated local government in England where some councils have seen their funding cut by over 50%. The Labour Welsh Government has helped to partially protect Local Government funding in Wales, but despite this funding has still fallen significantly.

In Swansea that has meant we, as a Swansea Labour Council, we have had £100m gap in funding to deliver services, meet rising demands and expectations, and rebuild our city’s technical and physical infrastructure.
Despite inheriting a huge financial challenge, Swansea Labour has delivered: we delivered our manifesto commitments; we modernised Council services; we protected jobs; we improved performance of our services; we brought services back in-house and we achieved over £70m in savings.

Swansea Labour will continue the modernisation of services; to invest in education to raise standards and outcomes; to regenerate the city centre, rebuild and strengthen our communities; to improve transport; to invest in smart energy and technology; to build thousands of new affordable homes and continue the robust management of the Council’s finances to ensure your money is used wisely and Council finances remain on a sound long-term sustainable basis.

Swansea Labour Council will explore innovative funding and investment strategies, and borrow prudently to support the City Deal delivery and only when it is right to do so, to invest in our city and communities and ensure the people of Swansea own more and control more of the assets in their communities.

Swansea Labour will continue to make available money for community budgets so that local people can decide, together with their representatives, what their local priorities are, and importantly will have the funds to deliver them.

In doing so we will continue a fully joined up approach to all public expenditure and the use of buildings and resources in our city to ensure we can continue to do more with less. A Labour council will also seek the wider and more imaginative community use of public assets, such as Council-owned buildings.

Swansea Labour will continue to work with the Welsh Labour Government, other local authorities, the third sector, the NHS, Police and other social partners, to explore collaborative and innovative ways in which local services can be financed and delivered most efficiently, and how the value of council assets can be maximised, particularly for those priority policy areas identified in this manifesto.

Swansea Labour will also seek to maximise the value of the ‘Swansea Pound’ - the considerable expenditure the council and other local public bodies make on the procurement of goods and services - for the benefit of the local economy, jobs and training.

Swansea Labour - Standing Up For Council Democracy

Swansea Labour has restored the integrity of Council’s decision making processes. Swansea Labour has delivered a new modern award-winning scrutiny process within the Council. We have supported more scrutiny and ensured we are subject to greater accountability, transparency and scrutiny than any previous council administration. We have engaged the public in greater numbers than ever before to ensure public participation in the Council’s decision making process.

Swansea Labour has already introduced Cabinet Advisory Committees which ensure all democratically elected members, as well as you the public, can now participate in the formation and creation of the Council policies that affect you. As local citizens you get to influence how policies are written and services are delivered.
Swansea Labour will further modernise how public engagement is embedded in council decision making. It will ensure that all meetings, unless legally constrained, will be conducted in public with time allocated for public participation guaranteed.

Swansea Labour will introduce web broadcasting of key council meetings, and introduce electronic voting. It will publish a full list of elected member votes and decisions and make this freely accessible online.

Swansea Labour will also change the constitution to allow consultations to recognise and accept e-petitions to encourage even wider engagement and consultation with you the people of Swansea.

Standards of conduct of elected representatives
Swansea Labour remains committed to the highest standards in public life and supports the Nolan Principles of:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

The Local government Code of Conduct for Councillors provides an outline of the standards of conduct expected of members.

Swansea Labour - Standing Up for Council Employees

Swansea Labour believes strongly that hard-working employees are the council’s most valuable asset. Over the last 5 years Swansea Labour has worked hard to protect jobs and improve pay and conditions of staff. We established raised pay levels for the lowest paid employees, implemented equal pay for men and women, provided an enhanced voluntary redundancy scheme and worked hard to avoid compulsory redundancies in the Council’s front line services.

Swansea Labour has conducted the most far-reaching forensic review of council services and redesigned them to place them on a long-term sustainable footing. Swansea Labour will continue with its ‘Sustainable Swansea’ service modernisation program and will continue to invest in services to ensure the best possible local services exist in Swansea.

Swansea Labour will continue its co-operative relationship with council staff and Unions.

Swansea Labour believes local services are best delivered by local government, and will actively engage with the workforce and Unions to identify ways in which Council services can be re-designed and delivered most efficiently for the people and communities of Swansea.
Swansea Labour has modernised the way in which the public use Council services; we have introduced new on-line digital services but retained choice for service users so that they can contact the council in the way that suits them best.

Swansea Labour brought back into the council the IT services outsourced by the Lib Dems, Independents and Tories, ending the Cap-Gemini contact. In doing so, Swansea Labour has saved the Swansea taxpayer £1.5m per year and protected hundreds of jobs in Swansea.

Swansea Labour will continue to prevent companies that exploit their workforce or fail to recognise Trade Unions from gaining contracts from the council.

Swansea Labour has converted a number of jobs from ‘Agency workers status’ to ‘permanent council employee status’, protecting jobs and giving certainty to working families. We will continue to convert roles from Agency to permanent status where there is strong evidence that the role is not temporary.

Swansea Labour has significantly reduced the number of zero hour contracts used by Swansea Council. Swansea Labour will eliminate the use of zero hour contracts within the authority, to give certainty to employees about their hours of work.

More Jobs and Opportunities

Swansea Labour has secured the £1.3bn City Deal for the people of Swansea - the biggest in Wales. The city deal will create up to 35,000 jobs and provide opportunities for people from all parts of Swansea to find the job they need.

Swansea Labour is committed to reducing poverty and increasing prosperity. Years of relentless Tory austerity, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable in society hardest, have driven many more people into poverty. Many people have two or three jobs just to make ends meet and many working families are now having to visit food banks because they cannot afford to live. This is a national disgrace. We see a UK Government of millionaires in London forcing families in Swansea to choose between heating their homes or feeding their children. Swansea Labour has done much to protect and support the people of Swansea from the worst of the Tory austerity but there is more to do.
Food Banks

Swansea Labour deplores the Tory Government’s austerity policies that have driven many families into poverty. Many people rely on food banks to survive. While we hope for a return to a time when food banks are no longer required, Swansea Labour will encourage business to reduce food waste by supplying goods to local food banks. We will also explore tax relief and support for food banks locations.

Swansea Labour - Building Better, Affordable and Energy Efficient Homes

Swansea Labour believes that a warm, secure and affordable home should be a basic right in a civilised society and the starting point for so much in life. Too many of our fellow citizens either have no home of their own or live in substandard housing. We also recognise that housing needs change throughout the various stages of our lives, which is why we feel it is so important to offer high quality housing, built to lifetime home standard. That is why Swansea Labour has started to build new homes for the first time in almost 40 years. We are currently building the first pioneer homes and these will be available to people on the Swansea housing list or for sale as affordable homes. These will be a mix of affordable, social and commercial housing. They are highly energy efficient and could have bills of less than £70 per year. This will help lift people out of fuel poverty. We will also support cost effective energy schemes for all existing homes across Swansea so that everyone can benefit.

Swansea Labour will establish the council’s own construction and development company, and will pledge to build 1000s of new homes in the next 5 years through a combination of delivery models. These homes will be available to people on the Swansea housing list or for sale as affordable homes. These homes will be highly energy efficient and will reduce or eliminate energy bills. This will help meet our aim of lifting people out of fuel poverty in Swansea.

Swansea Labour will put people at the heart of our housing services. Swansea Labour stood with tenants against Lib Dem plans to sell off our housing stock and we will not only invest in our current houses raising standards for all, but build the next generation of high quality low energy housing for the people of Swansea. A Labour council will support independent living; provide improved options for older people; increase funding for housing co-operatives and mutual housing, and prioritise those in housing need, especially the homeless.
**Swansea Labour** will also work with Welsh Labour Government, housing associations and the private sector to increase the supply of affordable housing. We will make public land available from the considerable landholdings of Swansea council and, using the planning system and partnership with others, develop innovative ways of raising the funds to deliver an increased supply of high quality affordable housing.

**Swansea Labour** will explore the provision of low energy affordable homes and will commit to delivering up to 7000 new affordable homes within 5 years. This will help young people and families get on the housing ladder.

Working with our City Deal partners we will also develop and deliver the technology of ‘homes as power stations’. **Swansea Labour** aim to commercialise this technology to enable it to be retro-fitted to existing homes. This could see houses across Swansea benefit from these technologies and become zero consumers of energy from the national grid. Any excess power could be sold to the National Grid to generate an income for those properties and the taxpayer.

**Improving Housing Quality**

**Swansea Labour** has made huge progress in bringing Council properties in Swansea up to the Welsh Quality Housing Standard. In doing so Swansea Labour has invested nearly £100m in the last 3 yrs and will pledge to invest a further £260m to ensure every council property in Swansea meets the Welsh Quality Housing Standard by 2022.

**Swansea Labour** will work with the Welsh Labour Government and tenants to explore innovative ways in which to improve the quality of social housing in our city and also target HMOs for improved standards of management and maintenance.

**Tough Controls On HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation)**

**Swansea Labour** has made huge strides in protecting communities from saturation by HMOs. **Swansea Labour** successfully lobbied the Welsh Government to provide powers to control HMOs.

**Swansea Labour** will support tough controls on the level of HMOs in communities and support a new 10% saturation limit on HMOs in communities that have not previously been covered by HMO guidance or policy.

**Swansea Labour** will take a tough approach to dealing with rogue landlords who run poor quality HMOs and who adversely impact communities.

**Empty Properties**

Swansea Labour will take action to address the blight of empty private properties and increase the supply of housing. Working with the Welsh Labour Government and its proposed ‘Empty Property Loan Fund’ it will bring more empty properties back into use over the next 5 years.
6. A HEALTHIER SWANSEA

Swansea Labour believes that maximising people’s physical and mental well-being and providing high quality, reliable and consistent care for those who need it, at every stage of their lives, in all our communities, is a matter of social justice as well as the mark of the compassionate society we want to see.

The Best Start in life for all our children: Happy, Healthy and Safe

Swansea Labour knows that investment in the early years of a child’s life is the best investment we can make. Building on our ground-breaking work through the World Health Organisation ‘Healthy City’ initiative we will work with the local health service and others to make sure all our children have the best start in life, improving lives and helping to reduce health and educational inequalities.

Swansea - a Child-Friendly City

Swansea Labour is proud of the fact that our city was the very first council in the U.K. to ensure that the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) are embedded in decisions made for all children and young people in Swansea.

Swansea Labour will continue to give all children a voice, improve pupil engagement and listen to our children’s ambitions and aspirations.

Swansea Labour will commit to ensuring that children and young people are engaged and consulted on council policy and decision making to ensure their voices and opinions are heard. We believe in strong public engagement and strong citizenship.
Swansea Labour - Standing Up for High Quality Social and Health Services

Swansea Labour has made our social services among the best and strongest in Wales. However with people living longer, many more people will have direct contact with social care services in the future. While the economic challenges facing Local Government will no doubt put additional strain on services and families who may need a helping hand or more skilled, longer-term professional support, fairness and well-being will remain at the heart of Swansea Labour’s beliefs, putting ‘public interest above private profit’.

Independence Dignity and respect

Swansea Labour will promote independent living, providing people with the support to live in their own home with dignity and respect for as long as they want.

Prevention and Health Promotion

Swansea Labour will deliver integrated services in collaboration with our partners to ensure a continued focus on prevention and early intervention - investing in the conditions which maintain independence and support families, rather than dealing with the consequences of family breakdown and ill health.

Swansea Labour will give the highest priority to maintaining a robust focus on reviewing the effectiveness of social service provision and reinvesting and redesigning services to make them sustainable for the long term.

Swansea Labour will invest in new facilities to create sheltered accommodation, and extra care facilities to deliver next generation elderly care services.

Better Services

Swansea Labour will adopt the new Welsh Community Care Information System and work with regional and health service partners. Swansea Labour will redesign services to ensure greater integration and collaboration between health and social care systems to improve patient services.

Helping people recover

Swansea Labour will invest in services to help people re-able and recover so that they are able to return to living an active and productive life.
**Focusing on those most in need**

Swansea Labour accepts that as people get older they may need more intensive help and support and we will focus resources for residential care on those with the most complex needs so that they are properly supported.

**Older People**

One of the massive achievements in the last 50 years is that many more people are living longer and healthier lives. This is a cause for celebration and provides huge opportunities as well as challenges. Swansea Labour believes that we need to ensure that the voice of older citizens, like those of our children and young people, should be heard and that our services are accessible to people of all ages and abilities and that positive attitudes to ageing are encouraged and discriminatory attitudes challenged. We therefore intend to work with older people locally and the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales to establish a Charter for Older People to ensure that our commitment is delivered.

**Swansea - a Dementia Friendly City**

Swansea Labour believes that positive views about ageing need to be encouraged, particularly attitudes towards dementia. To further this ambition, we will work with partner organisations, local employers and the third sector to develop Swansea’s status as the first Dementia Friendly City in Wales.

**Public Interest above Private Profit**

A Swansea Labour council will intervene in the social care provider market and explore how it can expand the provision of council run services. Specifically social and residential care to ensure, where provision is of last resort, that there is a diverse range of suppliers, including not-for-profit, cooperative and social enterprise providers.

**Investing in Our People**

Swansea Labour will continue to invest in our staff at all levels in the social services. We will build stronger links with Swansea’s universities and others, so that providers of these vital services keep abreast of best practice and new innovations in research, treatment and delivery.
Our city can fairly lay claim to being the cultural and sporting capital of Wales and Swansea Labour has always recognised that the arts, culture and sport are as important to our individual and community sense of worth and well-being as our policies on health and education.

Swansea Labour has a proud record of supporting sport and the arts in Swansea. It was a Labour Council that built the Liberty Stadium, initiated and partnered the building of the National Waterfront Museum and the National Swimming Pool.

Swansea Labour Delivering on Culture and the Arts

Swansea Labour successfully re-opened the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in 2016. It is now Wales’s largest gallery space. Exhibits from da Vinci, Monet, Picasso and Hepworth were all on display during the opening. As part of the new arrangements secured by Swansea Labour the Glynn Vivian will form part of the Tate network and will regularly bring world class exhibitions to Swansea.

A New Arena, Conference and Exhibition Centre

Swansea Labour will deliver the largest cultural investment the city and region has ever seen by 2020. As part of our city regeneration, and supported by the City Deal, we intend to create a 4000-seater digital arena bringing world class entertainments and the best cultural offerings to Swansea on a regular basis.

A New Gallery and Aquarium

Swansea Labour has already announced ambitious plans to redevelop the Civic Centre site. We will work with the Oriel and other operators to create a facility which will contain an interactive Gallery and cutting edge technology digital aquarium on the civic site. This will complement a new promenade and public square and be the focus of a new cultural hub set against the backdrop of the world class Swansea Bay.
Regular National events in our City

Swansea Labour is committed to retaining the Wales National Airshow in Swansea. We will explore options for hosting the Wales National Super Prix, stages of the Tour of Britain, and a full programme of national cultural and sporting events in the city.

Swansea U.K. City of Culture 2021

Having already been shortlisted for the 2017 event, Swansea Labour will bid for Swansea to become the UK’s City of Culture in 2021.

Team Swansea in Sport

Swansea is lucky to be blessed with outstanding sports teams like the Swans and the Ospreys in the top flight of their respective sports. Swansea has unparalleled access to sport at the highest level, and will also benefit from Swansea University’s ambition to be in the top ten of UK universities for sports science. Swansea Labour will take every opportunity to make Swansea a premier, healthy Sports City.

An International Sports Village and Academy

Swansea Labour will work with partners in the University and Sports clubs to look at the feasibility of creating an International Sports Academy and National Athletes’ village in Swansea.

Community all-Weather pitches

Swansea Labour believes access to all-weather sports facilities in communities is crucial to supporting the development of sports, skills and encouraging health and wellbeing. Swansea Labour will invest in more 3G pitches for communities across Swansea, ensuring people can play sports and live a healthy lifestyle all year round.

Swansea Labour will promote informal recreation, ageing well and a healthy lifestyle. We will support public access to public land such as our commons, foreshore and waterways. This will help encourage more people to participate in walking, cycling, swimming and other activities.
Bringing our Heritage to Life

Swansea has a very rich historical and cultural legacy, much of it deriving from the industrial revolution that laid the foundation for our city’s prosperity.

Swansea Labour has worked very closely with our partners in Swansea University to secure nearly £10 million of Heritage Lottery funding to bring ‘Copperopolis’ to life as a potential World Heritage site.

Swansea Labour has secured agreement from Penderyn Whisky to establish a working distillery and tourist centre as part of the project and will seek to deliver this in the coming years.

Swansea Labour will also give consideration to compulsory purchase of landmark buildings across the authority, such as the Palace Theatre and Elysium, if owners do not properly maintain or restore these historic buildings.

A River Renaissance

The recreation of the Copperopolis site and the new Hafod road infrastructure funded and delivered by your Swansea Labour council and the Labour Welsh Government, will allow the redevelopment of the river corridor to be fully realised in the coming years.

Swansea Labour will reopen the Tawe River corridor walkway to the public for the first time in decades. We will invest in a new walkway and additional safety barriers along the Tawe River.

Swansea Labour will aim to establish a new hotel and leisure development near the Liberty Stadium to complement and support the cultural developments. Swansea Labour will also encourage the establishment of River Taxis to take visitors from the Tidal Lagoon (when constructed) and the Marina to the Liberty Stadium and Copperopolis areas.

Recognising Local heroes

Swansea Labour introduced a ‘Blue Plaque’ scheme in Swansea to highlight houses and buildings of historic interest. We have also recognised a number of local heroes and international stars who have helped make Swansea a better place or have put Swansea on the map.

Swansea Labour introduced the Lord Mayor’s Awards and will make this an annual event to celebrate the best Swansea has to offer.

Discounts for all Swansea Residents

Swansea Labour will introduce a citizen discount card available to all residents of the City and County of Swansea to get discounts on a range of services in Swansea.
If you care about Culture, Sport, Parks and Open spaces then Swansea Labour will...

• Build a major digital entertainment arena & exhibition centre bringing the best acts to Swansea
• Invest in more 3G sports facilities in Communities
• Re-green our communities and invest in wildflower displays across Swansea
• Bid for Swansea to be UK City of Culture in 2021
• Work with partners to secure an international sport village and centre of sporting excellence
• Invest in our museums and galleries to become sustainable
• Support expansion of the Stadium and the Swans and Ospreys to be successful

If you care about reducing poverty and creating jobs and prosperity then Swansea Labour will...

• Deliver the £1.3bn City Deal creating between 10000 - 35000 jobs
• Reduce fuel bills to help people out of fuel poverty
• Create apprenticeships and job opportunities so people acquire the skills they need
• Support grow Local schemes to help people escape food poverty
• Strike a new fairer deal with Welsh Gov to retain business rates in Swansea for reinvestment in the local economy
• Create a thriving modern city centre to be proud of
• Create a new economy with well paid jobs closer to people’s homes

If you care about the elderly and the vulnerable in our communities then Swansea Labour will...

• Support people to live with dignity and respect in their own home for as long as they want
• Invest in care services and new sheltered housing and extra care facilities
• Guarantee better standards of care for all those who need it
• Provide Local coordinators in all parts of Swansea supporting people and our communities
• Help people to stay healthy and age well
• Stand up for those suffering domestic abuse
• Sign up to Unison’s care standards manifesto

£1.3 BILLION CITY DEAL FOR SWANSEA BAY
If you care about Public Transport, roads and parking in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Ensure every community has a reliable affordable bus service
- Increase parking availability across Swansea by building new car parks
- Freeze parking charges across Swansea for at least two years
- Fix potholes in 48 hours
- Invest an extra £5m in roads and walkways
- Seek government funding for upgrade of major routes from the West, East and North
- Lobby WG to upgrade the M4 between junc 43 and junc 48
- Lobby U.K. Gov to complete electrification of the mainline to Swansea
- Explore options for regional high volume public transport system for Swansea & South West Wales
- Expand the cycle network

If you care about children and education in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Invest £1bn in schools, education and services for young people
- Invest £100m in school buildings and better teaching facilities
- Give every child the best start in life
- Support schools to offer breakfast clubs and pre and post school day childcare
- Offer 30 hours of free childcare with Welsh Gov
- Give children a voice in council decisions and promote the UNCRC
- Ensure services are super connected around children
- Make Swansea one of the best places to be educated in the U.K.
- Promote good practice through our UNESCO network

If you care about resilient communities and better homes in Swansea then Swansea Labour will...

- Invest £200m to improve council homes in Swansea
- Build modern high energy efficient homes for rent and sale
- Build affordable homes so people can get on the housing ladder
- Support strong action on nuisance neighbours
- Introduce public space protection orders to deal with anti social behaviour
- Ensure elected members have funds to deliver on community priorities
- Create our own energy venture to provide free energy to homes
- Increase recycling options but not reduce the 3 black bag limit
- Take strong action on fly tipping and prosecute those responsible
- Establish and enforce ‘no cold calling’ zones
Together for Swansea