

# **SLOUGH LABOUR PARTY**

## **Manifesto Pledges for the** **Local Government Elections** **on Thursday 22nd May 2014**

### **Labour – Taking Slough Forward**

*In the year ahead, Slough's Labour Group of Councillors will deliver the strategies, policies and action our town needs for the future.*

*We will continue working to transform local services; ensuring Slough residents get the best for less.*

*We will protect frontline services from the Tories' cuts and run an efficient Council that keeps costs down for residents.*

*Above all, Labour Councillors will deliver the leadership and vision to improve our borough and to take Slough forward.*



# The Local Economy, Opportunities & Skills

## Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Established a 'town team' to revitalise Slough's High Street, and introduced 'free from 3 parking' in the town centre to help promote local shops
- Made Slough Council a 'Living Wage Employer' by ensuring all our staff are paid the Living Wage
- Worked with Slough Estates and other partners to deliver the ASPIRE project and open Slough's new skills centre
- Secured over 100 new local apprenticeships and more local jobs, through the Council's new transactional services contract
- Worked with SEGRO to support their long-term modernisation of the Trading Estate, delivering more local jobs for Slough residents

## If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Help residents with living costs – delivering a Council Tax freeze this year, and no Council Tax rise above inflation in 2015/16
- Ensure that when we re-let major Council contracts, apprenticeships for local young people and payment of the Living Wage to contractors' staff are included in the contract terms
- Build on the success of the ASPIRE project; to offer better-tailored support to local long-term unemployed residents to access jobs and training
- Increase the number of young people between 16-25 who are in training, apprenticeships and employment, including opportunities for vulnerable young people leaving care
- Work with local businesses to grow the number of local residents able to access local jobs
- Complete the construction of Slough's new central library, arts and learning space, 'The Curve'; and advance plans for the remaining Heart of Slough zones, to continue revitalising the town centre



# Safer Neighbourhoods

## Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Made Slough's streets safer, with more than 50 alley-gating schemes delivered; and worked with our partners to reduce crime - Slough is now a safer place than both Oxford and Reading
- Deployed two new CCTV cars to tackle parking offences on our streets and around Slough's schools
- Fought Thames Valley's Tory Police and Crime Commissioner over his plan to reduce police resources for Slough
- Refurbished and expanded Slough's CCTV room, upgrading facilities and enabling more cameras to be deployed to local neighbourhoods

## If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Install CCTV to communal areas of Council-managed housing blocks, where tenants' support this
- Undertake a further 50 gating projects for alleyways and other areas of problem land
- Introduce fines for spitting in the street, and step up action against littering and dog-fouling
- Install CCTV cameras to neighbourhood hot-spots, and ensure our CCTV helps to reduce crime
- Step up action against bad neighbours, anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood nuisance
- Clean up and bring back to viable uses Council garage courts that are neither useable nor re-developable – installing new, wider garages, demolishing garages and laying out areas as open parking, or cleaning up the land and piloting some key sites as micro-allotment plots for residents



## **Transport, Highways & Footways**

Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Launched Slough's bike hire scheme - with ranks at SEGRO, Montem, Burnham & Slough stations
- Restored a bus service to Cippenham and Chalvey; through delivery of the new number 5 bus route
- Delivered improvements to Slough station forecourt, in tandem with Network Rail's station access and waiting room works
- Delivered 64 road resurfacing schemes and 30 full resurfacing schemes for pavements around the borough, as well as bringing in a pavement parking ban to residential areas around Central Slough
- Undertaken a borough-wide street name plate replacement programme, and installed parking bays, new footpaths and other neighbourhood improvements

If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Extend Slough's bicycle hire scheme - installing new cycle hire ranks in Langley St Mary's, Langley Kedermister and Colnbrook wards
- Plan to the delivery phase a Halt rail station in Chalvey, and direct western rail access to Heathrow
- Plan a guided bus scheme for the A4; as well as delivering congestion-busting and bus priority measures for major roads including Bath Road, Stoke Road, and Farnham Road
- Make further junction improvements and continue to upgrade traffic signals; to tackle rat-running and speeding, and to add capacity to the roads in Slough most affected by peak-time congestion
- Continue introducing safe routes to school and measures to tackle full-pavement/obstructive parking
- Improve footways; with ongoing resurfacing and action to tackle poor works by private utilities and cable companies that erode pavement-quality
- Bring in higher specification standards for footways around sheltered housing and GPs' practices



## **Children's Services, Health & Social Care**

Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Expanded Slough Primary Schools and opened a new School in the old Town Hall site, to deliver enough school places for local children
- Protected key front-line services to vulnerable residents from the Tory government's cuts
- Guaranteed the bus pass offer to Slough OAPs with service levels beyond the government scheme
- Lifted children out of the care system by increasing the number of adoptions into forever families

If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Ensure fully-costed, deliverable, plans are in place to meet growing demand for school places locally
- Increase the number of school nurses in the borough, offering support to local children
- Improve children's services, with a strategy and approach that always puts children first
- Continue increasing the number of children in local care who gain a new 'forever family' via adoption and long-term fostering; increase the number of foster families who live within easy reach of Slough
- Increase the number of adult residents benefitting from a "health check" through their local primary care services or GP
- Ensure more Slough residents with learning disabilities can continue living in Slough to receive the housing, care and support they need
- Extend the chapel at Slough Cemetery and Crematorium to accommodate larger services and meet the needs of our communities, and provide additional capacity at the cemetery with new burial plots



## **Leisure, Environment and Open Spaces**

Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Planted 500 new trees around Slough and a further 500 in Upton Court Park's new Jubilee Wood
- Installed new entrance signs to the Borough's flagship open spaces, begun upgrading all park signs, and funded 7 Multi-Use Games Areas for teens to play sport
- Approved a new play area & refurbishment of the pavilion at Lascelles Park; pavilion facilities and improvements for Cippenham Village Green; new changing rooms for Chalvey Recreation Ground
- Installed charging points at key locations across the Borough, to support the use of electric vehicles

If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Ensure the borough has a leisure centre and ice arena fit for the next 25 years - with these facilities of a flagship standard and available for use by 2017
- Make major improvements to Baylis Park and Godolphin Recreation Ground; ensure we do more to develop new habitats for wildlife in our green spaces; step up action against verge parking
- Plan works to upgrade and reshape Bowyer Recreation Ground, the Canal Basin and canal-side in SBC's ownership; deliver our commitment for a new ground for Slough Town FC
- Keep raising recycling rates for the borough's waste and further reduce waste sent to landfill
- Improve Preston Park in Wexham and Harvey Park in Langley; deliver a games area in Colnbrook
- Secure planning approval for hub community centres proposed for Elliman/Central/Wexham and for Langley; move forward plans to upgrade/expand the hub in Manor Park



## **Estate Management, Housing and Regeneration**

Since the 2012 local elections, we have:

- Completed and let the first new Council homes built in Slough for over 20 years, as part of the Britwell Regeneration
- Changed the Council's housing policies to ensure the borough's public housing is available only to those on low wages and connected to Slough
- Undertaken major improvement works to Council properties - with energy-efficiency measures, cladding and insulation to reduce tenants' bills; as well as smart new facades
- Gated run-down private land and alleyways to reduce problems and make these areas safer

If re-elected, by the 2015 local elections in Slough, we will:

- Extend the compulsory licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation beyond Chalvey's pilot scheme to other wards that need it; and act to improve housing standards in the private rented sector
- Make further exterior improvements and upgrade the communal areas of Council-owned blocks of flats; upgrade/redesign poorly-planned past housing schemes to improve local neighbourhoods
- Further improve local housing supply by bringing 60 empty homes in Slough back into use
- Build or start the construction of 200 new Council homes across the Borough
- Convert unneeded office accommodation into housing, to improve supply and meet local need
- Use Council investment, and our development agency - the Slough Regeneration Partnership - to commission additional housing for the borough