

Labour local government and trade unions joint priorities for 2020/21

Alongside the agreement that outlines the principles by which Labour councils and the local government trade unions in England will work together, we have agreed a set of joint priorities for the year ahead, which will form the basis of ongoing work throughout the year.

Trade unions and Labour councillors are part of the same labour movement and share the same values of equality, social justice and solidarity. These values are reflected in our choice of joint priorities for 2020/21:

1. Building back better from the coronavirus crisis

The coronavirus crisis has exposed inequalities in our society, demonstrated the value of public service workers, and reinforced the need for a stronger economy that benefits everybody. We will campaign jointly for an economic recovery that tackles inequality, creates good jobs, ensures fair pay, and reduces the risk of future pandemics and climate emergencies.

2. Long term sustainable funding for local government

Local government faces a £10bn funding gap as a result of coronavirus alone, over and above the huge impact caused by a decade of austerity. Campaign together to ensure that local government receives the increased government funding it needs to provide good quality public services, and includes deprivation as a major determinant of funding allocation. Highlight the crisis in social care, including the desperate need for a long-term fair funding solution, a new model of delivery and urgent need for better wages and rights for care workers.

3. Promote equalities in local government

Promote and celebrate our vibrant and diverse communities, ensure this is reflected in the local workforce, and stand united with the Black Lives Matter movement against violence and systematic racism towards black and ethnic minority people. Work together to ensure that Labour councils and trade unions are active in promoting equality and opposing any form of discrimination, hate speech, or racially motivated activity.

4. Champion public services

Encourage Labour councils to retain services in-house, and to bring outsourced services back in-house whenever possible, including through promotion of best practice examples.

5. Defend the Local Government Pension Scheme

Promote the LGPS as a well-managed, funded scheme which meets the needs of the majority of employees, and ensure Labour councils defend the right of all staff working in local government to access the scheme.

6. React to the climate emergency

Work together to bring public attention to the continued threat of climate change. Encourage more Labour councils to declare a climate emergency, and provide support to those that have done so in devising and promoting positive measures to play a role in dealing with it.

7. Tackle Modern Slavery

Recognise the hidden scourge of modern slavery, and work together at branch and Labour group level to promote the importance of identifying and tackling examples of Modern Slavery in local communities.

Agreed unanimously at LGA Labour AGM 1st July 2020