



Rebuild our Borough for the Many not the Few.

Labour's 5 pledges to you and your family:

Labour is committed to 60% of new builds being genuinely affordable homes.

Labour demands accessible, comprehensive health care and social care to be available to all residents in our Borough.

Labour will tackle local health inequalities (both physical and mental) within our Borough.

Labour will negotiate for our Borough to be fully included within Travel Zone 6 and for Night Bus routes to be extended into Epsom.

Labour will invest in our Borough's young people.

Make your voice heard

The **Labour Party** is a democratic party that leads the way with a vision of hope - that by working together we can transform Britain for the many, not the few. Your **Epsom and Ewell Labour Party** takes that national vision and seeks to implement it at the local level for a better, fairer Borough, by:

- working to build the homes we need to rent and buy
- supporting our NHS and social care to benefit all
- keeping our communities safe and healthy
- investing in the future of our young people, and
- creating a prosperity for all.



The desire for a **Labour** vision in our Borough is increasing: At the last Borough Council elections in 2015, the vote for **Labour** increased by 5% to a total of 16,879 votes. And at the General Election in 2017, the vote for **Labour** increased by 9.5% giving our candidate, Ed Mayne, 25% of all votes cast and a comfortable second place.

Your voice is your vote. Make sure it is heard to:

- Show you support a **Labour** vision for our Borough
- Give our **Labour** councillors greater authority to speak on behalf of residents across our Borough
- Give others the courage to make their voice heard as well.

Get involved. Join the Labour Party.

As a Labour member, you will have a say in our policy and vote in internal elections. You'll be provided with all the tools and resources to get involved in events, campaign days and rallies and introduce you to a huge movement of other like-minded members. By joining, you will also become a part of the Epsom & Ewell Constituency Labour Party, enabling you be involved with campaigns and events nearby. You can get involved in everything from policy making to campaigning to social events right away.

<https://join.labour.org.uk/> “



Ensure a steady supply of quality and affordable homes

The Tory government's housing policy for Epsom and Ewell, to build more than 3,500 houses within the next ten years, is challenging. Labour is aware that Epsom & Ewell has the second most expensive rent in the south-east and that many more homes are required to help alleviate this. However, developers' objectives do not always tie in with our local need for:

- ✓ homes rather than houses;
- ✓ genuinely affordable properties, not 80% of market prices; and
- ✓ appropriately sized homes as the borough lacks suitable homes for families.

Additionally, Council financing for building homes is too restrictive for the scale required. With the age of the population in Epsom and Ewell rising, we need homes accessible by those with limited mobility as well as suitable housing to retain and attract younger people in the borough.

Your Labour councillors will strongly resist and publicly challenge attempts by developers to reduce social housing build commitments. We will re-examine the 'four floor' ceiling on housing developments and propose areas in the town centres for the height to be increased by a suitable amount. We will find ways to reduce the extent of 'land banking', particularly where current buildings are demolished, reducing the visual amenity of the surrounding area, as a ploy to reduce payment of Council and/or Business Tax.

A **Labour** Council will achieve this by:

- ✓ Working with officers to create and enforce the proposed new local plan which clearly sets out our expectations of developers
- ✓ Introduce a target for genuinely affordable homes of 60% for substantial developments for developers and ensure that such targets are enforced
- ✓ Protect Green Belt land by prioritising development on brownfield sites and, in exceptional circumstances, poor quality green belt land.
- ✓ Consult residents annually about local projects to be included on the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy project list
- ✓ The Council will build its own properties for rent for local residents
- ✓ Ensure that there is sufficient 'emergency housing' provision.



Stand up for our NHS and social care services



Epsom Hospital has been at risk since the Tories came to power in 2010. The plan to move the Acute Services at Epsom Hospital to another site would dramatically diminish the quality of health services available to our residents. Additionally, the Mental Health services available to borough residents is too restricted and difficult to access.

A **Labour** council will:

- ✓ Stridently seek to ensure that a properly funded Urgent Care Centre, Walk-in Clinic and acute Mental Health services are located in Epsom.
- ✓ Seek an audit of mental health services available to residents and to push for greater and easier access to appropriate mental health care.
- ✓ Actively resist the privatisation of NHS services available to residents within the Borough of Epsom and Ewell
- ✓ Work with Surrey County Council, local GPs surgeries, and regional NHS bodies to ensure that surgeries have appropriate premises to meet the needs of their patients

Combat Health inequalities in our Borough



Statistics show that health and life expectancy in some parts of our Borough are the worst in Surrey. Some of the significant factors creating this can be improved by Council policy across the Borough through particularly focussing on those areas with the greatest concentration of residents most affected.

A **Labour** council will:

- ✓ Use its planning powers to reduce the environmental pollution affecting the health of residents.
- ✓ Audit the affordable leisure and recreational facilities in the borough (including adult educational services) and implement ways to make them more accessible.
- ✓ Better promote the Well-Being centres within our Borough.
- ✓ Continue to support the Horton Arts group to complete its plans for Horton Chapel to bring the building back into community use
- ✓ Work with local charities and private enterprise to identify new venues for community hire
- ✓ Encourage 'Dementia friendly' and 'mental health awareness' working in local trades and services.
- ✓ Work with local schools to promote 'walking buses'.
- ✓ Uphold the Queen Elizabeth II status on our local parks ensuring that external funding is sought to make improvements to equipment.
- ✓ Promote a wider range of activities and events in local parks, including sports days and community picnics.
- ✓ Protect funding for venues such as the Longmead and Wells Centres.
- ✓ Carry out regular visits to residential homes to ensure that our councillors are aware of the issues that matter most to elderly residents
- ✓ Communicate changes to services that affect older people the most, including new bus timetables and changes to the Council's customer services and payments systems
- ✓ Lobby Surrey County Council and Transport for London to improve elderly access to local transport, including both bus and train services

Better transport for all

The use of local buses throughout our borough could be much improved. For example, the limited evening services failing to support the growing importance the night-time economy.

Although roads and pavements are a responsibility of Surrey County Council, local councillors can bring problems to their attention and press for solutions.



A **Labour** council will:

- ✓ Seek greater integration of public transport policy and planning between the Borough (and County) and Transport for London. Particularly with regard to:
 - The extension of the use of Oyster and flexible ticketing option with Epsom buses
 - Bus routes, especially the extension of night bus routes into the Borough;
 - Enabling residents in the Borough equal access to the London Freedom Pass;
 - Enabling all school age children (up to 18) to travel on buses for free and other public transport at a much reduced rate.
- ✓ Encourage greater use of public transport through:
 - Subsidises and planning measures - to ensure that there is a viable, reliable bus service on all routes;
- ✓ Make the road system more effective by:
 - Preventing parking in High Streets ('red zoning') to allow traffic to flow more smoothly;
 - Reducing the number of vehicles on the roads by enabling greater use of public transport;
 - Acknowledging pedestrians as equal road users;
 - Improving cycle safety on key routes throughout our borough by working with the highways authority and local cycling groups;
 - Sensible use of residential parking zones and exploring facility for free short stay car parking (15 minutes);
 - Conduct regular walkabouts within the borough to identify roads in need of repairs or resurfacing.
- ✓ Work with partners, including Surrey County Council, to advance plans for traffic improvements across our Borough.

Create a better life for our Borough's young people

It is vitally important that the council provides the support and the environment for all young people to achieve their full potential. Labour is very supportive of Epsom being a university town but we shouldn't forget those young people who do not pursue a university education. For those young people there is a need to increase the number of apprenticeships available with recognised skills training.



A **Labour** council will:

- ✓ Encourage companies bidding for Council contracts to increase the number of apprenticeships.
- ✓ Expand the Council's apprenticeship scheme and increase the wage level to meet Living Wage standards
- ✓ Encourage all schools in the borough to ensure they are able to, and do, provide appropriate free meals.
- ✓ Work with Surrey County Council to ensure all children are in education all of the time and that none 'fall through the net'.
- ✓ Support more extra-curricular activities for school-aged children, such as youth centres and annual Youth Leisure Days, so that young people can broaden their social skills and community awareness.
- ✓ Introduce a jobs club for young people so that school and college leavers can meet prospective employers and get practical advice
- ✓ Increase the number of events held in 'Democracy Week' so that more schoolchildren have the chance to meet local decision-makers
- ✓ Establish a youth council to enable local young people to influence decision-making

Develop Epsom & Ewell's local economy

The health of Epsom & Ewell's local economy is vital to the viability and vibrancy of our community. The shared prosperity is most noticeable in the variety and calibre of all the Borough's shopping areas (made more challenging by the state of the national economy and changing shopping habits). Labour will harness the Borough's energies to ensure they remain attractive places to visit and relax. Labour will also seek to temper the worst excesses of Tory national economic policy that has led to a 40% increase in our Borough's food banks over the past year



A **Labour** council will:

- ✓ Advance the Upper High Street project by working with local residents and business owners to ensure that the development works for all
- ✓ Review funding for Epsom Playhouse and investigate the feasibility of establishing the venue as a co-operative run by local people
- ✓ Work with the County Council, transport providers, the Police and other partners to ensure a safe and usable environment for all involved in the night-time economy, for example: an increase in the evening bus services, and adequate street lighting for pedestrians.
- ✓ Work with small business owners, particularly in areas such as Ewell and Stoneleigh, to promote local community trade and service centres
- ✓ Explore with local partners ways to increase availability of affordable child care services for working parents - especially during school holidays.
- ✓ Work with local partners ensure residents are able to access assistance in exercising their rights in the increasingly prevalent 'gig' economy and the changing benefits regime.

Improve the Borough's refuse and recycling record

Epsom & Ewell's lamentable recycling rate has recently moved towards the national average. However, there is still much to be done to improve it further.

A **Labour** Council will:

- ✓ Increase the number of clothing and bottle banks across the borough
- ✓ Review charges at the community tip so that residents can easily dispose of larger items
- ✓ Introduce an incentive scheme for recycling

What you can expect from **Labour** in office:

Labour councillors

When you elect a **Labour** councillor, you will get a hard working councillor who will keep in touch with you through regular advice surgeries and spending time on your doorstep finding out the issues that matter most to you. A **Labour** councillor will not disappear into the Town Hall never to be seen again.

- ✓ Aim to acknowledge your query within 3 working days, with a full response to follow as soon as possible
- ✓ Actively support the work of local charities and community groups, including the Epsom & Ewell Food Bank and our local Citizens Advice Bureau
- ✓ Keep in touch through regular newsletters, the party's website, and social media accounts
- ✓ Organise public meetings on major issues, including contentious planning applications and anti-social behaviour
- ✓ Go beyond the call of duty - we will always try to lend a hand, even if the problem doesn't fall within the Council's responsibilities

Manage the Council's money responsibly

The Tory government's austerity policies have resulted in £1m being stripped from the council's Revenue Support Grant which makes up more than 75% of the council's expenditure. Added to this, the Residents Association council has not prioritised services to the most vulnerable in our community.

It is widely recognised that Council tax is a regressive tax and in need of reform by central government. However, this is the system that councils have to operate within therefore a Labour council will seek to set council tax rates as low as possible and prioritise services for the most vulnerable in our community.

A **Labour** council will

- ✓ By carrying out a Zero Based review of both mandatory and discretionary services this will identify savings and inefficiencies to keep council tax rises low.
- ✓ Allowances were never intended to be a "salary", they were to cover out of pocket expenses. Therefore councillors' allowances will be abolished and an expenses only system implemented.
- ✓ Review the Council's reserves and, without affecting the Council's financial stability, make more funds available for key projects.
- ✓ Provide regular information on the Council's revenue and spending on a dedicated section of the website.

Promoted and printed by Epsom & Ewell Labour Party on behalf of all
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