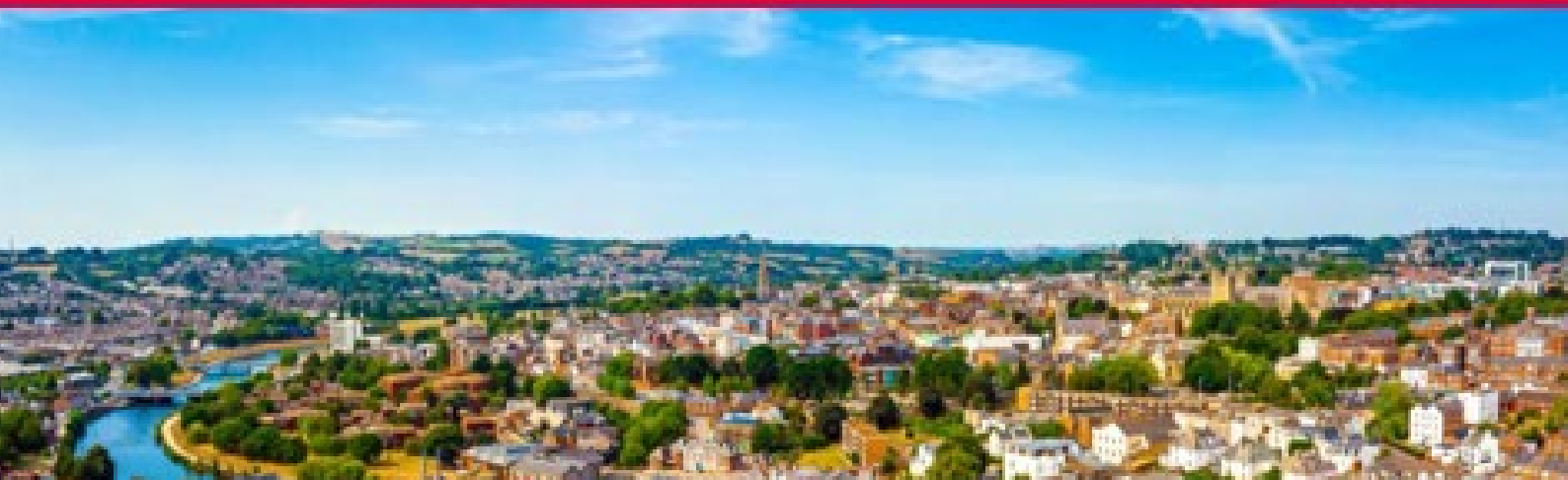




Devon Labour

Manifesto

2025



LABOUR MANIFESTO FOR THE DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION 1 MAY 2025

Devon needs a local Labour voice to work with communities and with the Labour government to improve and enhance our towns, parishes and the city of Exeter.



Working Together for Devon

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Contact Liz Pole
Chair, Labour Devon County Council
Local Government Committee
07485 194 779

Boosting Wealth and Prosperity in Devon

Labour at Devon County Council will work to:

- Support the Devon economy: infrastructure, innovation, skills development, training, the creation of high-value, well-paid jobs, and apprenticeships, to keep talent in Devon.
- Encourage growth through inward investment, and support for business start-ups, social enterprises, small businesses and cooperatives.
- Support initiatives to reduce barriers to accessing employment and training.
- Ensure that public sector procurement opportunities are available to a wider variety of enterprises, including private businesses, cooperatives, social enterprises, and community organisations.
- Introduce an additional test of “social value”, meaning the benefit to the community, in the assessment of procurement contracts and the delivery of services.
- Support the Labour government’s New Deal for Working People, the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document, and other initiatives that improve key worker wages and working conditions, which will increase wealth circulating within the Devon economy.

Protecting Devon for Future Generations

Labour at Devon County Council will work to:

- Set realistic targets with robust measurement, to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, protect wildlife and increase biodiversity.
- Support clean energy generation, and wider use of clean energy in the transportation sector.
- Support the retrofitting of homes, and new building to affordable and sustainable standards such as the manufacture of modular housing components.
- Improve the supply and accessibility of charging points and encourage bike and car rental schemes.
- Consult across local authorities, agencies, and water companies to develop deliverable strategies to reduce flooding, run-off, and peak volumes: including land management, flood defences, and the proper maintenance of gullies and drains.
- Encourage local food production and consumption through marketing strategies, publicity, distribution networks and food waste reduction initiatives: to support our growers and producers; reduce transport miles and waste; and keep our Devon food and farming economy secure.

A Devon That Works for All

Labour at Devon County Council will work to:

- Reform Devon County Council’s failed Children’s Services, listening to the voices of children, young people and families.
- Improve access and support for children and families to Special Educational Needs and Disability and young people’s mental health services, to help them achieve their full potential.
- Prevent profiteering in the children’s services sector and introduce not-for-profit and local-authority maintained options.
- Reduce child poverty by making sure all children who qualify receive free school meals, with automatic enrolment. Support early years provision and the roll-out of free breakfast clubs.
- Progress improved access to integrated medical, palliative and social care, at home or in hospital, for everyone in Devon.
- Make social care more professional and locally available, supporting and introducing a wider variety of provider options including smaller and more cooperative enterprises.
- Make better use of the public health prevention budget to improve physical and mental health.
- Use partnership working to influence the provision of GPs, dentists and pharmacies in the right places.
- Support the work of local community and voluntary agencies, and volunteering initiatives including fair access to funding.
- Recognise the vital work of voluntary groups to the health and wellbeing of communities, the reduction of social isolation, and the prevention of many physical and mental health problems.

Looking After Our Neighbourhoods

Labour at Devon County Council will work to:

- Keep our roadsides, pavements and highways safe and keep our road gullies and drains clear of debris.
- Improve identification and mending of potholes for the safety of all road users, inclusive of cyclists, motorcyclists and mobility scooters, reducing damage to and improving the lifespan of vehicles.
- Introduce and enforce appropriate speeds in our neighbourhoods and improve safety around schools.
- Improve arrangements for council-led consultations and ensure the views of local people are heard and considered.
- Introduce measures to eliminate men’s violence against women and girls through a joint working strategy and measures to empower survivors and prevent further offending.
- Support the introduction of the Government’s Young Futures programme to enable young people to thrive in education, training or employment, and help prevent them being drawn into crime.

Transportation That Unlocks Opportunity

Labour at Devon County Council will work to:

- Seek to use bus powers in new legislation, and work with bus providers and service forums to improve services and standards for travel to take people to where they need to go.
- Work with transport providers to improve integration and communication of timetables; accessibility; station and bus infrastructure; and the provision of cycle racks.
- Champion the development of new railway links.
- Keep under review opportunities for traffic flow enhancements to ease congestion on key routes and in urban areas.
- Develop safe networks and paths, and audit routes for safety and signage improvements, to encourage walking and cycling.