

**Making Worthing  
Fairer and Greener  
Together**



**Worthing Labour  
Manifesto  
2024**

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# A Challenging Year



Two years ago we took over the administration of Worthing Borough Council with a manifesto that promised to make Worthing the greenest, fairest coastal town in the UK. We are proud to now have 24 Labour councillors who are committed to achieving that goal.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to hit our residents and businesses hard, with energy bills and mortgage rates still having a huge impact. Work is ongoing to ensure we are doing all we can to support those in our communities who are struggling with the rocketing costs of living. Warm hubs have again been set up this year across the borough to provide a safe and warm environment to visit when needed.

Councils across the country are also struggling with rising costs, increased demands for housing and continued reduced funding from central government. Higher energy bills and a huge increase in those presenting as homeless are just two of the biggest strains on our Council finances but we are proud to have been able to set a balanced budget this year despite the ever-greater pressures on resources.

Our Labour councillors have been working extremely hard behind the scenes and in the community to find creative ways of providing continued value for money for our residents whilst also being fiscally responsible and planning for the future.

This updated manifesto is a snapshot of what we've achieved over the past year and also the plans we have for the future as we continue to work to make Worthing the greenest, fairest coastal town in the UK.



# The Worthing Labour Group



Helen  
Abrahams  
HEENE



Mike Barrett  
NORTHBROOK



Caroline Baxter  
CENTRAL



Ödül Bozkurt  
CENTRAL



Ibsha Choudhury  
CASTLE



Henna  
Chowdhury  
GAISFORD



Beccy  
Cooper  
MARINE



Sophie Cox  
CASTLE



Rita Garner  
TARRING



Cathy  
Glynn-Davies  
BROADWATER



Dan  
Hermitage  
SELDEN



Margaret  
Howard  
BROADWATER



Richard  
Mulholland  
HEENE



Dale  
Overton  
GAISFORD



Jon Roser  
SELDEN



Hilary Schan  
TARRING



Dawn Smith  
BROADWATER



Emma  
Taylor-Beal  
HEENE



Samuel  
Theodoridi  
CASTLE



John Turley  
GAISFORD



Carl Walker  
SELDEN



Vicki Wells  
MARINE



Andy Wight  
MARINE



Rosey  
Whorlow  
CENTRAL



We will continue to focus on making Worthing a clean, green and fair place to live, work, visit and study. We are adapting the way in which the Council works to respond to the growing climate crisis, embedding this through all areas of Council business.

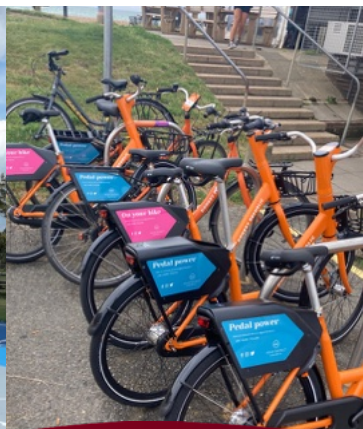
## We have:

-  Launched the community tree sponsorship scheme 'Trees for Streets' with 87 trees already sponsored and planting underway
-  Swapped our planting schemes across the town centre to more sustainable, pollinator-friendly planting to support biodiversity
-  Delivered new, modern and accessible public toilet facilities at the High Street Car Park at the Guildbourne Centre
-  Introduced male sanitary bins to town centre public toilets
-  Successfully applied for two new designated bathing waters at Beach House and Goring Gap
-  Introduced free litter pick lockers at Victoria Park, East Beach and Sea Lane
-  Opened a new children's playground at Palatine Park
-  Progressed work on the new District Heat Network for Worthing with work expected to begin later in 2024
-  Worked with the Planning team to ensure developments are as green and sustainable as possible
-  Planted a community orchard at Shepherds Mead



## We will:

- ✓ Continue to plant more trees across Worthing
- ✓ Update and improve popular play parks including Homefield Park and Waterwise
- ✓ Identify water capture solutions across Worthing to support new trees and planting
- ✓ Prepare to introduce food waste collections
- ✓ Improve street cleansing
- ✓ Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- ✓ Improve air quality awareness
- ✓ Implement a world-first trial of hydrogen fuel at Worthing Crematorium
- ✓ Continue on our mission to be a net zero Council by 2030 and net zero borough by 2045







We will continue to find ways that the Council can listen to residents and ensure the voices of all our communities are heard as we plan for the future.

## We have:

- ✓ Redesigned the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund and distributed £575,000 of developer contributions to 45 community groups across the borough
- ✓ Published a young people's strategy to ensure we are including young people in decision-making going forward
- ✓ Undertaken Big Listen events where we engaged with residents across our town to hear their views and ideas
- ✓ Developed a zero-waste sustainable community food partnership to support our foodbanks, food hubs and community groups
- ✓ Set up and funded a network of warm hubs across the town
- ✓ Brought in funding through the Household Support Fund to support Worthing residents experiencing hardship





## We will:

- ✓ Develop a model of neighbourhood-based decision making so residents can make decisions about the areas in which they live
- ✓ Hold Worthing's first 'Young People's Cabinet' meeting working with local schools and young people
- ✓ Develop a '50 Things to do in Worthing' scheme with communities to develop activities and opportunities for children aged 5-11
- ✓ Launch a second round of Community Infrastructure Levy funding
- ✓ Continue our cost of living action plan
- ✓ Work with our communities and partners to make Worthing a safe place to be as we address the causes of crime in our town





# A Home of Your Own



We believe everyone is entitled to have a place of their own that they can call home. We are continuing to build a fairer housing model that will provide this in a sustainable way, whilst appreciating we need to protect our precious and limited green spaces.

Our strategy continues to be focused on repurposing existing buildings wherever possible, rather than starting from scratch. Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we continue to see, like many places across the UK, increasing demand from those presenting as homeless and we will continue to build a strategy to support this.

## We have:



Secured 11 units of emergency and temporary accommodation in Victoria Road saving £50,000 against using alternative accommodation such as hotels and B&Bs



Also secured five more units in Marine Place, saving £15,000 in temporary accommodation costs in the first year



Organised and run a successful housing conference and launched a local developer forum



Reduced our reliance on expensive and unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation – around £5 million has already been saved from lease agreements and a further £3 million is in the pipeline

# A Home of Your Own



## We will:

- ✓ Continue homelessness prevention wherever we can
- ✓ Work across the Council as part of a structural reorganisation to align the aims and practices of our Housing front door with customer and revenues & benefits services
- ✓ Pursue day centre provision that is fit for purpose and open for use
- ✓ Use the rapid digitalisation programme to improve our processes and the housing services offered
- ✓ Continue to work towards a mixed model of housing at Victoria Road, Skywaves, Marine Place, Shelley Road, Heene Road and 5-7 High Street



# Regeneration of our Town and Seafront



We care about the future of our town and coastline and we are committed to finding new ways to improve our seafront, parks and open spaces. Our key town centre development sites such as Teville Gate, Union Place and Montague Square are crucial to our future regeneration and these are being developed to reflect the creativity and heritage of Worthing while providing much-needed housing and amenities.

Our residents deserve a town to be proud of and we continue to work together with our partners on community safety and wellbeing to make Worthing the greenest, fairest coastal town in the UK.

## We have:

- ✓ Had structural surveys agreed for the Lido as we look to the future of this historic Worthing landmark
- ✓ Agreed a joint venture with Roffey Homes for a new development at Union Place and a planning application has now been approved
- ✓ Identified Ham Road and Tarring Road as the first of our out-of-town parades to receive a makeover, in consultation with local business owners and residents
- ✓ Carried out a review of conservation areas – this has now been expanded to include Steyne Gardens, Marine Gardens and Goring Hall areas
- ✓ Entered into negotiations with Homes England for Teville Gate, an excellent partner who will deliver sustainable homes and green space to that key area
- ✓ Formed a Community Infrastructure Levy Board to ensure we are maximising the benefit of developer contributions to communities across the town

# Regeneration of our Town and Seafront



## We will:

- ✓ Spend £50,000 this year on improvements to the street scene across the town centre and seafront
- ✓ Identify two further shopping parades for regeneration from developer funds
- ✓ See work begin on Montague Place – £2.5 million of developer funding will be spent regenerating this part of the town centre into Montague Gardens, a place for us all to meet and enjoy our town and local businesses
- ✓ Consult with residents about the potential of 20mph across residential streets in Worthing to keep our roads safer
- ✓ Put in over 150 new cycle racks across the town as we look to improve active travel options and use developer funds to run a feasibility study for a new cycle path along George V Avenue to Sea Lane
- ✓ Open up a business support package of grants for Worthing businesses across 2024/25
- ✓ Launch a Worthing app in partnership with the Worthing Business Improvement District
- ✓ See a new beach hut model developed which will allow more people to enjoy these seaside amenities
- ✓ Develop a new 'blueprint for Worthing' – a joint vision and review of the town as a whole to plan for the future of the borough



At a time of increasing financial pressures on local councils, we continue to focus on making responsible financial investments and decisions in order to maximise our resources, whilst enabling and supporting local businesses and communities to grow.

## We have:

- ✓ Held a 'Doughnut Economics' workshop to launch the idea of a new economic model
- ✓ Started a review of our strategic portfolio assets to ensure our buildings and open spaces are being best used and identifying future opportunities
- ✓ Started a 'Rapid Improvement Programme' to improve how our services are run and make savings and efficiencies wherever possible to ensure value for money

## We will:

- ✓ Factor in social value when buying in goods and services as part of our 'community wealth building' approach and support our local businesses wherever possible
- ✓ Progress plans to develop Decoy Farm in east Worthing to provide much-needed new employment space for sustainable businesses
- ✓ Review digital inclusion across Worthing to build on work with West Sussex County Council and ensure no residents are left behind as technologies change
- ✓ Test how 'AI' technology can help us to deliver services more efficiently and ensuring we are able to provide the best and targeted help for those who are most in need



# Worthing – The New Place To Be



Worthing is becoming an exciting town for art, music and culture thanks to the innovative, creative people and groups investing their time and talent in our town. The Worthing Festival held last June was a huge success and we plan to build on this to make the festival even better for 2024.

We are committed, as a Labour council, to provide a place for culture to grow, thrive and be accessible to all, whilst supporting our home-grown talent and independent venues across the town.

## **We have:**


- ✔ Run the Worthing Festival '23 with over 150 live music, arts and heritage events taking place
- ✔ Worked with Worthing Theatres and Museum to publish key performance indicators and support the Trust to achieve its potential
- ✔ Developed a set of culture and leisure principles to form the basis for future plans


## **We will:**

- ✔ Launch an even better Worthing Festival '24 with a wider range of events and further benefits to local businesses
- ✔ Work with organisers to improve the events and market offer across the town
- ✔ Increase engagement and participation in sports in the Worthing borough by working with local clubs and identifying what they need to maximise their potential
- ✔ Provide opportunities for business sponsorship of arts and culture

# Contact Us


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# Vote Labour

## For a Cleaner, Greener, Fairer Worthing

Promoted by John Turley and Phil Dufty on behalf of East Worthing and Shoreham Constituency Labour Party, and Worthing West Constituency Labour Party, all at The Labour Hall, 119 Lyndhurst Rd, Worthing, BN11 2DE.