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# LET'S INVEST IN IPSWICH!

**As we put the worst of Covid behind us, Labour-run Ipswich Borough Council is investing to make improvements right across our town.**

Inside we set out our plans to tackle the issues that matter to all of us in Ipswich.

There are details of large investments to bring new life back to the town centre and to make our fabulous parks even better.

We will let you know what we're doing to tackle the cost-of-living crisis by keeping council tax down

and other ways to save you money.

We're taking action to make our streets safer and to tackle homelessness with measures to cut rough sleeping and by building a record number of new council homes.

We give an update on the progress we're making to tackle the biggest issue facing the planet - climate change.

And we'll let you know what we're doing to spend your money wisely - in sharp contrast to the Conservative Government and County Council!

**Labour's plan  
to drive down  
crime in our  
town... Page 3**



**Tackling the  
Conservative  
cost of living  
crisis... Page 2**



# CONSERVATIVES WASTE CASH AND YOU PAY THE BILL

## ..... WASTED CONSERVATIVE SPENDING .....

UNUSABLE PPE £8.7BN

COVID GRANTS  
TO FRAUDSTERS £4.3BN

LOWESTOFT  
BRIDGE £62M  
OVERSPEND

BORIS'  
GARDEN BRIDGE £53M

CANCELLED  
UPPER ORWELL  
CROSSINGS £8M

ABANDONED  
NORTHERN  
BY-PASS £1M

.....  
TAX UP

CHANGE DUE



**Suffolk Conservatives  
hike YOUR council tax  
bill by £40! SEVEN TIMES  
more than Labour..**

**Council Tax is the Conservatives' favourite tax. They have consistently hiked it further and faster than your Labour-run Ipswich Borough Council. And they are at it again this year.**

Council tax from Ipswich Borough Council will rise by around 11p a week for the average Band B property – less than half the current rate of inflation.

Meanwhile, Suffolk's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner is increasing council tax by **15p a week** and Suffolk County Council are raising council tax by a massive **62p a week**. All adding up to OVER £40 a year.

Over the last few years Suffolk County Council has been adding a stealth tax – the "Adult Social Care precept" – to council tax bills now amounting to an extra £113 a year.

Despite Boris Johnson saying that the National Insurance hike would "sort out social care once and for all", the

precept isn't going to disappear. Instead, Conservative County councillors are going to increase it by another £11 this year – a whopping **9.5% increase**.

To counter the Conservatives' tax hikes in Ipswich, Labour is applying a £10 discount to the bills of over 7,500 lower income households to ensure their bills don't rise this year. The Conservatives voted against it.



## **LABOUR PROTECTS OUR CASH**

Ipswich Labour has a proud record of getting value for money for the taxpayer.

- Our Electric Vehicles aren't just cutting carbon - they are much **cheaper to run** and maintain
- Switching our street lights to LED **saves money** and allows us to keep them on overnight
- We bring in £3m a year from commercial rent - money we use to protect services and keep your **council tax bills down**

## TACKLING THE CONSERVATIVE COST OF LIVING CRISIS

**Food bills are up, fuel bills are up and energy prices are soaring out of control.**

Now Boris Johnson is hiking up National Insurance, whilst forcing households to take out a £200 loan, and has broken his promise to keep the pensions triple lock.

Your Labour-run Ipswich Borough Council is doing all it can to help families keep costs down including:

- Giving 7,500 families a **discount** on their council tax bills, which the Conservatives voted against



- Continuing to keep your brown bins **free of charge**
- Giving **free activities**, including swimming, to young people in the summer holidays
- Investing in insulation and solar panels on council houses to **keep energy bills down**

Conservative councillors in Ipswich have opposed most of these measures to help Ipswich households cope with rising prices. The cost of living crisis in Ipswich would be even worse under their watch.

The Conservatives have caused the cost of living crisis. Only Labour can be trusted to tackle it.



# WE'RE INVESTING IN IPSWICH



Labour is committed to seeing our town centre thrive.

Covid and modern shopping habits have made life hard for shops and businesses lately but **Labour are investing** to breathe life back into our town centre. We have:



- Bought the empty Burton and Dorothy Perkins unit and secured Deichman as a new tenant
- Refurbished the Old Post Office with The Botanist restaurant opening soon
- Provided funding to bring St Matthew's Baths back into use as a music venue
- Agreed a plan to bring St Stephen's Church back into use as a music and community venue
- Won £4.3m Heritage Lottery funding for the biggest investment in Ipswich Museum in its 140-year history



We are also **improving our town centre** with £25m of funding we secured from the Government's Town Fund, including:

- An £8m fund to bring empty buildings back into use
- Improving public spaces, including Arras Square
- Planting more trees and plants
- Installing more public information and public trails

There's no magic bullet to improve Britain's High Streets but **Labour's sound investments** will breathe new life into Ipswich town centre.



## LABOUR'S PLAN FOR SAFER STREETS

**Conservative cuts to the number of police on our streets have led to people feeling unsafe and concerned about coming into our town centre. Drug dealing is rife.**

To make matters worse, the Conservative County Council have **turned off** our streetlights at night.

Labour has a plan to tackle rising crime in our town.

Your Labour-run Ipswich Borough Council are investing in CCTV in Ipswich with mobile cameras that can be deployed in crime hotspots in our town.

We are also keeping Borough Council owned streetlights on overnight and investing

£20,000 in a plan to improve the safety of women at night after the Conservative Government refused to fund it.

But it is not enough. We're calling on:

- Suffolk's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner to commit to a permanent and visible police presence in Ipswich. We particularly want to see police patrols in the town centre.
- Conservative-run Suffolk County Council to leave all streetlights in Ipswich on overnight.

Our top priority is keeping people safe.

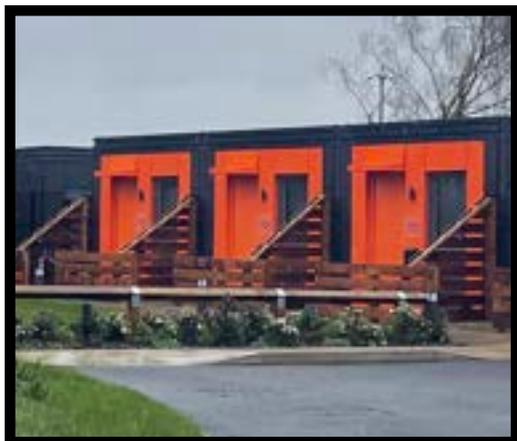
**Sign our petition if you agree!**



**SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE!**



# Labour's investment to help the homeless



Investment from Labour in support for the homeless has seen rough sleeping in Ipswich plummet.

In 2021, your Labour-led Borough Council installed eight new "micro-homes" (above), for people who have been sleeping rough as a first step to finding and keeping a permanent home.

The Council has also rented the former Queens Head pub to a charity as a permanent base for the Winter Night Shelter.

Under Labour, **hundreds of council homes** have been built for the first time in a generation. The past two years have seen the first net increase in council houses since the 1980s.

Hundreds of homes have already been delivered on developments such as the Old Took's Bakery site (below). A further 300 new homes are currently in the pipeline at Bibb Way, Ravenswood, Hawke Road and Fore Hamlet.

All our new-build council houses are well insulated with solar panels where possible and are reserved for people with a connection to Ipswich.

Local Conservative councillors have opposed nearly all our measures to reduce homelessness. If they were running the Council rough sleeping would surely soar again in our town.



# ZERO CARBON BY 2030

We've cut greenhouse gases by 66% since 2007. Here's what Labour are doing to reach net zero...



Starting a new recycling service for coffee pods.



Only buying zero-carbon electricity and green gas.



Replacing the Council's vehicle fleet with electric vehicles.



Replacing all Borough Council streetlights with LED.



Solar panels on council homes, sports centres and sheltered housing.



Installing new eco toilets in our parks.

# PARK LIFE!



**We're proud of our parks and we love that more people than ever are enjoying them. So, we're investing in them to make them even better.**

We're providing new boardwalks, benches, and noticeboards, as well as replacing worn-out toilets with new eco toilets.

And we want to go even further. Since lockdown, we have **invested in new play areas** in Christchurch Park, Dumbarton Road, and Alexandra Park.



Now, Labour-run Ipswich Borough Council is going to embark on a **£3.5million investment** to improve play areas across the town over the next five years - starting with major improvements to Hawke Road, Castle Hill Rec, Holywells Park, Fen Bight Circle, Gippeswyk Park and Alderman Road Rec.

We have also set aside £1.5m to back a major Heritage Lottery Fund application for Chantry Park.

Our parks are going from strength to strength with Labour!