

BEXLEY LABOUR

TIME FOR CHANGE

Bexley Labour 2022

**Security, prosperity and respect:
The New Bexley our borough deserves**

 **Labour**

An opportunity for change

Elections offer choice, and on Thursday 5th May 2022, Bexley residents have an opportunity to change the direction of our borough for a better future with investment and to stop the cuts and decay of our public services.

This year's election is the opportunity to look to the future and build genuinely affordable housing and council housing for the first time in a generation, so families can afford to live in Bexley and invest in a better future with new ideas, not out of date and tired policies that have not worked for years and cannot work in the future.

Bexley Labour has a plan to deal with the real challenges our borough faces.

Our priority is to use the council's powers and resources to address the housing crisis; protect parks and open spaces, support the police and be tough on crime, safeguard education, children and young people, promote road safety, keep the borough tidy all year round and treat older citizens with dignity and respect.

The Conservatives refuse to accept they have created a housing crisis in Bexley, yet people are denied a foot on the ladder and, grown up children are forced to stay at home long after they hoped to fly the nest.

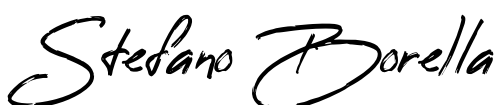
Bexley Conservatives have allowed hundreds of properties to be built without a single affordable home provided. Thousands of homes built but none genuinely affordable to hard working local families they have allowed social rented housing to be demolished with next to nothing being built in its place. A new Labour council will address the borough's housing crisis and ensure residents housed by Bexley are given decent homes to live in.

We have long been proud of living in a green and clean borough, but after years of Conservative council cuts to grass cutting, waste collections, street cleansing, road safety, school crossing patrols and road maintenance, this is turning to shame for many residents as they are fed up with 'pay more, get less' yearly council tax rises and cuts to council services.

A new Labour council will budget consistently and maintain highways and pavements year in and year out. We will keep the borough clean and tidy all the year round, not just at election time.

Thursday 5th May is an opportunity to build a better Bexley that is fairer - one that works and will continue to work for all residents.

A new Labour council for the New Bexley our borough deserves.



Leader of the Labour Group of Bexley Councillors

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**A BRIGHTER
FUTURE**

A brighter future

Education

Every child deserves the opportunity to make the best start in life. Unfortunately, the impact of Covid has hit young people hard, particularly in not being able to attend school and receive the education they deserve.

A Labour council will:

- lobby government for more money for education in response to the woefully inadequate amount that has been allocated so far, to enable our children to catch up on what education they have missed out on during the Covid pandemic and give them the very best start in life.

The challenges parents with children with disabilities face when applying for Education, Health and Care Plans in Bexley is not acceptable.

A Labour council will:

- make improvements around the processing of Educational Health Plans a priority.
- work with parents of disabled children to ensure they get the resources they are entitled to which will help their children reach their full potential.

Parents expect the local authority to intervene when schools underperform.

A Labour council will:

- lobby the government to allow councils to make more interventions to avoid the situation that occurred at Bexleyheath Secondary School where it took the academy chain, far too long to make the necessary changes to bring about much needed improvements.

Since the start of Conservative led austerity in 2010 education funding has been cut.

A Labour council will:

- lobby the government for more money for education in Bexley to ensure our schools are better resourced and enable us to attract the very best teachers – our children deserve the best.
- overall, the educational attainment of our young people in Bexley is 'average' and has been so for several years. This is not good enough and we want better outcomes for our young people to enable them to access the job opportunities that the London's economy offers.

A Labour council will:

- work to ensure that attainment and results are improved for children across the borough and ensure that progress is made with those schools performing below average expectations in both the primary and secondary sectors.

Climate Change

The council is one of a handful across London that has refused to declare a climate emergency.

A Labour council will:

- pledge to make the London Borough of Bexley carbon neutral by 2030 and publish an annual report outlining the progress on sustainability and carbon neutral targets.
- work with businesses, and all groups across Bexley to identify commitments to support this strategy through the establishment of a Climate Action Working Group.
- explore opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, and work to ensure that wherever possible any future investments are assessed against these principles.
- ensure that sustainability is central to our procurement strategy.
- work to reduce the use of single-use plastics across all council buildings.
- incentivise carbon neutral development and microgeneration and renewable energy schemes.
- ensure a named a Cabinet Member is accountable for all issues relating to Climate Change and that all council policy documents will address the effect of climate change against the 2030 target of net Zero Carbon.
- review School Safety Initiatives to improve road safety around the borough's schools including an investigation of 20 mph zones where appropriate and measures to increase walking and cycling.
- introduce car clubs to reduce car usage by offering an alternative to private car ownership.
- review the electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in place across the borough and devise a programme to increase their availability.



Attracting investment and regeneration

Much of our borough has seen change in recent years from the new housing development in Thamesmead and Abbey Wood, to high streets such as Sidcup. Making our town centres, high streets and community hubs attractive encourages people to shop locally and can be a massive boost to our local economy.

A Labour council will:

- work to drive inward investment towards our borough and maximise the opportunity to regenerate neglected parts of our town centres and high streets.

Recovering from the pandemic, supporting our local economy and vulnerable people

Government cuts and the pandemic have seen the number of vulnerable people in our borough rise, with higher numbers relying on Universal Credit and food banks.

A Labour council will:

- work with food banks, debt and benefits advice services, housing associations and others to deliver a debt and benefits advice service, ensuring that vulnerable residents receive the advice and support they need.
- review how the council uses bailiff orders and consider if they should be banned for cases involving vulnerable residents.

Getting our local economy back on its feet

The pandemic has put pressure on our local shops, high streets, and town centres, and all businesses across our borough. It is vital that we support business through these tough times.

A Labour council will:

- develop a new Bexley Business Network, allowing local businesses to share information, best practice and to network. We will invest in our high streets and town centres to encourage people to shop locally and we will support our borough's Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and the hospitality industry to become more resilient, win new contracts and employ more staff.

Skills

The way we work is changing and has been accelerated by the impact of the pandemic. Many people in our borough fear being left behind, as the economy and the nature of work changes.

A Labour council will:

- develop and implement a renewed focus on skills, to ensure that local residents have the opportunity to change or further their careers across a whole range of industries, from technology to construction, hospitality to the care sector.
- work with local businesses, stakeholders and developers to offer more apprenticeship.



**INVEST IN
PEOPLE**

Invest in people

Children Services

One of the council's most important roles is to ensure our children get the best start in life, and help those children who need extra support and intervention via children services.

Professionals agree that the 'early years' are the most important during a child's lifetime. Over the last 12 years Conservative austerity has seen Bexley take out hundreds of thousands of pounds from these very vital services.

- a Labour council will seek additional funding from the government to reinvest in early years prevention to ensure that our children get the very best start in life.
- a Labour council will seek additional funding from the government to reopen full service children's centres around the borough, reversing Conservative cuts that have decimated support for families.
- foster carers play a vital role in looking after our most vulnerable children who often come into the care of the council during a crisis.
- ensure that pay and support is at a level to enable us to attract the very best foster carers in Bexley and reduce the need for costly agency staff.
- exempt foster carers who live in the borough from paying council tax.

We value our social workers who work in children services and would do all that we can to maintain a stable team which is in the best interests of the children we look after.

- constantly monitor social workers' caseloads to ensure that they are not put under unbearable pressure and create a supportive environment to give them the very best chance to achieve good outcomes for our children.

There is a housing crisis in Bexley and we need to ensure that our care leavers are being offered appropriate accommodation to allow them to thrive as adults.

- carry out an audit of the accommodation our care leavers under the age of 25 are living in to make sure it is appropriate and work with our housing associations and private providers to put right any issues found.

We recognise that looking after a disabled child can often be very challenging for families, particularly during Covid.

- work with the voluntary sector and families to ensure that there is adequate weekend and holiday services, respite support and support within the home for children with disabilities.

SEND – supporting our vulnerable young people

A Labour council will:

- campaign for changes to government funding for the High Needs Block.
- work towards a fairer fund distribution to schools with higher numbers of children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)/EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) needs.
- resource the EHCP team to ensure timely decisions and assessments.
- work with schools to ensure they can offer support to pupils with SEND in mainstream education where possible.
- work towards a joined-up approach for all services to help support families of children with SEND.
- review SEN transport to ensure safeguarding, quality and confidence of parents and guardians in the service.

Support our Older and Disabled Residents

Caring for our older, disabled, and vulnerable residents is one of the most important jobs we can all do. In retirement our older people contribute a huge amount to the life of the borough and are often at the heart of our communities, creating and sustaining many of our community organisations. However, when our older residents require our support for various health conditions, Conservative austerity has affected the very services they rely upon. Families who are caring for adult children with disabilities have to battle to ensure that adequate service levels are maintained. Bexley's carers have been on the front line during the Covid pandemic looking after the elderly and our most vulnerable residents.

A Labour council will ensure:

- To lobby that the government gives our share of the national insurance increase to fund the Ethical care Charter.
- our older residents get excellent care.
- the recruitment and retention of a stable workforce through more sustainable pay (at least the London Living Wage), conditions and training levels.
- a career progression for those staff who want to progress.

A Labour council will:

- Support and value Bexley's 20,000 family carers who are looking after loved ones by. Offering them appropriate respite care at an affordable price - they need a break and it's cost effective to give them one.
- work with the Alzheimer's Society to become a dementia friendly borough.

Our older residents contribute a huge amount to the voluntary sector and make a positive difference to community groups across the borough.

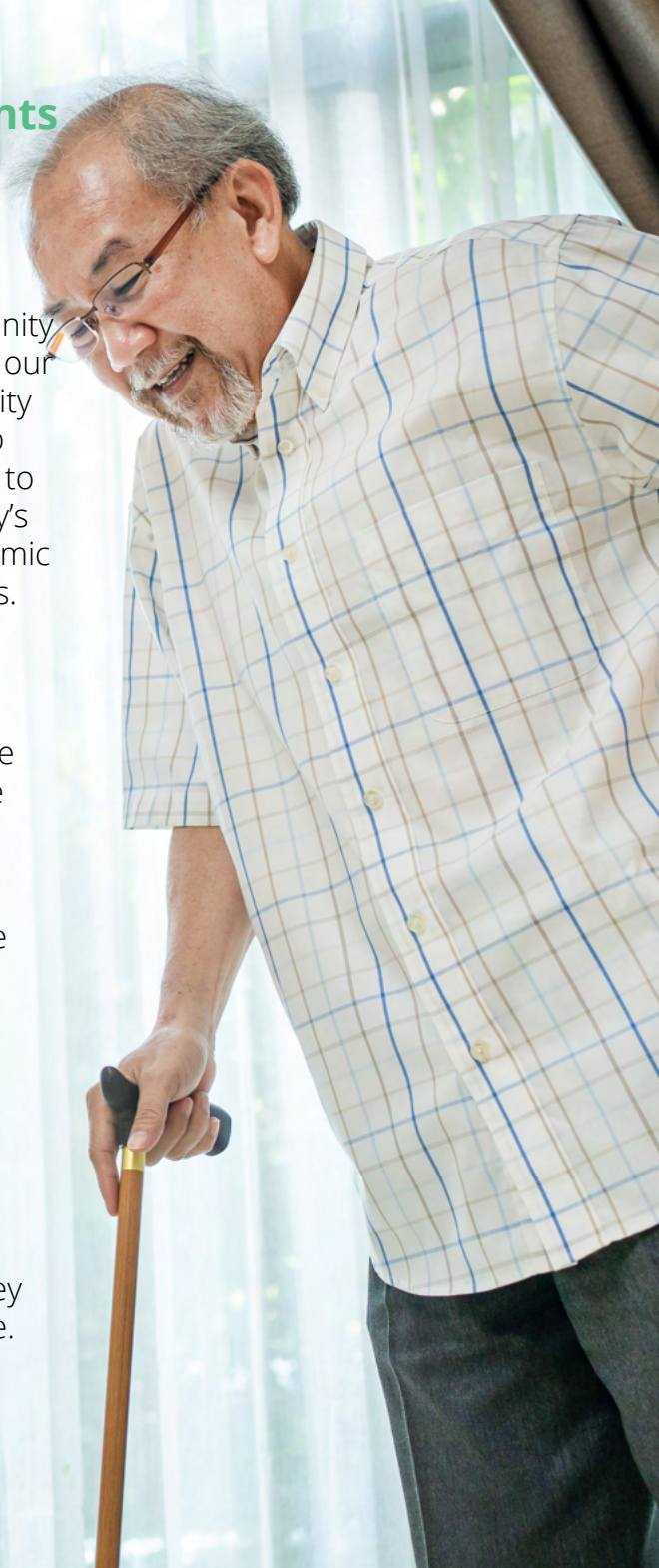
A Labour council will:

- hold 'ageing well events' to ensure that all of our elderly residents are aware of volunteering opportunities, leisure activities and services which will improve their quality of life.

- provide attractive housing opportunities for our older residents that benefit them and our younger residents.

A Labour council will:

- work with our housing partners and the private sector to develop new housing schemes for older people who wish to downsize, freeing up houses for our younger residents.





Promote equality for all

Bexley has a diverse community, and it is important that our borough is welcoming to all our residents. We must celebrate that diversity and ensure it is reflected in all our cultural events and activities. All Labour councillors will sign up to all adopted pledges and abide by them.

A Labour council will:

- ensure that our council reflects our community at all levels.
- ensure that the council actively recognises and promotes the benefits cultural diversity bring our borough throughout the year and at key dates such as Black History Month, LGBT History Month and International Women's Day.
- ensure that support is given to cultural groups and work with them to promote cultural opportunities.

- adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' working definition of Islamophobia.

Ensure that the borough's diversity and groups representing all parts of the borough are reflected in our events and cultural activities.

A Labour council will:

- conduct a review of users of council services by protected characteristic.
- include an E.I.A (Equalities Impact Assessment) on every council decision to help identify the impact of changes in service provision to our different communities.
- maintain the council's commitment to the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of antisemitism.

HOUSING AND REGENERATION

Housing and regeneration

The housing crisis in Bexley is one which affects us all. The current Conservative council have no answers and no plan to deal with the housing crisis.

A Labour council will:

- develop a new housing strategy, which understands the challenges our borough faces and provides a solutions through building more genuinely affordable homes, getting tough on rogue landlords, and improving housing standards across the borough.

Council housing

Bexley currently has no council housing stock. The borough has missed out on crucial funding opportunities to develop new housing while neighbouring boroughs like Labour-run Greenwich deliver award-winning council homes.

A Labour council will:

- deliver the first new council housing in Bexley for a generation, working with the Mayor of London to develop new housing schemes making rent and home ownership more affordable for everyone.
- work with housing associations to ensure that any estate regeneration supports those living there already and ensure that we maintain nomination rights on properties.

Lack of affordable homes to rent

Bexley has many families in temporary accommodation, placed in insecure private accommodation out of the borough, away from their support networks. The recent “single offer” policy has forced desperate families to accept homes that far from meet their needs, are often in a poor state of repair and leave residents scared to raise maintenance issues with their landlord for fear of eviction.

A Labour council will:

- review the single offer policy and allow residents time to consider offers of housing.
- work to ensure temporary accommodation is within the borough.
- ensure that all offers are truly “suitable” with well-maintained properties that meet all the needs of the tenant.
- work to stop the use of single room hostel accommodation for families.
- seek to set up a housing revenue account to build council housing for the first time in a generation.
- ensure that Bexley Co the council owned company responsible for house building provide a minimum of 50% genuinely affordable homes.



Decent homes for Bexley

Many rented homes in the borough have damp and are poorly maintained, both in the private and social sectors. Many residents do not feel they have a voice and suffer with health and safety issues, including particularly repository issues. Many residents are scared to raise maintenance issues for fear of eviction and so move house more often leading to disconnected communities and untidy neighbourhoods as properties sit empty.

A Labour council will:

- introduce a private renters' charter to protect renters in Bexley by ensuring they are fully informed of their legal rights.
- strengthen the Rent it Right scheme to take stronger enforcement against rogue landlords to protect tenants.
- expand the selective licensing scheme across the whole borough.
- introduce a scheme to reuse furniture from voided properties and reduce fly tipping.



Rough sleepers and hidden homelessness

The number of rough sleepers and those “sofa surfing” or living in their cars is increasing. Not having a home has a profound effect on physical and mental health, sometimes preventing working or education. Rough sleepers in our borough depend upon charities, food banks, night shelters and faith groups.

A Labour council will:

- work with charities and organisations on initiatives to help rough sleepers.
- work to provide accommodation for single homeless people.
- ensure estate regeneration keeps housing for single people.

Lack of affordable homes to buy

High house prices mean that Bexley families and young people looking to buy a home may be subject to overcrowding or seek cheaper housing outside the borough. This breaks up families and places additional pressures on social care as they may be far from their ageing parents.

A Labour council will:

- ensure that Bexley Co properties are affordable and prioritise Bexley residents.
- work with other developers to ensure homes are affordable based on the local economy rather than the market rate.
- challenge developers to maximise developer S106 and CIL contributions to reinvest in our borough.
- be transparent about the investment of developer S106 and CIL contributions in our Borough.

Planning and development

A key driver in delivering our housing strategy will be ensuring that the planning process works effectively. Too many large applications are approved without affordable homes, while developers make huge profits at the expense of local people.

A Labour council will:

- strengthen planning policies to address the housing crisis, ensuring a tougher approach is taken on viability assessments to deliver higher proportions of genuinely affordable homes and to ensure developers no longer fail to offer what is needed.

Leaseholders carrying the cost of poor-quality building

Many leaseholders are stuck in the trap of paying for poor build quality from developers who are out to make quick profits. The safety issues raised by the Grenfell tragedy have put the financial burden on leaseholders to ensure their homes are safe and many are unable to sell without the necessary certification.

A Labour council will:

- work with leaseholders to get advice on their legal rights.
- strengthen building control.
- tackle build quality through the application process.



**A BETTER
BEXLEY**

A Better Bexley

A healthy borough

Bexley residents' have one of the lowest number of 'general practitioners' (GPs) to each patient in London. Many must travel far to use medical facilities and there is a difficulty getting appointments. New housing developments place pressure on existing medical services in the area.

A Labour council will:

- be a champion for our NHS, provided to all, free at the point of use from the cradle to the grave.
- continue to oppose privatisation of our NHS services and oppose any further rationing and the creation of a US style health system.
- work with the NHS and partners to improve GP provision in our borough.
- work to increase 'health interventions' after social prescribing ensuring that doctor appointments can be used for clinical matters and not administration.
- ensure new housing developments include health amenities.
- work to understand the impact that a lack of suitable housing has on mental and physical health of our residents.
- identify the wider impact of council services on the mental health of our borough such as housing, education, waste and street cleansing, the voluntary sector and perception of public safety.
- develop a post covid mental health programme to identify mental health issues across the borough.
- work with mental health organisations to identify gaps in service provision, to ensure services meet the needs of all our community.
- ensure that services are available to respond when our residents need them, especially at a time of crisis.

A safe and secure borough

Bexley is seen as a safe borough, but residents are seeing the impact of continued government cuts to our police force, and we are experiencing an increase in violence against the person offences. People are concerned that the police are not visible in their communities and there is a disconnect between the police and the public.

A Labour council will:

- work with the Mayor of London to minimise the impact of cuts to our local police services.
- work with the police to ensure that Dedicated Ward Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams are based in the communities they serve.
- support the call for increased police resources to enable a tough approach to anti-social behaviour.
- promote a stronger relationship between the police and our communities.
- use the borough's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to combat crime effectively.

With the increase of violence against the person, violence against women and girls is one of increasing concern.

A Labour council will:

- provide safer streets, design, and maintain our public spaces to make them safer for women.
- support the Women's Night Safety Charter and encourage reporting by victims and bystanders through campaigns.
- work with the police and our community to make Bexley a safe place for all.

Domestic Violence

While Bexley has lower than the average reported incidents of Domestic Violence, the devastating and long-term effect on families, adults and children means it must continue to be a priority.

A Labour council will:

- prioritise approaches to tackling domestic abuse in all its forms.
- ensure that services are funded and accessible for all our community.



Tackling knife and drug related crime

While Bexley has low levels of knife and drug related crime compared to other London boroughs, we have seen increases in these areas due to cuts to police funding but also in the lack of youth activities and funding for schools.

A Labour council will:

- work with the Bexley Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) to tackle violent crime in our borough.
- work with schools on exclusion policies and knife possession.
- fund youth services and volunteer programmes working to reduce gangs in our borough.

Voluntary Sector

We recognise the role of the voluntary sector in enriching our community. The pandemic shows how the voluntary sector can increase our social wealth, providing services not covered by paid work and filling a need especially during a crisis.

A Labour council will:

- introduce a voluntary sector strategy.
- ensure voluntary groups receive adequate funding for the service.
- Ensure funding is agreed over longer periods to enable organisations to make longer term plans.
- Ensure that voluntary work is not used as an exploitative alternative to paid work.

Waste and recycling collections

A new contract was awarded to Countrystyle in October 2021. Local trade unions and front line workers agreed new pay structures and terms under the new contract. Residents have expressed criticism of the standards of service under the previous SERCO contract. We will continue to push for effective monitoring of the new contract.

We will continue to review options including setting up a trading company to deliver the service or bringing the service back in house.

Fly tipping continues to blight our communities and neighbourhoods and is not being helped by actions to restrict the use of and increase income at our two refuse/recycling centres and the pressures on staff responsible for enforcement.




A Labour council will:

- investigate the potential of establishing local trade unions and front line workers to make better commercial use of our waste depots, collect bulky items from residents that will help fight fly-tipping and explore bringing waste collection back into council control so that it is managed in a way that works for residents, not shareholders.
- ensure stronger enforcement of contracts to ensure operators carry out waste collection in a tidy fashion.
- increase capital investment of fox-resistant food bins and a borough-wide campaign to encourage food recycling.
- lobby the government that the council does not suffer financial losses as a result of proposed changes to garden waste collections.
- focus on improving street cleaning, including residential areas, not just town centres.
- invest in enforcement teams to reduce the long-term costs of removing fly-tipping by practising zero-tolerance on fly-tipping and those who litter with the support of new investment in CCTV and by bringing prosecutions against those who spoil our borough. This will include measures to act against those who fly tip or dump rubbish at mini recycling centres, in council car parks and other persistent fly-tipping areas.
- investigate the introduction of 'Smart' litter bins so that the council is aware when bins are full and require collection.
- carry out a review of the policies in place at the two refuse/recycling centres to ensure recycling can be maximised and that policies support the council's efforts to reduce fly-tipping.

Parking/Highways/Transport

There remains a significant shortfall in parking enforcement revenue following Covid. The main pressure is that the commuter parking market has not returned to anywhere near pre-Covid levels despite 30% increases. There remains concern about the sustainability of our town centres if this trend continues.

A Labour council will:

- review our parking charges and policies to ensure they achieve the balance between protecting residential parking and supporting our town centres.
 - review our footway and carriageway funding to ensure sufficient investment is being made to maintain our network.
 - work to identify funding streams to move the funding of school crossing patrols back into the council's revenue budget to ensure vacant school crossing patrols are filled.
 - review the School Safety Initiatives consultation held in 2019 and 2020 to improve road safety around the borough's schools including the investigation of 20mph zones where appropriate and measures to increase walking and cycling.
 - review the current programme of works relating to drainage and adjust funding to maximise the number of schemes that can be implemented.
 - lobby for the maximum amount of TfL and government funding to assist in the reduction of road casualties and fatalities and to increase the number of residents walking and cycling in the borough.
 - lobby Network Rail to ensure outstanding works on bridges within their ownership are carried out.
 - introduce car clubs, including through the planning process, to reduce car usage by offering alternatives to private car ownership.
- 
- review the EV charging stations in place across the borough and devise a programme to increase their availability.
 - promote public transport infrastructure in Bexley including closing the deal to bring the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Belvedere.
 - pressure the government and work with the Mayor of London to deliver Crossrail to Ebbsfleet.
 - develop 'segregated transport links' to improve transport connectivity in the borough and integrate them with rapid transits links in neighbouring boroughs.
 - work with Transport for London (TfL) to develop a longer-term strategy to extend the London Overground into the borough from Barking Riverside and through linkages to existing routes in south London.
 - lobby the Government, to bring national rail routes operating in the borough into the Transport for London (TfL) family, to ensure metro services all week round and to bring about improved levels of staffing on transport services and fully accessible train stations.
 - lobby the Mayor of London to develop new river crossings integrated with options to extend public transport at the same time.
 - review areas of the borough that have high levels of air pollution and develop an action plan to identify measures to reduce it.



Parks and Open Spaces

All Park and open spaces cleansing/ bin emptying schedules have returned to pre-Covid schedules.

A Labour council will:

- carry out a review of all the facilities on offer in all the boroughs parks and playgrounds including the availability of bins (including 'Smart' bins), toilets and catering facilities to encourage increased usage of our parks and open spaces.
- develop a programme to introduce more play equipment that can be used by children with disabilities across the borough and to produce a key of these facilities to help parents to identify the facilities on offer for their children.
- ensure Barnehurst Golf Course is a success with the new operator, for the benefit of borough's resident.

maintenance

Grass cutting schedules are now at 10 cuts per year operated by Tivoli pre-2016 these were at 12 cuts per year and last year they only achieved 8 cuts per year.

A Labour council will:

- review the current arrangements to maximise the number of grass cuts each year and ensure the promised number of grass cuts take place.

Grass cutting and Grounds





Libraries

The 2021 library strategy cut opening times at each of the six council libraries, self-service opening on a Saturday, the loss of Sunday opening at Central Library and further grant cuts to the six community libraries with equivalent of twenty-eight full-time members of staff redundancies in order to deliver cuts of £570,000.

A Labour council will:

- carry out a review of the implementation of the 2021 library strategy and its impact on library usage.
- develop further provision offered from council libraries to increase use.
- review the future capital investment which the borough's libraries need.
- investigate ways to provide a new Central Library, either on the current site or elsewhere, in Bexleyheath to allow redevelopment of the current Central Library site.
- monitor the accessibility of council services of people using libraries.

Leisure centres

Leisure centres are recovering and the level of financial support required is reducing significantly.

A Labour council will:

- carry out a review of the offer available at our leisure centres to understand where it may be expanded and keep long-term sporting facilities across the three sites.

Social infrastructure and sustainable communities

Too much development in our borough takes place without regard for the vital social infrastructure needed alongside new housing such as schools, dentists or nurseries.

A Labour council will:

- develop a Social Infrastructure Strategy to supplement our Local Plan to ensure that sustainable communities are at the heart of any development.

IMPROVING OUR COUNCIL

Improving our council

Council finances

Local government finance is in a precarious position following years of Conservative cuts coupled with rising demand for services. The Conservative council also put further pressure on local families by raising council tax every year.

A Labour council will:

- keep council tax low unless it would compromise the services we rely on.

Bringing services back in house - a strategic approach to procurement

Bexley's Conservative Council outsourced almost all of its services in recent decades from grass cutting to bin collections, from home care to leisure services. In handing over control of the services we all rely on they have compromised the quality of those services, while private companies make huge profits at the expense of local residents.

A Labour council will:

- develop a responsible and strategic procurement policy, and where appropriate and where delivering value we would seek to return services to the council's control.

Contact your council and customer service

Residents across the borough are growing frustrated by the inability to reach the council about services they pay for. Whether it is a missed bin, checking details of library opening hours, or to complain about a planning application, residents should be able to reach the council and receive information and support by telephone, by email or from the council's website.

A Labour council will:

- review how residents contact the council to ensure they receive the best possible service.

Staff morale

Staff morale at Bexley Council is at an all-time low following years of staffing and service cuts. Our staff are the lifeblood of our council, developing the services we all rely on. Yet staff terms and conditions remain under threat from the Conservative council.

A Labour council will:

- ensure that our staff are treated fairly, recognising their commitment to their jobs and ensuring that Bexley council is an attractive place to work.
- work to become an accredited Living Wage employer, including any contracted services, and ensure that action is taken to address the gender pay gap and to ensure that our workforce is diverse and represents our borough, particularly at senior levels.

Democracy and decision making

Bexley's democratic structures do not allow for proper engagement from residents or scrutiny from opposition councillors. The council should always be in a position to defend and debate the decisions it takes.

A Labour council will:

- undertake a Democracy Review, to ensure that our community and elected representatives have a proper say in decision-making. The Review will ensure that decisions can effectively be 'called-in', a mechanism made possible in other councils to allow for decisions to be debated and discussed further.



BEXLEY LABOUR

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