

# OUR 100 PLEDGES FOR A PLYMOUTH TO BE PROUD OF

## FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY

- 1 We will strongly fight attempts to cut Devonport-based amphibious ships and cut Plymouth-based Royal Marines. We will also support the campaign for the new Royal Navy frigates to be based in Devonport.
- 2 We will support Plymouth's entrepreneurs and small businesses by creating more small business and business start-up spaces. We will build more factories and invest in better quality office space in the city and encourage private investors to do the same. To boost manufacturing, we will also sign up to support the GMB's Making It campaign.
- 3 We will continue to demand the highest standards of digital connectivity to give Plymouth's data and digital-dependent businesses the tools they need to compete in today's world. The council's own business parks should lead by example.
- 4 Working alongside local residents and businesses we will launch a plan for the revival of district shopping centres to help reopen empty shops. Our initial focus will be on Mutley Plain, Marlborough Street in Devonport and Ernesettle shops.
- 5 We will continue to invest in science and innovation by supporting the growth of the Plymouth Science Park - the largest in southern England.
- 6 We will review the City Council's procurement procedures to make sure the City Council buys as much as it can locally. We will ensure that all suppliers to the City Council work to the highest standards of ethical behaviour and quality. We will continue to take action to make sure every pound we spend brings the maximum benefit to Plymouth.
- 7 We set up Building Plymouth to encourage jobs in the construction industry. We will continue to support its work and will be encouraging opportunities for older workers, whether they are looking for a change of job or are out of work. We will sign up to Unite the Union's Construction Charter.
- 8 To support Plymouth's ever-growing tourism industry and to capitalise on the legacy of Mayflower 2020, we will attract more high-quality hotels to open in the city.
- 9 Many local businesses work hard for the good of Plymouth, going the extra mile to help meet the city's needs and working for inclusive growth. We will explore ways in which we can help businesses and social enterprises that go further than a standard corporate social responsibility programme to grow.
- 10 We believe there is scope to increase the number of businesses owned by the people that employ them. As we've shown with community energy, people should be able to come together to use their buying power to improve the quality of the goods and services they receive. We will map the current work of co-operatives and mutuals within the city and set out an action plan to double the size of this sector by 2025.
- 11 Not enough work has been done on the economic impact of Brexit – both positive and negative – on the City Council and Plymouth in general. We will make sure that research is undertaken and is made available to the public.

## FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

- 12 We will deliver the Forder Valley Link Road, which will ease congestion on the Tavistock Road, and tackle congestion on the Woolwell roundabout and at Charles Cross. Where we can, we will use more night-time working to speed up the roadworks. When planning major roadworks, we will consult with motoring and cycling organisations.
- 13 We will reactivate residents parking schemes that are backed by local people to help tackle Plymouth's parking problems and we will create 1,000 new car parking spaces across the city.
- 14 Working with Network Rail, Plymouth University, Great Western Railway and Government partners, we will support the development of the new gateway project at Plymouth Train Station. This will include plans for a grand new entrance overlooking the city, a new car park and more spaces for business and retail.
- 15 Electric cars are increasingly popular. We will install more electric car charging points in Plymouth, including in residential areas.
- 16 We will appoint a new Cycling Champion, so that the views of cyclists can be heard, and more people encouraged to cycle across the city.
- 17 We will accelerate a programme of pavement repair and tackle the worst potholes across the city.
- 18 Blocked drains are causing issues right across the city. We will prioritise the unblocking of gullies and drains to tackle flooding.
- 19 We will start a programme to improve access for people in wheelchairs by providing more dropped kerbs and make it easier to get around.
- 20 We will continue to lead the campaign for a faster, more frequent, more reliable and comfortable rail service. We will continue to campaign for rail journey times to London to be cut to 2 hours 15 minutes by encouraging Government to invest in our trainline.
- 21 We have safeguarded the airport land in the local plan and we make a clear and unequivocal statement that we will continue to fight any attempts by developers to build on the runway.
- 22 We will back the campaign for upgrades to the A38 within Plymouth and support the long-term aspiration for the M5 to be extended to Plymouth. As part of this, we want to see improved noise reduction measures adopted where the A38 Parkway is close to residential areas.
- 23 We know there are complaints from bus passengers about the real time information system at bus stops. We will review this system when we take office, and ensure it is fit for purpose and gives passengers the information they require.
- 24 We will continue to roll out 20mph zones around our local schools and residential areas to keep pedestrians safe.

## FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

- 25 We will continue to encourage more truly affordable homes to be built, for local people to buy or rent. We have previously delivered almost 1,000 new homes a year, and we will do so again.
- 26 The housing wait list in Plymouth is too long. The waiting list to go on the waiting list is now 1,200 people strong. We will tackle this administrative backlog. We will set up a working arrangement with housing associations to deliver much more housing for affordable social rent.

- 27 For older people we will support the building of new bungalows and extra care facilities.
- 28 We will encourage more people to consider self-build and custom-build housing as a means of owning their own home.
- 29 We pioneered veterans' (ex-service men and women) self-build with the award-winning Nelson Project. We can and will do more to create opportunities for more homes to be delivered in this way.
- 30 We will continue to pressure the Government to fully fund the recladding of the Mount Wise tower blocks. It is unfair that residents in Plymouth have to foot the bill for a national crisis.
- 31 We will prioritise stopping as many people as possible becoming homeless, and we will end the practice of families with children being housed in Bed and Breakfasts.
- 32 We will work hard to provide real choices for people and families who are homeless or facing homelessness. We are especially concerned that children in temporary accommodation should have somewhere to study and to play. We will publish an action plan to help address the increase in homelessness that will include those in temporary and emergency accommodation as well as people who are rough sleeping. We will investigate the 'pop up homes' projects pioneered in Bristol and London to see if those schemes can be used in Plymouth, too.
- 33 The vast majority of landlords in Plymouth are good and take care of their properties, but there are far too many poor-quality homes. We will toughen up enforcement of housing in the private rented sector to drive up standards for renters. If, within 12 months, the private rented sector has not taken substantial steps to improve standards, we will begin the process of introducing a licensing scheme for the private rented sector.

## FOR PLYMOUTH'S MARINE AND MARITIME ROLE

- 34 We will support the campaign for Plymouth Sound to be designated the country's first National Marine Park.
- 35 The delay in re-opening the pedestrian footbridge at Sutton Harbour has caused real damage to our tourist economy. We will work with Sutton Harbour Holdings, who own the bridge, and the Environment Agency, who own the lock gates, to repair and re-open the foot bridge as soon as possible.
- 36 We support the creation of a cruise liner terminal at Millbay. We will work with ABP and Brittany Ferries to support the creation of better quayside facilities and the protection of cross-channel crossings and welcoming more cruise ships to Plymouth.
- 37 Britain's Ocean City is not just a brand, it is a celebration of Plymouth's maritime role. That is why we will work with Plymouth's fishing industry to launch a Plan for Sustainable Fishing to secure the industry's future in the city.
- 38 We will also review the proposals for improved facilities for the fishing sector. These proposals have come from the local fishing industry, and include better infrastructure at the east of Sutton Harbour and a fishing-related building development.
- 39 The life-saving lifejacket scheme started for Plymouth fishermen has been copied by many other councils. We will continue to give it our full support.

## FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- 40 Parents tell us of their unhappiness as school standards continue to drop. Plymouth has embraced free schools, academies and UTCs, but despite getting a good start from primary schools, we are not producing the high qualifications needed for our children to get on in the modern world. Although the Government has removed the powers Councils had to intervene, we will find ways of encouraging schools to raise standards across the city - particularly in secondary schools.
- 41 We will continue to reduce the use of institutional placements for children and adults with complicated needs or challenging behaviour. We will support more people to remain living in their own communities, close to their friends and family, to enjoy their rights as full citizens.
- 42 We think the current system of fining parents for taking their children on holiday in term time can hurt families on a budget. We will work with schools and parents to introduce a fair system so families can take an annual holiday without penalty.
- 43 Plymouth needs more engineers, mathematicians and scientists. We have world-class STEM employers. The city council will look to work with the Plymouth Manufacturers Group and Women in STEM to increase the number of young people taking STEM subjects at school, college and university. We will work with major manufacturers and large businesses to give school children an insight into how factories, manufacturing, digital and creative industries, STEM roles and other major Plymouth employers work. We will also support people to improve their STEM skills throughout their career.
- 44 Plymouth has an international reputation for marine science and technology. We need more children and parents to seize these opportunities and so we will offer schools the chance to showcase the best of Plymouth's commercial and research experience in the classroom.
- 45 A growing number of children in Plymouth are caring for a family member. We will appoint a Young Carers' Champion to be their voice in the city and we will hold a conference to showcase the fantastic work being done in some of our city's schools to support young carers and develop good practice for schools across the city.
- 46 Mental health care for young people is a growing crisis in our city. We will work with the NHS to expand the support available to schools and young people to tackle this crisis and fight for more Government funding to support provision of services for adults.
- 47 Every Plymouth child deserves a safe and loving home. That is why we will promote fostering and adoption in Plymouth with a renewed public campaign.
- 48 We will look to provide support for care leavers up to the age of 25, ensuring that the City Council plays its part in supporting young people leaving care, including guaranteeing a work placement with the City Council to help them start their working lives.
- 49 We welcome Devon and Cornwall Police's commitment to Operation Compass and we will encourage Plymouth's schools to play their full and active part to keep children safe.

## FOR BETTER HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- 50 We will oppose the fragmentation of the NHS. We want to strengthen the NHS and social care system, not privatise it. We will take immediate steps to call a Health and Social Care Summit to address the crisis in provision in our city. This will include primary care concerns raised by voters about access to GPs and dentists.
- 51 We will continue to train Council staff in dementia awareness and encourage other public bodies to do the same.
- 52 We will sign up to the UNISON ethical care charter, which provides for proper standards of care for vulnerable people in their own homes. We will also consult our city's older citizens to develop a charter for older people in Plymouth that will cover the full range of services they use.
- 53 With child and adult care providers, charities and others, we will examine the benefits and feasibility of intergenerational care facilities with care being provided on the same site bringing older and younger people together.
- 54 We will work with the NHS, the third sector and pharmacists to create a network of health and well-being centres across the city to make good health advice available across Plymouth to deliver good health in your high street.
- 55 Loneliness is a growing problem, and its effects were highlighted by the late Jo Cox MP. Far too many people in Plymouth face life in isolation without human contact. We will work with charities, social care providers and others to publish an action plan to ease loneliness.
- 56 Studies show increased physical and mental health benefits as a result of increased social interaction between generations. We will enable schools and child care providers to forge links with residential homes, community centres and senior citizens' clubs to build mutually beneficial relationships between younger and older people.
- 57 We will adopt the 'safer places scheme' that provides people with learning disabilities with a safe place to go if they feel anxious, or face verbal abuse, harassment or bullying.
- 58 The staff at Derriford Hospital and in our NHS do a superb job, but there is far too much demand and not enough of them. We will work with health partners to provide more care in local communities to help prevent admission to hospital. When someone has been in Derriford or Mount Gould we will seek to speed up their discharge and receive care in their own home or other care setting by working to integrate services better.
- 59 It is a scandal that there are 8,000 people in Plymouth waiting for an NHS dentist. More than 20% of those waiting are children. We will continue to support the inclusion of oral health and hygiene in the child poverty action plan, and we will look to work with the Peninsula Dental School at Plymouth University, the Director of Public Health and dental professionals to provide more dental services in our city.

## FOR FIGHTING POVERTY

- 60 In 2012 we took on Wonga, and in 2016 we introduced Fair For You to Plymouth. High street banks have disappeared from many neighbourhoods and many low earners are denied access to bank accounts altogether. So, it is important that we continue to fight for affordable access to financial services through continued support for the City of Plymouth Credit Union and Fair For You.
- 61 We will examine how the Council can best support South West Mutual, a new regional savings and loan bank for small and medium sized businesses, community groups and people of ordinary means.
- 62 We will encourage membership of trade unions in the City Council and in the private sector, as we have always believed in the need for strong trade unions since its foundation. There is increasing evidence that a low-wage economy like Plymouth is under further threat because of austerity. Unions can play an important role in protecting the city's spending power from erosion by pay freezes and pay cuts.
- 63 The refusal of the Government to pause and fix Universal Credit means a faulty system is being rolled out in Plymouth causing misery for many people. We will work with advice agencies and the DWP to ensure that people in the city get the support they need to navigate this complex and broken system.
- 64 We will support WASPI women (women born in the 1950s) in their fight for pension justice.
- 65 We will review the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Plymouth Fairness Commission.

## FOR A SAFER, WELCOMING CITY

- 66 We support community policing and we will continue to oppose cuts to the number of police stations, police officers and PCSOs in Plymouth. We will fight any further cuts to Plymouth's fire cover, the number of fire stations and firefighters in our city.
- 67 We will continue to invest in more CCTV outside the city centre, particularly on our housing estates and in anti-social behaviour hotspots.
- 68 Mayflower 2020 is now only two years away. We will work with Mayflower 400 to ensure that Plymouth is not only at the heart of national and international commemorations, but that the benefits from this year of events last long into the future, creating a legacy for the whole city, not just those communities along the waterfront.
- 69 Having illuminated Charles Church, we will continue the investment in this important war memorial by restoring the plaques that tell the story of Charles Church.
- 70 We will use phone apps and digital technology to enrich the tourism experience. This will also mean that local residents can hold the keys to our city's past in their hands.
- 71 We will continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of some women being given the right to vote and the important part Plymouth played both in 1918 and in 1919, with the first woman to take her seat in the House of Commons, representing Plymouth Sutton.
- 72 Plymouth has the oldest Ashkenazi synagogue in the English-speaking world, and the recently listed Jewish cemetery (one of the oldest in the UK) means the Jewish community has deep roots here. That's why it is time to make Holocaust Memorial Day a major Civic Event.
- 73 We will continue the successful programme of lighting up our landmarks by extending the illuminations to other city landmarks, starting with the Royal Navy Memorial and other memorials on the Hoe.

- 74 As part of paying respect to those who have served, we will continue to improve the military covenant and services for armed forces veterans and will appoint a veterans' advocate for the City.
- 75 We introduced webcasting of Council meetings. To keep even more people in Plymouth in touch with the City Council, we will launch a new weekly e-newsletter letter detailing events, news and Council services.
- 76 2017 saw the biggest Plymouth Pride event ever on the Hoe. We will continue to support the organisers and we will arrange to have Pride flags flown from the Hoe flagstaffs and illuminate Smeaton's Tower with the rainbow.
- 77 Plymouth has too few blue plaques that celebrate and commemorate our city's long history and high achievers. We will start a People's Choice competition for new blue plaques that enable nominations, voting and crowd-funding of new blue plaques.
- 78 Plymouth has been a welcoming city throughout our history. Our city will continue to provide shelter and support for those fleeing terror, conflict and famine.

## FOR THE CITY CENTRE

- 79 We will create more parking spaces in the West End to help support local businesses.
- 80 We will refresh the pedestrian areas of the city centre with a rolling programme of better pavements, street furniture and other features.
- 81 People tell us we should encourage more housing for everyone in the city centre, not just for students. We will encourage more development of homes in the city centre to help improve the vibrancy of the heart of our city.
- 82 We will work with investors to create new shop units to attract retailers currently missing from our city centre.

## FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND LEISURE

- 83 By tripling the size of our museum, we will make sure The Box is the biggest cultural investment in the south outside London. It will be big enough to tell the story of Plymouth properly for the first time. The Box will also contain a major celebration of Plymouth's Naval history, which will reflect the contribution Plymouth has made to the country and the world. We will also ensure it becomes the home to the National Figurehead Collection.
- 84 We will make sure Plymouth's libraries are all first class, and we will ensure that every community has access to a library service.
- 85 After the success of Rochdale Council's 'Library Card for every child' initiative we will provide all Year One children in Plymouth with a free library card enabling them to take books out from all the City Council's libraries.
- 86 We will deliver the upgrade of Central Park, ensuring it remains the city's green lung and a community asset we can all be proud of. We will not allow house-building on parkland to protect Central Park. The new park at Seaton will be as important to the north of Plymouth as Central Park is to the south of the city. This new park will open in the next few years and we will ensure it delivers for local people.
- 87 Amateur and community sport is vital to the health and well-being of the city and we will back it by drawing up a programme of investment in sports pitches around the city, including better all-weather facilities and additional cricket pitches. We will also continue to invest in children's play facilities.
- 88 We are committed to not charging organisations like Park Run to use Plymouth City Council land for major events.
- 89 Live music venues are an important part of our city's cultural offer to residents and visitors. We will support the Agent of Change campaign to support the city's existing live music venues when new housing developments take place alongside them.

## FOR A GREENER, CLEANER CITY

- 90 We will review the current policy of charging for bulky waste collections and re-introduce community skips where practical. We will increase the use of community bins to cut down the number of wheelie bins in some residential streets.
- 91 We will trial all-electric road sweepers, which can reduce both air pollution and operating costs.
- 92 We will work with responsible dog owners to campaign for zero tolerance of dog mess on our pavements and fine those owners who do not clean up after their dog.
- 93 We will review all options, including trialling food waste collection and reintroducing home composting, to tackle the problems arising from the scrapping of weekly bin collections.
- 94 We will raise recycling rates and tackle fly-tipping through a combination of positive campaigning and enforcement.
- 95 We introduced bee corridors and wild flower meadows to help bees and butterfly populations to thrive. We will expand these habitats across the city.
- 96 We have already voted to ban single use plastic from Council venues and events. To reduce plastic use further we will investigate introducing a network of drinking water fountains.
- 97 To tackle plastic pollution in the sea we will trial a 'sea-bin' that collects plastic and solid waste directly from the water.
- 98 We will tackle the backlog in tree maintenance across the city, with residents' views given more consideration.
- 99 We will continue to deliver more renewable power generation and fight fuel poverty across the city. We will look for other opportunities for renewable energy generation across the city, including micro-generation.
- 100 We will re-commit Plymouth to become a carbon neutral city by 2050.

#PLYMOUTH