

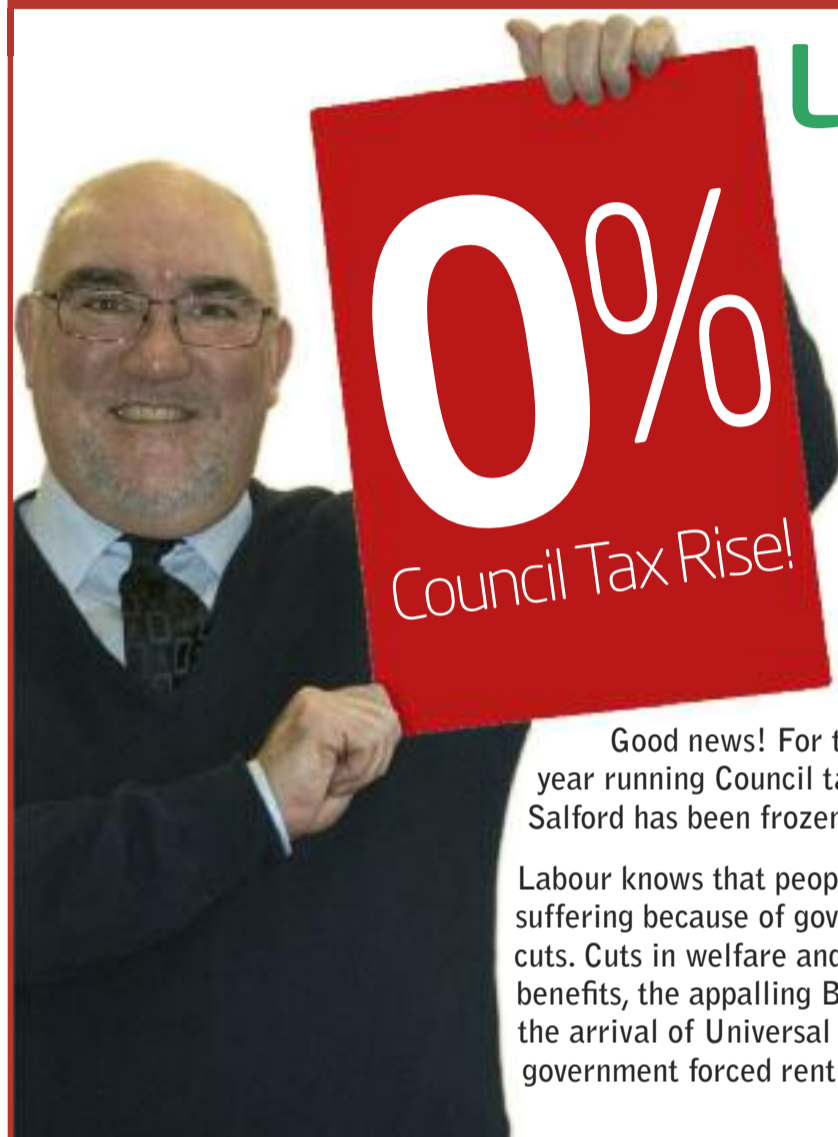
Salford

# Labour



# VOICE

Spring 2013



## Labour run Salford City says

# "Enough is Enough"

Good news! For the fourth year running Council tax in Salford has been frozen.

Labour knows that people are suffering because of government cuts. Cuts in welfare and council tax benefits, the appalling Bedroom Tax, the arrival of Universal Credit and government forced rent rises.

"Enough is enough" says City Mayor, Ian Stewart "we simply could not put up the council tax as well. We are trying to cushion the impact of government policies as much as possible when their austerity measures are hitting working people so hard.

"This fourth year of a council tax freeze is hopefully one bright spot for local people amongst the economic gloom."

This year's fourth successive council tax freeze does not, however, include the charges levied on the people of Salford by Police, Fire, Waste, etc.

Salford has already suffered £100 million government cuts in council services and seen the loss of more than 1200 jobs. Together these government cuts have cost every home in Salford £735.75.

## How the 'bedroom tax' will hit home

Times are tough for the people of Salford – but they are only going to get worse as the Government's benefit cuts kick in.

The Tory 'bedroom tax' will hit more than 5,500 residents living in social housing in Salford. They will, literally, be 'fined' by the Government just for having a spare bedroom.

**It is absolutely unbelievable**  
Of course, the Government's bedroom tax is only part of their cuts that will leave people more

vulnerable. The cumulative effect of austerity on families is only now dawning on people.

**How heartless and how disgusting**  
The Government is inflicting unnecessary hardship on vulnerable people, pushing more decent families towards the edge – and then over it.

The Government must think again about these cuts. Austerity isn't working. Their bedroom tax and welfare cuts are a truly shocking reflection of their nasty values.

Penalising families on low income, disabled people, our servicemen and women, our foster parents, or those who care for others. It is just not acceptable in the 21st century. Not one bit.



For information regarding the bedroom tax and your benefits please ring:

**Salix Homes** 0800 218 2000  
or from a mobile 0161 909 6559  
**City West** 0300 123 5522

local news: centre pages

## Supporting Local People

Salford Labour Council created Local Community Budgets to better support local people – Your Local Labour Team is asking if you would like to get more involved in deciding how the money is spent and get more out of the schemes and events that local budgets fund.

The Community Committee set up by Salford Labour Council, is your opportunity to regularly meet and have your say with all your local Councillors, your MP, officers from Council Services, City West Housing Trust, the police and NHS. It is also a chance to chat to Tenant Association members and maybe get involved yourself.

The Community Committee funds local community groups, road improvements and environmental improvements. Tenant groups and local Councillors vote on how local budgets are spent. This financial year the Community Committee has spent over £56,000 on local community groups and projects. Over £18,500 was spent from the Walkden North budget funding anglers, sports, youth, social and tenants groups with £50,000 spent on road safety & improvements, £10,000 on potholes and £120,000 has been allocated for town centre improvements along Bolton Road and Blackleach Country Park. All residents are welcome to attend and help decide how local budgets are spent.

Two current issues are:

- 1 The sharing of funds for leisure activities during school holidays between Walkden High and Harrop Fold.
- 2 If and where to develop a community farm in Walkden North.

The Community First Panel awarded £8,436 to local community groups in Walkden North. The successful groups are: Cleggs Lane Community Gardening Group; Craft Collective; Worsley Road North Senior Citizens; St. Mary's Bowling & Social Club; Little Hulton & Walkden Mens Group; and North Walkden F.C. A total of £50,865 will be allocated to local groups in Walkden North over the five year scheme.

The Community Committee reflects our community values by working locally to: support residents affected by benefit and rent changes; protecting living standards and reducing poverty by linking residents with local employers; provide money management and debt advice; combat cancer and obesity via Health Improvement Service, Community Leisure and initiatives like Big Cook Little Cook; and empower residents by developing and training community groups.

Of course you can always contact your local Labour Councillors for advice and support. Let's also meet and work together at our Community Committee to build a vibrant, exciting, healthy, safe and prosperous community together.

### Little Hulton & Walkden Community Committee

If you want to attend future meetings or get involved contact the local Neighbourhood Team on 779 8072.

## Labour Opposes Government's Backdoor Plan to Privatisise Fire Services

The coalition government is set to put forward proposals that would enable fire and rescue authorities in England to contract out their full range of services to a suitable provider – the privatisation of the Fire Service.

This would mean Greater Manchester Fire Service and firefighters could be employed and run by a private company in Greater Manchester.

Labour oppose the Government's plans to allow fire services to be sold off. Local people need to have confidence that fire-fighting in our area is being run for public protection, not company profit.

Fire and rescue is an essential service which we all depend on for our safety and sometimes our lives. Ministers are preparing to take huge risks with this vital public service.

Our experience with the Olympics was a forceful lesson - that private firms often cost more and

deliver less than promised when they bid to take over public services.

Say no to privatisation of the Fire Service! Sign the petition at:  
<https://secure.38degrees.org.uk/page/s/stop-fire-service-privatisation>



## New Housing Development

We are very pleased that the Amblecote drive housing development has now begun. This affordable housing project will create 73 family homes, five bungalows and sheltered housing for more than 70 residents.

The project, which is due to be ready by June next year, will also contain a children's play area, benches, a street which gives priority to pedestrians and cyclists.

Building a sustainable, family friendly environment is a great achievement which will be the first of many.



## Little Hulton Lottery Board

Your Labour Councillors have been helping to set up the new Little Hulton Lottery Board. We will be helping local charities, community groups and initiatives with grants to help them with their work.

We will keep you informed of progress once we up and running.

### Your councillors for Little Hulton



**Councillor Eric Burgoyne**

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**Councillor Pat Ryan**

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### Your councillors for Walkden North



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**Cllr Bernard Pennington**

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**Councillor Brendan Ryan**

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## Residents Fight to Save Our Open Green Spaces

Over the coming months, developers are likely to submit plans for houses on a large number of greenspaces in and around Walkden. This is a direct consequence of the Conservative Government's planning reforms, which have weakened policies that focused development of previously developed sites

Cllr Critchley said, "people have a huge emotional attachment to the Salford's green and open spaces. As the only local councillor to sit on the councils planning panel, which decides many of the largest, most controversial applications, I will ensure that the views of all residents are fully represented in the decision making process".



## Pedestrian Safety

In response to residents' concerns, Councillor Critchley and local MP Barbara Keeley have been campaigning for safety improvements along the A580. Parents and families have made it very clear that highway safety is a major concern, especially for school children who need to cross the busy road.

Councillor Critchley and Barbara Keeley have been lobbying the City Mayor and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to ensure that Walkden receives its fair share of investment for pedestrian safety. Existing plans for safety enhancements will now be extended passed Walkden High whilst TfGM will be expanding their road safety training programme to include school children in Walkden.

## Support for Investment in Local Education

Residents have reacted with sadness to the news that St Georges RC High School will soon close. On hearing of the decision, Councillor Critchley called an urgent meeting with officers to get to the facts of the matter. Legally, the council cannot interfere in matters at the school, so this was a decision solely for the governors. The priority now is to

maximise investment in nearby schools to ensure that they can support all future demand. Cllr Critchley has been holding regular meetings with officers to explore all future options and to stress the importance of community involvement and engagement in all future decision-making.



## Local Action

Action is being taken to address two common concerns, blocked drains and litter. All street gulleys in Walkden have now been cleaned but there is a programme of more substantial works, to deal with broken pipes and more serious faults that are leading to localised flooding. Councillor Critchley is also working hard to tackle litter hotspots, with additional street bins being installed on Hilton Lane and around the Ellesmere Centre. He commented, "I am aware of a number of problem areas. Some of the works and repairs can take a long time but I can assure residents that all matters raised are being looked into and action will follow".

## Tories - Restricting your rights?

Your Labour Councillor is fighting plans by the Conservative Government that will restrict your right to oppose inappropriate housing extensions.

Each year, the council receives a large number of plans for home extensions from people living in Walkden South and the residents in the ward are the most active in using their right to formally express a view and object to plans, a right that will soon be taken away.

At the January Council meeting, Labour Councillors passed a motion highlighting these concerns and calling for powers over such matters to be retained locally, your local Conservative councillors both voted against the motion!



In October, the Mayoral team and heads of departments visited Walkden for their first Listen and Learn session. Local councillors gave them a guided tour of the town highlighting areas of importance and to inform the team on matters of pride and concern for local residents.

Stops included the Gateway Centre, Parr Fold Park, Burgess Farm, the former Walkden High School site and the Ellesmere Centre, where

the Mayor saw first hand the large number of empty units. At Walkden Station, the team was greeted by local volunteers, who showed off some of the incredible achievements and improvements made by local campaigners. Cllr Critchley noted, "This was an excellent trip, designed to raise awareness within the council of the issues affecting the people and businesses of Walkden".

Your councillor for Walkden South



**Cllr Richard Critchley**

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[twitter.com/CllrCritchley](https://twitter.com/CllrCritchley)

# Labour in Salford delivers universal free nursery care



Every child with a school nursery place under five in Salford is to get 25 free hours of nursery care every week, making Salford the first of only two councils in the country to guarantee the universal benefit.

City Mayor, Ian Stewart, has worked with all local schools to fund the unique £2 million scheme so that every three and four year old with a school nursery place will be given 25 hours of childcare – much more the national legal entitlement of just 15 hours a week.

Over 2,000 children in Salford will benefit, giving them the best start in life. This will help many parents return to work or training.

Ian said "Salford is alone in the country in providing free school nursery places for all our tots - that's the real difference a Labour administration can make to the lives of working people."

[www.salfordlabour.org.uk](http://www.salfordlabour.org.uk)

Salford Labour party has a new look website. We have given the site a facelift and added new sections for latest news, views and events, and a bit of Salford Labour history. Go to [www.salfordlabour.org.uk](http://www.salfordlabour.org.uk) to take a look.



Join Labour  
Join the fight back

To join the Labour Party please visit:

[www.labour.org.uk/join](http://www.labour.org.uk/join)  
or call 0845 092 22 99

to find out more about the labour party in Salford go to [www.salfordlabour.org.uk](http://www.salfordlabour.org.uk)

# The Living Wage for Council Staff

Salford will now become the first council in Greater Manchester to introduce a full Living Wage.

It will mean a significant pay increase to £7.45 an hour for more than 1,000 of Council staff. Some of our poorest paid staff will get a pay rise of more than £1300 a year. It's a huge step forward in ending poverty pay in Salford. That's no mean achievement in these times of austerity and government forced cuts.

By paying £7.45 an hour from April, Salford's Living Wage sets a minimum amount by which no-one employed by the City Council should be expected to live. It will make a real difference to the lives of a thousand of our employees - 93 per cent of whom are women.

## What is the Living Wage?

The idea behind a Living Wage is that a person should be paid enough to live decently and to adequately provide for their family.

The living wage is an hourly rate set independently every year. It is calculated according to the cost of living and gives the minimum pay rate required for a worker to provide their family with the essentials of life.

The current rate is £7.45.



Millionaires are getting a tax cut from David Cameron, while millions of us pay more

## Can You Help?

If you would like to get involved with the Salford Labour Party please get in touch through our website

[www.salfordlabour.org.uk](http://www.salfordlabour.org.uk),

call us on 0161 793 2024

or email [info@salfordlabour.org.uk](mailto:info@salfordlabour.org.uk)