



**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
UNITARY LABOUR PARTY
MANIFESTO 2007
BACK TO THE FUTURE**

This copy of the North Lincolnshire Unitary Labour Party's May 2007 Manifesto "**Back to the Future**" was ratified together with amendments by: North Lincolnshire (Labour) Local Government Committee on 26th March 2007.



**Duncan Anderson, Secretary, North Lincolnshire (Labour)
Local Government Committee**

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE UNITARY LABOUR PARTY

MANIFESTO 2007

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Introduction

In its last manifesto in 2003, the labour party in North Lincolnshire promised to deliver 'fairness for all'. We also promised that the focus would be 'firmly on the future'.

After an unprincipled defection and a difference of one vote in two ward elections we found ourselves in opposition for four years. We now promise to look 'back to the future' if we win this election in 2007. This Manifesto contains many commitments; some new and some that have been held over for 4 years. As we strive to undo the damage wrought by the Conservative Party we will hold true to our promise of 'fairness for all' and seek to improve the life chances and quality of life of everyone in North Lincolnshire.

➤ Local Government

We believe that people are best served where the centre of government passes power down to the appropriate local level. We believe that at the local level these directly elected local councils should exercise power. Where power has been given to other authorities we believe that local councils should appoint representatives in indirect elections to these bodies. We therefore pledge ourselves to work towards making the case to central government for democratic powers to be put back to local authorities and strong local communities.

➤ Service to the people

The council should be an organisation that is not divided into different departments but instead acts as a single corporate body. We pledge that a Labour Council will be focussed on delivering services to its customers in a way that makes sense to those customers.

➤ Working in Partnership

Labour will develop partnerships because they must exist if high quality services are to be delivered to the people who matter – the community of North Lincolnshire. We pledge that we will work with any person, organisation or Trade Unions that can help us to deliver our aims and we will continue this process as more and more people join the various forums that we will set up. We believe in a regional assembly that is elected and accountable. The method of election must be simple and trusted by the electorate. We will support such a body.

The Labour Party, in putting forward this manifesto, makes a commitment to work towards **Fairness for All**. We will make, within these pages a series of pledges to all the people of North Lincolnshire. The reader will find that these will fall under a number of wider aims. We state these at the outset and believe that, although they may be ambitious, with the leadership and commitment of the members of the Labour Party, and through working with others, we can achieve them. This manifesto sets out to deliver the following aims:

- We will provide **value for money** in a sustainable way.
- To care for and improve the **environment** throughout North Lincolnshire
- To deliver improvements in our **education and health** systems
- To work with the housing associations to provide **homes in safe, clean neighbourhoods**
- To promote quality **town centres and vibrant villages**, providing better shopping and recreational opportunities
- To keep **all Leisure centres open** and extend provision where appropriate
- To provide more **job opportunities** for local people and seek to ensure that all employment offers **good conditions**.

If high quality people are to be attracted to business and services then the area must have a good quality of life. We will improve the health services housing and job opportunities on offer and seek to retain top-achieving staff by the sports and entertainment available locally

These pledges and many others are made clear within the Manifesto. The Labour Party presents this to the people of North Lincolnshire and recommends that they elect a new Labour Council that is committed to making this happen.

Labour also commits itself to delivery on the following cross-cutting aims: These will be delivered across the seven aims identified above but also in the ways indicated below

- To tackle issues affecting **young people**

Young people have particular needs inside and outside school. Labour will seek ways of teaching democracy and citizenship in the widest and most interesting ways. We will use youth debates; youth service provision and leisure activities to promote this. We will support the development of the North Lincolnshire Youth Forum as part of the North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership. Through these partnerships we will provide work experience and give personal careers advice to all young people. Education and training will inform our policies throughout the manifesto.

- To help the **most vulnerable** within the community

Labour recognises that many people are reluctant to take up the benefits to which they are entitled. We believe that this puts them at a serious disadvantage. We are committed to improving this take up and will set a 'take-up' target for the next council. In order to meet this pledge we will work with others and with our own trained staff to help people through the claims process. This will include investigating the use of electronic, and other forms of communication.

Labour will establish a Social Inclusion Fund to provide support for people on lower incomes so they can get greater access to facilities such as leisure provision. This will include looking at ways of subsidising childcare, travel and transport arrangements.

Improving disabled access will be a priority, with rigorous enforcement of the DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT.

- To treat **North Lincolnshire as one area**

We believe that all the people in North Lincolnshire have equal worth and applaud the aims of the first Council who devised its logo. The three areas are represented with industry, countryside and urban parts being unified by the triangle. We want everyone to be included and treated equally. We will institute a Rural Renaissance Programme. Many of the policies in this manifesto will resonate with rural communities. Local history and culture will be celebrated through the Museums service with interactive exhibitions on Wesley, steel making and Harrison. We will campaign for a South Humber Bank National Park as we work to conserve our environment for future generations.

In short we aim to restore firm leadership to the council area that is ambitious, inclusive and forward looking.

To deliver the best customer service

The Labour Party in North Lincolnshire has worked successfully with the National Labour government to reduce the level of council tax in the area without damaging services. Since the conservative party took control this success has been undermined and they have shown a poor financial understanding and that they cannot be trusted to manage the council's finances in a responsible way.

We pledge to work with all partners in local and national government to put the authority's finances in order and use them for the good of the whole area.

Labour is determined to give customers the best possible service. We will ensure all our services are customer-focused. All the council's employees will be expected to champion customer service. A senior manager will have responsibility for ensuring this happens across the whole organisation.

Labour will develop a switch card to enable customers to access the council's services. This will make it possible to pay bills and manage the family's budget while saving money from week to week.

The local link service is a key element of this customer service. We are committed to further developing this service. We see local links providing an opportunity for people to raise any problems which they would like to be considered however minor. This gives people a greater say in the running of their Council.

We will use, whenever possible, the Co-Operative group as a supplier of goods and hospitality products. We will also endeavour to use 'Fair Trade' goods.

During the last four years the commitment to this service may have been less than we would like to have seen. We will review all the local link services with a view to developing them further. We will review the service in areas not served by the current local link network. We will consider all options including the use of local post offices as a way of delivering the service.

We will evaluate the premises and staff training needs for the council. Our commitment to high quality customer service means that local links, library and information services, call centre development and internet services will need to come together as a coherent whole.

Labour sees the need to review the Council's Library service, both static and mobile, as a dynamic information service for all the people of North Lincolnshire. We will investigate the adequacy of the service and debate the changes we feel may be needed. We feel that the service should develop as a dynamic information network for people, businesses and other organisations.

The library service will also have an important role in developing a strong learning culture in North Lincolnshire. We will seek to increase real access and use of its services. We will develop further links with the schools' library service, and expand the "books at home" initiative including to sheltered accommodation. We will ensure that libraries continue to respond to the challenge of making Information Technology accessible to all. The library information service will go out into the community creating bridges to knowledge, information and learning for all our people, including disadvantaged groups.

The Internet is now touching many people's lives on a daily basis. Labour is committed to extending and improving the ways in which electronic communications are used. Labour will make the council a leading player in this sector. We will work with schools, the private sector and external partners to promote North Lincolnshire and develop e-services to the public.

Labour introduced 'Direct' magazine. We believe that this is an important means of communication with the public. We will work with the people of North Lincolnshire to improve further its effectiveness.

The Labour Party will consult widely with local people and organisations. We will consult through a range of methods including surveys and focus groups. We are committed to a proactive approach where we go out to meet the public rather than hoping they will fill in a questionnaire. We will take action on the views of the local community. All plans and proposals will be made public and we will actively seek people's views on them.

Labour supports the Community Panel. This started with a thousand members and their views are used to help the council keep in contact with the concerns of the community. We will work to ensure that the Panel is balanced with all groups represented including the young and different ethnic groups.

All complaints and observations made by the public will be investigated and acted upon. The Labour party believes that targets are an effective means for ordinary people to monitor how effective the Council is at delivering. Departments will be set targets for dealing with complaints as quickly as possible. In order to meet these targets all our employees will be encouraged and rewarded for showing initiative. All complaints will be taken

seriously and services will be improved as a result.

Labour is committed to working in partnership with others to develop North Lincolnshire. It sees the North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership as central to the area's success.

A Labour council will support the strategic partnership in setting and delivering a timetable for the implementation of Local Area Agreements. We will monitor progress and take a lead with our partners to ensure that the consultation and listening approach is fully used.

Community Forums should provide a voice for people to give their opinions and also bring together agencies to hear the community. We will respect local people and ensure their views develop and shape their communities.

In order to ensure that the council runs smoothly we will work with other agencies. This will include voluntary agencies such as the Humberside Law Centre, the Citizens' Advice Centre, the Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council and the Racial Equality Council.

Labour will work with the town and parish councils. We will get together with these councils and consult with them. Our aim will be to help them achieve the best for their communities.

Labour believes that the Council's staff is its greatest strength. We are committed to supporting staff through effective internal communication improving the quality of future service delivery from the ideas of staff.

Labour will continue to value staff in all it does. Quality staff, well trained and well

supported, are essential if we are to continue to provide quality services.

The Labour Party will take Equal Opportunities very seriously. Labour in North Lincolnshire are committed to taking the lead when it comes to the implementation of equal opportunities legislation. We will work with the police and other interested parties to ensure a fair deal for all.

We believe that the council should set an example to other employers through the policies it adopts with its own employees. Labour will seek to include all groups within the Councils sphere of influence regardless of race, gender, disability, religious belief or sexual orientation.

As part of the delivery of equal opportunities we will ensure that all members of the community can access all our public buildings. We are committed to a programme of continuous upgrading.

The main commitments in this section of the manifesto are: -

- We pledge to be tough on finance, deliver efficiency, sustainability and best value in the services we provide
- We pledge that all the council's employees will become ambassadors of customer services
- We will develop a switch card to enable customers to access the council's services.
- We will build on the success of the local link service developing it further for areas not currently served by the service
- We will continue to modernise the council's library and information services.
- We will ensure that the council take a lead role in developing the e-services and e-government and increases the use of the Internet as a tool for the public.
- We will consult widely with the public. We will communicate through a range of methods including Direct, surveys and Focus Groups. We will reinstate the community panel.
- We will support and promote the North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership in developing and delivering the area's Local Area Agreement.
- We will work hard to include all the residents of North Lincolnshire and ensure that no one is disadvantaged by problems of communication.
- We are committed to doing everything to ensure the council has well trained, well motivated, quality staff
- We will ensure that the council champions equal opportunity and diversity in everything it does

Education

The Labour Party stands committed to the delivery of high quality education to all regardless of age, gender, sexuality, race or creed.

Education has been and will continue to be a priority for the Labour Party in local government. We aim to reduce class sizes at Key Stage 3 and 4 and raise our level of exam passes at GCSE to above the National Average.

North Lincolnshire Council's organisation of education services has been recognised at national level. These services have achieved Beacon status. We pledge to invest in Education services where necessary to maintain past performance.

Good progress has been made in the growth of nursery provision attached to infant and primary schools. We will work in partnership with other organisations to provide a variety of educative childcare arrangements. We will continue to work with all providers of nursery education to further improve the quality of that provision.

We will continue to set high standards for our schools. All pupils will be regarded with equal esteem and all schools will be encouraged to develop an atmosphere where every child finds encouragement and praise. We believe that recent innovations in School provision, such as Academy status, may threaten this universality. The history of the local Labour party and the pioneering effort to bring Comprehensive Education to this area should be honoured. We will oppose any development that gives privilege to some and not all, we will make these views known to National Government.

Labour is committed to a strong partnership with parents, pupils, unions, community

groups, school staff, governors and the Department for Education and Skills. We will seek to involve parents as much as possible in the education of their youngsters.

Governors have an increasing workload in the areas of finance and curriculum monitoring. We will support them with good quality training. Labour will ensure that the council's role in the scrutiny of schools management is properly used to ensure our aims are passed on to school staff.

Labour will continue to deliver high quality induction and training courses for staff. Staff will receive top class support, in-service facilities and training. We are committed to providing conditions of service that support school based staff in delivering the best job possible.

We will work with schools to encourage all support staff to undergo training and personal development so that they can further help our children expanding the work they do under the direction of teachers.

Labour is committed to providing for the Special Educational needs of all our children. We will provide early diagnosis and ensure that help is provided on the basis of need and not influence. Provision will be provided in schools wherever possible. Off-site provision will be linked to the mainstream as far as possible.

We will provide funding for breakfast clubs, after school clubs, homework clubs and summer schools. We will survey provision to ensure it is equitable across North Lincolnshire. We will also encourage our schools in the provision of extra curricular activities of all kinds.

There is much concern about our children's health. Various reports have highlighted the problems that a poor diet, and lack of exercise, can cause in later life. Diet can also influence behaviour. We will work in partnership with parents, staff and health sector partners to get the 'healthy living' message across. We will encourage schools to consider the health and well being of their pupils when setting the pricing levels for school meals.

We will work in partnership with police, social services and schools to ensure that our schools are safe and secure. We will promote safe routes to schools. We will promote a multi-cultural policy to tackle such issues as racism and bullying. We recognise the needs of bilingual families and will support a service.

Labour will support a youth service with good resources, providing exciting opportunities for young people. We see this as a part of the education process helping people develop personally and socially. We will seek imaginative ways of meeting with and talking to young people on the street in order to help provide facilities that are safe and widely used.

Labour will support Connexions and the work they do with young people. We will seek to promote young people and by providing them with responsibility help them to develop and take their place as the new leaders of the community. We will work with the Learning and Skills Council to ensure that they get the personal advice they need. We will ensure that all youngsters are involved, listen to and the appropriate response made. And we work to ensure that those excluded from school are helped to get a good start in life. We will support the 'second chance' scheme to help people who have educational needs affecting their opportunities later in life.

We will maintain and develop an active partnership with local colleges and training providers. The transfer of young people into further education should help youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds to realise their potential. An increasing number should progress to high education.

We will maintain and develop Adult Education in the area for the benefit of individuals and the good of the community.

Health

Labour recognises that there are real benefits to be gained from encouraging people of all ages to remain active and participate in sport and exercise. Therefore we will revitalise local Leisure opportunities.

We will make sports development a key part of our leisure strategy. We will continue to invest in sport and recreation facilities and seek lottery and other funding to improve existing facilities as well as creating new ones across the region.

We will support healthy living projects in walking, anti-smoking, cycling and obesity .We will back these projects with resources where appropriate.

We will continue to encourage the use of school facilities by the general public. We will use flair and imagination to set up sporting projects for all such as the Aquagym for senior citizens at the Ancholme Leisure Centre.

We will consider all ideas from any source to encourage public participation in sport keep-fit, leisure and recreation activities. We will support and develop the role of our Sports Development and Community Development Officers who will work with both able bodied and special needs people. We will encourage partnerships in sports schemes in general across the area and will continue to provide a range of equipment to ensure that all can participate.

We are committed to promoting the opportunities for young people to develop their interest and ability in sport via the National Junior Sports Programme. We will support any local sportsperson who shows potential for the London Olympics.

We want to encourage our young people to adopt a healthy life style and therefore we are committed to providing access to play facilities and services. We will provide good size well equipped play areas in all parts of North Lincolnshire.

We will provide Holiday Play schemes, seeking to extend them whenever and wherever possible. We will set targets for increased participation in these schemes.

Labour will develop the community role of the museum service. We will seek to host exciting exhibitions that will attract and educate all sections of the community. We will increase the Outreach Service and endeavour to improve accessibility for the disabled. We will develop Normanby Park as a Living Museum, which will reflect the life and times of all the people who once lived and worked on a Victorian country estate.

Exhibitions by local and national artists, sculptors and craftsmen and women will continue at the Art Gallery and at the new Arts Centre. The 20:21 Visual Arts Centre concentrates on the contemporary and visual arts and the historic visual arts. Exhibitions, which reflect the wishes of the people of North Lincolnshire as well as the reserve collections of the museum service, will also be shown.

We will be proactive in supporting families so that the welfare and development of children is secure. We believe that for every child to reach his/her potential then a secure and loving home is necessary. To secure this end we will seek ways to strengthen the work of education, social services, health and other agencies so that it is focused on providing best possible support to children and families.

It is Labour's view that families should be kept together wherever possible. If children are taken into care we aim to reunite the family as soon as possible. In providing services to families we will respect issues such as their ethnic, racial, cultural and linguistic background and also their religious persuasion.

Foster families will provide care for the majority of children where difficulties occur at home. We will work to maintain a positive relationship with foster carers and will continue to support them in a variety of ways, including the Good Parenting and Sure Start initiatives.

Some young people will prefer group accommodation and a range of children's homes will be provided. We will continue with a rota system of visits to residential homes. These will involve council officers as well as elected members.

As looked after children approach adulthood we will ensure that they are properly prepared and supported before they move into independent living. We recognise that sheltered accommodation is needed and we now have group flats for 16 to 17 year olds. Labour pledges to support these young people throughout their further and higher education. Labour in North Lincolnshire welcomes the national decision to help disadvantaged students financially. We will work with foster families and social workers to ensure our young people can take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

Labour will support young people who are accused of criminal activity. We will maintain a remand foster care scheme and ensure that social work support is available when this cannot be avoided.

Labour is committed to the care of people with disabilities. We will work with health

sector partners, to provide the necessary services. The Brumby Resources Centre was created to alleviate the need to travel to different parts of North Lincolnshire This now provides integrated disability services and a small unit for respite care. A training café is now open. We are committed to extend this scheme of practical training for people with learning and other difficulties. We will also enable B-Line Industries to expand when practical.

We will work hard to provide intermediate care following safe discharge from hospital. We will work with the Health service and other agencies to assist people suffering problems after discharge from Accident and Emergency. We will encourage the provision of widely available low-level health services. We will lobby government for more money to help with this. We will minimise inappropriate admissions to acute hospital wards by ensuring recovery support at home is available.

All elderly people seeking the help of social services will be entitled to an assessment of their needs. They will be entitled to full information of the services available and have the right to exercise control and choice over the services offered. Following assessment Labour will provide a care plan spelling out the users entitlement.

We will continue to provide high quality day care and home help services. While contributions from users will be necessary, these will be affordable and services will be free to the most vulnerable.

We will work to reduce avoidable winter deaths by improving insulation for those vulnerable and ensuring they can pay for heating. To help with this we will work to increase benefit take up by older people.

Labour recognises the vital role carers (from the family, the community and the

voluntary sector) play in providing social services. We will work with all carers; supporting them and providing respite care if necessary.

Voluntary groups seeking council funding will have service level agreements whenever possible ensuring that paid staff have suitable conditions of service. We will ensure that appropriate monitoring and checks are carried out to ensure that all staff are suitable to work in these sensitive positions.

As most people wish to live independently if possible we will provide grants for the conversion of homes. Labour will continue to improve access to council buildings as well as improving roads and footpaths so everyone can use them. Through out many partnerships with private and public

institutions we will encourage all providers of general amenities, including shops and leisure facilities to be user friendly. We recognise that poor public provision of toilets can make older people prisoners in their own homes. We will survey the provision throughout North Lincolnshire and work to ensure that all areas have clean and safe public loos.

Healthy living will be encouraged. We will set the lead within our own sphere of influence. Smoking will be banned on our premises. We will encourage walking and biking to work. Bike lock ups will be provided and the installation of shower facilities for staff will be investigated.

The main commitments in this section of the manifesto are: -

Education

- We will aim to reduce secondary school class sizes and raise achievements in Key Stages 3 and 4
- We will disseminate best practise in Nursery education throughout North Lincolnshire.
- We will continue to deliver high quality induction, training and support for school based staff and governors
- We remain committed to working in partnership with all key stakeholders to deliver even better education in North Lincolnshire.

Health

- We will revitalise local leisure opportunities
- We will work with health sector partners to provide quality care to people with disabilities.
- We will work with agencies to provide help to vulnerable people going home from hospital.
- We will put resources into promoting healthy lifestyles.
- We will continue to provide high quality day care and home help services.
- We will work to provide the most integrated approach to health care possible in the locality so that people get a fully joined up service.

To care for and improve the environment throughout North Lincolnshire

The Labour Party recognise that the Council must take the lead on environmental issues, including recycling the waste generated by the Council by adopting an Environmental Policy that will seek to meet ISO 14000. Recognising that the impact of problems can be on several levels, we will seek to solve local issues while recognising our responsibilities in a national and global picture.

Pollution does not respect geographical boundaries therefore we will work through regional agencies and with neighbouring authorities to find ways of reducing the pollution we export and others pass to us. By careful planning we will reduce the energy cost of these services and therefore the impact of our activities on the environment.

Labour recognises that global problems such as global warming climate change and ozone depletion, will affect us all and that we have a duty to future generations to do all in our power to minimise our contribution. We are committed to setting a lead by our actions as well as the policies we ask others to follow.

The local Labour Party is committed to the conservation of the natural environment. We will work locally to return land to its wild state and will employ Environmental wardens to patrol and develop land to this end.

We will ensure that the council in all its areas of work uses where possible, only renewable materials and forms of energy. We are committed to the use of only green consumables. We will set targets for the reduction of our energy use in all buildings

and areas of work, including school buildings. We will ensure that all future building work will have to take into account the effect on the environment and include measures to remove any damaging effects. Labour will set targets to reduce any negative environmental impact of the council's activities and to maximise opportunities to positively enhance the environment.

We will introduce a challenging plan to reduce the Council's Carbon footprint. We will improve our fuel saving measures with a commitment to reduce the amount of fuel used in our offices and other council buildings by 15% over the next 5 years. We will undertake fuel saving measures in all buildings under our control by improving energy conservation.

We will encourage the use of public transport as a way of reducing the amount of traffic and therefore pollution. We will survey traffic to see if bus lanes in selected areas may speed up bus travel and therefore make it more attractive. Recognising that motor bikes produce less Carbon Dioxide and cause less congestion, we will investigate sites for supervised parking areas

We will introduce imaginative and effective ways of reducing the amount of waste, for example abandoned cars and fridges and tyres that are dumped will be collected as soon as possible after they are reported.

We are committed reviewing and consulting with the public on household waste collection and recycling. We will enhance kerbside recycling including plastic and introduce kerbside collection of cardboard.

We will maintain the free civic amenity sites and provide widespread recycling amenities.

Refuse collection teams will be at the forefront of efforts to increase the amount of recycling in the council's area. We recognise that many people cannot take materials to recycling centres. Labour will help the most vulnerable by providing a free collection service for large items of waste for those who cannot afford to pay.

We will work with other areas to educate adults and schoolchildren about the environmental effects of excessive amounts of refuse.

We will ensure that 60% of all building will be on 'Brownfield' sites. This target will be increased when possible. Under Labour significant areas of land were reclaimed. At Barton a 10-acre wildlife park has been created from an industrial wasteland, similarly the old Normanby Park Steelworks site provides much employment in a modern, integrated industrial site. We are committed to increasing the amount of land that we reclaim.

Labour will protect the rural community by careful planning. This will prevent inappropriate development and seek to retain the character of towns and villages.

Labour is committed to keeping all green spaces in North Lincolnshire and developing parks wherever a need exists. We are committed to the provision of high quality and good size play areas. This will inform all planning which will only be passed after all environmental considerations have been assessed. The situation with regard to play areas in new developments such as parts of Bottesford will be assessed and proposals made as soon as practical.

A program of tree planting will be initiated as soon as possible.

Public rights of way will be protected, enhanced and way marked. The public's right of access to the countryside will be protected and encouraged. The local links will display these rights and promote walks in the area that will be suitable for all types of walkers. We will ensure that the countryside is accessible for all with a priority for the disabled.

We will continue to investigate the development of the rest of the bank to the west as a Park with nature reserves and opportunities for local people and visitors to enjoy their environment. The environment of the Humber Bank is unique and is designated a European heritage site. Labour will seek to upgrade this believing that the area deserves to be treasured as much as any of our National Parks. We will continue to promote this as the Humber National Park; an area of nature reserves, conservations and wetlands.

The development of a network of cycle ways in the area will be pursued with vigour. The cycle ways will be developed to offer a safe alternative to the car by separating bikes from other traffic. Cycle ways will be improved and developed in urban areas so that the public can use them safely and without disruption of their journeys or that of other road users. Journey times will be quicker by bike at rush hours. A network of rural cycle ways will be developed for safe recreational use as well as travelling between urban areas. All road developments will include the provision of cycle paths.

The council has a duty to monitor the environment over such measures as air quality, but has few powers to deal with polluters. Labour will lobby Government for the necessary regulations to do this. We will

also seek to make clearer the lines of responsibility so that there is no excuse for inaction. We will extend the scope of monitoring of air and water pollution above the minimum requirement in order to judge the effects of these problems against health indicators such as rates of asthma.

We will work with the Primary Care Trust to set health improvement targets which can be measured. This will include water, air, drainage and unsanitary licensed premises. Labour is committed to taking a lead role in this field, in order to tackle all areas of pollution and enforce EU legislation.

Labour will ensure that the health of the community is protected against damage caused by unsanitary drainage, air pollution and irresponsible food purveyors and restaurants. Similarly we will seek to protect the public from unscrupulous traders who seek to deal in inferior counterfeit goods. Inspectors will visit premises, offer advice and take action when necessary. We will seek ways of introducing these ideas into the school curriculum, and educating the public in general.

Those who persistently cause noise pollution will be prosecuted and Labour will ensure that officers can be contacted out of

normal working hours. We will run a proactive scheme with parish councils and others to reduce dog fouling.

Labour will collaborate with the providers to test the standard of mains water supply. The highest standards of animal welfare will be set in accordance with the RSPCA code of practice.

Our Code of Practice will set high standards of trading. Motor traders and garages will be encouraged to sign this and thus the public will be assured of quality of service. Businesses that meet the standards will be allowed to advertise the certificate and the public will be educated in what to expect.

Labour will remain members of the Humberside Combined Fire Authority. This will maintain the provision of the highest possible standards in these areas.

The Labour Party is committed to reducing death and injury on our roads. We will work with the emergency services to review all the factors that contribute to accidents in our area. We will consult widely with the community and will further develop traffic calming schemes and speed limits wherever a case is made locally.

The main commitments in this section of the manifesto are: -

- We will set targets to reduce any negative environmental impact of the council's activities, maximising opportunities to positively change the environment and will adopt an Environmental Policy that seeks to meet ISO 14000
- We will reduce the amount of fuel used in council buildings by 15% by 2012
- We will encourage public transport and investigate the development of bus lanes
- We will protect and encourage further the public's right of access to the countryside
- We will seek to establish a Humber National Park
- We will promote the highest standards of animal welfare in North Lincolnshire in accordance with the RSPCA code of practice
- We pledge to work with local partnerships and other agencies to reduce accidents on our roads through a range of inventive approaches
- We pledge to consult and listen to the public on household waste collection and recycling
- We will introduce kerbside recycling of plastics and cardboard.
- We will ensure 60% of all new building is on Brownfield sites
- We will use the Local development Plan to ensure sustainable development in rural areas
- We will keep all green spaces and develop parks wherever a need exists
- We will build safe, good-sized, play areas throughout the area.
- We will expand a network of safe cycle ways throughout all urban and rural areas of North Lincolnshire.

Quality town centres & vibrant villages

Labour believes that the development of Scunthorpe town centre is a good example of what can be achieved with vision and drive. This development by private contractors is a huge resource for the people of North Lincolnshire without costing them anything. We will seek to further develop the town centre and pledge to reinvigorate the cultural quarter around Church Square working with the private and voluntary sectors to develop and locate a multi purpose entertainment centre there. This auditorium will be versatile and able to provide an intimate venue for smaller concerts and be able to expand into a large seating area when required. A high quality hotel would also enhance the town and bring life to the area in the evenings.

The recent developments in Scunthorpe have provided a town centre big enough to be vibrant and compete with other nearby centres. We will ensure that this development continues to win back shoppers for Scunthorpe. Labour will work with partners in the Parishes and the precinct to market the town centre. We will seek to bring in more innovations such as the Christmas market to bring more visitors to the town.

In rural areas we have worked to ensure that centres around the region have developed to meet the needs of local people.

Labour has proved it can be successful in attracting investment to the market towns of North Lincolnshire; Barton (through SRB), Crowle (through European Funding), Brigg (through Market Town Initiative). In the past we have supported a number of initiatives to revitalise the smaller town centres; farmers markets have been particularly

successful. Labour remains committed to the vibrant town centres and effective village communities across North Lincolnshire.

We will empower communities to develop ideas to bring people together. Initiatives will be encouraged in various areas. Community leisure centres are a way of providing a focus for an area. We will assess the viability to best determine the needs of all the existing leisure centres, community centres and sports facilities whilst seeking ways to improve their benefit to their community. And investigate the building of a centre in Winterton. Riddings pool will be kept open for as long as demand exists. Library Services in Broughton will be improved.

Labour is committed to the development of markets. They give traders a living and people the opportunity to buy good quality fresh produce. We will support the development of the retail of organic food.

Labour will seek to extend the number of venues putting on live concerts, functions and entertainment. We will continue to provide support and encouragement for all individuals and groups with a deep commitment to the Arts who live and work in the North Lincolnshire region.

Normanby Hall is magnificent resource for the people of North Lincolnshire. We will keep the Hall and Park open and explore ways of increasing access by all parts of the community.

Labour will explore with the private and voluntary sector as well as the customers of our leisure services the best ways of managing leisure facilities.

The main commitments in this section of the Manifesto are: -

- We pledge to reinvigorate the cultural quarter around Church Square
- We will develop a high quality multipurpose performance building for music and theatre
- We will empower communities so that they prosper in North Lincolnshire
- We will assess the viability of keeping all leisure centres and sports facilities open throughout North Lincolnshire with a view to improving the services provided.
- We will actively seek to build a leisure centre in Winterton
- We will improve library services in Broughton.
- We are committed to keeping Normanby Hall open as a community facility
- We are committed to the development of markets, including farmers' markets
- We will explore with partners and customers the best ways of managing leisure facilities

Economic Well-Being for ALL

The Labour Party believes that everyone should have access to rewarding employment, which is recognised by decent levels of pay and conditions. Accordingly the Labour Government has brought in the National Minimum wage. The local Labour Party supports this and will always seek to lobby in favour of raising this to a reasonable level.

Locally we note that for too long much employment has been in low pay industries. This has led to problems for local people who are in low paid work. We will continue to put forward the case that fair indicators are used, such as Gross Domestic Product per head, to identify need.

Nonetheless, levels of employment have increased significantly in Labour led North Lincolnshire. We will work with the North Lincolnshire Strategic Partnership to build on this and achieve full employment in jobs, with good terms and conditions, for all in North Lincolnshire.

We are committed to a strategy that supports existing and new business. Labour believes that businesses can be encouraged to grow, given the right sort of support. We will seek to attract inward investment and promote an entrepreneurial spirit in the community. We believe that jobs will only be attracted to the area if the workforce is educated and trained to the highest modern standard. Equally this will raise the self-esteem of the community.

North Lincolnshire Council owns certain pieces of land. We will use the income from any commercial and property deals involving this land to reinvest in the local area for example, new business will be helped to relocate into the area.

We believe that new business can be attracted to the area by providing help for high flyers. In partnership with others we have taken the lead in providing incubator units that give advice and practical help to new businesses. We have entered into partnerships with others to provide learning opportunities throughout the authority. We pledge to continue and extend this work.

Labour's record in local government shows that we are able to punch above our weight in regional matters. This can give us a lot of influence. The local Labour party believes that this influence can only benefit the people of North Lincolnshire. This system of networking and partnership will be developed whenever possible. We will work with the Humber Forum to promote the region in the EU. We will seek to attract stable and better-paid jobs. We are committed to continuing to contribute to the leadership of the Yorkshire and Humber region because we believe a strong region is good news for North Lincolnshire.

The area of North Lincolnshire needs a modern infrastructure. We recognise the need for good transport systems, which should allow people to move freely and encourage recruitment. We will lobby for the abolition of the Humber Bridge toll or its reduction to a much lower level. We will lobby for the A15 to be developed into a dual carriageway and improvement of the road, rail, barge and pipeline links into Immingham docks and other Humber ports and wharfs. This could be developed and serve as a gateway into Europe for local business.

We will seek to develop an integrated transport policy for the authority. This will include timetables that are co-ordinated between road and rail and the provision of

safe bus stops near railway stations. We will seek a common ticketing policy. We recognise the difficulty in the present fragmented provision and will lobby for more co-ordination. We will bring together all interested bodies in a transport forum.

Labour is committed to lobby hard for improvements to the A160 road. We will investigate the development of a Barton bypass, using new or existing roads, in order to take heavy traffic out of the town while still encouraging business to the area. We will carry out a survey into the problems of traffic in Crowle and seek solutions. We will monitor the heavy traffic throughout North Lincolnshire, recognising that satellite navigation has increased the use of inappropriate roads by unsuitable heavy vehicles.

We are committed to the retention of part ownership of the Airport and the democratic voice this gives the people. Therefore we will retain shares in it, maintaining a representative on the Board. We will lobby for a railway spur to Humberside airport from Barnetby.

We welcome the Government initiative that has seen more take up of free bus travel by over 65s. There has been a 25% increase in bus journeys and many new routes. We will monitor these and encourage new routes where housing projects are developed. We believe that buses give people the opportunity to meet and talk and so have a social value.

We will continue to support the development of the Normanby Park steelworks site. We will promote this site to bring world-class companies to North Lincolnshire.

We are committed to quality industrial development on the Humber bank towards the east of the authority. The South Humber Bank is recognised as being of strategic importance for the future development of the region. It is an industrial site of European significance with the potential to become a smart Rotterdam bringing greater prosperity to the whole Humber sub-region. Labour will secure a comprehensive development plan for the area. From this a master plan will be developed which will identify the infrastructure and resources needed to ensure that it reaches its full potential. A development corporation will be set up to oversee this development.

At the same time we will oppose any development that threatens the rest of the bank and will lobby to protect it.

Labour will establish a rural partnership to deliver a Rural Strategy aimed at, among other things, reducing rural isolation. We will also address skill shortages in rural areas and promote rural business competitiveness.

Labour is committed to developing capacity building for rural communities as happened in Messingham and Winterton. We will extend this programme to other communities throughout North Lincolnshire.

The main commitments in this section of the Manifesto are: -

- We will work to achieve full employment in jobs with good conditions of employment, for all in North Lincolnshire
- We will pledge to work with others to retain and grow existing business and attract new businesses
- We will continue to contribute to the Leadership of the Yorkshire & Humber region
- We will continue to lobby for the abolition of Humber Bridge tolls
- We will develop an integrated transport policy for North Lincolnshire
- We will lobby for improvements in the crucial arterial road, the A160
- We will lobby for the A15 to be made a dual carriageway.
- We will continue to vigorously support the development of Humberside Airport and retain part ownership.
- We will progress a comprehensive and diverse development plan for the eastern part of the South Humber Bank

Homes and Neighbourhoods

The Labour Party believes that good quality homes are a vital element in the quality of life for anybody.

We will provide leadership and guidance through our Housing Association Forum. A constructive partnership with the Landlords Association is vital. We pledge to develop a meaningful relationship with the housing association and through this challenge and monitor their work. We will ensure that standards are co-ordinated throughout the sector and therefore we will work to provide decent homes for all.

We will work with tenants to ensure that estates are developed in accordance with the wishes of the people. Residents' associations have been established. Labour is committed to extending the number of these so that all our tenants are included. We will empower these organisations so that they have a significant and developing role in the running of services in the community.

We will encourage Neighbourhood Services who will work with tenants to keep areas free from litter, vandalism and tackle repair needs. These workers will be the eyes and ears of the community providing help on how to deal with the authorities as well as liaising with the police and other services.

Labour is committed to bringing everyone into the community and ensuring that no one feels isolated in their homes. To this end we have developed an alarm system call centre. We will work to ensure that all vulnerable people are identified and provide appropriate support. We will work with the Primary Care Trust to ensure a system of Health visits is in place.

Labour believes that it is important to match people to the facilities available. If a house has been adapted for wheelchair access then it should be made available to people with that need. We will put a strategy in place to meet this need. This

will help us to meet the Labour Government's decency standard.

Labour is appalled that homelessness still exists in modern Britain. We believe that this problem can be beaten. However, we recognise that family breakdown and problems of overcrowding are not always easy to identify. We will research into homelessness in North Lincolnshire and we are committed to continuing to tackle this issue.

We will ensure a strategy is in place to provide appropriate housing for young people, which will give them independence but not leave them isolated. We will ensure appropriate support is made available.

Labour will continue to support the Women's Refuge. We will assist the refuge by providing grants and helping to maintain the building.

We will develop street level services and respond to people's concerns about community safety. We will do this by developing our partnership with the police and all other interested bodies.

We believe in a policy of crime reduction through the use of careful review of community concerns and statistics. We will develop an innovative problem solving approach to problems. An action plan will be produced which will take into account the need to delivery 'best value'. This should include the planning stage of building when crime can be 'planned out'.

Labour will support neighbourhood teams for the maintenance of parks, gardens and streets. We will give these autonomy but expect them to be accountable for the work they do. We will set rigorous targets for what must be achieved.

Labour in North Lincolnshire will develop the parks across the authority. Our youngsters deserve high-class facilities that

are clean, safe and secure. Amenities will be developed to attract families. Up-to-date play equipment will be provided. We will ensure that children across North Lincolnshire have easy access to safe play areas. Children will have access to broad expanse of open areas and equipment. We will work with parish councils to achieve this aim across North Lincolnshire.

A major problem in recent years has been vandalism in the parks. We will investigate ways of supervising parks and protecting equipment. This may include the use of park keepers or surveillance cameras.

We will work to overcome the problems of first line pollution, including dirt, litter, vandalism, dog fouling, fly tipping, hooliganism and anti-social behaviour. We pledge to deal with all fly tipping and abandoned vehicles within 24 hours of them being notified to the council. We will use education of the public and children in schools, as well as clean-up methods. We will seek, where possible to recover the costs of cleaning up the mess from those responsible.

Labour's anti-litter strategy will include elements of education for all members of the community. We will set targets for the reduction of litter and work with other agencies, town and parish councils to meet them. Weeds on roadsides and other places will be reduced in an environmentally friendly way that does not involve the use of herbicides as far as this is possible.

We will set up a phone line so that all street scene problems can be reported to the same number. All graffiti reported in this way will be removed within 7 days.

Violent crime will be a priority. Community wardens will report and help the victims of crime. We will make use of legislation to target the misuse of alcohol and drugs. We will develop strategies to deal with drink and drug related crime and antisocial behaviour.

The council's public protection department will work with other departments and groups to ensure that private sector housing; in particular the rented sector, meets high standards of safety and health.

The main commitments in this section of the manifesto are: -

- We will work with local groups and other stakeholder organisations, so that they have a significant and developing role in the running of services in the community
- We will ensure Neighbourhood Services work to reduce litter, vandalism, graffiti and other detritus across the Authority
- We will work to ensure that all vulnerable people are identified and appropriate support provided.
- We will work to ensure that a strategy is in place to provide appropriate housing to help young people with housing difficulties
- We will challenge and monitor the housing association
- We will work with the police and other agencies, in neighbourhood action teams, to find innovative ways of reducing crime and the fear of crime
- We will target violent crime and drink and drug related antisocial behaviour
- We will introduce a single number phone line for reporting all street level problems
- We will ensure all children across North Lincolnshire have easy access to safe play areas
- We will remove all fly tipping within 24 hours of its being reported and graffiti within 7 days