

London Labour

Annual Report 2021

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WELCOME

Welcome to the London Labour Regional Conference 2021. It has been a very challenging year, but our elected representatives and fantastic party members have kept the show on the road, and we should all be very proud of how our movement has stepped up to meet the moment. We thank the members of the Regional Executive Committee for all their hard work over the last two years, and look forward to working with the new Committee as we work towards the 2022 local elections and beyond.

Greater London Labour

MAYORAL REPORT

It's thanks to Labour members, trade unionists and activists that London now has a Labour Mayor for the next three years, backed by a strong team of Labour Assembly Members.

I promise to do my utmost to repay that trust by working faithfully and tirelessly over the next three years to stand up for London and to deliver on the pledges I've made. Much has changed since I was first elected Mayor five years ago, but the common thread that will continue to run through everything I do will be my commitment to create a fairer, more equal, more prosperous city for all Londoners – irrespective of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or background.

London gave me the opportunities to go from a council estate to being Mayor of the greatest city on earth, and my aim to ensure all Londoners get the same opportunities to fulfil their potential remains stronger than ever.

As Mayor, I'll continue to stand up for London during these tough times and to deliver the change our city needs. I'm confident that we can harness the spirit that got us through the pandemic to re-open, re-build and re-ignite our amazing city, putting the dark days of the past year behind us, getting London back on its feet and building a better and brighter future for all Londoners.

I've been working with Keir Starmer to hold the Government to account throughout the pandemic and to fight for support for jobs and businesses. Along with



the other Labour Mayors, we've shown the country what Labour in power can achieve.

It's because of the support of our amazing Labour members that I am able to work day and night, hand in hand with Labour councillors, Assembly Members and MPs to make London a fairer, greener, safer city. Thank you once again.

Sadiq Khan
Labour's Mayor of London

REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT



So much has happened since our last conference in early 2019, it's hard to express how grateful we are to our dedicated activists, councillors, trade unionists, socialist societies and the whole London Labour family for facing those challenges together and

always rising to the occasion.

Through European elections, the 2019 General Election, a leadership election, the COVID-19 pandemic and then the Mayoral and London Assembly campaign these past few years, we've shown how the Labour movement represents some of the best of our city, and that electorally we remain a force to be reckoned with.

I'm so proud to have joined as London Regional Director last year, having previously worked as Deputy Director and an Organiser myself in London before that. We all know there is still lots to do to rebuild people's trust in us and win a Labour government in 2024; but I know that by working together, building our capacity, and hitting the Tories where it hurts, we can make it happen.

In 2019, the European elections were disappointing for us, returning the Liberal Democrats as the largest party in London. Then there was the snap General Election where our only gain was Putney.

No sooner was the election complete did we hear of the new virus spreading, and even before Keir was elected as leader, the city – and the Party – was in lockdown.

It was during the early period of the pandemic I started in my new role, and I just want to say a huge thank you and well done to everyone in the London Labour family who contributed to the massive effort to help Londoners and our communities when things got tough.

From the thousands of key workers who put your lives on the line to keep our city moving, to the activists who joined mutual aid groups to help out those who needed it most, to the army of vaccinators who have slowly started to turn the tide against this terrible disease – all of you are an inspiration.

Your determination, I believe, in the face of uncertainty, propelled us into the fight when the Tories started to use the pandemic to try to cut essential transport services in London. From the summer of 2020 onwards we waged an air war with the government to stop them pinning the blame on Sadiq for their cuts to our services.

I'd also like to thank the staff team here at London Labour as well as the local and borough organisers across the

“The UK Government and indeed other countries around the world need to do everything they can to stop this jobs crisis from turning into a social crisis for future generations.”

city. Their hard work and commitment to the Labour Party has been instrumental, particularly these last few months.

Last autumn we had the EHRC report, which was a sobering read for many of us. London is home to the UK's largest Jewish population, and accepting the report has been a vital first step to winning back the support of the Jewish community, and re-affirming Labour as a party that challenges racism in all its forms. There is still so much more to do, but it's right that process is now underway.

At the start of 2021 we went straight into the London and Mayoral Assembly elections, delayed from 2020 and truly an election like no other.

We didn't know from the start of our campaign whether we would even be allowed to knock a single door on election day, and we faced huge concerns about turnout of voters. The Tories, heavily reliant on postal votes, had an in-built advantage against us.

Nonetheless, the London Labour team mobilised across our city: running a massive postal voter registration drive, campaigning on Dialogue and on the doors, and putting up an incredible defence with Sadiq topping the poll.

We should be so proud of those achievements. But we cannot afford to be complacent. Next year the Labour councils which have been the backbone of our pandemic response all over London will be up for election, and we will again mobilise to win.

So let's get the Tories on the run, and get us back on the path to winning the country in 2024.

Hope to see you with us.

Amy Fodé, Regional Director London Labour



“The London Labour team mobilised across our city: running a massive postal voter registration drive, campaigning on Dialogue and on the doors, and putting up an incredible defence with Sadiq topping the poll.”

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PLP REPORT



Since we last met, we've fought a general election, the United Kingdom has left the European Union and the world has been in the grip of a deadly pandemic.

The general election in 2019 was Labour's worse since 1935. London produced Labour's only

gain of the night - with the brilliant Fleur Anderson winning Putney from the Tories - but we also lost a seat to the Conservatives, too. We've picked ourselves up, dusted ourselves down, and welcomed some fresh faces to the diverse London Group of Labour MPs, each of whom has been making their mark in different ways.

Labour MPs have been getting stuck into Boris Johnson's government - standing up for Londoners and supporting our Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan and Labour councils to support our city through these turbulent times. We have also met with Sophie Linden and Lib Peck from City Hall and Cressida Dick from the Met on policing in the capital.

We were delighted to hit the campaign trail for Sadiq and a fantastic group of candidates for the London Assembly. We work closely with Sadiq and his team at City Hall, championing his policies that are making a real difference to the lives of Londoners, as well as acting as critical friends to act as a sounding board and to inform his thinking.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to Dawn Butler for stepping in as Acting Chair in June and July this year while I was undergoing cancer treatment – she did a great job and it allowed me to focus on my recovery.

In May next year, we face a crucial set of elections across London's boroughs. Throughout the last decade, Labour in local government have shown what a real difference we can make when we win power. Across our city we've seen Labour councils continue to innovate and support local residents, particularly the most vulnerable, despite more than a decade of Tory cuts. This has been particularly true during the pandemic. Where the Tories in government failed to step up, Labour councils stepped in, delivering food, keeping children learning and working with the

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Mayor to get rough sleepers off our streets and into a warm bed with a hot meal for the night. Labour MPs will be campaigning proudly alongside them to make sure that we elect more Labour councillors across our city.

Having grown up on free school meals with a single mum on a council estate in Stepney, I understand better than most that London really is a tale of two cities. For everything that makes London such a great and special city - our diversity, arts, culture, science, technology, business, industry, education, nightlife, tourism - the greatness of this city is matched by its deep and intolerable levels of poverty and inequality.

The Covid-19 pandemic has writ large those inequalities and demonstrated why Boris Johnson's so-called 'levelling up' agenda will ring hollow so long as it ignores the deep inequalities that not only exist between London and the rest of England but within London, too.

Throughout the pandemic, we've had to shame the Tories into doing the right thing, working closely with our friends across the trade Union movement: from support for people unable to work to feeding hungry children during the school holidays. They've refused to give NHS staff the pay rise they deserve and NHS underfunding mean that waiting lists will be even harder to deal with. Young Londoners have experienced year after year of exams chaos and avoidable disruption to their schooling. The murder of George Floyd shocked the world and sparked a movement for racial equality and justice, but the Tories couldn't even back our own national football team when they took the knee, let alone take the meaningful action needed to deal with the very real inequalities that exist today - even in a city as proudly diverse as ours.

For these reasons, and so many more, we need a Labour government. Let's hope this conference is a springboard for Labour victories across London in May and a Labour

Government led by Keir Starmer at the next general election.

**Wes Streeting MP,
Chair of the London Group of Labour MPs,
Labour MP for Ilford North,
Shadow Child Poverty Secretary**



"For everything that makes London such a great and special city - our diversity, arts, culture, science, technology, business, industry, education, nightlife, tourism - the greatness of this city is matched by its deep and intolerable levels of poverty and inequality."

LONDON LABOUR COUNCILS REPORT



This has been a year like no other, with the Covid-19 pandemic impacting every aspect of our lives.

Almost overnight, councils across London stepped up to the challenge and quickly adapted to the changing needs of our

communities. Pressure on our front-line services has been immense and I'm incredibly proud of the resilience Londoners have shown. We have proven time and time again the value of local leadership in understanding the needs of our communities and being adaptable and flexible in our response on the ground.

In London, we have led the way in providing emergency support, securing more than 48 million pieces of PPE supplies for frontline staff, working with voluntary and community organisations to support shielding residents and supporting the NHS with the vaccination roll out. Labour in local government has led the way in providing local leadership – we are so proud of the way our frontline staff stepped up to deliver in the worst of times.

The pandemic has exposed existing inequalities and the economic impact of Covid-19 has hit London hard – our unemployment rate is the highest of any UK region at 6.5 percent. There are thousands of communities living in poverty and despite a national campaign led by Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford the government refused to cover the cost of free school meals during the summer holidays last year. I was proud

of Labour councils who stepped in and provided funding which ensured no child was left hungry.

In our schools, teachers, parents and pupils have faced an enormous challenge. In January this year the government ignored Labour's call for schools to remain closed and instead insisted on pushing ahead with reopening which ended twenty-four hours later in yet another Tory U-turn. Labour councils were at the forefront of the effort to make sure government listened to the voices of teachers and parents.

Despite government promises to do 'whatever it takes' to support councils, local government continues to face serious financial challenges as the impact of the pandemic continues to drive up demand on front line services. Councils in London are set to see the largest per-person budget cuts due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and yet government have ignored calls for fairer funding which reflects the growth in need.

Through our deep understanding of our communities, Labour councils have provided leadership and

“We have proven time and time again the value of local leadership in understanding the needs of our communities and being adaptable and flexible in our response on the ground.”

understanding in the most difficult of circumstances. We have offered a dramatic contrast to the governments chaotic handling of the biggest public health crisis in our lifetime.

We know that shaping London's recovery from the pandemic is vitally important for our communities. London Councils has worked with the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and other key partners across the city to develop nine recovery missions to support the city's economic and social recovery to build back better for Londoners.

These include commitments to make sure every Londoner has access to good work and digital connectivity, is protected from financial hardship, that all young people have a mentor and good quality youth services, and a plan to double the size of London's green economy.

The recovery is an opportunity for us to build on the work and relationships we have built over the last eighteen months and look forward to bringing all the diversity and creativity of Londoners to rebuilding our city.

Covid has shown the terrible cost of the deep inequalities in our city, as we recover we can't go back to how things are but have to work together to build a fairer city. This means addressing the systemic and long-term racial injustice we have seen so starkly during Covid, and the housing, health and employment inequalities that cost lives. As Labour councils we are committed to working alongside communities worst impacted by the pandemic on a recovery for all Londoners.

I hope the Labour family will come together to support a fair recovery and help Labour councils win power again so we can continue to deliver for our communities.

Georgia Gould



"Covid has shown the terrible cost of the deep inequalities in our city, as we recover we can't go back to how things are but have to work together to build a fairer city."

GLA REPORT



The world has shifted on its axis in the last year. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought change and upheaval for every single Londoner, and life will never again be quite as we knew it. It has also brought into sharp focus the need for strong and competent

government. And whilst that is something severely lacking from those that darken the Government front benches in Westminster, Londoners are benefiting from strong and competent regional government here in the capital.

Britain's response to Covid has been blighted by the dither and delay of Boris Johnson, the ruthless pursuit of the vested interests of the Tory front bench, and dangerous decision making. The country desperately needs a Labour government, led by Keir Starmer, to take charge, sort out this mess, and lead us into a better future. Labour in London, with Sadiq Khan at the helm, is setting the bar for what that looks like.

Whether it's calling for face coverings in public spaces, implementing a thorough cleaning regime on TfL services, or supporting safer ways to travel, Sadiq Khan has provided exactly the type of leadership we need in this crisis. His manifesto's focus on "jobs, jobs, jobs" and creating a better future for the capital saw Londoners put their faith in Sadiq Khan to lead our city's recovery. May's Mayoral and Assembly election results were an endorsement of that leadership, giving Labour a mandate to shape London's recovery from the pandemic to deliver

a fairer, stronger, and more prosperous London for all. And whilst the London Assembly Labour Group returned 11 members this year, down one on the previous term, we will still play a full role in scrutiny and in pursuing Labour solutions to London's problems.

It's not just our response to the pandemic where Labour is showing leadership. We've begun to see the fruits of City Hall's considerable efforts to tackle violent crime. Earlier this year new figures showed a drop in some of the most prolific forms of violence. Yet the Mayor and Labour members of the London Assembly are absolutely clear that we cannot stop here, which is why it is really welcome to see new plans announced by City Hall and the Met to drive down violence in the coming months as Covid restrictions are eased.

Whilst Labour in London are firmly focused on pursuing the interests of the capital, the Tories have other

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ideas. Their continued attempts to introduce cuts and destructive reforms to Transport for London (TfL) show their contempt for our vital services and serve as a reminder as to how our public assets are never safe in the hands of a Tory government.

They have form in this area – Tory cuts to the Metropolitan Police have totalled nearly £1 billion in recent years. But on this occasion, their obsessive pursuit of austerity, and giving the capital a kicking, could have severe consequences that stretch beyond London. TfL is the artery that delivers oxygen to London's economy, which in turn is the beating heart of the British economy. Persistent Tory attacks on our transport services are a cynical political ploy to win votes, exposing the shallow nature of the “levelling up” agenda by undermining the capital and the country's economic recovery.

We've seen off some of the worst of these attacks – for example, Grant Shapps' insistence that the congestion charge zone must be extended – but Labour must go it alone. The Greens and Lib Dems recent decision to form an alliance with the Tories on the London Assembly shows that there is no opportunity for a progressive partnership in the capital.

With local elections less than a year away we need to use this time to expose the cynical game playing of our opponents and to demonstrate clearly Labour's achievements in the capital. After all, London serves as an example of how Labour in power is the greatest defence of our services, values, and the public interest.

Len Duvall,
Labour Group Chair London Assembly



“The Greens and Lib Dems recent decision to form an alliance with the Tories on the London Assembly shows that there is no opportunity for a progressive partnership in the capital.”

TULO REPORT



The last two years have proved to be challenging on more fronts than we would have hoped compounded by the dreadful pandemic that has taken so many lives. The pandemic has also triggered one of the world's worst jobs crises since the Great

Depression and there is a real danger that the crisis will increase poverty and widen inequalities with the impact being felt for many years to come. The UK Government and indeed other countries around the world need to do everything they can to stop this jobs crisis from turning into a social crisis for future generations. We should not ignore the broken labour market which entrenched inequality after the 2008 financial crash and calls from the Trade Union movement to recognise huge changes in the world of work brought on by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The biggest win for the trade union movement during the pandemic is having changed the mindset of the whole nation over who workers really are. This will offer a real opportunity to finally address the gross imbalance of power and wealth in the world of work where people are once again beginning to realise that the Trade Unions are relevant to society. We have made workplaces safer than ever before, even among the deaths that have occurred, there would have been far more if the trade unions had not engaged in securing adequate levels of PPE. We jointly need to re-evaluate the work in society based on the needs of society and not the needs of the market. The wider labour and trade union

movement must examine new forms of investment and regulation to address the problems facing the changing climate. As we transition from the old economy to a new de-carbonised economy, the transition must include the workforce in that journey in order to avoid becoming the victims.

Finally and at a time when leadership in politics is so lacking, we have seen the England football team set a very high standard. The entire squad have challenged racism, raised funds for the NHS and campaigned to feed and educate children. This was sadly tarnished by the very worst elements in society where some players were subjected to disgusting racial abuse. The wider Labour and Trade Union movement stands proudly and firmly with the likes of Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka and it is our duty to call out all forms of racism and demand stronger action against those culprits who hide behind social media platforms.

Alan Tate, TULO Chair

“The UK Government and indeed other countries around the world need to do everything they can to stop this jobs crisis from turning into a social crisis for future generations.”



Our members are our greatest asset.

The Tories are funded by millionaires, but our campaigning is supported by thousands of small donations from people like you.

London Labour's Campaign Club exists to ensure that our party has the resources it needs to win across the whole of London.



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A portrait of Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, with his arms crossed, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.

JOIN NOW!



“We need a Labour Government so I can deliver the London we all need, you can help – sign up now.”

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London

JOIN NOW!



To join the London Labour Party Campaign Club simply complete this form and return it to: **London Labour Party, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QT**

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