

Nottingham 2015 Labour Manifesto



FOR STUDENTS

Introduction

Nottingham is one of the most diverse, integrated and welcoming cities in the UK and one of the best places to be a student. Our city has lots to offer students and recent graduates with thriving live music, theatre and dance scenes. The city centre nightlife is nationally renowned and has won a 'purple flag' for the past four years in recognition of the safe, clean and enjoyable experience it offers. Nottingham also has beautiful parks, award-winning public transport, miles of car-free cycle tracks and the highest number of independent retail stores outside London.

Labour councillors work closely with

elected officers from both the students' unions and have campaigned together on several issues including extending CCTV coverage, encouraging recycling of waste and making cycling easier and safer. We've also been successful in securing free parking permits for students on healthcare placements outside of the city.

Drawing on the Nottingham Student Manifesto written by students from both universities and New College Nottingham, this document sets out our ambition to make Nottingham an even better place to be a student, and somewhere that more students choose to stay after they graduate.



Housing

We know that students want a good range of affordable, safe and high-quality housing with close transport links to the campuses and the city centre. In partnership with both universities, we brought Unipol to Nottingham to drive up standards of student housing and tackle problems such as unjust registration fees and unfair deposit arrangements.

Nottingham Labour has delivered:

1. The introduction of Additional Licensing to cover smaller HMOs currently excluded from statutory licensing. This will ensure that more tenants than ever are housed in a safe and secure environment and help to identify irresponsible landlords,
2. The 'Nottingham Standard' to help students make sure they are renting a good quality home,
3. Restrictions on 'To Let' signs which have improved the look of residential streets,
4. Effective use of our planning powers to encourage the construction of new, modern student housing in Nottingham to drive up the standard and choice of accommodation,
5. Work with 20 other university towns and cities to introduce the Article 4 Direction to manage the spread of new HMOs, helping to make sure Nottingham's communities reflect the diversity of our city.



Nottingham Labour will:

1. Ensure developers of new student accommodation build homes that students actually want to live in and consult with them on planning applications that affect them,
2. Campaign with students for government to outlaw annualised student tenancy agreements and finders fees,
3. Deliver housing options to meet the needs of students and young people who want to stay in Nottingham after they graduate,
4. Work with Unipol and student groups to ensure all students know their rights and responsibilities when renting a home and provide the means for victims of rogue landlords to contact us easily,
5. Create a comprehensive city-wide licensing scheme for all private rented accommodation to drive up standards and protect tenants across the city.

Transport



Nottingham is one of the greenest transport cities in the UK and regularly wins awards recognising its achievements, such as the Campaign for Better Transport award and the 2014 Bus Company of the Year award. Surveys regularly conclude that the majority of residents in Nottingham choose to travel by bus, tram, bike or on foot. The Council, in partnership with Nottingham City Transport and both universities, has sought to offer students the best possible deal for public transport with the GO2 Uni buses on routes 4, 31 and 34. A year's student bus travel in Nottingham costs only £199, which we believe is the cheapest in England and is taken up by more than 10,000 students annually.

Nottingham Labour has delivered:

1. A new tram link connecting the University Park and Clifton Campuses with the city centre, Nottingham train station and major Park and Ride sites,
2. Double-decker buses on all our GO2 Uni routes, as well as introducing free WiFi and 'real time' displays at all stops with 95% of buses arriving on time,
3. 'Ucycle', the biggest student loan bike scheme in the UK, offering long-term bike hire in partnership with both universities at an affordable price,
4. Work with sustainable travel charity 'Sustrans' to improve the safety of pedestrian and cyclist crossings at Dunkirk roundabout, a main gateway to the University of Nottingham,
5. Free residents parking permits for students who are on medical placements beyond Nottingham and need to travel when public transport is not available.

Nottingham Labour will:

1. Deliver a simple, integrated 'Oyster' style ticket for our public transport network,
2. Work to secure the same travel discounts for all young people as those offered to students,
3. Deliver a network of continuous, safer commuter cycling routes,
4. Improve the standards and safety of taxis,
5. Campaign to get you back to Nottingham from London by train in under 90 minutes.

Crime



Crime in Nottingham has fallen by 14% since 2011, and Nottingham is a city where most people feel safe and secure in their homes and neighbourhoods. However, a small number of criminals, as in all cities, target student properties as they often have laptops, mobile phones and sometimes are not as secure as they might be.

We know the experience of crime can damage a student's university experience, so we are committed to continuing to cut crime, keeping you safe and ensuring you get the best from your time in Nottingham.

Nottingham Labour has delivered:

1. Campaigns alongside students to get additional street CCTV put in where students need it,
2. £100,000 funding, secured with help from students and the Police and Crime Commissioner, to install CCTV in Hackney Carriages to protect both drivers and passengers from harm,
3. Work with the Police on 'Operation Graduate' - an annual programme to reduce burglary rates in areas popular with students,
4. Secure cycle parking facilities at both university campuses and a free cycle lock swap for students to keep them safe from bike thieves,
5. Work alongside the Police to identify poor housing security as well as loading tracking software onto student laptops and immobilisers onto mobile phones.

Nottingham Labour will:

1. Cut the number of victims of crime by a fifth and continue to reduce anti-social behaviour,
2. Provide free security advice to households that have been burgled and take enforcement action against landlords that fail to follow this security advice,
3. Give advice to first year students before they begin house hunting on what to look for in off-campus accommodation to minimise their risk of becoming a victim of crime,
4. Support students to develop a network of 'Neighbourhood Watch Schemes' in areas popular with students to reduce crime and promote good neighbourhood relations,
5. Work with the Police, universities and Students Unions to improve the safety of students when returning home late at night, and particularly women's safety.

Community & Environment



Helping students settle into life in Nottingham and feel part of the local community is our priority. Living off-campus for the first time in a shared house is a big challenge for most students and we work hard to ensure it goes well and students integrate quickly. Student volunteers make a vital contribution to Nottingham which we greatly value and encourage. This experience can greatly enhance a student's satisfaction of Nottingham and their subsequent employability.

Nottingham Labour will:

1. Support and promote more music and sports events in Wollaton Park and other city venues,
2. Work to assist international students settling into Nottingham,
3. Continue to improve parks used by students including a multi-million pound refurbishment of Highfields Park, a new outdoor gym at Lenton Recreation Ground and refurbishment of Radford Recreation Ground,
4. Introduce a scheme to recognise and reward student volunteers in their community,
5. work with the Students' Unions, Universities and Colleges to ensure that the mental health needs of students are met.

Nottingham Labour has delivered:

1. Facebook and twitter accounts to communicate with students about poor landlords and other issues,
2. A free text service for students to remind them of bin collection days,
3. A wide range of voluntary projects involving students, to give them practical work experience including designing a cycle and pedestrian corridor,
4. Regular meetings with students' unions officers from both universities to discuss issues that concern students,
5. Work to promote mutual understanding and integration between students and long-term residents in off-campus student areas.

Nottingham Labour has delivered:

1. Boosted the spending power of students by signposting them to the City's best independent retailers, making their money go further in the local economy,
2. Promoted Nottingham as a global centre for research in energy, engineering, science, creative and digital businesses, and more than 1,000 jobs created in these sectors since 2011,
3. Green energy initiatives, such as installing solid wall insulation and solar panels on 1000's of houses, as well as establishing Nottingham's CleanTech Centre as a home for business start-ups in clean technology,
4. The 'Growth 100' programme to support the 100 small firms in the city that offer the best prospects for jobs and growth,
5. Improved digital connectivity to help Nottingham become a hub for high-technology companies, helping the universities to retain spin-off companies.

Economy

Students and their universities are an essential part of Nottingham's economy through their spending power, the research undertaken by spin-out companies and providing local employers with a skilled and creative workforce. The fresh ideas and perspectives of students and recent graduates are so important to making Nottingham an even better place to live, work and study.

That's why we want more graduates to remain in Nottingham after University, and we want to encourage students to contribute their ideas to the city. Nottingham Labour is committed to working with Nottingham's two universities on key issues including regeneration, growth and job creation.

Nottingham Labour will:

1. Make Nottingham the best place in the UK for business start-ups,
2. Increase the number of students choosing to stay in Nottingham after they graduate by 20%,
3. Provide 50 units of cheap workspace for young people to rent, in order to encourage new businesses and new ideas,
4. Create a city-wide quality internship programme to give more students opportunities in the workplace before they graduate, as well as a City Council graduate scheme to recognise and keep talent in the city,
5. Continue to place the universities at the centre of Nottingham's high-knowledge economy and support them to continue to grow and improve.

proud of
Nottingham

Positive Politics from Nottingham Labour



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Standing up for students in Nottingham