

We know the difference Labour in local government can make – Andrew Gwynne will today address Labour Party Conference

Andrew

Gwynne MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, speaking at the Labour Party's Annual Conference in Brighton, will say:

On the work of Labour councils, Andrew Gwynne will say:

"We know the difference Labour in local government can make.

"In Bristol, Labour has pushed the social care crisis into the spotlight – leading the call for city leaders to come together to lobby central government over cuts.

"South Tyneside has developed a purpose-built facility to support integrated health and care services, designed to support the needs of those with varying stages of dementia.

"In London, Sadiq Khan, has called an end to Boris's vanity projects, instead prioritising the development of new affordable housing.

"In Greater Manchester and Merseyside, our Metro Mayors, Andy Burnham and Steve Rotheram, understand that 'a Northern Powerhouse' is one built by local people, and by investing in our communities – and not through slogans alone.

"Labour in local government will continue to innovate to make a real difference to people's lives. But I also know the very difficult decisions that councillors have had to make over the past seven years as this Tory government sneakily attempts to devolve the blame for their cuts away from Whitehall – to local councillors in Town Halls."

On funding

for local government, Andrew Gwynne will say:

"Police cuts. Fire Service cuts. SureStart closures. The crisis in social care. They all have the same root cause: a Tory dogmatic vision of a smaller state.

"We cannot empower our communities if we impoverish them. That's why we have promised to put council funding on a sustainable footing. Councils

would be £1.5bn better off under a Labour Government next year.”

On empowering local communities, Andrew Gwynne will say:

“A generation of outsourcing and forced privatisation of public services, has hollowed out the capacity of our councils to deliver for our communities.

“Today I can announce Labour’s radical plan to renew faith in local services and deliver a renaissance of local government.

“We will give councils greater powers to deliver services themselves – because our services should be run for our local communities alone.

“We’ll extend transparency and Freedom of Information rules, so that communities know where their money is going.

“And we’ll end the two tier workforce with a “Fair Wage” clause.

“Taken together, this will be some of the largest set of reforms to local government in modern times: empowering communities and rebuilding local institutions and local services. Because they’re our public services – and we should always put people first.”