

**BRISTOLFIRST**

**KEEP BRISTOL  
INDEPENDENT**

**WITH  
GEORGE  
FERGUSON**

**5 MAY 2016**

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# **GEORGE FERGUSON 2020 ACTION PLAN**

Proven skills & experience to run our city  
**Others talk, he delivers**



**My pledge to  
deliver a Better  
Bristol for All  
2016-2020**

**BRISTOLFIRST**  
Keep Bristol Independent

**“LET’S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING”**

## 1 Skills and Jobs for All

- Having negotiated a £1bn devolution deal with colleagues in the West of England LEP, I will ensure this deal delivers transport, housing, skills and 'good growth' and increased opportunities for all across Bristol.
- Having boosted the Bristol economy, I will establish a new Bristol Business Advisory Board to ensure a public/private partnership approach to reinforcing our success.
- Having turned the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone into the most successful in the UK, I will introduce Mayoral Enterprise Areas across Bristol to focus activity where jobs and growth are most needed, allocating a £1m fund to kick start investment in these most deprived areas.
- I will incentivise new and existing small independent businesses to locate in Mayoral Regeneration Areas offering them business rate support for the first six months.
- I will introduce the 'Better Bristol Business Charter' to ensure everyone benefits from Bristol's economic success, enabling improved access to apprenticeships, employment and in-school mentoring.
- Having introduced the Social Value policy, I shall work with Voscur and our thriving voluntary & community sector to ensure greater consideration is given to local contracting.
- Having secured Bristol's position as a leading European city to live, learn and work in, I will continue to champion the city on the world stage to ensure Bristol contributes positively to the region's inward investment target of creating over 5000 new jobs by 2020.
- Having saved £100million through Council efficiency savings, property rationalisation and good business practice, I shall continue to ensure Bristol saves its essential services by driving through this agenda.

## 2 Homes for All

- Having formed the Bristol Homes Board and started building Council Homes for the first time for a generation, I will tear up the rule-book to accelerate the delivery of more affordable, social and interim housing across the city to ensure that we make substantial inroads into the homelessness challenge within 24 months.
- Plans are already in place to deliver over 2,000 new homes a year in Bristol, and I will look beyond our borders for creative ways to deliver more affordable homes and accelerate solutions to our fast growing population.
- I will unlock Bristol's share of the £2billion of new funding available from the Homes and Communities Agency, to deliver starter homes for first time buyers aged 23-40.
- I will establish a Bristol City Council owned company to develop new affordable rented accommodation to include key workers in health, education and the emergency services.

- I will extend the roll-out of an ethical lettings charter to protect tenants' rights across the city and work closely with landlords to ensure the delivery of more decent homes to rent.

## 3 Culture and Sport for All

- Having turned 20 years of talk into action, I shall deliver the best new Arena in Britain, opening 2018, and bring major international acts and events to Bristol for the first time.
- Having secured the award of European City of Sport 2017, I will work with the Active Bristol Partnership to deliver another great year for Bristol.
- Subject to widespread city consultation and involvement, I shall lead a strong community arts-based bid to become the European Capital of Culture 2023
- To encourage young people into culture and sport, I will launch 'Bristol LIVE!' to give free tickets to every secondary school student to ensure they can see major live sporting or cultural events.
- Having worked closely with Bristol Music Trust and Arts Council England to secure £25m funding for the transformation of Colston Hall, I will ensure it delivers the Trust's dream of 'music for all' and continuing support for education and the inspiring UK Para-orchestra.
- Having saved our branch libraries, I shall work closely with our excellent librarians, local Councillors, Neighbourhood Partnerships, the voluntary sector and local business to build on this new base to create multi-purpose community and cultural hubs.

## 4 A Sustainable and Healthy City for All

- Having secured Bristol's status as the leading UK city for sustainability, I will build on our great green legacy as European Green Capital 2015 and ensure that Bristol's ambitious strategy is implemented.
- Having set up the Bristol Energy Company, I will deliver affordable energy to combat rising fuel poverty and to encourage the use of cleaner energy.
- Having used my business skills and experience to protect key front-line services from over £100m annual spending cuts in funding from Westminster, I will continue to fight our corner to ensure services are defended in the face of further Government austerity measures.
- Having planted 39,000 trees and established Bristol's global lead with 'One Tree Per Child', I will extend this scheme to continue in our Primary Schools until 2020 and pledge to protect and invest in our green spaces and wildlife.

- Having taken control of our waste operations by setting up the Bristol Waste Company, I shall expand the company's operations to include management of our recycling centres and open a new South Bristol Resource, Reuse and Recycling Centre in 2017.
- I shall lead a purge against litter, fly-tipping and vandalism across Bristol including the implementation of the increased maximum fines.
- Having taken Bristol's plan for tackling climate change to the UN COP21 in Paris last December, I shall take the necessary steps to meet our pledge to make the city 'carbon neutral' by 2050.

## 5 An Independent and Safer City for All

- By being free of party political control, I will continue to put the interests of Bristol and its citizens first in all decision making.
- Having set up a cross-party, gender balanced 'rainbow' cabinet in order to give all parties a fair voice in Bristol's decision making, I shall look to strengthen this governance in my second-term.
- Having delivered tangible benefits for Bristol via the private/public partnership boards I have introduced for Education, Health and Property, I shall ensure the Bristol Homes Board and new Bristol Business Advisory Board deliver similar citywide benefits.
- Having worked with our Independent Police and Crime Commissioner to put Bristol's safety above politics and tackle hate crime, I shall invite the PCC to co-chair a new Safer Bristol Board in my second-term.
- Having established the Bristol Women's Commission, I shall consult members prior to making any decisions relating to the safety, welfare and rights of women in Bristol.
- Having supported the development of the Bristol Manifesto for Race Equality, I shall work closely with its authors to turn the words into action.
- I will appoint an Assistant Mayor and strategic director with the specific brief of working and engaging with the vibrant LGBT community.

## 6 Efficient Transport for All

- Having commenced the first major transport infrastructure improvements in the city for over 50 years, I shall deliver MetroBus in 2017 and MetroRail in 2020, dramatically improving bus and rail travel across the region, including major investment in local lines and stations.
- Having successfully introduced Resident's Parking Schemes in the more central areas, I shall ensure continuing review and consultation, including the appointment of an independent advisor.

- In line with our status as a global leader in sustainability, I shall plan for a widespread low emission zone, introduce electric and zero emission vehicles, and seek to ban HGVs in central areas to encourage use of smaller cleaner vehicles via the Avonmouth Freight Consolidation Centre.
- Recognising the wide consultation undertaken during 2015, I shall adopt the Bristol 'Good Transport Plan' developed by the Bristol Green Capital Partnership encouraging better public and active transport provision.
- Having introduced more street festivals and established new markets, I shall remove car traffic from the historic heart of the city to bring it up to the standards expected of a fine historic city.
- Having won UK and European funding for Smart City energy and transport programmes, I shall champion car sharing, intelligent parking, cycling, walking and modal shift.

## 7 A Fairer Caring City for All

- Having constituted the Health & Wellbeing Board as a decision making body to enable it to break down the barriers to good health, education and employment, I shall work with this influential partnership to ensure an integrated approach to care of older people and the most vulnerable.
- Having supported every one of our Children's Centres, I shall extend our 'Whole Family' approach to tackling deprivation with early intervention support.
- Having greatly increased the number of apprenticeships within the City Council I will work with the Learning City Partnership of employers, educators and Universities to develop 'The Bristol Offer' to open up a pathway into great further education for those traditionally excluded from this opportunity.
- Having protected the most vulnerable via hardship funds in excess of £20m, including the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, I will seek to prioritise opportunities to focus support for deprived citizens during my second term.
- Having delivered the 'Disabled Go' initiative and fought for the retention of the Independent Living Allowance, I shall continue to consult with the Disability Equality Forum in all matters regarding disabled rights and equal access.
- Having delivered 12,000 new primary school places in order to meet Bristol's growing needs, giving more parents their first choice of school than ever before, in my second-term I shall implement our plan to deliver the increased number of Secondary Schools places needed.
- Having vastly increased the number of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding', I shall lead work, as the first UNESCO Learning City in England, to ensure we strive for excellence right across the city and that there is no reason for a child to be denied access to great education.

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