

FOCUS

SPRING 2021



on EASTVILLE

WITH CLLR SULTAN KHAN AND CAMPAIGNER MOHAMMAD RASHID

BRISTOL ENERGY DEBACLE Mayor Rees presides over a loss of up to £60 million!

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£19m investment BLOCKED by Labour

Labour councillors used their majority to block proposals by the Liberal Democrats, supported by other parties, to redirect £19m of wasted money into our schools, parks and safer cycling.

Following the mayor having lost nearly £60M on his doomed Bristol Energy company, services are now being deprived of much needed investment.

Local play areas are being left to fall apart, parks are being virtually privatised by Labour and 100s of children with special educational needs are being left with no suitable school place.

Despite the financial disaster created by the Mayor and his Labour councillors Liberal Democrats managed to pull together an emergency aid package for Bristol, nearly £19m of additional funding. The money would have funded: over 200 additional special school places, 30 new play areas, investment into parks, safe cycleways and safer neighbourhoods.

Local Lib Dem campaigner Mohammad Rashid said: "I was truly shocked that Labour councillors voted down the emergency investment package that Liberal Democrats had put together. They have happily wasted £10s millions on the Mayor's futile projects, but refused to back an emergency investment plan that put our children first."

Labour councillors and the Mayor now believe they are untouchable in the local elections in May and so arrogantly throw out all suggestions even when they would help Bristol and its children.

"It is time we sent a clear message to Labour councillors and the Mayor they prop up. Bristol deserves Better, remember that when you are asked to cast your vote this May" said Cllr Gary Hopkins, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Bristol.

Over the last few years, the scale of the problem of Bristol Energy has steadily grown, and with increased scrutiny become more apparent. It is now clear that the bill to Bristol's taxpayers is likely to be close to £60 million, which is the largest ever loss in Bristol City Council's history.

Bristol's council owned energy company was set up as hundreds of other operators also began life, fighting over a limited number of customers. The Mayor and his party continued to pour money into Bristol Energy, long after it was deemed a non-viable business, in order to hide his embarrassment before the election that was supposed to happen last May. Even now Mayor Rees shows no remorse for the loss, continuing to blame a Mayor that was in post 5 years ago.

Mayor Rees lack of willingness to consult other parties, or even to acknowledge the problem is particularly worrying to Cllr Sultan Khan. The mayor refuses to answer questions about Bristol Energy and is now acting with a siege like mentality, blaming everyone else for a problem of his causing.

Cllr Sultan Khan said 'It pains me to think of this huge waste of tax-payer money. Imagine the improvement in the level of local services, investment in parks and play areas and funds for nature reserves and trees that could have been bought with that money. I have been fighting for years to get funding for a swimming pool in Speedwell and Bristol East, but am told the money is not there – well now we know why, it has all been spent by a profligate Mayor who refuses to acknowledge his mistakes.'



Cllr Khan continues to fight for funding for a swimming pool for Bristol East

Noise Pollution from the M32

Pollution is a problem across Bristol, in the form of both air and noise pollution. With the M32 cutting through our ward, this creates a constant level of pollution that is difficult to mitigate. The levels of traffic will be unaffected by Mayor Rees Clean Air Zone, and there is no possibility of the M32 being removed.

Levels of air pollution along the road are amongst Bristol's highest, which begs the question why the Council are trying to remove the maple trees (a carbon sink) from its length. Cllr Khan has also been trying to fight the noise pollution problem for a number of years.

He says 'We were due to have a noise barrier on the M32 by 2020, but I have now been informed by Highways England that the M32 Junction 2 locality is

being incorporated into the major renewal of the Eastville viaduct, and that will begin delivery sometime within 2021-2025.'

'The delay is due to some complexity of the work. The scheme is currently being developed into preliminary proposals.'

'I will continue pushing for the desperately needed noise barriers, as well as working with other local groups and stakeholders to establish other ways of lowering both noise and air pollution locally.'

THE EASTVILLE LIB DEM TEAM



CLLR SULTAN KHAN



MOHAMMAD RASHID

We would like to encourage everyone in the local community to get vaccinated. Please stay safe.

Get in touch

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SULTAN KHAN AND MOHAMMAD RASHID FOR EASTVILLE

Find out more: www.bristollibdems.org

Liberal
Democrats



Liberal Democrat candidate for West of England Regional Mayor

The West of England mayor has the power to make a big difference to our lives. The current Conservative mayor is invisible and has failed to make an impact with government or investors. We deserve better.

I will use my experience as a former MP and government minister to bring new energy and purpose to the role. I am ambitious for Bristol, Bath and the surrounding towns and villages and will make our region a carbon neutral economy by 2030.

Here are some of my ideas:

- ◆ Plan our economy to make sure opportunities are shared fairly and that new jobs and industries are sustainable. I will set up a Centre for Green Technology, making the West the leader in green jobs.
- ◆ A revolution in transport – electric or hydrogen powered buses and taxis, turn all car parks and Park & Ride sites into new hubs supporting cycling and sustainable transport and I will open new rail stations.
- ◆ Plan our house building so that new communities are socially balanced and sustainable.
- ◆ Make sure adults have the skills for a green economic future.

I would be an engaged and inclusive regional leader, working with you for a prosperous and sustainable West of England.

 stephenwilliams.org.uk

 www.fb.com/StephenWilliamsLD

 [@StephenRW01](https://twitter.com/StephenRW01)

Bringing back democracy for a fairer, kinder, greener Bristol

Liberal Democrat candidate for Bristol City Mayor – Dr Caroline Gooch

I wholeheartedly support the campaign to scrap the position of Bristol Mayor. The people of Bristol have been failed by the Mayoral system and I want us to empower our communities and restore local democracy and decision-making. I am committed to giving Bristolians a referendum on the way we are governed. Bristol deserves a council leader who is open, transparent and working to lead and support the council, rather than one who can overrule democratic council decisions.

I believe in council housing; we have a national housing crisis, and need to be providing good quality, sustainable and truly affordable housing like the council house building of the 1950s. I would champion social house building in Bristol. When the Lib Dems ran Bristol Council we built more houses than the current Labour administration has, and we can do so again.

I will champion liveable neighbourhoods, safe cycling and walking routes and support new technology to tackle our climate crisis. I support bus franchising so we have control of the routes.

A vote for Caroline is a vote to:

- ◆ Scrap the Mayor to restore local democracy
- ◆ Build more council houses
- ◆ Invest in sustainable energy and transport
- ◆ Integrate health and social care
- ◆ Build an education system that works for all



“My vision for Bristol is driven by my liberal values. I want to champion localism and the green agenda, and create a fairer society, where every individual has the opportunity and freedom to flourish and thrive”

 caroline.gooch@bristollibdems.org

 www.fb.com/ScrapTheMayorLD

 [@ScrapTheMayorLD](https://twitter.com/ScrapTheMayorLD)

FIVE YEARS OF **LABOUR** FAILURE

Throughout his term of office, Labour Mayor Marvin Rees and his incompetent administration have presided over a series of costly failures for Bristol:

X Failure on Bristol Energy – The Mayor has wasted over £60million of public money on the Bristol Energy project.

The Lib Dems would investigate the accounts and stop further waste.

X Failure on the Arena – The Mayor blocked the Arena at Temple Meads, against the wishes of Bristolians, after spending £12million on it.

The Lib Dems fought hard for a city centre arena.

X Failure on SEND children – The Mayor illegally cut £5million from the budget for children with Special Educational Needs.

The Lib Dems helped force the Mayor to reverse the SEND cut.

X Failure of Management – The Mayor spent millions on consultants, his personal office, and wasted £98k on an unnecessary pay-off.

The Lib Dems will scrap the office of Mayor.

Published and Promoted by Bristol Liberal Democrats on behalf of the Liberal Democrats, 8-10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE. Printed by Flying Colours, Bagworth Barns, 9 Notting Hill Way, BS26 2JU.



HEATHER SHEARER

– working hard for our communities

Liberal Democrat candidate for Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner

I am standing as PCC in the May elections to support the excellent work of our Police Force, and also to ensure the most vulnerable members of our communities are protected and taxpayers' money is effectively used.

As Police and Crime Commissioner I will work hard to:

- ◆ Promote effective community-led approaches to address violent crime in our cities.
- ◆ Ensure the Force keeps its promise of inclusivity and diversity in recruitment and equality in policing.
- ◆ Ensure Community Police Teams are properly directed and resourced.
- ◆ Improve the way offenders are managed to help them to break the cycle of crime.

Since being elected to Mendip District Council in May 2019 I have used my position as vice chair of the Police and Crime Panel and member of the Safer Somerset Partnership to focus on what those organisations can do to put the issue of mental health front and centre. I also led on the Panel's scrutiny work with the Lighthouse Safeguarding Unit supporting victims of domestic violence and violent crime.

There is enormous value in multi-agency working when it is done well. Policing cannot be divorced from the wider issues affecting public health and the urgent need to work together on early intervention services, to reduce deprivation and social inequality and to prevent crime.

Heather Shearer
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Covid Secure – This leaflet was produced in accordance with government guidelines. Social distancing and masks were used where appropriate. Some photos taken prior to lockdown.

“ The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a **fair, free and open society**, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of **liberty, equality and community**, and in which no one shall be enslaved by **poverty, ignorance or conformity**. ”

Sign up for our eNewsletter

Bristol Lib Dems regularly keep residents abreast of local and city-wide news via our e-newsletter.

If you would like to receive it by email, please register using this link:

www.bristollibdems.org/efocus

Delivered by paid for professionals

Bristol Lib Dem volunteers would usually deliver leaflets for free across Bristol. Volunteer delivery was suspended as part of the Government's Covid restrictions, adding a large unexpected cost to our local election campaign. Can you donate to help?

www.bristollibdems.org/donate