

Liberal 
Democrats
Bristol



Manifesto **2021**



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Statement of Principles

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.

We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full. We aim to disperse power, to foster diversity and to nurture creativity. We believe that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain these ideals, to contribute fully to their communities and to take part in the decisions which affect their lives.

All Liberal Democrat councillors also sign up to serving their community. In our view, the first job of a local councillor is to listen to, communicate with, and serve the people in their local area. Often our local campaigners become councillors because they work harder than the previous councillors from another party.

For many years, Bristol City Council had a poor reputation in terms of service and achievement. Liberal Democrats started to change that as we took power in the early 2000s and we started to make progress. There was a remarkable improvement in our schools and in their results (from 6worst in the country to above average), we revolutionised recycling becoming national leaders, we invested in schools, parks and started initiatives on transport planning.

Despite the reducing Government grants following the financial crisis, we balanced the books, froze council tax and maintained services. With a short break, we ran the Council until 2012 when Bristol moved to the Mayor system.

There are more Lib Dem councillors in the West of England than any other party. We point to the rapid improvements made by our colleagues who took over the running of Bath & North East Somerset last May. We will work with them and others to bring meaningful change.





foreword from

CAROLINE GOOCH

CANDIDATE FOR BRISTOL MAYOR



I have a PhD in Biomedical Science and 20 years' experience in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology at an international level, and I am running for a position that I want to scrap.

As a liberal, I believe in the power of our communities to make decisions and collaborate for common goals. Never has this been more apparent as during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have seen our friends, families, and city working together, uniting and contributing to support the most vulnerable people in our society. Our communities have been at the heart of our fight against the pandemic.

That's why I believe that local democracy is paramount. The people of Bristol should be empowered to make decisions for the city, not sidelined and disregarded.

The mayoral system is unnecessary, and it has failed us. The Mayor can veto decisions made by our councillors and exercise absolute power over the remit of Bristol City Council. The Council covers too many areas for one person to hold ultimate power and responsibility over all of it. Meanwhile, strategic power has been moved up to the Bristol and Bath city regional level, with the West of England Mayor holding the ambassadorial role for the area, leaving us with an unnecessary mayor in Bristol. With a switch to an alternative system, we can introduce accountable council leadership, put power in the hands of our councillors, and restore local democracy.

Caroline Gooch

While I campaign to Scrap the Mayor, if I am elected in May, I will have to stay in post until the end of this mayoral term whatever the outcome of a mayoral referendum. If I am elected Mayor, I will put the people of Bristol first: devolve power, end the secrecy, and work side by side with our neighbours. I will reject the unnecessary, concentrated powers that come with the position and never overrule a majority council decision.

Our manifesto tackles the range of challenges that our city is facing. We want to create a greener, fairer, and more caring society.

People with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families have been let down, left in uncertainty over school places, and made to fight just to have their needs met. Nobody should be deprived of the support they need.

I want Bristol to be a leading city in tackling the climate crisis. We need to reduce our carbon emissions, tackle waste, clean up our air, support biodiversity, invest in sustainable public transport, and promote active travel.

I want better services, with both mental and physical health prioritised, supporting the elderly as well as young people, and promoting high standards in our schools.

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 to flourish and thrive.

The Liberal Democrats are here to stand up for our community and demand better for the city. This is our plan to do it.

Caroline Gooch

Liberal Democrat Candidate for Bristol Mayor
for a fairer, greener, more caring Bristol



1. SUSTAINABILITY

Liberal Democrats believe sustainability is at the heart of what the council can achieve in Bristol. We are fully committed to a 2030 carbon neutral Bristol. Through improvements to sustainable transport, energy and housing, we can ensure that our city upholds its duty of care towards its citizens and that we build a city with cleaner air, connected transport and better housing. We will:

RAILWAYS

- ◆ Work with West of England partners to deliver our rail expansion project launched in 2011 – ten new stations and two new tracks with more to follow in future phases.
- ◆ Support suburban railways: through new stations at Brentry, Ashton Gate, St Anne's, and Ashley Down.
- ◆ Improve the interchange between buses and trains across Bristol forming transport hubs at Temple Meads and stations along busy routes into the city.
- ◆ Push for lifts at stations with more than one platform to improve disabled access to trains.
- ◆ Support the implementation of a light rail or tram link to Bristol Airport.



BUS NETWORKS

- ◆ Promote and vote for a London-style bus franchise system at the West of England Combined Authority to put routes into the hands of local communities, and to lower fares for all.
- ◆ Create a young people's bus pass (5-25yrs) to give all young people reduced bus fares.
- ◆ Develop more Park & Rides to ease traffic in the city and encourage mini-feeder Park & Rides.

AVIATION

- ◆ Oppose the expansion of Bristol Airport due to the climate emergency.
- ◆ Push locally, nationally and internationally for clean fuel planes.
- ◆ Organise a regular 'Green Aviation Innovation Forum'.
- ◆ Support and promote Liberal Democrat national policy of a 'Frequent Flyer Tax'.
- ◆ Prioritise improvement of public transport to airports.
- ◆ Support the introduction and development of hydrogen aviation.

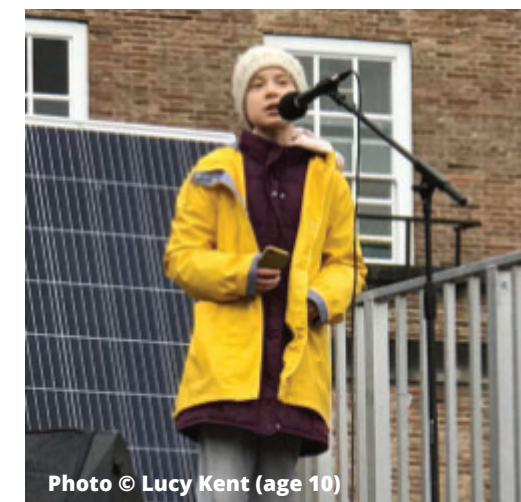


Photo © Lucy Kent (age 10)

PARKING

- ◆ Support new simplified Resident Parking Zones (RPZs) with limited hours.
- ◆ Make sure that RPZs are not-for-profit with simpler, more flexible zone systems as opposed to the blanket 9am - 5pm scheme and encourage more flexibility within the scheme for residents.
- ◆ Deliver 30 minutes of free parking in the Central Parking Zone.
- ◆ Deliver a work-place parking levy to fund public transport improvements, reduce congestion and combat air pollution.
- ◆ Repurpose multi-story and other large car parks to have electric vehicle charging services and secure and dry bicycle parking lockers.

CONNECTIVITY

- ◆ Integrate public transport into a bus, rail and sustainable travel network, making it simpler for commuters to switch between modes of transport.
- ◆ Introduce an 'Oyster Card' style smart ticketing system for transport in Bristol – the Brunel Card.
- ◆ Prioritise transport investment into public transport improvements, to reduce congestion, air pollution, and emissions instead of building new roads.
- ◆ Push for an increase in public transport to large sporting and events venues, hospitals, airports, and all railway stations.



SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED



ACTIVE TRAVEL

- ◆ Investigate and implement, with local consent, pedestrianisation of the city centre, Clifton Village and other suitable areas.
- ◆ Working with local third party NGOs and community groups create an integrated active travel network for the city.
- ◆ Improve walking routes through greater investment to make them safer and more attractive.
- ◆ Promote and invest in new cycle routes ensuring that segregated routes are prioritised as part of a joined-up cycle network across our city.
- ◆ Build on the success of the Bristol-Bath cycle route to surrounding areas and ensure greater accessibility for people with disabilities.
- ◆ Restart and expand Bristol City Council's bike hanger scheme, with hundreds of new bike hangers across the city providing secure cycle parking.
- ◆ Make Bristol an Accessible City by increasing access to public places, and ensuring joined up accessible public transport across Bristol.

CLEAN AIR

- ◆ Deliver better air quality for all of Bristol with a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) that focuses on dirty, polluting vehicles; ensuring that the polluter pays, promoting clean travel over a phased period. We will develop measures to ensure that those in poorer and outlying areas of the city can continue to access employment, health, and welfare opportunities whilst reducing car use.
- ◆ Switch all taxis and private hire vehicles away from diesel and petrol before 2030.
- ◆ Promote hydrogen technology for public vehicles and plan future infrastructure for private hydrogen vehicles.
- ◆ Establish a 'Sustainable Transport Forum' to work with our excellent universities and the local technology sector to develop sustainable transport solutions.

- ◆ Expand provision of Car Club shared car schemes.
- ◆ Plant ten million trees over the next twenty years to improve air quality and tackle the climate and ecological emergency in Bristol.
- ◆ Require all new housing developments to include a range of new trees to support biodiversity.



SMARTER CITY

- ◆ Make Bristol electric car friendly, tripling provision of charging points across the city during this administration.
- ◆ Encourage innovation and viability of driverless car technology.
- ◆ Install a network of smart parking sensors providing real time information to the public about availability of parking spaces, reducing congestion and illegal parking.
- ◆ Expand Bristol Waste's provision of smart bins, to install smart community recycling bins, allowing for targeted waste collection, improving efficiency, and lowering emissions.
- ◆ Favour intelligent street lighting, which can automatically adjust brightness, decreasing costs and increasing safety, whilst also able to monitor air quality and noise pollution.
- ◆ Create more responsive transport networks using smart bus stops to monitor passenger numbers.
- ◆ Establish a Smarter City working group that can assess the viability of technologies including, artificial intelligence, internet of things and quantum computing to solve the challenges of Bristol's tomorrow.



SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED

CREATING A BETTER BRISTOL

Liberal Democrats are committed to ensuring we tackle the climate emergency by decarbonising Bristol and investing in sustainable projects. As part of our plan, we will:

ENERGY

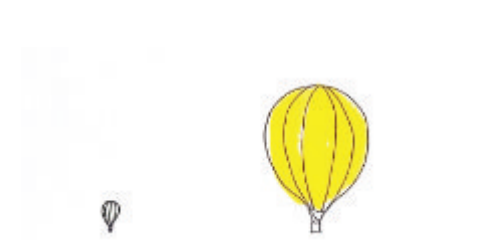
- ◆ Embrace the potential of the Hydrogen Economy.
- ◆ Build a tidal power generator in Bristol.
- ◆ Develop opportunities for hydro-power from the Floating Harbour and the Cut.
- ◆ Cooperate with the other local authorities to develop tidal lagoons in the Severn Estuary.
- ◆ Working with local energy cooperatives invest in more renewable energy production for Bristol.
- ◆ Remain frack free.
- ◆ Extend the use of heat networks to improve energy efficiency and reduce heating costs.



- ◆ Revitalise the Avon Barrage.
- ◆ Support Bristol Green Capital Partnership, inspiring organisations and citizens to work together and encourage local responsibility.

GREENER SPACE

- ◆ Establish a Citizen's Climate Assembly to make recommendations on how best to tackle green issues in the city and stimulate public debate.
- ◆ Ensure all public property achieves carbon neutrality.
- ◆ Initiate and support community projects to minimise food waste, particularly the substantial waste streams generated by supermarkets.
- ◆ Support legislation outlawing the rendering of food waste inedible by paint and other contaminants.
- ◆ Expand recycling – starting with the immediate implementation of soft plastics recycling such as crisp packets and plastic bags.
- ◆ Create a living garden along the M32 providing a better welcome into the city.
- ◆ Strengthen access to green spaces for all citizens.
- ◆ Support and enable litter picking 'speed cleans' to encourage pride in our city.
- ◆ Protect and invest in our parks and through a multi-million pound investment increase the number and quality of children's play parks in our city.
- ◆ Convert city centre wastelands into green spaces.
- ◆ Get back on track to Zero Waste – reduce, reuse, recycle.
- ◆ Support Bristol's four community farms as local education hubs and wellbeing centres.
- ◆ Clean up all of our rivers and streams by 2030.





SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED

A HOME FOR EVERYONE

Too many in our city are struggling with housing. Families are being priced out and forced into low standard dwellings, local residents feel they have no control over development in their area, and homelessness and rough sleeping is at record levels. Liberal Democrats will build on our strong record of house building and:



BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

- ◆ Aim to provide houses in balanced and sustainable communities with access to a full range of services.
 - ◆ Promote balanced and sustainable housing.
 - ◆ Strengthen landlord licensing provision.
 - ◆ Introduce a credit rating system for reliable renters.
 - ◆ Ensure 'affordable housing' is actually affordable by reexamining the affordability level for development's social housing obligation.
 - ◆ Control land sales to maximise social housing.
 - ◆ Force developers to maximise the level of social housing in new housing developments.
 - ◆ Build more eco-housing.
- ◆ Connect new council housing to heat networks – local, sustainable heat sources.
 - ◆ Ensure new communities are self-sustainable.
 - ◆ Enhance maritime industry at the Harbourside.
 - ◆ Ensure all new house building projects include a range of size and tenure to create balanced and sustainable diverse communities.
 - ◆ Only release land for development once sustainable transport infrastructure is in place.
 - ◆ Provide more key worker housing.
 - ◆ Challenge the Conservative government on the Local Housing Allowance level.
 - ◆ Lobby central government to invest proceeds from right to buy sales back into local social housing.

- ◆ End the ability of ex-partners to end joint tenancies to eliminate abuse of power.
- ◆ Strengthen enforcements for council tenants involved in consistent anti-social behaviour and eviction of convicted drug dealers.
- ◆ Work alongside communities to ensure new developments don't adversely impact local services, but instead enhance the neighbourhood.
- ◆ Offer greater consultation to local residents on the development plans for the Cumberland Basin – with a view to protect local green space.

HOMELESSNESS – HELPING THOSE IN NEED AND TACKLING THE CAUSES

- ◆ Abolish the use of the Vagrancy Act in Bristol.
- ◆ Examine the use of Public Space Protection Orders in Bristol.
- ◆ Ensure the availability of compassionate end of life care for homeless people.
- ◆ Promote the Housing First model to tackle long term homelessness.
- ◆ Work closely with charities and homelessness third-party organisations to develop a city wide strategy to eradicate street homelessness in the city.

LAND ALLOCATION FOR NEW HOUSING

- ◆ Use compulsory purchase power to deal with empty properties.
- ◆ Press for legislation so that empty land and empty properties are taxed.
- ◆ Establish whole life carbon cost for building and demolitions.
- ◆ Maximise opportunities for smart use of true land value to extend tenure options and deliver Community Land Trusts.





SUSTAINABILITY CONTINUED

PURPOSE BUILT HOUSING FOR STUDENTS AND ELDERLY PEOPLE

- ◆ Invest in Extra Care Housing to increase social and private provision of high quality supported housing across the city.
- ◆ Expand and improve partnerships between elderly homeowners and potential live-in younger carers.
- ◆ Encourage the provision of more dedicated student housing to reduce pressure on family housing stock. Implement a planning cap on unsustainable growth by the universities until there is better provision of student housing.



HIGH QUALITY HOUSING

- ◆ Improve the retrofit program for nineteenth century homes so they are fit for the twenty-first century.
- ◆ Set up a 'Green Bond' to increase funding for environmentally friendly homes.
- ◆ Extend HMO licensing scheme by requiring improved environmental standards.
- ◆ Accelerate the move to passive housing.
- ◆ Ensure the council's own housing company delivers more social housing and higher environmental standards.

2. BETTER SERVICES

Liberal Democrats believe Bristol deserves better. We want to transform Bristol into a city which is connected and equal, with opportunity available to all no matter who you are or where you come from.

CARING FOR BRISTOLIANS

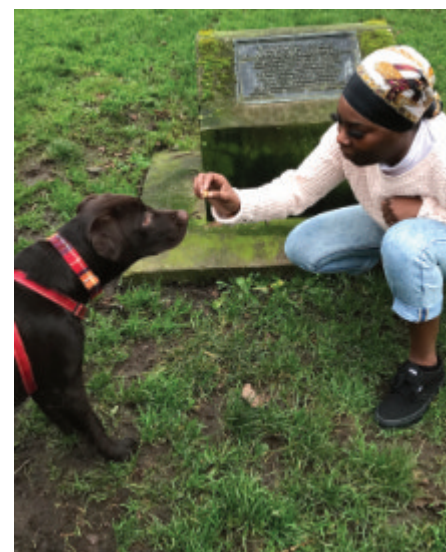
Taking care of the people of Bristol should be an administration's top priority. The Liberal Democrats have a wide-ranging plan to improve mental health services, public health and public services which will benefit Bristolians of every generation. We will:

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR BRISTOL

- ◆ Support calls for Universal Basic Income pilot schemes in our city and our region, and lobby central government for the powers needed to do so.
- ◆ Work with the other core cities to push for a wider Universal Basic Income network.

MENTAL HEALTH

- ◆ Set up a 'Good Neighbour Network' to support people at risk.
- ◆ Protect green spaces and plant more trees to encourage personal wellbeing.
- ◆ Increase efforts in early intervention through greater funding for mental health services.
- ◆ Aim to make Bristol the first 'Zero Suicide City' in the UK, implementing a Zero Suicide framework.
- ◆ Work with universities and colleges across the city to establish a Student Mental Health Charter to improve student mental health.
- ◆ Develop a scheme to reward employers who invest in the mental wellbeing of their employees.





BETTER SERVICES CONTINUED

PUBLIC HEALTH

- ◆ Invest in public health programmes including smoking cessation and reducing drug and alcohol consumption.
- ◆ Protect and expand services for new parents.
- ◆ Support drug consumption rooms to reduce drug deaths, crime and dangerous litter, and to protect the public.
- ◆ Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to increase the number of GPs and ensure there is an active programme to encourage more GPs in areas critically short of them within the city.



PUBLIC SERVICES

- ◆ Recruit more foster parents and increase support to adopting parents. Ensure children in care are treated as a priority within council services.
- ◆ Carry out a review of support for adult social care ensuring that the best services are provided.
- ◆ Ensure all care leavers have an adult mentor post-18.

INTEGRATED SERVICES

- ◆ Improve integration between NHS and society and review transitional arrangements from hospital discharges.
- ◆ Integrate health and social care provision.
- ◆ Improve public transport provision to all hospitals and doctors within the city as part of the bus franchising network.

ELDERLY PEOPLE

- ◆ Create a 'Loneliness Network', similar to dementia cafes.
- ◆ Improve support to community transport providers to reduce isolation.

THE YOUNGER GENERATION

- ◆ Form a child carers' support system to provide a relief for young carers.
- ◆ Promote healthy, safe communities and invest in multiagency preventative approaches that de-escalate tension, change lifestyles and prevent abusive behaviours from starting in the first place.
- ◆ Reinvest in Youth Services.

CRIME

- ◆ Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local agencies to tackle the rise in violent crime.
- ◆ Re-establish effective partnership working with the police at the community and city level.
- ◆ Push for proper funding for community police teams so they can fulfil their role as community partners.
- ◆ Ensure all residents, victims and offenders are treated equally and with dignity, and that their voices are heard.
- ◆ Support initiatives to improve offender management with an emphasis on early intervention and building lives free from crime.
- ◆ Push for drug reform, recreational drug testing, safe drug use rooms and needle exchange programs.
- ◆ Support Operation Topaz to reduce the exploitation of children.
- ◆ Ensure Bristol City Council is not working with institutions that lock up young people with learning disabilities.



BETTER SERVICES CONTINUED

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL BRISTOLIANS

Opportunity is at the heart of the Liberal Democrat offer to Bristol. We believe in the life-changing power that a good education can provide. It's time to transform the lives of Bristolians by providing true equality of opportunity for everyone. To achieve this, we will:

SCHOOLING

- ◆ Ensure the council lives up to its legal duty to guarantee school places for every child and produces firm plans with 10-year projections for the provision of school places, accounting for demographic change, future housing demands and SEND provision.
- ◆ Lobby central government to increase early years pupil premium and extend universal free school meals beyond infants.
- ◆ Provide properly supported spaces for dyslexia and special needs education.



- ◆ Protect children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), because families should not have to fight or go to SEND Tribunal to have the needs of their child met.
- ◆ Ensure that Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) applications are dealt with by named caseworkers within the 20 week legal deadline. Ensure the council has the capacity to deal with casework, assessments and Annual Reviews.

- ◆ Encourage university assistance in schools.
- ◆ Twin schools across the city to encourage integration.
- ◆ Increase support and provision in mainstream education for those needing additional support.
- ◆ Work with schools and academy chains to foster joined up working, resources bases and shared knowledge.

- ◆ Ensure that all school Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) are fully trained and supported in their roles.
- ◆ Reduce Fixed Term Exclusions, unlawful exclusions, and part-time timetables which disproportionately affect pupils with SEND, people from a black background, and people from Gypsy and Roma backgrounds.
- ◆ Set a target for 50% of young people to go onto degree or equivalent education.
- ◆ Ensure all schools have an Affordable School Uniform Policy.
- ◆ Provide dyslexia support by establishing a Specialist Dyslexia Team.

CONNECTING PEOPLE

- ◆ Invest in English language skills.
- ◆ Promote language learning across our city.

A NEW ERA FOR LIBRARIES

- ◆ Provide library cards for all school pupils.
- ◆ Develop libraries into community hubs with specialist social workers, housing advice and support staff.
- ◆ Encourage use of volunteers to support the professional management of libraries.
- ◆ Protect our library network.



AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOL

- ◆ Provide fair access to higher education for all the young people of Bristol.
- ◆ Promote adult education, lifelong learning, and collaboration across the West of England.
- ◆ Increase apprenticeships including entrepreneurship and self-employment.
- ◆ Begin an annual city-wide 'Future of Bristol' competition for young people to present their ideas for a better Bristol.



BETTER SERVICES CONTINUED

IMPROVED SERVICES

For too many in Bristol, our public services just aren't working. Bristol has the potential not only to deliver quality services but also to be a hub of culture, leisure, sport and tourism for the West of England. We will:

PUBLIC SERVICES

- ◆ Provide more communal recycling bins in streets where there are lots of houses in multiple occupancy.
- ◆ Set up a system of independent trustees and guardians for children in care.
- ◆ Create a free secure public WIFI service using the council's existing fibre communications network B-Net.
- ◆ Conduct a comprehensive review of the community toilet scheme, and supplement facilities with council public toilets where required.

CITY OF CULTURE AND LEISURE

- ◆ Continue to support the concept of a city-centre based arena as the most sustainable option for the city.
- ◆ Protect sectors in Bristol that have been the most adversely affected by the pandemic, such as aerospace, tourism and hospitality, especially existing music venues across the city.
- ◆ Continue to support city centre music venue the Bristol Beacon.
- ◆ Review support for community events and festivals, aiming to simplify regulations for street festivals.
- ◆ Secure the long term future of our museums by investigating trust status and working with a heritage partners.
- ◆ Push for more support for the creative industries after the pandemic, protecting and promoting live music venues, theatres, and other spaces associated with the arts.



TOURISM IN BRISTOL

- ◆ Market Bristol and the West of England to investors and tourists.
- ◆ Promote Bristol's events and attractions nationally and internationally.
- ◆ Work with our West of England partners to ask central government for the power to adopt an internally accepted tourist levy, the proceeds of which would be invested in the visitor economy like free public transport for tourists.
- ◆ Work with our West of England partners to ask government to improve the regulations of Airbnb properties.
- ◆ Create a dedicated space for coach set down and waiting.



APPRECIATING BRISTOL

- ◆ Support more representations of women in public art.
- ◆ Work with Bristol History Commission, to review Bristol's existing statues and street names.
- ◆ Review Bristol's history plaques, to greater including LGBT history and the slave history of Bristol.
- ◆ Push for World Heritage status for Brunel's sites within the city.

SPORTS ACROSS THE CITY

- ◆ Seek to attract funding to build a velodrome for the city of Bristol.
- ◆ Deliver the Bristol East pool and continue to support Jubilee pool and other community sports facilities.
- ◆ Encourage shared use of playing fields and facilities.
- ◆ Set up a Bristol-wide panel to maximise integration from academies and universities in sports.



BETTER SERVICES CONTINUED

BETTER BUSINESSES

- ◆ Support and promote Liberal Democrat national policy to scrap business rates.
- ◆ Work with local businesses to reduce packaging and celebrate those that: eliminate single-use plastic, initiate deposit and return schemes, or have other environmental successes.
- ◆ Create Small Business Zones for start-ups and social enterprises.



- ◆ Support small businesses which have been hit hard by the pandemic and fight to save our highstreets.
- ◆ Support fast-growing businesses seeking to scale up, through the provision of mentoring support.
- ◆ Promote creative enterprise zones to grow and regenerate cultural output of areas across Bristol.
- ◆ Provide a supportive framework to develop social enterprises – businesses with a social focus rather than a profit motive.

- ◆ Sign up Bristol City Council to a prompt payment code, ensuring businesses in the local supply chain have reliable cash-flow.
- ◆ Promote and develop Bristol as a tech hub, working with local partners and global businesses.
- ◆ Support local innovation by boosting research and development utilising further grants from the Strength In Places Fund.

3. BETTER GOVERNANCE

Liberal Democrats believe in empowering people and their communities. We believe that the best people to make decisions about where they live are the people who live there. That's why we want to scrap the Mayoral position and give power back to Bristol's communities.

DEMOCRATISING BRISTOL

It's time we empowered local democracy and decision making and gave people real power in their community. We want to open up the council, making it more accountable to you. To achieve this, we will:

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

- ◆ Support holding a referendum on the council leadership model and campaign to abolish the role of elected Mayor for the City of Bristol.
- ◆ Devolve decision making across the council and the communities of the city.
- ◆ Create a council senior management structure that is accountable to local councillors.
- ◆ Improve public engagement and hold the council to account by empowering the public to have more rights to ask questions at council meetings.
- ◆ Ensure more decisions are made openly by elected members, not in secret by unelected officers.
- ◆ Establish local citizens' assemblies to ensure that the public are fully engaged in finding solutions to Bristol's greatest challenges.



ELECTORAL FAIRNESS

- ◆ Give citizens across the city every opportunity to register to vote. Ensure greater efforts to register under-represented groups.



BETTER GOVERNANCE CONTINUED

- ◆ Campaign for a fairer voting system and lobby central government to allow Bristol's local elections 2024 to be cast via a proportional representation system.
- ◆ Promote national party policy to give 16 and 17 year olds the right to vote in Bristol's elections.

BIG PLANS FOR THE CITY

- ◆ Push for a Brexit and COVID-19 Impact Assessment with our West of England partners.
- ◆ Push for the ending of long-term consultancies in the council and end secret payoffs of senior officers.
- ◆ Require the council to create a master planning document or design briefs for developing major sites.
- ◆ Rewrite the corporate strategy to deliver a long-term sustainable city.

SCRUTINY

- ◆ Ensure that all council financial decisions are accessible to councillors for scrutiny.
- ◆ Ensure full recording, with evidence, of all decisions with written records for scrutiny.
- ◆ Continue the practice of working with corporate and charitable partners but ensure that there is full transparency.
- ◆ Insist on a Transport Scrutiny Committee for the West of England Combined Authority.

DEVOLUTION AND LOCALISATION

- ◆ Maximise devolution – work with West of England partners to secure more devolution of powers and revenues from central government, including taxation.
- ◆ Support the introduction of North Somerset into the West of England Combined Authority
- ◆ Negotiate with central government to cover student council tax in Bristol.
- ◆ Conduct a Community Governance Review to bring back local decision making and accountability.

- ◆ Commit to Local Government Association and Core Cities approach to greater powers to implement national policies locally.
- ◆ Maximise localism by re-establishing Neighbourhood Partnerships as a precursor to moving to new Neighbourhood Councils, with parish council legal status, where communities want them.
- ◆ Promote and uphold neighbourhood planning.

BRISTOL IN THE WORLD

As pro-Europeans and internationalists, we believe Bristol has a big part to play on the world stage. We want to ensure our city is connected to the world and that we play our part in tackling key international issues like the climate emergency.



- ◆ Join the United Nations compact of global cities.
- ◆ Safeguard Bristol's position as a City of Sanctuary.
- ◆ Build on Bristol's success in diverse culture.
- ◆ Comply with the Paris Agreement to show our leadership in fighting climate change.
- ◆ Ensure our adopted EU nationals are welcomed and protected in our city.



www.bristollibdems.org

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