Demand Better for Liverpool

The Liverpool Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the May 2019 Council Elections

Find out more at: www.liverlibdems.org.uk
Dear Friend,

It's still my team or Joe's!!

Last Year we produced a detailed manifesto for the 2018 local elections. You can find it here at www.liverlibdems.org.uk. We were, however, the only Party to produce a manifesto at all. Next year there will be a huge set of elections for 30 Councillors; the City Mayor; the City Region Mayor and the Elected Police Commissioner. We will be producing a huge manifesto cover them.

For this year we recognise that many of the things in last year's manifesto still hold true so we are producing this mini manifesto to highlight our key points of action. We have tried to introduce many of the points in last year's manifesto such as the abolition of the City Mayor and strong action to safeguard our Parks but every one of our radical proposals was beaten down by a tired and very conservative Labour Party.

Last year our Council Group went up firstly from 4 to 7 in the elections and then to 8 as Cllr Kay Davies joined us from Labour. This year everyone is predicting that we will do even better given not only our own hard work but the breaking up of the two tired old Parties at Westminster.

Over the past few months I and my team have knocked on literally thousands of doors across the city I have been struck by the anger that people have towards the Labour administration in the city much of it directed specifically at Mayor Anderson. This is hardly surprising. The elected Mayor has all the power in the city - every decision can be traced back to his door.

Although he has all the power there is nowhere in the council system where he can be held accountable to the Councillors and people of Liverpool, making the council work for you, and with you.

But it doesn't have to be this way. That's is why the Lib Dem team have worked up proposals to make our City one which can equal any other city in the World.

There are only two Parties that are really in the fight on May 2nd. You can either back Joe Anderson's Candidates or my Liberal Democrat Candidates. You can find details of all the Lib Dem candidates at www.liverlibdems.org.uk.

Every Lib Dem Councillor elected and every vote we receive will strengthen our fight to bring good governance back to our City.

Please give us your support.

With best wishes,

Richard

Councillor Richard Kemp CBE,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats in Liverpool
Liberal Democrats will seek to replace the current unaccountable and hidden ways of running the Council.

We want to create a new openness which involves all the people of our City in decision making and which lets them know what the council is doing with their money.

Liberal Democrats will:

■ Seek to **abolish the post of Elected Mayor** before the next mayoral election in 2020.

  Until that can be achieved, we will ensure the current mayor is held accountable to you.

■ We will create a Mayoral Select Committee, chaired by the leader of the main opposition party, at which we can quiz the Elected Mayor and top officials both against their own performance and, in comparison to our equivalent councils in the Country’s major cities.

■ And we will continue to push for the role of Police and Crime Commissioner to be abolished, with responsibility transferred to the City Region Mayor.
Too much of Liverpool's housing policy has been based on gimmicks. It relies too much on speculative City Centre student flats and small apartments. This means that our young people have been forced into poor quality accommodation at high rents. Traditional areas of terraced housing have been emptied of owner occupiers or brought by landlords who fail in their obligations.

**Liverpool has enough brown-field sites to build new homes for 70,000 people,** yet the council has encouraged developers to build on green field sites against the wishes of local communities.

**Liberal Democrats will:**

- Ensure the rapid development for private housing of the former Garden Festival site with a mixture of outright sales; **low cost affordable housing** and **social housing**.

- We will encourage the development of **2 bedroomed flats and apartments in the City's Southern areas** to allow movement from large, under occupied houses to homes in people’s long-term community.

- We will **ban the development of housing on parklands**: green spaces habitually used by the community and land used for communal open-air activities. We will support residents in turning public green spaces into **“Town and Village Greens”** to ensure they are **preserved for future generations**.

- We will seek to **end the council’s controversial partnership with Redrow**.

**A housing policy that prioritises the needs of our city above the profits of developers**
Liverpool as a confident global city

Whatever the final result of the Brexit debates and votes Liverpool is still a major global city and its port is a vital link between Europe and the UK and the World.

Our international position for trade, commerce, universities and tourism must be protected.

Liberal Democrats will:

■ Continuing to fight for the UK’s membership of the EU; the Single Market and the Customs Union.

■ We will seek to use our own multinational communities and the alumni groups of our Universities to foster trading, educational and cultural links through these networks.

■ Capitalise on the tours and global reach of our two football clubs and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic to reach new audiences for our businesses and to promote the city.

Regardless of Brexit, we must maintain Liverpool’s role as a Premier European City
A City that is Green, Safe and Pleasant

Having a clean, green and safe environment in which people can live and bring up their children is a key way of encouraging mental and physical health. It will help us attract new people and businesses to our City.

Liberal Democrats will encourage this by:

- Introducing measures to permanently safeguard our World Heritage Status and use it as a base to develop high quality urban design

- Protecting our Parks and green spaces by retaining their ownership but wherever possible transferring management to local non-profit making companies led by local residents and park users.

- Scrapping the unwanted city centre highway proposals at Lime Street and the Strand and use the money instead for junction improvements, bus and cycle lanes and road safety schemes throughout our City.

- Create on-street charging points in district centres for electric vehicles. We will also look for innovative ways to enable residents in areas without off street parking to switch to zero emission electric cars.

- Creating deliverable targets for air quality improvement by programmes targeting transport, domestic and industrial pollution.

- Reclaim our pavements and verges as safe spaces from selfish drivers.

- Developing with owners and managers of licensed premises the 'Ask for Angela' initiative to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability.

Protect our city’s green spaces from development and improve our environment.
Liberal Democrats will:

- Continuing to press for the building of the final 20 miles of the High Speed Rail network, to improve our port and tourist offers. **Ensuring that Liverpool isn’t left behind.**

- Campaigning for the development of the main eastward rail routes out of Liverpool, including HS3, to link us with Manchester, Yorkshire and the North East to assist **trade, industry commerce and tourism.**

- Pressing for the development of a heavy or light rail link to **improve access to our airport.**

We will fight to ensure Liverpool has the transport links we need to thrive as a major trading city.
A city that can stand on its own two feet

We have large numbers of our residents in poor, low paid jobs or in no jobs at all. We still have housing needs that must be addressed and too few of the key decisions about our City are made in both the public and private sectors by people based many miles from our City with minimal knowledge of it.

Liberal Democrats will:

- Support local schemes such as the Liverpool Pound and Independent Liverpool to encourage more of our residents to use local businesses that keep their profits here and recycle them into the community rather than spirit them away in tax havens.
- Developing a localised peer to peer lending mechanism which will enable a low-cost method for local people to invest in local businesses
- Re-establishing the City's food fares as places for Liverpool owned and led businesses in the food manufacturing or retail sectors.

The council must support and help grow more of our own local businesses to retain talent and profit within Liverpool
A City of Good Health and enhanced Life Expectancy

Liverpool has huge disparities of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. The difference is up to 12 years in wards of the city just 3 miles apart. 30% of our 11 year olds are obese – 5% of them clinically obese. Liverpool still has too many smokers and drugs users. There are not enough places for our elderly either when they come out of hospital.

Liberal Democrats will seek to address these problems by:

- Using our new football hubs for programmes involving ‘walking football’ and other projects aimed at encouraging older people or people recovering from trauma or illness into sport and physical recreation.
- Working with Food Banks to promote healthy eating choices as well as subsistence and emergency foods.
- Creating three new council run residential homes for the elderly to assist with the problems caused by ‘bed blocking’.
- Working with schools to understand the extent of and develop programmes to deal with ‘period poverty’.
- Reviewing all bus and cycle lanes in the city to upgrade them, make them more relevant to today’s traffic patterns and helping people move from cars to healthier forms of transport.

We will seek to end the health inequality that exists between different parts of our city.
Liberal Democrats will seek to remedy these issues by:

- We will tackle the causes of the “brain drain,” - giving our city’s teachers the support that is currently lacking from the council.
- “Working with the private sector to provide a variety of financial and other incentives for young people to both stay on in school and to commit better to the education that they receive whilst in school.
- Working to assist our libraries to develop as learning hubs encouraging the use of the written word and subsequent oral language activities in all their forms by people of all ages.
- Encouraging the development of a 'Liverpool Curriculum' to provide a range of appropriate materials to address the history of Liverpool and its culture and localise the national curriculum to help school leavers have knowledge appropriate to the local economy.

We will reverse the decline in the quality of education our city has seen this decade.
To rectify these imbalances the Liberal Democrats will:

- Develop a **Women's Leadership think tank** composed of members of the three main Parties; the Women's Equality Party, the Women's Leadership Group and women from academic and business backgrounds to work together on key issues connected with the suppression of women's talent and the creation of enhanced opportunities.

- Practical assistance methods to assist women who have financial or other difficulties connected with family activities to attend courses and programmes designed to enhance their knowledge and capacity.

- Diaspora by diaspora work to recognise and develop the capacity of people excluded from personal and societal advancement by prejudice, language or lack of knowledge.

- Arts programmes which draw on the huge variety of oral, musical and other talents based on the former cultures of our new Liverpool Citizens.

- Working with our Universities, colleges and schools to enhance programmes designed to **reskill workers of all ages** for new opportunities in the jobs market.
Unlike Joe Anderson’s Labour, our election campaign isn’t bankrolled by trade unions or donations from big businesses like Redrow and Carillion.

We rely on the help and support from local people in Liverpool to enable us to fight for our city and our local communities - keeping in touch all year round.

You can help the Liberal Democrats to win for Liverpool by joining us, volunteering to help us in your community or by making a small donation.

Let us know online at www.liverlibdems.org.uk or by returning the form below. You can also make a quick donation online at: paypal.me/liverlibdems

I will be voting Liberal Democrat on May 3rd
I would like a postal vote for the election
I can help deliver leaflets in my area
I can make a donation to the campaign.

I enclose a cheque (payable to Liberal Democrats) for £___

Donations over £12 qualify for Liberal Democrat Membership. Tick here □ if you would like to join.

Return to: Liverpool Lib Dems, 509 Smithdown Road, L15 5AE
or online at www.liverlibdems.org.uk

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Find out more at: www.liverlibdems.org.uk