MANCHESTER together

The Liberal Democrat Plan
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Our plan at a glance

- An open, tolerant and united Manchester that stands up for the vulnerable and the weak.
- A housing policy we can be proud of, delivering for need, not greed.
- Community policing at the heart of a strategy to keep our streets and communities safe.
- Road surface and transport systems fit for purpose in the UK’s second city.
- A forward-thinking green Manchester with sustainability at its heart.
Manchester is unlike any other city in the world.

Because at the very heart of our great city is the answer to a pretty important question.

It’s the answer to the question about the kind of society we want to live in.

We choose a society that looks out for each other, that doesn’t care where you’ve come from or what your background is.

A society where everyone has an equal opportunity to get on in life.

That’s the answer to the question. It’s pretty simple. And that is why this coming election is more important than any other.

Because that question is on the ballot paper again.

We’re going to be asked what we do when the world faces the biggest refugee crisis in living memory.

Do we turn our backs, do we leave it to someone else?

Or do we rise up together and welcome desperate children at risk of disease, death and abuse?

We’re going to be asked what we do as homelessness in Manchester rises.
Do we allow endless luxury developments whilst the homeless are threatened with court action?

Or do we take a stand and put an end to the shameful injustice overlooked in our city?

We're going to be asked how we will support a struggling working class; hardworking families with children to support, young people looking for their place in the world and the elderly unable to retire comfortably.

Do we continue dismantling vital community and support centres? Starving them of the funding they need?

Or do we bring people together, leading the way for a city that supports friends and neighbours?

It is time we answered these questions honestly.

And it is time we faced these challenges together.

So if you are disgusted at the way this council has rejected desperate child refugees, then look to the only campaign fighting to change that - and join us.

If you are appalled at the way this council has treated our homeless, then look to the only campaign fighting to change that - and join us.

If you have had enough of pay rises for the top whilst hardworking families are pushed out, then look to the only campaign fighting to change that - and join us.

If you are sick and tired of this council taking our great city for granted, then you have to look to the only campaign fighting to change that - and join us - right now.

On the 3rd May, we have a chance to elect a council that leads from the front; that cities around the world look up to; where we celebrate diversity, house the homeless, welcome the desperate and build a future for our children.

An open, accountable and honest council - working for you.

How does that sound?

Our campaign is not an empty promise, it's not a daydream vision and it's not something that will be put aside the day after the election.

Our campaign is a cast-iron guarantee of what we will do if you elect Liberal Democrat councillors on the 3rd May.

It's the city, the community and the future we believe in.

And it's the city, the community and the future we will deliver, with you by our side.

This - is Manchester together.

Now, it's over to you.

John Leech
Leader, Manchester Liberal Democrats
Manchester is proud to be an open, tolerant and diverse city. We will never shift in our belief that the UK is better off in the European Union. Manchester needs pro-European councillors standing up for our city.

**IN TOGETHER**

As the only Remain party on the council, we believe that the will of Manchester people cannot be ignored.

Liberal Democrats are dedicated to a future in the European Union. Manchester voted overwhelmingly to remain at the referendum and we will campaign to the end of this hard Brexit supported by both Labour and Conservative leadership. We will campaign for a referendum on the terms of the Brexit deal and give 16 and 17-year-olds a vote in that referendum.

We cannot stand idly by while the Conservative Government backed by their Labour partners threaten the economy and livelihood of millions. The Government’s own assessment says that a hard-Brexit would result in the shrinking of our economy in the North West by up to 12% of Gross Domestic Product. [1]

Brexit divided our nation, but we cannot let it divide our city. Liberal Democrat councillors will demand Manchester has a seat in government negotiations and will hold Labour to account on their Brexit deception.

We are demanding the replacement of the £320million EU funding, which included £176million of the EU Development Fund, set aside for Greater Manchester for 2014-2020. Liberal Democrats will fight tooth and nail for the investment Greater Manchester deserves.

We are the only party that can deliver an open, honest and trusted voice for Manchester on Brexit.

**THERE FOR THOSE IN NEED**

We will end this council’s morally repugnant view of child refugees and offer immediate help for those in desperate need.

When children are orphaned in conflict zones across Syria and Libya, we have a moral obligation to offer what we can to the most vulnerable. Manchester is at its best when we come together to show love, support and compassion.

The EU’s criminal intelligence agency estimate around 10,000 Syrian child refugees have already gone missing since arriving in Europe and a further 88,000 are currently at risk of being trafficked or abused.

Liberal Democrat councillors will immediately develop plans to house 50 at-risk families from refugee camps. In the long-term, we will also investigate how best to house as many orphaned child refugees as possible.

We hold strong in the belief that Manchester should not be branded with the same immorality as our Conservative Government and Labour council, who have turned their back on the most vulnerable.
The people of Manchester are Mancunians, whether they are born here or drawn here. We will never stop campaigning for the rights of EU citizens living in Manchester.

Our award-winning medical research centres, hospitals, school classrooms, high-streets, care homes, football teams, identity and our city depend on the hard work and commitment of every EU citizen that currently call Manchester home.

The Liberal Democrats are the only party currently represented on Manchester City Council to unequivocally guarantee the rights of EU citizens. Manchester's success was built on our relationship with our European neighbours. Nothing has changed.

We will issue an ultimatum to Manchester City Council to demand the Brexit Secretary guarantees the rights of EU citizens.

At local elections, citizens of EU nations can vote. That means that our councillors represent EU citizens – the only elected politicians in England that can legitimately claim to represent the interests of those people. Liberal Democrat councillors will ensure that they are no longer side-lined in the debate over their future.

1. “Brexit impact studies leak reveals which regions will be hit the hardest”, Telegraph, 08/02/18, available at: www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/02/08/brexit-impact-studies-leak-reveals-regions-will-hit-hardest/
Transport
Despite years of promise under the Labour council, Manchester’s transport system remains unintegrated, overpriced and economically uncompetitive with other cities in Europe. **Our plan will give Manchester a transport system fit for the UK’s second city.**

**INVESTMENT NOW**

It is the time for smart and strategic investment in our transport system. Using funds available to the Council we will call for a vision of transport to meet the city's needs.

Using some of the estimated £50million Manchester Airport dividend, we would establish a SmartTransport Development Fund dedicated to offsetting heavy carbon transport.

The fund will be used to increase the use of public transport, investment into dedicated cycle highways and increased roll out of electric charging points.

The money will also be used to invest in major transport capital projects aimed at increasing coverage of the Metrolink to all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Liberal Democrats believe the airport dividend should be used to make Manchester the greenest city in the UK. Putting the return on the investment back into fighting air pollution in our city.

**INTEGRATED, AFFORDABLE AND SMART**

To compete with cities across the globe, Manchester needs an integrated transport system built with workers in mind. We will demand a shift in strategy to deliver an integrated, affordable and targeted transport system fit for the UK’s second largest (but best) city.

We have been let down for too long by Labour in their promise of an integrated transport system. While London sets the pace for the UK and reaps the economic benefits, Manchester is left behind playing catch up.

The Government and the combined authority have delivered nothing to ease the pressure on commuter's pockets; disruption to services are common and the government and the council are left pointing the finger at one another. It's just not good enough.

We would work on the transport authority towards an integrated transport system that links the city’s bus services, Metrolink and National Rail lines with a single point of payment, equal to the Oyster Card in London. This would allow us to introduce a pricing system in Manchester that would include a cap on maximum spend.

Liberal Democrats would campaign for a young commuter’s price cap, so they will never pay more than half the hourly living wage rate to commute to work. Putting money back in commuter’s pockets and making it viable to work.
We would also ask the contractor operating Metrolink to investigate the capacity at peak times and conduct sample assessments in the event of a disruption so that we can avoid transport gridlock.

It is vital that an integrated transport system service our whole community. That is why we would link the most profitable bus route tender with the least profitable, ensuring that every community is provided for.

**OUR POTHOLE PROMISE**

The council have received government help with £100 million for road improvements. Last year the council only spent 42% of the allocated road budget in the financial year. Meanwhile, in many instances, the quality of the road resurfacing is unacceptable. Since 2015 the percentage of roads in Manchester requiring work has risen from 12% to 17% and repeat resurfacing is also increasing.

Our promise is simple. Liberal Democrat councillors will not accept substandard work, we will always fight for a share of the resurfacing budget and we will not take ‘no’ for an answer.

We will follow up on all resurfacing works and make sure that you are informed throughout the process. We will not let the council get away with delaying work, underspending budgets and we won’t rest until our road network works for our city.

Liberal Democrats would demand a spot inspection of the road resurfacing of contractors to judge whether the quality of the work is up to scratch. If the quality does not meet basic requirements, we will make the council seek alternative contractors. Taxpayers should be able to expect quality work not sticking plaster solutions.
Home
We must not be mistaken, this Labour council is decisively responsible for the lack of affordable housing in Manchester. Liberal Democrats will rewrite Manchester’s housing policy for need, not greed.

**AFFORDABLE HOMES**

Last year Manchester City Council failed to enforce the building of a single affordable home in the city centre. This is a failure of one of the basic requirements of a council and Liberal Democrats will support affordable homes and affordable rents at every opportunity.

When developers claim that they cannot afford to build any affordable homes, we will demand the enforcement of the publication of Economic Viability Assessments. By publishing assessments, we can ensure that councillors can scrutinise the claims of big developers.

We will call for all developments over 15 dwellings to meet the 20% affordable quota, and where not economically viable, force the developer to contribute financially to the benefit of the local community.

For young people leaving foster care, we will guarantee safe, affordable housing for the transition from foster care to adulthood. When vulnerable young people leave care, they need to know that their council is looking out for them.

We would deliver a full independent review of all insulation and fire safety tests on social housing to ensure it meets requirements.

**END HOMELESSNESS**

Homelessness is on the rise. We have all seen the visual increase in homelessness and begging.

While the Labour council target the homeless with banning orders, one-way tickets to other areas, court orders and avoiding responsibility, Liberal Democrats demand an end to the plight of the homeless.

The council cannot continue to spend £350million on their own home while rough sleepers bed down in the archways of our Town Hall. There is simply no excuse. When multi-million-pound investors build across our city we need to ensure that the economic benefit of investment is used to house all rough sleepers in Manchester.

We would launch an investigation into all emergency housing applications to make sure that no one slips through the net. Where the council allows people to go through the county court process, we would publish the monthly numbers.

Using council-owned premises we would house every rough sleeper in Manchester before approving any further city centre developments. We will provide an administration address to every homeless person so that they can take the first step in getting their life back on track - this means they can begin applying for jobs.
Working with charities and national funding streams, we would hold cross-party talks on a plan to end homelessness in Manchester in five years and offer help to those who find themselves homeless or in danger of.

**SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

With only one opposition councillor in Manchester, a vote for more will increase our ability to increase scrutiny of the council’s actions on housing.

The increase in ‘foreign investor only’ apartments will result in the pricing out of the city centre of Manchester residents and workers. Liberal Democrats would campaign for a thorough independent investigation into the relationship between the council and developers, including an examination into all private-public partnerships tendering decisions made by the council in the city.

We would demand the publication of an examination into the enforcement of all Section 106 agreements, which are sums of money paid for by developers for community benefit. We need to be clear that this money should be spent in Manchester, not lost to the government after being unspent.

**PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT**

For too long this council have been making excuses for the decisions they are actually responsible for. They will tell you that it is everyone else’s fault but their own.

Liberal Democrats will put an end to that culture from day one.

We will not accept poor excuses when a planning condition is broken. These conditions exist for a purpose and by allowing these to be broken the council condone the behaviour.

The Labour council have forced through applications that have destroyed historical buildings important to the heritage of Manchester. This city is important to the culture of the UK. We can not let our council get away with the erosion of Manchester’s heritage. Liberal Democrats will safeguard all historical sites in Manchester to prevent further cultural loss.

We will guarantee that every developer has to pay Section 106 money for the benefit of the local community. No more lazy responses - we take pride in working hard for you.
REVERSING LABOUR’S DAMAGING TAX INCREASES

The decision to charge the least well off in our city a higher percentage increase in council tax than the most well off is a clear example of Labour getting it critically wrong; the wealthiest in our city saw a rise of just 4% whilst the least well off saw a staggering 22% rise.

Liberal Democrats will reverse this damaging policy.

Studies show that the legal fees paid by the council to enforce this policy are far outweighing the additional revenue generated.

All this does is add immense pressure to thousands of families already under strain.

This reversal would be paid for by our long-held position of reducing the number of councillors across the city from 96 to 64 saving an estimated £4 million per term.

Our plans will put money back in the pockets of those that are struggling the most - another example of how the Liberal Democrats will build a Manchester together.
Safety
Liberal Democrats oppose the continued cuts to our police force by the Conservative government. But instead of playing a blame game, we are offering real, community-led solutions to crime increases in Manchester.

**REVERSAL OF POLICE CUTS**

We support cross-party efforts to have cuts to the police force reversed. Greater Manchester Police not only face the added pressure of another year of real term cuts to its budget, along with the problem of officer retention. We would campaign for the end of the public sector pay freeze.

Our temporary police precept 4-year plan would guarantee a year-on-year investment designed to bridge the funding gap. We will ask those in Manchester with the broadest shoulders to pay more in their council tax to fund police resource increases. This will provide an extra £40.4 million of funding for GMP, £30.2 million more than the current Labour proposals. £40.4 million would fund an extra 200 police officers in Greater Manchester.

We would provide scrutiny over the GMP spending to ensure that the money made available by the precept increase is spent efficiently and to target anti-social behaviour, violent crime, burglaries and car crime across Manchester.

**COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

Liberal Democrats are committed to real action on crime, working hard in our local communities to empower residents and community officers to tackle offenders. We will provide action, not words.

The Labour leadership in the city want to duck all responsibility for the increase in crime across Manchester. We need local councillors so embedded in their community that they can deliver the action required while Labour talks the talk.

The Liberal Democrats have been instrumental in increasing Homewatch schemes across the city. Local empowerment is at the heart of the liberal movement. Empowering communities to take ownership of the communication between residents and the police is vital in achieving a reduction in crime. That’s why we would allow Homewatch groups the ability to apply to Neighbourhood Investment Fund money to pay for crime prevention measures that would benefit the neighbourhood.

We would call for the reinstatement of the community police officer, an officer responsible for the communication link between residents and the police.

Work with GMP to publish evidence best practise packs so that residents are aware of how they should be reporting and recording crime in their area. This would inform residents as to which body to pass on any evidence or information.
ASK FOR ANGELA

We would build on our proud record of bringing ‘Ask for Angela’ to Manchester, the abusive or threatening date alert procedure, by targeting domestic violence and emotional abuse.

We are worried by the increase in sexual, violent and emotional abuse. Protecting vulnerable men and woman should be at the heart of the council’s prevention strategy. We would launch a city-wide awareness campaign highlighting the responsibility of all of us to report abuse when we see it.

We would offer business rate discounts to bars, clubs and restaurants that successfully adopt the ‘Ask for Angela’ procedure and attend training. We would also routinely inspect its use in license visits.

Rosie Hughes
Public Safety Spokesperson
Candidate in Chorlton Park
Manchester's health provision is at breaking point. We need to prioritise how the council can impact mental health provision and public health issues.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Liberal Democrats completely condemn Labour's decision to close vital mental health services in Manchester. Mental health is as important as physical health which is why we have campaigned nationally for the introduction of the mental health waiting lists guarantee.

We will ensure every mental health patient had a bed if they required it. This would end the scandal of vulnerable patients being sent hundreds of miles away for a mental health provision. We have an obligation that every person struggling with mental health has the opportunity to be treated close to home and near their loved ones.

We will campaign for the introduction of Rapid Assessment, Intervention and Discharge (RAID) mental health team in hospitals to help people in crisis and those with concurrent mental and physical health issues. At the moment, it is far too easy for patients with a mental health illness to slip through the net and not receive the care they need.

Liberal Democrat councillors will continue their campaign against the use of face-down restraints by introducing the No Invasive Restraint Contract for every certified care home in Manchester and an independent review of the use of these restraints in our care homes.

At our heart is the belief that as a society we should champion those fighting mental health problems who may need acute and long-term community care.

CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES FOR A MODERN CITY

As the working week puts a strain on workers' time, we recognise the need for a contraceptive service that does not penalise those who work full-time.

The increase in the numbers of hours worked a week has left contraceptive provision in Manchester lacking. Women are left with a choice between using holiday and annual leave allowances for emergency contraception or wait for hours at walk-in centres with no guarantee of being seen.

Sexual health and equality are important to us. We demand a re-think in the accessibility of contraception in Manchester. We would work with the office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to offer Sexual Health Hubs located across Manchester, taking outpatient services to patients. Allowing people to book appointments means that they can work around their busy schedule, delivering a solution to the pressure on the provision.

A CITY WITHOUT BARRIERS

As European town and city planners push their engineering skills to make communities disabled friendly, we must do the same.
Manchester currently excludes those who access our city by wheelchair or walking aids. Liberal Democrats will launch an education programme, working with local professional architectural colleges to assess our high streets and neighbourhoods. We would campaign for fully inclusive access points for disabled people across our city.

In a growing world, where our population is ever more diverse in their physical abilities we must ensure that our architecture does not hinder the disabled and elderly.

We will only support planning applications in our city that have been found disabled friendly and will campaign for government funding to put right areas of our city currently cut off for disabled citizens.

**ENDING THE WAR ON DRUGS**

The war on drugs has failed. Liberal Democrats will end imprisonment for possession of illegal drugs for personal use and instead focus on treatment and education.

We will introduce a legal, regulated market for cannabis and introduce limits on potency permitting cannabis to be sold through licensed outlets to adults over the age of 18.
Education
It is time to shine a light on Special Educational Needs (SEN), school meal quality, school places and adult education. A targeted approach with achievable aims.

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)**

Every school in Manchester is facing a budget cut over the next 2 years. As governors and head teachers make difficult decisions over the future financial position of schools in the city, we need to ensure that we prioritise specialist budgets where we can.

Liberal Democrats want to protect, and if possible, increase the SEN budgets available to every school in Manchester. Currently, this aspect of the budget is severely under-calculated in some schools, and we must do more to assist in righting this historical wrong.

We would look at One Education, the council’s education training and outsourcing provider to offer accumulated service packages which would include free SEN training for every teaching assistant.

Liberal Democrats would request every school provide a SEN budget and resource tracker to best understand the underfunding and under-provision of SEN requirements in Manchester.

We would demand that government step in to safeguard SEN budgets and invest in the budget to offer the help the SEN children desperately need.

**NUTRITION MEANS LEARNING**

For many children across Manchester, a school meal may be the only hot meal they receive all day. The importance of nutrition to a young child and its impact on their ability to learn is unquestionable. Still, schools in Manchester are unable to prepare school meals on site.

Liberal Democrats in government were proud to deliver free school meals to every primary school child. The impact of nutrition on social mobility at an early age is pivotal. When a child born in a deprived part of Manchester can be surpassed academically by a child born to a wealthy family in the South West of England by the age of 5, we need to do everything in our power to equal the playing field.

We will complete a full audit of school meal provision in Manchester; highlighting areas without cooking facilities and look to private-public partnerships for a solution. We would use some of the Mayor’s fund to pay for interest-free loans to the schools for the building of kitchens if required.

We believe that council tax should be spent on the children of our city over Labour’s vanity projects.

**A 10 YEAR VISION**

Education remains a political football; government after government change policy and restructures based on ideology and whim. We believe that our city needs a vision with the support and strength to meet our city’s educational need for the next 10 years.
By bringing all political parties, chair of governors, private sector partners and unions together we can build a vision for the next 10 years of education in Manchester. We can ensure that we are able to provide for our city’s growing population by creating the school places we desperately need.

We can ease the pressure faced by our school’s budget by streamlining procurement tender and employ shared business managers across schools.

A 10-year vision will finally give local stability to education with a platform for scrutiny and accountability from educational professionals over the decisions made by the local authority.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

We must ensure that, for those who cannot afford to, that the ability to change your career and upskill is available. Our belief in adult education is because we know and understand the economic challenges people face in a globalised economy.

We strongly believe that funding adult education classes can help adults progress in their career or seek new work. As industries diversify, those who find themselves out of work need a provision to allow them to transition into the labour market.

A Liberal Democrat councillor will not vote for any council budget that included cuts to adult education. Liberal Democrats believe that increased in adult vocational studies is vital to remain competitive with other regions and retain the diverse skill set of Manchester’s workforce.
Our future
Because we believe that climate change and air pollution are the biggest challenges we face as a city and a race, we are committed to a carbon-neutral future.

**A GREEN CHARTER**

Our air pollution rates are some of the worst in the UK. Our plan will put Manchester on course to being the greenest city in the country.

Despite rising air pollution rates in Manchester, the council continue to fail in prioritising negating the serious health effects suffered by residents and workers. Government and EU statistics suggest that 6% of deaths a year in Manchester are caused by factors attributed to air pollution. \(^3\)

The Liberal Democrat Green Charter would pave the way to a wider collaborative strategy to tackle air pollution. We would invest in cycle highways by using government investment to build cycle only roads to service commuters. Making it safer for cyclists to get around our city and protecting them from dangerous fumes.

We would complete a full and extensive assessment of air quality in the city with an emphasis on our primary and secondary schools. We support the National Institute of Clinical Excellence recommendations that no new school should be built on major roadways.

Our Green Charter would review cycle storage units in all social housing blocks and make safe storage units a requirement in all apartment planning applications. To guarantee a green form of transport for the least well off in Manchester, we offer zero-interest loans to those in receipt of council tax benefit for the purchase of bicycles.

We would ban the use of Lycophyte in council and community run parks, grass verges and green spaces.

**A GREEN INCENTIVE**

We will encourage pollution scrubbing technology including green roofs and urban parks by using planning conditions and Section 106 agreements.

Encourage carbon emission reduction with businesses by offering business rate discounts for adopting measures such as; green commuter programs, using sustainable energy sources and cycle-to-work loans.

We will guarantee a plastic-free Manchester starting with a zero-tolerance policy on throwaway plastics.

We will also begin requiring all pubs, clubs and cafés to remove plastic straws from display and provide environmentally friendly alternatives for those who request them. We recognise that current options, such as biodegradable, wheat, glass and stainless steel straws, are unsuitable for some disabled people, so we would not impose a blanket ban until a suitable alternative is in place.
Liberal Democrats will increase the scrutiny of refuge and bin collections to make sure that we are getting the best value for money. We will call for a trial of communal bins for narrow terrace streets and houses of multiple occupancies.

We will set the example by making Manchester City Council a carbon neutral council.

**PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

There is no excuse for the systematic failure of the council to safeguard the nature we live alongside. Liberal Democrats are the only party on the council willing to enforce environmental protection rules and take action on mitigating the effects of climate change.

As climate change continues to worsen we notice the increase in extreme weather. Liberal Democrats would request flood mitigation plans across the city – including a full review of the city’s drainage system, and if required capital investment should be sought to fix long lasting issues.

Liberal Democrats will ensure full and comprehensive enforcement of all breaches of environmental law restrictions. This includes fly-tipping, illegal tree felling and the failure of developers to replace trees lost in construction.
Manchester is the beating heart of the ‘Northern Powerhouse’. It is up to us to ensure its success.

CELEBRATING LOCAL ECONOMIES

Liberal Democrats will create a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood economic strategy plan aimed at maximising the skills and talents of our residents and championing the diverse culture and personalities of our communities.

We will support local cottage and small businesses. We know that often people who could run successful businesses decide not to or fail because they lack the support, advice and motivation. We will create a dedicated business start-up support service for entrepreneurs.

To support our local highstreets, we will provide business rate discounts for locally owned, independent businesses to help compete against big chain culture.

We will request the creation of specialist business police teams to support businesses that have been victims of crime.

NEW INDUSTRIES

Manchester is an exciting place to live and work. We must support the influx of new industries while protecting our diverse economy. Media start-ups and creative industries need an incentive to relocate or set up in the heart of the nation’s media. We will provide a three-year business rate relief for any creative and new media company setting up or relocating to Manchester.

We will work alongside the tourism and hospitality industries to deliver a coordinated package to visitors that will boost visitors to the city.

STEM subject support will be provided through workshops with sixth forms and schools to introduce young people to the industry requirements and innovation within science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Manchester’s role in the world has not peaked. We are on the verge of economic responsibility that, in the right hands, could make our city reach its full potential.

Liberal Democrats firmly believe that Manchester’s position as the economic capital of the North West of England and the advanced stage of the combined authority gives it the potential to set a new economic precedent in the UK.

We fully support the devolution agenda and would like to see more powers moved from Westminster to Manchester. We understand that with greater budgets our role as an opposition to those who decide where it is spent is more important now than ever before.
Manchester is now home to Media City, two of the largest football teams in the world and one of the most celebrated cultures in Europe; our music is listened to in bars thousands of miles away from Northern Quarter, our team colours are worn by those in the most deprived parts of the world and we are ready to hold a major department of government. That’s why we believe that the council should begin to lobby for the relocation of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to Manchester. This would bring thousands of job opportunities, boost our local economy and provide greater possibilities for the home of arts and sport.

We will also strengthen council private partnership due diligence so that you can rest assured in the thought that our commercial partners meet the moral requirements you would expect.
Equality
A free, fair and open society, in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity.

OUR CITY DOES NOT CONFORM

Manchester is the home of non-conformity and we celebrate it. We enjoy the open, tolerant and diverse culture that we identify with. Liberal Democrats will build on our strong record of not conforming.

As the historic importance and future of Manchester's Gay Village comes under threat from over-development, Liberal Democrats will call for the Gay Village neighbourhood of our city to be made a site of cultural importance.

We will stamp out the rise of homophobic bullying in Manchester's schools after a report from Cllr. John Leech showed an alarming rise, and we will continue our campaign with football teams to kick homophobic chanting out of the game for good.

Liberal Democrats believe in autonomy and the right to choose your own career path, including sex work. Criminalisation as we currently see it puts women in danger for fear of prosecution if they choose to report any exploitation, so we will work for a grown-up, evidence-based policy on sex work in our city. We will offer free sexual health check-ups for sex workers and support unionisation to ensure the same scrutiny and accountability you would find in any other line of work. We will guarantee support for those in abusive relationships.

We will use our city's success of Gay Pride to launch a multi-faith celebration day bring together those with faith and those without to celebrate our city's tolerance and diversity.

NOT IN OUR NAME

We don’t believe that some of the injustices in our society can be tolerated any longer. Gender differences, pay gaps, disabled access and racial discrimination are not acceptable and fighting them is in our DNA.

We will conduct a full review of the council workplace to ensure that every office is disabled worker friendly. We will look to roll this out to businesses across the city in exchange for accreditation.

We will call on the council to install gender-neutral toilets at all public toilet locations in the city.

We believe in votes at 16 and will always campaign for the inclusion of 16 and 17-year-olds in local and national elections, and referendums.

Liberal Democrats will campaign for women-only swimming and gym sessions in council-owned premises and non-binary changing room facilities.

We believe in a zero-tolerance attitude to racism and will work with Transport for Greater Manchester to run a racism whistleblowing campaign on our networks.
STANDING UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

We believe that our city can take action to influence the behaviour of people so that we can stand up for what is right. Liberal Democrats believe that we should not tolerate social inequality.

Liberal Democrat councillors would request that businesses offer emergency services, first responders and armed forces discount across the city as standard.

We want to stand up for those without a vote or voice. That is why we would introduce a Cruelty-Free Charter for Manchester. A complete and unequivocal rejection of animal cruelty practices conducted by council contractors. We want to make Manchester a cruelty free city.

April Preston
Equalities Spokesperson
Candidate in Withington
Getting Priorities Straight
Whether it be spending priorities, pavements, roads, drains or bin collections; this Labour council are not getting the basics right.

ENDING THIS ONE-PARTY RULE

At the last local election, Labour had 95 out of 96 councillors in Manchester. One councillor is responsible for the scrutinising and holding to account the actions of 95 Labour councillors. That is not good for democracy, it is not good for scrutiny, and it is not good for our city.

This May, Liberal Democrats are the only party that can mount a credible challenge and provide the opposition our city desperately needs. We will never stop holding the decisions of our city leaders to account and fighting hard to ensure that this council get the basics right.

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

Your Labour council have taken this city for granted for too long. They are rarely in touch, other than election time, and professional standards have slipped. With Liberal Democrat councillors, you can expect strong local representation and updates about your local area, all year long, not just at election time.

The council is there to administer, oversee and scrutinise the functions of this city. The state of our roads and pavements are unacceptable, years of underinvestment in drains have made some areas unpassable in bad weather and smaller general waste bins have had no impact on recycling rates. No more ducking responsibility, you need to vote for change.

Liberal Democrats have been holding the Labour council to account on this and we won’t stop until they get the basics right.

Using your vote for the Liberal Democrats will get you a councillor in your community and standing up for you in the town hall all year round. Dedicated to you, we see it as a basic role of a councillor to keep you updated about what is happening in your community.

NO WASTE ON OUR WATCH

When Manchester residents are expected to pay more for less and when our city faces some of the biggest budget pressures in a generation, we should not see our council spend millions of pounds on vanity projects.

Council-paid concerts, £350 million on town hall refurbishments and 60% pay rises for top bosses are just a few examples of the Labour-waste our city faces.

Manchester’s leadership blame government cuts for all their faults while simultaneously spending millions on luxuries.

Liberal Democrats would demand scrutiny over spending and will put forward budgetary policies that avoid waste. A vote for a Liberal Democrat opposition will ensure greater communication and an end to decision making in Labour committee rooms.
At times of budget cuts, we cannot let this council gift pay rises to the most well-paid council bosses, while the regular staff get a misally 1%. That is a sign of a council with the wrong priorities.

We believe in a fair salary system - one that rewards the hardest workers. The ones that keep our city clean, safe and the wheels moving. That is why Liberal Democrats would introduce a Robin Hood reversal of the top pay rises for council bosses and give it back to our city’s lesser-paid workers.

We support the increase of the Living Wage and the adoption of the Living Wage in Manchester council. We would lobby local businesses to introduce it in the city.

We wouldn’t stop there. We would reject the 1% pay freeze for the public sector by spreading out the bumper pay rises of town hall bosses across all city workers. Until we can afford it, we will link top bosses’ pay rises with every other city worker. We can’t accept one rule for one and one rule for the other. It’s just not fair.
Political Responsibility
Responsibility is the difference between us and them. We will not stand for shifting the responsibility from our local politicians. Professional, fair and transparent politics for a Manchester together.

A WAVE OF CHANGE

We will not allow councillors to shift responsibility when they are not doing the job they are voted in for. Manchester deserves more from its MPs and councillors.

Liberal Democrats will ask for a full audit into the working practices of councillors and if they aren't meeting the requirements needed we would support the overall reduction of councillors from 96 to 64. We will not settle for lazy politicians paid for by residents of our city.

We will call for performance reviews of local councillors so that they know what is required of them by you. Like all other sectors, if they are not fit to do the job, they shouldn't be doing it.

A TRANSPARENT CITY

Only by cleaning up our politics can we trust the decisions made by our council. Our plan to clean up Manchester's politics will take away special interests and behind-closed-door decision making.

We will force every elected councillor and senior council officer to declare all interests before taking office. We will require this to be periodically updated and published on the council website. We need to stamp out special interest influence over the decisions made in our city.

Our plan includes the publication of all tax receipts of elected councillors. People in public office should give us the confidence that they are operating independently from financial influence. Openness and honesty back at the heart of local politics.

Liberal Democrats will ask councillors to publish their political donations so we can ensure that they have your best intentions at heart. We envisage a council, elected by you, working for you and in the interests of you.
FAIR ELECTIONS

We believe in fair elections, where everyone's vote matters, locally and nationally. Liberal Democrats have a track record on campaigning to make every vote matter and giving the youngest in our society the chance to decide their own future.

Liberal Democrats are campaigning for a proportional voting system in local elections. An end to one-party councils like here in Manchester by ensuring that everyone has the chance to vote and no one party can get total power. We believe that more views mean better decisions.

We will continue our long-held belief that the voting age should be lowered to 16. We believe that if you are old enough to work in our city, you are old enough to vote in our city.

Cllr. John Leech
Leader, Manchester Liberal Democrats
Candidate in Didsbury West
Stronger
Fairer
Greener
Honest
Open
Accountable
Transparent
Forward Thinking with
Communities at the Heart

that's the Liberal Democrat plan for a
Manchester together
Who to vote for and where
MANCHESTER WITHINGTON

Burnage:
Mohamed Belal Sabbagh
Andrea Timoney
Maria Turner

Chorlton:
Lizzy Bain
Rhona Brown
Joanne Milligan

Chorlton Park:
Sebastian Bate
Amaan Hashmi
Rosie Hughes

Didsbury East:
John Cameron
Bryn Coombe
Dominic Hardwick

Didsbury West:
Richard Kilpatrick
John Leech
Greg Stanton

Withington:
Phil Manktelow
April Preston
Alex Warren

Old Moat:
Jon Martin
Andrew McGuinness
Brigitte Sapriel

MANCHESTER CENTRAL

Ardwick:
Beth Waller

Ancoats and Beswick:
Simon Lepori
Christopher Wilkinson
Lynne Williams

Clayton and Openshaw:
Elaine Boyes
Richard Clayton
Dan Willis

Hulme:
Richard Gadsen
Thomas Mitchell
James Ross

Moss Side:
Maria Del Pilar Sanz Guillermo
Christopher Kane

Deansgate:
John Bridges
Gary McKenna
George Rice

Piccadilly:
Martin Browne
Joe Lynch
Matthew Varnam
MANCHESTER GORTON

Fallowfield:
Jem Arpa
Robin Grayson
Gemma Kilday

Rusholme:
Abu Chowdhury
Holly Matthies
Dave Page

Levenshulme:
Charles Glover
Mark Saunders
Nicholas Saunders

Gorton and Abbey Hey:
Tim Bannister
Iain Donaldson
Jackie Pearcey

Whalley Range:
Samantha Magill
Jane McQueen
Mark Smith

BLACKLEY AND BROUGHTON

Cheetham:
Paul Crane

Crumpsall:
Sarah Brown

Charlestown:
Charles Turner

Higher Blackley:
Peter Matthews
MANCHESTER together