



MANCHESTER MANIFESTO 2021

THE

REAL



# CONTENTS

Foreword	02
Heal	06
A Global Manchester	09
Transport	13
Home	17
Safety	26
Health	29
Teach	33
Our Future	37
Work	43
Equal	48
Back to Basics	54
Political Responsibility	58
Vote	62



# FOREWORD



**“This city is hurting; our people are hurting. Our mission must be to unite and heal both.”**



We've all heard it; we've all said it: it's been a year like no other.

And it's true, in one sense. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new worries, challenges, and grief whilst impacting our ways of living and working on an unimaginable scale.

From doctors and nurses to shop workers and bus drivers, frontline workers have put their lives on the line to protect ours and carry this country through an unprecedented crisis.

It can't be overstated.

As we emerge from these dark times, the world of tomorrow brings with it new uncertainties. How we meet those challenges will define our communities and





society for years to come.

How we reach out to those in need when every part of our city is hurting in its own way will be our greatest task.

And yet, as we come to this delayed election in a year like no other, I still see the many things that the pandemic has not and cannot

change. It has not changed our sense of community or our relationship with our neighbours. It has not altered the vast strength of our city's collective spirit despite such uncertainty.

But our need for compassionate politics and transparency in governance has never been greater.

When you worry about the financial strain, however small, that this pandemic could deliver to your door, or your friends' and family's mental health, you are part of this election.

When you walk in your neighbourhood and notice the shocking lack of green space, made so apparent by city-wide lockdowns, or the hundreds of people who remain without permanent housing, you are part of this election.

When you need affordable public transport, your bins collected, or the potholes on your road fixed, you are part of this election.



And if you think Manchester deserves better, then you're a part of our movement.

There are tough times already behind us, but be in no doubt that there are tough times ahead for our city too. We will do what we always do; we will work together and come out of it even stronger.

But we can't do that without a voice in local politics that speaks out when there is wasteful public spending, homelessness, pollution, crime, and a staggering lack of affordable housing. A vocal opposition can drive meaningful change, halt lousy practice, and ensure decisions are made with everyone's best interests at heart.

Manchester has the potential to give back as much to its residents as they give it. But only the Liberal Democrats have the fortitude and courage to keep fighting for that Manchester, no matter what. We'll never stop fighting for a brighter, greener, better future.

After all, some things never change.

But we have to be realistic: this city is hurting; our neighbours and communities are hurting. Our mission must be to unite and heal both.

So in a year like no other and an election like no other, join me in delivering a result like no other: a Manchester that supports its communities like they have supported it.

Make your voice heard, and together let's unite Manchester and heal our great city.

*Richard Kilpatrick*

**Richard Kilpatrick**

*Deputy Leader, Manchester Liberal Democrats*



**HEAL**



**The next year is a unique opportunity to reset Manchester's direction as we exit the worst of the Coronavirus pandemic. People's lives and businesses have been transformed, and we must learn the lessons. The crisis has put an uneven strain on the most vulnerable and least well off in our society.**

## HEALING

Key workers and frontline health care workers have carried our city and our country through this crisis and have been treated appallingly by the Government.

The 1% pay rise is an insult. A substantial pay rise is deserved by NHS staff and vital to retain current staff and attract desperately needed healthcare workers to the profession.

We will invest in more mental health support for front line staff who may have become traumatised or ill working shifts in Covid wards over the last year.

## REBUILD AND RECOVER

Liberal Democrat councillors will invest at least £500,000 from the Covid Government funding into critical Council frontline services and ensure that this money is fairly distributed to those who need it. We will involve community groups and businesses in the recovery process and offer support in navigating the complex systems.

However, Coronavirus is not gone yet, and we must be ready for another wave at any time. When making difficult decisions, public health must always come first. That's



why – despite all the bluster and opportunism from others – we were the only party in Manchester honest enough to support entering tougher restrictions last year. The subsequent fall in deaths and hospitalisation rates have shown it was the right decision to make.

Trialling pedestrianisation and active travel schemes, like pop-up cycle lanes, should have been a priority during the lockdowns. We won't let Labour miss another opportunity to try them.

## FILLING THE GAPS

The Government's pandemic support packages have excluded far too many people, leaving people to fall through the cracks and increasing inequality in our city.

Liberal Democrats would make funding available from the unspent coronavirus support fund to mental health charities and services in the city to maximise the number of people they can support.

We support the introduction of Universal Basic Income (UBI). More information on this can be found in 'Home'.

Over a year into the crisis, there are still three million people excluded from Government support during Coronavirus. No one should feel left behind because of Coronavirus - that means the Government must finally take action and provide support to the Excluded. We will ferociously lobby the Government to support the Excluded.

We will reverse the decision to end tax-free shopping for overseas tourists by retaining VAT Retail Export Scheme, extend the Furlough Scheme until at least September 2021 and scrap business rates to save our high streets.



# A GLOBAL MANCHESTER



**HE  
AL**

**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 EU. Manchester needs pro-European councillors standing up for our city.**

## OUR PLACE IN EUROPE

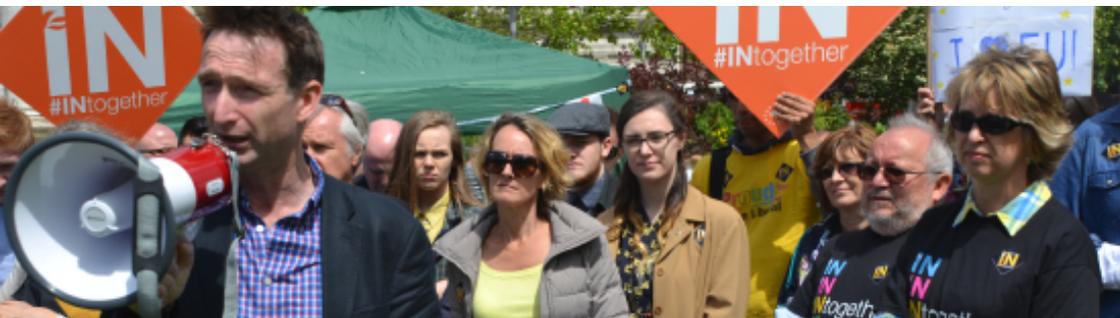
The Liberal Democrats have been the only unashamedly pro-European party consistently against Brexit from the very beginning. And no matter what, we are dedicated to a future in the European Union.

Despite Manchester voting overwhelmingly to remain in the EU, this council has refused to back our People's Vote motion – three times. We will change that on Day One.

We want to give you, and 16- and 17-year-olds, the final say with an option to Remain.

We will demand the replacement of the £320 million EU funding (which included £176 million of the EU Development Fund) that was set aside for Greater Manchester for 2014–2020, and beyond.

We cannot let Brexit destroy our city and we will not let Labour and the Tories get away with doing so.



## MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

This country and its leaders are responsible for kickstarting the biggest refugee crisis in living memory; the Liberal Democrats will not let them now turn their back on the results of that.

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 do what we can. Manchester is at its best when we come together to show love, support and compassion – no matter where people come from.

The EU's criminal intelligence agency, Europol, estimates that 15,000 Syrian child refugees have already gone missing since arriving in Europe and that a further 90,000 are currently at risk of being trafficked or abused.

We are determined to lead from the front, so we will immediately house 50 at-risk families from refugee camps. In the long term, we will investigate how best to house as many unaccompanied child refugees as possible.



## RIGHTS FOR EU CITIZENS

The people of Manchester are Mancunians, whether they were born here or drawn here. The way that EU citizens and expats have been treated since Brexit has been a disgrace.

Our award-winning medical research centres, hospitals, school classrooms, high streets, care homes, football teams and identity depend on the hard work and commitment of every international citizen who calls Manchester home.

We are the only party on the Council to unequivocally guarantee the rights of EU citizens, and we will continue to do so by demanding the Brexit Secretary guarantees the rights of EU citizens too.

Citizens of EU nations can vote in local elections. This means that our councillors represent EU citizens and are the only elected politicians in the country who can legitimately claim to represent the interests of those people.

Liberal Democrat councillors are the only ones who will guarantee that EU citizens' voices are no longer side-lined in the debate over their future.

Manchester's success was built on our relationship with our European neighbours and – to quote the Prime Minister – absolutely nothing has changed.



# TRANSPORT

The logo consists of a square divided into two horizontal sections. The top section is dark red and contains the letters 'HE' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The bottom section is yellow and contains the letters 'AL' in white, bold, sans-serif font. Two stylized hands are shown at the bottom corners of the square, appearing to hold it.

**HE  
AL**

**Despite years of promise under the Labour council, Manchester's transport system remains unintegrated and overpriced. Our plan will give Manchester a transport system fit for the UK's second (but best) city.**

## **INVESTMENT NOW**

It is time for smart and strategic investment in our transport system. Using funds available to the Council we will build a transport network that meets the city's needs.

We will establish a SmartTransport Development Fund dedicated to offsetting heavy carbon transport.

We will invest in dedicated cycle highways giving riders somewhere safe to use, making routes clearer and more direct across the city – not just in and out of the centre.

We will accelerate and increase roll-out of electric charging points.

We will invest in major transport capital projects aimed at increasing coverage of the Metrolink to all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

We believe that Manchester should be the greenest city in the UK and will invest in 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 deliver an integrated, affordable and targeted transport system to rival London's.

The Government and the Labour Combined Authority have delivered nothing to ease the pressure on commuters' pockets; disruption to services are common and the Government and Manchester Council are left pointing fingers at each other. It's just not good enough.

We will work to link the city's bus services, Metrolink and National Rail lines with a single point of payment, equivalent 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.

We will introduce a young commuters' price cap, so workers under the age of 18 will never pay more than half the hourly living wage rate to commute to and from work.

We will investigate Metrolink's capacity at peak times and conduct assessments in the event of disruption to avoid transport gridlock.



Well-behaved dogs are already allowed on buses and trains. We will allow them on trams.

It is vital that an integrated transport system services our whole community, not just those who make the most money. That is why we will link the most profitable bus route tender with the least profitable, ensuring that every community is provided for and that no more routes are lost.

## OUR POTHOLE PROMISE

The Council borrowed £100 million for road improvements from the Government but underspent by a quarter in the last year, despite our roads being in the worst condition for decades.

We will not accept substandard work, we will always fight for our fair share of the resurfacing budget and we will not let roads fall into disrepair.

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 or underspending budgets, and we won't rest until our roads are safe for all commuters.

We will demand a spot inspection of contractors' road resurfacing to judge whether the quality of the work is up to scratch. If the quality does not meet basic requirements, we will seek alternative contractors. Taxpayers should be able to expect quality work, not sticking-plaster solutions.

We will begin with clearing the enormous backlog of reports on potholes, which make our roads unsafe for motorists and cyclists, and we will do this on Day One.



**HOME**



**This council is directly responsible for the lack of affordable housing in Manchester. We will rip up the status quo and rewrite Manchester's housing policy from the bottom up.**

## GENUINELY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Manchester City Council has failed to enforce the building of even a single affordable home in the city centre for years. This is a failure of one of the basic requirements of a council and has perpetuated the homelessness crisis.

We will guarantee affordable homes and affordable rents at every single opportunity.

When developers claim that they cannot meet the expenses of building any affordable homes, we will demand the publication of their assessments so they can be independently scrutinised.

We guarantee that every single housing development will have an affordable quota of at least 20%, and where this is not economically viable we will 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 will deliver a full independent review of all insulation and fire safety tests in social housing to ensure it meets requirements. We will never allow companies to take advantage of local people if their building was not built properly.



And every time Labour and luxury billion-pound property developers go to bed together, we will expose it.

## REPEALING THE HOMELESS TAX

We will immediately scrap what is arguably one of the worst policies ever proposed by this council. We will rip up Labour's Homeless Tax, a nasty policy that fines homeless people taking shelter in archways, doorways and tents up to £100; if they do not pay, Labour's policy is to make them face court and a £1,000 fine. We will stop this on Day One.

## FINALLY ENDING HOMELESSNESS

We're in the middle of the worst homelessness crisis of all time.

Whilst the Labour council targets the homeless with banning orders, one-way tickets to other areas and court appearances, and avoids responsibility, we will set out a clear, costed, compassionate plan to get everyone off our streets and into homes – once and for all.

The Council spend waste £350 million on revamping the Town Hall whilst rough sleepers bed down in the archways underneath.



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

Using council-owned premises we will house every single rough sleeper in Manchester before approving any further city centre developments.

We will immediately provide an administration address for anyone who needs one, meaning that homeless people and those without a fixed address can take the first step in getting their lives back on track and begin applying for jobs.

Working with charities and national funding streams, we will hold cross-party talks on a plan to eradicate homelessness – and its causes – in Manchester within 5 years.



We will demand that all developments meet the at-least-20%-affordable quota – absolutely no debate.

We will invest heavily in the causes of homelessness, preventing people from ending up on the streets in the first place. This includes initiatives such as increasing support for prisoners who are currently abandoned upon release, nearly 40% of whom end up homeless – making it near impossible for them to receive services to support rehabilitation.

We will halt all frivolous and vanity projects such as the Exchange Square fountains, which cost £1.2 million – enough to house every single rough sleeper in Manchester for an entire year, along with a hot meal, warm shower and access to a support worker.

We will ban anti-homeless spikes on all council land and insert a clause in planning conditions that disables developers from adding them to new constructions.



## SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

With only two Opposition councillors in Manchester, it's hard for us to keep on top of everything this council does. A vote for the Liberal Democrats will increase our ability to improve our scrutiny of Labour's decisions on housing.

For example, the 'Foreign Investor Only' apartments will result in the continued pricing-out of Manchester residents and workers. We will launch a thorough, independent investigation into the relationship between the Council and developers, including an examination into all private-public partnerships and tendering decisions made by the Council.

We will publish an examination into the enforcement of all Section 106 agreements, which are the sums of money paid by developers for community benefit. We will guarantee that this money is spent on Manchester – and doesn't end up in someone's back pocket.



## PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT

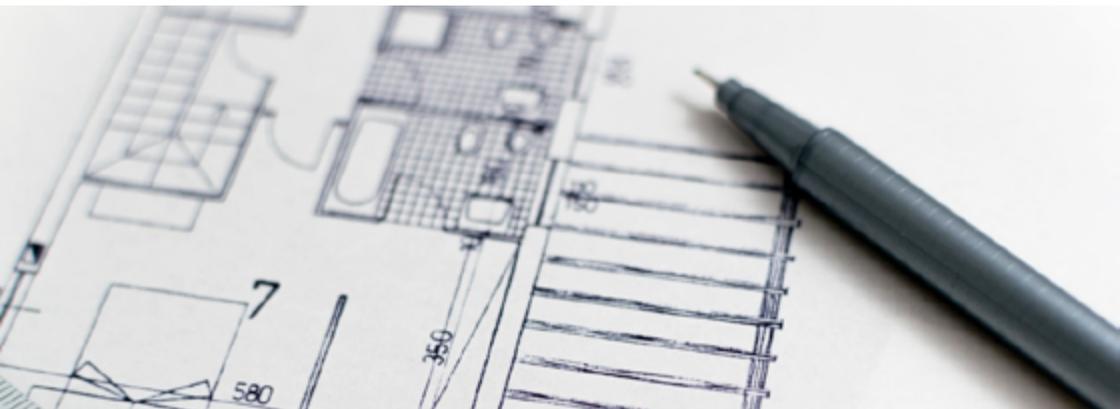
For too long this council has been making excuses for decisions they are responsible for.

The Liberal Democrats will put an end to that culture from Day One.

We will not accept poor excuses when planning conditions are broken. These conditions exist for a purpose, and by allowing these to be broken the Council is condoning the behaviour.

We will block applications that destroy historic buildings important to the heritage of Manchester. This city is culturally important to the UK, and too many buildings have already been lost. We cannot let our council get away with the erosion of Manchester's heritage anymore. We will safeguard all historic sites in Manchester.

We will force every developer to pay Section 106 money for the benefit of the local community.



## REVERSING LABOUR'S DAMAGING TAX INCREASES

In 2017, Labour decided to hit those struggling the most with an increase in Council Tax of 22%, whereas the wealthiest saw an increase of only 4%.

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 the basics critically wrong.

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

By raising the maximum support back to the original level, our plans will reverse the 22% Council Tax increase for the least well off, putting money back into the pockets of those who are struggling the most – and we will do it on Day One.



## UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

The UK is one of the strongest economies in the world, and yet our economic system leaves too many people without enough money to meet their basic requirements and fails to value properly vital unpaid work like caring.

During the coronavirus epidemic, millions of people have fallen through the cracks in the government's financial support. Many have risked their health, and continued in poorly paid work to keep a roof over their heads. Millions of unpaid carers have worked harder than ever. Some of the most marginalised in society have been overlooked.

This isn't right. It isn't fair. And it certainly doesn't line up with Liberal Democrat values.

Trials of UBI have suggested it can improve mental health, financial wellbeing, and boost people's confidence. It can properly value carers and caring for the first time and in practice can be a huge boost to the incomes of many women in particular. It can act as a second safety net for those in difficulty, for the most marginalised who fall through the current complicated system

We never know what's around the corner. Coronavirus has shown us just how fragile our system is, and how easily it can fail people. From shielding people from another global crisis to rewarding informal caring, we need a system which prioritises social and economic resilience for individuals and for our country.

UBI is a huge step towards the fairer society we want and we will champion it on the Council at every opportunity.



**SAFETY**



**It's time to look out for those who look out for us. We oppose the cuts to emergency services, but instead of playing a blame game we are offering real, community-led solutions.**

## **STANDING UP FOR OUR EMERGENCY OFFICERS**

We support cross-party efforts to reverse police, fire and emergency services cuts. Greater Manchester Police faces the added pressure of another year of cuts to its budget, along with a problem with officer retention.

We will campaign for an end to the public sector pay freeze and an increase in police officer numbers.

We will provide scrutiny over 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**

The Liberal Democrats are committed to taking real action on crime, working hard in our local communities to empower residents and community officers to tackle offenders.

Labour want to duck all responsibility for the increase in crime across Manchester, but we need local councillors embedded in their community who can deliver the action required.

We have been instrumental in increasing Homewatch schemes across the city, empowering communities to take ownership of communication between residents and the police.



That's why we will enable Homewatch groups to apply for Neighbourhood Investment Fund money to pay for crime prevention measures that would benefit their neighbourhood.

We will call for the reinstatement of Police Community Support Officers, officers who are responsible for the communication link between residents and the police.

We will publish evidence-based best-practice packs so that residents are aware of how they should be reporting and recording crime in their area.

We will continue our calls on universities to take more responsibility for student safety by paying for extra police in student areas hit by crime.

## ASK FOR ANGELA

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

We are worried about the increase in sexual, violent and emotional abuse. Protecting vulnerable women and men should be at the heart of the Council's prevention strategy.

We will launch a city-wide awareness campaign highlighting the responsibility we all have to report abuse when we see it.

We will offer business-rates discounts to bars, clubs and restaurants that successfully adopt the 'Ask for Angela' procedure and attend training. We will routinely inspect its use in licence visits.



**HEALTH**



# **Manchester's health service is at breaking point. We need to prioritise mental health provision and public health issues to rescue it.**

## **ENDING THE HEALTH-CHECK POSTCODE LOTTERY**

Manchester is in the midst of a health-check postcode lottery, with just over 47% of people being offered one in the last 5 years.

As part of our transformational investment, we will put one penny on income tax to raise more than £6 billion. This will breathe new life into community health and GP services to ensure people get the appointments and care they need.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

Mental health is as important as physical health, which is why our first plan is to introduce a mental health waiting-list guarantee to provide complete transparency.

The Liberal Democrats opposed Labour's decision to close vital mental health services in Manchester and we will fight to reopen them, including the Brian Hore Unit for recovering alcoholics.

We will ensure every mental health patient has a bed if required, ending the scandal of vulnerable patients being sent hundreds of miles away from their loved ones.

It is far too easy for patients with a mental health illness to slip through the net and not receive the care they need. We will introduce Rapid Assessment, Intervention and Discharge (RAID) mental health teams to help people in crisis and those with concurrent mental and physical health issues.



We will continue our 4-year campaign against the use of face-down restraints by introducing the No Invasive Restraint Contract for every care home, and will launch an independent review into the use of these measures.

## CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES FOR A MODERN CITY

As the working week puts a strain on workers' time, we need to build a contraceptive service that truly works for everyone.

Women are left with a choice between using holiday or annual leave allowances for emergency contraception or waiting for hours at walk-in centres with no guarantee of being seen.

We will set up Sexual Health Hubs across Manchester, taking the services patients need directly to them and enabling appointments to be booked around their job.

## A CITY WITHOUT BARRIERS

Our city simply isn't accessible. Manchester excludes far too many who need to access our city by wheelchair or walking aids.

We will launch an education programme, working with local professional architectural colleges to assess our high streets and neighbourhoods.



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

We will only support planning applications in our city that have been found Disabled Friendly and will campaign for government funding to update areas of our city that are currently cut off for less able citizens.

## ENDING THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

We will introduce a legal, regulated market for cannabis and limits on potency, permitting cannabis to be sold through licensed outlets to adults over the age of 18.

## A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

We believe fundamentally in a woman's right to access healthcare, including abortion, without the fear of abuse or intimidation. We have already supported and will continue to support the enforcement of exclusion buffer zones around all abortion clinics.



**TEACH**



**It is time to shine a light on Special Educational Needs, school meal quality, school places and adult education. A targeted approach with achievable aims.**

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)**

Every school in Manchester is facing budget cuts. As governors and head teachers make difficult decisions over the financial position of schools in the city, we need to ensure that we prioritise specialist budgets wherever we can.

We will protect and, if possible, increase the SEN budgets available to every school in Manchester. This aspect of the budget is severely under-calculated in many schools, and we will assist in righting this historical wrong.

We will refresh One Education, the Council's education training and outsourcing provider, to offer accumulated service packages that include free SEN training for every teaching assistant.

We will request that every school provides a SEN budget and resource tracker to best understand the underfunding and underprovision of requirements in Manchester.



We will demand that the Government steps in to safeguard SEN budgets and invests in the budget to offer the help children desperately need.

## GOOD NUTRITION MEANS GOOD 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. Yet many schools in Manchester are still unable to prepare school meals on site.

It is a disgrace that children born in deprived parts of Manchester can be surpassed academically by a child born to a wealthy family in the South West of England by the age of five. We will fix this.

Liberal Democrats in government were proud to deliver free school meals to every primary school child, but we will go further in Manchester. We will complete a full audit of school meal provision, highlighting areas without cooking facilities and looking for partnership solutions. We will use some of the Mayor's fund to pay for interest-free loans for schools to build kitchens if required.

We will redirect taxpayers' money away from vanity projects to our schools.

## A 10-YEAR VISION

Education remains a political football; government after government changes policies and restructures education based on ideology and whim. Manchester needs a vision with the support and strength to meet our educational needs for the next 10 years.



By bringing all political parties, chairs of governors, private sector partners and unions together we can build a vision for the next 10 years of education in Manchester. We will ensure that we can provide for our city's growing population by creating desperately needed school places.

We will ease the pressure faced by our schools budget by streamlining procurement tender and employing 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 those who wish to change career and upskill – but cannot afford to – are able to do so.

We will fund adult education classes to help adults progress in their career or seek new work. As industries diversify, or become at risk because of Brexit, those who find themselves out of work need a hand getting back up.

We will never vote for a budget that includes cuts to adult education. We believe that an increase in adult vocational studies is vital to remain competitive with other regions and to retain the diverse skill set of Manchester's workforce.



**OUR FUTURE**



**Climate change and air pollution are the biggest challenges we face as a city and as a race. We will tackle it head-on.**

## THE 10xGREENER CHARTER

Our air-pollution rates are some of the worst in the UK, and sometimes Europe. Our plan will put Manchester on course to becoming the greenest city in the country.

Six percent of deaths each year in Manchester are caused by factors attributed to air pollution; the Council has failed to prioritise the serious health effects suffered by residents and workers.

The Liberal Democrat Green Charter will pave the way to a wider collaborative strategy to tackle air pollution. We will invest in cycle highways, 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 will include 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 will offer zero-interest loans for the purchase of bicycles to those in receipt of council tax benefits.



We will 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.

We will encourage sponsorship from interested parties such as the Manchester Airport Group to build parks and green spaces in Manchester's city centre and to hire 'postcode gardeners' where green spaces are lacking the most.

We will replace every tree removed with three new trees within one tree-planting cycle, and within the same ward.

We will reduce the number of car parks in the city centre with the aim of seeing fewer cars, both freeing up more spaces for disabled users and reducing congestion. We will increase parking spaces around Metrolink and local train stations to encourage greater use of public transport. Any future parking buildings will feature a public park or green space on top.

By utilising space more effectively we can create more green areas, encourage plant growth – from a modest patch of lawn to the side of a skyscraper – and ensure plant growth near traffic-congested roads to reduce pollution by way of pollutant-absorbing leaves and plants.



We will publicise apartment/window box style gardening with guides for those with smaller spaces.

We will uphold the failed commitment to ban pesticides used in public spaces, halt the Town Hall's use of bee-harming neonicotinoids and the use of glyphosate herbicides, which have been linked to cancer.

We will invite the founders of 10xGreener from Hackney and Friends of the Earth leads to Manchester to seek their expertise on how to make our city green.

## PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Air pollution around schools affects quality of life for students, staff and local residents.

Too many parents sit in their cars with the engines on while waiting to pick up their children at home time.

As air pollution continues to negatively influence student performance, we will tackle it head-on by increasing the no-parking areas around schools to reduce traffic congestion, with the exemption of those who are unable to walk further. We will encourage car-pooling, 'Walking Crocodiles' and other similar schemes.

We will also introduce an 'Engine Off Zone' around all schools.



## A GREEN INCENTIVE

We will support pollution-scrubbing technology, including green roofs and urban parks by using planning conditions and Section 106 Agreements.

We will offer business-rates discounts for those adopting measures such as green commuter programmes, using sustainable energy sources and cycle-to-work loans.

We will fight for a plastic-free Manchester, starting with a zero-tolerance policy on single-use plastics, such as those used by takeaway outlets and fast-food restaurants.

We will require all pubs, clubs and cafés to remove plastic straws from display and to 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.

We will increase the scrutiny of refuse 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 occupancy.

We will invest in new, larger parks in our city centre's expanding outer areas. We will use the developers' financial contributions – that we would enforce – to move council-owned city-centre car parks underground so the space above can be transformed into much-needed green parks. We will also incorporate cycle hubs and public toilets.

We will open a series of public toilets across the city centre and invest in the maintenance regime for waterways with



partner organisations to maintain towpaths and banks, improve lighting and security and remove litter and graffiti.

## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

There is no excuse for the systematic failure by the Council to safeguard our natural environment. The 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.

We will build 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.

We 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.

We will set an example by working towards a carbon-neutral council.



**WORK**



# **Manchester is the beating heart of the North. It's up to us to prove it.**

## **CELEBRATING LOCAL ECONOMIES**

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

To support our local high streets, we will provide business-rates discounts for locally owned, independent businesses to help compete against the 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 3-year business-rates relief for any creative and new media company setting up or relocating to Manchester.

We will invest in tourism marketing for the city, positioning Manchester as the vibrant, tolerant and diverse city it is to the rest of the UK and the world.

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

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



## THE BIGGER PICTURE

Manchester's role in the world has not peaked. We believe that Manchester's position as the capital of the North and the advanced stage of the Greater Manchester 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.

Manchester is home to Media City, two of the largest football teams in the world and one of the most celebrated cultures in Europe, and our music is listened to in bars even thousands of miles away.

We believe that Manchester is ready to hold a major government department. We will 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 that our commercial partners meet the moral requirements you would expect.



## SAVING OUR HIGH STREETS

Thanks to a combination of long-term structural challenges and the damaging effects of Brexit uncertainty, Manchester businesses and high streets are under pressure like never before. We must take immediate action to save our local economy and tens of thousands of jobs.

We will scrap spiralling business rates, which are forcing shops to question their future in our city.

We will replace business rates with a Commercial Landowner Levy (CLL). This will remove buildings and machinery from calculations and tax only the land value of commercial sites, boosting investment and cutting taxes.

The CLL would be paid by owners rather than tenants, and non-residential stamp duty would be scrapped to improve market efficiency. Commercial land would be taxed regardless of whether the buildings above it are occupied and would be applied to unused and derelict commercial land.

This would cut business taxes by up to 25%, meaning shops could stay open and bring more jobs to the city.

It would also benefit more than half a million Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which would be spared the bureaucratic burden of property taxation. With fewer plots of land than individual businesses, the CLL would save councils both time and money.

Whilst this would represent a tax cut initially, it is likely to be at least revenue-neutral in the long term.



**EQUAL**



**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 love it! Nowhere else is more open, tolerant and diverse, and the Liberal Democrats will build on our strong record of equality.

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

A Liberal Democrat report in 2016 highlighted an alarming rise in homophobic bullying in Manchester's schools. We will work with schools to completely stamp this behaviour out and we will continue our campaign with football teams to kick homophobic chanting out of the game for good.

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



## KEEPING ALL WORKERS SAFE

We believe in your right to choose your own career path, including sex work.

Criminalisation as we currently see it puts women and men in danger because of the fear of prosecution if they choose to report exploitation.

We will work for a grown-up, evidence-based policy on sex work in our city, moving towards complete decriminalisation.

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.

Working with charities and police forces, we will guarantee support for those in abusive relationships.



## NOT IN OUR NAME

There are too many injustices in our society that we won't put up with any more. Gender differences, pay gaps, racial discrimination and low levels of disabled access 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 and will look to roll this out to businesses across the city in exchange for accreditation.

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

We have always believed in votes at 16 and will continue to fight for the inclusion of 16- and 17-year-olds in local and national elections, and in referendums – particularly if a People's Vote on our membership of the EU becomes reality.

We will campaign for women-only swimming and gym sessions in council-owned premises.

We will not tolerate racism, anti-semitism or any other form of discrimination and will work with Transport for Greater Manchester to run a whistleblowing campaign on our transport networks.



## THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY ISN'T OVER

We've made huge strides for equality, but we're not done yet.

We will publish the gender pay gap in the Town Hall and push all businesses to follow suit.

We will extend the Council's Special Leave Policy to include those seeking IVF or gender reassignment-related appointments. This means they will be treated in the same way as any other medical appointment and the worker will be given special paid leave instead of unpaid.

We will develop a council-wide plan to tackle black and minority ethnic inequalities, and will review the Equality and Human Rights Commission to determine whether it is effectively fulfilling its role in Manchester.

We will increase accessibility to public places and transport by making more stations wheelchair accessible, improve the legislative framework governing Blue Badges, set up a benchmarking standard for an accessible Manchester and enforce the provisions of the 2010 Equality Act on discrimination by private hire vehicles and taxis.

We will address period poverty by funding free sanitary products to girls at schools and GP surgeries.



## STANDING UP FOR THE VOICELESS

Our city can take action to influence people's behaviour and we cannot tolerate social inequality.

We will request that businesses across the city offer discounts to emergency services, first responders and armed forces as standard.

Free travel on local transport will be given to 24-hour carers so that they can travel easily with the people they care for.

We will stand up for those without a vote or voice by introducing a Cruelty-Free Charter for Manchester – a complete and unequivocal rejection of animal cruelty practices conducted by council contractors.

We will provide greater and stricter oversight regarding the way in which developers and contractors treat our wildlife. Nothing like the violence against rabbits for the new Trafford Centre Metrolink line in 2017 can happen again.

We will make Manchester a cruelty-free city.



# BACK TO BASICS



**Whether it is spending-priorities, pavements, roads, drains or bin collections, this Labour council just isn't getting the basics right.**

## **ENDING THIS ONE-PARTY RULE**

Because of an outdated voting system, in the last all-out election Labour won 94 out of 96 seats in Manchester.

Just two councillors are responsible for scrutinising and holding to account the actions of 94 Labour councillors. This is not good for democracy, it is not good for scrutiny, and it is not good for our city.

Liberal Democrats work harder than anyone else for Manchester, but we need more of us to work even harder for you.

This May, the Liberal Democrats are the only party that can challenge Labour and provide the opposition our city desperately needs. We will never stop holding the decisions of our city leaders to account and will continue to fight hard to pressurise this council into getting the basics right.

## **BACK TO BASICS**

This Labour council has taken this city for granted for too long. They are rarely in touch, other than at 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.

We will never allow a Liberal Democrat councillor to remain in place if they have acted inappropriately or made abusive remarks to anyone, including local people.



The Council is there to administer, oversee and scrutinise the functions of this city. The state of our roads and pavements is unacceptable, years of underinvestment in drains have made some areas unpassable in bad weather and dangerous for cyclists, and smaller general-waste bins have had no impact on recycling rates.

Liberal Democrat councillors 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 who will stand up for you in the Town Hall all year round.

## NO WASTE ON OUR WATCH

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

Council-paid concerts, £350 million on refurbishing the Town Hall, revamped fountains and 60% pay rises for top bosses are just a few examples of the reckless spending by this council.

We will scrutinise spending, cut out waste and put an end to Labour making decisions behind closed doors.



## A COUNCIL WITH WORKERS AT ITS HEART

At times of budget cuts, we cannot let this council gift 60% pay rises to the most well-paid council bosses while regular staff get 1% or are let go. That is a real sign of a council with the wrong priorities.

We believe in a fair salary system, one that rewards the hardest workers – those who keep our city clean, safe and the wheels moving. That is why we will 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 in the Living Wage and the adoption of the Living Wage in Manchester Council, and we will lobby local businesses to introduce it.

But we wouldn't stop there. We will reject the 1% pay freeze for the public sector by spreading out the bumper pay rises of Town Hall bosses across all city workers. 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 bring transparency, openness and honesty back to the heart of local politics.**

## A WAVE OF CHANGE

We will not allow councillors to shift responsibility when they are not doing the job they are voted in to do. Manchester deserves more from its elected representatives.

We will conduct a full audit into the working practices of councillors so you know exactly what your representatives are up to.

Manchester does not need 96 councillors and too many of them don't do enough, so we would cut the number of councillors to 64, down from three to two per ward.

We won't settle for lazy politicians paid for by you, so we will conduct performance reviews of local councillors. 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 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 publicly. We need to stamp out special-interest influence over the decisions made in our city.

We should have confidence that our representatives are operating independently from financial influence, so we will enforce the publication of all tax receipts of elected members, and we will publish all political donations.

We will implement named votes by default and publish them, similar to Hansard in Parliament, so you know exactly what your councillor is supporting and opposing.

We will publish regular lists with upcoming planning applications and public consultations, invite the public to open forums, and offer a quarterly report.



We will provide full disclosure of all private consultations and private planning meetings between developers and the Council. We will improve the Freedom of Information (FOI) response rate and put in place a '90/30 Policy' wherein 90% of requests must be answered within 30 days.

We will return to the full number of question-time opportunities at council, which were reduced by Labour.

We will build 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. The Liberal Democrats have a track record on this and giving the youngest in our society the chance to decide their own future.

We want a proportional voting system in local elections and an end to one-party councils like Manchester's, by ensuring that everyone has the chance to vote. We believe that more views mean better decisions.

We will continue to fight for our long-held belief that the voting age should be lowered to 16 for all elections and referendums held in the UK.



**VO**

**TE**



## BLACKLEY AND BROUGHTON

**Charlestown:  
Melanie Ncube**

**Cheetham:  
Roderick Morrison**

**Crumpsall:  
Michael McKinstry**

**Harpurhey:  
Celia Craske**

**Higher Blackley:  
Peter Matthews**



## MANCHESTER CENTRAL

**Ancoats and Beswick:**  
**Alan Good**

**Ardwick:**  
**Luke Beamish**

**Clayton and Openshaw:**  
**Claude Nsumbu**  
**Martha O'Donoghue**

**Deansgate:**  
**John Bridges**

**Hulme:**  
**Gary McKenna**

**Miles Platting and Newton Heath:**  
**Samuel Olanrewaju**

**Moss Side:**  
**Norman Lewis**

**Moston:**  
**Robbie Cowbury**

**Piccadilly:**  
**Chris Northwood**



## MANCHESTER GORTON

**Fallowfield:**  
**Paul Jones**

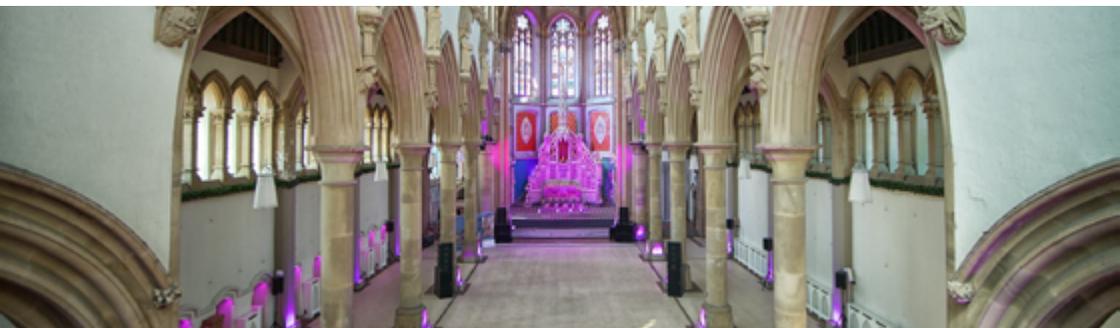
**Gorton and Abbey Hey:**  
**Jackie Pearcey**

**Levenshulme:**  
**Greg Sammons**

**Longsight:**  
**Kobe Bibbon**

**Rusholme:**  
**Melvin Sowah**

**Whalley Range:**  
**Andrew McGuinness**



## MANCHESTER WITHINGTON

**Burnage:**  
**Jamie Dwan**

**Chorlton:**  
**Robin Grayson**

**Chorlton Park:**  
**Amaan Hashmi**

**Didsbury East:**  
**John Cameron**

**Didsbury West:**  
**Richard Kilpatrick**

**Old Moat:**  
**Jon Martin**

**Withington:**  
**April Preston**



## WYTHENSHAW AND SALE EAST

**Baguley:**  
**Seb Bate**

**Brooklands:**  
**Nick Saunders**  
**Mark Saunders**

**Northenden:**  
**Ellin Saunders**

**Sharston:**  
**Bryn Coombe**

**Woodhouse Park:**  
**Anna Hablak**

Published and promoted by Mike Dixon on behalf of the Manchester Liberal Democrats all at 8-10 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AE. Designed by Apostrophe Ltd, [www.apostrophemgmt.com](http://www.apostrophemgmt.com)



HEAL  
UNITE

HEAL  
UNITE

HEAL  
UNITE

HEAL  
UNITE

HEAL  
UNITE

