

SHEFFIELD LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

DEMANDING BETTER FOR SHEFFIELD

TRUST

TRUTH

TRANSPARENCY

Liberal 
Democrats
DEMAND BETTER

Manifesto
2019

WHAT WE STAND FOR



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

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



A message from Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed

Leader of Sheffield Liberal Democrats



Dear Sheffielders,

On May 2nd, you have a very important decision to make. The choice you make will not only affect us in the year ahead but will affect us for years to come. Decisions will be taken that will impact us in the coming decade. It is vitally important that you choose a Party that demands a better council, a more successful Sheffield, a better environment and better health & social care.

I am proud of my city. But I can't take pride in what the City Council have done lately. The City Council have presided over 5am dawn raids to fell trees, arresting pensioners and making international news for all the wrong reasons. Our city can't go on like this.

We need Trust, Truth and Transparency at the heart of the Council.

I will rebuild **trust** by opening up the Council to Sheffield residents. At the moment, we have a City Council that does things to communities rather than work alongside them. We have a plan that will mean you are involved in key decisions that affect your community.

Truth will be at the core of a Liberal Democrat Council. We would open up contracts to the public and make services actually serve the people they're meant to.

We will be **transparent** by streaming council meetings live so you know councillors are working for you. We will also build an app to let you access council information whenever you want.

By listening and working with communities, we can make Sheffield an even better place to live, work and study.

Let's put Trust, Truth and Transparency at the heart of the Council.

With best wishes,

Shaffaq Mohammed

MANIFESTO IN BRIEF

DEMAND A BETTER COUNCIL

- Liberal Democrats believe that the purpose of the council is to represent, work for and be the voice of the people of Sheffield and that it is important that its decisions reflect the interests of the city and will always put people at the forefront of the choices it makes.
- Liberal Democrats will involve you with a council that listens to Sheffield's citizens, is open, transparent and involves communities in local decisions.
- A Liberal Democrat Sheffield City Council would undertake a full review of how the council operates with a view to devolving power and decision-making away from the Town Hall and increasing the influence of residents and their elected representatives on issues that affect their local community.
- Liberal Democrats will ensure that *a fair share of* the money derived from development intended for the local community will be retained in the area where the development takes place.
- Liberal Democrats will hold the Streets Ahead contractor to account.

DEMAND A MORE SUCCESSFUL SHEFFIELD

- Liberal Democrats would invest in people and infrastructure to support businesses to increase prosperity and bring jobs to our city.
- Liberal Democrats would ring fence 10% of city-wide 'Community Infrastructure Levy' money for local projects to support small, local business and invest £1 million in local and district shopping centres.
- Liberal Democrats will work with other South Yorkshire councils to secure the £90 million funding available for our region and to access other funds from central government which could benefit the people of South Yorkshire if the combined authority was established.
- Liberal Democrats will invest in young people working with schools and supporting community schemes across our city including the De Hood and Unity Gym which provide activities for young people to keep them safe and give them the opportunity to engage in positive activities.

MANIFESTO IN BRIEF

DEMAND A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

- Our planet is facing a climate emergency. As a city we need to act urgently and sign up to being carbon neutral by 2030. Liberal Democrats will establish a citizen's assembly to develop policies to enable us to achieve this target.
- Liberal Democrats will protect our green, leafy city for all to enjoy; promote our heritage and minimise our impact on the environment.
- Liberal Democrats will increase recycling with larger blue bins for those who want them, the option to recycle more types of plastic and will extend the opening hours of recycling centres.
- We will supply schools with air quality monitors to help educate and inform students and their families.

DEMAND BETTER HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- Liberal Democrats will provide services that meet the needs of our most vulnerable residents by providing quality housing to buy or rent, and a city where people have access to open spaces, clean air and safer roads.
- Liberal Democrats will support the most vulnerable young people by providing free transport passes for young carers to help them engage in activities in their communities and will reimburse foster carers the cost of their council tax in recognition of the vital service they give.
- Liberal Democrats will ensure that developers comply with the need to provide a range of housing types, including affordable homes, in all large-scale developments.

DEMAND A BETTER COUNCIL

Restoring confidence and giving you power



What is needed?

Liberal Democrats believe in an open and transparent council that listens and acts for the interests of Sheffield residents.

We condemn Labour's mismanagement of the 'Streets Ahead' contract, particularly with the felling of healthy street trees.

For more than three years the council refused to engage with residents. Now, only after thousands of trees have been felled and tax-payers money has been wasted on huge legal costs, they have agreed to work towards retaining more healthy trees.

Liberal Democrats are committed to the promotion of a flourishing system of democratic local government in which decisions are taken and services delivered at the most local level viable. Too many decisions have been centralised under Labour, making them less responsive to local need. Sheffield currently has a democratic deficit with too many decisions taken by a small number of councillors.

What we will do

Restore confidence

- Liberal Democrats will engage campaigners and communities to review the implementation of the 'Streets Ahead' contract.
- Public services must be responsive to the people they serve, and we will encourage variety and innovation within them and to make them available on equal terms to all.
- The City Council has restricted access to some of the contracts signed with private companies to deliver public services. We will allow more access and scrutiny of contracts by opposition councillors and local residents.

DEMAND A BETTER COUNCIL

Restoring confidence and giving you power



- Liberal Democrats will make City Council meetings more accessible to local residents via live and catch-up video recordings that will allow residents to make sure their elected representatives are working for them.
- We will explore the development of a council app that will provide residents with access to council information and services.
- We will press the government to introduce proportional representation for local elections, so the council more closely resembles the views of its citizens.

Devolve power

- A Liberal Democrat City Council would undertake a full review of the structure of the council to devolve power downwards and increase the influence of residents and their local representatives.
- Liberal Democrats will change the decision-making processes of the council to a system which gives all local councillors responsibility for more decisions, making them more accountable to the people who elect them.
- Give residents greater control over bus services in the city by introducing a London style bus contact ensuring it is the bus users who determine the service provided rather than the bus companies who benefit under Labour's failed bus partnership.
- Ensure more money from new developments is retained within communities where building takes place to support local infrastructure.
- Reverse the cuts to the Parish and Town councils to enable local communities to make decisions on how money is spent in their area.

DEMAND A MORE SUCCESSFUL SHEFFIELD

Supporting business, improving transport and investing in young people



What is needed?

Sheffield needs a clear, positive vision for business in the city, flexible enough to adapt to a changing economy. Sheffield needs investment and a wide range of businesses to improve our prosperity and enable us to compete on equal terms with other major UK cities. Bringing inward investment and jobs to the city should always be a priority for the council.

We confirm our commitment to the Sheffield City Region devolution deal which is the only deal offered by the government and believe that this would be a great opportunity for the city and its people. Liberal Democrats condemn the in-fighting by South Yorkshire Labour Council leaders which has resulted in the stalling of £30 million per year of inward investment for jobs, skills and training for our region and the loss of an automatic £155 million from the Transforming Cities Fund which the Sheffield City Region would receive if the combined authority was established. The failure to achieve this has left us behind other city regions such as Manchester and Birmingham.

Liberal Democrats believe that every child should be helped to achieve their potential through access to high quality education, ensuring they acquire the skills to enable them to succeed in a changing world. We will ensure that the most vulnerable children have access to the additional services they need.

What we will do

Support business

- Liberal Democrats will ring fence 10% of city-wide Community Infrastructure Levy money for infrastructure projects to support small, local business. For example, local parking schemes, new road crossings to encourage more local residents to use their local facilities.
- Set up a 'Community business group' for each part of the city to involve local business in the decision-making process.
- Liberal Democrats will support a diverse redevelopment of the city centre, ensuring that Sheffield has a distinctive offer, with a better balance of residential, business and leisure development.
- Attract big business to Sheffield and strengthen our international links.
- Liberal Democrats want to help independent businesses and boost the local economy by investigating the feasibility of introducing a 'Sheffield Pound' so more of the money spent in Sheffield stays in Sheffield.

DEMAND A MORE SUCCESSFUL SHEFFIELD

Supporting business, improving transport and investing in young people



- Support the city centre and local & district shopping centres by managing parking flexibly, to encourage business activity throughout the week. Supporting city-centre businesses by re-instating free parking on evenings and all-day on Sundays.

Improve transport

- Scrap Labour's bus partnership which has seen higher charges for worse services, and instead, give residents greater control over bus services in the city by introducing a London style bus contract to deliver a good value, stable, comprehensive and easy to use bus network.
- Lobby for improved rail connections to Manchester and Leeds, and to revive electrification of the Midland Main Line.
- Investigate an expansion of the use of tram-train to improve connectivity across the city.
- Hold the 'Streets ahead' contractor to account to ensure high standards of work and ensure that damage and any deterioration of the highways are addressed promptly and repaired to the required standard.

Invest in young people

- Liberal Democrats will support community schemes across our city including the De Hood and Unity Gym to provide activities for young people to keep them safe and give them the opportunity to engage in positive activities.
- Work with schools and others to improve the education offered in all schools across Sheffield, particularly those currently failing to meet acceptable standards in their OFSTED inspections.
- Maintain the focus on high aspiration and attainment for all children and young people in all our schools.
- Support technical and vocational education as an equal alternative to academic qualifications to provide the skilled workforce a thriving economy needs. Ensure opportunities for appropriate work experience to introduce all pupils to a range of opportunities for their future careers.
- Ensure that best use is made of the Pupil Premium, introduced by Liberal Democrats in government, to provide educational support for disadvantaged children.

DEMAND A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Acting to protect our environment, protecting green spaces, reducing waste and promoting our culture & heritage.



What is needed?

Our planet is facing a climate emergency. As a city we need to act urgently and sign up to being carbon neutral by 2030.

Sheffield is a wonderful place to live with 60% being green space and a third of the city being within the Peak District National Park. Liberal Democrats believe that green space is vital in maintaining the character of Sheffield and as an amenity for all residents and any development must be sensitive to the needs of the wider community.

Sheffield has a proud history and culture which should be more widely used for residents and to attract visitors to the city.

Supporting efforts locally to reduce waste by improving recycling and improving our air quality. Enacting policies that will enable us to make our contribution to national and global targets.

What we will do

Work towards being carbon neutral and Protect our green spaces.

- Liberal Democrats will establish a citizen's assembly to develop policies to enable us to achieve this target.
- We will supply schools with air quality monitors to help educate and inform students and, through them, inform their families.
- Introduce a 'Greener Sheffield Fund' – an additional pot of money for local communities to decide how best they would like to invest in their environment eg street tree retention, cycle routes, recycling.
- Prioritise the use of brown field sites for all types of housing and business development.
- Protect our urban parks so everyone has access to green, open space.
- Deliver more residential communities within the city centre with a blend of high-density private housing and purpose designed, good quality, affordable homes.

DEMAND A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Acting to protect our environment, protecting green spaces, reducing waste and promoting our culture & heritage.



- Promote good relationships with community groups who work to improve our open spaces. Encouraging activity has health benefits as well as improving the local amenities.
- Invest in the environmental enforcement team to help tackle graffiti and fly-tipping

Enable people to reduce waste

- Liberal Democrats will increase recycling with larger blue bins for those who want them.
- We will extend the recycling of plastics and make it easier for residents to recycle plastic eg by requiring the council contractor to undertake more separation.
- We will extend the opening hours of recycling centres
- Investigate reverse-vending for plastic bottle returns and encouraging water bottle re-filling points in public places & businesses. Explore the collection of food waste for composting.
- Support business to reduce their reliance on single use plastic eg by schemes for retail customers to use their own containers for goods.
- Increase the number of green bin collections in the autumn and promote the take up of the service to households across the city.
- Encourage recycling businesses to come to the city and recognise the benefits of the incinerator to reduce the need for landfill and obtaining energy from waste.

Promote our culture and heritage

- Increase the professional support for our community libraries.
- Encourage organisations & businesses to sponsor widely accessible cultural & sporting events.
- Build upon Sheffield's unique sporting heritage and investigate ways to promote the city using the recent publicity received from film & TV drama.
- Open up the Castle Market area of the city to combine with Victoria Quays to make this part of Sheffield attractive to more visitors and show off Sheffield's heritage. Encourage schools to use Sheffield Castle as part of their education about Sheffield's history

Demand Better Health & Social Care

Improving care for vulnerable people, promoting health and improving housing.



What is needed?

Our city's Social Care services are in crisis. Current approaches, both locally & nationally, are demonstrably failing older people and vulnerable adults of working age and young people in need of care from our services in Sheffield. A comprehensive, multi-agency approach is needed to support young people at risk of involvement in criminal activity including knife crime.

But, unlike Labour, we do not believe Sheffield's social care failings can be solved simply by throwing money at the problem. Older people and those of working age who need support and care are less satisfied with the quality of social care service than people in other large cities. Sheffield gets poorer results than other cities with similar levels of funding.

Good quality housing is vital for well-being and an adequate supply of housing should be available to meet the needs of our population. Sheffield needs a range of new properties across the city for young people, families and retired people who wish to downsize.

What we will do

Improve care for vulnerable young people

- Liberal Democrats will reimburse foster carers the cost of their council tax to help them care for our most vulnerable children & young people, encouraging more people to become foster carers and reducing the number of young people who are placed in homes out of Sheffield which may be detrimental to them as well as more expensive to provide.
- Provide free transport passes for young carers to enable them to get to school more easily and access social activities and other support that they need.
- Adopt a public health approach, involving all agencies, to tackle the issue of knife crime. Campaign for a major national reinvestment in youth services.

Improve social care

- We would support elderly and vulnerable people through better integrated health and social care, keeping public health under local authority control.
- Call for the devolution for NHS and social care spending powers to Sheffield City Region.
- We would implement best social care practice, learning from other core cities.
- Use the central government adult social care grant to fund training for front line social care staff to improve the quality of care and the retention of staff.

Demand Better Health & Social Care

Improving care for vulnerable people, promoting health and improving housing.



- Focus on early intervention to prevent problems as we get older and expand on the 'People keeping well' initiative to cover the whole city. Promote successful, mutual well-being activity that cuts across age groups – for example, schools helping pupils to engage with elderly in their area.
- Improve access to advice and information for people with long term care needs and their carers.

Promote health

- Encourage safety for school students by installing crossings where required to ensure safe routes to school. Employ more school crossing patrols.
- Encourage children to walk or cycle to school, reducing pollution and congestion near schools, by increasing awareness among parents, enforcing traffic regulations and introducing further enforcement powers.
- Where students live some distance from school we will ensure safe transport which meets the statutory guidance for all school students.
- Promote cycle use, including cycles with electric motors which enable more people to cycle in hilly Sheffield, by improved routes, parking areas and cycle hire schemes.
- Investigate ways to work with schools and children's mental health services to provide mental health support in schools.
- Launch a public health campaign – equivalent to the 'Five a Day' healthy eating campaign – that promotes steps people can take to improve their own mental resilience.

Improve housing options

- Liberal Democrats nationally would build an additional 300,000 homes a year by 2022.
- Explore building of more social housing through council borrowing.
- Ensure rented properties are safe to live in, whether the landlord is the council, a housing association or a private landlord by improving the enforcement of housing regulations.
- Support the development of attractive housing targeted at disabled and elderly residents, whether private or rented properties, to enable people to remain in their own homes for longer and to free up larger properties for families.
- Use the new homes bonus to help clean brown field sites to enable use for housing.
- Identify sites for housing by prioritising previously developed sites.
- Ensure that developers comply with the need to provide a range of housing types, including affordable homes, in all large-scale developments.



Your Liberal Democrat candidates:

Park & Arbourthorne - Susan Ross
Beauchief & Greenhill - Richard Shaw
Beighton - Bob McCann
Birley - James Elwood
Broomhill & Sharrow Vale - Will Sapwell
Burngreave - Mary Aston
City - Hashim Mahroof
Crookes & Crosspool - Tim Huggan
Darnall - Sohail Shaffaq Mohammed
Dore & Totley - Joe Otten
East Ecclesfield - Victoria Bowden
Ecclesall - Barbara Masters
Firth Park - Ann Kingdom
Fulwood - Andrew Sangar

Gleadless Valley - John Dryden
Graves Park - Sue Auckland
Hillsborough - Stephen Porter
Manor Castle - Tom Hague
Mosborough - Kevin Oxley
Nether Edge & Sharrow - Pat White
Richmond - Dianne Leek
Shiregreen & Brightside - Alan Wisbey
Southey - Chris Tosseano
Stannington - Penny Baker
Stocksbridge & Upper Don - Kurtis Crossland
Walkley - Rebecca Atkinson
West Ecclesfield - Alan Hooper
Woodhouse - Chris Brown