

The background of the entire page is a photograph of York Minster, a large Gothic cathedral, seen from a street-level perspective. The street is lined with brick buildings, and a few people and cars are visible. A large yellow-orange diagonal banner covers the bottom right portion of the image, containing the text.

# **WORKING FOR YOU WORKING FOR YORK**

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**YORK LIBERAL DEMOCRATS  
MANIFESTO 2019**

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# **A FAIR DEAL FOR YORK**

**EXTRA £13 MILLION  
PER YEAR FOR YORK**





# Foreword

## *Protecting services which matter to residents*

**Dear Friend,**

**York is a beautiful and unique city, with much to offer.**

**I am proud to have made this city my home since completing my degree and qualifying as a teacher at the University of York.**

**Since we formed a Joint Administration at the Council in 2015, York has continued to develop as a leading city in the UK, and considerable investment has been used to prioritise the services that matter to residents.**

**Last year, we launched our 'York 2019' consultation, where we asked residents to share their views and ideas on how to improve the city and their local communities.**



**Residents feel passionately about protecting and improving York's frontline services and, once again, we will cement that commitment at the heart of our plan for the city. Over the last four years, we have also seen unprecedented financial pressure on our adult social care services. In response, the Liberal Democrats have invested millions into services which protect the most vulnerable in our society and we will continue to stand up for residents.**

**In York and Westminster, the Labour and Conservative parties continue to tear themselves apart, ignoring the priorities and aspirations of residents. Instead, the Liberal Democrats remain united and committed to our communities.**

**We are determined to continue improving the services that matter to residents. With more community focused and hardworking Liberal Democrat Councillors elected this May, we will deliver on our Focus on Five priorities. These are the five areas of focus you will find in this manifesto, with each one reinforcing the importance of York's frontline services.**

**Our candidates bring a diverse range of skills and experience to York, including teaching, campaigning in the community, service in the armed forces, science, business and floristry. To find your local Lib Dem candidate, visit: [www.yorklibdems.org.uk/elections2019](http://www.yorklibdems.org.uk/elections2019)**

**If you want a Council focused on your community, that listens and delivers on your priorities, vote Liberal Democrat on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Cllr Keith Aspden  
Leader of the York Liberal Democrat Group**

# Achievements

Since 2015, when we formed a Joint Administration at the City of York Council, York has continued to go from strength to strength, receiving recognition along the way.



Before embarking on another election campaign, it is important to reflect on what we as Liberal Democrats have achieved for residents and for the city. There have been many accomplishments of which the Liberal Democrats can be proud, and we reflect on some of our key achievements below:

## Ward Committees

Local communities now have more power and funding available to them because of Liberal Democrat Councillors. We have devolved power and budgets to residents by re-establishing Ward Committees and releasing up to £1 million every year to be spent in local communities.

For example, over the last four years, funding has been used to create new parking laybys, upgrade community buildings and deliver summer activities schemes for young people.



### **Protecting Community Facilities**

**We fulfilled our election promise to keep Yearsley Swimming Pool open by incorporating it into a 13-year leisure contract, which also delivers the long-awaited York Community Stadium.**

### **Waste and Recycling**

**In June 2015, we invested £1 million into York's waste service to ensure that every household continues to receive their first green bin for free and to promote recycling across the city.**

### **Transport**

**We created a £20 million investment programme in our roads and footpaths between 2015-2019, with a further £13 million secured from 2019. £1.6 million has also been secured to create a Clean Air Zone in York.**

### **Library Services**

**We have protected York's libraries by appointing an operator to run the library service for the next 15 years, operating with a contract worth £32 million. This includes an additional £300,000 per year and £4.3 million for library buildings. Unlike many other areas in the UK, York is protecting its libraries, not closing them.**

### **Investing in People**

**All Children's Centres across the city have remained open since Liberal Democrat Councillors formed a Joint Administration. Despite pressure on budgets, we have launched new local area teams and invested over £3 million into York's adult social care services.**

### **Local Plan**

**After decades without one, we have submitted a Local Plan for York to the Planning Inspector, avoiding the risk of Government intervention in York's future. Our Local Plan will deliver the housing we need in the city, including 4,000 affordable homes, whilst protecting York's unique character.**



# **Working for You**

# **Working for York**

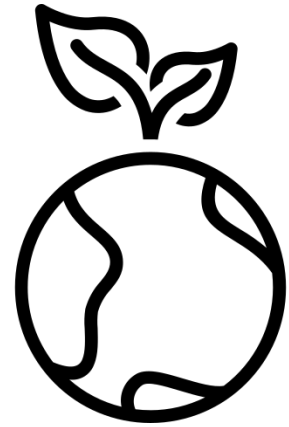
# **Focus on Five**



# Focus on Five

## 1. Make York Cleaner, Greener & Smarter

Make York cleaner, greener and smarter: by setting up a new service to tackle fly-tipping, clean our streets and enforce against illegal parking. We will also deliver York's Clean Air Zone, the city's first climate commission and encourage sustainable transport.



## 2. Building the Homes York Needs

Build the homes York needs: over the next four years, we will deliver more affordable homes, including Council-owned homes, to help everyone in the city, including young families and key workers. We will protect York's special character by adopting a Local Plan and continue our campaign for a 'Fair Deal for York'.



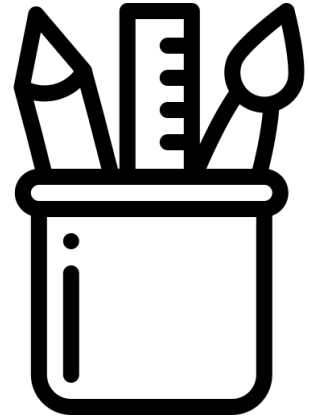
## 3. Creating Safer Communities

Create safer communities: by expanding neighbourhood enforcement, establishing a Crime Prevention Fund for all wards to spend on creating safer spaces and tackling anti-social behaviour. We will also secure Purple Flag accreditation for an improved city centre.



#### **4. Giving York's Children a Better Start**

**Give York's children a better start: we will create a new community activities scheme for young people and families, support our local libraries, expand apprenticeships, protect York's vital Children's Centres and increase investment in young people's mental health services.**



#### **5. Improving the Economy for All**

**Improve the economy for all: by continuing to deliver major projects such as York Central, as well as strengthening the city's economy through supporting business, investing in our roads, increasing investment to all our high streets and explore opportunities for a York 'Tourist Levy'.**



#### **Professor Daniel Khan, Candidate for Bishopthorpe**

**"Our Focus on Five outlines the main policy themes that we will campaign on and work to change at the Council with more Lib Dem Councillors elected this May."**





**FOCUS ON FIVE**

**WORKING FOR YOU WORKING FOR YORK**





**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**Making York**  
**Cleaner, Greener**  
**and Smarter**

# Making York Cleaner, Greener and Smarter

As Liberal Democrats, our commitment to York's frontline services is at the heart of everything we do. We want to invest in services which matter to our residents, whilst pioneering new initiatives to protect and enhance our environment.

With more Liberal Democrat Councillors elected in May, we will:

- Create a new **street environment service**, giving it funding and powers needed to reduce fly-tipping and enforce against illegal parking.
- Tackle **poor air quality** by delivering York's first Clean Air Zone and committing to World Health Organisation standards for all air quality measures across the city.
- Reduce the **Council's Carbon Footprint**, committing to become carbon neutral by 2030, by creating York's first Climate Commission and planting over 2,000 trees across the city, as part of our commitment to the Northern Forest.
- Invest additional resources into **improving and repairing York's roads and footpaths**, including a city-wide scheme to reconstruct every adopted road in York.
- Support the development of **sustainable transport**, such as new electric buses, hyper hub electric charging points, and investment in cycle lanes and highways.
- Increase **facilities for bike storage** on streets throughout York, in every ward and transport hub.
- Encourage the **environmentally friendly disposal of green waste** by ensuring no charge for the first green waste bin and ensuring recycling boxes, lids and nets are free.
- Assess every **park in York** to identify opportunities to improve the provision of physical activity spaces, outdoor

gyms and green spaces, which are recognised as important to improving health and wellbeing.

- Commit to creating a new **public open space** or stray in York.
- Install **100 more litter bins** across York.
- Identify opportunities for future **sustainable transport initiatives** to complement any works to dual the ring road, recognising the balance between future expansion of road space and our ambition to make York a sustainable city.
- Plant a quarter of a million **flower bulbs** across the city.
- Press the Environment Agency to improve **flood defences** and urban sustainable drainage.
- Work with bus operators and user groups to identify opportunities to make **bus travel** more convenient and reliable. For example, through the wider use of 'real time' bus stop displays and on-board audio and visual messaging.
- Trial the use of **recycled materials** to repair potholes and resurface roads.
- Continue to lobby regionally and nationally for increased investment in **trans-Pennine rail infrastructure** that will benefit York, such as electrification of the lines.

### **Paula Widdowson, Candidate for Dringhouses and Woodthorpe**

**"We are determined to invest in and improve services which reflect residents' priorities, whilst also exploring new opportunities to address the challenges posed by climate change."**











**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**Building the**  
**Homes**  
**York Needs**

# Building the Homes York Needs

Having a place to call home is a basic human right and, in order to help more people find a home in our city, we must build the homes York needs, whilst simultaneously protecting York's special character.

With more Liberal Democrat Councillors elected in May, we will:

- Deliver more **affordable homes** over the next four years, including Council-owned properties, to help people in the city find a home.
- Champion the **Local Plan**, the first plan in 48 years, which will deliver the homes we need, whilst protecting York's special character and Greenbelt.
- Build more **sheltered accommodation** as part of a larger Older Persons Accommodation Programme, to enable more people to live independently for longer.
- Redevelop the **Council Design Guide** to encourage greener homes and carbon neutral energy schemes across all Council builds.
- Deliver more **temporary accommodation**, such as James House, to support homeless families.
- Re-establish the Federation of Residents Associations to ensure **tenants voices** are heard at the Council.
- Create a **House Building Charter** to help improve the quality of private-led housing.
- Invest additional funds into the **Council's housing repair budget**, in order to speed up the process of repairs and renovations.
- Ensure that the **built environment fund** is available for regeneration across York, not just the city centre.



## Case Study: Housing Delivery Programme



**In July 2018, Liberal Democrat Executive Members signed-off on a new Housing Delivery Programme, aiming to build 550 new homes in the city, including 220 affordable homes.**

**As a result, the Council has embarked on its biggest house building scheme since the 1970s; utilising investment from the Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to directly deliver houses on six sites.**

**Combined with the Local Plan, and the fact that it was Liberal Democrat Councillors who delivered the first Council houses in York for generations, it is clear to see that the Liberal Democrats have a track record of delivering the homes York needs.**





**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**Creating Safer**  
**Communities**



# Creating Safer Communities

Our communities are the most important asset in our city, but with Tory cuts to police budgets, some communities are experiencing increases in crime.

To further support our communities, we will:

- Ensure that the Council continues to lobby the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for **more PCSOs** to patrol our communities and that frontline fire services are protected in York.
- Expand the 'People Helping People Scheme' by exploring options for a **community volunteering bank**.
- Invest in ward grants to ensure improvements can be maintained locally and, as part of this, create a new **safer communities fund**, which will increase funding for local communities.
- Work with partners to develop a **city-wide licensing charter** to promote safer and more responsible drinking.
- Work to secure **Purple Flag accreditation** in York for an improved and safer city centre for local residents.
- Work to ensure a **Community Hub** is in every ward, with funding available to support them to be sustained in the community.
- Invest in ward level **social prescribing** to tackle loneliness and isolation, and work with partners to make our communities dementia friendly.
- Explore opportunities to deliver a new '**Help Hub**' in the city, to support rough sleepers and to work in partnership with the police and other agencies.





**YORK**  
**FIRE STATION**



**A FAIR DEAL  
FOR YORK'S**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE  
SERVICES**





**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**Giving York's**  
**Children a Better**  
**Start**

# Giving York's Children a Better Start

We value the role that families play in our city and we recognise the important role the Council has in creating an environment which enables young people to flourish.

With more Liberal Democrat Councillors elected this May, we will:

- Grant **Council Tax relief for foster carers and care leavers** in their first year.
- Create proposals for a **'Ready for Secondary'** scheme across York's maintained Primary Schools, to help more pupils make a successful transition to secondary school.
- Employ a life skills officer who can develop a **York citizenship offer** with schools in the city.
- Continue to protect all **York's children's centres**, in order to give York's children, the best possible start.
- Make **fair funding for schools** a lobbying priority of the Council, in order to fight for more funding.
- Help schools to use **pupil premium funding** to help close the gap between the most disadvantaged students and their peers and work to ensure those entitled take advantage of the funding.
- Increase the number of **foster carers and adopters** in York through incentivising take up.
- Improve **mental health support** in schools by ensuring all schools have a mental health first aider available.
- Invest further in **play equipment** at parks across York.
- Invest additional resources into the **Youth Support Service** in order to review play and sports provision for young people.
- Develop a new **holiday activities scheme** for children and young people.







**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**Improving the**  
**Economy for All**

# Improving the Economy for All

York has a successful, sustainable and balanced economy, and we must continue to ensure everyone benefits from the success of the city. But, to improve it for everyone in our city, we will work to create more and better paid jobs, attract greater investment and generate the revenue needed to fund public services.

With more Liberal Democrat Councillors elected in May, we will:

- Invest in **green and carbon neutral measures** on Council commercial properties to ensure they are sustainable in the long-term and help businesses save on energy bills.
- Develop the **MyCityCentre** consultation to develop community-led regeneration in the city centre.
- Explore future opportunities for a **Tourist Levy** to help generate new investment.
- Lobby for the **'Pub-cap'** to business rates (currently in Scotland) to help support local pubs in York.
- Make York an **'Autism friendly' city** by helping local businesses and facilities to achieve the Autism Access Award.
- Identify opportunities for the rollout and improvement of **'Pay on Exit'** at Council-owned car parks.
- Create a **community business representative role** to involve local businesses in the ward committee process.
- Lobby to ensure that public services in York receive a **fair deal** from the Government.
- Support **traders' associations** throughout the city, and independent businesses, including in secondary shopping areas.
- Launch a **new economic strategy** for 2019–2023, building on plans for further clean growth and attract higher paid jobs.



- Support the growth of York's **Jobs Fairs**.
- Create **new commercial spaces** for start-up businesses and small enterprises at York Central, Castle Gateway and the Guildhall.
- Support the Council's **apprenticeship programme and commitment to the living wage**, recruiting more apprentices in the city.
- Work with health partners to secure further investment in **York's adult social care services**, whilst ensuring mental health funding is given the same priority as physical illness.

### **Cllr Carol Runciman, Candidate for Huntington & New Earswick**

**"Maintaining a strong local economy is essential for supporting Council services, including adult social care, and it is crucial we work to ensure that York's economic success works for everyone."**







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MOLLY BROWNS

MOLLY BROWNS



**Working for You**  
**Working for York**  
**A Council that**  
**works for you**



# A Council that works for you

The Council must listen, deliver and ultimately, work for residents. We shall ensure that the City of York Council does exactly that and works for our communities; providing services that give value for money across the city.

With more Liberal Democrat Councillors elected in May, we will:

- Increase investment in the Council's **frontline services**, streamlining the Council's management structure to prioritise the services that matter to residents.
- Explore opportunities for a **reformed Committee Structure** for a more transparent and cross-party decision-making system at the Council.
- We will seek to minimise **Council tax** increases, as it is a regressive form of tax which does not consider a person's ability to pay.
- We recognise, particularly in social care, costs are rising rapidly. We will therefore use the option of a **social care precept**, if made available.
- Work with partners in **West and North Yorkshire** to ensure a stronger voice and investment in our region.
- Ensure effective governance by reviewing the **Council's constitution**, to ensure the Council is open and accountable to residents.

## Emilie Knight, Candidate for Holgate

"As Liberal Democrats, we will strive to ensure the Council is open, transparent and most importantly, accountable to local residents."









# YOUR CHOICE

## LABOUR DIVISION

Labour's time in control of City of York Council between 2011-2015 was marked by incompetence and resignations. Remember the Lendal Bridge fiasco?

Labour can't be trusted to run our city again.

**"We ended up looking as if we were incompetent"**

**THE PRESS** December 2015

**"Total cost of Lendal Bridge fiasco to top £760,000"**

**THE PRESS** January 2015

**Two Labour councillors quit the party**

**minster fm** August 2018

**OR**

## CONSERVATIVE INCOMPETENCE

York's Conservatives failed to support providing a fair funding deal for our Police and Fire Services in July last year.

Unbelievably, at the start of our campaign in 2017, every single Conservative councillor voted against protecting York's libraries.

**Deputy leader of York Conservatives is suspended – and brands his party 'toxic'**

**York Mix**, April 2019

**Sacked Deputy Chairman: "York Conservative Association is riven with 'childish infighting'"**

**THE PRESS** August 2018

**OR**

# LIB DEMS UNITED AND WORKING HARD FOR YORK









This manifesto sets out York Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for the City of York Council, for the 2019 local elections.

**The manifesto can be found online at**

[www.yorklibdems.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.yorklibdems.org.uk/manifesto)

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact

[info@yorklibdems.org.uk](mailto:info@yorklibdems.org.uk)

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