



Putting Communities in Control

Our Liberal Democrat Manifesto for Leeds



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Foreword by:

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Foreword

Our manifesto demonstrates our ambition for our city. We want to end the spiral of decline that the current leadership of the Council is resigned to oversee in the face of continued austerity

The Council we will lead will trust communities to shape the services that fit best for their neighbourhood.

We will help, rather than hinder, individuals and families to fulfil their aspirations and to have pride in the city's ambition.

Our proposals respond to what our constituents tell us are their priorities.

They are practical, costed, bespoke changes that will make a real difference to our city's environment, health, education, care, housing and civic pride

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Leader, Leeds Liberal Democrats Council Group



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Their Environment

We envisage a city where everyone is able to enhance the air quality, sustainability and beauty of the areas they live in. A council that makes sure that we place ease and affordability for citizens at the centre of our environmental policies.

We Commit To:

- A **city-wide, kerbside and glass recycling collection** making it easier for everyone to contribute to our recycling efforts.
- Commissioning an anaerobic digester to generate more energy locally
- Exploring the possibility of using mine water to provide cheap local heating for areas outside of the city centre
- **Investing in renewable energy** sources such as **solar and wind farms**
- **Ensuring** that **recycling remains easy and affordable** by removing all charges for the disposal of domestic waste
- Recognising the importance of our urban environment by improving funding for the city's Forestry team, creating **localised tree, natural habitat and street-scape strategies** and aligning with Woodland Trust recommendations
- Providing an **Electric Vehicle charging solutions** for properties without access to off street parking / charging points.
- Implementing a **Clean Air Zone** that charges high polluting commercial vehicles and to reinvest the funds generated in sustainable projects across the city



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Housing

Everyone should have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing. We want to build a city where communities are at the heart of housing and infrastructure development. A Council that rebalances its thinking towards residents, not developers, making sure growth enhances our suburbs and villages as well as the city centre.

We Commit To:

- **Building the right houses, in the right places at the right time** with appropriate infrastructure and a focus on developing brownfield sites and protecting the greenbelt
- **Encouraging communities to develop and adopt local Neighbourhood Plans** to ensure there is effective community consultation and engagement in future developments
- **Making the system fairer** by increasing the supply of sustainable, affordable council houses using new building technologies to meet demand.
- **Protecting residents from exploitative private landlords** by expanding the landlord licensing scheme.
- **Delivering mixed use and multi generational homes & communities**
- **Eradicating homelessness in Leeds** by ensuring access to affordable long-term housing. In the short term providing homeless people with a fixed place of contact to enable job applications, access to welfare & NHS services



Communities in control of Transport

Leeds remains the largest city in Europe without a mass-transit system with poor rail services and rapidly reducing bus services and roads that are constantly dug up and redesigned.

We Commit To:

- **Developing and implementing local neighbourhood transport plans** which enable people to access all the services they need on a daily basis within 15 minutes on foot, by bike or by public transport
- **Developing a greener, cheaper mass-transit system** that covers the whole of the city and not just the city centre
- **Encouraging people to choose public transport** by providing services that take people where they want to, when they want to go at an affordable price
- **Pursuing construction of new railway stations** where needed and refurbishment of existing stations.
- **Supporting Northern Powerhouse Rail** to provide better inter-city connections and more frequent services where needed
- **Safeguarding parking provision in local parks and district centres** in recognition of the needs of those with limited mobility, and that not everywhere is served well by public transport.



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Health & Social Care

Our world class NHS is built on the Liberal principles of ensuring equal access for everyone when needed and free at the point of service regardless of sex, gender, sexuality, age, ability or ethnicity, We plan for a truly age-friendly city where care provision is central to our communities.

We Commit To:

- **Establishing community-led care provision** and engaging with local care partners to promote physically and mentally healthier communities for everyone
- **Empowering people to improve their own physical and mental health** by investing in local health and sports facilities to make them affordable and accessible for everyone
- **Promoting the benefits of local pharmacies** thereby making health checkups more accessible throughout our town centres
- **Ending council care home closures** and expanding & investing in community health services and allocation community support for carers and the vulnerable. Adopting a more mixed economy in the delivery of health care by encouraging smaller and more localised community organisations to take a more prominent role in local health and well-being
- **Investing in local and community healthcare providers** to ensure that mental health is given the same high quality level of care as physical issues are
- Ensuring that public parks and green spaces are accessible to everyone



Communities in control of

Children & Families

We believe that all children should be given the opportunity to thrive including the poorest and most vulnerable.

We understand the importance of working in partnership with communities to ensure that our children have the best possible education and care close to their homes.

We Commit To:

- Setting up a city wide outcome commission, halting the decline in outcomes for poorer pupils and working with schools and parents to deliver sustained improvement.
- Reducing waiting times for children's Mental Health Services by increasing funding to provide additional capacity within the city.
- Providing better support to care leavers to ensure there is no cliff edge when support ends
- Implement poverty proofing in schools to ensure that children are not disadvantaged by their families financial situation
- Caring for our children closer to home, in their own city. Investing in new accommodation and recruitment of more specialist foster carers
- Supporting vocational education by maximising the number of apprenticeships in Council run organisations and considering suppliers apprenticeship provision when tendering for projects



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Crime & Policing

Fear of crime is one of the biggest barriers to people exercising their freedom in the community where they live. Ensuring that our neighbourhoods are free from anti-social behaviour and safe for all sections of the community must be a priority for Liberal Democrats

We Commit To:

- Getting our fair share of resourcing from West Yorkshire Police for Neighbourhood Policing Teams here in Leeds, and joint funding extra Police Community Support Officers for every ward in the city.
- Making sure that every lamp post in the city is lit from dusk to dawn and reversing the Labour regime's dimming of our street lighting to save on energy costs.
- Make our parks safer and more accessible by investing in lighting, staffing and re-landscaping.
- Insist on consistent policing of obstruction on the highway from West Yorkshire Police in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995 to reduce pavement parking forcing pedestrians into the road
- Increase the monitoring and enforcement of speeding in 20mph zones currently considered 'self-enforcing' by the Council and West Yorkshire Police.



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The Local Economy

We propose a city that attracts investment that **enhances** our local **businesses**, **neighbourhoods** and **residents health, wealth and well-being**

We Commit To:

- Establishing and implementing the most effective way to **devolve decision making** powers to local communities where practicable
- **Giving residents a greater say in decisions** that affect their area and ensure communities aren't stripped of assets which can be utilised to build thriving local economies.
- **Building a green economy** by investing in green jobs and training for them
- **Supporting residents in creating vibrant, diverse and bustling high streets** that encourage and enable people to work, live, shop and socialise locally



Find out more

We love talking about our plans and vision for this amazing city. If you've got any thoughts on what we've proposed here, or want to help us build a more liberal Leeds feel free to get in touch

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