



GLOUCESTER DESERVES BETTER

**GLOUCESTER LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
MANIFESTO 2021**



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Foreword

FIXING THE BROKEN COUNCIL: GLOUCESTER DESERVES BETTER

After seventeen long years of Conservative rule at Gloucester City Council, it is quite clear that it's time for a change. Gloucester deserves better.

The Conservatives presided over the scandal of the collapse of Marketing Gloucester Limited, leaving its creditors with debts of £1 million. There certainly is a need to hold an independent inquiry into what went wrong. A Lib Dem council will commission such an inquiry.

The Amey waste contract has been poor value at over £5 million a year and delivered a failing service. It has been described as the 'worst contract ever' by the current Conservative leader of the council.

We will work closely with Ubico (a company the council will part own) who take over the waste and environmental services contract from April 2022, to improve services such as street cleaning and litter bin emptying.

Delivering on the city's regeneration plans requires that the council works closely with partners to achieve completion. Often this may require capital investment from the public sector.



That is why it is so disappointing that the Conservatives failed to get a penny from the Government's Future High Street Fund. Swindon got £25 million. We plan to review the council's bidding process so that it is more robust in the future. Gloucester must be a winner.

There is a desperate need for more affordable homes to be built in Gloucester. The performance under the Conservatives is just not good enough. That is why we shall form a council owned housing company to build new homes.

The environment is so important and more must be done to tackle air pollution and carbon emissions. We will ensure that the council is a zero-carbon local authority by 2030. We will plant many more trees, encourage cycling and walking and reduce air pollution throughout Gloucester.

Under the Tories the council has been described as the 'vanishing council'. It is selling its HQ and now renting cramped accommodation on the fifth floor at Shire Hall.

The Liberal Democrats will rebuild our public services, making sure projects whether small or large can be delivered swiftly and effectively, because Gloucester deserves better.

Together, we can change the direction of the council, and make Gloucester an even better place to live and work, for us and for the next generation.

Councillor Jeremy Hilton
Leader of Gloucester Liberal Democrats



Restoring services



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- work closely with Ubico to improve the council's waste and recycling services once the Amey contract ends in March 2022
- end the unnecessary creation of arms-length companies and trusts to carry out council functions when it can be better done by the council itself
- ensure council services are at the forefront in the use of digital technologies

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George Barwood, candidate for Westgate

The residents of Gloucester have been failed by the Amey waste contract. Gloucester deserves a better household waste service. A Lib Dem council will make that happen.



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Delivering regeneration



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- complete the regeneration of projects already in the pipeline such as Kings Quarter, Kings Square, the railway station and Kings Walk
- speed up the stalled projects such as at Bakers Quay, the Fleece Hotel and Gloucester Prison
- work closely with University of Gloucestershire to help them restore and repurpose the Debenhams building into a new campus

“

Sarah Sawyer, candidate for Longlevens

Too many regeneration schemes in the city have stalled under the Conservatives. A Lib Dem council would bring fresh ideas, energy and focus to regenerating Gloucester.



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Better democracy



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- hold a full independent inquiry into the collapse of Marketing Gloucester and its associated companies
- oppose any Government attempt to abolish Gloucester City Council and to replace it with a massive unitary authority. Gloucester must have its own council
- introduce the webcasting and recording of council and committee meetings

“

David Bebbington, candidate for Severn Vale

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



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Building homes



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- form a council owned housing company to build new homes for affordable and social rents
- work with partners to help vulnerable and homeless people secure a place to live
- encourage city centre living and the conversion of redundant office buildings for residential use

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Jade Emraz, candidate for Longlevens

Everyone in Gloucester should be able to have somewhere to call home. A Liberal Democrat council would transform the provision of housing in the city.



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Greening Gloucester



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- establish a zero-carbon council no later than 2030 and seek opportunities to produce renewable energy from council property
- improve the bio-diversity of our parks and open spaces to include the planting of additional trees
- tackle air pollution by encouraging and promoting walking and cycling, public transport and installation of electric vehicle charging points

“

Alwin Wiederhold, candidate for Abbeymead

As Gloucester emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, now is the time to encourage healthy living by improving cycling and walking infrastructure.



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Entertaining city



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- deliver an improved festivals and events programme using the city's heritage and cultural strengths, to include a new event on the alternate year to the Tall Ships' Festival
- strengthen the city's visitor attractions, to include improving the city's museums, enhancing public spaces, better free WiFi, more public toilets, and vibrant hotels and restaurants
- work with performing artists and entertainers to make Gloucester the cultural capital of the county

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Angela Conder, candidate for Kingsholm

Gloucester has a rich and diverse heritage and should become a must-see city for tourists. A Liberal Democrat council would put Gloucester back on the map.



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Better civic pride



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- keep our streets and open spaces free of litter by more regular cleaning and emptying of litter bins.
- enhance the street signage around Gloucester and ensure that broken or missing signs are replaced quickly
- make Gloucester a place renowned for its public art by protecting what we have and commissioning more public art that tells the story of Gloucester

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Liam Harries, candidate for Severn Vale

The Liberal Democrats have a plan to put the pride back into Gloucester. We need a council that cares about our communities as much as local people do.



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Supporting communities



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- make it easy to contact the council online, by phone or in person to seek advice about an issue or services
- encourage the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner to improve neighbourhood policing in our communities
- work closely to support community groups and the voluntary sector organisations

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Luke Shervey, candidate for Coney Hill

The pandemic has shown the very best of our communities when they come together to help each other. Voluntary groups are the lifeblood of our city and must be supported.



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Protecting our city



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- ensure that the council's development plans and resources are strong enough to protect and enhance the city's heritage and built environment
- enhance the enforcement of the council's regulations to eradicate the scourge of fly tipping
- continue to use Public Space Protection Orders to deal with anti-social behaviour

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Dr Rebecca Trimnell, candidate for Westgate

St Oswald's Priory is a beautiful monument and has fallen into a bad state of repair. Restoring this piece of Gloucester's heritage will be a priority for a Lib Dem council.



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Stronger economy



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- work with both public and private sector partners to assist in a city and county-wide recovery from the economic damage done by the coronavirus pandemic
- give special attention to the city centre by carrying out a review of how the city centre can change in the modern digital world, but still be a place to work and trade
- deliver increased income from the council's commercial assets and overhaul the council's grant application processes when bidding for Government funds so that it succeeds more often

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Farook Mota, candidate for Westgate

No one should be left behind as Gloucester emerges from the pandemic. We will work to create jobs, attract investment and generate income to fund public services.



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Liberal Democrats
**Rebecca Trimm
and Gloucester
Liberal Democrats**

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Liberal Democrats

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This manifesto sets out Gloucester Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for Gloucester City Council and the 2021 local elections.

The manifesto can be found online at
<https://gloucester-libdems.org.uk/en/page/gloucester-deserves-better>

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

info@gloucester-libdems.org.uk

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