



PUTTING THE HEART BACK INTO GLOUCESTER

**GLOUCESTER LIBERAL
DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO 2024**

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voice for Abbeymead

GLOUCESTER LIBERAL DEMOCRATS
CALLED TO SEE YOU TODAY
Abbeymead ward
City Council results 2021

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Foreword

PUTTING THE HEART BACK INTO GLOUCESTER

After 20 long years of Conservative rule at Gloucester City Council, it is quite clear that it is time for a change.

Liberal Democrats have a plan to put the heart back into Gloucester. At these elections only the Liberal Democrats can realistically form an alternative administration.

The Conservative administration is exhausted and leaderless. Several senior Conservative councillors are standing down and others are doing the same. They know they have run out of ideas and public support.

In recent years, the Tories have presided over the Marketing Gloucester scandal, the cyber attack and the collapse of the Aspire Trust.

They could not even keep the swimming pools open. The Barton Pool was closed for 44 days under their watch.

The Conservatives have failed to publish the last two year's audited statement of accounts. No one knows the true financial health of the council. This is unacceptable.

Our streets, parks and opens spaces are unloved and scruffy. Council services have been cut to the bone that even simple jobs take too long to do or do not get done at all. No wonder the council has been described as the 'vanishing council'.

Liberal Democrats are serious challengers to the Conservatives, with 14 councillors compared to Labour's two. Only the Lib Dems can remove the Tories from office.

Our manifesto **Putting the Heart back into Gloucester** has the vision and policies to make Gloucester a much better place to live, work and study. It can be so much better than it is today.

We will restore civic pride, build more affordable homes, deliver a zero-carbon council, improve the biodiversity of our parks, clean our streets, restore broken services, improve the council's finances and deliver improved regeneration.

On May the 2nd please vote for your local Liberal Democrat candidates. They can make the future better for our city and its citizens.



Councillor Jeremy Hilton
Leader of Gloucester Liberal Democrats

PUTTING THE HEART BACK INTO GLOUCESTER



Our Six Top Priorities

1

fixing the broken council and improving services

2

delivering regeneration with a stronger economy

3

building affordable homes and supporting communities

4

restoring civic pride and greening Gloucester

5

strengthening democracy and creating a safer city

6

creating a cultural & sporting capital city

OUR LIBERAL DEMOCRAT TEAM



» **Cllr Collette Finnegan**
Fiona Bromby
Abbeydale

» **Adam Gatier**
Jade Emraz
Abbeymead

» **Cllr Ashley Bowkett**
Joshua Taylor
Barnwood

» **Cllr Usman Bhaimia**
Dan Courtney
Angela Oliver
Barton & Tredworth

» **David Gayler**
Coney Hill

» **Cllr Anne Radley**
Vicky Norledge
Elmbridge

» **Kira Moffatt**
Karen Minchin
Grange

» **Cllr Declan Wilson**
Alwin Wiederhold
Hucclecote

» **Cllr Jeremy Hilton**
Cllr Angela Conder
Kingsholm & Wotton

» **George Barwood**
Vicki Field
Kingsway

» **Cllr Linda Castle**
Cllr Sarah Sawyer
Luke Shervey
Longlevens

» **Paul Caiden**
James Cargill
Abigail Wilson
Moreland

» **Cllr Sebastian Field**
Podsmead

» **David Bebbington**
Tim Houlihan
Quedgeley Fieldcourt

» **Liam Harries**
Trevor Howard
Quedgeley Severn Vale

» **Caroline Courtney**
Joshua Hanley
Tuffley

» **Cllr Rebecca Trimnell**
Cllr Howard Hyman
Ola Kareem
Westgate



Fixing the broken council



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- aim to sign-off fully audited accounts on time and we will publish the draft accounts on the council's website as soon as they are available
- ensure that council contractors deliver value for money and meet their agreed service commitments
- strengthen the council's finances and improving democratic oversight and scrutiny

“

Vicky Norledge, candidate for Elmbridge

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



”



Improving services



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- work closely with Ubico to improve the council's waste, recycling, grounds maintenance and street cleaning services, with special attention given to enhancing autumn leaf and weed clearance from our footways
- 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
- focus more staff time on delivering and managing services rather than drafting high level strategies

“

Joshua Taylor, candidate for Barnwood

We believe council services can be better run by the council itself. Under the Lib Dems the autumn leaf and weed clearance will be a priority.



”



Delivering regeneration



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- complete the construction of The Forum and renew emphasis on regenerating other sites such as Greyfriars, Eastgate Shopping Centre, the Fleece Hotel and HKP warehouses
- encourage the restoration and repurposing rather the demolition and new build of unloved of buildings of architectural merit, such as Spread Eagle Court
- deliver more city centre living to provide for a larger more vibrant community at the heart of Gloucester



Trevor Howard, candidate for Severn Vale

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.





A stronger economy



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- deliver increased income from the council's commercial assets including its property portfolio which will also create more opportunities in the small business sector
- continue support for Gloucestershire Airport to remain an important aviation and high-tech business hub that provides for locally based skilled employment
- work closely with the University of Gloucestershire to create more employment opportunities in the city for future graduates



Ola Kareem, candidate for Westgate

The Liberal Democrats would grow a fairer city. We will work to create jobs, attract investment and generate income to fund public services.





Building affordable homes



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- provide more affordable homes to rent for those on the housing waiting list by building new council homes whilst also working closely with registered social landlords
- tackle homelessness more effectively by ensuring that good quality support and accommodation is available for those in need and seek to secure further funding from the government to support our homeless persons' service
- tackle the problem of empty homes across the city by working with property owners to bring them back into habitable use

“

Caroline Courtney, candidate for Tuffley

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.

”





Supporting communities



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- work closely to support community groups and the voluntary sector organisations to enable them to better provide for the communities they serve
- establish a graffiti busting task force to clean up this unwanted vandalism and tackle the scourge of fly-tipping
- strengthen the council's planning enforcement team to better protect the city's 14 conservation areas from inappropriate development and introduce an Article 4 Direction to control the proliferation of Houses in Multiple Occupation in areas of the city already badly affected

“

Liam Harries, candidate for Severn Vale

Under the Liberal Democrats the council will care about our communities as much as local people do. A task force will be set up to tackle fly-tipping and graffiti.



”



Better civic pride



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- put the heart back into Gloucester by making the city a place where people want to raise a family and where their children will want to do the same
- 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
- celebrate Gloucester amazing history more effectively. We will run an events programme in 2027 to commemorate the historical significance of the 700th anniversary of the burial of Edward II at Gloucester Abbey (now the cathedral)



Cllr Collette Finnegan, candidate for Abbeydale

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.





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 biodiversity of our parks and open spaces and we will employ professional gardeners to oversee the improvement of our public gardens. We will plant more trees across the city. Children's play areas will be improved
- tackle air pollution by encouraging and promoting walking, cycling, public transport and the installation of electric vehicle charging points in council car parks

“

Alwin Wiederhold, candidate for Hucclecote

A cleaner, greener and more environmentally friendly city will improve everyone's health. We will encourage healthy living by promoting safe cycling and walking.

”





Better democracy



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- improve the engagement with the public and establish a more transparent system of decision making. Too many decisions are taking place behind closed doors
- oppose any Government attempt to abolish Gloucester City Council and replace it with a large unitary authority. Gloucester must have its own council
- respect the civil liberties of the people of Gloucester and positively support our diverse communities across the city, including a refresh of the council's website to make it more user friendly whilst improving access to council services by email, letter, phone or in-person



Luke Shervey, candidate for Longlevens

The council has become too remote to the people it serves. It must be easily accessible for Gloucester's rich and diverse communities.





A safer city



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- continue to use Public Space Protection Orders to deal with anti-social behaviour and strengthen the city protection officers team
- work with other agencies, especially the police to tackle anti-social behaviour, petty crime and make our night-time economy safer for all
- ensure that there are detailed plans in place to handle any civil emergency that could affect the city and ensure that the council's systems and human resources are sufficiently robust to cope

“

Howard Hyman, candidate for Westgate

Gloucester's night-time economy is vital for economy growth. It should be a safe environment for everyone. We will work with partners to deal with anti-social behaviour.



”



A cultural 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 develop a vibrant hotel and restaurant offer
- work with performing artists and entertainers to make Gloucester the cultural capital of the county

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Cllr Usman Bhaimia, candidate for Barton & Tredworth

Under the Liberal Democrats, Gloucester would be the cultural capital of the county. We would create more events to build on the popularity of the Tall Ships Festival.



”



A sporting city



A Liberal Democrat council will:

- explore all options for the future management of GL1 Leisure Centre and Oxstalls Sport Park to ensure that their future is secure. Never again will our swimming pools be closed for 44 days, because of poor contract oversight
- engage with the city's sports clubs to try to support them in their aims and make sure that leisure and sports facilities serve the needs of the various sporting activities
- work with the city's schools to ensure Gloucester children can swim before they leave school

“

Joshua Hanley, candidate for Tuffley

The closure of the GL1 leisure centre was a scandal that should never have been allowed to happen. We will promote sport to improve physical and mental health for everyone.



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This manifesto sets out Gloucester Liberal Democrat policies and priorities for Gloucester City Council and the 2024 local elections.

The manifesto can be found online at

https://www.gloucester-libdems.org.uk/fileadmin/groups/292/Documents/Glos_Lib_dem_manifesto_2024_v2.pdf

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

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