

Leeds Liberal Democrats
12 Holt Park Centre
Leeds, LS16 7SR

Leeds - A City To Enjoy

A Liberal Democrat Perspective

Leeds has always been a city of variety and diversity. Whether born in Leeds or settled in the city, its people are proud of its history and its heritage. It is a strong city with the skills and determination to succeed. It is a city of different communities that all have their individual identities, but in which all contribute to the image and drive that makes Leeds a city to enjoy and take pride in.

Liberalism has a proud record in Leeds. The history of the party and the development of the city are part of the same political and civic heritage. Look around: the Town Hall, the Art Gallery, the Corn Exchange, Roundhay Park and even Armley Prison are all the result of Liberal controlled Councils, just as the water from our taps is the result of a farsighted Liberal decision to build reservoirs in the valleys north of Leeds.

The Council could take decisions on such imaginative and significant projects because not only did it have the confidence and imagination, but it was also able to raise the money to fund them. Now central government has the upper hand, and sets limits on what a council can do. Leeds now has City Region status, which brings some scope for local initiative, but the primary task is still to make the Council Tax pound go as far as possible.

Liberal Democrats believe that democracy is first and foremost local democracy, and that without reversing the trend to centralisation it is very difficult to build a city in which each citizen feels secure, has decent housing and education, has access to social services, enjoys a wide variety of cultural facilities, and is able to participate in local and citywide voluntary activity. Liberal Democrats nationally are committed to returning services to local people, and to strengthening local government as the place where decisions are made and where accountability takes place.

For Liberal Democrats, the neighbourhood is the key focus for a sense of community, and we are committed to working with local people to build on local initiatives and on local services to ensure that local leadership thrives and everyone can live without threat or anti-social pressure. We aim to work with police, transport, housing and other bodies to co-ordinate the services that affect our lives. We are also working to reduce unemployment, to provide initiatives for job creation and for voluntary involvement. In addition we are committed to practical steps to combat climate change and to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

The aims in this manifesto are all components of our programme for Leeds. They will not all be achieved immediately, but the more support the Liberal Democrats receive, the quicker our vision for the city will arrive. Please help us make it possible.

If you can help please contact us at the above address or on info@leedslibdems.org.uk

Yours,

Richard Brett

Leader of the Leeds City Council Liberal Democrat Group

change that works for you

BUILDING A FAIRER BRITAIN



Fairer Together

A Liberal Democrat Manifesto for Leeds

Local Elections 2010



Our Party was born because our members committed to *build and safeguard a free and fair 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.* This preamble to the Liberal Democrat Party Constitution are the principles that guide what we aim to achieve for Leeds.

Our policies for Leeds are based on community not class, on values not prejudice, and on diversity not race.

Over the years, Leeds has become a great city because of the innovation of business, the hard graft of workers, the enterprise of immigrants, and citizens of vision.

Today we face serious challenges to our continued success. The twin threats of climate change and global recession need to be tackled head on. This can only be achieved by everyone working together. Leeds Liberal Democrats have a commitment to working shoulder to shoulder with residents, business, industry and volunteers to achieve our priorities for Leeds.

We can achieve more by *working* together. Together we can make a *greener* city. Together we can build a *safer* city. Together, we can *celebrate* the different parts that make this city great.



Councillor Richard Brett,
Leader of Leeds City
Council Liberal Democrats

working together

- We will continue to work to provide the best start in life for our children by completing the network of 58 children's centres, building on our best ever GCSE results, and working with business to get more mentors for our kids.
- We will continue to increase the number of apprenticeships and work experience that the Council offers, and encourage our partners to do the same.
- We will progress the building of new homes through regeneration schemes in Little London, Beeston Hill and East Leeds to increase employment and reduce deprivation.
- We will ensure that local services meet local needs, are locally delivered where possible, and are value for money by the greater involvement of local people, and being accountable to local Area Committees.



safer together

- Leeds Lib Dems will invest over £6 million this year to strengthen children's social care teams to keep children from harm in the city.
- We are continuing our commitment to work with the police to provide 170 Police Community Support Officers citywide, patrolling every community.
- We will ensure that partners work together more effectively when supporting families at risk to reduce substance abuse, crime and teenage pregnancy.
- We will introduce Community Justice Panels to make criminals accountable to those they have offended against.



Six to Fix

Six Liberal Democrat priorities for Leeds:

- 1.** Our Future
The children of Leeds are its future, and we must continue to invest so that all our children have access to a decent education and a home life free of abuse or neglect.
- 2.** Our Footprint
We will reduce the city's effect on the environment through recycling ever more waste, and reducing the carbon emissions of the city's buildings and vehicles.
- 3.** Our Choices
We will continue to ensure that as many decisions as possible are taken away from the Civic Hall and decided within communities so they may shape their own futures.
- 4.** Our Neighbourhoods
We should all benefit from a fair share of investment in our local environment. We will continue to prioritise spending on decent roads, parks and high streets citywide.
- 5.** Our Streets
The fear and effects of crime can destroy communities. We will continue to invest in local policing to deter crime, and ensuring that criminals pay back to those affected.
- 6.** Our Money
Working closer with local people and partners we will identify waste to make better use of local taxes and protect frontline services.



- We will increase recycling to over 50% by expanding garden waste collections and trialling food waste, thereby saving money that would go to Landfill Tax.
- We will tackle congestion through creating better walking and cycling routes, increase bus shelters with service time displays, and introduce pre-pay Oyster Cards for use on buses, trains and the future trolleybus.
- We will increase the tree cover for the city by planting more street trees and creating a new city centre park.
- We will reduce fuel poverty by enabling more private householders to insulate their homes, and reduce the carbon footprint of council premises.

greener together

- We are constructing an Arena for Leeds that will boost the local economy and bring world class entertainment and events to the city
- We will continue the investment in local high streets and parks to create a better environment for local people to come together.
- We are committed to keeping our big festivals free and accessible to everyone, including the Mela, Carnival, Gay Pride, Opera in the Park, Party in the Park, Breeze Youth Festival and Classical Fantasia.
- We will continue to ensure that we get our fair share of Lottery money to invest in our Heritage, including current schemes for the City Varieties and Kirkgate.

celebrate together