



HOPE AND ACTION FOR BRISTOL

**BRISTOL GREEN PARTY
MANIFESTO MAY 2024**



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Green Party

HOPE AND ACTION FOR BRISTOL

FOREWORD

Bristol is a dynamic and vibrant city. But we are facing many challenges after years of austerity - high energy bills, unaffordable rent, a poor public transport system and ill health, especially in worse off areas. Social care is cash-strapped and under huge pressures, action on climate change is too little and too slow.

Bristol Green Party has a vision of hope for the city and highly experienced candidates. Working together with our communities, in the new committee system, we will address these challenges with practical actions to build a bright and hopeful future for Bristol.



Emma Edwards
Leader of Bristol's Green Councillor Candidates



Artist: Jayde Perkin

GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT FOR BRISTOL

If Greens are elected to run Bristol City Council we will listen, be careful with your money, be clear and accountable with our decision-making processes, make decisions that protect those most vulnerable from cruel government cuts and invest in the human and environmental resilience of our city. We will:

- Change the way the council relates to people in Bristol, including more genuine engagement on key Council proposals and greater involvement of demographically representative Citizens' Assemblies.
- Maximise funding for Bristol from the government by working together with the West of England Combined Authority and our neighbouring local authorities.
- Stand up for residents and co-operate with other political parties for the benefit of the city.
- Prioritise protection of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme from future cuts while lobbying the Government for necessary funding.
- Ensure decisions about community facilities and community asset transfers have a more consistent and transparent process.
- Campaign for government to fund a caring economy by financially supporting childcare and adult social care.



Photo: Rob Browne

BETTER TRANSPORT FOR BRISTOL

Transport in Bristol is slow, expensive and unreliable. We want to get Bristol moving and make public transport and active travel easy choices for everyone. We will:

- Improve public transport, with a particular focus on buses, so that they are more affordable and reliable with increased services. This will be paid for by our proposed Workplace Parking Levy and other transport related income.
- Increase investment in high quality walking & cycling infrastructure and cycle skills training.
- Create low traffic neighbourhoods by calming and curbing traffic on selected streets and helping it flow better on main routes. We will focus first on completing proposed East Bristol and South Bristol schemes.
- Introduce a Workplace Parking Levy (employer paid car park charges) and prioritise the introduction of new residents' parking schemes in areas where there is greatest demand to help tackle congestion and fund appropriate transport alternatives.
- Roll out electric vehicle charging point infrastructure across the city.
- Ensure our streets and pavements are safe by increasing highways maintenance and repair budgets and, except for motorways and dual carriageways, make all roads in Bristol where possible a maximum 20mph.



**“WE NEED A HOLISTIC
APPROACH TO OUR TRANSPORT,
TO ENSURE PEOPLE CAN GET
AROUND THE CITY EASILY
AND SAFELY”**

MARTIN FODOR
CANDIDATE FOR REDLAND

- Develop a transport and travel plan for Bristol with a review of all potential funding sources and strategic bus and active travel transport corridors. This would include the feasibility of removing parking from bus lanes on main roads to speed up bus journey times, while providing appropriate disabled parking spaces.
- Continue to exert pressure on the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and its mayor to deliver bus franchising and, if made possible by the UK Government, full public control of buses.
- Introduce half price bus travel for 16 to 21 year olds, subject to costs.
- Increase the number of School Streets, to tackle the congestion, poor air quality and road safety problems that many schools experience.

BETTER HOMES AND PLANNING FOR BRISTOL

There is a housing crisis in Bristol and across the country, with soaring rents and the least energy-efficient housing in Western Europe. We will increase the number of well-built and affordable homes in Bristol so that many more people will have a comfortable, cheap-to-run place they can call home. We will:

- Increase the city's target of affordable homes from the current 600 homes per year to 1,000 per year.
- Campaign for councils like Bristol to be given the power to introduce rent controls in areas where the housing market is overheated and work with the Bristol Living Rent Commission to understand how rent controls could work in our city, engaging with private renters throughout.
- Create more genuinely affordable homes in Bristol by setting up an arms length company to own and rent out council-owned housing.



- Prioritise 'gentle density' housing developments - getting the right balance between high-rise tower blocks and car-centric suburban houses.
- Raise energy-efficiency standards for new homes built in Bristol.
- Make sure that the council's planning department has the funding, staff and efficient systems to properly review planning applications in a timely manner, allowing the city to build and upgrade the quality homes that we need.
- Take action to bring empty buildings into use as homes and ensure that the 14,000 unbuilt residential properties with planning permission are built as soon as possible.



- Protect Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) that Bristol City Council controls by preventing development on them.
- Continue to work on proposals to introduce city-wide landlord licensing to help raise rental property standards.
- Ensure that planning committee members' contacts with developers and pressure groups are public and transparent and that the clear separation between the council's roles as landowner/developer and as a planning authority, is properly maintained.



JO SERGEANT
CANDIDATE FOR AVONMOUTH AND LAWRENCE WESTON

“PEOPLE IN BRISTOL NEED THE RIGHT HOMES, IN THE RIGHT PLACES AT THE RIGHT PRICE”

A GREAT START IN LIFE FOR BRISTOL'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Bristol's young people are the city's future, and we aim to give all young people a great start in life. With better cooperation, collaboration and more trust between schools, parents and the council and with particular emphasis on the city's most disadvantaged children we will:

- Make sufficient school places a priority, plan further into the future and prioritise the provision of specialist school places within Bristol to keep children close to families and reduce costs of home to school transport.
- Improve pupil attainment and opportunities by better monitoring and introducing measures to reduce absenteeism.
- Aim to increase the provision of youth services so that young people can feel valued and offered a wider range of engaging activities to support them in becoming active, fulfilled members of society with a broader range of friends and interests.
- Work to ensure that young people can lead lives free from the devastation and fear of knife crime by working with young people themselves, with the police, schools, youth services and other community organisations.
- Ensure the voices of young people are heard in the city through the Youth Mayors and other representatives of young people.
- Improve the quality of life for children in care in Bristol by increasing the number of foster families and increasing investment to support in house Bristol City Council foster carers.
- Include within the school curriculum celebration of the organisations, social movements and individuals who have made a difference to Bristolians.
- Be ambitious for our children leaving care and give them dedicated support as they enter adulthood, including support around university entrance.



“BRISTOL'S FUTURE IS IN THE HANDS OF
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE MUST LISTEN TO THEM,
AND SUPPORT THEM”

CARLA DENYER
PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE FOR BRISTOL CENTRAL

BRISTOL A CARING CITY

We want to make sure that everyone who receives care is involved in decisions about the care that they receive. We want to ensure that we have the money to provide the care that they need. By law, the council is responsible for adult social care but the cost of providing it has soared in the last five years, and the Government has chronically underfunded it. It now takes most of the city's budget. We will:

- Ensure we recruit great social workers and occupational therapists and create a work environment where they are properly valued with their time spent on the work we need them to do.
- Work with the Bristol Disability Commission to manage the budget for adult social care in a way that respects disabled people's rights and dignity.
- Work with local carers' organisations and support people caring so they do not reach crisis point and feel they must hand over all responsibility to the council.
- Investigate a council-funded capital grant programme or loan scheme to assist care homes to be more efficient to save money in the long run.
- Use the commissioning function to ensure services are in place for diverse communities (eg LGBTQIA+)
- Lobby central government and work with the NHS through the integrated care board to ensure the most fair and efficient use of joint funding for adults with chronic health care and support needs.



“THREATS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES OUR COUNCIL HAS TO FACE, AND WE NEED AN INTEGRATED APPROACH”

MOHAMMED MAKAWI
CANDIDATE FOR COTHAM

BRISTOL A HEALTHY CITY

In Bristol, preventable illness cuts lives short and leaves people in poor health for years. This is especially true in parts of the city where the most important contributors to good health are missing - good housing, healthy food, green spaces, and clean air. In addition to the public health measures elsewhere in our manifesto (eg. supporting active travel and cleaner air) we will:

- Increase city wide tree planting for the many natural benefits that trees provide.
- Aim to maintain spending on parks in collaboration with all types of users, ensure that commercial activities pay a fair contribution and local traders can be represented when concession facilities are offered. Work together with user groups and foster groups where these are missing.
- Explore safe consumption rooms for drug users working with other relevant organisations.
- Use existing Bristol City Council communications with residents, such as the annual council tax bill booklet, to keep residents informed about what the Council is doing to make the city healthier and greener place with examples such as clean air, green spaces, healthier food options, active travel etc. and what they can do as individuals.
- Further develop Bristol's Good Food policies to ensure that we all have access to healthy and affordable food, can reduce food waste, support local growers and have the opportunity to grow food ourselves in the city's allotments.



“PUTTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING AT THE CENTRE OF POLICY MAKING WE CAN TACKLE THE HEALTH INEQUALITIES FACING BRISTOL”

LORRAINE FRANCIS
CANDIDATE FOR EASTVILLE

BRISTOL A GREEN CLEAN CITY

Bristol has amazing parks and green spaces and is surrounded by wonderful countryside. We want to preserve and enhance this beautiful natural environment, reducing human impact and supporting regenerative activities that improve the resilience and the many benefits of nature in our city. We will:

- Protect and expand accessible green space for all to ensure Bristol is a nature-friendly and biodiverse city.
- Take measures to adapt Bristol for higher temperatures, prioritising nature-based solutions including increasing tree cover and shade in the city, with a focus on parts of the city with higher deprivation and greater heat and flood vulnerability.
- Increase our rates of recycling and reuse through improved separation of materials, better information, education, and promotion including more consistent facilities and services in blocks and shared dwellings. We will look to reduce dependence on incineration of waste.



- Enhance reuse-and-repair facilities across the city through council services, reuse shops, repair cafes, high street services, working with non profit organisations.
- Join up the various green business networks and partnerships in the city to help businesses go green, creating the expectation that they work towards best practice, especially when they are involved in council partnerships or supplier relationships.

“**ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT SHOULDN'T BE AN AFTERTHOUGHT, IT SHOULD BE AT THE HEART OF ALL OUR DECISION MAKING**”

SHONA JEMPHREY
CANDIDATE FOR LAWRENCE HILL

BRISTOL

A CULTURAL CAPITAL

Bristol prides itself on being a diverse, creative and green city. Green leadership for the city will promote a circular economy, with the city's wealth being used to promote a more equal, thriving and culturally rich community to face the challenges of our times and act as a model for the way that cities can be run. We will:

- Work across the cultural sectors to establish trust and collaborative working.
- Lead a Bristol regional bid to become the UK's city of culture.
- Aim to maintain service levels for libraries as essential community hubs that can be combined with community facilities and partner organisations.
- Use council procurement, to the extent that government rules allow, so that more of the money that we spend stays local and strengthens and builds our local economy and communities.
- Work with community groups, businesses and the Avon Pension fund to promote community wealth building and an economy that works for everyone.
- Continue to work with Bristol City Council's 'One City' approach to strengthen the shared purpose and actions of the individuals, businesses, universities, healthcare and community organisations who contribute to Bristol's vitality, while increasing accountability & citizen voices in the process.
- Investigate the feasibility of a tourist levy so that Bristol can benefit and build on its attractiveness as a tourist destination.



ANI STAFFORD-TOWNSEND
CANDIDATE FOR CENTRAL WARD



“CULTURE IN
BRISTOL IS VIBRANT
AND DIVERSE. IT MUST
BE SUPPORTED AND
CELEBRATED IN ALL
ITS FORMS”

GETTING BACK ON TRACK FOR NET ZERO

In 2018 Green councillors led the way in declaring a climate emergency and setting the target for Bristol to be carbon-neutral by 2030. Since then things have moved too slowly. We will work with individuals, organisations and businesses across the city to reduce our carbon emissions and generate more renewable energy. We will:

- Continue to decarbonise the council, public housing, and ensure that initiatives are in place for private sector homes, working with the City Leap Joint Venture, residents, landlords and local community organisations.
- Help develop more renewable energy and storage (solar photovoltaic, battery arrays, wind, and heat pumps) and work with partner authorities in the Western Gateway to review tidal power options.
- Improve energy efficiency standards for new homes.
- Insulate Bristol including best practice street by street initiatives. This is a priority to help ease the cost-of-living crisis. We will work with the West of England Combined Authority, the Centre for Sustainable Energy and Bristol Energy Network.
- Insulate the city's council homes, getting back on track after eight years of little progress.
- From 2025, a Green-led council will run a carbon budget process alongside the annual financial budgeting process. This means any major council decision will be measured against the city's carbon reduction target and will proceed either if it reduces emissions, or can provide clear justification for the carbon cost.



**“IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO DECLARE A CLIMATE
EMERGENCY, WE WANT BRISTOL TO LEAD THE WAY
ON CLIMATE INITIATIVES”**

HEATHER MACK
CANDIDATE FOR LOCKLEAZE

POLICING AND SAFETY FOR BRISTOL

Katy Grant is standing as our Green Party candidate for Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner. Katy has been a councillor in Bristol since 2021 and is a serving Avon and Somerset magistrate. Before that she worked for twenty years with the UN on child protection and violence against women in conflict and humanitarian settings in the global south. She believes she can lead the Avon and Somerset Police to build trust and strengthen relationships in the communities that they serve.

As Police Commissioner, I will work to:

- Prevent crime: working with community, schools, youth service providers and families to tackle the structural/social causes of crime, especially knife violence. I want to see trusted, neighbourhood police officers participating in community-wide actions to provide young people with alternatives. The police will play a role at all levels, as community support officers in schools, joining peer group support plans, building resilience.
- Ensure better police presence in the community in the aftermath of violence, with enhanced services to families of victims.
- Improve results in the prosecution of sexual violence, domestic violence and assault. I will make sure we have the systems to deliver (and metrics to demonstrate) greater safety for women and girls in their homes and on our streets. This will include specialist outreach to prevent child exploitation and abuse.
- Lead on a collective commitment to eliminate traffic fatalities in Avon and Somerset (the five-pillar Vision Zero campaign). We will work with councils, schools and others to prioritise road safety.
- Improve performance and standards within the force. This will include greater independence for misconduct panels.
- Support measures to take a public health approach to drug use and personal consumption.
- In the region's more rural areas strengthen policing of county lines drug operations, and reduce related violence.



KATY GRANT
CANDIDATE FOR AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**“I WANT VISIBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING
WITH STRONGER COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS”**

