

# Bath and North East Somerset Liberal Democrats 2011 Manifesto

<b>Listening Council</b> Listen to and trust local people not dictate from the Guildhall	<b>Transport</b> Have a transport plan that works not the back garden bus road
<b>Economy</b> Spend your money wisely and fairly not on expensive council buildings	<b>Environment</b> Care for every street not just the city centre
<b>Education</b> Provide a good local school for every child not the Tory closure programme	<b>Community</b> Help you build a strong secure neighbourhood not anti-social behaviour

## **Listening Council**

**Listen to and trust local people  
not dictate from the Guildhall**

- We will be responsible with your money and will freeze Council Tax in line with Government proposals;
- The Council will be more open with more opportunities to have your say and more transparent and accountable decision making;
- We won't waste £37 Million on new offices for Council staff at a time of rapid change in the way Councils are run;
- Decisions will be made at the most appropriate level – this could be by a parish council or neighbourhood committee;
- Changes to the Council's working structure will be focussed on delivering best value services;
- Liberal Democrat Councillors will be champions for their wards and will help solve problems promptly.

## **Economy**

**Spend your money wisely and fairly  
not on expensive council buildings**

- Council assets and purchasing power should be used to benefit the community, for example by supporting local businesses in Council procurement;
- Local high streets are vital to many people in our communities. We will support local shopping and oppose out of town retail developments;
- We will make sure that businesses and tourism are properly promoted and prioritised across the area;
- We will bring forward plans for key development sites to make sure we get the best use for communities including office space to help rebalance employment;
- We will promote affordable housing and bringing empty homes back into use;
- We will continue to support the improvements to the public realm including pedestrianisation projects

## **Education**

**Provide a good local school for every child  
not the Tory closure programme**

- We believe all our secondary schools must be kept open and schools should be community hubs for outreach and counselling services;
- We will look into smart cards for school meal payments and continue working to provide healthy and locally-produced food;
- Maintaining and improving the Youth Service

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## Transport

Have a transport plan that works  
not the back garden bus road

- We will run an audit of cycle routes and facilities to identify the gaps;
- We will work with government to revise and renegotiate funding for transport projects, including removing the Newbridge off-road Rapid Transit route from the Bath Package;
- We will bring forward 20 mph zones in residential areas;
- We will fight to protect and improve rail services;
- We will make use of new powers to improve bus services, reduce costs (especially in rural areas), support bus users groups and introduce a smart card for payment;
- We will continue to work to remove HGVs from Bath city centre including Cleveland Bridge.

## Environment

Care for every street  
not just the city centre

- Recycling saves money as well as waste. We will extend recycling services to include more recycling litter bins and we will improve recycling for businesses, flats and bulky waste;
- We will make sure street cleaning is sensibly timed and we'll target grot spots;
- Green spaces are vital to health and wellbeing, we will protect and enhance green spaces in urban areas and the countryside;
- We will fight for low-energy sustainable buildings, encourage renewable energy generation and support the Green New Deal
- All brownfield sites must be developed before greenfield sites are considered and areas of high biodiversity will be preserved;
- Climate change is the biggest challenge facing us. We will maintain Council action to put its own house in order, and we will support others to do their part to reduce CO2 emissions to meet a 45% reduction (from 1990 levels) by 2026.

## Community

Help you build a strong secure neighbourhood  
not anti-social behaviour

- We will target support services to help the most vulnerable people;
- We will work with staff, patients and the voluntary sector to ensure the best quality of health care under the new government arrangements;
- We will support elderly people to stay in their own homes longer;
- We will investigate community justice panels and restorative justice to reduce re-offending;
- Tackling under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour will help make the city and town centres safer at night.

**[tinyurl.com/votemay5](http://tinyurl.com/votemay5)**