

NOW

THAT'S WHAT I CALL

PROGRESS

The Newcastle
Liberal Democrats
Top Ten for *Change*



The Lib Dem Top Ten

Ten actions the **Newcastle Liberal Democrats** will take to get Newcastle working again:

- 1. Fix our run-down roads and broken pavements** through a programme of investment embedded in the Council's capital financing strategy.
- 2. Set 'quality neighbourhood' standards** that establish clear expectations around the minimum condition of local areas and maximum response times for services.
- 3. Recruit dedicated Community Champions** with responsibility for identifying and responding to neighbourhood needs.
- 4. Make our green spaces thrive** through community leadership, sustainable biodiversity initiatives, and use for the public good.
- 5. Get the City moving** by rebuilding the Council's capacity to manage major projects and deliver them on time.
- 6. Invest in our council housing**, with an active programme of repairs and maintenance, and following other Lib Dem Councils' lead in building more safe, warm and affordable properties of all tenures.
- 7. Invest in our grassroots community and voluntary organisations** to take the pressure off social care services and improve public health.
- 8. Give every child a good education**, by working with local schools and delivering better provision for children with Special Educational Needs.
- 9. Tackle crime and antisocial behaviour** by reinstating the night-time noise line and lobbying for more dedicated neighbourhood officers.
- 10. Switch from burning waste to recycling more**, returning the City to top-of-the-charts environmental leadership last seen when the Lib Dems ran the Council.

TEN SIMPLE



ACTIONS

TO GET OUR CITY BACK ON TRACK

RESTORING



TRUST

BY GETTING THE COUNCIL BACK TO BASICS



Leader's Statement

Our City deserves better than what Newcastle Labour has offered over the last decade.

I see it every day when I speak to local people. Trust in the Council to deliver on the promises it makes are at an all time low. You don't get the standards of services you expect. People don't understand where their Council Tax goes, only that it goes up and up. What goes on in the Civic Centre feels increasingly remote and irrelevant to too many of us.

And yet the potential for our City has never been greater.

We have fantastic people, thriving businesses straining to be unleashed, world-class education institutions and some of the best public services to be found anywhere in the country.

What's holding us back? Newcastle Liberal Democrats say the wrong investment priorities, a "can't do" culture, and failure to work with our Regional neighbours have combined to set Newcastle back.

Whether it's internal Labour squabbling, pouring money into hotels whilst closing community facilities, not listening to our communities, or leaving the Tyne Bridge to rust, people know what to point to if they want to describe what's going wrong. We see it when we wait years for promised action, or when fly-tipping piles up on the side of the street, or when no-one will answer the phone to address your queries.

We're told there's no alternative to decline at the Civic Centre: that we have to watch our services wither and our infrastructure crumble.

But I believe change is possible and- crucially- essential. **If you want to see that change, join us and vote Lib Dem this May.**



Colin Ferguson

Leader, Newcastle Liberal Democrats
Leader of the Opposition



Our Priorities for our Communities

When you vote Liberal Democrat, you are voting for a community champion who will be your voice in the Council, not the Council's voice in your area.

We will set minimum standards you can expect for your local area, so that you can have confidence that litter will be lifted, green spaces maintained, and issues dealt with promptly. We will recruit Community Champions to look after every neighbourhood in the City, acting as a first port of call for local needs.

If you live in council housing, you can count on the Liberal Democrats to prioritise effective repairs and maintenance over excuses and delay. We will invest in insulation, energy efficiency and mould prevention, improving quality of life and driving down properties' carbon footprint.

We believe in the power of the grassroots, of communities built from the bottom up, empowering everyone to have a stake in their local area. That's why we first set up a dedicated fund for the Community and Voluntary Sector, and why we will get behind our community organisations once again.

Investing in our community and voluntary organisations makes sense: not only does it support valued local initiatives, it also takes the pressure off the Council's front-line services, in social care, where some of the highest day-to-day costs are, and elsewhere.





Our Priorities for the City

Newcastle Liberal Democrats have massive ambitions for the City. We want to move away from the “can’t do” culture of the past and set our sights on what we all can achieve.

That starts with making sure our young people have the best possible start in life. Newcastle Liberal Democrats will work with, not against, local schools, delivering good quality school places where they’re needed, when they’re needed. We will ensure the Council delivers on its statutory responsibilities to support young people with Special Educational Needs.

We will get the City moving, so that everyone can do what they need to do. That means investing in the Council’s ability to design, manage and deliver major projects, stopping wasting funding. It means repairing our crumbling infrastructure, not putting the problem off for the future, letting costs spiral. It means creating an accessible, green City for all, so everyone can travel how they want to travel.

We want the people of Newcastle to feel safe and secure. We believe crime and antisocial behaviour should be tackled, not tolerated. Newcastle Labour have reduced inter-organisation working, fragmenting the response to the most entrenched issues affecting our communities. We will prioritise partnership working, information sharing, and community support.





Our Priorities for the Environment

When the Liberal Democrats led the Council, Newcastle was awarded 'Greenest City in the UK' two years running. Under Labour, the city has stagnated on green issues for far too long. It was the Lib Dems who brought a 'Climate Emergency' motion to Council in 2019, triggering an action plan but much more leadership and ambition is required.

Under the Lib Dems' Zero Waste target, recycling rates increased by a factor of 8, but Labour abandoned those targets and have relied increasingly on incineration. We are a decade behind some cities in food waste recycling. Newcastle Liberal Democrats will resintate the Zero Waste ambition and reprioritise the destination of our City's waste, diverting more into genuine recycling routes.

We believe our parks should be for the people, so we will return our green spaces to public accountability, prioritising public benefit over cash generation. We will invest in sustainable biodiversity, using modern green technologies to tackle urban challenges, support wildlife and reduce the risk of flooding.

The City needs to support more walking, cycling and public transport to change people's travel habits. We would reinvigorate strategic network planning, funded by a workplace parking levy, to make it easier for people to make greener choices. Under the Lib Dems, Newcastle was a pioneer for electric vehicle charging: we would restore this status.



ON MAY 4TH



VOTE LIB DEM
FOR THE CHANGE NEWCASTLE NEEDS

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