

**NOW**

THAT'S WHAT I CALL

**PROGRESS**

**'24**

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 neighbourhood wardens** with responsibility for identifying and responding to your local 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. Create a Local Plan that prioritises decent, affordable homes for all**, and creates a retail and business offer fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- 7. Invest in our grassroots Community and Voluntary Sector 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. 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.
- 10. Publish an annual Value for Money statement** that shows how your Council Tax is being spent in every service area.

# TEN SIMPLE



# ACTIONS

TO GET OUR CITY BACK ON TRACK

# RESTORING



# TRUST

BY GETTING THE COUNCIL BACK TO BASICS



## Leader's Statement

**We all want to see our City and our Region thrive.** Newcastle and the North East have so much to offer. We have fantastic people, thriving businesses straining to be unleashed, and world-class education institutions.

**Yet, all too often, our political leadership in the Civic Centre and in Westminster seem to hold us back. What can we do?**

Newcastle Liberal Democrats believe that a relentless focus on the local, based on residents' priorities, needs to return to the front and centre of the Council's priorities.

Labour has become complacent. Instead of undeliverable strategies and plans, we need actions and results. Rather than reasons not to act, we need creative solutions. And instead of not listening, we need the Council to engage and respond.

Whether it's internal Labour squabbling, cutting support for the most vulnerable in society, the crumbling of our once proud streets, or a lack of direction on getting the City moving, people know what to point to if they want to describe what's going wrong.

**Instead, Newcastle Liberal Democrats believe the Council has a duty to provide leadership of place, empowerment of communities, and stewardship of our environment.**

If you believe that change is possible, if you want to see an alternative to the last decade of decline, and if you see the potential of our great City, vote for the only Party that can deliver that difference:

**Vote Liberal Democrat on May 2nd.**



***Colin Ferguson***  
Leader, Newcastle Liberal Democrats



## Empowerment of 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 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 neighbourhood wardens to look after every area, acting as a first port of call for local needs.

We believe crime and antisocial behaviour should be tackled, not tolerated. Newcastle Labour have reduced inter-organisation working, weakening the response to the most entrenched issues in our communities. We will prioritise partnership, information sharing, and community support.

We believe in the power of the grassroots, empowering everyone to have a stake and a say in their local area. That's why we believe so strongly in working with communities to decide on local investment.

Investing in the Community and Voluntary Sector makes sense: not only does it support valued local initiatives, it also takes the pressure off front-line services, like in social care, which has some of the highest day-to-day costs.

And if you are experiencing hardship, you can count on the Liberal Democrats to ensure you have a local safety net, not a greater chance of experiencing further difficulty. That's why we would reverse cuts to crisis support, and end the uncertainty over homelessness support.





## Leadership of Place

Newcastle Liberal Democrats have massive ambitions for the City. With the delivery of new devolution powers to the Region, even under a flawed model, we stand to benefit.

We will work with, not against, the new Mayoral authority, focusing on what we can uniquely do locally to support economic growth. We will put the infrastructure in place to allow businesses to thrive, and supporting local entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into reality.

We want all of our young people to have the best start in life. Newcastle Liberal Democrats will deliver good quality school places where and when they're needed. Under us, the Council delivers its statutory responsibilities, and more, to support young people with Special Educational Needs.

If you live in social housing, you can count on us 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. Lib Dem Councils across the country have a strong record of building more social housing: we will repeat that here.

We will get the City moving, so that everyone can get to where they need to. That means investing in the Council's ability to design and deliver projects, stopping wasted funding. It means repairing our crumbling infrastructure, not putting the problem off for the future. It means creating an accessible, green City for all, so everyone can travel how they want to travel.





## Stewardship of the Environment

When the Liberal Democrats led the Council, we were recognised for our leadership on the Environment. Since then, the Council has fallen behind.

Once a leader for recycling rates nationally, the City now diverts more and more waste to incinerators. We're a decade behind some cities in food waste recycling. Newcastle Liberal Democrats will divert more into genuine recycling routes. We will make our Household Waste Recycling Centres accessible to everyone again, saving money on tackling fly-tipping.

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 drainage, support wildlife, and reduce our carbon footprint.

The City needs to support more active and sustainable transport, but too often the Council relies on the stick, with too little of the carrot, to change people's travel habits. We would reinvigorate strategic network planning, setting out a clear route to the future of City transport.

And as the Council looks to the future on housing, infrastructure, and the layout of the City, we will prioritise decent, affordable, energy efficient housing for all. We will deliver regeneration across the City, not just in the City Centre, and build a retail and business offer fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.





**ON MAY 2ND**



**VOTE LIB DEM**  
FOR THE CHANGE NEWCASTLE NEEDS

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