



Liberal Democrat & Green

Progressive Partnership

The recent elections in York gave no one party an overall majority to lead City of York Council.

for York

However, support for the Liberal Democrats and Greens in York soared with the Lib Dems gaining nine seats and both parties combined receiving over 50% of the vote. No other party can claim success from this May's local elections.

As our parties have worked together, it has become increasingly clear that although there are differences, we have a lot of common ground. This has now resulted in the 21 Lib Dem councillors and the 4 Green councillors coming together in the interests of the city. We are forming a progressive partnership that will lead City of York Council in a new, fresh direction, tackling the major challenges our city faces and giving power back to residents.

Over the coming four years, both Liberal Democrat and Green Party Councillors will work positively with all political parties in York on areas of shared interest and the agreed public review on the Council's governance.

Our vision

Following the election results, the Liberal Democrats and Green Party are coming together to put forward a programme for a progressive partnership in the interests of residents. We share a conviction in the need to address the climate emergency and making York carbon neutral by 2030, whilst improving life and basic services for everyone that lives and works in York.

We are committed to bringing communities together, making York fairer and affordable for everyone, working for a greener, healthier city, giving our children a better start and demanding a Council that listens and works for residents.

A JOINT PROGRAMME IN THE MAKING

From both party manifestos; it is clear to see that there is already significant convergence in our aspirations for the city. Below is a summary of some of the shared goals and initiatives that our new partnership aims to take forward in our first year.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

- We will reduce the City's carbon footprint, committing to annual targets leading to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
- We will improve air quality, delivering York's clean air zone and setting out further measures.
- We will create a climate committee for York, to drive effective change in the city and give clear direction for council carbon saving priorities.
- Commit to meeting Treemendous and Northern Forest's tree planting targets within two years.
- Create a new green open space or stray.

TRANSPORT

- Invest in York's roads and footpaths.
- Set clear targets for sustainable transport and clean air, such as electric buses and charging points, bus priority, the cycle network and walking.
- Review and enhance resident parking plans.

HOUSING

- Work to deliver the local plan, providing the affordable homes we need, whilst protecting York's special character and green belt.
- Review, support and enhance residents' associations across York.
- Review the Council's housing design standards to achieve zero carbon for energy demand.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Invest in local social prescribing to tackle loneliness and isolation, and make York a dementia friendly city.
- Ward grants and the creation of a new safer communities fund, to benefit local communities.
- Grant Council tax relief for foster carers and care leavers in their first year.
- Strengthen action on homelessness, financial inclusion and champion greater mental health support.

STREET ENVIRONMENT

- Install 100 new dual litter and recycling bins to encourage recycling of waste.
- Create a new environment team, with funding and powers to reduce fly-tipping, tackle all graffiti, support enforcement, and enhance resident action caring for their neighbourhood.

EDUCATION

- Continue to protect all of York's children centres.
- Improve mental health support, with professional support in each school.
- Provide additional resources for youth support services and work to close the attainment gap.
- Invest in play equipment across York.

ECONOMY

- Develop a bottom-up strategy for the city centre through the MyCityCentre consultation.
- Explore future opportunities for a Tourist levy to help generate new investment.
- Develop the Council's apprenticeship programme to maintain workforce succession.
- Deliver on city's key projects such as York Central and Castle Gateway to attract higher paid jobs in York
- Create a new Economic Strategy for York, including the re-establishment of York's Economic Partnership to drive forward business development and share benefits of clean growth within our city.

COUNCIL

- Ensure the Council adopts a more transparent and cross-party approach to decision-making with a review of best practice, considering all options.
- Review the Council's constitution to ensure the Council is open and accountable to residents.
- Lobby for fairer funding for services in York, particularly our schools.