

# A FRESH START FOR GLASGOW



**A record of action - the promise of more**

**GLASGOW LIBERAL DEMOCRAT  
MANIFESTO 2012**





# Glasgow Liberal Democrats

## Working for Glasgow - Listening to you

Dear Resident,

After 30 years of neglect and failure under Labour, Glasgow needs a fresh start. Over the last few years our Council has been hit with one scandal after another. Labour have run out of ideas and their energy is now spent on internal fights, resignations & recriminations.

The SNP are little better. When asked by the Scotsman Newspaper what two or three policies an SNP controlled Council would introduce, the SNP Leader's response was "We haven't actually thought about that yet"<sup>1</sup>.

**Glasgow deserves better than this.**

**Thankfully, there is another way.**

The Glasgow Liberal Democrats have a positive vision about how to give Glasgow the fresh start that our City so desperately needs. In opposition, we have a record of standing up for our communities; a record of which we are proud.

We have led the fight to defend local services, opposing school closures, safeguarding our Post Offices and Community Centres and protecting our Green spaces from blights such as Labour's proposed nightclub in the Botanic Gardens.

We have opposed the SNP's proposals that threaten our local rail and bus services, spoken out over their cuts to the housing budget that will leave regeneration projects in the doldrums and campaigned to improve the poor financial settlement that Glasgow continues to receive from the Parliament in Edinburgh.

This document sets out our vision of what the priorities over the next term will be for Glasgow's Liberal Democrat Councillors. We believe that creating the fresh start Glasgow so desperately needs will require determined action in five key areas.

- Creating a brighter future for Glasgow's young people
- Working to deliver safer streets & stronger communities.
- Making Glasgow Cleaner & Greener
- Giving more power to residents
- Creating a Fairer Glasgow

We are ambitious for our City, we want to see Glasgow's reputation restored and to rebuild trust in our Council.

Working with residents we believe that we can give Glasgow the fresh start our city deserves.

Regards,

**Paul Coleshill**

Leader, Glasgow Liberal Democrat Group.





**Glasgow Liberal Democrats believe we have to do better for our children's future. Glasgow's children continue to have poorer attainment levels than other Councils. We believe that Glasgow has to do better to improve attainment and secure a brighter future for our young people.**

We will seek to:

- Reduce class sizes and recruit more teachers.
- Cap class sizes at 20 in S1 and S2 for Mathematics and English.
- Raise standards in every school with more money for things like one to one tuition and classes in the evenings and weekends so no young person gets left behind.
- Invest in a new primary school building programme to ensure our children are educated in the best possible environments.
- Provide greater support for foreign language teaching.

Glasgow Liberal Democrats will seek to provide the conditions under which all young people in our communities have access to facilities and services which safeguard and enhance their lives and enable them to achieve their potential.

- Involve children and young people in play and youth provision through community centres, schools and open spaces, targeting activities to support them making choices and enhancing awareness and respect for their neighbourhoods and the natural environment.
- Form partnerships with local schools so that school facilities are available to the community, including young people, particularly at weekends and during holidays.
- Form and co-ordinate partnerships with public and private organisations to promote recreational activities for young people. This would include working with and supporting those organisations, groups and individuals who already provide means or facilities for leisure, sports and club activities.





**Glasgow Liberal Democrats aim to create strong communities and social networks that we value. Our overall policies are therefore intended to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour in the first instance.**

It is clear that crime and the fear of crime degrade our communities. That is why we need to involve whole communities in preventing and reducing criminal and antisocial activity.

We would work with the police and local communities to identify crime issues and area of concern, identify resource needs and develop community action plans to tackle criminal behaviour.

- Encourage an increase in the numbers of community police and their visibility.
- Co-ordinate the work of the police with the work of community safety wardens, estate and neighbourhood relations staff, and other partner agencies.
- Support and promote more Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- Promote positive alternatives for young people via sport and recreation opportunities.



## A Cleaner, Greener, Glasgow.



**To create a real fresh start that will benefit all of Glasgow's residents, we need to transform the safety and cleanliness of our streets. Labour's neglect has left too many streets looking run-down and too many residents fearful of crime.**

Glasgow Liberal Democrat Councillors will bring visible change to Glasgow by making our streets, parks and public spaces cleaner and safer.

We will engage with schools and communities in better education and support for recycling and provide more public litter and recycling points throughout the city.

We would create more rapid response teams to tackle problems with fly tipping, dog fouling and litter and strengthen enforcement action against offenders.

Labour's lack of investment in our streets and pavements has left them ugly and dangerous, and strewn with potholes. Rather than endlessly patching up problems, we will look to resurface the roads with the biggest pothole problems and repave the most dangerous and uneven pavements.

We will improve the council's gritting regime and at least double the number of grit bins on our streets.

We are determined to preserve the unique character of Glasgow as a dear green place. We will continue to protect Glasgow's parks and green spaces from developments which blights our parks, conservation areas and streets, just as we have worked to save the Botanic Gardens; prevent private firms running Pollok Park; and stopped the council building on yet more of Queen's Park.

We will identify waste land to turn into allotments and community gardens. We will work with local primary schools to ensure all children can have access to gardens and allotments to learn about healthy, locally grown food.





**For far too long local residents have been shut out of key decisions that affect their everyday lives.**

Glasgow Liberal Democrats believe that council services will be more effective if power is devolved down to local residents with more decisions made at a local neighbourhood or ward level.

We strongly believe that local people should have more control over council services in their area.

We will devolve far more power down to Area Committees, which will have extra control over local spending, including new Neighbourhood Improvement Funds that will enable residents in every part of Glasgow to bid for improvements for their area.

Council officers will be more accountable and accessible locally.

We will also devolve planning decisions as far as possible and make planning officers more accountable.

Under Labour, parking has become a mess, with local residents' views often completely ignored on issues like resident parking zones. We would listen to residents concerns and ensure parking controls are there to help local people and businesses, not just to raise revenue for other services.





**Glasgow Liberal Democrats are committed to fighting poverty and discrimination. We will work to make Glasgow a more equal city, where people are respected and can succeed regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion or ethnic background.**

Over the past 30 years, Labour has failed to reduce inequalities in Glasgow and failed to give all our children a fair start in life. It is wrong that a child born in Glasgow will on average die ten years earlier than a child born elsewhere in the UK .

We will work with Government, Health and Social Care professionals and partner agencies to ensure all resources and support available are targeted to alleviate poverty, improve health and enhance opportunities.

We will work with Housing Associations to improve housing conditions in the city and to tackle poor landlords and poor private rented accommodation.

We will ensure that policies to tackle Glasgow's drug and alcohol dependency problems are properly resourced.



