



LET'S FIX
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE LIBERAL
DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO 2025**

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vote

**Liberal
Democrats**





Cllr Lisa Spivey

**Leader of the
Liberal Democrats
in Gloucestershire**

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Liberal Democrats across Gloucestershire are already striving to make things better, fairer, greener and more inclusive for residents.

Our network of M.P.s, councillors, members and activists work hard all year round in their local areas to ensure that common sense, liberal values are at the heart of decision making.

We have an historic opportunity to grow and enhance that offering at this year's elections.

These are uncertain times with local government finances at breaking point and councils across the country facing existential challenges around delivering care in a broken system whilst also trying to break cycles of poverty and deprivation, tackle the climate and ecological emergencies, support economic growth and maintain our schools, roads and pavements.

After 20 years of the Conservatives in Gloucestershire failing on so many of these critical issues, this manifesto sets out the Liberal Democrat vision to Fix Gloucestershire.

We will work hard to ensure that the potential of our local economy is unleashed, that our roads are well maintained and safe, that our most vulnerable children and adults are well cared for, that we can take pride in how our county looks and that residents and communities can flourish.

This will not be an easy job, but working with partners, our team has the ambition, drive and energy to make a difference. We aim to transform services so that resources can be put back into tackling the inequalities which persist in our communities, providing opportunity for all and looking after those that need help.

We hope that these values and this vision is one which you also support.

Best wishes,



Councillor Lisa Spivey
Leader of Gloucestershire Liberal Democrats

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3 KEY PRIORITIES FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Fix our roads

Liberal Democrats will fix our roads and pavements. We will revisit our highways contract, ending the frustrating way potholes are repaired, roads are resurfaced and drains cleared.

Liberal Democrats will look into ways to make utility companies pay their fair share for closing our roads and investing that money directly into repairing and making our roads safer and cleaning our streets and verges.

Boost our economy

We will lead the council through Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution to unlock the wide reaching benefits it offers.

We will ensure that young people and adults have the skills required to access well paid jobs.

We will support existing local businesses and encourage investment into the county that will put money back into the pockets of hard working local people.

Infrastructure first

Plain common sense; alongside the houses, we need the roads and the schools. With the new businesses, we need the public transport improvements.

We will work with local and national government to make sure this common sense approach is implemented across all the council's areas of interest.



Unleash our local economy



“ We will make the most of future devolution deals to ensure investment into the county, support our young people and adults to acquire the skills they need, and put money back into the pockets of local families and individuals ”

Cllr Lisa Spivey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Gloucestershire County Council



A Liberal Democrat Council will;

- ✓ Complete the delivery of the Golden Valley development, Junction 10 and Junction 9 on the M5 and the A419 missing link scheme
- ✓ Use the council's facilities more efficiently to boost our local economy. We will create space for small local businesses to use office space in our buildings for affordable prices to give them the best chance of succeeding
- ✓ Take a more dynamic approach to filling staff vacancies, including having an apprenticeship scheme in every department of the council
- ✓ Set up a work improvement scheme for people in their 40's and 50's, who often struggle to retrain in later life



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

-  Ensure the Golden Valley development adds thousands of high skilled, well paid cyber jobs to Gloucestershire's local economy
-  Work closely with Districts, Borough and City councils to ensure that good quality, sustainable homes are built to house a growing population and create thriving communities
-  Continue to support the Fastershire broadband strategy until every person in Gloucestershire who wants broadband, has it
-  Introduce high street ambassador champions for all our towns and work with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Cheltenham and Gloucester to keep our high streets vibrant
-  Offer social media training for small local businesses to help Gloucestershire keep a competitive edge over other areas and boost Gloucestershire's local economy
-  Work constructively with all partners to ensure that businesses big and small want to base themselves in Gloucestershire
-  Ensure that our schools and FE establishments are offering the courses needed to skill our workforce for the jobs of the future



Infrastructure first



“ Plain common sense, alongside the houses, we need the roads and the schools. With the new businesses, we need the public transport improvements. We will work with local and national government to make sure this common sense approach is implemented. ”

Colin Hay, Deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats on Gloucestershire County Council



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Engage with District Councils to ensure the right houses are built in the right places in a co-ordinated, strategic manner
- ✓ Hold developers to account. No more building homes before the infrastructure has been delivered including sewage works, flood mitigation, roads, schools and medical practices
- ✓ Work with NHS, MPs and Government to deliver the Dentist and GP surgeries we need
- ✓ Ensure any sizeable development is serviced by local public transport. We will not tolerate communities being left waiting years for public transport infrastructure to be delivered

Local government reorganisation and devolution



“ Local government reorganisation offers opportunities to streamline services, making the council more responsive to residents. Local devolution will release funding into our areas ”



Iain Dobie
Candidate for Charlton Park and College

A Liberal Democrat Council will:

-  Ensure that whatever form any new unitary authorities take, decision making remains in the heart of communities
-  Make sure that existing town and parish, plus any new town or city councils are empowered and funded to deliver services and work on behalf of their communities
-  Listen to District, Borough, City and Town and Parish Councils and work with them to design a strong local government structure which delivers for residents and their localities
-  Not rush into decisions on reorganisation and partnerships, but make considered decisions based on meaningful discussions with all parties and evidence based reports
-  Work closely with neighbouring authorities to form the best Strategic Authority to enable the economic growth, good quality housing and essential public transport the county needs to thrive

Finances and transformation



“The local government sector is under enormous strain after almost 2 decades of cuts and under funding. We will work with organisations like the Local Government Organisation and County Council network to lobby for a fairer settlement whilst committing to maintaining a good standard of services and investing in activities that will make long lasting change.”



Sarah Hands
Candidate for Highnam

A Liberal Democrat council will:

- ✓ Look after the Council's finances
- ✓ Transform services to deliver better value-for-money for residents
- ✓ Bring key services back in house so that tax-payers aren't paying for huge profits to private companies
- ✓ Invest in preventative measures so that we move services from being reactive to being proactive
- ✓ Empower staff to work proactively through training and transformation
- ✓ Cut unnecessary and costly red tape so that money is spent on the things that are important to residents



Fight for our NHS



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Push the Government to improve our health services including 2 fully functioning A&Es and the reopening of our maternity services
- ✓ Take a proactive approach to public health across all age groups to tackle preventable ill health.
- ✓ Not take money for advertising for junk food, cigarettes, vapes or gambling on any of our assets
- ✓ Continue to demand better access to GP and dentist appointments and to expand use of our local hospitals like the ones in Cirencester, Moreton & Tewkesbury

“ We will continue to demand better access to GP and dentist appointments and to expand use of our local hospitals like the ones in Cirencester and Moreton. We will support and encourage healthy living to prevent illness and work with our NHS partners to reverse long ambulance waiting times and bed blocking. ”



Paul Hodgkinson
Candidate for Bourton on the Water and Northleach



Fix our Roads



“ Getting around our large county safely is vital for work, education, accessing healthcare and socialising. For too long our highways network has been left to disintegrate and public transport is disappearing. It's time to rethink both highways maintenance and how we make sure that no-one is cut off. ”

Councillor Lisa Spivey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Gloucestershire



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

-  Not tolerate more of the same. Our roads are a mess. We will insist any new Highways contracts are robust, and change the way we go about repairs
-  Use powers to charge utility companies to pay their fair share for closing our roads, and investing that money directly into the road network
-  Ensure that safety tests take account of wheelchair users and that those with disabilities are part of the process when making improvements to pavements and pedestrian areas
-  Invest more in keeping our highways drains clear, helping to reduce localised flooding

Making our roads safer



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

-  Support communities where residents and councillors want a reduction in speed limits, with 20mph as the usual limit where communities live and work
-  Invest in our highways teams, ending the scandal of waiting years for something simple like yellow lines to be painted
-  Put more money into school safety, encouraging children and their families to walk and cycle to school and work
-  Introduce a fund for pedestrian crossings in the county to improve active travel and make people feel safe
-  Introduce cameras to catch drivers who jump red lights or cause accidents at hotspot junctions
-  Support local cycling schemes that make a real difference to the casual cyclist, not just cycle super-highways



Improving public transport



“Increasing access to reliable, low carbon public transport is vital to grow our economy, give residents access to education and keep people connected. This is equally important in rural as well as urban areas. No one should be left behind”

Councillor Roger Whyborn

Candidate for Up Hatherley, Benhall, The Reddings and Fiddlers Green



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Work with bus operators to enable a network of frequent reliable services which connect with each other and with rail services, with new bus hubs
- ✓ Promote the extension of “on-demand” minibuses in rural areas and investigate their viability in urban areas
- ✓ Introduce a multi-operator ticketing system to allow bus users to use a day or monthly rider ticket across most bus operators
- ✓ Work with MP’s from all parties to campaign for improvements to Gloucestershire’s rail services
- ✓ Continue at pace on our journey towards a network that includes a Mass Rapid Transit system

Restoring civic pride



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Create a specialist team whose responsibility it is to ensure the county's road signs are kept visible and clean, that will make sure no road signs are left in our grass verges
- ✓ Work with Town, Parish and District Councils to establish a rapid response team dedicated to removing graffiti and repairing vandalism
- ✓ Work alongside other councils and community groups to continue investing in our public spaces, parks and high streets to make them clean, green and enjoyable for everyone
- ✓ Look after our street furniture like lampposts, benches and railings to enhance our public spaces

“ As Liberal Democrats, we believe that a clean, well maintained street scene fosters civic pride and enhances the quality of life for all residents. In Gloucestershire, we are committed to ensuring our towns villages and neighbourhoods are places of pride and joy.

”



Cllr Joe Harris
Candidate for Cirencester Park



Great green Gloucestershire



“ Gloucestershire can be a leader in clean, renewable energy generation creating jobs and reducing energy bills, helping to drive down carbon emissions and tackle the climate and nature emergencies. We will fight for clean rivers and support our farmers. ”

Cllr Gill Moseley
Candidate for Newent



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Hold the government to account on their pledge to clean up our rivers
- ✓ Ensure all council buildings are Carbon Neutral by 2030
- ✓ Have schemes for resident to install their own solar panels and support community energy projects
- ✓ Tackle air pollution by encouraging and promoting walking, cycling, public transport and the installation of electric vehicle charging points in council car parks
- ✓ Put sustainability at the heart of our farming industry. New County leases will have to include regenerative farming
- ✓ Address the ecological crisis by supporting nature recovery across the county



Giving young people the best start



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Introduce a pilot scheme to support young people and break cycles of deprivation after 2 decades of cuts by Conservatives
- ✓ Push for earlier screenings for Autism and ADHD to give children the best start in our schools.
- ✓ Grow family hubs within Gloucestershire to support families to thrive
- ✓ Invest in specialist staff to tackle the SEND backlog
- ✓ Work with schools to increase the extra curricular offering to children including life saving swimming lessons
- ✓ Take an holistic approach to childrens mental health and ensure they have access to the support they need

“ Giving our children the best start in life is vital for their futures and the future of our county. We will introduce measures that begin to reverse 20 years of cutting youth services and invest in our children so they can achieve their potential

Clr Linda Cohen
Candidate for Wotton-under-edge

”





A Care system that cares



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Give foster carers the support they need and help them to adapt their homes if required to support more children
- ✓ Intervene in the housing market for the most vulnerable in our community like veterans and care leavers
- ✓ Put an emphasis on providing smaller homes for Children in Care to ensure they have a caring family environment
- ✓ Support County Care staff by ensuring they get paid the extra £2 carer's wage and that their profession is properly valued
- ✓ Supporting working age adults with disabilities back into suitable employment

“

It's important to me to bring our children in care back home and stop outsourcing to private companies making huge profits. We need to support families and foster carers and our own staff so that they can deliver the best for our vulnerable children and adults, changing long term outcomes. ”



Cllr Ben Evans
Candidate for Brockworth



A Council that serves its residents



Ensure that the council is accessible to all residents in a variety of ways both online and physically



Make the Council more accessible to those who struggle with modern technology by offering “Form Filling Day” in certain Council buildings



Improve the Council debt advice services, helping those who are struggling to repay their bills to get the best advice possible



Make the County Council a leader in using new technology to transform and enhance services, delivering more for residents



We will utilise space in council buildings such as Libraries to offer vital services to local residents



Under the Conservatives, people have noticed the council slowly rolling back public facing services. Under Liberal Democrats, the County Council will become much more accessible again.



CLlr Jeremy Hilton
candidate for Kingsholm and Wotton





Working with partners



A Liberal Democrat Council will:

- ✓ Tear down the barriers to creating a thriving county. We will work constructively with all organisations, businesses, voluntary sector and communities to enable sustainable growth within our neighbourhoods
- ✓ Take proactive steps to ensure whatever the national government does in regards to devolution, Gloucestershire is not left behind and is ready to take advantage of any deals on offer
- ✓ Work closely with District, Borough and City authorities to help deliver much needed affordable housing across the county
- ✓ Launch the Neighbourhood Network fund to give seed funding so communities can invest in the projects they care about

“

We can't do this on our own. We will be leaders of place working constructively with local businesses, town, parish, district and borough councils, the voluntary sector and all partners to ensure that all those living and working in Gloucestershire thrive.

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CLlr Suzanne Williams
Candidate for Springbank and Hesters Way







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