

City Council Liberal Democrat Group

2008/09 Policy Statement

The council has a minority Tory administration supported by the abstention of the Labour group. There are many aspects of council policy that we agree with, but there are changes to the way the council would be run under a Liberal Democrat administration. Here is our ten point plan.

Liberal Democrat ten point plan for Gloucester

1. We will sort out the financial mess that the council is in after years of Tory misrule. We will become a more efficient council and save money. We will end the use of reserves to support ongoing revenue spending. The council will have to live within its means.
2. The structure of the cabinet will be changed to mirror the new corporate director structure. Area committees will be introduced to give frontline councillors more say on council services and projects in their area of the city.
3. Gloucester will become a greener council and we will meet recycling targets. The council will pursue the reduction of the carbon footprint of its own activities and that of its partners. The city council will oppose the building of a waste incinerator within the council's boundaries or a site too close to the city boundaries as to cause concern about possible wind blown pollution.
4. The council is committed to better sports facilities and public open spaces. We will build a new all weather athletics track in Gloucester for our athletes to use. We will work with Gloucester City Football Club to find them a new ground within the city. The biodiversity in our parks and open spaces will be enhanced.
5. We will oppose the building of an urban sprawl on the existing Green Belt between Gloucester and Cheltenham. We will support the extension of the Green Belt to the south of the city. The council will not support building on areas subject to flooding or where such developments could increase the likelihood of flooding elsewhere.
6. Regeneration is vital to the city and we shall ensure that the process is accelerated and that the quality of the city's regeneration is enhanced considerably. The Docks will become a key focus for more social and commercial activity. We will get tougher with developers and end the Tory march to making the Docks an exclusive housing estate. The regeneration of Kings Square will become a priority. We will cancel plans to construct a fake Victorian bandstand in Gloucester Park as replacement to the existing bandstand - and review options.
7. We aim to deliver more affordable housing and will work closely with Gloucester City Homes to build new homes for rent. The city council's housing stock will be brought up to the Decent Homes standard as a matter of urgency.
8. The council is joint owner with Cheltenham Borough Council of Gloucestershire Airport and we will approve the runway safety project to include a lease on land required to enable the works to be carried out. We have a responsibility for the economic well being and diversity of the county, as well as the protection of the environment. The airport played a major role during the floods in 2007 and we recognise its role as a key county resource.
9. We will continue to maintain the council offices in the Docks complex. We will end the Tory plan to build a new and very expensive civic centre and offices elsewhere in Gloucester.
10. The city's cultural offer under the Tories is dire and we will work to ensure that this is improved. We will carry out a review of the museum service with the view of bringing its service into the 21st Century. The history of the city is poorly presented and we will deliver a modern museum service.