



*A fresh
start
for a
fair city*

VOTE

GREEN PARTY

BRIGHTON AND HOVE

CITY COUNCIL LOCAL ELECTION

5TH MAY 2011

fair is worth fighting for

Contents

INTRODUCTION - PAGE 1

A fresh start for a fair city

PRIORITIES - PAGE 2

Thirteen goals for the next four years

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY - PAGE 4

The Green path out of the recession

**CULTURE, ARTS AND
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES - PAGE 5**

Supporting culture to create jobs

TOURISM - PAGE 6

City's attractions support 6,000 jobs

**LICENSING AND THE
NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY - PAGE 7**

*Striking a balance between
peace and pleasure*

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT - PAGE 8**

A better and healthier place to live for all

HOUSING - PAGE 9

Decent, green and affordable homes

SOCIAL CARE - PAGE 10

Independence, choice and dignity for all

**EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE - PAGE 11**

Investing in our city's future

OLDER PEOPLE - PAGE 14

Maintaining independence, offering care

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY-14

*Working with communities
to prevent crime*

TRANSPORT - PAGE 15

Offering choice for a better place to live

**WASTE, RECYCLING
AND FIGHTING GRIME - PAGE 16**

Creating a zero-waste city

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND
PLANNING - PAGE 17**

A better built-environment for everyone

**PARKS, OPEN SPACES
AND BIODIVERSITY - PAGE 19**

*Sustaining and developing rich natural
assets*

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITIES - 20

Ensuring respect and dignity

ANIMAL RIGHTS - PAGE 21

Ending suffering and exploitation

BUILDING A CITY FOR THE FUTURE - 22

*Moving towards
One Planet living*

DEMOCRACY AND TRUST - PAGE 24

A city run by and for its residents

INTRODUCTION

A fresh start for a fair city

The Green Party offers Brighton and Hove a fresh start after four years of Tory mismanagement. Our manifesto is fuelled by fairness and driven by a desire to produce a sustainable city and narrow the gap between rich and poor.

It is also a Manifesto for hard times. During the next four years the Tory and LibDem Coalition of All The Cuts will rob the city of £84 million that should have been spent on vital services. Things wouldn't have been much better under Labour. Having lost control of the banks, they were intent on making the public pay for their mistakes.

The deep cuts will bring hardship for vulnerable men, women and children who rely on essential care and support services provided by the council. It will also mean the loss of many city council and private sector jobs.

In these circumstances Green councillors will do their very best for the city. We can't stop the cuts made at source by the Coalition, but we will fight them all the way and we will oppose any attempt to further privatise local services.

Only Greens are committed to open book working with other political parties, the trade unions, third sector and voluntary organisations and residents to meet the challenges ahead.

Indeed, our Manifesto is a template for a more open and democratic city offering residents greater power to make decisions for their neighbourhoods and influence the way budgets are shaped and money is spent. This marks the Greens out from other parties who pay lip service to residents' views.

PRACTICAL ANSWERS

TO OUR CITY'S CHALLENGES

We realise many of our Manifesto plans cannot be implemented immediately because the city is starved of cash. But we will not abandon our aspirations, because they offer practical solutions to the challenges the city faces.

Take our proposals to encourage more walking and cycling and the use of public transport in the city. During the writing of this Manifesto, oil prices have rocketed. As a result, car use is prohibitively expensive for many people who must be offered real and affordable choices in the way they get around Brighton and Hove.

Our proposals to make the most of the opportunities offered by the new South Downs National Park would broaden the economic base of the city, and our plans to introduce renewable energy on a wide scale would create jobs, make homes healthier and warmer, cut fuel bills and reduce the city's carbon footprint. We are also committed to protecting small and local businesses and halting the march of super-stores into the city.

MAKING THE MOST

OF EVERY PUBLIC PENNY

To achieve all this we will work with other organisations and combine budgets to make the most of every public penny. Working more closely with the police, for example, would make better use of community safety budgets.

Most importantly, we will continue to work closely with residents and local communities for a better city.

*We urge you to vote Green
and join us in making
Brighton and Hove a
fairer, safer, cleaner and
greener place*

GREEN PRIORITIES

1. RESIST, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE SERVICE CUTS AND PRIVATISATION IMPOSED ON LOCAL COUNCILS BY THE CONSERVATIVE AND LIB DEM GOVERNMENT.

Where the Coalition leaves no choice, protect services for children, vulnerable adults and those on low incomes.

2. END THE WASTE OF EMPTY COUNCIL AND PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS AND LAND TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE WORKSPACES.

To help retain small and medium size businesses in the city and to encourage new enterprises.

3. RETAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A NEW AND LOW CARBON BRIGHTON CENTRE ON THE SEAFRONT.

To retain and expand the national and international conference and exhibition trade, which is vital to the city's economy, and create jobs.

4. WORK WITH BRIGHTON AND HOVE SEASIDE COMMUNITY HOMES, HOUSING CO-OPS, HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BEGIN A PROGRAMME OF AT LEAST 1,000 NEW AFFORDABLE HOMES.

To meet the pressing needs of homeless and poorly housed people across the city.

5. CREATE AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME TO INSULATE EVERY HOME IN THE CITY AND INSTALL RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.

To cut fuel poverty and energy bills, make homes healthier and slash carbon emissions.

6. PRODUCE A BRIGHTON & HOVE HOUSING DESIGN GUIDE CONTAINING MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SPACE AND DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW HOMES.

To ensure all new homes built in the city provide a healthy and comfortable living space for residents.

FOR 2011/15

7. SUPPORT HIGH QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE EARLY YEARS LEARNING AND DO ALL WE CAN TO PROTECT BRIGHT START, SURE START AND OTHER NURSERIES.

To give every child in the city a good start in education.

8. IMPLEMENT A 20MPH SPEED LIMIT FOR BRIGHTON AND HOVE'S RESIDENTIAL ROADS.

To cut deaths and injuries and make walking and cycling safer.

9. DRIVE UP RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING RATES, AND INTRODUCE A FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE.

To ensure 70% of all Brighton and Hove's domestic waste is recycled by 2015.

10. MAKE BRIGHTON AND HOVE THE NUMBER ONE CENTRE FOR ECO-TOURISM IN THE NEW SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK.

To protect tourism jobs in the city and create new job opportunities.

11. LINK TOGETHER THE GREEN SPACES OF OLD STEINE, VICTORIA GARDENS AND ST PETER'S CHURCH AND RE-ROUTE THE TRAFFIC IN VALLEY GARDENS.

To create a vibrant new public park for the city centre.

12. CREATE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCILS WITH LOCAL BUDGETS AND DECISION-MAKING POWERS.

To offer local people a greater say in shaping, delivering and monitoring local council services.

13. ROLL OUT A 'LIVING WAGE' FOR CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEES.

Move towards a minimum wage for the lowest paid of £8.10, and introduce a strategy to ensure the highest paid council officer earns no more than eight times the lowest paid officer.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The Green path out of the recession

Brighton and Hove's £4 billion annual economy depends heavily on public services, the business and financial sector, tourism and the creative industries.

A young city, we face special challenges, not least creating jobs for young people who account for 6,000 of the city's 11,400 jobless. Unemployment in the city (8 per cent) is higher than the South East average (6.1 per cent) and weekly pay in Brighton and Hove (£522.6) is lower than the regional average (£547.8).

It is estimated at least 2,000 public sector jobs and a matching 2,000 private sector jobs will be lost in Brighton and Hove as a result of Coalition Government public spending cuts.

OUR VISION

In these tough times the city council must harness the city's creative spirit, innovation and energy and make extra efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new ones.

While the council must continue to support and encourage large employers, more than 8,000 of the 10,000 businesses in the city employ fewer than 10 people and helping them to grow and create employment must be a key priority. If each of them created only two extra jobs, 16,000 new jobs could be created in the city.

Many issues faced by all small and growing businesses, were raised by the council's inquiry into the growth of 'green industries' in the city, which was a Green Party initiative. They include the acute shortage of affordable workspaces that leads to growing businesses leaving the city, the need to provide apprenticeships and training for all sectors and the need to create networks for the different sectors to bring businesses together. 'Green industries' have a huge role to play in ending the UK recession. Jobs could be created quickly across the employment spectrum in Brighton and Hove, for example, by insulating

homes, fitting solar panels, building new 'green' homes and building and maintaining the proposed off-shore wind-farm.

The 1,600 third sector organisations working in Brighton and Hove contribute nearly £100 million annually to the city's economy, We believe the council should do more to support their work by using and promoting their services.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Worked with trade unions to protect public sector jobs.
- Green councillors are leading the drive to encourage and support the development of environmental industries in Brighton and Hove.
- Worked with Wired Sussex and others to secure a sustainable future for New England House.
- Worked in the city's Economic Partnership to support the local business community.
- Forged strong links with the city's third sector, which employs about 8,000 people.
- Campaigned for empty buildings and shops to be brought into use as commercial and creative spaces.
- Led the successful campaign to ensure that training and apprenticeships schemes are a standard feature of all major building contracts in the city.
- Successfully campaigned for the retention of a post office in the London Road.
- Campaigned for policies to prevent supermarket chains squeezing out small and local shops.
- Were heavily involved in the Community Garden to keep Tesco out of the Lewes Road.

GREENS WILL:

- Encourage the city's larger employers to "buy local" and offer support and training to local SMEs and third sector organisations.
- Make better use of council owned property and land to provide affordable workspaces for small and medium sized companies (SMEs) and third sector organisations.

- Continue to work with the business community and the third sector to bring empty shops and offices back into use.
- Promote the inclusion of workspaces in all new developments.
- Create sector networks, along the lines of Wired Sussex, to bring businesses of all sizes together.
- Work with local universities and colleges to provide more training courses and apprenticeships to support local businesses.
- Promote and support training programmes for social entrepreneurs.
- Promote membership of the Credit Union among council employees.
- Press for the roll-out of “superfast” broadband for the entire city.

CULTURE, ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Supporting culture to create jobs

Brighton and Hove is blessed with a rich cultural heritage. Among the many cultural events held each year is the Brighton Festival, one of the UK’s largest arts events, which attracts more than 300,000 visitors annually, contributes £20m to the local economy and raises the city’s international profile.

Our city is home to thousands of musicians, writers, artists and makers, people working in architecture, design, fashion, film and video, the performing arts, publishing, software and computer games and television and radio.

Known collectively as the Creative industries, they account for 20 per cent of the city’s companies and almost 10 per cent of the jobs. The critical mass of expertise established in the new creative industries attracts companies to the city, safe in the knowledge they will find the skills they need.

The sector is highly skilled, and the two universities and the city’s colleges feed new talent into the mix. Support and development of the creative industries is critical to the city’s economic future and should be seen as a priority by the city council.

OUR VISION

Although many Brighton and Hove residents engage with the arts, more should be done to promote and support local community arts projects and bring the Festival into council estates and suburbs.

Many of the city’s creative businesses are new and small, need support and nurture in their early days and encouragement and help to expand. High rents make it hard for them to find space to expand as they grow.

Greens believe the city council should provide new affordable creative industries space and make better use of existing space. Empty property should be used for ‘meanwhile’ creative workspaces. The disused Co-Op building on London Road, for example, could provide both studio space and retail space where tenants could sell their work.

The council should do more to promote Brighton and Hove as one of the UK’s leading centres of creative industries, to attract more companies to the city.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Led the successful campaign for longer opening hours at the Jubilee Library.
- Established close links with the creative industries, particularly through our work on the future of New England House.
- Worked closely with the Phoenix Arts Association to secure planning permission for a redevelopment scheme that will provide affordable and sustainable studio space.
- Supported successful grant applications by community arts organisations across the city. Supported successful small arts groups on city council estates.
- Green councillors have chaired the city’s Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee since it was set up in 2008 and work closely with many arts and cultural organisations in the city.

- Played an active role in the city's Arts Commission.
- Campaigned for a dedicated art gallery for the city.

GREENS WILL:

- Continue to support the Festival and other cultural events in the city.
- Press for all major regeneration schemes to include creative industry workspaces and for empty property in the city to be brought back in to short-to-medium term use as creative workspace.

- Urge the council to publicise Brighton and Hove more widely as a creative industry centre.

Support heritage projects and protect museums and heritage sites.

- Defend the city's libraries from cuts, seek to improve book stocks and do more to promote reading in our schools and beyond.
- Continue to support and promote public art and literature schemes.
- Continue to promote music in schools, especially for the city's most deprived and vulnerable children.
- Work with the local music industry to provide better venues.
- Continue our efforts to establish a ring-fenced fund to restore Madeira Drive and create a better public realm for this important venue for city events.
- Encourage free open access culture – such as fairs, plays and music– in community centres and parks.
- Increase support for creative organisations that promote social inclusion, among them Same Sky, Carousel and Audio Active.
- Continue to campaign for a city art gallery.

“ “ *The city's 8.5 million visitors in 2010 spent £734 million* ” ”

TOURISM

City's attractions support 6,000 jobs

Tourism is critically important to Brighton and Hove's economy and supports more than 6,000 local jobs. The city's 8.5 million visitors in 2010 spent £734 million. Almost £500 million of the total was spent by the 17 per cent of visitors who stayed overnight.

It's not difficult to see why they come. Blessed with a world-class attraction in the Royal Pavilion, we have a vibrant and diverse night-time economy and major events through the year like the Brighton Festival, Pride, the Brighton Marathon and Burning the Clocks. And people do like to be beside the seaside.

The city has a real potential to attract more visitors. It is a natural gateway to the newly created South Downs National Park, which offers many new 'green' and healthy tourism opportunities.

It desperately needs a new conference and exhibition centre to attract more national and international conferences, and we need to find new ways of encouraging more visitors to make overnight stays.

OUR VISION

Tourism brings great economic and social benefits to our unique city. Greens believe Brighton and Hove's raffish personality, which sets it apart from other seaside resorts, must not be dulled by the spread of more chain stores, bars and restaurants. We will do all we can to support and sustain the brave little businesses found across the city, particularly in the North Laine, The Lanes and Kemp Town, that make our city so special.

We must continue to provide a wide menu of attractions that guarantee visitors from home and abroad a good time in our city. At the same time, Greens believe tourism must be sustainable, meet the needs of local people as well as visitors throughout the year and not impact adversely on our environment.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Green councillors have chaired the city's Culture, Tourism and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee since it was set up in 2008 and work closely with the city's tourist industry.

- Thanks to Green calls for action, the council has implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) for its venues and events. In August 2010 it became the first UK local authority UK to achieve EMS accreditation to both ISO 14001 and BS 8901 standards.
- We ensured that the seafront rent review occurred in-house, saving local businesses money.
- Our calls for improved tourist information centres supported the opening of the new centre at the Brighton Pavilion shop
- The number of city walk leaflets and downloads increased following Green calls for better visitor information.

GREENS WILL:

- Support and develop the excellent promotional work of Visit Brighton.
- Retain our commitment to building a new and low carbon Brighton conference and exhibition centre on the seafront.
- Encourage more restaurants, food shops, and hotels to use local produce.
- Establish 'Green Tourism' awards for local businesses, with a 'Green' Code of Practice for the city tourist industry.
- Encourage more visitors to travel to the city by train and bus. 36 per cent of visitors arrive in the city by train, but we could do better.
- Promote cycle hire at the railway and bus stations.
- Promote eco-tourism in the city for cyclists and walkers, taking advantage of our location on the national cycle network, the South Downs National Park and our role as a cycle demonstration city.
- Keep the city centre clean. Too many visitors complain about the city being dirty.
- Introduce pink plaques and a pink plaque trail to celebrate the contribution of LGBT community members.
- Campaign for stricter planning laws to protect small businesses and keep megastores at bay.

LICENSING AND THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

Striking a balance between peace and pleasure

The night-time economy is a major visitor attraction in Brighton and Hove, which sees a massive influx of people into the city most evenings, particularly at weekends, spending money in our pubs, clubs, restaurants and music venues. However, local people have endured an increase in noise and anti-social behaviour since Labour's 2003 Licensing Act made alcohol more freely available and helped create a situation where 45 per cent of all crime in the city is fuelled by alcohol.

OUR VISION

Greens believe a balance needs to be struck between peace and pleasure to ensure visitors can continue to enjoy themselves in safety without disrupting local people's lives.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Successfully campaigned for introduction of new policies to manage street disturbance by smokers, to disperse noisy groups and establish a closing time of 11.30pm for off sales in residential areas.
- Successfully lobbied for the effects of street drinking to be considered in new licensing applications around The Level.
- Continued our campaign for a 6% ABV limit on beers and ciders sold in areas with street drinking problems.
- Continued to campaign for the expansion of Cumulative Impact Areas to limit the numbers of alcohol outlets in the city centre.

GREENS WILL:

Continue to work with night-time businesses, local people, the police and the community

safety team to implement sensible and fair licensing policies and to counter potentially disruptive licence applications.

- Implement a city-wide responsible licensee scheme, similar to the food standards Scores on the Doors initiative, to encourage improved standards in the licensed trade.
- Improve the processes for notifying nearby residents and businesses of new licence applications.
- Review licence fees to ensure they are fair and reflect their true costs to the council.
- Work with Local Action Teams to improve relations between residents and the licensed trade.

Continue our campaign to reduce the sale of cut-price alcohol in supermarkets and off-licences, which fuels violence and threatens the future of many of the city's pubs.

- Increase the proportion of disabled accessible vehicles in the city's taxi fleet.
- Continue our support for street and farmers' markets in the city.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A better and healthier place to live for all

While many people in Brighton and Hove enjoy good health, it remains a city tarnished by health inequalities. Brunswick and Adelaide residents can expect to live to 85 and those in Withdean to 84, for example, outliving residents of Queen's Park (76) and East Brighton (77) by the best part of a decade.

Poor housing, poverty, poor diet, air pollution and unemployment are the pillars of this inequality. The major contributors to ill health and premature death – among them alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and obesity – buttress this health deficit, particularly in the more deprived areas of the city.

According to the Department of Health, the NHS contribution to reducing health inequalities is only 8 per cent. Nevertheless, we believe inequalities will be widened by Coalition cuts in NHS spending and the influx of private companies, driven by profit rather than patient care. Greens remain absolutely opposed to this privatisation of health services.

OUR VISION

Is for a city where life expectation is not determined by postcode or wealth. Every section in this manifesto includes policies to improve the health of the people of Brighton and Hove – from insulating the city's homes to setting up a core network of safe cycle routes and from improving air quality to reducing bullying in schools.

We welcome the Government's plans to return public health responsibilities to the City Council. We look forward to working with the Director of Public Health to improve the health of all our residents and reduce health inequalities.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Campaigned for better housing conditions, particularly in neglected private rented homes and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).
- Worked with Friends of Parks organisations to improve parks and open spaces, which are so important in our crowded city.
- Campaigned successfully for the expansion of the 'cumulative impact zone' to limit the number of alcohol outlets in the city centre and for an 11.30pm closing time for off-licences in domestic neighbourhoods.
- Supported the campaigning work of Keep Our NHS Public.
- Worked with community groups and the PCT to set up local health improvement initiatives, among them cookery classes, light exercise for older people, drug and alcohol advice and sexual health and other advice for young people.
- Worked with community groups and the Active for Life team to provide organised sport and activities for young people.

- Campaigned for better cycling facilities in the city and opposed Tory plans to scrap the seafront to national park cycle lane in Hove.

GREENS WILL:

- Campaign for better conditions in private rented homes and HMOs.
- Fight to keep the NHS public.
- Introduce a requirement for all planning applications and major council decisions to include a public health impact assessment.
- Continue to work with residents, Local Action Teams and the police to make neighbourhoods and streets safer.
- Work with the Director of Public Health, the Sussex Police Authority and others to further develop the Community Safety Team and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and protect their budgets.
- Produce a city transport plan that offers the choice of walking, cycling or using public transport as an alternative to car use, thus improving general health and reducing air and noise pollution.
- Introduce cooking and life skills classes in all schools under the Council's control.
- Introduce planning guidelines to prevent fast-food outlets opening or mobile outlets operating within 400 metres of school and youth centres.
- Work with local companies to establish breast-feeding facilities for staff.

“ Greens believe a social housing programme should be part a national economic recovery plan alongside a Green New Deal programme to make existing homes greener, warmer and healthier ”

HOUSING

Decent, green and affordable homes

Brighton and Hove is in a housing crisis. The Coalition has halved the social housing new-build programme, and the 11,000 households on the local waiting list, most of them families, have little hope of a new council or housing association home in the near future. Buying a home is an option too far for most them, with an annual income of £53,000 needed to buy an average home.

Increasingly, homeless families are shepherded unwillingly into private rented housing by the council. Much of this housing is poorly managed, in poor condition and expensive. Rented homes account for 24% of the city's housing, more than twice the national average, which largely explains why housing is responsible for 44% of Brighton and Hove's carbon footprint – again almost twice the national average.

Promised Coalition Housing Benefit cuts of £2 billion by 2012 will make it difficult for some private sector tenants to pay their rents, which continue to rise. Homelessness could increase. Coalition spending cuts during the next three years will shut down supported housing schemes, putting many vulnerable people at risk.

OUR VISION

Everybody has the right to a decent and affordable home. To achieve this aim, Greens believe a social housing programme should be part a national economic recovery plan alongside a Green New Deal programme to make existing homes greener, warmer and healthier.

Building and greening homes cuts the nation's benefit bill, and increases the tax and national insurance and VAT take. It is estimated that for every £1 of public money spent on housing, the Government claws back about 70p.

Building energy efficient new homes and retrofitting the existing stock cuts the nation's carbon footprint and reduces fuel poverty.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Played a key role in opposing the transfer of the city's housing stock to a housing association.
- Lobbied successfully for the creation of Brighton and Hove Seaside Community Homes to raise money to improve council homes and bring the council's many empty homes into use after unforgivable delays. Labour Ministers delayed the initiative.
- Campaigned successfully for smarter council procurement policies to cut housing maintenance costs.
- Campaigned successfully for better financial and benefit advice for tenants.
- First raised problems of student housing, which led to a council inquiry and joint working with the universities and others to deal with the problems.
- Worked with the city's housing co-ops co-housing groups to try and increase their role in meeting unmet housing need.
- Calls for an inquiry into the unregulated work of lettings agents led to a council scrutiny of their work.

GREENS WILL:

- Work with Brighton and Hove Seaside Community Homes, housing co-ops, housing associations and the private sector to identify land to begin at least 1,000 new affordable homes during the next four years.
- Continue to lobby for an end to council house sales. If sales continue all money raised should be reinvested in new homes.
- Work to reduce the city's council housing maintenance and management costs, which are higher than the national average, and invest the savings in building new homes – if the Coalition honours its pledge to let councils keep rent surpluses.
- Continue to support the work of co-ops, community land trusts and co-housing groups.
- Continue to campaign for the proper control and regulation of letting agents and work with

Brighton Housing Trust and private landlords to create an ethical lettings agency.

- Campaign for the introduction of private rent stabilisation, setting maximum annual rent increases and entitling tenants to agreed services from their landlords.
- Use compulsory purchase powers to fill private sector homes empty for more than six months.
- Improve and protect the city's sheltered and supported housing.
- Create a programme of 'whole house' retrofitting for public and private sector homes through a council-owned Energy Services Company.
- Involve council tenants more deeply in managing their homes by holding annual consultations on housing budget options and setting up a Tenants' Scrutiny Panel with powers to look into any aspect of council housing management.

SOCIAL CARE

Independence, choice and dignity for all

Tory/Lib Dem Coalition spending cuts have seriously affected front line services for those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction and others.

The Coalition of All the Cuts has promised further deep public sector cuts during the next two years. The situation is worsened by cuts in support for the third sector and voluntary organisations.

As a result many vulnerable people face hardship and a loss of services. Many people will lose their jobs. In the coming years of austerity a strong leadership that champions the needs of all vulnerable people will be of critical importance.

OUR VISION

Greens will continue to work with others to oppose government cuts to vital social care and

health budgets. We will seek to ensure equal access for all groups to social care and health services, including those from the BME and the LGBT communities,

We believe care and support services should offer users as much independence as possible.

We also believe services are better provided by public and third sector bodies whose first duty is to provide care rather than profit for shareholders. We will continue to resist the further privatisation of care, which often leads to the provision of poor services.

We believe care service users should be offered real choice in the services offered, and should always be consulted properly about any proposed service changes.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Initiated a council scrutiny of services for people with a dual diagnosis, with severe mental health problems and drug/alcohol addiction. The scrutiny recommendations were incorporated in the Working Age Mental Health Services Strategy for the city and local partners committing to address the issue as a priority.
- Won cross-party support for a successful motion to council calling for the roll out of heroin-injecting clinics in the city for 'hard to treat' heroin addicts.
- Campaigned and spoke against closure of day centres and older people's homes such as Vernon Gardens.
- Campaigned against cuts in the budgets for HIV/Aids support work.
- Championed the needs of people with autism, successfully calling for an autism specialist to act as a council strategic lead officer and successfully proposing a dedicated Scrutiny Panel in 2010 to help shape the local response to the new Autism Act.
- Participated in the annual Carers' challenge where councillors meet local carers to discuss help and support needs.

GREENS WILL:

- Resist continuing privatisation and cuts to social care services.

- Ensure adequate public-sector day care is provided.

- Monitor closely the welfare of those people covered by personalised care and continue to support the Federation of Disabled People in its work for this group.

- Ensure service changes are made only after fully involving users in the decision making process.

- Support the third sector to provide advocacy support for people in need of local services and in the delivery of supplementary care and support.

- Work to increase the supply of supported housing for vulnerable groups.

- Lobby for greater support for carers, both nationally and locally.

- Work with trade unions and employers to improve the conditions and services of care service workers, many of whom are poorly paid.

- Improve support for the increasing number of those with HIV/Aids who are living longer as treatments improve.

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Investing in our city's future

The Green Party wants children and young people to be happy, healthy and able make the best of their abilities through formal education in nurseries, schools and colleges and through a range of youth facilities and other services. Supporting their education is an investment in our city's future.

OUR VISION

Education should be free at the point of delivery and should promote a sense of community and responsibility in young people.

While supporting greater autonomy for schools, we believe local authorities should retain responsibility for ensuring every child has a

high standard of education through fair admissions policies and a balanced and diverse curriculum.

We oppose Academies, which remove control of schools from parents, teachers and the wider community. Evidence suggests Academies do not improve standards.

We oppose SATS and league tables in their current form. They encourage schools to be exam driven. Instead, greater emphasis should be placed on creativity, personal development, social skills and regular access to the outdoors and physical exercise.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Greens have

- Worked with trade unions and staff to defend youth services, such as Connexions, Turner Youth Project and Bright Start.
- Worked with officers to improve facilities, such as the long-neglected Turner Playbase and the Newhaven Street playground.
- Helped set up small community centres in the Queen's Park Estate and Craven Vale, which are used by youth services.
- Successfully campaigned for Food for Life standards for school meals.
- Worked on travel plans and safer routes to school schemes.
- Campaigned successfully for road safety improvements around schools in Elm Grove and Queen's Park.
- Involved young people in clean-up and community events.

GREENS WILL:

- Seek to provide high quality and accessible early years learning and do all we can to protect Bright Start, Sure Start and other nurseries.
- Assist parents to protect young children from the harmful effects of tobacco smoke by publishing information on childminders and childcare providers who have signed up to the Smokefree Homes and Cars Scheme.
- Continue to campaign for a new secondary and a new primary school for the city.
- Encourage faith schools to subscribe to the local authority admissions system, rather than

set their own admissions policies, which we believe are unfair.

- Continue to campaign against Academies and the privatisation of school and education services.
- Encourage schools to collaborate and share best practice.
- Continue to campaign for a living wage for all education workers.
- Build better links between further education, higher education and schools with more skills training and apprenticeships.
- Protect youth services, especially for young people at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) or falling into the criminal justice system.
- Campaign for a reinstatement of Building Schools for the Future money.
- Continue to support the eco-schools initiative.
- Help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint.
- Work to ensure every school has a transport plan.
- Ensure food in schools is nutritious, healthy and tasty and work towards Gold "Food for Life" standards.
- Continue to campaign for universal free school meals.
- Continue to protect the most vulnerable children's by sustaining funding for drug and alcohol outreach work and domestic violence and sexual violence services.
- Increase the life chances for children in care and bring fostering in-house to achieve better value for money and a high-quality service.
- Develop lifelong learning opportunities for people of all ages.
- Nationally the Green Party is the only party to support the retention of the Educational Maintenance Allowance and the abolition of all Higher Education tuition fees. This would be funded through a Business Education Tax levied on the top 4% of UK companies.
- We will continue to campaign for adequate funding for English as a Second Language courses. Massive reductions in this service will leave many recent migrants unable to learn English.

OLDER PEOPLE

Maintaining independence, offering care

Many of the 55,000 men and women aged 60 or more living in Brighton and Hove are fit and well and make a valuable contribution to society. They should be able to live independently and remain integrated into society for as long as they wish.

Significantly for local services, the number of those living beyond 80 is increasing and of those reaching 85, one in four will suffer from dementia. Many older people have very low incomes.

OUR VISION

Brighton and Hove City Council, other public services and voluntary organisations should work together to offer older people choice and independence in housing, care, public transport and local services.

The homes of older people should be adapted to meet their needs and, where necessary, be connected to care centres providing 24-hour cover. High quality and well managed sheltered and extra care housing should be available to those who need it.

Council and other public services for older people should be available at local one-stop shops, frequent and reliable bus services should be provided and support given to local shops and post offices.

All districts should be made welcoming to people of all ages and physical abilities through a Lifetime Neighbourhoods Programme that provides adequate public toilets, benches, dropped kerbs for prams and wheelchairs and other basic facilities.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Supported tenant campaign to retain resident managers in the council's sheltered housing schemes.
- Campaigned with older council tenants for the introduction of shared mobility scooters in sheltered housing schemes.
- Green councillor was a key contributor on the Dementia Services Scrutiny Panel. The council adopted the report's findings.
- Campaigned successfully to protect local bus services.
- Campaigned successfully for the retention of a post office in the London Road.
- Campaigned successfully for new benches and bus shelters at the request of older residents.
- Won funds for Age Concern to set up an IT/Wii pilot in a sheltered housing scheme.
- Campaigned on the rights and needs of older members of the LGBTI community.

GREENS WILL:

- Support the Older People's Council.
- Promote the wider involvement of not for profit third sector organisations rather than private companies in the care for older people.
- Monitor the work of home care providers and the employment conditions of home care workers.
- Work with voluntary organisations, like Age UK, to provide advice, home support and other services for older people.
- Continue to work with the Sheltered Housing Action Group to improve conditions in sheltered housing schemes.
- Work closely with voluntary organisations like Lunch Positive and the Gay Elderly Men's Society to help older LGBT members deal with discrimination and isolation and provide services to meet their needs.
- Work with local BME groups to improve services for older people in their communities and to help them deal with discrimination and isolation.
- Work with local care and repair agencies to make the best use of disabled facilities grants.

- Help older people access grants and loans to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce excess winter deaths.
- Promote and protect bus services.
- Work with co-housing organisations and co-ops to provide more choice in housing for older people.
- Stop the sell-off of all public toilets in the city and look at ways of bringing closed facilities back into use, like those in Upper Rock Gardens.

POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Working with communities to prevent crime

Crime has fallen in recent years, both in Brighton and Hove and nationally. There are fewer burglaries, car and bicycle thefts, street attacks, hate crimes and serious traffic incidents than a decade ago.

But the fear of crime, which keeps many people virtual prisoners in their own homes at night, has not fallen in line with the reality.

Sussex Police gets one of the country's smallest funding pots. Now, after years of savage cuts by Labour and Tory governments, it faces the daunting prospect of losing more than 1,000 police officers and staff during the next four years.

At the same time, unemployment is rising and hardship in the city will worsen. Deepening poverty leading to increased desperation and fewer police officers could create a perfect storm of rising crime for the first time in years.

Greens believe this can be prevented, and our streets and homes kept safer, by delivering policing differently. The police should work more closely with communities and other community safety agencies with a greater

emphasis on preventing crime and making us all feel safer in the first place.

VISION

Greens believe communities should be at the heart of policing. We think police officers and uniformed PCSOs should be visible in our neighbourhoods, and should attend community meetings to understand – and act on – local people's priorities. Their efforts should be focussed on building relationships with residents and businesses, and most of their time and effort spent preventing crime.

The police should work in close partnership with the city council, health providers and the community and voluntary sector, and devolve budgets to neighbourhood teams to spend on local policing priorities, and to fund youth work and other diversionary activities.

The police must continue to work closely with the criminal justice system to ensure those responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour are brought to justice. For less serious offences, the police should try to seek resolution between the offender and the victim through restorative justice.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Since 2007 the Green Party has delivered real change in the way policing is delivered in the city. Despite having only one member on the Sussex Police Authority, we punch above our weight. Our achievements include:

- More than 30 extra PCSOs on the streets of Sussex.
- A focus on neighbourhood policing in Brighton and Hove.
- The formation of new Local Action Teams in the city which give police the opportunity to hear community concerns and act on them.
- A new approach to enforcing the Hunting Act – treating hunting as an animal welfare, rather than a public order, issue.
- Brighton and Hove Police's commitment to 'facilitate peaceful protest.'
- Increased funding for services for victims of sexual violence in the city.

- Protecting funding for the city's dedicated Domestic Violence and LGBT community liaison officers.
- Monitoring and improving custody standards at police stations across Sussex.
- Championing the adoption of an environmental strategy that has seen Sussex become one of the 'greenest' police forces in the UK.
- Supporting licensing officers in their work to reduce alcohol-related harm in the city.

GREENS WILL:

- Campaign for a greater proportion of police budgets to be spent on the further development of neighbourhood policing to ensure a closer relationship between the police and the communities and businesses they serve.
- Introduce community budgeting to allow residents and businesses to determine the priorities for spending on neighbourhood policing.
- Promote greater partnership working, including pooled budgets, between the police, the city council, health providers and the community and voluntary sector to deal with the causes of crime, not least through more support for youth work and young people's activities.
- Encourage and develop Local Action Teams to ensure they are effective, open, transparent and accountable.
- Always strive to protect the human rights of every citizen.
- Monitor the police to ensure they deliver on their commitment to allow peaceful protest.

TRANSPORT

Offering choice for a better place to live

Our transport policy is designed to give people a choice of walking, cycling, using safe and affordable public transport or private vehicles to get around our city.

Greens champion better public transport and a better deal for walkers and cyclists. We are not

opposed to cars, but to car dependency. Most car journeys made in the city are local and unnecessary and could be walked, cycled or made by bus.

We believe we need to persuade people to change the way they travel, if we are to tackle climate change, cut the city's carbon footprint and make Brighton and Hove a better and safer place to live.

OUR VISION

We believe a fair balance must be struck between the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, public transport users and motorists. It should be possible to redesign a city where everybody can get around easily without harming the well being of others.

Our vision is a city with clean air where cycling and walking routes are safe and attractive, and public transport is an affordable, reliable, convenient choice for more people.

To achieve our vision we must learn from the best in Europe. In these challenging times public money for transport projects is scarce. We must make it work harder on schemes that deliver excellent value for money.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Led the successful public campaign to save the cycle lane in Hove that links the sea front with the South Downs National Park.
- Increased cycle parking in residential areas.
- Improved the city's cycling infrastructure.
- Supported the introduction of Controlled Parking Schemes (CPZ) in areas where residents have requested them.
- Increased support for 20mph speed limits in residential areas.
- Led the successful opposition to reduce the car domination of Brighton and Hove proposed by the Tories for the next decade.
- Campaigned to protect local bus services.

GREENS WILL:

- Continue to press for a 20mph limit and other safety measures.
- Allocate at least 10% of the transport budget to walking and cycling.
- Aim to set up a public bike hire scheme.

- Create a core network of safe cycle routes across the city.
- Introduce more on street cycle parking.
- Remove street clutter.
- Introduce more streets with shared space.
- Introduce Home Zones where residents support them.
- Give greater support to car clubs.
- Extend residents' parking schemes where they have majority support.
- Earmark a percentage of parking income for environmental improvements in the neighbourhoods where the money is raised with local people deciding how the money is spent.
- Introduce work-place parking charges.
- Improve walking and cycling routes to the South Down National Park.
- Promote walking and cycling initiatives in schools through the Bike It project.
- Promote the introduction of rapid transit systems on key routes linking to the city to East and West Sussex.
- Promote the use of alternative fuelled vehicles, particularly electric vehicles
- Work with bus and rail companies to provide a better-integrated transport system.
- Explore the use of local government bonds to raise the capital for major improvements to the city's transport infrastructure.
- Work with bus companies to introduce Oyster Cards and hybrid buses.
- Help small local businesses by increasing the number of trade permits

“ The case is overwhelming. Burying or burning waste is twice as expensive as recycling and wastes finite natural resources ”

WASTE, RECYCLING AND FIGHTING GRIME

Creating a zero-waste city

We've got a long way to go to create a zero-waste city. Waste recycled in Brighton and Hove fell to only 27.45% of the total in 2009/10 from 29.5% in the previous year. It was a dismal performance and leaves the city trailing behind the regional average of 35%.

Food waste accounted for more than a third of the waste collected and sent to landfill, and it's estimated each household in the city throws away food worth £680 each year.

The state of the city's streets is a constant cause of complaint by residents and visitors alike, despite the best efforts of Cityclean staff. In the past year, for example, Green councillors have received more complaints than ever about dog fouling and fly tipping.

OUR VISION

A Green council will work towards a zero waste Brighton and Hove. The business case is overwhelming. Burying or burning waste is twice as expensive as recycling and wastes finite natural resources. To support our policy of 'reduce, reuse and only then recycle' we believe greater emphasis must be placed on waste reduction and the recycling of wood, furniture and other materials. We will promote city-wide waste reduction and food waste collection, encourage more residents to compost their garden waste and continue to campaign for reduced packaging of goods.

Greens want to see cleaner streets and open spaces, an issue raised constantly by residents and visitors. We believe this can be helped by better education, information and, where necessary, fines for people who drop litter, let their dogs foul pavements or scar the city with unsightly graffiti.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Greens have

- Campaigned since 2004 for the introduction of a kitchen waste collection pilot.
- Campaigned for the introduction of a waste reduction pilot.
- Led the successful local campaign to reduce the use of plastic carrier bags in Brighton and Hove.
- Worked with council staff and residents to achieve environmental improvements and tree planting schemes.
- Led the successful campaign to introduce Binvelopes in Hanover.
- Campaigned for better street cleaning.
- Led the successful campaign to restrict dogs to nominated areas in Queen's Park.
- Campaigned for stricter controls on dogs.
- Opposed the PFI waste incinerator project and campaigned with residents against the opening of the Hollingdean transfer station.

GREENS WILL:

- Increase recycling and composting rates as part of a drive to ensure 70% of the Brighton and Hove's domestic waste is recycled by 2015 as a move towards a zero-waste city.
- Launch a food waste collection pilot as a first step to introducing a city- wide scheme.
- Launch a waste minimisation pilot as a first step to introducing a city- wide scheme.
- Investigate ways in which the council could provide commercial waste and recycling collections to reduce commercial traffic in the city and provide an additional revenue stream to offset cuts in central government funding.
- Oppose the development of any further landfill or landraise sites in Sussex.
- Tackle fly tipping by better publicity on how to recycle / exchange / dispose of unwanted goods for free or a small charge.

GREEN WINS ON THE FOOD FRONT

Following Green campaigning:

- The council has adopted tougher environmental and animal welfare standards for food, including Bronze Food for Life catering accreditation for school meals and ending the use of battery eggs in its in-house catering;
- Food growing in the city has a prominent place in new draft planning policy, and the Food Partnership's 'Harvest' programme is going from strength to strength;
- The Council's Trading Standards team now challenges manufacturers of over-packaged goods, and have investigated the use of unlabelled GM products in the city's catering trade.

URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING*A better
built-environment for
everyone*

Located between the Downs and the sea, Brighton and Hove is a special place. But space is at a premium in our 1800 city, especially with a population set to grow by 10,000 to 271,000 by 2015.

Greens know planning and architecture contribute far more than mere bricks and mortar. We want the city to develop in a way that creates comfortable, attractive homes, provides office space to deliver new jobs, protects local facilities and invests in the infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport. Planning should create great buildings and great public spaces – but it must also create a city that's fairer and built to last. Sustainable development can help to tackle health inequalities and climate change too.

OUR VISION

Our city's historic buildings and streets must be celebrated and preserved while we meet growing demands for sustainable living. We have a pressing need for new, affordable housing. But we can't simply trade off quality for quantity. We want to see top-class architects competing to design the city's new buildings, alongside consultation with local communities for all developments.

The climate change challenge means we must increase the energy efficiency of buildings. By using renewable energy technology and combined heat and power systems and through waste and resource efficiency, we can make real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We can also improve the city's biodiversity by asking for simple measures in new schemes.

Greens want Brighton and Hove to be a city where people want to spend time in the streets, parks and other public spaces. We want to make the most of our location and the links between the Downs and the city. And we want a safe and healthy city, where children can play outdoors.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Thanks to Green calls for action, the council has implemented a tougher policy on sustainability standards on new homes.
- Green councillors worked with their communities to bring beneficial changes to major developments, for example the old Royal Alex Children's Hospital.
- Greens have championed biodiversity measures for new schemes, including bird and bat boxes and native planting.
- We have fought for decent-sized affordable homes in new developments.

• We worked with other opposition parties to ensure the city's Core Strategy (the 'blueprint' for Brighton and Hove's future):

- Creates a better quality of life for residents
- Improves air quality
- Sets clear targets for becoming a zero-carbon city
- Provides more land for local food growing
- Ensures the city becomes a hub for emerging energy technologies and low-carbon industries.

GREENS WILL:

- Work to upgrade planning requirements ahead of Buildings Regulation changes, to ensure new buildings in the city are zero-carbon by 2014, rather than the national target of 2016.
- Reduce the city's eco-footprint by continuing to champion sustainable design principles for all new building and regeneration projects.
- Continue to push for ambitious targets for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable building design and materials.
- Increase tree-planting programmes and continue to support biodiversity measures.
- Ensure that at least 30% of energy consumption in public buildings is generated through renewable sources by 2015.
- Produce a Brighton & Hove Housing Design Guide containing minimum acceptable dimensions for new homes.
- Ensure the design and use of the built environment is inclusive and reflects the needs and aspirations of minority groups.
- Work to support the drafting of 'neighbourhood plans' by local communities.

“ Our city's historic buildings and streets must be celebrated and preserved while we meet demands for sustainable living. We have a pressing need for new, affordable housing. But we can't simply trade quality for quantity ”

PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND BIODIVERSITY

Sustaining and developing rich natural assets

Brighton and Hove City Council owns and manages urban parks, allotments and green spaces as well as 13,000 acres of farmland on the city's doorstep. These valuable assets contribute hugely to the physical and mental well being of the city's densely packed population by providing places for recreation and relaxation.

These spaces, which also bring economic benefits to the city, must be managed more sustainably and improved for residents. Everyone benefits from reduced impacts on the environment and rich biodiversity. The new South Downs National Park will include large areas of city-owned land, and Greens believe the city should be a key access point to the Park.

OUR VISION

The intensively farmed arable land on the city's farmland estate should be restored to species-rich downland and protected in perpetuity from development. The economies of the urban and rural areas should be seen as a whole rather than as two separate issues – the National Park makes this shift in perception absolutely vital.

The city should work towards UN Biosphere Status through its programmes in rural and in urban areas where it should showcase green initiatives, such as green roofs and walls in new developments, and create green networks to link open spaces across the city. Public realm improvements are needed in significant spaces, among them Brighton Station Gateway, Hove Station, Portslade Station, Valley Gardens and Preston Circus.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Actively supported progress towards the South Downs National Park.

- Pushed for directly elected seats on National Park Authority.
- Supported work to win investment for The Level redevelopment and worked with local communities to develop design options for its future.
- Supported conservation mowing of downland.
- Played central role in reopening consultation on the council's work at Wild Park.
- Pressed Council to develop Biodiversity Action Plan, and Open Spaces Strategy

GREENS WILL

- Link together the green spaces of Old Steine, Victoria Gardens and St Peter's Church and re-route the traffic in Valley Gardens to create a vibrant new public park for the city centre.
- Designate all council owned land as Open Access Land.
- Provide an office for the South Downs National Park in the city as a source of information and starting point for visits to the Park.
- Develop a city centre Downland Interpretation Centre.
- Promote health and economic benefits of tourism in the South Downs National Park.
- Drive progress forwards towards UN Biosphere Status.
- Improve sustainable management of urban open spaces and restore important habitats.
- Develop community based and sustainable food production on council tenanted farms.
- Make wider use of the downland estate for educational purposes.
- Use composted green waste generated in city as a source of fertiliser for local farms.
- Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan and an Open Spaces Strategy.
- Work to protect endangered bee populations by supporting development of self-funding bee keeping on city land.
- Set up citywide forums for Friends of Parks organisations and for wildlife/ access groups.
- Protect and improve allotments.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITIES

Ensuring respect and dignity

Much has been achieved in the equalities front in Brighton and Hove. However, Greens recognise much more remains to be done, if we are to create a just and equal city where everybody is treated with kindness, respect and dignity.

In Brighton and Hove, for example,

- Members of the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Intersex (LGBTI) community are still subjected to abuse and homophobic attacks. 167 incidents were reported to the police between April and November 2010, a rise of 42%.
- Racist attacks in the city were up by 7% to 408 during the same period.
- Domestic violence scars our community. Local domestic violence charity Rise helps more than 800 women and their families each year.
- Disabled people are the victims of physical and mental abuse.
- Travellers, often the subject of prejudice, are still without a permanent campsite in the city.

OUR VISION

The Green Party aims to treat everyone equally and fairly. Our goal is to ensure respect for everyone whatever their ethnicity, gender and gender identity, beliefs, sexual orientation, class, size, disability or other status.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Worked with the city's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), community groups and others to reduce hate crime in all its forms.
- Consistently exposed and opposed Government cuts in HIV/Aids spending.
- Worked with the organisers and community groups to sustain Pride in 2011.

- Worked with the LGBTI community and other political parties to create the Aids memorial in New Steine Gardens.
- Supported and worked with LGBTI community groups.
- Campaigned on the needs of older LGBTI community members.
- Campaigned on the needs of young and homeless members of the LGBTI community.
- Supported the work of Rise – the local charity that works with women subjected to domestic violence and their families.
- Campaigned for a permanent campsite for travellers in Brighton within a national framework that provides enough sites to meet all their needs.

GREENS WILL:

- Continue to campaign for equal pay and opportunities for women.
- Campaign against reductions in the HIV/Aids budget and work targeted at preventing sexually transmitted infections.
- Work for the introduction of training for teachers and education staff on all diversity and inclusion issues.
- Promote equal opportunities in anti-bullying strategies to tackle homophobic and racist bullying in schools.
- Continue to support the work of Rise and other groups dealing with domestic violence.
- Ensure council decisions and services are delivered equally.
- Work with local voluntary organisations and the CDRP to tackle homophobia, racism and domestic violence.
- Work with the trade unions and other groups to strengthen the council's equality policies.
- Campaign against any reductions in funding for combating and dealing with homophobia, racism and domestic violence.
- Campaign for a permanent traveller site in the city.
- Work with all council departments and other organisations to ensure travellers have access to health, education and other services.
- Protect sensitive and inappropriate locations from unauthorised encampments.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Ending suffering and exploitation

The Green Party believes all animals should be respected and valued and not seen simply as products for use, experiment or entertainment by humans. All animals have the right to live without exploitation or suffering inflicted by humans. The decent and dignified treatment of all animals is the hallmark of a civilised society.

OUR VISION

We remain committed to working with the council, other public bodies, campaign groups, businesses and the general public to improve the lives of wild and captive animals. We will continue to oppose cruelty to animals at every opportunity, and through our conservation and development policies we will seek to protect and enhance wildlife habitats.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Successfully campaigned to stop new seal/otter enclosure at the Brighton Sea Life Centre. Followed-up with a lobby/scrutiny of animal welfare conditions at the centre and presented a letter to the council's Licensing Committee challenging independence of government veterinary inspections.
- Campaigned successfully for the use of free-range eggs in council catering and maintained lobbying to improve standards of cruelty-free procurement in all council purchasing.
- Persuaded Sussex Police Authority to scrutinise local implementation of ban on hunting with dogs.
- Lobbied against council use of conventional wildlife control methods and made formal request for a council 'Humane Wildlife Deterrent Strategy' for use in these cases
- Liaised with Animal Aid/Meat Free Monday activists from Ghent, Belgium, on the

introduction of Meat Free Mondays in Brighton and Hove.

- Secured a commitment from the council not to offer Foie Gras on any council-owned premises

GREENS WILL:

- Work to end any animal experimentation activities in Brighton and Hove
- Ensure the highest standards of animal welfare at Brighton Racecourse and Hove Greyhound Stadium and for retired racehorses and greyhounds and at aquariums, pet shops and any other places where animals are captive or used in entertainment
- End the use of animals in circuses and other entertainment in Brighton and Hove
- Work to achieve highest standards of animal welfare in council catering establishments, using local/organic producers wherever possible and ensuring 'providence' can be demonstrated
- Work to ensure the use of exclusively green/non-animal tested products in council cleaning and office products
- Promote the environmental/green imperative for reducing meat consumption
- Introduce a 'Meat Free Mondays' in all Council catering establishments.
- Introduce vegetarian and vegan alternatives at all council-owned venues.
- Replace conventional and inhumane 'pest control' methods with a Council Humane Wildlife Deterrent Strategy
- Oppose badger culling in Brighton and Hove
- Uphold the ban on hunting with dogs on council owned land
- Ban the use of all lead shot and weights used by anglers and the use of snares on all council land
- Promote responsible pet ownership and support the neutering and spaying of companion animals
- Oppose all proposals for new vivisection laboratories and promote investment in humane research.

BUILDING A CITY FOR THE FUTURE

Moving towards

Brighton and Hove lives beyond its eco-means. Indeed, if every community shared our lifestyle, we would need 3.5 planets to meet the Earth's needs.

A determined public wish to reform the city with the worst ecological footprint record in the UK can be seen in the work of the many flourishing neighbourhood eco-groups and the increasing number of people in Brighton and Hove who vote Green in national and local elections.

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge we face. If we fail to tackle it, Brighton and Hove will face increased risks from extreme weather. Globally, risks will increase to food and water supplies, people's homes, disease and the extinction of wildlife species.

OUR VISION

Voters have turned Green because they share our vision of creating a One Planet City in a One Planet World: a fair city where healthy and happy communities live within their eco-means. We believe the environmental impact of our lifestyles must be reduced to give everyone the same opportunities.

Many of the policies in this manifesto are designed to cut our carbon emissions and tackle climate change by retro-fitting the city's older homes that leak CO₂ like a sieve, reducing and recycling more waste and encouraging green transport. As well as benefiting the environment, these measures will improve health, cut tax bills and support the local economy.

Thanks to Green councillors, Brighton and Hove City Council has set ambitious climate change targets, but it is failing badly to meet them. Only the Green Party has the policies and commitment to get the city back on track.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Adoption of challenging citywide targets for carbon reduction in the Sustainable Community Strategy: 42% cut by 2020, and 80% cut by 2050.
- Adoption of tough and UK-leading sustainability standards for new buildings, through planning rules.
- Council is entering into a Community Energy Savings Programme partnership with an energy company to retrofit large numbers of council homes.
- Council has adopted British Standards-accredited sustainability standards for all public events and is rolling out the ISO14001 Environmental Management Scheme to improve internal performance.

GREENS WILL:

- Adopt local carbon budgets, reported on alongside the financial budget each year and aligned with our citywide targets.
- Create an ambitious programme of 'whole house' retrofitting for public and private sector homes through a council-owned Energy Services Company. It would include insulation, double-glazing and renewable energy sources to benefit from Feed In Tariffs and the new Renewable Heat Initiative. The programme would be supported by a 'pay as you save' fund through which long-term loans made to

One Planet living

householders would be repaid through utility bills savings. Repayments would be recycled into the fund to finance further loans.

- Employ the Energy Services Company to develop local low and zero carbon heat and electricity networks, supply council buildings and businesses in the city. The company would work with community energy projects such as the Brighton Energy Co-op.
- Upgrade planning requirements ahead of Buildings Regulation changes to ensure new developments in the city are built to zero-carbon standards by 2014 rather than national target of 2016
- Set clear minimum environmental and social standards for all its purchasing to favour reused, recycled, low-energy use, low-embodied energy, organic and free range products and/or those certified by appropriate bodies such as the Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council and Fairtrade Foundation.

ONE PLANET LIVING FRAMEWORK

The One Planet Living framework was developed by BioRegional and WWF to help people and organisations live and work within a fair share of our planet's resources. It has ten guiding principles, which the Green Party supports. They are:

- Making buildings more energy efficient and delivering all energy with renewable technology.
- Reducing waste, reusing where possible, and ultimately sending zero waste to landfill.
- Encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions, reducing the need to travel.

- Using sustainable healthy products, with low embodied energy, sourced locally, made from renewable or waste resources.
- Choosing low impact, local, seasonal and organic diets and reducing food waste.
- Using water more efficiently in buildings and in the products we buy, tackling local flooding and watercourse pollution.
- Protecting and restoring biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration into the built environment.
- Reviving local identity and wisdom and supporting and participating in the arts.
- Creating bioregional economies that support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade.
- Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.



Pic: Nasa

DEMOCRACY AND TRUST

A city run by and

The Green Party won its first Brighton and Hove council seat in 1996 and now has 13 councillors. In May 2011 we have an opportunity to win more seats and maybe even lead the council.

Our city is a great place to live and work. By including local people and businesses in decision-making more than ever before and changing how the council works, we can improve it to deliver a stronger and fairer economy with a better quality of life for all with a council that local people can trust.

It won't be easy in the face of a Conservative/Liberal Democrat government slashing local government budgets. However, with truly open, collaborative and participatory leadership we believe a better city is possible.

OUR VISION

We want to give residents more power to make decisions for their neighbourhoods. We want to restore democratic control of decisions by opening up the way councillors and officers make decisions, to all political parties and the public.

We will back public and not-for-profit organisations to deliver services to meet the city's needs.

GREEN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Promoted and chaired Local Action Teams and Neighbourhood Forums in their wards to bring local residents together with the police, council services and the universities.
- Worked with and helped local community and residents' groups raise funds, set up local activities for people of all ages and secure small community centres.
- Helped local businesses challenge unfair rent increases.
- Campaigned against the privatisation of council and health services.
- Campaigned for easier access for residents to council services.

GREENS WILL:

- Offer local people a greater say in designing, delivering and monitoring local services by giving them power to set up local neighbourhood councils with devolved community budgets and decision-making powers.
- Establish a virtual "one-stop shop" offering all citizens and service users information about having a say – initially for council services, but eventually for all public services.
- Work towards returning the council to a committee system, which is more democratic and ensures the voices of all parties are heard in decision-making.

for its residents

- Use open data formats and licensing for the publication of council information, reports, data and media.
- Automatically publish the results of Freedom of Information requests as long as they do not impinge on personal privacy.
- Remove restrictive terms and conditions from the council's online planning and licensing application registers and meeting webcast system.
- Require contracts agreed by the council to be public documents, and for suppliers to be subject to Freedom of Information requests from the public.
- Focus on returning services in-house wherever possible within the financial and contractual limitations of existing provisions.
- Work to reduce the ratio between the salaries of highest and lowest paid council officers to a maximum of 10.
- Involve front-line staff in designing and delivering improved local services.
- Use innovative revenue sources including the feed-in-tariff for renewable energy generation to fund core services and alleviate central government cuts.
- Oppose Government plans to replace the Sussex Police Authority, which has elected councillors on its board, including one from Brighton and Hove, with a directly elected police commissioner for Sussex who will not be subject to local checks and balances.

By including local people and businesses in decision-making, and by changing how the council works, we can improve our city to deliver a stronger and fairer economy with a better quality of life for all, and a council that local people can trust.



*Join us in making
Brighton and Hove a
fairer, safer, cleaner and
greener city
Vote Green on 5th May*

CONTACT BRIGHTON AND HOVE GREEN PARTY

To find out more, to help our campaigns, or to
join the Green movement:

Phone: 01273 766670

Email: info@brightonhovegreens.org

Web: www.brightonhovegreens.org

Printed by Reprint, Unit 1, Industrial House, Conway Street, Hove.

Promoted by Leo Littman and Nigel Tart on behalf of Brighton &
Hove Green Party, all of 39-41 Surrey Street, Brighton, BN1 3PB.