



*Rejuvenating
Our City*

2015
MANIFESTO



Brighton and Hove
Green Party

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, Brighton & Hove made history by electing the UK's first Green-led Council. Since then, the Coalition Government has slashed our city's budget by £80 million — the second biggest reduction in the South East. Despite this, unlike many other councils, we have been able to keep all our services open and attract £86 million of external funding to improve and rejuvenate our city.

Brighton & Hove is in the midst of a transformation. Major regeneration projects such as the Open Market and the award-winning Level are complete with others underway. The local economy is outperforming the rest of the country; we are one of the top four UK cities for business start-ups; we have seen 9000 jobs created and we're the country's most popular seaside resort.

On top of all this, Brighton & Hove is now the world's first accredited 'One Planet City' in recognition of our citywide Sustainability Action Plan, and in 2014 became the UK's first UN Biosphere Reserve for 40 years.

Our Green-led Council was one of the first to introduce a Living Wage and fight the bedroom tax. By 2014, we ensured all council homes met the 'Decent Homes Standard' and insulated them to reduce tenants fuel bills. We have brought 891 empty homes back into use and have a programme to build 750 new affordable homes. We have opened two new junior schools and announced plans for a much-needed new secondary school.

We've improved the safety of our neighbourhoods by listening to residents and implementing 20mph speed limits where people want them. The number of people seriously hurt in road accidents has already dropped by 20%.

In some areas, despite huge efforts, we have been unable to achieve all we wanted. One of our biggest priorities has been creating a refuse and recycling system that works for everyone. Unfortunately, years of Conservative and Labour failure to apply equal pay and conditions at Cityclean created a situation where men and women doing similar jobs were not paid equally. This was not only unfair but against the law so we had no choice but to take action.

As a result, recycling has not improved as we had hoped. However, we are now on the road to progress with a re-designed service underway, new communal bin schemes and new recycling wheelie bins where appropriate, and brand new lorries.

We have robust ambitions for the next four years, as our pledges show, but the Council's greatest challenge will be dealing with the impacts of austerity and climate change. Both Tories and Labour state they will continue to cut local government, with a colossal £90 million still to go by 2020. And neither party prioritises the climate.

We hold firm to our belief in the proper provision of in-house local government services, including refuse and recycling and good quality care services. We are committed to protecting the environment, safeguarding services, fighting privatisation and attracting new income to ensure Brighton & Hove continues to thrive.



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WHAT WE PROMISED IN 2011 & WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

1. Resist, to the greatest extent possible, the service cuts and privatisation imposed on local councils by the Conservative and Lib Dem Government.

Nationally, Greens have been at the forefront of efforts to fight the austerity agenda, and locally we have worked hard to protect residents from the impact of these cuts. While councils up and down the country have been axing bus services and closing children's centres and libraries, we have managed to keep these services running. We have even opened new libraries in Woodingdean and Mile Oak.

Greens have been at the forefront of efforts to fight the austerity agenda

2. End the waste of empty council and privately owned buildings and land to provide affordable workspaces.

We have kick-started developments that have been languishing, including Circus Street, Preston Barracks and the old Co-op building on London Road. These have all been empty for years and are now back on track to provide new homes, facilities and employment space.

In addition, we have completed the new Open Market and worked with the community to regenerate the London Road area. This has been a huge success, turning it from one of the most neglected shopping areas to a thriving, vibrant community.

3. Retain our commitment to building a new and low carbon Brighton centre on the seafront.

In December 2014, agreement was reached in principle for the development of a new seafront

conference centre and enhanced shopping facilities to boost the local economy and provide 2000 jobs. The scheme also includes 460 much-needed new homes.

4. Work with Brighton & 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.

As of May 2015, we have planned and produced a programme, with our partners, that will yield 750 new affordable homes plus 15 pitches on the Travellers' site. Of these, more than 200 are council houses and flats. In addition, we have brought nearly 900 empty homes back into use.

5. Create an ambitious programme to insulate every home in the city and install renewable energy technologies.

In March 2014, we hit our target of 100% of council homes meeting the Decent Homes standard.

We have also installed solar panels in six Senior Housing schemes, with more planned for five additional schemes and 150 council homes and begun a study of two district heating schemes to reduce fuel poverty and cut the city's carbon footprint.

6. Produce a Brighton & Hove Housing Design Guide containing minimum acceptable space and design standards for new homes.

We have produced a design guide for extensions and alterations, and published a new Sustainability Checklist for all new developments in the city.

7. Support high quality and accessible early years learning and do all we can to protect Bright Start, Sure Start and other nurseries.

In opposition we successfully challenged Conservative plans to close the council-run Bright Start nursery in central Brighton. In office, we've acted to secure its future and despite huge Government cuts we

have managed to keep all children's centres open and will continue to campaign for their futures.

8. Implement a 20mph speed limit for Brighton & Hove's residential roads.

Following an extensive consultation programme almost the entire city's residential areas now benefit from 20mph speed limits, greatly improving the safety of our neighbourhoods, especially for children. On roads where 20mph has been introduced the number of casualties classed as 'serious' has dropped by 20% since the changes were made.

9. Drive up recycling and composting rates, and introduce a food waste collection service.

The city's refuse and recycling service has been blighted for years with poor results and we have worked hard to turn things around, although there is much more still to do and funding for improvements continues to be a problem due to Government cuts. However, recycling rates in Brunswick & Adelaide ward jumped by 70% after communal recycling was introduced in 2012 and we have now rolled this out across the city centre. Our plans for a food waste collection service were sadly thwarted by Conservative and Labour councillors who refused to back funding for a pilot scheme.

10. Make Brighton & Hove the number one centre for eco-tourism in the new South Downs National Park.

In May 2013, we became the world's first accredited 'One Planet City' in recognition of our city-wide Sustainability Action Plan. In June 2014, we successfully became the UK's first UN Biosphere Reserve for 40 years through the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project.

We have also dedicated 1326 acres of public downland to our open access land under the Countryside Rights of Way Act and created a new access route alongside Ditchling Road for walkers and cyclists to enjoy the National Park.

11. Link together the green spaces of Old Steine, Victoria Gardens and St Peter's Church and re-route the traffic in Valley Gardens.

We have secured £14m of Government funding to transform this area into a city centre park, all the way from St Peter's Church to the seafront, and are working hard to ensure work on the project starts this year. In addition, we have overseen the successful transformation of The Level, a popular and stunning development that has won a Green Flag award as well as a Civic Trust award for its outstanding contribution to the environment and the community.

We've acted to secure the future of the Bright Start nursery and have kept all children's centres open

12. Create local neighbourhood councils with local budgets and decision-making powers.

We have supported the establishment of neighbourhood councils in Whitehawk and Moulsecomb and will continue to support communities that want their own neighbourhood council to take more control over where money should be spent in their areas.

13. Roll out a 'Living Wage' for City Council employees.

We were one of the first councils to introduce a Living Wage for council employees (which is above the minimum wage). In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce we have also supported over 200 businesses in the city to pay their staff the living wage, improving the lives of thousands of the city's lower-paid workers.

SOME AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS WON BY BRIGHTON & HOVE DURING THE LAST FOUR YEARS

2012

SEPTEMBER: named the least car dependent city outside of London by The Campaign for Better Transport

OCTOBER: runner-up in CIVITAS City of the Year Award

2013

JANUARY: named the most LGB-friendly local authority employer in the country

APRIL: Living Wage employer accreditation

MAY: becomes the world's first accredited 'One Planet City'

AUGUST: best GCSE results ever, with pass rates rising when national rates are falling

OCTOBER: two Safer Parking Awards given by British Parking Association (BPA) for work on Regency Square and Trafalgar Street car parks

OCTOBER: runner-up in CIVITAS City of the Year Award

NOVEMBER: honourable mention in the World Green Building Council's Government Leadership Awards for planning guidance

2014

MARCH: 100% of council homes meet Decent Homes standard.

APRIL: granted Film Friendly City status by Creative England

MAY: named UK's most popular seaside resort by Office for National Statistics

JUNE: Centre for Public Scrutiny Award

JUNE: became the UK's first UN Biosphere for 40 years

JUNE: Brighton & Hove named by Centre for Cities as third best city in the UK for SME growth

JULY: named top local authority in the country by Stonewall for tackling homophobia and biphobia in schools

JULY: Royal Pavilion and Museums Trust awarded Major Partner Museum Status by Arts Council England

JULY: newly restored The Level wins first Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy campaign, joining six other city parks

SEPTEMBER: awarded CIVITAS City of the Year 2014 for extensive work on sustainable transport

OCTOBER: highly commended at National Transport Awards for work on Lewes Road and Seven Dials

NOVEMBER: 'Promotion of Lepidoptera Conservation Award' for outstanding work in creating 15 butterfly havens across the city

NOVEMBER: all school meals meet Soil Association's Silver Standard

2015

JANUARY: named top local authority in the country by Stonewall for supporting LGB staff and supporting the LGB community

JANUARY: JourneyOn travel website/app shortlisted for 'Smarter Travel Awards'

FEBRUARY: Lewes Road improvements win 'Most Improved Journey to Work' at Smarter Travel Awards

MARCH: Soil Association Food for Life Silver Award granted for catering throughout council

MARCH: The Level wins Civic Trust Award for outstanding contribution to the environment and the community

MARCH: Green leader Jason Kitcat wins 'Judges Special Award for Contribution to Local Government' at sixth annual LGIU (Local Government Information Unit) Councillor Achievement Awards

MARCH: Driving (Sustainable) Growth Award from Local Government Chronicle

OUR PLANS FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

HOUSING

Build 500 new social rented homes and a new generation of council homes with genuinely affordable rents. In the private sector, we will bring at least 700 empty homes back into use, establish a Living Rent Commission and use our landlord licensing scheme to improve rental conditions. We will continue to oppose the Bedroom Tax and maintain our no evictions policy.

Build new social and council homes with affordable rents

EDUCATION

See our school expansion through – especially our new secondary school. We will also develop a much-needed new catchment area plan for fair admissions and seek to retain a proper, democratically accountable, integrated LEA-run school system.

Create a tree-filled valley garden, from St Peter's to the seafront

CITY STREETS

Continue our vision for the city's streets, using a new permits scheme to make roadworks less disruptive. We will make our streets even safer and

less polluted, extend our cycle lane network and bid for funding to finish renewing our Victorian seafront arches. We will use the £14 million we've already won from central Government to create a new single, tree-filled valley garden, sweeping through the city centre from St Peter's to the seafront.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Bring more derelict land back into productive and sustainable use, support the tourism sector, independent retailers, growing businesses, apprenticeships and job creation, and encourage adoption of the Living Wage. We will facilitate the delivery of the £173 million City Deal which will create 8,500 new jobs, while building on our track record of nurturing a sustainable and flourishing local economy.

Create new jobs, while nurturing a sustainable local economy

ENVIRONMENT

Continue to implement our Sustainability Action Plan as the world's first One Planet City. We will pursue recycling improvements by replacing the inadequate black boxes with communal bins or household wheelie bins, and continue to improve our urban and Downland environments.

EQUALITIES

Build on the accolades won for our work with LGBTQI communities. We will continue to address issues raised by our pioneering assessments of needs for trans people, black & ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities. We will continue

to work with voluntary groups who support older people and those who work in the field of sexual violence and community safety. We will also start work on the permanent Travellers' Site, and continue to liaise with the Friends & Families of Travellers and local communities affected by unauthorised encampments.

Champion equality, fairness and the rights of the marginalised

ANIMALS

Strive for the highest standards of animal welfare at Brighton Racecourse, Hove Greyhound Stadium and the Sealife Centre, and more generally in catering, wildlife deterrence, humane research, pet shops, animal breeders and suppliers. We will also campaign for ending the use of animals in circuses and other entertainment.

Improve libraries and leisure facilities

CULTURE AND LEISURE

Work with the new King Alfred centre developer to ensure a leisure facility that meets the city's needs and aspirations. We will continue improving libraries and leisure facilities to encourage more sustainable and health-related events such as the Brighton Marathon and Half Marathon. We will continue to support the city's arts and creative sector to maintain our position the cultural hub of the region.

IF ELECTED FOR A SECOND TERM WE WILL: PLEDGES

- 1** Fight to maintain adequate funding for our city's public services and resist privatisation.
- 2** Champion equality, fairness and the rights of the poor and the marginalised in our communities.
- 3** Continue to develop a strong, sustainable economy that creates jobs and opportunities, and support the community and voluntary sector to provide the vital services that so many of us rely on.
- 4** Aim for the highest standards of education for our young people, and resist attempts to turn local authority schools into academies.
- 5** Improve air quality and road safety by making walking and cycling safer and more attractive and by encouraging cleaner public transport.
- 6** Facilitate the development of more housing projects in the city, prioritising truly affordable homes, council housing and support for the homeless.
- 7** Continue to improve energy efficiency in our city's buildings to fight fuel poverty and reduce the city's carbon emissions.
- 8** Further improve access to recreational and leisure activities around the city and to the beautiful National Park right on our doorstep.
- 9** Continue to develop and promote Brighton & Hove as the country's top seaside tourist destination.
- 10** Continue to work towards the highest standards of animal welfare and for a ban on the use of animals in circuses and other entertainment in the city.

FINANCE

INTRODUCTION

Councils have suffered cuts of 27% in real terms since 2010 — the biggest in the public sector. The challenges will get worse as Tories, Labour and Lib Dems all promise to continue with a harsh austerity programme through to 2020. We promise to be innovative and aggressive in defence of city services and vulnerable residents. Loss of funding was largely met by efficiencies from 2012/13 to 2014/15 when over £70 million was taken from the city's budget. But from 2015/16 onwards there will have to be significant cuts to services unless there's a change in Government policy — something the Green Party is vigorously campaigning for.

Explore a local currency to support local trade

The creation of the Greater Brighton City Region under the Green-led City Council offers the opportunity for greater collaborative working across the public sector to make efficiencies. This could build on the 70+ services the council already shares and sells to others in the region.

We promise to be innovative and aggressive in defence of city services and vulnerable residents

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Actively explore all possible legal avenues to raise additional income in a progressive manner.
- ▶ Continue to improve and expand restaurants and cafes in our parks to create more rental income.
- ▶ Expand offering use of existing council services to the local private sector for a fee, e.g. payroll, building control, health and safety, architecture.
- ▶ Explore a local currency to support local trade from which the Council may make a fair gain from enhanced local trade.
- ▶ Continue to flatten council structures where appropriate. The Green-led City Council has already brought down the number of senior managers to an all-time low and reduced the high-low pay ratio to almost 10:1.
- ▶ Explore ways of working with neighbouring authorities to achieve efficiencies in order to enable us to maintain good quality public services in the face of Government cuts.
- ▶ Support subsidised leisure services/ facilities to self-finance or allow them to be community managed, with suitable safeguards for those on low incomes.
- ▶ Self-finance museums by examining arms-length models such as charitable trusts which could access more grant funding.
- ▶ Explore legal avenues where Government funding cuts breach UN and European human rights obligations.

EQUALITIES & FAIRNESS

INTRODUCTION

Greens have worked hard during the past four years to bring greater equality and fairness to Brighton & Hove. Our achievements include: introducing a Living Wage; carrying out the city's first-ever study of black and ethnic minority needs; holding the first-ever scrutiny of trans people's needs in the UK; introducing a Carer's Card that entitles carers to support and discounts; winning EU funding to tackle addiction and reduce the harm to families.

We have a significant proportion of older people in the city. There is a belief fostered by the media that older people are doing well in this period of austerity. However, their pensions and benefits have been reduced despite contributing £45 billion to the economy. Increasingly, older people contribute to childcare of grandchildren and care of even older relatives while others are reliant on care themselves.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ In 2012 we brought in a Living Wage for all council staff and are introducing it with council suppliers as contracts are renewed. Through the Chamber of Commerce, more than 200 local businesses have now also signed up. 20% of the UK's Living Wage Campaign employers are in Brighton & Hove. This means workers took home an extra £1.5 million a year that goes back into the local economy. We have also reduced the cost of employing a new Chief Executive by 40% and pegged the salary to keep the ratio between top and bottom paid down to 10:1.
- ✓ In July 2014, working with the charity RISE and the police, we established a regular domestic abuse drop-in surgery and set up the city's first service for men experiencing domestic abuse. We also helped secure a £5k business donation to the Survivors' Network for victims of sexual abuse.
- ✓ We appointed the Council's first Women's Champion who helped set up a women workers' forum to represent the views of the female workforce. We supported the Brighton Women's Centre refurbishment and helped organise International Women's Day events. We supported a city-wide breastfeeding campaign and led on a local campaign



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

Brighton & Hove was named by Stonewall as the UK's most LGB-friendly council.

'Lose the Lads Mags' which saw some supermarkets place lads' mags out of reach of young children.

- ✓ In January 2015, Brighton & Hove was named by Stonewall as the UK's most LGB-friendly council, in recognition of our work with the city's Lesbian Gay & Bisexual community. We were also named the top local authority in the country for tackling homophobia and biphobia in schools.
- ✓ We supported the first Trans Pride and established a Trans Scrutiny Panel — the first of its kind in the UK. One of its recommendations, closed swimming lessons for trans people, has since been taken up by other local authorities.
- ✓ We introduced a new Traveller Strategy and a good behaviour agreement with visiting Traveller groups.
- ✓ In 2014, we completed a comprehensive Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) needs assessment. The findings are being taken forward by a working group that has chosen education, employment and housing as its first target areas.
- ✓ In December 2014, we won Government funding to help clamp down on Blue Badge (disability parking scheme) fraud. This ensures spaces are available for those who need them.
- ✓ We supported and implemented disability training for Brighton & Hove taxi drivers.
- ✓ In June 2011, we introduced a Carers' Card, which entitles carers who provide regular unpaid help to support and discounts across the city.

EQUALITIES & FAIRNESS

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Monitor pay and conditions of workers on City Council contracts and work to ensure all council contracts are held by responsible employers paying the Living Wage.
- ▶ Fight to maintain funding for concessionary bus passes for elderly and disabled residents.
- ▶ Work to ensure all sports facilities in the city are easily accessible to elderly residents, those on low incomes and those with disabilities.

200 local businesses have now signed up to the Living Wage

- ▶ Prioritise assessment of equality implications of policy decisions — despite the Government removing the requirement for councils to do so.
- ▶ Continue to support the Older People's Council and to work with voluntary organisations, such as Age UK, National Pensioners' Convention, Gay Elderly Men's Society, Lunch Positive and other LGBT and BME groups to provide non-discriminatory advice, home support and other services for all older people so that they get the most out of life.
- ▶ Continue to work with the Senior Housing Action Group to improve conditions in sheltered housing schemes; work with local care and repair agencies to make the best use of disabled facilities grants; and help older people access grants and loans to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce winter deaths.
- ▶ Seek to ensure a full assessment of issues such as sexual exploitation, trafficking and FGM (female genital mutilation) by checking twice a year with relevant community partners, charities and trade unions, and reporting back to the Health & Wellbeing Board at least annually.
- ▶ Continue to support campaigns and events for girls, women — and those who identify as women — where values are shared.
- ▶ Ensure that women who have experienced domestic abuse receive family housing rather than being placed in Bed & Breakfast accommodation, and continue to champion the work of local charities and community groups working in the field of sexual violence and community safety.
- ▶ Further protect the rights of disabled people by implementing the recommendations of the city's first ever disability needs assessment.
- ▶ Continue our exemplary work with the LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex) community and aim to maintain our position as Stonewall's most LGB-friendly local authority.
- ▶ Tackle transphobia alongside our nationally-recognised campaign against homophobia and biphobia in schools. We will also seek to address the needs of trans pupils and implement the recommendations made by the Trans Scrutiny Panel.
- ▶ Implement mandatory disability training for the city's taxi drivers and advocate for a "mixed fleet" of taxis for people with different needs.
- ▶ Address the issues raised by our pioneering BME needs assessment via the working group we set up with the BME community.
- ▶ Work on the fully-funded permanent Travellers' site and liaise with neighbouring local authorities, the Friends, Families & Travellers organisation, and local communities affected by unauthorised encampments.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY

INTRODUCTION

If everyone on the planet lived like we do in Brighton & Hove, we would need three and a half planets to provide the necessary resources. We still have one of the largest ecological footprints in the UK, mainly due to our large stock of Victorian housing which is difficult and expensive to heat. We are not where we want to be with respect to waste and recycling rates but this is improving with the introduction of communal recycling in the city

Improving the energy efficiency of old housing stock to reducing energy bills and fuel poverty

centre, and a rapid growth of community food waste composting schemes. The water we use in Brighton & Hove comes from the chalk aquifer under the South Downs, so it's our responsibility to ensure our Downland Estate is well maintained. This also presents a great opportunity to improve wildlife and provide access to people for leisure and health.

Celebrating the launch of the UK's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 40 years



BRIGHTON & LEWES DOWNNS BIOSPHERE PROJECT

VISION

As the world's first One Planet City, we will continue to implement the Sustainability Action Plan with our partner organisations. The plan addresses carbon emissions, waste, water and wildlife. UNESCO's recognition of the city as a Biosphere Reserve provides us with unique opportunities. We will optimise these by improving open spaces and the marine environment, encouraging residents and visitors to spend more time on our Downland, working with our tenant farmers to protect the chalk aquifer from fertilisers and pesticides, and increasing the amount of food grown locally.

We will work with City Clean and City Parks, the council in-house waste collection, street cleansing and parks services, to offer a more integrated, cost-effective and customer-focussed service. Communal Recycling will be expanded to improve recycling rates and reduce black boxes and clutter on pavements.

The Council will continue to reduce its own and the city's carbon footprint, by moving out of surplus buildings and upgrading new space to the latest standards in energy efficiency. We will work with partners and residents to introduce new ways of heating homes and businesses, and also improve the energy efficiency of our old housing stock to reduce energy bills and fuel poverty.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Under Green leadership, Brighton & Hove became the UK's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 40 years in June 2014.
- ✓ We have dedicated 1,326 acres of the city's publicly owned Downland as public open access land under the Countryside Rights of Way Act.
- ✓ We improved public transport and cycling links to the Downs and won Government funding to establish a network of cycle routes in the South Downs area.
- ✓ In May 2013, we became the world's first accredited 'One Planet City'. This accredits our Sustainability Action Plan to improve quality of life, help protect the environment, support wildlife and save money.

Encouraging both residents and visitors to spend more time on our Downland Estate will be good for public health and for local businesses.



- ✓ In December 2011, we worked with the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership to update the city's Food Strategy. This aims to tackle obesity, support a sustainable food economy and encourage community food growing schemes.
- ✓ In July 2014, we became the first local authority to introduce higher standards for food procurement, meeting Soil Association criteria. We have since become the first and only UK city to achieve a Silver Sustainable Food Cities award. This award celebrates the success of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership - which includes the Council - in taking a holistic approach to food.

Working closely with tenant farmers to protect the chalk aquifer

- ✓ Council tenants are benefiting from a major programme of energy efficiency retro-fitting to council blocks, including solar panels and new heating systems resulting in lower heating bills.
- ✓ As part of the Council's Workstyles programme, we have almost halved the footprint of council buildings. After a pilot in Brunswick & Adelaide ward resulted in a 70% increase in recycling rates, we won Government funding to introduce communal recycling bins across the city centre. We have also introduced small electrical goods and paint recycling schemes.
- ✓ We have supported community food waste composting schemes, helping over 1,000 households to reduce their food waste and recycle it close to home.

- ✓ We won over £2million from the Heritage and Big Lottery Funds for The Level Restoration Project. The stunning development which includes new gardens, a water feature, a sensory walk, an upgraded children's playground and skate park has won a Green Flag and been shortlisted for an award by the Civic Trust.
- ✓ In partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority we have won Heritage Lottery Funding to develop Stanmer Park's potential as a gateway to the National Park.
- ✓ We supported the plans for the Rampion wind farm off the coast of Brighton & Hove

Improving access to locally grown, sustainable nutritious food

- which were approved by the Secretary of State in 2014. Rampion will provide 700MW of power — enough for 450,000 homes. It will be generating electricity by 2017.
- ✓ We have worked with allotmenters to develop the city's first allotment strategy



The new landscaping and playground of The Level has won a Green Flag award as well as a Civic Trust award for its outstanding contribution to the environment and the community.

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions by further developing plans for district heating in areas of the city planned for regeneration, and by continuing to work with partners to install energy efficiency measures in residents' homes.
- ▶ Improve the reliability of refuse and recycling collections and strive to improve our recycling rates. This work will include:
 - extending our communal recycling scheme;
 - continuing to roll out community food waste composting schemes and increasing the subsidy for home food waste composters;
 - explore the possibility of a chargeable garden waste collection system;
 - promoting the reuse of unwanted items through organisations such as Freecycle;
 - reduce use of plastic bottles by installing drinking fountains in all new public realm schemes;
 - carry out a trial replacement of black box recycling with a second wheelie bin in suburban areas.
- ▶ Improve communications and engagement and offer financial rewards to communities that help to increase recycling rates.
- ▶ Explore the possibility of fortnightly wheelie bin refuse collections, thereby providing a greater incentive to recycle.

- ▶ Improve street cleanliness by rolling out more “big belly” solar powered compacting litter bins, and improve gum and grease removal.
- ▶ Improve street safety and reduce emissions by expanding our scheme to replace street lights with low energy units.

Increase access to the countryside and the South Downs National Park.

- ▶ Increase access to the countryside by working with partners to make Stanmer Park a major gateway to the South Downs National Park.
- ▶ Reduce flood risk and improve water quality by working with partners to implement a surface water management plan and promote household measures to collect rainwater for domestic use.
- ▶ Improve access to locally grown, sustainable nutritious food by continuing to support the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.
- ▶ Roll-out our initiative to develop a city parks volunteer service.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There was a 13% cycling increase in the Lewes Road corridor last year.

INTRODUCTION

In the face of Government cuts, Greens aim to resist the privatisation of National Health Service provision. The city has major challenges which can be regarded as community responsibilities such as suicide, substance misuse, sexual health and HIV.

Promoting safe communities where air pollution is reduced and road safety is prioritised

VISION

We will engage with stakeholders and make decision-making as accountable and transparent as possible. We will promote safe communities where air pollution is reduced and road safety is prioritised. We will tackle food poverty and its causes while promoting active, healthier lifestyles and diet. We will endeavour to improve all housing standards to tackle poor and unhealthy living conditions for the frail, elderly and vulnerable members of our city.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Brighton & Hove is now the least car-dependent city outside London.
- ✓ We have introduced widespread 20 mph zones, reducing road casualties.
- ✓ Air quality has improved in nearly every pollution hotspot due to fewer vehicle journeys.
- ✓ There is now a Low Emissions Zone and cleaner bus engines in the city centre.
- ✓ A £200k grant was secured to clean up diesel taxis.

- ✓ Child obesity levels are declining in contrast with national trends.
- ✓ We lead by example with ethical and local procurement.
- ✓ We implemented an Allotments strategy and other support for community growing/composting.
- ✓ All our school meals services have achieved Silver under the Soil Association Food for Life Catering Mark.
- ✓ 100+ shops have signed up to the 'Sensible on Strength' campaign to not stock beer & cider with more than 6% alcohol.
- ✓ Our licensing policy has restrained the growth of retail alcohol outlets.
- ✓ There has been a huge take-up of discounted leisure centre activities by people on low incomes.
- ✓ 1326 acres of countryside have been dedicated as "open access" for walkers.

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Continue our large-scale council homes insulation programme.
- ▶ Extend small HMO licensing.
- ▶ Continue to support alternatives to bus and taxi diesel engines.
- ▶ Explore options to help manage the impacts of the night time economy on a Night Time Economy Business Improvement District.
- ▶ Campaign for Government to introduce minimum alcohol pricing.
- ▶ Encourage retailers still selling super-strength beer and cider to stop.
- ▶ Support easy access to HIV and sexual health screening.



HOUSING & LIVING RENTS

- ✓ We secured funding to transform The Level and its skateboard park.
- ✓ Council travel advice now includes walking, cycling and sustainable transport.
- ✓ There was a 13% cycling increase in the Lewes Road corridor last year.
- ✓ We have supported popular sports promotions such as Ping!
- ✓ All council housing has been brought up to 'Decent Homes' standards.
- ✓ 300 council homes have been fitted with solar electricity panels or external cladding insulation.
- ✓ An enhanced HMO (houses in multiple occupation) scheme has improved private rented fire & other building standards. It also monitors landlord supervision of tenancy conditions.
- ✓ Despite cuts to funding the 'Warm Homes' grants and advice has been maintained.

- ▶ Tackle low take-up of screening for breast, bowel and cervical cancers.
- ▶ Investigate and challenge restricted access to health services for migrants.
- ▶ Seek to restrict fast food outlets near schools.
- ▶ Expand the promotion of healthy eating and cooking classes.
- ▶ Dedicate further council-owned land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act as public open access.
- ▶ Ensure full public involvement in health decision-making.
- ▶ Reach outlying areas with sustainable travel advice and continue to install infrastructure which supports healthy and safe modes of transport.

INTRODUCTION

Successive Conservative and Labour Governments have slashed council and housing association building and sold over 1.5 million council homes under the right to buy. At the same time spending on Housing Benefit, which goes directly to private landlords, has increased to £9.5 billion in 2013/14.

With average property prices topping £250,000, local people on modest and low incomes struggle to buy or rent a decent home. Private rents are too high and rough sleeping has risen; up to 160 homeless men and women bed down on the city's streets every night. Their chances of being housed by the council are slim. While 20,000 households have their names on the city's waiting list, only about 600 of the council's 12,000 homes become available each year.

All are entitled to
decent affordable housing

VISION

The Green Party believes everyone is entitled to a secure, decent and affordable home. Good housing is the foundation on which people can flourish. Provision should be based more on need not the market. We would like to see affordable, regulated rents in the private sector and longer, more secure tenancies. We believe in investment in building new social housing, which creates jobs, training and apprenticeships, and investment in energy efficiency to reduce fuel poverty and cut carbon emissions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ 750 new homes have been planned, started or completed, some through working in



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

750 new homes have been planned, started or completed

partnership with housing associations and community housing organisations.

- ✓ The total includes a programme of more than 200 new council homes. 80 of these have received planning permission and another 100, pre-planning approval. Only 15 council homes were built in the past decade under the Conservatives. Labour built none.

for homeless people open during any period of bad weather, not just ice and snow.

- ✓ We leased 391 extra properties from the private sector at affordable rents to provide homes for homeless people.
- ✓ We signed up 2,035 landlords to a licensing scheme for smaller Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Fire safety precautions and extra insulation were the most common improvements carried out to qualify for licences.

Building new social housing, which creates jobs, training and apprenticeships

- ✓ 491 empty privately owned homes have been brought back into use. The number empty for more than 6 months has been reduced by increasing council tax charges to 150% on empty homes.
- ✓ More than 400 empty council-owned homes have been brought back into use by Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes.
- ✓ £1m extra has been spent dealing with the worsening homeless crisis in Brighton & Hove. The money helped more than 2,000 households a year avoid homelessness. The protocol was changed to ensure that severe weather shelters

- ✓ We set up a public register of HMO landlords in the city.
- ✓ We completed work to bring all council homes up to the 'Decent Home Standard'. Labour (who tried unsuccessfully to privatise Brighton & Hove's council housing) managed to achieve this standard in only 44% of the homes in 7 years. The Tories, to their credit, raised this figure to 76% in 4 years. The Greens have finished the job.
- ✓ We have provided shower rooms in all Senior Housing scheme flats, ending a situation where tenants in their 80's were among those who had shared bathrooms for many years.
- ✓ We have reduced housing management costs to increase the budget for building new homes and replacing lifts, toughening security, providing new roofs, energy saving measures and other improvements to existing estates and high-rise blocks.
- ✓ We have set up a council tenants' scrutiny panel that can examine any aspect of the council's Housing Service and make recommendations for change and improvement.



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

Cllr Wakefield inspecting new solar panels on the roofs of council blocks, installed to cut fuel bills and CO₂ emissions

- ✓ We have adopted a 'No eviction' policy for council rent arrears created solely by the Bedroom Tax. Financial and benefit advice has been given to every Bedroom Tax victim. We helped more than 700 households to downsize (thus avoiding the tax), or to move to bigger homes through mutual exchanges and an 'Incentive to Move' scheme.
- ✓ We have adapted 3,580 homes to meet the needs of disabled council and private sector tenants.

£1m extra has been spent helping more than 2,000 households a year avoid homelessness

- ✓ We have installed PV solar panels on 6 Senior Housing schemes — the first in a programme of 11 that will be finished in 2015. We have started work on a study for the introduction of two large district heating schemes to reduce fuel poverty and cut the city's carbon footprint (heating systems where energy/heat sources are circulated within an institutional setting or small district such as a unit of sheltered housing; known to be one of the cheapest ways of reducing carbon emissions).

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Use extra housing borrowing capacity, usable Right to Buy money, management efficiency savings and other sources to work with housing co-ops, Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes, housing associations and developers to start 500 new social rented homes. We will ensure that newly built council houses have rents linked to true affordability, not the market. This will include providing homes at a Living Rent to working households on low incomes.

Homes at a Living Rent for working households

- ▶ Seek to drive down building costs by using new prefabricated methods.
- ▶ Increase the supply of new council housing by buying houses and flats, including off-plan housing from developers at a discount.
- ▶ Spend more than £70 million modernising the council's 12,000 homes through kitchen, bathroom and lift replacements, rewiring, and other improvements. We will work closely with Residents' Associations on this and all other issues that affect them.
- ▶ Use more than £17 million of the £70 million to improve the energy efficiency of at least 1,000 council homes through the use of renewable energy and improved insulation.
- ▶ Refuse to evict council tenants in rent arrears arising solely from the Bedroom Tax and campaign for its abolition.

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HOUSING & LIVING RENTS

- ▶ Bring at least 700 empty private sector homes back into use with the help of co-ops and community housing organisations.
- ▶ Extend the successful smaller HMO licensing system to cover 7 more wards: Brunswick and Adelaide, Regency, Preston Park, East Brighton, Goldsmid, Central Hove and Westbourne, to deal with some of the poorer housing conditions in the city's 'bedsit land'.

Refusing to evict council tenants in rent arrears arising solely from the Bedroom Tax

- ▶ Pursue ways of licensing all private landlords to ensure basic standards of safety and decency.
- ▶ Set up a Living Rent Commission to look at ways of setting and operating Living Rent levels for private sector housing in Brighton & Hove and seek the voluntary support of landlords for Living Rents.
- ▶ Set up an ethical landlords scheme and continue to campaign for the robust regulation of letting agents.
- ▶ Consult tenants on options for additional devolved budgets to be controlled by tenants, including on community budgeting and on different housing budget options.
- ▶ Campaign for Living Rents and longer, more secure private sector tenancies with rent increases pegged to inflation.
- ▶ Campaign for a national and public register of all private landlords.
- ▶ Campaign for an end to the Right to Buy and provide financial help for council tenants wishing

to buy homes in the private market, thus releasing their council homes for those in greater need.

- ▶ Campaign for more support for first-time buyers generally.
- ▶ Campaign for Community Leasing, which would allow councils to take over homes empty for more than a year without good reason. Once houses are acquired, we will carry out any improvements needed and let them to a homeless household. Improvement costs would be met from the rents. The homes would be returned to the owners in good condition after an agreed period.
- ▶ Campaign for the introduction of a new tax to discourage conversion of family homes into HMOs. Property speculators buying family homes for conversion to HMOs would be liable for a conversion tax, levied locally and ring-fenced, to support social housing development.
- ▶ Campaign for the introduction of an additional stamp duty of 20% on the buying of property in the UK from overseas, discouraging overseas speculators. We would envisage this to be levied locally and to be ring-fenced for use in supporting social housing development.

Affordable homes for local people.

- ▶ Campaign for a rent cap to be applied to rented properties whereby any landlord charging above the rent cap will be required to pay a proportion of the excess rent into a fund for the building of social housing in the city.
- ▶ Work with the Brighton & Hove Community Land Trust and local housing co-ops to develop affordable homes on council-owned land for local people.

PLANNING

INTRODUCTION

In the last four years we have sought to demonstrate that we are taking the brave steps to build a city fit for the future: a better Brighton & Hove. We have pioneered new schemes and a new start. This has seen a return to confidence in the city from the industry with new build and commencements on the increase.

Whole parts of the city are transformed: Brighton Station, London Road, One Hove Park and the promise of Circus Street around the corner.

Planning for our communities where their voices are heard and understood has been frustrated at every turn by the Government: some of the most damaging changes to the planning system are carving residents and elected representatives out of the process.

VISION

The City Plan — our blueprint for the city to 2030 — aims to achieve a balance between providing desperately needed new homes and jobs, while protecting our rich heritage of buildings and open spaces from inappropriate development.

The city needs 24,000 new homes by 2030 and we must do everything possible to meet this housing need to get our City Plan approved by Government. Making effective use of scarce land is essential in a city located between the South Downs National Park and the English Channel. Therefore we have identified suitable brownfield sites and will be maximising these for development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ The creation of a brand new £100m brownfield neighbourhood at Circus Street with new homes, a new home for South East Dance, student halls of residence, a new library and new public square.
- ✓ For the first time in over 100 years a new hospital will be built in the city: a brand new £400m Royal Sussex County Hospital will bring top health facilities for residents.

- ✓ Visionary housing at One Hove Park and the last piece of the housing jigsaw at Brighton Station where we are regenerating brownfield sites with much higher density living. Many more housing schemes that have planning consent are to be started soon.
- ✓ Over £6.6m in developer contributions which has been ploughed into improving open spaces, providing apprenticeships, helping build schools, improving the public realm and the transport infrastructure.

Taking the brave steps to build a city fit for the future

- ✓ We helped unlock funding and development sites to ensure that apprenticeships, skills training and jobs are linked to key development sites and contracts.
- ✓ With construction firms such as Denne, we have been key to bringing essential work experience for construction apprentices, with City College.
- ✓ Supported 431 local residents and provided 61 jobs through European Interreg construction programme 'Building Futures' for construction apprentices to learn basic construction skills.
- ✓ Delivered a free recruitment service — the Local Employment Scheme — to developers on major projects who have committed to providing employment and training opportunities to local residents.
- ✓ Attracted top architects to design new buildings in the city and opened a competition to attract local architects to design new homes as part of our estate regeneration programme.

Redevelopment of the Brighton Station area comes with a smarter layout, more pedestrian space and better cycle parking facilities, as well as new street trees on Queens Road



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

- ✓ Achieved the highest quantities of built out large developments since 2008–09 and have paved the way for key new schemes on the Waterfront, at Preston Barracks and King Alfred.
- ✓ Introduced a new planning advice note on food growing within new developments, which has been taken up by better developers and has won many planning awards, including the World Green Building Council’s Government Leadership Award.
- ✓ Produced work with other councils on reducing the costs to build sustainably — 55% reduction in cost to build to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5.
- ✓ Building of sustainable homes with continued support for Eco Open Houses. Many exemplary homes have been built to the highest sustainability standards.

A place where the built environment, open space, and public squares enhance the lives of our citizens

- ✓ Promoting sustainable building design with the use of solar hot water and photovoltaics, advanced thermal performance including triple glazing, sedum green roofs, high water efficiency, rainwater collection, composting, air source heat pumps, passive design measures, use of sustainable materials, food growing areas, and tree planting. The University of Brighton installed the largest photovoltaic solar array in the city in 2011.
- ✓ Cladding and replacement of windows of high-rise blocks in existing council housing making homes cheaper to heat. This will lead to carbon reductions and lower maintenance requirements in the future.
- ✓ Continued protection for our rare elms, care for protected species and our natural environment through the planning process.
- ✓ We have listened closely to residents, community representatives, the Conservation Advisory Group, amenity societies, the Chamber of Commerce, planners, architects and agents in the pursuit of the best built environment in the city.
- ✓ Worked very closely with neighbouring councils and been key to the Coastal West Sussex Strategic Planning Board which brings together 8 neighbouring councils to work on sorting out the sub-regional housing problems.
- ✓ A new London Road with a new and rejuvenated Co-op building, Open Market and a programme of improvements to the buildings in the neighbourhood. In conjunction with European partners improving Providence Place through a project known as ‘Living Cities’ with a new connection to Brighton Station.
- ✓ Rejuvenated The Lanes with planning consent granted for a brand new street.
- ✓ Vision for Toad’s Hole Valley which will be brought into fruition with the adoption of planning policy in the summer.
- ✓ Worked on a new vision for Edward Street.

PLANNING

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Ensure a robust city plan is adopted with:
 - development focused on the development areas in the City Plan;
 - a new Toad's Hole Valley with valuable Site of Nature Conservation protected, a new school and a new industrial estate;
 - minimum space standards for new homes so we don't have shoebox development.
- ▶ Explicitly prioritise denser housing on brownfield land — work sites hard with development of about 100 dwellings per hectare (about the density of Hanover) to bring homes and jobs to ugly, underused sites such as Anston House in Preston Park.
- ▶ Push for the city to be a place where the built environment, open space, and public squares enhance the lives of our citizens.
- ▶ Continue to push for exemplar sustainable homes and push for the strongest sustainability measures to be included in schemes.
- ▶ Maximise the quantity of genuinely affordable homes in the city and push developers for affordable rents.
- ▶ Continue the local employment scheme working with construction firms and City College to train apprentices.
- ▶ Work on the best practice that we have evolved with neighbourhood plans and increase community involvement.
- ▶ Push for highest sustainability standards in planning.
- ▶ Attract top-class local architects to design new homes for our city.
- ▶ Continue to work on district heat networks for our neighbourhoods.
- ▶ Introduce fees for developers for the 'pre-app' process — to provide further

clarity for both the council and applicant; examine penalising applicants who don't build out planning permissions.

- ▶ Examine introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy and push for maximum developer contributions for the city.
- ▶ Extend Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing in city centre wards.

We will push for the highest sustainability standards in planning

- ▶ Prioritise the re-use of key buildings in the first instance, rather than allow their demolition.
- ▶ Protect key employment sites and look to regeneration led schemes that will protect the sites and regenerate key seafront venues.

Together with other councils in the region we will:

- ▶ Continue to play a central role on the Coastal West Sussex Strategic Planning Board.
- ▶ Ensure that there is sufficient investment in infrastructure and lobby for more where not — we need investment in sustainable transport methods.
- ▶ Help lay the foundation stones for a regenerated Shoreham Harbour — which is key to employment and homes provision in the region.
- ▶ Continue to work with neighbouring councils on housing for the region.

TRANSPORT

INTRODUCTION

Managing the demands of 280,000 residents and over 11 million visitors a year on the city's largely Victorian infrastructure is a significant challenge. As our city becomes more popular, the pressure on our transport infrastructure increases while our road space does not. In a densely populated city situated between the sea and the South Downs National Park (SDNP) road building and widening or constructing edge-of-city car parks are not deliverable options. So, we need to be smarter about how we use every bit of valuable space that we have.

Young or old, able and less able, whether they are walking, cycling, using public transport, driving or scooting to school: all have a right to a transport system that works

VISION

Our vision is of a city with a 21st century transport system that works for all. A city that is a safe and pleasant place for people to travel around whatever their age or mobility and by whatever means they are travelling. Young or old, able and less able, whether they are walking, cycling, using public transport, driving or scooting to school, everyone has a right to a transport system that works.

Over the last four years we have built the foundations. We have improved road safety, reduced air pollution, developed a roadworks permit system

and secured millions in Government funding that has delivered improvements across our city.

In many ways Brighton & Hove leads the way on transport. We use the bus more than anywhere else in the country. We have the most successful car club, the greatest increase in cycling and we use our cars the least outside of London.

We pledge to build on this success to deliver clean and safe transport that works. We will continue to learn from success in Europe and aspire to be the best.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ We have won several awards for our work in sustainable transport most notably the CIVITAS award — a pan European organisation.
- ✓ Introduction of Personal Disabled bays for those with the greatest need.
- ✓ Secured funding for a blue badge fraud officer.
- ✓ Introduced the city centre Low Emission Zone.
- ✓ A number of initiatives have been introduced, including a 20mph limit. These make the city a safer, easier place to walk and cycle, improve personal health and, indirectly, public health due to the reduction in emissions.
- ✓ We have succeeded in reducing air pollution by up to 15% in 45/47 AQ monitoring stations, leading to a healthier city for everyone. Air pollution has huge impacts on those with respiratory illness (like asthma) and has recently been linked to Autism when pregnant mothers are exposed.
- ✓ We worked with all bus companies to make bus travel in the city more popular here than anywhere else in the country outside of London. Numbers now topping 46m bus passenger journeys.
- ✓ We have improved road safety. 200 fewer people were killed or injured on our roads in 2013 compared to 2010.



GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Make the city's streets safer for everyone and ensure that the transport network works as efficiently as it can regardless of how people are travelling.
- ▶ Seek further grant-funding to continue travel planning with residents, businesses and schools to encourage active, healthy and sustainable travel choices.
- ▶ Improve air quality by building on the success of the new Low Emission Zone to encourage cleaner vehicles, including electric and alternatively fuelled vehicles. Additional measures would include fast-tracking permits for low emission vehicles.
- ▶ Implement a new roadworks permit system to better manage the impact of road works by utility companies.
- ▶ Tackle hazardous junctions such as the Aquarium roundabout and Preston Circus; seek funding for the continued reconstruction of the Victorian seafront arches; transform the Valley Gardens area into a new city centre park with improved transport infrastructure running from The Level to the Palace Pier. This would use the £14 million we have already secured from central Government.
- ▶ Continue to develop a core network of connected cycle routes across the city focusing particularly on key east/west and north/south routes such as Lewes/London Road to the seafront, along the seafront and the Old Shoreham Road to Hove Park and Hove station.
- ▶ Introduce more secure cycle parking in residential areas and at key destinations.
- ▶ Put the city at the forefront of the new sharing economy by building on the continuing success of the car club. Seek partners and sponsorship for a public bike sharing scheme and explore opportunities for taxi and ride sharing.
- ▶ Embrace new technology with Intelligent Transport Systems to improve traffic flow through synchronising modern traffic signals, and using phone apps and smart cards to enhance resident and visitor transport choices.
- ▶ Improve pedestrian priority in the city centre with a particular focus on the Old Town and the seafront route using funding secured from developers as we have in the London Road area and North Street.
- ▶ Work constructively with residents and community groups to develop parking and street design proposals to improve their areas.
- ▶ Introduce residents' parking schemes where there is clear community support.
- ▶ Work with other Local Authorities to share best practice in parking policy and the use of new technology to bring maximum benefit to residents, visitors and local business and community groups.
- ▶ Tackle the abuse of blue badge fraud and ensure the maximum availability of disabled parking for those most in need.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & CO-OPS

“It has surprised many, who thought a Green administration would be anti-business. The proof of the pudding has been they are not.”

Tony Mernagh,
MD of Brighton & Hove Business Forum and
Executive Director of the Economic Partnership

- ▶ Continue to work with all bus operators in the city to enhance the existing network, including: a seafront bus service, more routes avoiding the congested city centre, and additional bus priority measures.
- ▶ Work with all bus operators to ensure competition and improved network efficiency help keep bus fares as affordable as possible. Develop the multi-operator smartcard to allow passengers to use any bus, any time, with one ticket.

Introducing secure cycle parking in residential areas & key destinations

- ▶ Continue to work with the bus companies, Community Transport and the NHS to improve access to transport for older people and people with disabilities.
- ▶ Continue to improve walking, cycling and public transport links to the South Downs National Park. Engage with schools to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school through initiatives such as the Sustrans ‘Bike it’ project.

Introduction

During the last four years our Green-led City Council has hoisted the ‘open for business’ sign high and shown it will work with partners for the long term, sustainable economic health of the city. Apart from instigating a number of major developments such as the Open Market, Circus Street and the King Alfred, it has overseen the creation of 9,000 new jobs and has seen the number of business start-ups increase, placing it fourth in the country behind London, Manchester and Birmingham.

Greens are opposed to the privatisation and outsourcing of essential public services and believe that many services are best kept in or brought back into the public sector if in the interest of the community. However, for other services, co-operatives and Community Interest Companies (CICs) are increasingly being used to support community-led initiatives such as energy generation (Brighton Energy Co-op) and community-owned pubs (The Bevy). They are also becoming more important in manufacturing and retailing.

By being owned and run by people in the city, for people in the city, co-ops and CICs tend to empower employees and pay better wages, are more efficient and more resilient in economic downturns. They make a better contribution to the local economy and stop money generated in the city leaving as profits for outside shareholders or lenders.

VISION

Greens recognise the vital importance of a vibrant, high growth and dynamic local economy that supports sustainable employment and helps generate long term investment. Our record speaks for itself: fewer empty shops on the high street; more derelict sites placed on the launch pad for regeneration; an exceptionally high rate of business



KRISTIAN BUUS

start-ups. No wonder the Green-led City Council's success at running the local economy has been recognized with the prestigious "Driving Growth" award from the Local Government Chronicle (LGC). It is this can-do attitude that a new Green administration will continue, as it has proven to bring benefit to the city and the wider city region.

Achievements

- ✓ The digital economy has grown 2.5 times the national average in the last four years and formed the bedrock of the Greater Brighton Deal; steered to a successful conclusion by the Green-led City Council.
- ✓ One of our first initiatives was to introduce the Living Wage for all council employees and then team up with Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce to encourage more employers to adopt it too.
- ✓ We have worked hard to support the city's vibrant independent retail sector. We successfully bid for Portas Money and used it to transform the fortunes of the London Road into an award-winning retail area, and help hundreds of small businesses with marketing support.
- ✓ We have been active supporters of the Business Improvement Districts in the central area of the city.
- ✓ Despite the recession, shop vacancies in the city are among the lowest in the country.
- ✓ With partners we are working towards transforming of the Churchill Square Shopping Centre, and the Brighton Centre into a major

regional shopping destination while, at the same time, turning the derelict Black Rock site into a regional conference and entertainment centre.

- ✓ Under a Green-led City Council, the city's visitor economy has expanded greatly and received numerous accolades, including the Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award for the UK's best bars and restaurants. The visitor economy is hugely important economically for the city — worth between £800m–£1bn and attracting up to 10 million visitors annually. Overnight trips have increased by 5%, while the total number visitor nights in the city have risen by 7.5% to 4.8m.

Portas Money has transformed the fortunes of the London Road into an award-winning retail area

- ✓ We have established the sector-led Tourism Advisory Board, which will influence the future direction of marketing the city nationally and internationally.
- ✓ We secured the deal to enable the i360 to be built, which will deliver £1m annually into the council's coffers, as well as acting as a trigger for the regeneration of seafront arches and nearby Preston Street.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS & CO-OPS

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Continue to support and facilitate sustainable economic development, working with partners to win external funding for the benefit of local people.
- ▶ Continue to work to ensure all derelict sites owned by the council are brought back into productive use.
- ▶ Help to create the right conditions to attract employers into the city to maximise employment opportunities and create apprenticeships on any development site owned by the council.
- ▶ Continue working with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage employers in the city to adopt the Living Wage and ensure that any suppliers commissioned by the council are Living Wage employers.
- ▶ Support the continued growth of the digital sector to create new enterprises and jobs.



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**Cllr West
getting stuck
in at Emmaus
in Portslade:
a charity
supporting
homeless men
and women**

- ▶ Work with retailers in all parts of the city to help develop new Business Improvement Districts.
- ▶ Continue its support of the tourism sector to attract more visitors to the city and encourage more tourism businesses to adopt the Living Wage to improve staff retention and improve service quality.
- ▶ Seek ways to restructure VisitBrighton tourism information so it is self-financing and more responsive to the market's needs.
- ▶ Support the city's food sector which is helping to attract first time and repeat visitors to the city and encourage the use of local produce.
- ▶ Support local people to create co-operative or CIC alternatives to private suppliers for services which the council currently commissions from private companies.
- ▶ Work with local banks, mutual savings societies and credit unions to expand start-up or expansion loans for co-operatives and ethical CICs; and explore the possibility of more affordable capital lending via East Sussex Credit Union.
- ▶ Work with businesses across the city to encourage those selling up to give first right to buy the business to their employees before selling it on the open market.

Continue to support independent retailers

- ▶ Continue to work with partners to develop bold initiatives such as the redevelopment of Circus Street and Brighton Station, and work to secure significant funding to repair the failing Victorian infrastructure.
- ▶ Continue to support independent retailers to help them be successful and explore opportunities to introduce shared space or pedestrian only shopping areas to attract visitors and boost the local economy.

COMMUNITIES & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

INTRODUCTION

Greens recognise and support the work of community and voluntary organisations, co-ops and faith groups that help make our city stronger and fairer. Many party members, supporters and councillors are involved in the 2,300 plus voluntary sector organisations that make a vital and significant contribution to the economy, the environment and the health and resilience of Brighton & Hove.

These organisations contribute £127 million annually to the city's economy and harness the efforts of nearly 10,000 volunteers who, for example, run food banks, support domestic violence survivors, work with young LGBTQI people and offer support to older people. Between them, volunteers work 5.7 million unpaid hours a year worth £44 million at Living Wage rates. Yet only 17% of the sector's income comes from grants.

VISION

Greens believe the voluntary sector should supplement and enhance strong and adequately-funded services and that communities should play a larger role in deciding how services are provided in their neighbourhoods.

Voluntary sector organisations not only provide services, they also support the health and wellbeing of many citizens by offering employment and volunteering opportunities. We will endeavour to fund the voluntary sector and maintain our work of creating partnerships between voluntary sector groups, the Council, other public services and the business community for the good of the city.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ We have supported and protected community and voluntary organisations, where possible maintaining grant funding, and working closely with Community Works, the umbrella organisation for Brighton & Hove's voluntary sector.
- ✓ We introduced a large weighting for social value into commissioning to ensure local

organisations trusted by local communities can compete fairly for local contracts against large national companies with deep pockets. In some contracts, now out for tender, social value accounts for 70% of the equation.

- ✓ We have used emergency funds to help vital local organisations stay open.
- ✓ We have promoted joint working in the voluntary sector and, for example, helped fund and organise the creation of Moneyworks — a community banking partnership that brings together 7 organisations to give financial advice to people living in hardship.

Supporting the work of community
and voluntary organisations, co-
ops and faith groups that help
make our city stronger and fairer

- ✓ We have invested £100,000 in the East Sussex Credit Union to help combat financial exclusion.
- ✓ We have supported Fair Share and individual food banks and run food banks through some of our childrens' centres.
- ✓ We have given £50,000 to community organisations in the city to help vulnerable residents get online and combat digital exclusion at a time when the Government's cut-down welfare system was only available online.
- ✓ We have continued financial support for Able and Willing — one of the UK's last surviving supported employment schemes for people with learning difficulties — and helped the

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

organisation expand its business as it moved to greater self-sufficiency.

- ✓ We set up successful community budgeting pilot schemes in East Brighton and Hollingdean & Stanmer which empowers local people to decide how money is spent. Hollingdean residents voted overwhelmingly for projects to 'green' their area, calm traffic and reduce waste. The East Brighton pilot, 'Due East,' covering Whitehawk, Bristol Estate and Manor Road, was recently commissioned for another 3 years. It has allocated £11,000 to youth projects voted for by young people and is working on 5 public health projects with Macmillan Cancer Fund and Brighton & Hove CCG funding.
- ✓ We launched a programme of community budgeting events in Moulsecoomb, which saw young people decide how to allocate almost £20,000 towards youth projects in the area.
- ✓ At our request, Albion in the Community is donating £15,000 a year for 4 years to The Bridge Community Centre as part of the agreement that saw extra seats and parking provided at the Amex Community Stadium in 2012.

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Work to ensure a Fair Deal for the Voluntary Sector. We will work with the Voluntary Sector, faith groups, the health service, the police service, Albion in the Community and others to strengthen the successful partnerships that are already working on behalf of the city and its citizens.
- ▶ Continue to promote joint working among groups to help reduce running costs and avoid duplication of effort and funding.
- ▶ Consult on extending community budgeting to other neighbourhoods in the city.

INTRODUCTION

The Green Party believes that education should provide everyone in our city with the knowledge and skills they require to participate fully in society and lead a fulfilled life. Nationally, we believe the education system is reaching a crisis point due to the policies of the Government. The Green Party is the only party to oppose the reduction of funding to local Government. This is putting an enormous strain on early-years provision, youth services and post-16 education. We will seek to campaign for increased funding, whilst reducing the impact of Government cuts in the city wherever possible.

Education should provide the skills to lead a fulfilled life

VISION

We will continue to oppose free schools and academies, as we believe these lack democratic accountability and oversight. Where these schools already exist we will encourage them to work with other schools in the city and continue to use our City-wide admissions system. We believe that experienced teachers are vital to the profession and oppose the introduction of performance-related pay.

The Green Party believes in a child-centred approach to learning which builds on the skills, interests and needs of each individual child. We believe that children with special education needs should be educated together in our mainstream schools in order to foster diversity, integration and equality. However, where this is not the best educational environment for them, we support having a range of educational settings to meet the needs of all our students.



Children at Hertford Infants School give Caroline Lucas MP a tour of their playground

We believe the early years are a vital stage in a child's development; it is a unique educational stage in its own right and not just a preparation for school. We recognise the need for free early years' places to nurture and support the development of young children, particularly those from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

Providing safe social spaces for young people, vital life skills, practical and vocational training

We believe that the mix of youth services in our city provides not only safe social spaces for young people but also vital life skills and practical and vocational training. For more disadvantaged children and young people they provide access to specialised services and support.

We aim to provide the highest quality care to children and families being cared for or

supported by our dedicated team of family support workers. We believe that the key to improving outcomes for the children and families in our city is through early preventative work.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ The Greens were the only party to publicly oppose the conversion of Hove Park to an academy. We organised a council-run parental ballot to support the successful "Hands off Hove Park" campaign.
- ✓ The city saw the highest GCSE results ever in 2013, though they dipped in 2014 following the introduction of new exam criteria across the country. A-Level results continued to improve in 2014.
- ✓ Named by Stonewall for two years running as the leading local authority in the country for tackling homophobia and biphobic bullying in our schools.
- ✓ Achieved Silver Status under the Soil Association's Food for Life Scheme for our school meals and provided all primary school children in our city with Free School Meals for a day to promote the importance of a daily healthy meal.
- ✓ Converted the old Hove Police Station into a modern junior school for 500 children.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Continue to oppose the conversion of schools into academies, preserve a city-wide admissions system and consult on a new catchment area plan.
- ▶ Continue to foster collaboration in schools via our learning partnerships between clusters of secondary and primary schools.

Provide better integrated services for adolescents in order to promote a positive transition into adulthood

- ▶ Open a new secondary school in the city and campaign for a change in national policy to allow this to be run by our local authority.
- ▶ Encourage all our schools to employ teachers with qualified teaching status on the national pay scale, including Early Years staff.
- ▶ Work to improve outcomes for students from disadvantaged backgrounds such as those on free school meals or who are in care, ensuring they have access to the best performing schools and teachers.
- ▶ Continue to integrate health and education for children with disabilities in order to focus on the individual needs of the child.
- ▶ Aim for all our children to be able to walk or cycle safely to their local school, and continue to support schools in achieving eco-school and 'Solar School' status.
- ▶ Continue to promote relationship and

sex education in our schools and support initiatives such as the Campaign for Consent.

- ▶ Continue to provide full support and training for vitally important school governors, and to increase the diversity of our governors.
- ▶ Aim to keep all our nurseries in-house and run by the Council which we believe can offer a better service for our children than private profit-making companies.
- ▶ Continue to campaign for more Government funding and a statutory youth service in order to prevent any closures to youth services that provide important skills or training.
- ▶ Review youth services to ensure they are working well and really meeting the needs of teenagers. We will aim to provide better integrated services for adolescents in order to promote a positive transition into adulthood, part of which involves recognising that adolescence is a distinct and often pivotal stage of life. We believe that the wellbeing of young people can be promoted through mentoring schemes

In-house council nurseries can offer a better service for our children than private profit-making companies

designed to nurture and scaffold a positive sense of identity and empower young people to play an active role in their local communities.

- ▶ Seek to ensure that the Children & Families workforce hold professional qualifications and to keep all our children's social care (including fostering and adoption services) in-house

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

rather than outsourcing them to private companies or third sector organisations.

- ▶ Work to increase the number of in-house foster carers, increase the diversity of carers we recruit, and improve our services to provide early help and support and prevent children from coming into the care system. We will continue to improve the integration of disability and educational services in order to provide one holistic plan that focuses on the needs of the whole child.
- ▶ Encourage all our Early Years staff to be qualified and paid a professional rate in order to provide the greatest support and care to our youngest children.
- ▶ Carry out further participatory (community) budgeting with youth groups, empowering young people to have an active role in their local communities.
- ▶ Continue to work on and improve our prevention services which aim to provide early help and support in order to prevent children from coming into the care system.
- ▶ Remain committed to keeping all our children's social care (including fostering and adoption services) in-house rather than outsourcing them to private companies or third sector organisations. We will work to increase the number of in-house foster carers and increase the diversity of carers we recruit.
- ▶ Continue to build on our preventative multi-agency initiatives, such as the MASH (multi-agency safeguarding hub) and the EHH (Early Help Hub). Partnerships such as these enable us to provide a high level of support to children, young people and their families across the city.
- ▶ Seek to ensure that the Children & Families workforce hold professional qualifications appropriate to the task, developing the skills mix to enable effective, flexible and specialist support to be provided on the ground.

INTRODUCTION

Social Care support to older and disabled people forms a large part of the Council's budget. After 5 years of Government cuts it's under huge and growing pressure. Nationwide, cuts to services such as meals-on-wheels and delayed discharges from hospital are common. The Care Act also threatens to encourage further privatisation. Despite this, our Green-led City Council has so far been able to protect levels of service and not tightened eligibility criteria.

Campaigning to resist privatisation and to reinstate an entirely publicly owned NHS

VISION

The Green Party strongly supports independent living with adequate resources, flexible services, and user choice and control. We will campaign to resist further privatisation and to reinstate an entirely publicly-owned NHS which includes free personal care. We aim to strengthen support for carers; to fully involve users and carers in redesign of services; and to value and reward care workers, ensuring quality training.

We value mental health care on a par with physical health care. Where possible, we will endeavour to protect grants to voluntary organisations which support the most vulnerable. Where necessary, we will seek innovative commissioning with local not-for-profit providers.

Greens are campaigning in Brighton & Hove and across the country for a stop to privatisation of our NHS and a return to the principles on which the NHS was founded



KRISTIAN BUUS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ More older people have been kept independent in their own homes, involving better use of Telecare technology.
- ✓ Eligibility thresholds for services have been maintained.
- ✓ All in-house and about 90% of agency care workers are paid at least the Living Wage.
- ✓ Increased disability adaptations and simplified application process.
- ✓ An extensive take-up of the Carers Discount card.
- ✓ The first city-wide disability needs assessment is under way.
- ✓ Public Extra Care Housing is soon to be built for the first time.
- ✓ Strong equalities policies and impact assessments have increased support to minority groups such as LGBTQI and minority ethnic communities.
- ✓ Brighton & Hove joined the 'Age-Friendly Cities Network'.
- ✓ The City Summit Consultation was held with service users.

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Further roll out personal budgets for people with disabilities.
- ▶ Press for quality mental crisis care to be available 24/7.
- ▶ Reach out to unsupported full-time carers, including supporting an awareness campaign with key voluntary organisations.
- ▶ Promote self-assessment alongside professional assessment.
- ▶ Ensure independent advocacy for all client groups.
- ▶ Encourage all independent providers to pay at least the Living Wage.
- ▶ Enhance the safeguarding of severely disabled people in placements away from the city by regularly checking whether they can be moved back.
- ▶ Commission services with local, not-for-profit organisations, wherever possible, and embed a social value test in the event that services have to be put out to tender.
- ▶ Make financial assessments less restrictive on disability costs.
- ▶ Maintain support to Independent Living Fund clients when it ceases in 2015.
- ▶ Retain adapted accommodation for disabled tenants who need it.
- ▶ Work with the NHS to ensure all who need talking therapies get help within 4 weeks.
- ▶ Secure seamless use of the NHS Better Care fund.
- ▶ Support and develop the Age-Friendly City Forum.

POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Local residents need to be at the heart of crime prevention and policing strategy. Crime rates in Brighton & Hove are flat-lining after several years of reductions but anti-social behaviour remains a problem. We pledge to work with all affected groups in close partnership to prioritise our residents' safety and preserve our city's unique vibe.

Much of the anti-social behaviour experienced by residents is seasonal, with many more

opportunities for the council, police, residents, local health providers, fire & rescue services and probation services to come together to identify priority problems and work to resolve them.

Businesses, voluntary organisations, community groups, schools, churches, mosques and other religious centres are integral to the vibrancy, strength, identity and safety of a community. We will continue to encourage the police to work closely with these groups in preventing crime, reducing anti-social behaviour, and creating a neighbourhood in which everyone feels safe.

Empowering communities to enact a vision of what they want their neighbourhood to look like

Drug use in Brighton & Hove needs to be approached as a health, social and economic issue rather than simply a criminal one. Sussex Police's efforts to identify people arrested for crimes related to drug use and divert them onto treatment plans represent an innovative and efficient use of police resources. Greens believe working with police, social services and voluntary groups to reduce harm caused by unregulated drug use should be a priority.

The community is often the most appropriate locale for restorative justice to work. When handled sensitively and transparently with appropriate

incidences recorded during the summer when more people spend time outside. Greens believe that by working in partnership with police and residents, at the same time as improving the life-chances and leisure opportunities of potential offenders, we can reduce anti-social behaviour.

VISION

The more people trust the police, the safer they are likely to feel. And the more police officers trust the communities they serve, the more responsive they can be. Greens aim to empower communities and local police officers to enact a vision for their neighbourhood so that all citizens, including older people, children, people with disabilities, women, men and transgender people, can feel comfortable and enjoy their surroundings.

Through our platform "Safe in the City", the Green-led Council liaises with specific local residents' teams throughout the city. This provides the

Anti-social behaviour damages many more people's quality of life

support from the local police, "peer pressure" exerted by the community can create a supportive environment for victims to feel confident to seek redress without resorting to the expensive and ineffective custody system. In fact, the number of young people entering the criminal justice system in the city fell in the three years to October 2013 as the Council's Youth Crime Prevention team



We are committed to working with partners such as the Police, NHS, residents' associations, universities, local businesses and community organisations to ensure the city is a safe place for everyone

joined police to help young people understand the impact of their behaviour and make amends.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ We introduced an integrated 'Safe in the City' Delivery Unit.
- ✓ In response to residents' concerns about the late-night economy, we expanded the Cumulative Impact Area to control applications for licences for outlets selling alcohol.
- ✓ Working with the police and local domestic violence charity RISE, we established a domestic abuse drop-in surgery session every Wednesday morning for anyone seeking advice.
- ✓ We won a commitment from the Sussex Police Authority to continue to fund a specialist LGBT

In response to residents' concerns about the late-night economy, we expanded control applications of outlets selling alcohol

hate crime officer. We are continuing to work with the Authority to develop a partnership approach to protecting work on community safety and protecting hate crime from Government cuts.

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Expand the 'Safe in the City' programme, support the established 'Local Action Teams' and increase the range of people involved.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for anti-social behavioural teams and local police officers to meet residents and discuss their priorities and concerns in order to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Maintain the popular 'Cumulative Impact Area' in central Brighton to keep down crime and alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Build on links already established between police and groups supporting vulnerable people to increase awareness of crime reduction measures and provide short-cut channels of communication to report concerns of vulnerable people.
- ▶ Work with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local police officers to set city-wide and neighbourhood level priorities for improving the real quality of life of residents. Where appropriate we will support the pooling of resources and personnel with other public and voluntary service providers.

ANIMAL PROTECTION

INTRODUCTION

The Green Party believes all animals have the right to live without exploitation or suffering inflicted by humans. The decent and dignified treatment of animals is the hallmark of a civilised society.

VISION

We remain committed to working with council officials, 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 and seek to protect wildlife habitats through our conservation and development policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ We have achieved a shift in council housing policy, resulting in the requirement for all tenants' companion cats and dogs to be compulsorily microchipped for free.

We have promoted responsible pet ownership with the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, and Animal Welfare Officers,



✓ We have promoted responsible pet ownership with the RSPCA, Dogs Trust, and Animal Welfare Officers, and enabled free neutering and spaying of companion animals for council tenants.

All animals should be respected and valued, and not seen simply as products for use, experiment or entertainment

✓ We worked with the Brighton-based Animal Protection Agency on their 'EMODE' assessment campaign for use in pet shops. This helps potential owners assess whether animals make suitable or unsuitable pets.

✓ We opposed the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's new regulations for pet shops. The recommended cage sizes and temperatures for animals being sold in pet shops proved to be inadequate and the RSPCA was concerned enough to withdraw support.

✓ We have supported the council's Humane Wildlife Deterrent Strategy, using the expertise of a consultant at no cost to the council.

✓ We have persuaded Sussex Police Authority to scrutinise the local implementation of the ban on hunting with dogs.

► In winning the Silver Food Sustainable Cities Award we have achieved a higher animal welfare standard for animals consumed as meat in council catering establishments. We also introduced free range eggs and more vegetarian and vegan alternatives and secured a commitment not to offer Foie Gras on any council-owned premises.

CULTURE & LEISURE

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Continue to push for the use of green/non-animal tested products in council cleaning and office products.
- ▶ Work to ensure the highest standards of animal welfare at Brighton Racecourse, Hove Greyhound Stadium, Brighton Sealife Centre and for retired racehorses and greyhounds.
- ▶ Continue to work towards an end to the use of animals in circuses and other entertainment in Brighton & Hove.

Working to ensure
the highest standards
of animal welfare

- ▶ Continue to support the council's already developing Humane Wildlife Deterrent Strategy (pest control) which is cheaper and more effective than traditional methods.
- ▶ Work towards a reduction in the use of lead shot and weights used by shooters and anglers and discourage the use of snares on council land.
- ▶ Promote investment in humane research and oppose all proposals for new vivisection laboratories.
- ▶ Promote the EMODE campaign across the city and campaign for use to become compulsory for pet shops, animal breeders and suppliers.
- ▶ Endeavour to achieve the highest standards of animal welfare in council catering establishments and beyond, using local/organic producers wherever possible to promote low carbon (low animal) food consumption.

INTRODUCTION

The city hosts over 300 events a year. These help boost the local economy by drawing in visitors, as well as adding to the vibrancy of life for local residents.

One of the defining characteristics of the city is its innovative and lively arts and cultural life. Not only does it contribute to the overall wellbeing of the city, it is cited as one of the key factors attracting inward investment on the Brighton for Business website.

The city hosts over 300 events
a year, helping to boost the local
economy by drawing in visitors,
as well as adding to the vibrancy
of life for local residents

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ The Green-led City Council supported the successful bids to bring the Tour of Britain and the Rugby World Cup to the city and has worked hard with organisers to retain their events for the city.
- ✓ The Green-led City Council was responsible for developing the Film City concept, which brings all elements of the industry together. It has continued to play an active role with the Brighton Festival, Brighton Festival Fringe and the Brighton Digital Festival and provides support to many other enterprises that contribute to the cultural life of the city.



BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

✓ Bucking national trends and against a backdrop of savage Coalition cuts, the Green-led City Council has kept open all its community libraries and replaced the mobile library at the end of its economic life with a much-appreciated and more targeted home-delivery service. It has also opened two new libraries during its term in office, with a third scheduled to come on stream when the Circus Street development is completed.

Working to improve and modernise existing leisure facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of the city

GREENS WILL:

PLEDGES

- ▶ Support organisers seeking to bring sustainable events to the city.
- ▶ Work to ensure that, where possible, events provide added value to the community, including encouraging the use of local suppliers.
- ▶ Encourage more health-related events such as the Brighton Marathon and Half Marathon.
- ▶ Encourage organisers to consider using their surpluses to help local community groups, following the good practice example of Brighton Pride CIC.
- ▶ Continue to work with our partner, Freedom Leisure CIC, to improve and modernise

existing leisure facilities and to extend the use of the discount Leisure Card.

- ▶ Continue to support the city's creative sector to increase local jobs and income from visitors.
- ▶ Continue to develop libraries as community hubs where people can access a wide range of services.
- ▶ Explore technological solutions to extend the opening hours of our libraries and seek to increase the book stock.
- ▶ Work with the preferred developer partner finally chosen to build the new King Alfred centre, to ensure that it delivers a leisure facility that meets the needs and aspirations of the city.

This publication can be made available in other formats, please contact us to discuss.

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