



**GREENS IN  
POWER:  
THE FIRST 100  
DAYS OF BRIGHTON  
& HOVE'S SECOND  
GREEN COUNCIL**

# FOREWORD

On July 23rd 2020, Greens became the largest party on Brighton and Hove City Council and after five years in opposition, once again became the ruling party.

Taking over in the middle of a global public health pandemic, where the council budget was stretched more than ever – was never going to be easy. But we have shown decisive leadership and creativity to begin tackling our city’s biggest challenges.

Even in opposition, Greens ensured we took action on some of our biggest challenges. We worked cooperatively with the Labour party to take action on the climate crisis, to tackle the housing crisis and to combat the worst impacts of a full decade of Conservative government cuts. Some of these achievements have begun under their leadership – with our support – and we will continue to work constructively together now they are the opposition.

This report reveals a snapshot of our achievements in our first 100 days in administration. But its the real tip of the iceberg. While we’ve been hard at work running the city we’ve deepened our roots in our communities too. We’ve organised pop-up mini parks, or ‘parklets’. We’ve supported community groups with gardening projects. We’ve helped community groups unlock funding to help them realise their full potential.

This is a taste of what Green councillors can achieve. Green councillors deliver.



**CLLR PHÉLIM MAC CAFFERTY**  
LEADER, BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## COVID-19

We established regular partnership meetings with city leaders, MPs, NHS and universities among others to help manage the Covid-19 pandemic and ensure collaboration and sharing of information. We also pushed for the council to develop a stronger support offer and analyse the impact on arts and creative industries and also on community and voluntary sector. Greens also requested the Government conduct a review into the impact on Covid-19 on the wellbeing of citizens.

## TEST AND TRACE

We've been campaigning for the resources and support for local test and trace, following the disastrous performance of private companies chosen by Government, and our calls for adequate resourcing and support for councils has received national media coverage.

## ANTI RACISM STRATEGY

We agreed a strategy to becoming an anti-racist council. This included one of our manifesto commitments, appointing a representative from Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, which happened in time for the October 2020 meeting. A BAME representative was also appointed to Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee.

## HOMELESSNESS

Our bid for Government funding affords us the opportunity for real progress on ending rough sleeping in the city. We will continue the 'Everyone In' programme and keep rough sleepers housed until early 2021. We have also won funding to create more 'Housing First' placements – actually overachieving on our manifesto commitment to treble them.

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

Under Labour's watch, we pressed for more action on walking and cycling with schemes being delivered on Old Shoreham Road, Madeira Drive and more. We have recently won more funding – the highest of any council – meaning there will be £3m in investment in transport improvements.

## CLIMATE ASSEMBLY / YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The Climate Assembly took place in the autumn on the important topic of transport. Hundreds of residents applied to take part making it one of the most successful in the UK. The results of the assembly from early indications are looking really positive. At the same time we also held a Youth Climate Assembly – the first of its kind in the country. To support the inspiring community interest, we have set up an online platform led by organisation 'Bang the Table' to ensure a wide range of residents can still take part in the conversation.

## VALLEY GARDENS 1+2

Valley Gardens parts 1+2 were completed. This new city centre park was started under the last Green administration in 2011–2015. It features 135 new trees, 1300m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower meadow and 560m of new segregated cycle routes.

## SCHOOL STREETS

Following Green action in opposition, school streets— where streets around schools are open only to walking and cycling— was trialled, and continues at 4 schools across the city.

## BUS LANE & FLYTIPPING CAMERAS

Brighton & Hove City Council purchased a number of new mobile cameras to catch flytippers across the city – and in their first few days of operation raised £2000. 12 new bus lane cameras also came into operation in October, which were funded from a Green budget amendment in February.

## REWILDING WATERHALL

In opposition, Greens pushed for the rewilding of Hollingbury and Waterhall Golf Course – and won the argument on the latter. Rewilding is where we allow an area to return to nature. The bidder then withdrew, but we ensured that the Golf Course will still have a future as a new park – with council staff completing the rewilding.

## KEEP BRIGHTON & HOVE TIDY

We launched hugely successful Keep Brighton & Hove Tidy in September, pulling together businesses, community groups, schools and more to help tidy up the city. It also included a deep clean of the city centre. We will doing many more.

## NEW COUNCIL HOMES

30 new council homes were finished early in the summer – and an agreed restructure of our agreement with Hyde Housing will see cheaper rents and 350 new council homes.



## UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Cllr Martin Osborne, alongside Basic Income South East, put a petition to council in October for a Basic Income Trial in the city. This would see all residents given the same basic income and is increasingly being identified through its rollout overseas as a strong way to prevent the most marginalised falling through the gaps.

## COMMUNITY CARBON REDUCTION FUND

A fund of £100k has been created for community group applications, for projects that will help reduce carbon emissions in the city.

## DISCOUNT SOLAR SCHEME

Homeowners were invited to apply for a discount solar scheme, where a bulk purchase of solar panels will be bought for homes across the city (thereby saving money).

## COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION CONSULTATION

We launched a consultation on how we can make the council tax reduction scheme more generous, in a year where it's been needed now more than ever. Council tax reduction applies to some of our poorest households.

## BREXIT PREPARATIONS

All households in the city received a postcard asking all EU citizens to apply for Settled Status, as we hurtle towards Brexit. As the latest meeting of the European Council takes place, 58 mayors and council leaders, including Phélim, have signed a letter to EU leaders. They are asking them to revise the EU 2030 emission reduction targets to at least 55% by 2030 and make this legally binding for all EU countries.

## PROMOTED FOSTERING

As Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, Elaine called on more local people to foster children in the city. It followed two local foster carers presenting at the board who said it was the "best thing they've ever done"

## OPPOSITION TO PLANNING CHANGES

Greens have campaigned against the government's proposed changes to planning law which will be hugely damaging for people and planet. We believe decisions on planning should be made locally, not by central government.

## CAMPAIGNING ON HARASSMENT

We supported the anti-harassment club, an activist group in the city which campaigns on gender-based street harassment. Along with thanking them publicly for their work, we also called on Sussex Police to do more to tackle harassment in the city.

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