



Delivering for Lincoln

Lincoln Liberal Democrats' manifesto

City of Lincoln Council Elections

May 2014

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Facing the challenges of the future

Lincoln has some urgent challenges on its plate - How to meet the pressing need for housing? How to keep Lincoln a centre for business investment and to ensure its citizens are employed? How to protect and improve our quality of life? How to keep Lincoln moving and connected with our near neighbours? How to ensure our city reduces its impact on our environment in the face of climate change?

Many of these challenges are symptoms of Lincoln's success and growth over the past decade. Some are the result of neglect and complacency. They all, however, have not arrived overnight and they will not disappear overnight either. There is a need for strong leadership and innovation to tackle the heart of the problem to ensure Lincoln has a strong economy and a fairer society. This is why the Liberal Democrats would be the best choice for Lincoln's future.

Only the Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society. We are committed to community politics, working tirelessly for local people – not big business or trade unions. We will do what is right for our community.

Our aims for a fairer, stronger and greener Lincoln are set out in this document. Some of these are achievable in the short term, whilst others are long term projects to build a Lincoln fit for the future.

We hope you will join us on this journey.



David Harding-Price,

Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Lincoln

A place of your own

We as Liberal Democrats recognise the need for an increase in the number of homes in the city. Our young people continue to struggle to get that first home on the housing ladder, our Council housing waiting list continues to grow, and new land for development is scarce.

Our plan is to ensure all development that takes place is sustainable and in the city's best interest, and to make the best use of what we already possess.

Lincoln Liberal Democrats believe:

- All new developments should have a minimum of 40% of affordable homes as a requirement. We also hope to include an element of Council housing in all large scale developments.
The priority should be to develop brownfield sites where they are suitable, rather than building on new greenfield sites.
- Owners of empty houses should be targeted to ensure they are returned as homes of a habitable standard, allowing them to return to the market. There should be options for the Council to purchase these houses for Council housing use.
- Energy efficiency and excellent design should be a priority in new developments.
- New large scale developments should be built with a community in mind. Provisions in the development should be made for local amenities, such as children's play areas, a community hub and public transport facilities.
- We should review the standards in current Council housing stock, especially regarding kitchen and bathroom facilities.
- Repair services offered for Council housing should be reviewed, with set time slots for repairs offered to help working families, and if more than one repair needed, for them both to be completed at the same time.
- Fairness should be at the heart of the Council housing waiting list, and ways for residents to swap homes should be looked at.

A prosperous and working city

As the economy slowly recovers, Lincoln's businesses and workers need continued support.

Our city has a very mixed economy based around services, industry and tourism with a growing technology sector and it is vital that we continue to have a developed and diverse local economy to ensure the city's future prosperity.

Lincoln Liberal Democrats would:

- Campaign for a City Deal for Lincoln allowing us to bring new investment and have more control over the decisions that will make Lincoln even more prosperous.
- Support large businesses who wanted to expand, re-locate or start up in the city.
- Commit to continuing and look to expand the apprenticeship placements within the Council and encourage local businesses to do the same.
- Look at incentive schemes for shoppers to support local independent traders, similar to the Taunton Pound in Somerset and the Bailgate Pound in 2010 after the Christmas Market was cancelled.
- Undertake a review of the indoor and outdoor markets to see how they can be developed and more successful, and to give support traders.
- Ensure we limit the growth of betting shops in the town.
- Look at ways to safeguard viable pubs from being switched to other uses.
- Commit to continuing to pay a Living Wage to Council employees and ensure it is reviewed annually.
- Investigate the possibility of re-opening a downhill Tourist Information Centre, ideally close to our transport hubs.
- Improve tourist attraction signposts to ensure visitors can find their way around the city easily.

A better quality of life for residents

Our commitment to local politics ensures we want to achieve the best for all our residents.

We recognise the lives of residents are affected by the lead of the Council and we want to set out a real vision for local people.

Lincoln Liberal Democrats will:

- Work with the County Council and NHS to improve services for older people, particularly looking to develop aspects of healthcare which prevent hospitalisation.
- Minimise the impact of national welfare reforms on the most vulnerable in our city.
- Engage with young people to develop a 5-year plan for their needs across the city.
- Look at new allotment sites across the city to cater for the growing demand for home-grown produce.
- Investigate the possibility of new sports facilities in the city and updating existing sites to promote health and well-being of residents.
- Support communities who want to see an introduction of a 20mph speed limit zone in their area to improve safety.
- Look at the feasibility of introducing free Wi-Fi zones in the City Centre.
- Continue to support key local events such as the 10k road race, Cycling Grand Prix, Christmas Market, Lincoln Festival, Lincoln Pride, the Steampunk Festival Weekend and many others due to the value they have for Lincoln's economy. We will actively encourage and provide support to groups wanting to set up new events in the city.
- Celebrate and promote the diversity of the people of this city and commemorate those who have often suffered prejudice in society.

A plan to keep Lincoln moving

Lincoln suffers from poor transport infrastructure and has done for many years – and yet the City Council does not hold the levels of power to make significant changes.

Growth of the city has put this under further strain. We need to ensure we have a properly balanced transport system, allowing residents to move around within the city and enabling those from outside our area to commute or visit freely, encouraging the use of public transport whenever possible.

Lincoln Liberal Democrats would:

- Work alongside the County Council and our neighbouring authorities to establish a Park and Ride service for the City. We would look at the possibility of a multi-site option allowing a North-South or East-West option to encourage take up of the service. One possibility is a site alongside Teal Park, allowing for the additional option of train services from Hykeham station being used.
- Encourage the use of public transport where possible. We would ask the County Council and Stagecoach to review services through the city to ensure the best service possible, especially to neighbouring villages, peak services, and later services in the evening.
- Establish a review of parking charges in the City Centre, with the possibility of reducing prices in the evening and on Sundays (when it is likely the Park and Ride would not operate and currently public transport is poor in some areas) to encourage people to the city and support businesses.
- Lead a campaign for better rail links for Lincoln. Services need to be improved to London (both through direct services and better connections with the East Coast Mainline at Newark), Nottingham/Leicester, Sheffield, Grimsby and Peterborough. We would also explore campaigning options for services to Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.
- Support local cyclists by working with the County Council to provide a network of safe routes across the city. We would also look at additional safe cycle parking/storage in the City Centre and look at working with the County Council to extend the cycle hire scheme across the city.
- Campaign for the Eastern bypass to be built as dual carriageway to ensure capacity keeping through traffic out of the city centre and to save future costs if it needs upgrading, and to support the development of the Southern link as dual carriageway.

A greener and cleaner city

We only have one planet, and we all have to survive here. If we do not start addressing our environmental issues, the consequences for our future generations are bleak.

The Lincoln Liberal Democrats have a vision that, despite Lincoln being a small city, it plays its role in reducing carbon emissions, providing us with a greener, and cleaner city to live in.

Lincoln Liberal Democrats would commit to:

- Maintaining Lincoln's green and open spaces, and ensure new large scale developments have provision for green spaces.
- Ensure all Council buildings switch off lighting at night, and encourage local businesses to do the same.
- Replacing every Council owned tree that is felled with 3 new ones.
- Investing in new split litter bins for key areas in the city, allowing rubbish to be separated into waste and recycling.
- Cleaning up Lincoln's streets and establishing a Rapid Response team to deal with graffiti and fly-tipping.
- Promoting cycling and public transport as the preferred transport options.

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