



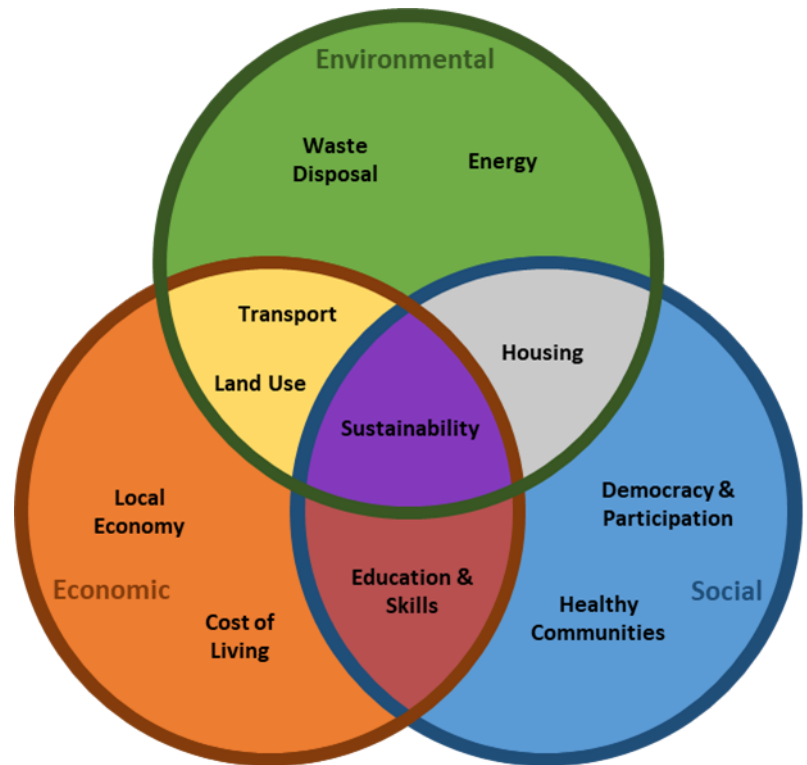
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Nottingham **Green Party**

**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
ELECTION MANIFESTO 2023**

The **Green Party** strives to create a system based on **wellbeing, community and sustainability**, where the heart of government is **you, the people**.



The cost of living crisis has left families destitute. The energy crisis has left us unable to heat our homes. Climate change threatens the world we love so much. The Green Party believes the time to act is now.

Our policies are based on our three pillars of sustainability:

- Social – Building healthier, happier, holistic communities.
- Economic – Delivering sustainable prosperity and support for those in need.
- Environmental – Protecting our one and only world.

Through these 3 key goals, we will launch our city into the future, and make Nottingham one of the most desirable places to live in the entire country. Here's how...

AFFORDABLE, GREEN HOUSING

At the moment, too many people can't afford a decent place to live – whether to rent or to buy. Every community deserves to have access to affordable, high quality and sustainable housing.

FACT

The average house price in Nottingham is over £250,000.

We will:

- make use of legal means to quickly bring empty properties back into use.
- reduce rents for council housing, calculating such rents through local wages rather than local house prices.
- ensure a percentage of new homes being built are affordable and social housing.
- campaign to bring in a no-fault eviction ban and rent controls in areas where the housing market is overheated.
- require new developments to be accompanied by the extra investment needed in local services, such as providing extra school and GP places, and better bus services.
- push for all private and public building standards on new developments to meet Passivhaus or equivalent standards.
- encourage all new developments to be designed to ensure that residents do not need cars to live a full life.
- push for house builders to include solar panels and heat pumps on all new homes.
- increase the provision and development of quality, affordable and energy efficient housing through new community-approved developments and the Local Authority Delivery scheme.
- promote sustainable and regenerative building practices in new housing as part of our net-zero drive.
- provide free advice to help private tenants deal with unfair living conditions, partnering with student unions and organisations such as Citizens Trust UK.
- promote regulated alternative home ownership models, like shared ownership and self-build, seeking to increase young home ownership.
- ensure there are enough bed spaces in safe and monitored shelters so no-one has to sleep rough at night.
- increase the proportion of HMO (house-sharing) licences being offered to landlords who intend to rent to non-students, working with landlords to make HMO areas peaceful, green, and safe.
- work with supported living services to ensure that there is specialist accommodation outside of hospitals for those with chronic health and social issues.

THE TRANSPORT OUR CITY NEEDS

We all rely on Nottingham's transport system, whether getting to work, school, visiting friends or a trip to the shops. We want to make our transport networks cleaner, safer, modern, affordable and hassle-free.

FACT

50 million passengers
use public transport
in Nottingham every
year.

We will:

- discount parking prices for electric vehicles and expand the number of electric vehicle charging stations in Park and Ride.
- actively encourage new and innovative incentive schemes to reduce traffic and pollution in the city centre.
- increase blue badge parking spaces in select areas around the city centre where disabled residents have found difficulty accessing key facilities
- reform the workplace parking levy to a progressive scale, and discount electric vehicle parking spots from the scheme.
- expand the Park & Ride scheme's capacity, reducing traffic and air pollution in the city centre.
- upgrade our electric buses and sustainable trams to reach our goal of carbon neutrality by 2028.
- continue to expand the local train, tram and bus networks to make local facilities easily accessible and reduce wait times.
- discount the Robin Hood and NCTX card for all residents to incentivise use of sustainable public transport.
- work with partners to increase the number of bike hiring stations with reasonable prices.
- continue creating separate and safe bike and pedestrian routes in the city-centre, with priority at junctions.
- consult on car-free zones and continue pedestrianisation efforts, reducing air pollution.

A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

The cost of living crisis has strained families just as wage growth has sharply declined. By investing in efforts to improve the economic landscape for local businesses we hope to provide good jobs, prospects and wages and encourage sustainable growth.

FACT

There are 26,725 small businesses in Nottingham.

We will:

- encourage businesses to purchase locally and assist those suppliers in meeting businesses' standards and needs.
- work with job centres and the DWP to create new volunteer positions that can support local charities to drastically expand support to local residents that are in food or energy poverty.
- provide advice and support for residents and businesses to reduce energy use and save money.
- set up a dedicated department to support small and medium-sized enterprises, working to merge and expand the D2N2 and British Library support schemes.
- collaborate with local universities and private industries to incentivise renewable energy sector growth and create jobs within the city.
- set up and expand local farmers' markets that supply local food at affordable prices.
- implement a comprehensive review on how we can increase efficiency in the council.
- expand support to the City Centre by placing the high street shopping at the centre of our plan for growth.

BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Our communities should be safe, clean and inclusive for all residents. Our commitment to providing a great environment for everyone to enjoy would go hand in hand with reducing rough sleeping, crime, air pollution, NHS wait times and poor mental health.

FACT

Nottingham has the highest rate of homelessness in the East Midlands: 1 in 201.

We will:

- continue to support Nottingham's LGBTIQA+ and People of Colour communities by backing charities and campaigns that value diversity and equality.
- work with police unions to end the criminalisation of small-scale cannabis possession and adopt an anonymous confiscation policy, seeking to help rather than punish victims of addiction.
- work with the NHS to help reduce waiting lists, expanding the role of complementary health advisors.
- reduce air pollution by extending the cycle network and pedestrianising areas in the city centre.
- improve access to high quality green space so that everybody can enjoy the mental and physical health benefits and help to implement the People's Plan for Nature.
- create a dedicated department to work with charities and other partners in their goals of helping the most vulnerable in Nottingham.
- work with local service providers to ensure any prisoners released on Friday are guaranteed accommodation over the weekend until alternative accommodation can be provided
- collaborate with local NHS Trusts to raise awareness for women's health issues such as endometriosis.
- work with partners to ensure there are improved storage solutions for women fleeing domestic abuse.
- seek to educate residents on good health practices with the aim of reducing health challenges in the future.
- work with schools and the NHS to better safeguard our children's mental health and wellbeing.
- work to improve conditions in homeless hostels, integrating efforts with charities such as Framework and Turning Point.
- commission a review into how the council can best approach ending chronic homelessness, assisting local support services in addressing the complex social and political issues at the heart of rough sleeping.
- assist and partner with social welfare charities to extend aid to those most in need, aiming to alleviate all food poverty in the face of the council's failure of care.

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE FIRST

We want to keep Nottingham an attractive place to live. As the city grows, we must ensure green spaces and nature are not sacrificed when new areas are developed, and the right mix of parks, shops, schools and businesses are found in our communities.

We will:

- continue to promote genuinely sustainable mixed developments, implementing a mandatory green space % on the new public developments in the city
- support Severn Trent's swale and rain garden plan, building natural drainage into flood-risk areas and expanding access to green space.
- establish local Community Meadow Areas near residential zones, making use of unused grassed areas which are normally mown.
- implement the joint Green—Liberal Democrat plan for a new, regenerated, thriving Broadmarsh centre based around access to green space, growth and jobs.
- consult with local residents to implement an Ultra—Low Emission Zone in the city centre to reduce noise and air pollution.
- press for the English Nature guideline of green space within 300 metres of every home.
- encourage the reclamation and safe development of brownfield sites.
- expand the protection of greenfield sites by prioritising brownfield development and increasing the participation of local residents in development plans through citizen's assemblies.
- create more wildlife channels and corridors, protecting the greenbelt and enhancing the wildlife value of parks across Nottingham.
- support the Parks and Volunteers service through partnerships with job centres and schools to ensure they have the human resources to ensure Nottingham maintains its green spaces.

FACT

Over 800,000 people
live in the Greater
Nottingham
metropolitan area

MORE REUSE AND LESS WASTE

We need a regular and reliable waste service that runs on time, protects our local areas, and gets the most out of what we have. Recycling – including food waste – shouldn't be a hassle, but as easy and efficient as possible.

We will:

- implement the separate food waste collection city-wide to reduce household carbon footprints and promote composting.
- reduce the amount of waste that goes to the incinerator and to landfill, by prioritising recycling and upcycling.
- promote a circular economy by supporting second-hand shops and other services based on upcycling principles.
- seek to eliminate litter around the city by creating new jobs in waste collection and organising community-led efforts to clean up our streets.
- seek to recover valuable materials from landfills, such as aluminium and copper.
- start a campaign to expand supermarket recycling, aiming to reduce potentially recyclable waste going to landfill.

FACT

Nottingham recycles only 42% of waste, far below nearby cities.

POWERING UP THE CITY

Switching to renewable, community–owned energy can mean that, instead of allowing big energy companies to control prices, we could control our energy at the local level and create jobs, training and investment.

FACT

15% of Nottingham's households live in fuel poverty.

We will:

- implement an 'Insulate Nottingham' scheme, to subsidise costs for upgrading insulation in low–income homes with low energy efficiency.
- expand renewable energy schemes such as solar PV.
- ensure the city council gets all its electricity from green suppliers.
- ensure that the infrastructure is in place to make the best use of renewable energy, including more vehicle charging points.
- campaign for the county council to divest pension funds from fossil fuel companies.

THE SKILLS WE NEED

Our world is changing faster and faster, and we need to make sure we have the right skills to support local businesses. Helping young people and adults develop themselves and achieve their dreams is our priority.

FACT

4.2% of Nottingham is unemployed, compared to 3% in nearby cities

We will:

- immediately extend the free school meals programme to the school holidays to ensure no child goes hungry during the holidays, expanding the summer voucher programme to Easter and Christmas.
- facilitate a voluntary Gardens, Fruit and Veg allotment programme in schools to teach students about healthy eating and gardening, while reducing the price of school lunches.
- continue to campaign for the equality of education regardless of socio-economic background.
- expand our cooperation with universities, schools and research institutions to encourage innovation and young entrepreneurship.
- invest further in education and training to equip people with the skills needed for a low-carbon, increasingly digital future.
- promote environmental education in schools and colleges, and work with universities to develop courses on the importance of sustainability and green technologies that are going to be so important going forward.
- work directly with partners to encourage apprenticeships for adults as well as young people so that residents have the skills that local businesses need.

ENHANCING DEMOCRACY

Democracy is at the heart of the Green Party. We want to make Nottingham more democratic, holding councillors to account, and putting power back in the hands of communities. We could achieve this change relatively easily and with zero cost in tax.

We will:

- return Nottingham City Council to a cooperative committee-based system, ending the concentration of power in one party and encouraging cooperation across party lines.
- create a citizens assembly as an improved forum for people to be consulted on local developments and policy, and allowing residents to hold their politicians to account.
- start a trial phase of local democratic participatory budgeting through the formation of Community Improvement Groups, allowing residents to have a say on select allocated funding for area improvement projects.
- seek to increase democratic participation by empowering and encouraging communities and younger voters to have a say in local decision-making.
- put the three pillars of sustainable governance at the heart of the council's objectives, working side-by-side with civil groups to promote social, economic and environmental justice.
- drastically expand the amount of cooperation between the council and charities who provide so many vital services, reducing costs and enhancing the quality of care.

FACT

The Labour Party has been continuously in power in Nottingham since 1991

VOTE FOR NOTTINGHAM ON MAY 4TH 2023

Put a cross next to your local Green Party
candidates on your ballot paper to make
Nottingham a city ready for the future.

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