



VOTE
for change ✓

VOTE
Lib Dem ✓

Our four-point plan
to clean up
the mess

Liberal 
Democrats
Windsor & Maidenhead



1. Lib Dems will restore the Borough's finances.





1. Lib Dems will restore the Borough's finances:

Bring essential services back in house, where appropriate, to save money and improve quality. Outsourcing can bring benefits through economies of scale. Residents have found to their cost, however, that it isn't always the answer, and that their needs have come a poor second to those of shareholders. We will review all our contracts and bring some of them back in house. Where feasible, we will offer services to neighbouring boroughs, generating income for Windsor and Maidenhead.

Where we do continue to outsource, we will **introduce effective contract management**. At present, contractors seem to be marking their own work, and standards have slipped badly.

End the fire-sale. Selling assets off cheaply to plug holes in the balance sheet only benefits developers. We will end the fire-sale and manage our assets for the benefit of all residents.

Tax developers in Maidenhead Town Centre through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Bizarrely, the Conservatives decided to set the CIL for Maidenhead Town Centre to 0%, losing tens of millions of pounds that could have been spent on infrastructure. Although we can't claw back that money now, we will set a realistic levy going forwards.

Invest to Save. This concept recognises that spending a little money now can save you a lot of money later. An example is investing in early years support for families with young children to avoid costly interventions later. The Conservative approach of looking for balance-sheet cuts without considering the wider benefits of a service has left us with a Borough that offers very little of value to its residents.

Continue to be a low-tax borough by identifying alternative revenue streams and managing our finances more sensibly. We will continue to have the lowest Band D council tax outside London while acknowledging that the actual average council tax per household is considerably higher than many councils.

“

This [Conservative] administration seems to be able to assess the cost of everything and yet the value of nothing.”

RBWM Resident





2.

Lib Dems will clean up our neighbourhoods





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Bring back an in-house rapid-response team to remove graffiti, clear fly-tipping and pick up litter. Outsourcing street-cleaning has not been successful, and has left our neighbourhoods in a shocking state. A plan to fine residents for dropping litter backfired, with agents focussed solely on easy wins, like cigarette butts, and the council not seeing a penny in fines for the first year of operation.

Fix potholes quickly and look at underlying problems which cause repeat potholes, like poor repairs and blocked drains. Our drains are supposed to be cleared twice a year, yet some are so neglected, they appear to have developed their own eco-system.

Make it easier to report problems to the council via email, text and app. The current Report It system is not fit for purpose. It's difficult to use, and once reports are submitted, they seem to disappear into a black hole, never to be seen again. We will be looking to add QR codes to bins, play equipment and street lights, so residents can report issues at the click of a button.

Look at bringing more of the Highways and Parks contracts in-house. On our suggestion, part of the Highways contract has already been brought back in-house, and response times are already noticeably better. Our parks are still sadly neglected though, and we will be looking to bring them back up to "Green Flag" standards.

Carry out a refresh of our parks and play equipment. Some of the play equipment is dated and in some cases, dangerous. We will audit all the Borough's play grounds to bring them up to the "Green Flag" standard and make sure they are fully accessible for children with disabilities. We will make sure the regular visual audit of our parks is restarted, along with a robust repair process, to ensure they are safe to use.





3. Lib Dems will champion sustainability.





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Require developers to put climate change and biodiversity first, through our planning system and corporate plan. When it comes to any development in the Borough, we will align with the Climate Partnership's Vision of "The population of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead will be a healthier and happier community, thriving in harmony with nature. Everyone will benefit equitably from cleaner air and water, affordable, renewable energy, greater biodiversity and efficient, resilient infrastructure." We will certainly oppose any more sacrifice of the green belt across the Borough.

Put energy generation and efficiency as a key component of our asset management plan. We want to see solar panels on roofs, wider use of ground- and air-source heat pumps, and rainwater harvesting and recycling.

Encourage cleaner modes of transport with more cycle paths and secure bike parking, better walking routes, an improved bus service and a dramatic increase in electric charging points. At the same time, we recognise that people with disabilities and the elderly will have unique transport needs, and we will engage fully with them to ensure they are put front and centre of our plans. We will not introduce a ULEZ to the Borough. This is a form of regressive taxation that impacts most greatly the people who can least afford it.

Maintain the weekly recycling collections to encourage residents to recycle more and choose sustainable forms of packaging.

Mitigate harmful Conservative plans for our green spaces The Lib Dems are committed to limiting as much as possible the damaging effects of any development that takes place on the Golf Course. We would love to see a Great Park in the centre of Maidenhead, to improve our biodiversity and our air quality, alongside the environmental commitments we have already made. This can be done by strengthening the environmental protection afforded to land that is zoned for development by reviewing SPDs that have not been developed with our best interests in mind.

If it is too late to stop it completely, residents have said they would rather have the Lib Dems using the council's leverage as landowners to minimise the development, than the Conservatives who seem to back the interests of developers against those of residents every time.





4. Lib Dems will put the community first.





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Offer a support hub for local charities and organisations seeking grants, support and training. Local voluntary organisations do amazing work supporting residents through the cost-of-living crisis and fallout from the pandemic. But we don't feel they receive the support they deserve, often having to move from one temporary location to another, jeopardising their ability to continue their work. We'll work with these groups towards long-term security.

Bring the preventative work with young families and the elderly into the community.

The Conservatives closed our children's centres in favour of family hubs, which deliver little more than the bare minimum they are required to by law. At the same time, plans to "transform" daycare for the elderly and adults with complex needs have stalled, leaving them in limbo. We'll review all these services to make sure we're not missing outreach and signposting opportunities, and reverse cuts where it's appropriate and feasible to do so.

The abolition of the **Advantage Card parking discount** for residents has badly affected our town centres. In Windsor, residents are paying the same as tourists to park and in Maidenhead, limited parking and shopping options are driving residents away. Instead, residents are travelling further to Wycombe and Bracknell. The very poor replacement scheme of an hour free parking in some car parks has not been well received. We will develop a more generous scheme that encourages local people to use our town centres.

Deliver safe routes to school for all. Review school transport to ensure it is fair and equitable, and that pupils from certain areas are not unfairly disadvantaged. For example in Eton Wick, pupils are expected to walk across an isolated field and along a busy dual carriageway to get to school. We will address parking issues in school streets and safe cycling routes, and reverse Conservative cuts to school crossings.

Prioritise homes for social rent. "Affordable homes" is a catch-all term which includes housing tenures that are anything but affordable. Shared ownership schemes serve to push up prices and benefit developers more than residents, while affordable rent offers a discount but isn't accessible to everyone. Over the past 16 years, the Conservatives have delivered 15 social homes for rent. This simply isn't good enough. We will work with organisations like the Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead Community Land Trust (WAM CLT) to explore ways of delivering proper family homes that people can afford.

Carry out proper consultations. A key part of being at the centre of the community is making sure our consultations are carried out to really establish the views of residents using plain English, not professional jargon, and to give clear options rather than design consultations to deliver the answer we want.





windsorlibdems.org.uk



Windsor

Deliver a Windsor Town Council to give Windsor residents a better say over what happens in their town.

Carry out a comprehensive review of parking charges in Windsor — both for car parks and parking permits, including household visitor permits — and ensure that residents are not being punished for living in a town that attracts tourists.

Build on the Windsor Vision to deliver a town centre that works for everyone, in a way that is sympathetic towards the town's history and heritage. We will protect valuable town centre green spaces like Alexandra Gardens and Baths Island.





maidenheadlibdems.co.uk



Maidenhead

Continue to lobby for restoration of the walk-in urgent care service at St Mark's Hospital, using the leverage that the Borough has with the health authorities, along with the expansion of GP and dentist surgeries to cope with all the new housing.

Deliver a community vision for the next stage of town centre regeneration involving entertainment, arts, leisure, health, life-long learning and quality shops. Residents are dismayed at the vision of tower blocks and coffee shops* delivered by the Conservatives. We will also keep the Town Hall as a civic and community centre.

**We like coffee but residents deserve so much more.*



