



Exeter Green Party

Election pledges 2011

Exeter City Council elections 5th May 2011

The Green Party is bringing creative thinking and positive solutions to councils across Britain. We believe that Exeter should be no different. We are committed to creating a fairer, healthier, low carbon city with a sustainable local economy where every voice counts.

The Green Party has five clear pledges to voters in Exeter this election. If elected, Green Councillors will act to:

1. Generate electricity from city council owned properties and land

By utilising council assets to generate electricity the city council could create an income stream that will make the city far more resilient in the face of cuts imposed by the coalition government. Generating electricity would reduce costs, provide free electricity and generate an income by exporting surplus electricity to the national grid. There is huge potential for solar panels on roof tops as well as ground mounted panels on local authority land. Examples of buildings and land that could be used to generate electricity include the Corn Exchange, Exeter Business Centre and the Livestock Centre at Matford as well as city council car parks.

2. Create local green jobs

Renewable energy generation, insulation programmes and offering support to local businesses and social enterprises will all create many new and sustainable local jobs. For

example, green councillors across the UK have led the way on insulating thousands of homes which has cut carbon emissions, significantly reduced household heating bills, addressed fuel poverty and created hundreds of local jobs.

3. Restore funding in full for children's play and Exeter festivals programme

Local Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors voted on cuts that will affect children's play and the annual festivals programme. Opportunities for cost-free exercise and play are important for both physical and mental health, and can help reduce anti-social behaviour. The arts and festivals are important for encouraging cultural diversity, boosting the local economy and improving the quality of life for local residents. A 10% increase in city centre parking charges – that's only an average 25p extra for 3 hours parking – would generate sufficient income to fully restore these programmes.

4. Introduce weekly food waste collections in central Exeter

The Green Party wants to prevent any repeat scenes of rotting rubbish piling up in the streets of Exeter. Introducing weekly food waste collections will prevent this and would also make substantial savings on costly landfill taxes. When Bristol introduced such a scheme its recycling rate doubled in just a year. Coupled with this waste reduction strategy, we will continue to press for MBT (mechanical and biological treatment) as an alternative to incineration. The proposed new incinerator in Exeter would lock the city into producing thousands of tonnes of waste to fulfill an expensive 25 year contract. The resulting toxic ash will need to be transported across Devon to special landfill sites. Anything that really cannot be reused, recycled or composted would be best dealt with by MBT. This removes any recyclable materials and then produces compost and methane - which can be used to generate electricity. This is safer, better for the environment, and creates far more local jobs than incineration.

5. Make local politics more democratic and accountable

We think local people should be far more involved in decisions that directly affect them. We will work to see more decision making on local issues decentralised and made by people at Ward level. This will result in more accountable local government and a far better informed and involved electorate.

It is good to know that one voice remains consistent, distinctive and active for real change: The Green Party.

Vote Green Party on 5th May