

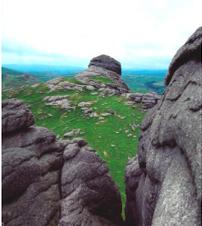


Manifesto for Devon

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS



The election gives you the opportunity to **vote for Green Party District Councillors** to represent you. This manifesto provides a set of distinctive and deliverable policies elected Green Councillors will work hard to implement. The Green Party is the only Party offering bold yet desirable solutions to the many social, economic and environmental challenges facing us. We believe in equality, a prosperous and resilient local economy and community participation.



FAIR LOCAL ECONOMY

Green Party District Councillors will strive for economic stability, equality and sustainability. Our priorities are to create more quality jobs, fairer pay levels and increased productivity and profitability for local business and enterprises. A resilient economy is built on locally based economic activity. We will:

- Support **Farmers' Markets** with more permanent market sites, better infrastructure, and increase their frequency, with wider promotion to help them flourish
- Review existing and potential employment sites to ensure they offer the right environment to nurture local businesses
- Work with partner organisations to attract investment and job creation in our area
- Support local renewable energy generation to keep more money within the local economy
- Work with local colleges to ensure our young people leave school equipped with the skills they need to find local work or start their own enterprises
- Support the local farming industry by linking up farms to local buyers and businesses
- Raise the profile of the care industry and provide financial assistance to local enterprises and community groups to create jobs from care
- Encourage local authorities and businesses to adopt the Living Wage



SAVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Green Party District Councillors oppose cuts to public services. We believe they are morally wrong and financially short-sighted. Many public services save more money than they cost, preventing social and health problems. We will:

- Generate income from Council buildings and Car Parks, using them to site solar panels and promote a more efficient use of council property, making them available for public hire or events



- Work with Trade Unions as important partners forming policy regarding public service delivery, and in achieving fair pay and conditions for employees within public services
- Push for residential waste to be dealt with in an environmentally safe manner, and be a source of revenue for councils or community owned initiatives
- Improve coordination of recycling collections between local authorities
- Encourage businesses to develop community and industrial partnerships to recycle, refurbish and exchange waste which is beneficial to another business, thus mitigating further waste. Also provide incentives encouraging the public and businesses to reduce, reuse, repair and minimise waste
- Support the voluntary and community sector to enable local communities to better meet their needs

FUTURE PLANNING

Green Party District Councillors will seek planning solutions to help Devon maximise natural and human resources whilst preserving and enhancing the environment. The youth have little choice of where to live after 18 years of age and there is a great demand for affordable housing and jobs. We will:

- Consider impacts of all planning decisions on **future generations**
- Prioritise development on brownfield sites, prioritising social needs when deciding how to use these sites
- Ensure council policies require new buildings to be built to the highest standard
- Improve existing housing by improving insulation, with draught proofing and include PV/Solar
- Ensure **flood risk assessment**, water supply, energy conservation, energy generation, and carbon emissions are central to planning decisions
- Challenge regional economic and housing growth forecasts to agree more realistic and sustainable projections
- Involve local people appropriately when considering strategic planning decisions and support neighbourhood planning groups

For the full Manifesto see <http://southwest.greenparty.org.uk/counties/devon.html>



FUEL POVERTY & THE ENERGY CRISIS

Too many people within our area struggle to keep their homes warm. Green Party District Councillors will ensure people and businesses get help to reduce fuel bills and, where possible, generate their own energy from renewable sources - providing affordable warmth to end fuel poverty. We will lead by example making the District Council offices run from a renewable energy supplier, and make sure the County is better prepared to deal with more frequent extreme weather events. We will:

- Promote the development of renewable energy prioritising those community owned
- Instigate a district-wide **energy efficiency and insulation** programme targeting residents living in fuel poverty, retro-fitting assessed older properties and promote PV/Solar installation on all housing
- Work with others to deliver an education and media campaign keeping climate change at the forefront of people's minds to encourage behavioural change across all sections of the community



TRANSPORT

Whilst the County Council is responsible for Transport, District Council is responsible for Car Parks, Park and Ride schemes, and making sure new housing schemes do not increase traffic congestion. Green Party District Councillors will create a transport network in Devon that is integrated, affordable, safe and accessible for all. Our priorities will be on increasing the safety, convenience and comfort of walking and cycling and improving public transport. We will:

- Introduce a Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) on all large employers in major urban areas to secure funding for green sustainable transport solutions
- Ensure transport considerations are integral to all new housing, business or industrial developments; ensure that anyone could live or work happily in such a development without a car
- Further promote and support Car Clubs and Car Share schemes
- Generate money for the region by putting solar/PV panels over council Car Parks and other Car Parks where possible, including Park and Ride



FAIRNESS FOR ALL

There remain many people who are vulnerable and disadvantaged because of age, disablement, poverty, unemployment, or an ethnic minority. Many young people cannot get homes or jobs locally. Green Party District Councillors will recognise a fair society means equal treatment such as accessibility in work and leisure places. We will:

- Improve representation of people from minority communities
- Promote gender and trans-gender equality in pay and pensions, and part-time work

- Strive for inclusivity within our communities for the mentally and physically impaired
- Ensure Council services and employment opportunities are offered to everyone equally irrespective of their colour, gender, age
- Support equality and diversity training in businesses and other organisations across districts

YOUNG PEOPLE

Prominent issues of our young people are housing, jobs, and providing a standard of leisure facilities. Green Party District Councillors will promote a robust plan of affordable housing and proper support mechanisms for career development, health and well-being. We will:

- Provide more opportunities for apprenticeships, promoting jobs in technology, computing, renewable energy and other areas where young people have particular knowledge or skills
- Provide affordable housing designed for young people and promote and support self-build schemes
- Work with young people to provide sports and leisure facilities and multi-use games areas
- Council sports centres will run reduced costs schemes to help young people make use of clubs and facilities without financial burden

OUR ENVIRONMENT

The natural environment underpins the health of our communities and our economy and is at the core of the Green Party's philosophy. To help maintain a healthy and diverse natural environment across Devon we must carefully manage the way we dispose of our waste, mitigate the impact of significant weather issues, encourage communities to use resources efficiently, help to reduce all forms of environmental pollution, and protect and enhance the local natural and built environment. We will:

- Mitigate the ongoing process of Climate change, constantly reviewing and updating hazard mitigation measures and coastal defences
- Maintain a network of play areas, gardens, allotments and natural spaces and encourage greater use and appreciation of them within local communities
- Support initiatives to protect and enhance natural habitats

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Green Councillors will be a loud and consistent green voice on the council and will regularly be available within their communities to hear and deal with local issues. We will:

- Make council more open, accessible and accountable, building partnerships between community and social enterprises and volunteer groups
- We will make it easier for ideas and creativity of local communities to influence community plans



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