



DEMOCRATIC POWER

BRING DIVERSITY INTO CITY HALL

Greens on London Assembly committees have pioneered new ways of bringing community-level evidence into investigations, conducting research and holding open-mic sessions in recent years to hear the voices of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, EU citizens, social housing tenants, people living in cold and damp homes, people living in temporary accommodation, women in the criminal justice system and property guardians.

- ▶ We will make sure that future Assembly scrutiny even more fully involves relevant communities and groups, including setting the scope of investigations, and hearing evidence directly from those affected. The characteristics and diversity of guests giving evidence to Assembly scrutiny will be monitored and made public to drive improvements.
- ▶ We will make sure that public meetings in City Hall encourage diverse communities to be engaged and participate in democratic processes, so that their experience directly informs policy and other decisions made.
- ▶ We will work through improved training, mentoring, promotion, recruitment practices and retention to ensure that GLA staff at all levels are diverse and reflect the population of London.

WORK FOR MORE ASSEMBLY POWERS

Greens are strong advocates for strengthening the role of the London Assembly to better hold the Mayor to account and for more checks and balances in our governance.

- ▶ We will push for a change from a two-thirds Assembly majority vote being needed to veto or amend mayoral strategies or the budget, to a simple majority.
- ▶ We will press for the Assembly to have the legal power, like Parliament, to summon any witnesses responsible for policies and services that affect Londoners to appear before them.

POWER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The power of young people's voices has been shown by the impact of young climate activists and school strikes, and the work Greens have done in the London Assembly to support youth services was prompted directly by the voices of young campaigners in 2016.

A Green Mayor will embed the voices of young people in City Hall scrutiny and policy making.

- ▶ The Green Party was the first to support votes at 16, and we will commit to a target of making sure young Londoners have this right at least by the time of the 2024 London elections and will

A PROMISE TO SHARE MY POWER

Greens believe that real change doesn't get handed down from above: it comes from below, from the grassroots.

We will live up to our values and principles of leadership, and make sure the power we win in City Hall is shared with the people of London, in as many ways as possible.

As well as bringing a wider range of diverse voices in to shape decision making, we

will hand over power directly to citizens at the right level to make decisions, and help Londoners win more control over their own lives, homes, and communities.

We will also change how budgets are controlled, which kinds of organisations win funding from the Mayor, and boost the transparency and quality of information we provide to hold us, and each other, to account.

BOTTOM-UP LEADERSHIP



Greens believe that decisions should be made closest to those they affect.

In City Hall, Greens on the London Assembly have worked to improve bottom-up leadership in London and making sure everyone's voice is heard.

We have worked to involve those directly affected by policies in the production of reports and recommendations by the Assembly, including social housing residents, women in the criminal justice system, property guardians, people affected by cold, damp homes, and precarious workers. We have also:

- ▶ Expanded the use of open-mic sessions to gather evidence directly from Londoners in Assembly work.

- ▶ Championed social housing residents' rights in the Housing Committee, producing a major report looking at resident rights and engagement.

- ▶ Put forward budget amendments to boost funding for community-led housing, the promotion of co-ops and to fund renters unions.

And we have called for real co-production in the London Plan process, which Sian Berry has pledged to carry through if elected Mayor.

This manifesto includes new ways to amplify the voices of Londoners, including a new Elders Champion, and more powers for London's Youth Assembly, including to propose budget amendments.

campaign nationally for the right to vote at the age of 16 in all other elections.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will increase the powers and capacity of London's Youth Assembly to make sure of a real voice and real influence for young Londoners within City Hall. The changes we will make include:

- Nominations for the Youth Assembly will continue to happen through local borough democratic processes, but with six additional members, to allow for new nominations from students at London colleges and universities, raising the age limit for these members to 21
- There will be a number of Youth Assembly Mayor's Question Time sessions every year with the Mayor.
- The Youth Assembly will also be able to submit written Mayor's Questions using the same system as Assembly Members, with the Mayor required to answer. These questions and answers will be published on the GLA website.
- The Youth Assembly will be resourced to hold proper scrutiny meetings similar to an Assembly Committee, in order to investigate issues, make recommendations, and write reports. The London Assembly would support them through their powers of summons, making sure the Mayor's team, and representatives of other bodies over which the Assembly has summons powers, attend to be held to account by young people.

- Resources and secretariat staff will be

made available to better promote the Youth Assembly particularly to students currently underrepresented, and to forge better connections between members and schools, universities and youth organisations across London, enabling young Londoners across the city to feed into its work.

- The Youth Assembly will also be able to propose a budget amendment, sponsored by the Assembly and put to the vote during the annual budget meetings.
- Youth Assembly members would not be full time as almost all of them would be in education or training, but they will be remunerated for the time required to do their work, at the London Living Wage. No-one should be deterred from taking part in the Assembly because they need to do part-time work outside of school and college.

SUPPORT OUR EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENS

- ▶ A Green Mayor will never abandon our one million European Union (EU) citizens. We will campaign for European Union (EU) citizens to retain the vote in local and London elections and for settled residents to be given a new right to vote in future General Elections and referendums.


○ SEE MORE POLICIES FOR EU CITIZENS IN OUR CHAPTER A DUTY TO RESPECT EVERYONE'S RIGHTS

MORE POWER FOR LONDON

Despite more than twenty years of having a Mayor and Assembly, too many vital decisions affecting London are still made by Whitehall.

Greens have consistently pushed for more powers to come from Government to City Hall.

- ▶ A Green Mayor will put the case for full planning and housing policy devolution for our city. In the Assembly, Sian Berry has already pushed the current Mayor to do more to ask for rent control powers, but the housing crisis means we need much more control over the homes we live in.
- ▶ We will lobby for full control of traffic laws at a London level, so that the Mayor and boroughs can make decisions that will simplify enforcement of parking and speed rules, and the process of making changes to streets through traffic orders.
- ▶ Other taxation policies like council tax and stamp duty should be fully devolved to London, as well as powers to determine new taxes like a Land Value Tax, and a Tourist Tax on hotel visitors.
- ▶ Just as in Scotland and Wales, the Mayor and London Assembly need a direct say over the NHS, including the legal right to information, and scrutiny over its function in London,



as well as education and the criminal justice system and many aspects of environmental policy, such as waste management, flood protection and energy.

- ▶ Greens have long argued that the City of London Corporation needs to become more like a London borough, with its police service brought into the Metropolitan Police, and its archaic privileges and assets brought into a rationalised devolution agreement between the GLA and Government. Greens in Parliament and in City Hall will continue to put the case for assessing the benefits of this.
- ▶ Many of the policies we want mean working with other city mayors and local government across the UK to put the case for more devolution to their areas and regions alongside London. A Green Mayor would be a campaigning Mayor, forging coalitions of cities and regions across the country to win a fairer balance of power for everyone.

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

BRING POWER CLOSER TO THE GRASSROOTS

- ▶ A Green Mayor will introduce participatory budgeting for up to 20 per cent of the GLA budget by 2024, helping boroughs and resident groups make spending plans, which are then put to the people to choose where best to spend funds.
- ▶ We will reform the boards of all GLA organisations running London to involve a wider range of citizen representatives, not just those from expert bodies and industry.
- ▶ In all our work, we will bring in more collaboration with the voluntary and community sector, particularly with minority, ethnic and disabled communities. A Green Mayor will meet with community organisations more often than they do with business groups.
- ▶ Volunteer, civic, community and faith groups play a huge part in London's life and community, but too many voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations struggle with premises and covering staffing and core costs. A Green Mayor would aim to provide no grants to the VCS that were shorter than three years, and would make sure full costs, including core expenses and evaluation, were covered by grants. We will embed

good practice in proportional value-for-money and social impact assessment into all our work with the VCS.

- ▶ Much of the work described elsewhere in this manifesto, such as diversion of potential or first-time offenders from the criminal justice system, and initiatives like enhanced social prescribing policies, depend on a wide range of VCS organisations being available for referrals, and known to practitioners. Greens in City Hall would work with the VCS to make sure voluntary and community activity in London is well documented and networked, with good, up to date information available to all relevant public services, including GLA group organisations.

CONTROL OVER YOUR HOMES

- ▶ A Green Mayor will support independent renters unions to expand, with grants for London-wide and local groups supporting private renters' rights.
- ▶ Guidance for estate proposals will be rewritten with fewer exceptions, proper appraisal of all the options available, and with strong requirements for resident-led planning to be supported from the start of the process.
- ▶ Existing ballot exemptions will all be reviewed, and requirements for a final say for residents to be used as part of decision-making will be extended into planning policies in an early amendment to the London Plan.

- ▶ London will have its own Social Housing Commissioner, charged with supporting tenant rights and participation in council and social-rented homes. They will be a tenant themselves and supported with the resources needed to empower resident groups across London.
- ▶ We will set up a People's Land Commission, to map and identify land suitable for community-led development, and protect land supporting local needs, like playgrounds and community gardens.
- ▶ City Hall funds and programmes to back new co-ops and community-led housing projects will be extended, and we will listen and act on the problems and concerns of leaseholder rights and high costs of major works..
- ▶ A Green Mayor will give councils and community land trusts the first option on GLA land that is able to be earmarked for new homes.

○ SEE MORE IN THE CHAPTER
FRESH THINKING FOR HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY

CITIZENS AGAINST CLIMATE CHAOS

- ▶ We will set up an independent Citizen's Climate Assembly on the climate and ecological emergency, recruiting a representative group of Londoners to serve for a year at a time on a permanent body, supported by and working with the London Assembly Environment Committee.
- ▶ The Climate Assembly will be given the resources to inform and educate Londoners about the climate emergency, and build links with community-level action across London.
- ▶ The Climate Assembly will be helped to make links with citizens and similar bodies in other towns and cities, to bring the best, people-powered ideas into all our work.
- ▶ We will change the rules for Mayoral decision-making so that every budget plan and official decision report in City Hall includes an assessment of the impact on climate and ecology, to help reduce our footprint every time we make new policies or spending plans, and so that we can be held to account.

○ SEE MORE IN THE CHAPTER
WE WILL CREATE THE GREENEST
CITY IN THE WORLD

INFORMATION DEMOCRACY

OPEN UP LONDON'S GOVERNANCE AND DATA

- ▶ A Green Mayor will share regular information with Londoners so they are informed of key decisions, updates and are encouraged to share their evidence and opinions and take part in scrutiny.
- ▶ We will open to the public all formal meetings that discuss major investment decisions and clamp down on the unnecessary use of 'reserved' papers for non-confidential items.
- ▶ With a Green Mayor, the information and models underpinning all strategies and key decisions, will be published in the London Datastore, including live tables and data wherever possible.
- ▶ Residents and campaigners should not be denied the ability to show how alternatives to a Green Mayor's policies could work, so the information we publish will also include fares data and agreements, and commercial income, permission for which will be included in all new contracts.
- ▶ We will work with public, private, charity and community partners to share and update data, for example with citizen science projects to maintain records of pollution and other environmental data, and with housing, cycling and public

transport groups to develop new plans and services.

- ▶ Greens will require all technology projects across the GLA group to use open standards and encourage the use of open source software as much as possible to aid enterprise and innovation.



KEEP PUBLIC SPACES PUBLIC

Too many of our new public spaces are being controlled by corporate rules and councils placing 'public space protection orders' (PSPOs) across wide areas, banning activities such as busking and rough sleeping and making many non-criminal acts subject to court proceedings.

In 2016, Sian Berry pledged to push for policies in the new London Plan that mean new publicly accessible spaces must be governed by local authority bylaws, so that any rules must be created transparently and accountably.

We succeeded in winning new planning policies and a promise from the current

Mayor to publish strict guidance in the form of a Public London Charter for new developments. However, we have waited nearly two years and a draft has only just been consulted upon.

Meanwhile, developers and shops have been found to be using facial recognition in CCTV, while arbitrary rules continue to be applied to spaces including the MORE London estate where City Hall itself sits.

- ▶ Greens believe that public spaces must be governed in the most democratic way possible and will put in place clear policies and guidance so that local people and councils are able to set clear and democratically agreed rules

for all public spaces, no matter who owns them.

- ▶ We also oppose the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) by councils if they are not fully justified and highly specific to real problems. We see no reason to introduce fines and court action for activities such as rough sleeping and begging. We will campaign for the repeal of national legislation allowing PSPOs to be introduced by local authorities and for the introduction of a 'right to roam', similar to laws in Scotland.



JOIN OUR TEAM

To get involved in our campaign to transform London, contact team@london.greenparty.org.uk or visit www.sianberry.london

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