



**Stroud District  
Green Party**

**A GREEN MANIFESTO  
FOR POSITIVE CHANGE  
2024**

## Introduction:

Whether it's the spiraling cost of living crisis, the failing British economy, wars in Ukraine and the Middle East or the climate emergency, many of us have struggled to find hope in our politics recently. But here in Stroud District we have a positive story to tell. We've become the first council in Europe to be carbon neutral. We're building hundreds of warm, affordable, and efficient council homes while also retrofitting thousands of our older homes. We've turbo-charged the renewable energy transition in our communities and our own council buildings and supported local business and local jobs despite our national government

The Green Party proudly leads Stroud District Council; we've done so much by working with colleagues and friends from other parties. In fact, many of our biggest achievements were backed unanimously by all of the political parties on the Council.

This is just the start. No one has a monopoly on good ideas, and we're here to listen to the best ideas. But we also have a unique and practical vision for Stroud District. Below we lay out a taster of what Greens in power will deliver if you vote Green on Thursday 2nd May.

It's a vision of positive change based on what Greens believe about our shared environment, our communities and our economy. It builds on the 12 years that Green Councillors have been part of running the Council, working to serve the whole of the Stroud District.



Warm and  
affordable  
homes



A clean and  
green district



Thriving Market  
Towns and  
Villages



Public  
Services  
that Work



Restoring Trust  
in Politics



## 1) Warm and affordable homes

Stroud District Council is one of the largest providers of social housing in Gloucestershire. We're proud of this. That's why we are still building more EPC A-rated council homes that meet the needs of local families.

### We will:

- keep on building more council homes to the highest standards across the district
- require all new homes to meet high eco-standards, reducing energy bills and with as many as possible affordable
- work to establish Stroud district as a sustainable construction and retrofit centre of excellence, to create as many good jobs and training opportunities as possible.



## 2) A clean and green district

Stroud District Council was the first council in Europe to be carbon neutral. But that's not enough. Under Green leadership, the whole council is working to adapt our district to cope with the rapidly changing climate and transition to renewable energy to achieve net zero by 2030. Your Green vote strengthens that ambition to secure a healthy, sustainable future.

### We will:

- put social justice, nature, biodiversity and the climate crisis at the heart of everything we do
- shrink the amount of waste and litter, and increase our rates of reuse and recycling
- promote and build clean, affordable renewable energy at every opportunity
- continue to reduce flood risk through our nationally acclaimed natural flood management schemes
- support and encourage efficient, affordable and healthy sustainable transport
- protect our countryside and support sustainable rural jobs.



### 3) Thriving Market Towns and Villages

High streets are struggling. The traditional retail models are buckling under the pressure of people's changing habits and online shopping. Shops are being boarded up. But there is a real opportunity to transform our towns, support local businesses and create thriving destinations at the heart of our communities, where people want to live, work and spend time.

#### We will:

- be champions of local business, traders and tradespeople - working with them to advertise locally and increase their digital and online visibility
- encourage people to spend more money in Stroud district by promoting local attractions and our dynamic festivals, arts and cultural events
- improve public spaces to make them more accessible and desirable places to meet and walk.



### 4) Public Services that Work

After more than a decade of Conservative austerity, many local councils are struggling to deliver basic front-line services. Some councils are going bankrupt. But here in Stroud district we have a different story to tell. Despite the cuts, Greens have ensured the District Council has kept a healthy bank balance while running services well: the much loved and efficiently run Pulse leisure centre in Dursley, some of the best recycling rates in the country, bins collected on time, and community hubs supporting everyone. This is the front line of local politics, and we understand how important it is to balance the budget and get the basics right.

#### We will:

- bring Stratford Park leisure centre in Stroud under council control so it can be run to the same high standard as The Pulse in Dursley
- respond to the ongoing cost of living crisis, by continuing to support our community hubs and helping the least well off with council tax support
- invest more into our play parks to give our children and young people the best start
- continue to support the popular Neighbourhood Warden Scheme to respond quickly to community issues including dealing with anti-social behaviour.



## 5) Restoring Trust in Politics

With new political scandals virtually every week, people are tired of being let down and lied to by national leaders. Yet locally the Greens are showing that there is a positive, progressive and professional way to do politics. We will never betray the trust that you put in us, when you vote Green.

### We will:

- work collaboratively with other parties and build consensus as we have done for over a decade on Stroud District Council
- make the best decisions for our communities, working collaboratively with local partners
- Involve and engage with local communities, business and the voluntary sector in key decisions about the local area.



# Green Party