

Why you should vote for the Lib Dems



After 14 years of Conservative chaos, we now have a Labour government. They must deliver change – the country is in desperate need of a functioning government, and the Liberal Democrats are ready to work with them to achieve that.

But Labour have already made some very disappointing decisions: the increase in National Insurance contributions which hits the businesses we need to generate economic growth, the axing of the Winter Fuel Payments from many pensioners who rely on it, and proposed reforms on social care delayed until at least 2028! Liberal Democrats will:

- ◆ **Ensure** that everyone entitled to a benefit will receive it, following a compassionate review of the current system.
- ◆ **Push** for a fair taxation system for individuals and for companies – those with broadest shoulders pay more.
- ◆ **Fight** to keep the NHS free at the point of care and to introduce a care system that works properly.
- ◆ **Oppose** Putin and support Ukraine, standing up to Trump.
- ◆ **Set** realistic targets and policies for climate change control
- ◆ **Work** to rebuild a more friendly cooperative relationship with Europe.

We are a party which aims high, while keeping our feet on the ground.

What is a unitary authority and how will it affect you?

The local government reorganisation plan started under the Conservatives and continued by Labour aims to cut down the layers of local government above the parish council level from two (district and county) to one (unitary) which will combine the powers of both. Note that Lichfield City Council and Burntwood Town Council are both at the parish council level, so they will be largely unaffected by this.

Most District councils, including Lichfield District Council, are too small to take on this extra responsibility, and this means that we will have to merge with at least two other councils. The government's wish is that a unitary authority should contain about 500,000 residents, and our opinion is that is too high for our area.

A Southern Staffordshire authority (Lichfield, Tamworth, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire and South Staffordshire) would be manageable, unlike the "Staffordshire minus Stoke" approach favoured by the current Conservative Staffordshire County Council at the time of writing, which we oppose, as this would distance local authorities from the communities they serve. A Southern Staffordshire authority would have a natural "gravitational" pull towards West Midlands, which we support because many of our residents work in that region.

As far as the number of councillors and the role of larger parish councils such as Lichfield, Burton, Tamworth, Burntwood, etc. are concerned, there is no specific guidance. Lib Dem councillors at all levels will continue to work with other groups in and out of the district to acquire the best possible outcome for all – a council that is close to and connected with the residents..

Lib Dems in Lichfield City North

Liberal Democrats

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 1ST 2025

LICHFIELD CITY NORTH

FOCUS



Jordan LANE



Jordan is studying Primary Education & Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in his second year at university. With first-hand experience of both dyslexia and dyscalculia, he understands the challenges caused by inadequate support and funding, driving his passion for advocating better SEND resources.

"My course," Jordan says, "explores government policies and developmental theory, deepening my commitment to inclusive education.

"I have worked as a community care worker outside the academic environment, supporting individuals with diverse health needs. This role has reinforced my belief in the importance of accessible social care in fostering independence and well-being.

"The condition of our roads and road safety are also very important to me. The Lichfield Lib Dems have always been active in this area and have achieved significant improvements to the roads in our area. My commitment is that if elected, the condition and safety of our roads will be a priority..

"I am dedicated to making a meaningful impact in our community through my work in education, social care, and road safety."

Lib Dems – for a better Lichfield



We continue to campaign and work closely with other political and neighbourhood groups for a Lichfield that is:

- ◆ **Safe** – not just by improving policing, but by education and proactive responses to emerging anti-social trends.
- ◆ **Healthy** – we know there are not enough medical facilities here, and we work hard to improve this situation. Health is also a matter of eating and living healthily, and we do what we can to assist these goals.
- ◆ **Inclusive** – Lichfield should be a place for everybody. Lib Dems continue to work to ensure that we can all, regardless of origin or ability, enjoy the benefits of living here.
- ◆ **Prosperous** – encouraging local businesses, as well as promoting Lichfield as an attractive place for national companies to invest.
- ◆ **Inviting** – Lichfield and the surrounding area attract tourism, and the Lib Dems work with local businesses and groups to make the area even more attractive to visit.

For a better Lichfield: **Support your Lib Dem candidates!**

Stowe ward



Cllr Paul McDermott (City), 13 Blackthorne Road WS14 9YJ
07836 553512

Cllr Hugh Ashton (District), 26 Lombard St WS13 6DR
07864 950985



Chadsmead ward



Cllr Paul Ray (City & District), 25 Christchurch Lane WS13 8BA
07771 856931

Cllr Miles Trent (District), 26 The Charters, WS13 7LX
07789 954875



Cllr Hugh Ashton (City), 26 Lombard St WS13 6DR
07864 950985

GET IN TOUCH!

The local Lib Dem team work all year round for local people. If you would like their help, or to comment on a local or national problem please do contact them by email, phone, or post.

01543 523707

The Liberal Democrats, locally and nationally, may use information you provide, including your political views, to further our objectives, share it with our elected representatives and/or contact you in future using any of the means provided. Some contacts may be automated. You may opt out of some or all contacts or exercise your other legal rights by contacting us. Further details are in our Privacy Policy at [libdems.org.uk/en/privacy](https://www.libdems.org.uk/en/privacy).

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/lichfield/lichfield-news>

email: help@lichfieldlibdems.org.uk



Want to be part of the winning Lib Dem team?

We welcome new members. Contact us if you are interested. Even if you don't want to commit to membership, you could consider helping us, for example by delivering Focus leaflets in your own local area for up to an hour for each Focus issue. Please let us know how you could help.

